



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
THIRD SESSION
2000

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23 May 2000

Legislative Assembly

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

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR

Statement by Premier

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.02 pm]: As members will be aware, yesterday I announced that Her Majesty the Queen had given her approval for the appointment of Lieutenant General John Sanderson as Governor of Western Australia. General Sanderson is a Western Australian with a distinguished and decorated military career. He will take up his appointment as Governor on Friday, 18 August 2000 for a three-year term.

General Sanderson was born in Geraldton and educated in the south west, including at Bunbury Senior High School. He is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in civil engineering, the Australian Staff College, the Joint Service Staff College and the United States Army War College. During his 40 years of military service, General Sanderson undertook many challenging operational and managerial roles, the culmination of which was his appointment as Chief of the General Staff and Chief of the Army from 1995 to 1998.

General Sanderson's operational deployments include Borneo and South Vietnam. He commanded engineer units at both squadron and regiment level and was an instructor at the Australian and British schools of military engineering and the Australian and British Army Staff Colleges.

In November 1991, General Sanderson was seconded to the Secretary of the United Nations to complete planning for the United Nations' transitional authority in Cambodia. He commanded an international force of 16 000 troops from 34 nations involved in the process of securing Cambodia and supporting the conduct of an election of a constitutional assembly. General Sanderson's service to this country had previously been recognised by appointments to the Order of Australia, and his work in Cambodia saw him appointed a companion of the order. His contribution to the bilateral and regional relationships has also been recognised by the United States of America with the award of the Legion of Merit, Commander Class.

General Sanderson is an outstanding Western Australian who has made a significant contribution to our country. He is looking forward to returning to Western Australia, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming General Sanderson, and his wife Lorraine, to our State.

I commend this appointment to the House.

LIGHT ALCOHOL BEER

Statement by Premier

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.05 pm]: I am pleased to inform the House that the State Government will continue to subsidise light alcohol beer, despite the fact that we will not receive any revenue from the Federal Government's liquor excise after 1 July this year. The subsidy currently amounts to \$7m a year in Western Australia. The State Government, through Treasury and the Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor, will work in consultation with industry on the new subsidy arrangements to apply from 1 July.

Based on industry data, we estimate that there would be a price increase of about 5 per cent on a carton of light beer in Western Australia without the subsidy. This would significantly reduce the price advantage of light beer over full strength beer. Under the section 90 safety net arrangements, Western Australia pays a subsidy to producers of light beer; that is, on brands containing an alcohol content of 3.5 per cent or less. The subsidy reflects the difference between the previous state franchise fee rate and the commonwealth wholesale sales tax surcharge that replaced state franchise fees. The calculation of the subsidy is currently linked directly to the amount of wholesale sales tax paid.

The cost of the subsidy will be covered by the State's share of goods and services tax revenues and guarantee payments from the Commonwealth under the national tax reform arrangements. The future of state subsidies had been in doubt with the distribution of commonwealth liquor taxation revenues to the States under the so-called safety net arrangements which will end from 1 July. These arrangements replaced the state taxes on liquor that were effectively ruled unconstitutional by the High Court in 1997. In addition, the States had been awaiting the announcement of the Commonwealth's new excise on beer to determine the impact on beer prices with and without the state subsidy. The new commonwealth excise, announced in the federal budget earlier this month, replaces the previous wholesale sales tax on beer from 1 July.

We understand that not all States are following Western Australia's lead to continue subsidisation of low alcohol beer. The Western Australian Government has taken this action to ensure that the price of light strength beer remains lower than that of full strength beer to encourage responsible alcohol consumption in line with the Government's health and social objectives.

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION CENTENARY

Statement by Minister for Employment and Training

MR BOARD (Murdoch - Minister for Employment and Training) [2.07 pm]: Last week Central TAFE celebrated its

centenary, marking 100 years of technical and further education in Western Australia. When Central TAFE opened its doors on 16 May 1900 as Perth Technical College, I am sure no-one realised the significant role it would come to play in education in this State and especially in art training. In 1900 Perth Tech, as it was known, had 69 students. Those students chose from eight courses which included woodwork, metalwork and carving. The college continued to grow and was in fact the only institution to offer university courses through the University of Adelaide until the University of Western Australia was opened in 1913. In 1967 a section of Central TAFE broke away to form the WA Institute of Technology, which was later to become Curtin University of Technology.

From those original 69 TAFE students, there are now more than 150 000 students in vocational and educational training courses across Western Australia. Fourteen TAFE colleges operate at 150 campuses and TAFE centres around the State. Central TAFE currently has 25 000 students studying from five major schools at six different sites.

A significant aspect of the centenary of Central TAFE is the fact that art training has an unbroken history at the college, from humble beginnings in metalwork and carving to this year's opening of the \$5.5m fine arts and ceramics building at the East Perth campus. To mark this occasion Central TAFE has launched a magnificent book, *Art and Design in Western Australia: Perth Technical College 1900-2000*. This publication focuses on the history of art at that TAFE and promises to become a major reference text on Western Australian art and artists.

Another announcement made at the centenary celebrations was the establishment of the Centre for Excellence for Online Technologies, which will be located at the East Perth campus. This centre will provide training in the growth areas of electronic commerce and electronic service delivery and will be supported by a diploma in e-commerce, which will begin next semester. This announcement is a fitting example of the developments which have been made in vocational education and training over the past 100 years.

Thanks to technology, we are now able to provide more people with access to training. Flexible delivery centres ensure that access to TAFE is equitable around the State, through video conferencing, satellite, TAFE television and the establishment of online delivery. The centenary of Central TAFE has allowed us to reflect on how far we have come with vocational education and training and has also provided us with a chance to look at how far we can take training with the continued help of new technology.

[Questions without notice taken.]

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, INQUIRY

Statement by Minister for Health

MR DAY (Darling Range - Minister for Health) [2.44 pm]: I seek leave to make a late brief ministerial statement.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! Standing orders do not cover this situation. However, the minister is seeking leave to make a ministerial statement. If leave is granted he will make it, and we will proceed.

[Leave granted.]

MR DAY: I thank the House for its indulgence. On 14 April this year, I announced that it was my intention to establish an inquiry into certain matters concerning the provision of clinical services at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. The decision to do so was the result of serious concerns that have been expressed about some past events at the hospital. These concerns resulted in the Metropolitan Health Service's appointing Dr Andrew Child of New South Wales and Ms Pauline Glover of South Australia to conduct a review of the obstetric and gynaecological services at the hospital.

In the course of conducting their review from 20 March to 3 April, Dr Child and Ms Glover interviewed 41 people and made 23 recommendations. In the time available to them, I believe Dr Child and Ms Glover have provided valuable information and addressed many important issues. However, they did not have the opportunity or the legal powers to be able to inquire into some issues to the full extent or to afford to those who might be affected all of the usual processes of natural justice. Dr Child and Ms Glover advised that some matters should be inquired into further and this view is shared by the Commissioner of Health and the Chief Medical Officer of the Health Department of Western Australia.

Accordingly, Cabinet has approved the establishment of an inquiry into obstetric and gynaecological services at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. The inquiry will be constituted under both section 9 of the Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927 and section 11 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The former Act provides for the establishment of an inquiry into any matter concerning a public hospital and the latter Act, particularly through schedule 3, provides maximum protection for those conducting the inquiry and those providing information to the inquiry. The terms of reference for the inquiry will enable the incidence of adverse clinical outcomes at the hospital to be considered and will allow for any relevant changes to be recommended.

The inquiry will consist of a panel of three people and will be chaired by Mr Neil Douglas, a legal practitioner. So as to provide appropriate clinical expertise, the other members will be Professor William Walters, Professor of Reproductive Medicine at the University of Newcastle and Chairman of the Division of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, New South Wales, and Associate Professor Kathleen Fahy, Master of Midwifery Course Coordinator in the Department of Nursing at the University of Southern Queensland.

The purpose of the inquiry will be to establish the facts on the concerns that have been expressed and to allow people to provide information in a fair and balanced way. It is important that those who may be the subject of assertions have the

opportunity to respond according to the usual principles of natural justice. The decision to establish the inquiry has not been an easy one nor has it been taken lightly. However, it is important to clear the air, and the best possible outcome will be to indicate that there is no considered basis for any serious concerns.

I reiterate the comments I made on 14 April 2000, in which I pointed out that there is no doubt that those who are involved in the practice of obstetrics are working in a field which is very demanding, often difficult and stressful and sometimes unavoidably traumatic. I went on to say that as KEMH is the tertiary referral centre for obstetrics in Western Australia, the cases with which staff need to deal are often more complex than those dealt with elsewhere. I also stated that KEMH has many highly qualified and dedicated staff who do the very best they can for patients and that the services provided there need to be seen in that context.

I table the terms of reference of the inquiry and ask that they be incorporated in *Hansard*.

[See paper No 914.]

[The material in appendix A was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See page 7063.]

BILLS - APPROPRIATIONS

Messages from the Administrator received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills -

1. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2000.
2. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 2) 2000.
3. Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill 2000.
4. Courts Legislation Amendment Bill 2000.
5. Offshore Minerals Bill 2000.

BILLS - ASSENT

Messages from the Administrator received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Coroners Amendment Bill 1999.
2. Acts Amendment (Fines Enforcement) Bill 1999.
3. Prisoners (International Transfer) Bill 1999.
4. Crimes at Sea Bill 1999.

MAYLANDS POLICE ACADEMY SITE

Petition

Dr Edwards presented a petition bearing the signatures of 291 persons regarding the future of the Maylands police academy site and requesting proper and full consultation.

[See petition No 118.]

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

Matter of Public Interest

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

That this House condemns the Minister for Health for his incompetent handling of the inquiry into King Edward Memorial Hospital and calls on the Government to end its shameful neglect of the hospital and include the issue of funding and resourcing within the inquiry's terms of reference.

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.

MS McHALE (Thornlie) [2.56 pm]: I move the motion.

The terms of reference of the inquiry have just been tabled in Parliament today. We know from the Premier's comments that the Government had no intention of including funding and resourcing in the terms of reference, and the minister's brief statement has confirmed that. It is a grave omission on the part of this Government and I will endeavour to explain why. I acknowledge that we have finally received the terms of reference, albeit far too late. I note that the inquiry will be chaired by Neil Douglas. My knowledge of his work is that he is a very thorough practitioner and will take his duties seriously and

responsibly. The fact that we have received the terms of reference today in no way diminishes the Opposition's resolve to highlight the funding crisis which King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is facing and also to express utter dismay at the length of time that the Government and the minister have taken to bring this inquiry to reality. Unacceptable delays have taken place over the past few weeks which have put enormous strain and pressure on the staff of the hospital and the women of this State.

I will remind members of the House of some of the key steps and events that have occurred in the past few months. On 23 March the minister faced a censure motion for not telling the truth about the real nature of this review. Now he faces further criticism for his inept handling of this inquiry, which, as I have said, has had the effect of debilitating the staff at King Edward Memorial Hospital and causing a crisis in confidence among the women of this State. Then the Premier said that the problems had nothing to do with the funding and resourcing issues of this hospital. How wrong can the Premier be? The link between the difficulties that the hospital is facing and the funding and resource issues is very clear. Let us look quickly at some of the background facts, and they go to why we are saying that the minister should be condemned for his handling of the inquiry.

The minister knew of problems in January. Perhaps he had an inkling before that, but at least he is saying that in January he was made aware of them in general terms. The administration of the hospital knew about the problems back in March 1999 - 15 months ago. The board knew indirectly about the difficulties through the chief executive officer; it knew more formally in November. Through freedom of information, we know that Ms Pauline Glover and Dr Andrew Child were contracted to undertake a review on 8 February, so the die was cast on that date for that review to occur. We know from the recommendations of Glover and Child that a report by Ernst and Young was finalised and submitted in October 1999. That highlighted difficulties in the management of clinical incident reporting, and Glover and Child concurred with the recommendations.

Those recommendations were made in October 1999. Nothing happened to them. However, more disturbing than that, we know from FOI and media statements that the funding and resource problems and the medico-legal difficulties that this hospital was facing were known and reported back in 1998. In September 1998 these matters were raised. They were raised again in July 1999, and nothing happened. Therefore, the background to this is that the hospital has been saying for months and years that its resourcing problems were leading to the difficulties that this inquiry will now investigate. It is nothing new. For years, the staff at the hospital have been labouring under a lack of resourcing and neglect.

We know that in January this year the minister was inclined to establish a section 9 inquiry but was talked out of it by Crown Law. He indicated again in March this year that he supported a section 9 inquiry and would have no hesitation in setting one up. The important words are "no hesitation", because what we have had in reality is every hesitation in setting up the inquiry under section 9 of the Act that we have now been told will happen. Also, interestingly, the inquiry will be covered by the Public Sector Management Act. If the minister had no hesitation in setting it up, why has it taken weeks and months for it to happen?

As I said, the minister said in March that there would be an internal inquiry; that was the Glover and Child inquiry. On 14 April he announced that there would be a ministerial inquiry under section 9. He announced that the terms of reference would be available very quickly - shortly after Easter. That is weeks ago. The delay in announcing those terms of reference has caused enormous damage to the staff of the hospital and to the confidence of women in the hospital. That damage would have been totally avoided had the minister acted expeditiously and with the interests of women at the forefront; but, no, he was motivated by the political damage that his colleagues thought would emerge as a result of the inquiry. He put political expediency ahead of the attention and care of the women of our State and the good name of King Edward Memorial Hospital.

In the interim, an internal review was conducted by Glover and Child that some say was independent, but which never set out to be an independent review. The Minister for Health said that that review would look at the tampering with files issue. He alleged that he was very concerned about the tampering with files issue, yet the Glover and Child report did not look into that disturbing point; it said that was beyond its terms of reference. The opportunity for that to be examined has already been lost. Why did the minister say that that review would look into the tampering with files issue, yet it was clearly disregarded by the review because it was outside its terms of reference?

Mr McGinty: I do not think it is in the terms of reference here either.

Ms McHALE: The terms of reference are indeed narrow. The minister promised a ministerial review. We have now got that, but at a significant cost to the hard-working staff of King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.

I turn now to the central issue of my concerns: The refusal of this Government to take the issue of funding into account in the terms of reference; that is, the inextricable link between the resourcing of a public hospital and the outcomes. This Minister for Health, this Premier and this Government are turning the spotlight back on internal issues of the hospital. It will not take account of the factors which impact on clinical outcomes; that is reprehensible and against what the staff at the hospital and the community want.

The staff and others gave the Government warning signs about the funding issue and it is because of those warnings that the Labor Party is saying that the terms of reference should be widened to include the funding and resourcing implications. One cannot come to an understanding about the incidents that have occurred at the hospital, which include deaths and disabilities, without considering also the question of resourcing. The Glover and Child report touched upon that issue but did not explore it, and this Government is not taking those matters further.

I will tell members some of the facts. In May 1998, the Metropolitan Health Service Board was alerted to the fact that in the next financial year, King Edward Memorial Hospital would have a \$3.1m deficit. That figure was revised through the year. In April 1999, the board was told by the hospital that the current projected deficit for the end of that financial year was approximately \$1.9m. In April 1999, the board knew that the hospital was struggling to meet its requirements because it would have a deficit of \$1.9m - a significant amount of money given the budget of the hospital.

In April 1999, the projected budget was confirmed at \$1.5m. It is interesting to note that the primary reason for that was that amounts were deducted from the budget of King Edward Memorial Hospital for the reconfiguration of services; in other words, King Edward's budget was cut and the money was given to peripheral metropolitan hospitals such as the Joondalup Health Campus and the Peel Health Campus. The number of patients at King Edward Hospital increased but it had less money to do more work. Surely that is indicative of the types of pressures that were placed on the staff at the hospital. The additional neonatal activity at King Edward had increased by 6.5 per cent. There was lower private patient activity which obviously resulted in lower in-patient revenue. The way the hospital dealt with that issue is very interesting.

This Government was not prepared to acknowledge that the hospital had been underfunded and its budget had been cut: The hospital was told in no uncertain terms to manage within that budget. It had to; but at a price. The hospital then used the Central Wait List Bureau money - this of itself is very interesting. The hospital said that if it was to meet its budget it would use Central Wait List Bureau money, which is supposed to be used for extra patients, to support the day-to-day operations of the hospital. As that was not of itself sufficient to deal with the deficit, the hospital would have to save the money by doing things such as not filling vacancies and reducing on-call expenditure. The heart of the Glover and Child report was, in part, about doctors not arriving on time or not even arriving. The doctors concerned are on-call. This Government has reduced the on-call expenditure because of the budget constraints.

In April 1999, the board was told that the financial problems at King Edward Memorial Hospital needed to be resolved as soon as possible to avoid the accumulation of debt. In March 1999 - this refers to capital works - it was noted that of the \$8.9m that was supposed to be available for capital works, only \$1.9m was available because \$7m had been spent on Y2K compliance. This is not just money available for King Edward Memorial Hospital; it is for all the teaching hospitals. In effect, this Government spent \$1.9m on capital works for 1998-99 because it had underfunded works generally and \$7m was spent on Y2K compliance. What did the hospital get during that year? It got \$400 000 for anaesthetic equipment and I do not know whether that equipment has even yet been delivered. It got only \$400 000 when it is in need of \$20m for upgrading and \$1m for its outpatient clinic. That money has not been budgeted for.

I want to refer to the information that the Government had in September 1998; that is, the report that was referred to the chief executive officer in July 1999 but had, in fact, been submitted to the previous chief executive officer. The report came from the obstetric clinical care unit. The information provided to the chief executive officer, and therefore the board, stated that -

The Obstetric Clinical Care Unit is unable to function without increase in its budget, The major problems are as follows:-

- 2 We are in 1998 dealing with a larger number of patients at KEMH than ever before.
- 3 The degree of complexity of obstetric cases has increased enormously in the last few years.
- 4 Expectations of patients are significantly higher.
- 5 Medico-legal problems are now reaching gigantic proportions. . . .
- 6 Obstetricians working at KEMH are associated with the most complex group of obstetric patients in the community. . . .
- 7 Morale is currently poor within the obstetric service due to the enormous pressure of work. . . .
- 8 Equipment currently used in the labour ward is antiquated and urgently requires replacement. Financial constraints have severely restricted our ability to provide this equipment.
- 9 Significant medico-legal problems have been encountered in the recent past due to inadequate numbers of senior medical staff. . . .
- 10 The training of our registrars has reached crisis point. . . .
- 11 Upskilling Programs
More and more general practitioners are coming to this hospital to receive further training . . .

That is putting additional pressure on the staff. To continue -

- 12 Money quarantined from previous budgets has been used to pay off debt and has therefore been lost from the purposes for which it was originally intended . . . money quarantined for the purchase of new monitors was also lost and the current replacement cost has increased by approximately 40% since last year.

That information puts beyond doubt an explicit link between the Government's underfunding of this State's premier women's institution and the difficulties it now faces with medical standards and the like.

The matter of public interest is intended to reinforce for the public the damage that has been done by this Government delaying the announcement of the inquiry. The Minister for Health had ample opportunity in February and March to come clean and announce the ministerial inquiry. He prevaricated, was talked out of it and was influenced by political considerations. The minister has not had the interests of women and the staff at King Edward Memorial Hospital at the forefront of his thinking.

The lack of quality assurance and improvement and the inadequacy of incident reporting, as identified by the Glover and Child report, is another area of concern. Some years ago the hospital established a quality department; in 1999 that department was disbanded because of lack of funding and the resulting other priorities. The support mechanisms the hospital is criticised for not having were disbanded. Another area of concern is the money allocated under the commonwealth-state agreements for quality assurance programs. I understand the amount was about \$12m, although some say it is much higher. I understand Treasury withheld the money and it was never given to the hospitals. Can the minister tell the House whether the commonwealth money for quality improvement was distributed to the hospitals, or did Treasury hive it off for other purposes? The hospital is accused of not having in place proper procedures for quality assurance, yet the systems it set up in the past had to be disbanded because of a lack of money. Surely the blame should be placed not on the hospital but on those funding the institution; that is, the Government.

The Government has refused to look at the issue of funding because, as the Premier said, nobody raised the issue. What a joke. It is absolutely ridiculous for the Premier to say that nobody had raised the issue of funding. The staff at the hospital raised the issue. I have just outlined five different reports made to the board about funding. Even if that had not happened, the Government would still be aware of the issue because Ms Glover and Dr Child reported on the lack of equipment. From what has been reported in the media, we know they are most concerned. Their report states -

It was evident from a tour of the hospital that the infrastructure for services was inadequate. Much of the equipment was old and malfunctioning. Staff reported that some equipment is being patched eg sleek tape to hold cots together, and that it could take several days or even weeks to get repairs done. There are areas of the hospital that are looking 'old' and 'tired' and the Henson St outpatients clinic is a less than desirable location for the maintenance of the privacy and dignity of the women.

We know that is the case. This minister has tried to tell us that money is available; however, we know the money is not in the budget. The hospital sold two houses to raise the money for that clinic; that is the type of commitment given by this Government.

We also know from another source - the Emergency Care Research Institute report - that King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children are in desperate need of money for capital upgrades. A series of documents and reports indicate that KEMH is suffering under a lack of resourcing and obsolete equipment. Is it any surprise that difficulties are emerging?

In recognising the terms of reference published today, it is important to note that the minister accepts that King Edward Memorial Hospital is the only teaching hospital in this State which deals with high-risk cases and very sick and premature babies. That fact appears to have been given insufficient recognition in the reports of the reviews undertaken of the hospital. If that is the case, it is completely bewildering to the staff and to the community why they have been subjected to such reviews and procrastination by this Government. It is not difficult to get caught up in the view that the long-term future of the hospital is unsafe and that this Government has an agenda to close it down. It may have that agenda not for this month or this year but for years to come. Heaven help us that this Government will not be around in years to come so that it cannot close down this hospital. However, it is not difficult to believe that it is the Government's overall agenda, which gives sense to what has been occurring.

To exclude funding from the terms of reference of this inquiry is a shameful disgrace and a glaring omission. Its exclusion does not meet with the community's expectation. The community knows that funding and outcomes are linked together. Why does this Government not know that? Why has this Government put the staff of the hospital and the women of our State to so much trouble by its delays, procrastination and unwillingness to deal with the outcomes of the inquiry?

MR DAY (Darling Range - Minister for Health) [3.22 pm]: This motion was predictable. However, it recognises neither the Government's reason for establishing the inquiry nor the funding which is available not only to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, but also to all our public hospitals in this State.

I agree it has taken a little longer to establish the inquiry than I would have preferred or initially expected. However, it was necessary to proceed carefully, to consult fully within government and to receive the appropriate legal advice so that the terms of reference, which were published today, were carefully constructed. It also took some time to ensure that we had three appropriate people to conduct the inquiry. With their combination of legal, obstetric and midwifery expertise, a very broad range of skills will be available to the inquiry to fairly and properly inquire into the matters which have been raised.

The member for Thornlie said that I have been motivated by the political damage which might be done to the Government as a result of establishing this inquiry and that was a reason for delaying its establishment. I completely refute that suggestion. If I or the Government were attempting to cover up these issues, we would not have established an inquiry in the first place. The Opposition should acknowledge that the Government has faced up to the issues that have been raised. It is not trying to sweep matters under the carpet. The Government wanted to ensure that the inquiry was established with all of the appropriate protections available to the people who may be required to provide information to it.

The member for Thornlie indicated that the management of the hospital knew that problems existed in March last year.

Ms McHale: It was first raised in May 1998.

Mr DAY: I am aware that over a number of months, concerns were raised, primarily by staff of the hospital, with the present chief executive officer, Michael Moodie, following his appointment in March last year. On accumulating that information, he sought further advice, including advice from a Sydney law firm, and an internal audit was conducted of some of the clinical reporting processes in the hospital. All of that led to Mr Moodie referring the matter to the board of the Metropolitan Health Service. Ultimately, that resulted in the appointment of two reviewers from outside of Western Australia, Dr Child and Ms Glover. They reviewed the hospital's obstetric and gynaecological services in March and early April this year. As I indicated in a ministerial statement earlier this afternoon, although Dr Child and Ms Glover were as thorough as they could be in the relatively brief time available, they did not have the opportunity or the legal capacity to inquire into all of the matters which needed to be examined to the extent that was necessary. They needed a greater degree of legal protection than they had been given. The appropriate legal framework has now been put in place for the inquiry which I announced today.

Ms McHale: Did they recommend the ministerial inquiry?

Mr DAY: Not in those words; however, they recommended that some matters should be further inquired into. It was not their brief to determine what sort of inquiry should be held. It was a matter of judgment by the Government to determine the most appropriate way to get to the bottom of these sorts of issues. As I said, Dr Child and Ms Glover indicated that some matters should be further inquired into. They indicated they did not have the time to go into some of the matters, and the appropriate legal framework that was necessary for this was not in place.

By establishing this inquiry, the Government is facing up to the issues. This inquiry will be welcomed virtually by everyone within the health sector, because it will enable the air to be cleared and for matters to be thoroughly, properly and, very importantly, investigated in a balanced way. The Government has not come to any conclusions. It did not want to jump to any conclusions about what the outcome may be. As I indicated earlier in my statement, the best outcome, following due consideration, would be advice that some of the concerns expressed do not have any foundation. However, we need to wait for the outcome of the inquiry.

We do not need an inquiry into funding for King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, because the story is simple and is demonstrated in the figures that I have previously referred to in some of the public discussions on this issue, and to which I will refer again. In 1992-93, the last year of the Labor Government, the amount of government funding - that is, taxpayer funding - made available to King Edward Memorial Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children was \$103m. They are funded together and, essentially, are the one hospital with one administration, but on two different sites. It is expected that \$145m will be expended by the two hospitals in the 1999-2000 financial year, which represents a substantial increase of about 40 per cent while we have been in government. The Opposition is inclined to attribute any problems which may exist in public hospitals to funding.

Dr Gallop: Other problems are constant managerial changes which undermine stability in the system, and privatisation and contracting out. Do you want me to keep going?

Mr DAY: The Leader of the Opposition accepts that the Opposition will attribute blame to funding, yet the Government has a very strong record in funding our public hospital and health system. The Government has absolutely nothing to be ashamed of. Funding has increased from \$1.2b directed to our health services when we came to government to the current level of \$1.9b, which is an increase over the past eight years to approximately \$700m a year.

I accept that some managerial changes to our health system have occurred in our time in government. However, there has been a great deal of stability in recent years. The Metropolitan Health Service was established close to three years ago in July 1997 to bring under one overall structure all publicly owned and operated hospitals in the metropolitan area. This was designed to achieve a greater degree of coordination in the provision of health services in the metropolitan area, and to direct the maximum amount of the large amount of resources provided to the MHS to patient care. That is what the current corporate reform project is about. A project is under way to reduce expenditure on some of the corporate support services; that is, the non-core services as far as the provision of clinical treatment is concerned. Therefore, funding directed to patient services can be maximised. The amount of funding available to the Metropolitan Health Service this financial year, let alone the next financial year, is approximately \$1 040m - a very large amount. If we include the additional funding providing for hospital services in the metropolitan area contracted with the private sector, the figure is about \$1 140m.

The Government has a strong record in providing funding to public hospitals. The Opposition does not want to tell that story, as it works hard for its political purposes to create a perception that public hospitals are underfunded and are not adequately supported by the Government. The record is very different.

Mr McGinty: No-one believes you on that.

Mr DAY: The member for Fremantle should look at the figures; he may find it difficult to understand figures, but -

Mr McGinty: Why not build the outpatient clinic at King Edward which was promised an awfully long time ago?

Mr Court: We have built four new hospitals, and you could not build one in 10 years!

Mr DAY: As the Premier indicated, the Opposition has a shameful record in the provision of quality, high standard health services in this State. Members opposite talked for 10 years in government about building a new hospital in the Armadale area, but did nothing. The same happened at Bunbury. The Labor Government spent \$2m on foundations for a supposedly new hospital and stuck up some signs, but that was the end of it. It was a gross waste of money.

Ms MacTiernan: What did you do in your first term in government about the Armadale hospital which was so urgent? Nothing.

Mr DAY: We are digressing. The reality is that a magnificent new \$48m health campus is being built in Armadale for the constituents of the member for Armadale, and people in surrounding electorates. The member should be very happy.

Ms MacTiernan: I am pleased that it will be publicly owned - as are the people of the area.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Armadale will come to order.

Mr DAY: A large amount of expenditure has been directed to all our public hospitals, and the allocations have grown substantially in our time in government. Figures strongly bear out that fact. The budget announced by the Treasurer last week increased funding to our health services by another \$86m or so.

It is worth making comparisons with health services in other States. First, Western Australia spends more on public hospital and health services provision per capita than does any other State of Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics advised that, in 1998-99, Western Australia spent \$885 per annum a person on health services provision, compared with a national average of \$814 a person. Therefore, Western Australia spends about 9 per cent more than the national average.

Dr Gallop: We are a very big State, minister.

Mr DAY: Indeed, and the tyranny of distance is a challenge in providing a range of services. The Leader of the Opposition perhaps implicitly acknowledges that this Government spends more per capita on health services than does any other State of Australia. As I have said in this place before, I frequently receive positive comments from people who have experienced the provision of health services in other States of Australia and compared them with the services and assistance received in Western Australia.

Dr Gallop: Why do you spend most of your time trying to undermine it?

Mr DAY: That is the big lie from the Opposition! The Leader of the Opposition believes that if he says it often enough and long enough, people might start to believe it. How can he honestly claim that we are undermining the public hospital system in this State?

Dr Gallop: Why did you privatise Mandurah and Joondalup? Why did you want to privatise Armadale? You do not believe in the system!

Mr DAY: The Leader of the Opposition equates involving the private sector in health services provision with undermining our system. The contrary is the truth. This Government has a policy of achieving the greatest value from the almost \$2b of taxpayers' money directed to our health system. If the private sector can provide a high quality service to public patients in a cost-effective way, it is in the interests of taxpayers of this State to use that service.

Ms MacTiernan: You know from the example in Armadale that that is not true.

Mr DAY: The member for Armadale is not really that silly: She knows in her head, but will not admit, that we went through a tendering process for each potential service on its merits. It was done one by one. Having undertaken that process privatisation was not appropriate for Armadale.

Dr Gallop: I will tell you why. It was because the member for Armadale ran a great campaign in the community.

Mr Court: She knocked the hospital at every turn!

Mr DAY: Absolutely.

Ms MacTiernan: I knocked the privatisation. You cannot have it both ways, Premier. Either it undermines your argument that privatisation is cheaper, or you did it for political reasons. You cannot have it both ways.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Health has the call.

Mr DAY: The reality is that the Armadale hospital went through the process. Despite the undermining attempts of the member, the decision was made -

Dr Gallop: The member did you like a dinner at the evening meal. She destroyed you!

Mr DAY: Does the Leader of the Opposition want to hear the facts? I was a member of Cabinet and Minister for Health when the final decision was made. My colleague the member for Albany dealt with it prior to my time in the portfolio.

Mr Court: Why are we talking about Armadale; why not King Edward?

Ms MacTiernan: Your man is telling us. You did not tell us why Armadale is so different economically?

Mr DAY: I am trying to tell members. The difference is that the bids which came to government, having undertaken that tendering process, did not match up to the cost of providing the services through the public sector. It was different at Joondalup and Peel.

Let us return to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. If King Edward and Princess Margaret Hospitals were funded on the same basis as an equivalent hospital in Newcastle, New South Wales - John Hunter Hospital, which I understand is

a hospital for women and children - they would receive \$20m per annum less than they receive currently. The funding which is provided by this Government for those hospitals is at a higher level and at a higher cost to taxpayers than is the funding that is provided for the same services in New South Wales, and I have no doubt also in most, if not all, of the other States of Australia. The average cost of providing a treatment episode at King Edward Memorial Hospital is \$2 708. The cost of providing an equivalent service at the Royal Women's Hospital in Sydney, New South Wales, is \$2 559. In other words, the cost of providing that service in this State is \$149 more than the cost of providing that service in New South Wales, and that cost is funded by this Government, courtesy of the taxpayers of Western Australia. The average cost of providing a treatment episode at Princess Margaret Hospital is \$3 676, compared with \$3 110 at the New Children's Hospital in Sydney, which is an even greater difference in cost of \$566. Therefore, the Opposition cannot argue validly that this Government is not providing adequate funding to either Princess Margaret or King Edward Memorial Hospital. The reality is that the amount of funding has increased substantially in the time that we have been in government.

With regard to capital works, a large number of improvements have been undertaken at King Edward Memorial Hospital over the past six years, including refurbishment of wards 3, 4, 5 and 6 at a cost of \$2.5m, upgrade of the west wing clinic for the provision of oncology services at a cost of \$600 000, refurbishment of the day surgery unit at a cost of \$600 000, refurbishment of the special care nursery at a cost of \$1m, establishment of a new family birth centre at a cost of \$500 000, and refurbishment of the main corridor at an estimated cost of \$40 000. The total expenditure on capital items, including capital works and replacement of equipment, over the past six years at King Edward Memorial and Princess Margaret Hospitals is about \$30m. The outpatient clinic at King Edward Memorial Hospital is being upgraded at a cost of about \$1.1m. I agree that that upgrading has been required for some time. Tenders for that work are currently under consideration, and I hope that job will be awarded to the successful tenderer within the next few days so that work can commence quickly.

The assertions made by the Opposition are not borne out by the facts. The Government is facing up to the issues at King Edward Memorial Hospital in a fair, balanced and considered way through the establishment of this inquiry, and the figures with regard to funding speak for themselves.

DR TURNBULL (Collie) [3.43 pm]: This afternoon I will speak in defence of King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and of the doctors and nurses who provide services at that hospital. In 1994-95, I was the chairman of the Select Committee on Intervention in Childbirth in Western Australia. The principal recommendation of that committee was that there should be a fundamental change in the attitude of people who care for expectant mothers and babies during the birthing process. That fundamental change was a shift in the organisational focus of doctors, nurses and hospitals from the clinical model of care for mothers to the shared-care model. The shared care model allows mothers who are classified as low risk to have their babies delivered in a facility which is as much like their home and is as close to their home as possible. That means that they can have their babies in a birthing unit, at their home or in a country hospital. The select committee proved that it is as safe for low-risk mothers to have their baby in a country hospital in Western Australia or in Swan District Hospital as it is to have their baby in King Edward Memorial Hospital. For that reason, we recommended that this was the model that should be adopted.

I am describing this process so that members opposite will understand that the policy of this Government is to deliver obstetric care to mothers in the hospital that is closest to their home. It is difficult to do that. It is difficult to move doctors from their preferred centralised areas out to peripheral areas. Members of the Opposition carry on and on about centralising Royal Perth Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. They should be ashamed of themselves. We are trying to move services out to the people who need them; and the very people who need them are the Opposition's constituents. The member for Armadale's constituents want to have their babies in Armadale, and they will be able to do that in the new hospital at Armadale. They will not need to get on a bus and trek in to King Edward Memorial Hospital. The people in Rockingham, Mandurah and Joondalup want to be able to go to the hospital in their area. Members opposite should be ashamed of the way they are carrying on in trying to centralise services.

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women focuses on high-care, high-risk patients; and of course its statistics will be outlandish, because it is the only tertiary hospital in Western Australia.

Ms MacTiernan: Why is your minister calling an inquiry?

Dr TURNBULL: It is because members of the Opposition have helped to whip up the perception that something is wrong with King Edward Memorial Hospital. I assure members opposite that one or two issues will come out of this inquiry -

Ms McHale: What are they?

Dr TURNBULL: I do not know. When a hospital is caring for more than 1 000 high-risk patients a year, it will have one, two or even three incidents over five or six years. It is abominable that members opposite are stirring up this perception in the community about this hospital. Of course the minister now needs to have an inquiry. That inquiry will have very good people on it, and I trust that the people who will do the research for this inquiry will come up with a good result. It will be a great shame that we had to spend so much money on this inquiry, and members opposite are the people who demanded it and who whipped up the issue.

The opposition spokesperson for Health, the member for Thornlie, has worked in health, knows the processes and knows that we have an Office of Health Review in Western Australia to which people can go. I cannot understand why the member for Thornlie must drag this issue through the newspapers and all around the place. The member for Thornlie should be worried about the cost of this inquiry, as am I. I believe the people at King Edward Memorial Hospital deserve

an inquiry now, and money will be spent on that inquiry instead of on other items that that hospital needs, but it will prove that King Edward Memorial Hospital does have good results and is a magnificent tertiary hospital for mothers and babies in Western Australia.

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [3.48 pm]: I wish to bring to the attention of members the matter of centralisation. When King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women was first established, there was no other hospital for women in this State, and it was quite appropriate that such a hospital be established, and it has been established for a long time. The population of the metropolitan area, including Mandurah, is now spread over a distance of at least 100 kilometres north-south, and it is long past time that the obstetric and other specialist services that are concentrated in the major teaching hospitals up and down the river were spread out to major hospitals in suburban areas. Surely everyone would agree with that. It is a commonsense proposition and it involves taking services to the people, whether they be in Armadale, Joondalup, Midland, Mandurah and so on. That applies not only to the buildings but also to the people. The specialists must obviously provide those services. It is difficult to make such changes involving people. It requires care, time and a lot of persuasion and talking. One of the processes that will achieve that is clinical streaming, which is coming. It is not a secret; it has been recommended by the United Kingdom-based King's Fund and other organisations, and it is happening.

The Child and Glover inquiry states that 46 per cent of the deliveries at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women are low risk and involve no problems. One would argue that some of those procedures should be undertaken at the hospital because a certain amount of that activity should occur in a hospital that trains midwives and doctors. However, we do not need such an enormous number of women travelling long distances to give birth at King Edward Memorial Hospital. Figures relating to other services offered by the hospital are available and one could argue that there is too much centralisation and that there should be a better distribution of services to peripheral hospitals. Those coming from the bush - particularly Aboriginal women from remote communities who often experience complications - should have a facility to which they can come and which offers the very best of services. I am aware that the neonatal unit, to name just one, is the best facility of its kind in the southern hemisphere. That is a tribute not only to the people and the equipment they use but also to the many years of training and experience they have had dealing with very small children. Service providers in other parts of the world say they have a good system. However, they do not have the capacity to keep a 450-gram baby alive. That is done here routinely and frequently with very good results - in fact, very rarely with poor results.

That is the experience at this centre of excellence, and we must maintain it. To do that, we must have absolute confidence in the people involved in delivering the service. It is a fact that the staff have raised issues of concern, and they appropriately took those issues to management. Management and staff have raised the issue of "adverse clinical outcomes", to use the generic expression applied to these events. This inquiry is not about funding: It is about what has been going on for a long time in some parts of the hospital and with some people. This situation has not arisen in the past couple of years. I do not want to go into any detail because that would be improper.

Dr Gallop: Have you been briefed on this?

Mr PRINCE: I have read the report and it has been discussed in Cabinet.

Dr Gallop: When were you first briefed on it as a minister?

Mr PRINCE: Just recently - not when I was Minister for Health.

The "adverse clinical outcomes" are mentioned as the first term of reference because that is what this is about. Consideration of accountabilities, policies and practices and the adequacy of clinical records and reporting systems is included in the terms of reference, and so it should be. This is about what is happening at the hospital and what should happen. It is about competence in clinical service, not funding. That is what it should be about and that is what has been raised by the people concerned.

Such an inquiry is not established lightly. The minister should be commended for having an independent review undertaken before moving on to the very serious step of establishing a section 9 inquiry under the Hospital and Health Services Act and section 11 of the Public Sector Management Act. Only when a minister is sure that there is good reason to do so should he trigger such an inquiry. Confidence is critical in all areas of medicine, but particularly in this area and especially for women who experience obstetric difficulties.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.54 pm]: The performance of this minister on the issue of King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is a case study of how to undermine confidence in an institution and to ensure that that erosion continues. A minister seeking to do that will first express doubt about its future. Members should make no mistake: This Government and this minister have expressed doubt about the hospital's future. When I introduced my plan to fund the hospital on 16 May, the minister said on 6PR -

In the long term, we do need to look at the best way to provide services and there would only be a change from the King Edward site if there was a better facility provided somewhere else. But that is very long term sort of stuff . . .

Then he stated on ABC Radio -

And King Edward does have a future on its current site, at least for obviously the remainder of this term in government and all of the next term in government. The only reason we would change anything in the future is if there is a new facility built hypothetically on another site, but that is long term planning sort of stuff and we simply haven't got to that point.

Members opposite are thinking about it and sending a message that it is on the Government's agenda. That is how they undermine confidence in an institution.

The second way to undermine that confidence is to ignore the realities about what is going on in the institution. The minister had Glover and Child undertake an inquiry. The report that resulted stated -

It was evident from a tour of the hospital that the infrastructure for services was inadequate. Much of the equipment was old and malfunctioning. Staff reported that some equipment is being patched eg sleek tape to hold cots together, and that it could take several days or even weeks to get repairs done. There are areas of the hospital that are looking 'old' and 'tired' and the Henson St outpatients clinic is a less than desirable location for the maintenance of the privacy and dignity of the women.

That was clear advice to the Government that funding is an issue.

What has the Government done? First, it has not said in clear and unambiguous terms that King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women has a future in the State's health system. Members of the Government constantly talk about shifting services from the hospital. Second, when advice was given to the Government that the hospital had a resource problem, the minister said that that was not part of the equation. The inquiry set up by the Government will not look at the funding issues. What a ridiculous proposition. It will look at very important clinical questions in the premier women's hospital in Western Australia, but the Government has said that those issues are isolated from the hospital's funding arrangements. Glover and Child has advised the Government that funding and resources are an issue.

This Government is very happy to point the finger at someone else. However, it will not accept responsibility for its actions and ensure its own performance is subject to a proper inquiry. This minister has failed in his duty. He took too long to act when concerns were raised about what was going on at King Edward Memorial Hospital. When he did act, he removed from the equation the important issue of funding. Crucially, he will not clearly and unambiguously say to the women of Western Australia that King Edward Memorial Hospital will be maintained as the premier women's hospital in this State.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (17)

Ms Anwyl
Mr Brown
Mr Carpenter
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop

Mr Graham
Mr Grill
Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan

Mr Marlborough
Mr McGinty
Mr McGowan
Ms McHale

Mr Ripper
Mrs Roberts
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (29)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Baker
Mr Barron-Sullivan
Mr Board
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mr Day

Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames
Mrs Holmes
Mr House
Mr Johnson
Mr Kierath
Mr Marshall

Mr Masters
Mr McNee
Mr Minson
Mr Omodei
Mr Osborne
Mr Pandal
Mr Prince

Mr Shave
Mr Sweetman
Mr Trenorden
Dr Turnbull
Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Wiese
Mr Tubby (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Riebeling
Mr Thomas
Mr Bridge

Mrs Hodson-Thomas
Mr Barnett
Mr MacLean

Question thus negatived.

PROSTITUTION BILL 1999

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it did not insist on its amendments Nos 15 and 17 to 21; that it did not insist on, but proposed a substituted amendment for, its amendment No 24, as set forth in the schedule annexed; that it insisted on its amendments Nos 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 23, 25 and 27 and further proposed consequential amendments as set forth in the schedule annexed; that it had agreed to the Assembly amendments substituted as new amendments for Council amendments Nos 10, 13 and 16; that it had agreed to amendments Nos 5, 6, 14, 28 and 30 as further amended by the Assembly; and that it had inserted a new clause as set forth in the schedule annexed.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

Sessional Order

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [4.04 pm]: I move -

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the following sessional order for estimates committees to be adopted -

- (1) After the second reading of the appropriation Bill which provides for the main recurrent and capital appropriations, the consideration in detail stage will be replaced by Estimates Committees A and B.
- (2) The estimates committees will examine the Bills and proposed expenditure contained in the estimates and report on proposed expenditure by the Parliament and government departments and agencies funded from the consolidated fund.
- (3) There will be a management committee which will comprise the Leader of the House, one member nominated in writing to the Speaker by the Premier, and two members similarly nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.
- (4) Before the estimates committees first meet, the Leader of the House will present to the House the report of the management committee, which report will prescribe -
 - (a) which parts of the estimates are to be considered by each committee; and
 - (b) the time allotted for consideration of each part or any division or program of the estimates.
- (5) On the presentation of the report of the management committee, the Speaker will forthwith propose the question, "That the report be adopted" and debate may proceed for a maximum period of one hour on that question and any proposed amendments.
- (6) Each estimates committee will consist of -
 - (a) a Chairman;
 - (b) three members appointed by the Leader of the House and three members appointed by the Leader of the Opposition; and
 - (c) when considering the estimate for "Parliament", the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker; or
 - (d) when considering government department or agency estimates, the minister or parliamentary secretary responsible in the Assembly for the department or agency under consideration, or another minister acting in that capacity.
- (7) The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition will notify in writing to the Speaker their appointment of members for each part, division or program, specified in the report of the management committee.
- (8) A member may be replaced on an estimates committee by -
 - (a) the member appointing another member as a replacement;
 - (b) the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Opposition appointing another member as a replacement; or
 - (c) a member deputed by the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Opposition appointing another member as a replacement,

and no change will take effect until notified in writing to the Clerk to the committee.
- (9)
 - (a) The Chairman of an estimates committee will be the Deputy Speaker or an Acting Speaker.
 - (b) Any member of the committee may take the Chair temporarily whenever requested so to do by the Chairman of that committee.
- (10) The quorum of an estimates committee will be four, excluding the Chairman, and if at any time a quorum is not present, the Chairman may suspend the proceedings of the committee until a quorum is present.
- (11) Members of the Assembly who are not members of the committee may participate, at the discretion of the Chairman, in the proceedings of the committee, but will not vote, move any motion, or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (12) Advisers who are present at an estimates committee to assist the Speaker or ministers will not directly answer questions or otherwise address the committee except with the approval of and in the presence of the Speaker, relevant minister or parliamentary secretary.
- (13) Minutes of each estimates committee will be recorded by the Clerk to the committee, and will be signed by the Deputy Speaker or an Acting Speaker and the Clerk to the Committee.
- (14) In each estimates committee -

- (a) the question will be proposed for each division or part thereof of the estimates referred to that committee, "That the appropriation be recommended", and if there is any equality of votes on any such question, the committee will include in its report to the House, its inability to report on that division;
 - (b) voting in a division will be taken by a show of hands of those members of the committee, exclusive of the Chairman, present when a question is put and tellers will not be appointed;
 - (c) any question of the procedure or point of order will be determined by the Chairman of the committee, subject to the ultimate decision of the Speaker; and
 - (d) at the conclusion of consideration by Estimates Committee A of the estimates referred to it or at the expiry of the time allocated to that committee, the question will be put forthwith "That the clauses, schedules and title of the Bill be agreed to".
- (15) Reports of the estimates committees will state which parts of the estimates have been considered and whether the proposed expenditures are recommended. Failure of an estimates committee to report on any part of the estimates within the time required by the Assembly will be deemed to be a report recommending the proposed expenditures. The time for presentation of the reports may be as determined by the Assembly.
- (16) The reports of the estimates committees will be presented together to the Assembly by the Deputy Speaker and may be considered forthwith, the question being proposed for each, "That the report be adopted". Debate on that question and any amendment thereto will not exceed one hour in total, but that will not preclude an amendment being moved and the question being put thereon. If the reports of the committees are adopted, the third reading of the Bill may be moved forthwith.
- (17) Each member may speak on the third readings of the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2000 and the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 2) 2000 for 15 minutes.

This sessional order is designed to establish two estimates committees running together over three and a half days. The proposed schedule which has been circulated to members provides for a total of 75 hours of debate - the same amount of time as was provided over the past three years. Capital works items have once again been included for discussion during the estimates committees debates. As has been the practice over the past three years, the time allocated for portfolios has been prepared in blocks rather than setting restrictive intervals for each division. This provides for greater flexibility, and it will be up to members of each committee to determine how they wish to best use that time.

The estimates committee system is regarded as not exactly perfect, but it does stretch backbench members on both sides of the House in order to make up the numbers on each day. I understand that the Public Accounts Committee is reviewing the estimates committee system, and I am sure the House will be interested in its conclusions. The Public Accounts Committee recommendations will also be considered by members of the Procedure and Privileges Committee, and I am sure that committee will also report its findings to the House. I am sure that by now most members are used to the estimates committee system. It seems to have worked in the past, but it does have room for improvement. I thank those members in advance for their participation in the very important process of close budget scrutiny.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [4.06 pm]: The Opposition supports this sessional order and looks forward to the opportunities which the estimates committees will provide for the proper scrutiny of the expenditure for the 2000-01 financial year. As the Deputy Premier has indicated, one can look to improvements. The general view is that the estimates committees provide a very important opportunity to scrutinise the budget. Obviously, we can make comments at the conclusion of the estimates committees in the reporting period and the third reading debate about areas which have worked effectively or areas which need reform and change. We see the whole process as one of ongoing change and reform. However, currently, a valuable opportunity is offered in the estimates committees under these sessional orders.

One point I must make clear to the Government and the Deputy Premier is that we accept that the government strategy this year is to have the appropriation Bills through the Parliament by 30 June. As expenditure from this budget starts from 1 July, that is quite important because there is no other transitional money Bill to allow expenditure from 1 July. The appropriation Bills need to be through the Parliament by the end of next month and the Opposition will cooperate with the Government to achieve that. I hope the Deputy Premier makes it clear to his ministers that when we come back to the final reporting on the estimates committee and the third reading debate, we will certainly take issue with the Government if the answers to supplementary questions are not provided. In past years there has been a good attempt by the Government to have those answers provided to members. However, it has not always been the case that members, in their last opportunity to address matters in the budget, have been supplied with supplementary answers to questions in the estimates committees. I give notice now that we expect all ministers to provide answers to supplementary questions. In saying that, I hope the Government will not try to avoid the issue by simply having ministers refuse to give undertakings for supplementary answers. In past years during the estimates committees some ministers asked members to put questions on notice. I see that as quite improper. If members have questions of detail on matters relating specifically to the budget, they should be answered either in the estimates committees or through the supplementary answers procedure. I hope that during the estimates committees the various ministers will be able to provide the required details and, when that is not possible and they need the assistance of their officers to provide that information and seek to do so by way of supplementary information, the supplementary information will be available before we debate the reporting period and the third reading of the Bill.

On that basis, the Opposition will work most cooperatively with the Government to ensure the passage of these appropriation Bills by 30 June as requested by the Government.

Question put and passed.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No. 1) 2000

Cognate Debate

On motion by Mr Cowan (Merredin - Deputy Premier), resolved -

That leave be granted for the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2000 and the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 2) 2000 to be debated cognately and that the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2000 be the principal Bill.

Declaration as Urgent

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [4.10 pm]: I move -

That the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2000 and Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 2) 2000 be declared urgent Bills.

I have moved this motion because, under the standing orders, these matters must spend some time on the Table and we are pre-empting that time by a period. Therefore, these Bills have to be considered urgent Bills.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading - Cognate Debate

Resumed from 11 May.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [4.11 pm]: The budget delivered to this Parliament on 11 May was the coalition's eighth budget. Each budget was to deliver so much, yet the community has received so little. Three years ago, the Premier promised a social dividend to the community and then he slugged it with high taxes and charges. Two years ago he promised a debt free future for Western Australians. Since then he has increased government debt. Last year he promised to fix the health and crime crisis facing the community. We still have a crisis in our hospitals and our crime rates are the highest in Australia. This Government has failed to deliver, even though it has had an abundance of opportunities. The Government has not been able to translate the revenue it has received into priority expenditures that will make a real difference to the quality of life of Western Australians.

Make no mistake, the revenue that has been available to this Government since it was elected is phenomenal. Since 1992-93, revenue has increased by 70 per cent, from \$1.9b to \$3.3b. This is an increase of 38 per cent in real per capita terms. Revenue from payroll tax has increased by 45 per cent, from property taxes by 87 per cent and from motor vehicle taxes by 96 per cent. The past four budgets have seen a typical one car household face an additional \$640 in extra taxes and charges. The significance of the revenue increases is indicated by comparing them with past budgets and with budgets of other States. In its pre-budget submission, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia noted that real per capita revenue for the Government has increased annually by 1.6 per cent since 1992-93 compared with 0.1 per cent annually for the previous seven years.

In comparing increases in taxation revenue across the nation, only Queensland has experienced more growth - 75 per cent compared with Western Australia's 70 per cent. On top of that, there has been massive revenue growth from privatisation. Since 1992-93, the Government's privatisation program has netted over \$4b in revenue. With these figures in mind, we need to look at the actual performance of the Government after its eight budgets in key areas such as health, education and crime.

Indicator after indicator shows that Western Australia is performing badly. This Government has had record revenue growth, but that growth has not been translated into programs and expenditures in the key areas of health, education and police that make a real difference in the community. The latest report from the Metropolitan Health Service shows that the Government is failing to meet its 1996 election promises on waiting lists. It promised to halve waiting lists; yet these lists have fallen only slightly from 12 687 in December 1996 to 10 892 in March 2000. The Premier also promised to reduce the length of time people are on the waiting lists. That is very important. How long do people have to wait before they have elective surgery? Again, he has failed to deliver.

In December 1996, the median waiting time was five months; it has now increased to 5.6 months. In other words, not only have the Government's promises on waiting lists not been achieved, but also the waiting times have got worse. The Premier also promised that everyone would receive treatment for his or her condition within the appropriate time. However, the latest report from the Metropolitan Health Service Board shows that 43 per cent of urgent cases are not being dealt with within the 30 days of the clinically desirable time. Twenty-one per cent of semi-urgent cases are outside the ninety-days seen as desirable. Dental waiting lists are also growing. Over 3 000 people have waited for over nine months for treatment at the Perth Dental Hospital. The waiting lists are also growing in the country; for example, people in Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton wait eight months on average for treatment.

The Western Australian health goals and targets report released last year by the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health

Research also shows the government failing in a number of key areas. It presents an alarming picture of serious problems among Western Australian children. Western Australia lags behind the national average in key areas of child health with the highest rate of drowning, poisoning and hospital admissions for falls, burns and scalds. In particular, our children aged under four years are almost twice as likely to be admitted to hospital with burns than are other Australian children. We have the worst mortality rate for Aboriginal infants with 17 in every 1 000 babies dying in their first year. The report reveals that current death rates of Aboriginal infants exceed by 70 per cent the 2000 target of 10 deaths per 1 000. A Western Australian child without normal hearing waits an average of two years and one month to be fitted with a hearing aid; that is four months longer than the national target of six months. It is particularly depressing to have to report that Western Australia has the second highest infant drowning rate in the nation, with a rate of 3.8 infant deaths per 100 000 being exceeded only by the rate of 4.1 deaths per 100 000 in the Northern Territory.

These are very important indicators on the delivery of health services. These indicators on waiting times, waiting lists, the State's performance in child health, and its performance in dental waiting lists indicate that this Government is incapable of translating the revenue it has received into programs and expenditures which make a difference for the people of Western Australia. It is not surprising that is the case in health, because there have been three major urbanisational health restructures in the seven years of the coalition Government. Firstly, it went for purchase provider. It then got rid of that and went to a centralised system. It then went to the Metropolitan Health Service Board, and all the time it was undermining the stability of the system with privatisation and contracting-out policies. No wonder that when a dollar is spent in our health system today, it does not produce a dollar of outcome for the people of Western Australia.

I turn now to education. Without doubt, the most important economic question facing any country today is its education system. It is a social and personal issue but today it is a crucial economic issue. Unless nations, regions and communities are knowledge societies, their ability to progress in future will be undermined. Year 12 retention rates in our schools were more than doubled and almost tripled in the 1983 to 1993 decade of state and federal Labor Governments from an abysmally low 26 per cent to about 65 per cent. What has happened under coalition governments in the 1990s? Those trends have been reversed and now less than 60 per cent of all our 17 year olds are still in school. This is already below the national average and compares with 90 per cent for countries like Germany, France, Japan and Korea. A new problem is emerging in our education system: Equality across the system and throughout the State. Girls are doing better than boys with 65 per cent of girls completing year 12 compared with only 32 per cent of boys. In regional and rural high schools only 39 per cent of our boys reach the end of year 12 compared with 48 per cent of girls. However, 72 per cent of girls in city schools go on to year 12. These inequalities in aspiration and achievement are wrong and are undermining the ability of our community to face the economic challenge posed by the knowledge economies of the twenty-first century.

Meanwhile, retention rates in private schools continue to rise and are approaching 80 per cent. No-one in this House denies the right of people to choose the education for their children. However, the fundamental responsibility of governments is to their public schools and to ensure that they deliver the best available schooling to the people in their communities; it is not happening in Western Australia today.

Lying behind these poor retention rates are problems with teacher shortages across the State. Unparalleled problems have occurred with staffing government schools in regional and rural Western Australia. As the performance of Western Australia is lagging behind the rest of the nation and internationally in health, so too in education we are lagging behind the nation and lagging behind the requirements of a modern knowledge economy. It is a travesty of equal opportunity and of the unachieved aspirations of our young people.

Crime rates continue to increase under the coalition Government. Members should remember that this Premier promised in 1993 that the coalition Government would make it safe for people in their homes and in the streets. Since that promise, unlawful entry with intent and theft offences have increased and armed robbery has increased by a staggering 140 per cent. Western Australia is now the crime capital of Australia with the highest crime rates in the country, particularly for home break-ins involving theft, motor vehicle theft, other theft and sexual assault. I repeat: Western Australia is the crime capital of Australia. When one compares our figures with the rest of the States, we lead the way. It was revealed in the latest report on government services comparing the States that 2 325 incidents per 100 000 home break-ins involving theft occurred in 1998, well above the national average of 1 831 cases per 100 000. The picture of motor vehicle theft was similarly alarming with 880 incidents of motor vehicle theft per 100 000, significantly higher than the national average of 702 incidents. This Government is incapable of dealing with that crime problem because it does not have the comprehensive strategies to deal with it, strategies for focusing on the effectiveness of our police service, on crime prevention in our suburbs and communities and on policing in our suburbs and communities. Until this Government is capable of seeing the broad picture, those figures will be reproduced in the future.

I will refer to three indicators of social success which are a sad indictment of the performance of the coalition Government. Firstly, since 1993 the number of deaths from drug overdoses per year has almost trebled from 28 in 1993 to 79 in 1998. Secondly, equally distressing is the fact that our suicide rate is above the national average and is growing for young men in the 25 to 40 years age group. I read recently that our young people are the miners' canaries of modern society. Members would know that in the underground mines in earlier days, canaries were taken down into the pits and used as guinea pigs to test the extent of gas build up in those mines. Our young people are particularly sensitive to the problems in our society and pick them up. It is tragic to have to report to this House that so many of our young people do not see hope in the future and take their own lives. These are fundamental issues that must be addressed by governments. Building more monuments will do nothing to address that particular problem. Thirdly, let us consider Western Australia's road toll. Under the coalition Government, Western Australia has gone from having the lowest road toll per capita of any State to having the

highest per capita road toll. We brought that issue into this Parliament for debate only a few weeks ago. The road toll has a traumatic effect on families throughout our State and a significant impact on our economy and on our society. We have the highest per capita road toll of all the States. These social issues - problems of child health, drowning, youth suicide, problems on the road, illicit drug use leading to high overdose rates and deaths must be addressed.

This Government lacks the imagination, the analysis and the commitment to address those issues. I illustrate that with the 2000-01 budget. It is difficult to imagine how this budget will turn around the Government's dismal performance in health, education and crime. Recurrent funding for Health is down by 0.5 per cent in real per capita terms; in other words, a \$9.4m funding cut when inflation and population growth are taken into account. Capital works expenditure on Health is only 2.7 per cent of the total capital works budget. More worrying is the paltry \$2.8m set aside for capital works in our major teaching hospitals in addition to an underspend in the Health capital works budget of 1999-2000. Despite budgeting to spend \$75m in 1999-2000 on health, the Government is expected to spend only \$65m. This is at a time when the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children have been crying out for essential capital expenditure. Why the Government comes into this Parliament day after day trying to sell the story that there is no funding problem in our health system defies logic and undermines the morale of the staff who are sending that message through to the Government day in and day out.

There has been a significant cut in capital funding and a marginal increase in recurrent funding in Education. There is no allocation for the Eaton high school in 2000-01, although the member for Mitchell claimed in a pamphlet distributed to households that funding will be allocated in 2000-01. The 2000-01 Police budget will only exacerbate the difficulties being experienced due to lack of resources. There is a real per capita cut of 0.9 per cent in recurrent spending, and a 4.9 per cent cut in capital spending. Again, this budget leaves the key areas of health, education and police struggling against the odds, which has been the constant theme of the coalition in the main areas that matter to people. In health, education and crime, this Government is incapable of developing a strategy, committing funds and providing an organisational framework to deliver results from the expenditure of those funds. This is not just the rhetoric of the Opposition as it is backed up by the figures which show falling retention rates in our schools, growing waiting times for elective surgery and higher crime rates. I repeat: These are the fundamentals of the coalition Government, which cannot escape the reality of the figures. The Labor Party will hold the Government to account for those figures in the forthcoming election campaign.

I turn now to the Government's financial management record. Failing to address major problems in health, education and crime despite significant revenue growth is bad enough; however, when it is placed alongside the Government's financial management record in recent years, the lack of strategic planning and prioritising becomes all the more obvious. First, let us look at the method used by the Premier to measure his budget bottom line. The Government is forecasting an operating deficit of \$60m in 1999-2000 and an operating surplus of \$42m in 2000-01. Let us consider the operating deficit. The Premier uses the figure of government revenue minus expenses. As this is an accrual measure, expenditure includes non-cash items such as depreciation. However, the measure excludes capital payments. Conceptually, therefore, it can be viewed as the accrual form of the recurrent side of the budget. Interestingly, the Government only recently discovered this measure as its major indicator of performance despite adopting accrual reporting in 1997-98. Indeed, it was only in February of this year that the Premier's new measure made its first appearance as his major target for government. I wonder why that was the case.

The answer is found in a background paper released to journalists one day before the budget presentation. Among other things, this document showed the operating balances since 1993-94. It revealed an operating deficit for the past four years; namely, \$198m in 1996-97; \$263 in 1997-98; \$135m in 1998-99; and \$60m in 1999-2000. Mike Nahan from the Institute of Public Affairs raised this issue on ABC radio on 20 May when he said -

. . . it shows in a background paper that the Budget has been in deficit each of the four . . . of the four last years, and let's emphasise what this deficit is. It's an operating deficit. It only relates to the running costs and revenues of the government before capital is spent. In other words, they've been borrowing to meet the day-to-day operating costs of government, and, in effect, they were borrowing to meet them and they were forcing today's operating costs . . . the funding of today's operating costs on the future generations. That's typically what is known, in political jargon, as living on the bankcard, and so they've run in the deficit.

While the Premier was claiming to the people of Western Australia that he was delivering surpluses, he was delivering deficits. No wonder that figure was not used in previous budget presentations! Let us reflect on the Premier's 1993 election promise that the public would not be misled by accounting tricks or phoney claims of balanced budgets. He has done exactly that: He claimed surpluses when his measure indicates deficits. Looking at all government revenue and expenditure - the general government cash balance - we see that 1999-2000 returned a record deficit of \$613m, following deficits of \$19m and \$193m in 1998-99 and 1997-98. These deficits are predicted to continue for the next three years with \$345m in 2000-01, \$225m in 2001-02 and \$178m in 2002-03. I repeat: All this happened at a time of record revenue growth. Western Australia had the fastest revenue growth of all States, except Queensland. Nevertheless, the WA Government managed to get us into that deficit situation. Not surprisingly then, general government net debt is expected to increase from 1999 to 2003 by \$1.2b, or 278 per cent. Total public sector net debt is expected to increase by \$1.5b, which is a 33 per cent increase, during the same period.

The efforts made by the Government to conceal the facts about its financial record can be seen not only in the way it changes its indicators to suit its purposes, but also in the way it presents its performance to the people. Let us consider the community service newspaper wraparound, which contained a graph showing net debt as a share of gross state product. Although every other graph on the page commenced in 1993, the one showing net debt as a share of gross state product

commenced only in 2000-01. The Government conveniently ignored the impact of the two previous budgets on this indicator. The two previous budgets increased net debt as a share of GSP from 7.4 per cent in 1998-99 to 8.2 per cent in 1999-2000, and 8.8 per cent in 2000-01.

Improvements which occurred in net debt in the previous years to 1998-99 arose for one simple reason: The Government sold off assets and used some of the proceeds to retire debt. In its January 2000 publication "A Climate for Growth", the Chamber of Commerce and Industry calculated the net debt position without asset sales. Real per capita debt level for the general government sector would have risen from \$1 783 in 1992-93 to \$1 888 in 1999-2000. For the total public sector, there would have been a small reduction from \$5 869 in 1992-93 to \$5 729 in 1999-2000.

The CCI analysis is a little dated given the Government's new net debt figure. However, a snapshot with the new figures shows that despite over \$4b in asset sales from 1992-93 to 1999-2000, net debt of the total public sector has decreased by only \$3b.

Mr Court: We can spend it on good things.

Dr GALLOP: What about the assets lost, Premier, and the revenue which could have been earned on the assets lost?

Mr Court: Tell us about the corruption and the criminal activity when you lost one and a half billion dollars! What claptrap!

Dr GALLOP: The Premier of Western Australia spends most of his time today attacking the Labor Party. Why is that? It is because he has no vision and no record. He is a negative Premier without vision, without imagination, without a strategy and without a commitment to the future of this State.

With net debt on the rise again, and the election around the corner, it is clear that the Government knows only one way forward - privatisation. It is desperate to sell AlintaGas and Westrail freight before the next election to fund some election promises and to help reduce some of the debt it has created. In effect, it will be selling off the people's assets to try to bail out the bottom line and some worried backbenchers. This is short-term thinking at its worst. In the medium to long term, it means an undermining of the State's financial and strategic position, for which future generations will have to pay. I received a wonderful call when I was on talkback radio the other day from an elderly woman who said, "Dr Gallop, what will happen when they have sold all the assets? How will they then cover up the bottom line deficit?" That is a very good question, because every time the State sells off one of these revenue-earning assets that give the people of Western Australia the ability to influence events in Western Australia, we undermine the capacity of our children and grandchildren to create a better society. No private sector organisation that is vigilant in defence of its shareholders' interests would pursue such a cavalier approach to its assets, yet this Government has done it. The only way it can deal with these issues is to flog off assets and undermine the future for our children and grandchildren.

A number of questions are left hanging by a simple analysis of the performance of the coalition Government since 1993. Where has all the money gone? Why have the priority areas of State Government been so neglected at a time of record revenue growth? There are many different aspects to a comprehensive answer to this question. These include the Government's addiction to political advertising. Never before have we had a Government so hell-bent on self-promotion. Next year alone, the Government is expected to spend over \$90m on advertising and marketing. As an example of the magnitude of this expenditure, the amount that will be spent on advertising is over half of what will be spent on disability services in this State next year. Another example of government mismanagement is in contracting out. The Government's addiction to contracting out and privatisation is not bringing the foreshadowed financial benefits. It is actually costing us more, as we have seen with Main Roads and the Matrix agreement. We have a Government with no sense of strategy, no sense of priority and no commitment to the key areas of health, education and crime. That is demonstrated by the figures: Falling retention rates in education, rising crime rates and increased waiting times for elective surgery.

Another key aspect of the paralysis of this Government is the structure of government administration in Western Australia. The current structure does not allow for easy coordination and priority setting at either the ministerial or bureaucratic levels of government. The current structure also does not support cross-agency, or whole-of-government, initiatives. The review of the Public Sector Management Act by Gavan Fielding in 1996 addressed this issue of complexity, overlap and duplication. Fielding noted that the number of departments of state in Western Australia is significantly higher than in the other States. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia reached the same conclusion in its "Climate for Growth" report that was published earlier this year. I am talking here about departments of state, not statutory authorities; that is another story. The most up-to-date statistics on departments of state are Western Australia 49, New South Wales 32, South Australia 28, Queensland 19, Tasmania 10 and Victoria eight. At the commonwealth level, the number of departments was reduced in 1987 from 28 to 18. In recent years, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania have initiated major reviews and changes to their system of departmental organisation. The focus has been on fewer agencies and more coordination within government. Because government matters, and because we believe the public sector can make a difference and we want it to make a difference -

Mr Court: Do you want to go back to Marcelle Anderson controlling Premier and Cabinet?

Dr GALLOP: The Premier is a bit obsessed with the former Labor Government. He does not want to talk about his own record. He does not want to talk about the future of this State. He is suffering from an obsession.

Both the Fielding report and the earlier McCarrey report of 1993 saw the need for change in order to create clearer lines of responsibility to ministers and more efficient use of resources. However, both of those reports carefully observed that

such changes needed to be undertaken carefully, with the prime objective of ensuring efficient service delivery. In other words, the objective should be better administration. Fielding did not propose a model for reform, but he did suggest rationalisation of some departments. The proposals he put forward are suggestions that could be examined by a proper process of review and change within government. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on the other hand, proposed a radical restructure based upon six main agencies: Premier and Cabinet, environment, industry and social development, education, human services, and justice. The truth is that there is no perfect model. We do know one thing: There are too many government departments in Western Australia. However, what would be the right number and mix needs to be determined carefully on the basis of one's objectives for government. The starting point for any change should be what we want from government. We want better coordination of government service delivery in the key areas of health, education and crime. Labor is examining this question with a view to providing a more appropriate structure for the future. The focus will be on ensuring an effective public service that is working cooperatively to achieve the public interest.

Mr Court: A one stop shop, where you ring up and say, "I want \$150m", and the chap at the other end of the line says, "To what address do you want it sent?"

Dr GALLOP: I will give the Premier a bit of advice, because obviously his members are not advising him. No-one is listening to the Premier. Whoever is advising the Premier on this negative form of politics has obviously got it all wrong.

Mr Court: The third party insurance fund is about to go broke, but don't worry - an election is on the way.

Dr GALLOP: Knock, knock, knock! If we are to engage in knocking, let us bring back Barry MacKinnon. He was the master knocker. He is the one who should be back in position.

Labor is about improving the public sector and the security of public servants in their jobs. Unlike the coalition, we believe the public sector can, and should, play a central role in our community. That is why we question privatisation and contracting out. Our view is that these bodies can make a difference. In respect of any proposed changes, one proposal that I believe invites support and that will be the basis of a new form of Labor administration is the creation of a department of planning and infrastructure, similar to the one that has been created in Victoria. In Victoria, that department is the major agency for the provision of land use planning, roads and public transport, and the overall built form of the State. It brings together government policy in five key areas: Roads and public transport, ports and marine, local government, planning and heritage, and building policy. This department also manages the State's major capital projects. In the Western Australian context, this would mean something like integrating planning, lands, transport and local government, together with the policy arm of Main Roads. Such a department would provide a strategic and integrated approach to infrastructure planning in this State. We currently have a \$3.3b capital works program for government as a whole, including public corporations. However, there is no process within government that brings together the infrastructure planning and coordination functions to ensure that the dollars spent earn a return for the people and work with each other as part of a proper strategic plan for the State. This is just one example of the way in which the Labor Party will improve government in Western Australia. The Labor Party is up to date, in tune with what must be done and can carry out the necessary changes. The failure of the coalition to take up issues such as this is just one example of its lack of vision for the future of this State.

We have a Government that is tired, out of date and out of touch. People throughout the world engaged in public policy cannot conceive of a Government which has had such a big increase in revenue but which has presided over increasing crime rates, falling school retention rates and increasing waiting lists for elective surgery. This Government cannot deliver in core areas -

Mr Court: We have health and education sectors that are the envy of most Administrations.

Dr GALLOP: The Premier has just revealed his fundamental misunderstanding of the central role of education and research in the future of our economy and society. If the Premier understood that, he would be very concerned about falling school retention rates in Western Australia. We have a complacent and out-of-touch Government. We have a Government that does not understand the misery and pain caused by a public hospital system in crisis. We have a Government that does not understand that building a better Police Service and solving crime requires a comprehensive strategy across government, and that, first and foremost, that is achieved by police in the suburbs doing a job for the community. The Premier does not understand that simply burying his head in the sand will not solve social problems such as drug abuse. This Government cannot cope with complex legislative issues such as prostitution, equal opportunity and de facto relationships. We have a divided coalition which is unable to reduce the State's road toll and which cannot come up with a lasting and sustainable solution to the forest issue. It does not understand the stresses and strains that have been created by Perth's urban sprawl and why an integrated public transport system with rail at its core is essential for our future. This Government is out of ideas and out of vision.

The Premier promised so much in 1993, yet he has delivered so little. He has failed to deliver on his promises relating to crime, health, education, the environment, community welfare and financial management. After seven years and eight budgets, he has no more excuses; he can no longer pass the buck. The Premier has failed the people of Western Australia and it will not be long before they will be able to make their ultimate judgment on his performance.

MR RIPPER (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.54 pm]: I am very pleased to support the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition. One of the Premier's touted claims to the community of Western Australia is his supposed credentials as a financial manager. A close examination of this year's budget papers should cause everyone in the community to be sceptical of the claims the Government has made. This financial year - 1999-2000 - there will be a general

government operating deficit of \$60.1m based on accrual accounting. That is a reduction in the forecast deficit of \$200m produced at the beginning of the financial year.

Mr Court interjected.

Mr RIPPER: The Premier would like me to talk about the cash figures. I promise I will do that in due course. However, I will now deal with the Government's preferred figure - the general government operating balance - which it produced for the first time in February in its midyear review. This year's budget papers indicate a deficit of \$60.1m, but the forecast was \$200m. Over the course of the financial year, the Government has secured a reduction in its forecast operating deficit in the general government sector. It has achieved that reduction principally through a massive increase in royalties. The budget outcome for royalties revenue is estimated to be \$260m more than was forecast at the beginning of the financial year, and \$169m of that has come from increases in petroleum royalties. Once again this Government has been saved by unexpected revenue increases. The Premier has been saved year after year by a 70 per cent growth in revenue since he has been in government. Yet again, he has been saved not by rigorous control of expenditure but by a windfall increase in revenue.

Page 52 of the Government's "2000-01 Economic and Fiscal Outlook" paper contains the following puzzling statement -

Together with industry forecasts of lower production, this contributes to a pattern of declining petroleum royalties across the forward estimates period. The only exception in this regard is that in 1999-2000 the Commonwealth Government has agreed to settle its obligations under Section 130 of the *Commonwealth (Submerged Lands) Act 1976*. This will result in a payment of \$79.1 million in 1999-2000 instead of a payment stream which would otherwise have continued to 2005-06.

The Government has been able to bring forward almost \$80m of revenue and have it recorded this financial year when it would otherwise have come to the State in a stream of payments between now and 2005-06. In accounting terms, that affects the cash balance of the general government sector. One hopes it will not affect the accrual figures, because the income stream should be attributed out to 2005-06. That is an issue on which the Government should come clean: Has all that money been taken into the budget for 1999-2000 on a cash basis and on an accrual basis, or has it been taken into the budget only from the point of view of the cash figures? In any case, that bringing forward of nearly \$80m of revenue has helped to make the Government's cash deficit look slightly less horrible than it would otherwise have looked.

The difficulty with petroleum royalties is that the State gets a one-off benefit and then the Grants Commission steps in in subsequent years and adjusts the federal grants to the State as a result of the increased revenue being raised. Therefore, the benefit starts to taper off. Now we will have two tapering off effects: We will not get the stream of revenue payments we were to get until 2005-06, and we will suffer the effect of the Grants Commission's offset for the increase in the petroleum royalties received this year. The only conclusion I can arrive at is that the Government has been saved by windfall increases in royalties - in particular petroleum royalties - but that this effect will not continue in subsequent years. Therefore, the Government cannot be saved again by the mechanism that has saved it this year.

The budget outcome was certainly not achieved by rigorous expenditure control. When comparing the budget papers for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 one sees that expenditure in the core areas of education, health and police blew out by a total of \$51m. Expenditure blew out and the Government was saved by revenue windfalls. The Government's preferred surplus and deficit figures are based on the general government operating balance. This figure was first presented to the public in the midyear review in February this year. Interestingly, the Government has presented with this budget some information on accrual accounting. That information shows that on the Government's preferred measure of surplus or deficit, this State has had four years of deficit. In 1999-2000, this State is in its fourth year of deficit on the Government's preferred measure. I am not talking about the cash surplus or deficit; I am talking about the general government accrual operating balance. That figure has been in deficit for four years. In 1996-97, the deficit was \$197.9m; in 1997-98, the deficit was \$263.5m; in 1998-99, the deficit was \$135m; and in the current financial year, the deficit is \$60m. Does that not put a new light on the Government's record of financial management? What would have been the tenor of public debate on the State's finances had those figures been available in the relevant financial year? However, they were not. They have been slipped quietly into the Parliament basically in an appendix to the budget which deals with information regarding accrual accounting. When members study that information, they can see that we have been in deficit for four years on the Government's preferred measure. That measure does not deal with capital payments. We have had four years of deficit in this State's finances on day-to-day recurrent expenditure. It is not a question of this aspect of the deficit being caused by capital expenditure. This is what we see when capital expenditure is taken out of the equation and when we do an accrual operating balance in the general government sector.

The budget papers forecast operating surpluses for the next four years. We have had four years of deficit, but now, in the run-up to an election, the Government turns around and says, "We will have four years of surplus from now on." A surplus of \$42m is forecast for the forthcoming financial year; a surplus of \$46m is forecast for 2001-02; a surplus of \$92m is forecast for 2002-03; and a surplus of \$219.7m is forecast for 2003-04. It is interesting to compare those figures with what was forecast in the midyear review in February this year. There has been a decline in the State's finances measured by the different forecasts that were put forward in February and in the budget papers when the Premier presented his budget to this Parliament. In February this year, the State forecast a surplus of \$76.1m in 2000-01, and that is down to \$42m; \$264.4m in 2001-02, and that is down to \$46m; and \$312.8m in 2002-03, and that is down to \$92m. The bottom line is that the State's finances are deteriorating as we get more recent forecasts. This is a critical issue for the maintenance of this State's AAA credit rating. When Standard and Poor's (Australia) Pty Ltd reported on the State's credit rating and confirmed

the AAA rating, it sounded a warning. Standard and Poor's told the Government that the fiscal trend evident in 2000 had to be reversed if the AAA credit rating were to be maintained. Standard and Poor's also told the Government that it would be examining outcomes much more closely than estimates in the future when it was considering the State's credit rating. The reason Standard and Poor's might have said that is that the outcomes of state finances had not always been in accordance with the optimistic estimates which the ratings agencies had been dealing with. I think that is a critical issue because Standard and Poor's confirmed the State's AAA credit rating on the basis of information which it was principally given in November last year. The State Government argues that the midyear review forecasts were released before Standard and Poor's finalised its decision on the credit rating and that, therefore, Standard and Poor's had available to it the information in the midyear forecasts. I point out to the House that the estimates in this set of budget papers are worse than the estimates in the midyear review, which were worse than the information given to Standard and Poor's in November. We are getting a deteriorating set of forecasts culminating in a ratings agency saying that it will look at outcomes not estimates and that it wants to see the fiscal trend evident in 2000 reversed if the credit rating is to be saved. I hope that this State will retain its AAA credit rating. Labor will make maintenance of the AAA credit rating one of its highest priorities in the management of the State's finances. That is a commitment which Labor has given to the public of this State. I hope that the AAA credit rating will be there when we arrive in government. Serious concerns are now being expressed by the ratings agency about the possible future of that credit rating.

The Premier asked at the beginning of my remarks why I did not look at the cash figures, and I am about to run through them. The cash balance in the general government sector is an unfashionable figure with this State Government. It is not unfashionable with all coalition politicians. I understand that Peter Costello is quite happy to talk about cash balances, but this State Government has focused on the general government accrual balance and that has been in deficit for four financial years. The cash balance figures are even less encouraging. The sequence of deficits begins in 1997-98 with a deficit of \$193.4m.

In 1998-99, it was only a small deficit of \$19.2m, but in the financial year 1999-2000, the deficit has jumped to \$613.2m. The deficit would be almost \$80m worse if the commonwealth payment of petroleum royalties had not been brought forward. The cash deficit forecast for the next financial year is \$345.5m; the cash deficit forecast for the year 2001-02 is \$225.7m; 2002-03 will see another deficit of \$178.5m. The State is now in year three of a six-year run of actual or forecast cash deficits in the general government sector. It is about to go into the fourth year of a six-year run of cash deficits. The combination of four years of deficits on an accrual basis and six years of deficit on a cash basis, leads people to be sceptical about this Government's financial management credentials. The story is certainly not consistent with the one that the Premier has been putting forward to the public. Given the deficits on the general government account, it is not surprising we have seen increases in the net state debt.

Mr Bradshaw: What was it when you went out of government?

Mr RIPPER: I was very amused to see a graph published in the wrap-around in the local community newspaper which dealt with the state budget. The graph sought to portray net debt as a proportion of gross state product. I show the House a graph of net debt as a proportion of gross state product. It can be seen from that graph that there is a rise from 1998-99 to a peak in 2000-01, and there is a decline from 2000-01 through to 2003-04. The community newspaper wrap-around - which was basically government propaganda for the budget - cost the taxpayers of this State \$104 000. It is galling to have to pay for the Government's attempts to change our views on its performance; it is even more galling when the information is presented in a misleading way. Members can see that graph which has a peak in it. Only one half of the graph was published! The section of the graph which shows the debt rising to a peak was not published in the community newspapers - only the section of the graph which shows the debt falling between 2000-01, 2003-04 was published in the community newspapers. That is an indication of a Government that is reckless with the truth when it comes to the State's finances and is prepared to spend taxpayers' money in a dishonest fashion to try to persuade people of the merits of its management of the finances when the figures suggest otherwise.

I return to the issue of debt. Net debt will increase from June 1999-03 in both the general government sector and on a total public sector basis. In the general government sector, net debt over those years will increase by \$1.2b; that is, 278 per cent. Across the total public sector, net debt will increase by \$1.5b, or 33 per cent. These figures, of course, do not include the possible proceeds from forthcoming privatisations.

I will use two years of those debt figures as an example of what is happening. In this current financial year, 1999-2000, total public sector debt will increase by \$740.7m. In the financial year 2000-01, debt will increase by a total of \$595.2m. We are in the middle of two financial years, one of which saw an increase of \$740m in debt, and the other which will see an increase of almost \$600m in debt. Those debt figures also have deteriorated since the mid-year forecasts. The debt forecast from February for 2000-01 was \$5.706b; it is now forecast to be \$5.999b. In 2001-02, the February forecast was \$5.460b; it is now forecast to be \$6.124b. The debt figures in February for 2002-03 were forecast to be \$4.93b; they are now forecast to be \$6.194b. Since February, there has been a deterioration in the forecast for both the operating balance and debt. Although I have not canvassed these figures in detail, there also has been a deterioration in the cash deficit forecasts since February.

I have indicated in my remarks that the Government has been saved by revenue windfalls. I have indicated that the Government could not control expenditure in core areas in this current financial year. Once again, there have been blow-outs in expenditure. I looked at the core areas and saw the following spending overruns: Health, \$20.2m; Education, \$26.3m; and Police \$4.5m. That is a total of \$51m of spending overruns in those core areas. No doubt I could have found other spending overruns had I continued to the end my comparison of the budget papers for this year and last year.

Once again, the Government has enjoyed revenue increases. Taxation revenue has grown by 70 per cent since 1992-93. Under this Government's management, the State will be in a difficult position if the revenue forecasts go wrong - for example, if there is an unexpected slowing in state growth or an unexpected economic difficulty. This Government's historical failure and continued failure to control expenditure, and its historical and continued reliance on windfall revenue growth, will cause problems for the management of the State's finances. I am concerned that in the forthcoming year difficulties might be experienced with the budgets in core areas of government activity. The real per capita changes in core budgets are not encouraging. After adjustments for population and inflation the Health budget is down by 0.5 per cent. On a similar basis the real per capita budget for Police goes down by 0.9 per cent. The Education budget goes up on a real per capita basis by 1.6 per cent. Nevertheless, I was formerly an Education spokesperson for the Opposition and I have some knowledge of the Education budget, so I am concerned about the possible outcome in that budget.

Two aspects of the goods and services tax could have a negative impact on agency budgets this year. The first of those aspects is the need for agencies to meet compliance costs for the GST. We have very little information on compliance costs in state government agencies. About the only figure available was given by the Minister for Education in an answer to this House. He said that the ongoing compliance costs for the GST in Education would be \$7.3m. That is a substantial figure which the Education Department has to meet without any special allocation from the Government. Presumably the figures for Health will be comparable, and there might be other substantial figures across government for GST compliance costs. I hope the Government is prepared to give us information on GST compliance costs, because we intend to pursue this matter in the estimates committee hearings.

The other aspect of the GST which will cause problems for the Government and for agencies is the Government's assumption that agencies can save on their input costs as a result of the loss of embedded wholesale sales taxes and embedded fuel costs. The Government has assumed that agencies can save \$42m by persuading their suppliers to reduce their charges by putting to the suppliers the argument that the goods and services they are supplying should reduce in price as a result of the loss of embedded wholesale sales tax. I am sceptical that agencies will be able to achieve those \$42m worth of savings. Education is supposed to achieve \$3.8m worth of savings, Health \$9.2m and the Police Service \$1.78m. If those agencies cannot persuade their suppliers to reduce their prices, there will be either a new budget overrun in the forthcoming financial year or some corresponding cuts in services.

Mr Prince: The way the Police can deal in a competitive environment with most of their purchases - for example, equipment purchases - is to say that if the supplier does not supply at the price they want they will go elsewhere. There may be some instances in which that does not apply.

Mr RIPPER: The Minister for Police has more confidence in the efficiency of the market than most members of the general public. It is much easier for prices to rise than it is for prices to fall. I very much doubt that agencies will achieve \$42m worth of cuts. It will get worse for agencies across the forward estimates period. They must achieve nearly \$60m worth of cuts in 2001-02, \$73m in the following financial year and \$87m in 2003-04. Agencies will be under the pump. Some heroic assumptions are being made about the impact of the GST. Already we see that the GST will cause greater price rises than were forecast at the time the Howard Government was selling its tax package to the electorate. Agencies, along with pensioners, low income earners and all sorts of other people in the community, will be the victims of this set of heroic assumptions that prices will fall under the GST.

Mr Prince: Are you aware that Professor Fels of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has just issued a booklet which consumers can carry in their pockets to ensure that they are not ripped off by any supplier. It will take effect on 1 July.

Mr RIPPER: I hope that the Police purchasing and procurement office has a copy of the booklet. I wish them luck when they go out to their suppliers when they point to that line in the book. It will be like taking one's car to a used car dealership and asking for the recommended retail price in the used car price guideline booklet, and finding that the used car dealer will not pay that price because he says the book does not apply to your car. We will hear screams of outrage from agencies as the financial year proceeds when they find that they cannot achieve these \$42m worth of cuts which have been factored into their budgets.

I have some particular concerns about the Education budget which indicates a nominal increase in recurrent funding of \$75.9m. The Education budget overran by \$26.3m this year. I am interested in the financing of that budget overrun. In previous years budget overruns in Education were financed out of the subsequent year's appropriation. In other words, in previous years Education started the financial year with what is, in effect, a deficit. The Government's propaganda material has overstated the increases in the Education budget, because part of those increases has been required to fund spending overruns in the preceding financial year. When I raised this matter publicly the Premier told *The West Australian* that all of the budget overruns had been fully funded, and there would be no case of an agency starting the year in a deficit situation. If that is true that is a different set of circumstances from that which has been applied to Education in recent years. I will ask the Government to demonstrate how it has funded those budget overruns, when the applications for supplementary funding were made and when the supplementary funding was approved. I hope that the Premier's assurance to *The West Australian* is correct. However, it is at variance with what has happened in Education in previous years.

The Education budget must also meet a 3 per cent salary increase to the teaching work force. I understand that the Minister for Education has already made that offer to teachers. Teachers will not be happy with a 3 per cent salary increase and there will be pressure, perhaps industrial pressure, for an increase beyond that 3 per cent. If the 3 per cent increase is paid my estimate on the basis of the budget figures is that it will cost the Government about \$34m. There are also demand increases

and new policy initiatives in Education which the budget papers state will cost \$18.6m. To those figures must be added the GST compliance costs of \$7.3m, which the Minister for Education advised the House about. If last year's budget overrun is being financed in the same way as budget overruns in previous years we already have a hole of \$10.5m in the Education budget.

The Treasurer may be correct and the budget overrun is not being financed the way it has been in the past. In that case, there is not an immediate hole, just the potential for problems in the Education budget. My concerns about the problems in the Education budget have been confirmed when I look at the figures for full-time equivalent employees that have been published in the budget papers. The total number of full-time employees in education in 1999-00 is stated to be 24 927. The total number of full-time equivalent employees for 2000-01 is stated to be 24 732. It should not have escaped the notice of members of this House that the budget papers state that 195 fewer FTEs will be employed by the Education Department of Western Australia in 2000-01 than in 1999-2000. The primary and secondary education outputs in the budget papers indicated the following FTE figures: In primary education in 1999-00, 11 803 were employed on a full-time equivalent basis. In 2000-01, 11 736 staff are to be employed on a full-time equivalent basis. That is a decline of 67 FTE staff in primary education. The secondary education figures are also worrying. The number of FTEs for 1999-2000 totalled 8 779 and 8 695 for 2000-01, a decline of 84 FTEs. What is going on? Are we looking at staff cuts in education? Is this a mistake, because there has been no announcement by the Government that there would be staff cuts of this nature? Are the figures an indicator of more privatisation and contracting out of school cleaning services or will there be a reduction in the number of staff, perhaps in head or district offices, who provide support to teachers working in classrooms? The Government owes us an explanation about the figures, which on the face of it, are alarming. I repeat: The figures show 195 fewer staff in the government education system in total. All sorts of mechanisms could produce that result. The Government owes us an explanation for what is happening.

I want to deal now with the capital works program. The Government has made a lot of what it calls a record capital works program for 2000-01. It is always worth remembering that forecasts of capital expenditure are not always realised in actuality. Often there will be unforeseen delays in capital projects. However, as well, Governments can deliberately slow down capital works to save money. I have compared the estimates of capital works expenditure for this financial year from last year's budget papers with the actual figure revealed in this year's budget papers. The figures are very interesting. The capital works budget for Health was estimated to be \$75.1m when the budget was brought down last year. The actual figure spent was \$65.1m. In other words, there has been a cut of \$10m in Health capital works expenditure from the budget forecast last year. That has been reflected in all sorts of delays in projects. A few of them include: Less money has been spent on the Bunbury hospital than forecast; less money has been spent on the construction of the Goomalling multipurpose services facility; the Jurien multipurpose services facility received only \$1m in 1999-2000 - it was supposed to receive \$2.1m. Less money than forecast was spent on the Katanning multipurpose services facility, mental health initiatives, the stage 1 development of the Moora hospital, the Nannup redevelopment, and on the north-west plan developments. Less was also spent on the Plantagenet hospital than was forecast. The \$10m cut in Health capital works expenditure has had repercussions across the State. Interestingly, it seems to have had its most predominant effect in all the regional locations that I have just been talking about. Numerous developments in country towns have slowed down or been delayed as a result of that \$10m cut in Health capital works in this past financial year.

There has been a similar result in the Police Service: It was forecast that \$56.2m would be spent on capital works for the Police Service. However, the actual figure spent totalled \$45.2m. That is \$11m less than was forecast to be spent on Police capital works.

Mr Prince: Nothing has slowed down. Midland has been longer to get up because of problems at the site.

Mr RIPPER: I said that there are two possible causes of this phenomenon - unforeseen and unavoidable delays and a deliberate slowing down of the programs. I point out that for Health and Police, less was spent in the capital works budget than was forecast. Therefore, people should be sceptical of whether the record capital works budget for this forthcoming year will actually be realised in practice as there is very often a significant difference between what is promised in a capital works budget and what is actually delivered.

In conclusion, the figures revealed in the budget papers give the lie to the Government's propaganda about its financial management credentials.

MR CUNNINGHAM (Girrawheen) [5.38 pm]: This Government has failed dismally to meet the needs of mentally ill patients in Western Australia in this year's budget. This Government does not take seriously the plight of patients and families seriously affected by mental illness. This budget did nothing to relieve the many problems being experienced at Graylands Hospital. Some two months ago, the member for Thornlie made an urgent plea to this Government to review the numerous problems that are being experienced in mental health. The member for Thornlie pointed out that over the past 13 years, there have been over 100 deaths at Graylands Hospital, 61 of which were suicides.

Incredibly, thirty of those suicides have happened in the past four years. As the member for Thornlie stated in her speech, the Health Consumers Council of Western Australia has called for an urgent inquiry into that appalling number of suicides, and it is appalling that so many suicides have occurred in four years. An inquiry must be conducted as soon as possible. Mental health facilities not only at Graylands, but also at Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Bentley Hospital and Joondalup Hospital must be included in any government inquiry.

Mental illness is a disorder that affects not only the individual, but also the individual's immediate family and relations and the wider community. The extent of the problem is widespread. According to the World Health Organisation, the

Australian youth suicide rate is within the upper third of the rates for all industrialised countries. Office of Youth Affairs' statistics have noted that the rate of Western Australian youth suicide is 18.5 per 100 000, which is above the national average of 16.6 per 100 000. The rate of suicide of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is 1.4 times higher than that of non-indigenous young people. Globally, depression is recognised as one of the most serious public health problems and is predicted to become the second leading cause of disease to burden us worldwide.

It is indeed a misguided view that the causes of mental ill health are instant and that the cure is quick and easy to attain. The evolution of mental ill health is as complex as the individual. The cure is a life-time process. The commitment of the individual and the people around him or her to maintain physical, mental and emotional wellbeing is an absolute necessity. It is a challenge for this Government and society as a whole to make the environment in which we live conducive to the healing and maintenance of the mental health of the individual, and to global wellbeing. This Government has failed dismally. As we embark on the task ahead, we need to ask the question: When, where and why did this mental decay begin?

First, this challenge brings us back to the family. I will reflect on the definition of a "natural family" as defined by the United Nations at the Second World Congress on Families, which was held in Geneva last November. The member for Carine and I had the great privilege of attending that congress. The family being the fundamental social unit is inscribed in human nature and centred around the voluntary union of a man and a woman in a life-long covenant of marriage for the purpose of: Satisfying the longings of the human heart to give and receive love; welcoming and ensuring the full physical and emotional development of children; sharing a home that serves as a centre for social, educational, economic and spiritual life; building strong bonds among generations to pass on a way of life that has transcended meaning; and extending a hand of compassion to individuals and households whose circumstances fall short of these ideals.

In the present environment families are increasingly ill-prepared to give the love, the safe environment, the spiritual nourishment and the support a child needs. There is the increasing breakdown of families, the rise of adolescent pregnancies and the slow decay of the extended family within the wider community. It is an extremely sad fact of life that we have children who are acting as parents, and parents who are but children themselves.

One of the major sociological studies of the past century was that of Brown and Harris on the social origins of depression. The study led to the consideration of the vulnerability factors which predisposed depression which were: Lack of confiding relationship with spouse or others; loss of mother before the age of 11 years; and lack of employment outside the home. The importance of maintaining the family structure and stable relationships is historically and sociologically proven. Early recognition of mental illness, starting with the parents, impacts greatly on the child. Even the early founders of psychoanalytic views thought that good parenting or good-enough mothering provides the basic foundation for the development of a balanced individual. It is very important to recognise the key role of the mother in the development of the child, and that mental illness, such as postnatal depression, can affect up to 20 per cent of women. This is a destabilising factor in families if left unrecognised. The occurrence of postnatal depression further increases the vulnerability factors in the development of related mental health disorders.

In today's society we are living in an environment where mental illness is perpetuated within the cycle of despair. When a child is born in a family which lacks love, the cycle of despair continues. When a child does not feel safe within his or her home, where domestic violence and abuse exists, the cycle of despair continues. Where the stability and the integrity of the home and the breakdown of families is common place, the cycle of despair continues. When children are used as pawns or casualties of the family breakdown, the cycle of despair continues. When our young people turn to drugs and alcohol for a false sense of comfort and a false sense of happiness, the cycle of despair continues. Where adolescent pregnancies are on the rise, because of loss of guidance, mistaking sex as the love they are looking for, and many young mothers are unprepared for the consequences of their actions, the cycle of despair continues. Where the extended family, and the sense of community and outreach is diminishing, it leaves mentally ill people, who are generally a disadvantaged group, having to fight their battles alone, and the cycle of despair continues. I acknowledge there are families which are excellent examples of oneness, but trends show that these families are exceptions rather than the norm.

First, this Government has failed shockingly to take on the responsibility of reviving the family. This Government has failed to recognise and support the family and to nourish and encourage it to continue as the fundamental social unit. I believe this all started on 17 March 1998, which was the beginning of the end of this Government's respect for the family. You will realise what I mean by that, Mr Acting Speaker. Secondly, very importantly, we as legislators need to encourage further education and awareness of mental health. The problems with mental illness are witnessed not only in my office but also in all electorate offices throughout the northern suburbs. I speak to members from both sides of this House and we hear of numerous mental health problems on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

We must encourage further education and awareness of mental health. It is important to continue to make people aware of the significance of mental wellbeing and the impact of mental illness. This requires early recognition of mental disorders and the ability to take action promptly. Mental health is abstract in its construct; it is easy to ignore the signs and symptoms of decay until it is far too late.

The stigma of mental disorders also prevents people from acquiring help, and that stigma is not good for our society. There is also a general lack of community awareness of where help can be acquired. We have all been guilty of not becoming informed from time to time. We must begin by educating our young people to increase their awareness of situations in everyday life that could cause them anxiety.

We must be vigilant of the ills that may befall our children, such as sexual abuse in childhood. Sexual abuse is one of the

silent cancers in our society. It is a common theme among mental disorders such as depression, post-traumatic anxiety and personality disorders. To heal these disorders people must undergo intensive therapy. They are often unreported and sometimes, if not often, they are totally ignored.

Increased awareness of mental health issues also assists people to more readily accept people's illness and helps to destigmatise mental illness. The essence of understanding mental illness is to see beyond the illness and to recognise the person. Fear and avoidance is due to ignorance and lack of understanding. It prevents the acquisition of help and the process of healing. It perpetuates the cycle of decay. Education should include the prevention of mental illness. Some of the most important contributors to mental illness are the effects of illicit drugs and substances and alcohol abuse, which exacerbate the problem.

In becoming more aware of mental illness it is important to know how to enhance protection against it. The protective factors include strong social support through families or others, greater education, enhancement of psycho-social living standards, early intervention and abstinence from illicit substances.

I emphasise the strong need for resources to combat mental health. People suffering from mental illness are generally part of a disadvantaged group. Like so many others in the northern suburbs, people in the electorate of Girrawheen have numerous problems. There is a real and obvious need for resources to be directed towards adolescent health. Selby-Lemnos Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and Bentley Adolescent Unit are the only recognised child and adolescent centres. Those institutions are demographically inaccessible to many people living north of the river, many of whom have young families and no transport.

There is an ongoing need for more resources to be poured into mental health. Mental health workers are required to extend themselves beyond their capacity as the population in their catchment areas rapidly grows; yet the resources available for community services remain stagnant because this Government does not care about mental health. This Liberal Government's move to deinstitutionalise mental health care has resulted in the sprouting of problems such as limited housing services and hostels for people with mental health problems and lack of services available for people requiring more intensive community care facilities. The number of beds available in remaining mental health hospitals is limited. This has resulted in a dangerous compromise of services, such as putting mattresses on the floor to accommodate people needing hospitalisation. Members should have no doubt that this is occurring today in our mental hospitals. The lack of resources available for the maintenance of mental hospitals is a disgrace in this State.

In conclusion, a future Labor Government will take up this challenge and make it a mission for each member on this side of the House, as legislators and community leaders, to ensure that mental health is not seen as a disgrace and a blot on our community. As I said earlier, each and every one of us knows a constituent or somebody close to us who has suffered from mental ill health. None of us in this House is exempt from the effects of mental illness, be it at a personal level, through family or within our constituencies. A healthy society is only a reflection of the individuals who constitute that society.

I suppose the message that we should appreciate most is there but for the grace of God go I, or there but for the grace of God goes each and every one of us.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [7.00 pm]: I shall cover a number of matters in this budget debate, the first of which is the budget papers themselves and particularly those relating to the Department of Commerce and Trade for which I have responsibility in the Opposition. Then I shall deal with matters concerning my electorate and, finally, some broader matters of government policy. I shall place on the record the impact they are having on individuals in the community.

I make three brief observations about the budget papers generally, and the Department of Commerce and Trade in particular. Once again, this year the structure of the budget papers has changed. During the term of the coalition Government the structure of budget papers has changed from year to year, which makes it extremely difficult for proper comparisons to be drawn between one year and the next. That practice continues this year. Whereas in the 1999-2000 budget papers the Department of Commerce and Trade was broken down into subdepartments, on this occasion that methodology has been abandoned and some other methodology, which is yet to be explained to me, has been adopted.

The second matter I raise about the budget papers is their reliability. In that regard I draw some comparisons by reference to one area listed at page 225 of volume 1 of *2000-01 Budget Statements*. At that page it is reported that the actual expenditure for the 1998-99 financial year on the centres of excellence support scheme was \$1.201m. In last year's budget papers the estimated actual expenditure for that scheme in the 1998-99 financial year was recorded as \$4.710m. That means there was a discrepancy between the figure in last year's budget papers and the figure in this year's budget papers of \$3.5m. That indicates one cannot rely at all on the figures that appear in the column giving the estimated actual expenditure for the current financial year. The figures last year were grossly wrong, and it is a loss to me how they could be more than \$3.5m out.

Mr Cowan: I will explain. Those applications for centres of excellence programs are based on organisations meeting criteria. If the universities do not meet the criteria within the prescribed period through the centres of excellence, I must budget the amount of money allocated. Let us assume an organisation receives \$500 000 and it is anticipated that it will be expended in the current financial year. If that organisation has not met the criteria in that financial year, the money is held over until it does. As a consequence, it goes into the budget for the following year. That is a problem with the program. We could give them the money without prior conditions, but we will not because it is taxpayers' dollars. As a

consequence of those conditions being set and the universities being required to meet them, if they do not comply within the current year, we do not cancel the allocation; we maintain it and carry it over into the following year.

Mr BROWN: I might accept that argument if the budget estimate for 1999-2000 were exceeded by the actual for that year in this year's budget papers. However, it is under. In the 1999-2000 budget, the estimate was \$5.8m. The estimated actual for this year in the budget papers is \$4.8m. If there were a slowing of the applications so that certain applications did not get through -

Mr Cowan: It is not a slowing of the applications; it is a slowing of the accounted expenditure.

Mr BROWN: Whatever the reason - maybe we will go through this in more detail in the Estimates Committees - I put on record that these documents, which are produced at great expense to the taxpayer, contain figures that have three columns; that is, the actual amount for 1998-99, the estimated actual amount for 1999-2000 and the budgeted amount for 2000-01. Those figures are publicly available, and if people want to know what is the budget for the Government of Western Australia, they go to those figures. Therefore, they place reliance on those figures. One must be somewhat circumspect about placing reliance on those figures when there are discrepancies of the nature to which I have referred. If that discrepancy occurs in the budget papers, which are the hallmark in setting out the financial statements for the Western Australian Government, one must be circumspect about other figures on which one relies from time to time when arguing about the veracity of the budget in this State.

Another point about Commerce and Trade is that the figures for this year reveal that the Government has breached a promise it made to regional Western Australia in its 1996 election commitments. The coalition promised \$20m for the regional development headworks scheme in Western Australia. That commitment was made in the coalition's business policy announcements. The allocation this year is about \$1.3m, and it was about \$1.3m last year. It is a long way from the \$5m a year to which the coalition committed in its policy announcements. Both the National Party and the Liberal Party promised that to regional Western Australia.

Mr Cowan: Half the blokes on your side are whingeing about the fact that there was one account for \$2.3m.

Mr BROWN: Whatever members may or may not be saying, I am saying to the Deputy Premier that a commitment was made, as he would know, to regional Western Australia by the Liberal Party and the National Party. It was a \$5m commitment each year for four years.

Mr Cowan: With the exception of the first year, it has been honoured.

Mr BROWN: According to the budget statements, it has not been honoured.

Mr Cowan: I look forward to the Estimates Committee, because then every detail will be given to you. It will demonstrate that you do not know what you are talking about.

Mr BROWN: If it is that way, it is not reflected in the budget papers, and that is a further deficiency.

I will now refer to some matters in my electorate. I raise the first matter on behalf of the Embleton Primary School. I received a letter from the school which reads -

Embleton Primary School serves a lower socio economic community. The school has a diverse range of cultures represented, including a 12% Aboriginal student population. The school enjoys very good community support but the financial resources available to the school from the community are limited.

To ensure our school community resources were utilised effectively the school developed a Facilities Improvement Plan. This plan was developed through an exhaustive consultation process involving staff, students, parents and the School Decision Making Group in 1999. Improvements were classified into minor and capital works and then prioritised. The plan identified numerous minor improvements and Shire, P&C and school funds have been utilised. The P&C contributed \$9000 in 1999 and plans to contribute several thousand this year. Over 12 minor improvements were carried out in 1999 at an approximate total cost of \$25000. Parents and students have also given up time to upgrade playground safety and to paint murals in the playground to improve the presentation of the school.

The Capital Works projects identified as top priorities were an upgrade to the Car Park and the provision of an Undercover Area. The community has been requesting these improvements for several years now, as long as most parents can remember. There is a large file of unsuccessful requests, surely it is time for some money to be spent on Primary Education in Embleton. While we believe both projects to be essential, the School Decision Making Group is gravely concerned about the safety issues related to our present car parking arrangements. We believe that there would be very few schools in the state who do not have a clearly defined and well surfaced Main School Car Park, and probably none in the Metropolitan Area. Our main school car park has only some kerbing, is dirt, has potholes, and weedy patches, has no parking bays marked and is a safety risk for our children. It also attracts vandalism as local youth do burn outs in it on the weekend. It is long, long overdue for an upgrade.

To make the situation an even greater concern an Education Support Facility is to be built at Embleton Primary School. This will increase traffic flow problems substantially with 3 to 5 Ed. Support buses dropping off and picking up students everyday. These buses need both space and time in order to allow students to disembark safely. Our present arrangements will not allow this to happen.

The City of Bayswater have recognised the need and the risks involved and have agreed to enter a 50/50 Funding

Arrangement with the Education Department to allow for the Car Park upgrade to occur this year. They acknowledge the need for the project to be completed before the beginning of 2001.

The Embleton Primary School Decision Making Group requests that this project be given the highest priority and completed for 2001.

We also believe that Embleton Primary School should have an Undercover Area. All the schools surrounding ours have Undercover Areas. There is a real issue of equity here. The Government School System should deliver a quality education to all students, which means providing all students with safe and modern school facilities.

I raise that matter because, although the Minister for Education is not in the Chamber, I hope his ministerial colleagues will be prudent and convey it to him. I now place on record an invitation to the Minister for Education to visit the school with me and to meet members of the school community, the school decision-making group and the parents and citizens association to talk about the issues that are of concern to the school community, and more importantly, to provide the funds that are necessary for a proper car parking area and facilities and an undercover assembly area.

I raise the next few matters on behalf of my constituents. Recently, an article in *The West Australian* indicated that the divide between the haves and have-nots in our society is increasing. I will report how difficult life can be for someone who is struggling to meet the necessities. I have a constituent who has had difficulty in paying her water account. The Water Corporation has now seen it appropriate to cut my constituent's water supply down to a trickle. My constituent is a sole parent who is eight months pregnant. She is experiencing extreme difficulties in getting water. She has children who cannot be bathed properly and who must have washes. She has a school-age child who cannot have a bath and who is embarrassed at school, resulting in that child becoming very upset. It is difficult to run a bath with the trickle of water that is provided. She could try to take clothes to the laundromat, but that is far too costly given her limited income. She cannot use the hot-water service because the water is restricted; hence, there is no hot water. She is having to carry kettles and saucepans and, due to her advanced stage of pregnancy, she is finding that extremely difficult. Those problems will be exacerbated when the baby arrives and will probably place the health and wellbeing of the child at risk. It is difficult to see how she will cope at a time when she must change the newborn and so on. My constituent has said she is desperate to have the water reconnected, but the maximum amount she can possibly manage to pay off the account is \$5 a week. The matter has been raised with the Water Corporation, and essentially we have not been able to resolve it. This is an appalling state of affairs. We have within our midst a single parent who is trying to bring up her children. That single parent is pregnant and will have another child shortly, and she is trying to cope with those rigours; yet we live in such a dispassionate, cold and calculating society that we cannot afford to reach out our hands to give that person some assistance in her hour of need. That is the sort of society that is developing under the coalition Government, and I for one think it is absolutely appalling. I will continue to speak out about that matter at every opportunity, because it typifies what is currently happening under the programs and the views espoused by a cold and heartless Government.

I raise the next matter on behalf of a number of individual constituents who were former employees of the Government. As the opposition spokesperson for Commerce and Trade, I am invited each year to the industry and export awards. Inevitably, when the winners collect those awards on stage, they say that they collect them, not on behalf of themselves, but on behalf of their organisations and, more particularly, the employees of their organisations, and they generally praise their staff. The way in which organisations treat their staff and employees indicates their ethical standards and value system.

I raise a number of matters on behalf of two former employees of the State Government. The first person is Mrs Vera Green. She had worked for the Health Department in the goldfields region since November 1985. She decided to retire from her position of community child health nurse in Boulder in February 1999. For a long time prior to that, negotiations for a wage rise for Western Australian nurses had been going on. Never at any stage during those discussions and drawn-out negotiations was it intimated that those nurses who left the employ of the Government would not be entitled to any wage increase that might arise out of the discussions between the Government and the Australian Nursing Federation.

My constituent left the employ of the health service in February 1999. Some time after she left, an enterprise agreement was concluded between the Australian Nursing Federation and the Government. That enterprise agreement was registered in August 1999, but it was backdated to 1 January 1999; that is, it was backdated prior to my constituent's leaving the employ of the Government. My constituent applied for the retrospective payment for the two months that she was employed after the date of operation of the enterprise agreement. She has not been paid that money. The Government has taken the legal point that only those nurses who were employed on the date the enterprise agreement was registered - that is, in August 1999 - are entitled to the retrospective payment, and not those nurses who were employed between January, the operative date of the enterprise agreement, and August and who had left prior to the registration of the agreement. This is an appalling way to treat former employees. Retrospectivity was granted. If Mrs Green had been able to continue in employment until August, she would have been paid the retrospective payment to 1 January, but because she left in February, she has been denied the retrospective payment for the period after 1 January when she served the Government as a loyal employee. Ethically, I do not know how the Government justifies that position. Perhaps someone might be able to explain that at some time. How that can be done amazes me.

Likewise, another constituent of mine was employed by Western Power as a meter reader. Meter readers employed by Western Power receive a bonus. My constituent was employed for quite a while and six months into a bonus year. She left, and when the bonus was declared, she sought to be paid the bonus pro rata. That was denied her on the basis that it was available only to those people who were currently employed. Again, that is a callous and cold way of dealing with former employees.

Another constituent, who is a Westrail employee, has had a devil of a time dealing with Westrail and its views about workplace agreements. I have looked at the workplace agreement provided by Westrail to that employee and other employees to ascertain how equitable it is. Each workplace agreement is required to have a dispute settlement procedure whereby a person can be nominated to resolve disputes between the employee and the employer should such disputes arise. The clause in this agreement is interesting, because the person who is to nominate a person to resolve those disputes is the chief executive officer of the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations; that is, the CEO of a government department that represents other government departments. Therefore, the chances of an employee getting some form of justice under that workplace agreement are minimal. I could go on. The number of complaints I have received from government employees or former employees goes on and on. It is symptomatic of the way in which this Government deals with its current and former employees.

I now turn to a matter that has great concern to people in my electorate; that is, the issue of building a prison on the Disability Services Commission site at Pyrton in Eden Hill. The Minister for Justice has shown a manic desire to put a prison at Eden Hill and has not been prepared to listen to community opinion.

Mr Omodei: It is a minimum security women's prison.

Mr BROWN: That is right. I will deal with the lengths to which the Government is prepared to go to achieve its objective and to override community opinion. It is amazing and I will put it in this context: Last year an application was made to the Western Australian Planning Commission seeking approval to build a minimum security women's prison on the site. That application went to the statutory planning committee of the Planning Commission, which rejected it on two grounds: First, Aboriginal land issues had not been properly attended to, and, secondly, no concept plan for the site had been submitted. What next happened? One would think there would have been a further application to the Planning Commission but, no, the first thing that occurred was a proclamation under the Prisons Act declaring part of that site as a prison. This was simply a prison declared under the Prisons Act in an area that was not zoned for a prison. A question as to whether that affected the zoning of the area was asked by a government member in the other place. In the *Hansard* of 21 March 2000 at page 5239, Hon Derrick Tomlinson asked the Minister for Justice -

As a prelude I note that on Sunday part of the Pyrton site owned by the Disability Services Commission was proclaimed a prison. Does that proclamation eliminate a requirement that development approval be given by the Western Australian Planning Commission before the site may be redeveloped as a minimum security women's prison?

The Minister for Justice replied -

By correction, it was proclaimed on Friday, not Sunday. No.

I interpret the word "no" there to mean that the mere fact that the buildings and the area had been declared a prison did not obviate the need for the Government to go through the planning process.

Mr Omodei: What was it zoned as?

Mr BROWN: It was zoned as a hospital. The next thing that occurred was the publication in *The West Australian* of 26 April of a notification of a taking order for land for public works under section 178(1)(b), (2) and (3) of the Land Administration Act 1997. That Act sets out the circumstances under which government may take land. No doubt the Government has sought to take the land in accordance with the Act. However, that is not the end of the matter. Section 32 of the Town Planning and Development Act 1928 provides -

Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to interfere with the right of Her Majesty, or the Governor, or the Government of the State or a local government to undertake, construct, or provide any public work, and to take land for the purposes of that work: Provided that -

- (a) so far as, in the interests of the public, it is reasonably possible, every such work shall be undertaken, constructed, or provided, and all land taken for the purpose of such work shall be taken, in such a manner as to be in keeping with the design and intent of every town planning scheme, and so as not to destroy the amenity of any town planning scheme made and approved under this Act and having effect in the district where, and at the time when, such work is undertaken, constructed, or provided, or such land is taken; and
- (b) the responsible authority shall be consulted at the time when a proposal for any public work, or for the taking of land therefor, is being formulated to ensure that the undertaking, construction, or provision of, or the taking of land for, the work will comply with paragraph (a).

My understanding is there was no consultation and no advice to the Town of Bassendean - the appropriate authority - that the Government would be instituting a taking order. It is therefore questionable whether the Minister for Works, who had in this instance issued the taking order, had complied with the relevant provisions of the Town Planning and Development Act. That matter may well be tested somewhere else.

A further question relates to the operation of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act. The Ministry of Justice and the minister, by using this device, hope to avoid the obligations in the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act to make an application to the Western Australian Planning Commission as no further application has been made to the Western Australian Planning Commission for approval to use that site as a prison. This is government simply getting on

its steamroller and bulldozing its way through the process in order to achieve an outcome that it particularly wants. Those matters may well be taken up elsewhere, and I hope they are.

That is not the end of the matter as to the depths to which the Government stoops in order to achieve its objectives. The next thing that occurred was the Ministry of Justice - not the Minister for Justice but one of those apolitical government departments that are supposed to abide by codes of ethics and codes of practice and not become involved in political matters - issued a circular to the community lauding this prison and saying what a great thing it would be. I raise that point to indicate an appropriate position for the ministry to be taking as opposed to the minister. Some ministers tend to trot out government departments and agencies to do their dirty work when they do not want to be in the firing line. However, in this instance officers of the ministry - public servants - were instructed to take up, or were taking up voluntarily, the political fight on behalf of the Government. That is not their role and the degree to which they are acting is wrong.

The pamphlet put out by the Ministry of Justice to the community is misleading. One part of this pamphlet says -

There will be no high brick walls, no razor wire fencing, no sirens and no intrusive lighting.

One could be mistaken for believing there will be no fence. It does not say that. We understand there will in fact be a three metre high fence, but it does not say that. Not only is the Ministry of Justice involved in the political dogfight, but it is also publishing the propaganda.

Mr Omodei: Who is the dogfight with?

Mr BROWN: The dogfight is between the Government and the community.

Mr Omodei: Only because the Australian Labor Party stirred it up. It is a very good result for the Disability Services Commission, for the community and for minimum security women prisoners.

Mr BROWN: I am glad the minister raised that and I am glad that will be in the *Hansard*. I will show that to Liberal Party members - not members of Parliament but members of the Liberal Party and its supporters - a number of whom have been on the campaign committee to oppose this prison. I am glad the minister thinks they are such fools that they could be caught in a Labor Party campaign of this nature. If that is what he thinks of them, he does not think much of his own members and his own supporters. We will certainly show them the comment to indicate the Government's view of them as individuals.

The Government not only wants to win this campaign, but it is also prepared to spend a great deal of taxpayers' money to win it at all costs. A public servant in a news report on ABC television last Sunday evening explained that the Government wanted to move 12 prisoners into the prison before the end of June. Why is the Government moving in only 12 prisoners when the institution is being built for 50? It is moving in 12 for political purposes. It is moving them in to try to demonstrate to the community that the battle is over, when the ministry knows and we know that to sustain 12 prisoners in this type of institution when the refurbishment works are continuing will be very expensive. It is not the most efficient way of proceeding, but the Government is preoccupied and does not mind using taxpayers' money to win the political fight. Many people in my electorate of all political persuasions have expressed a strong desire that the Government listen to the community and locate the prison elsewhere. However, the Government and the Minister for Justice have thumbed their noses at the community, which will not forget this matter in the future.

In the few minutes remaining I will refer to what individuals face through privatisation. All too often government contracts out services on the basis that it is a super-efficient way of organising services because the private sector is more efficient than is the public sector, and that great benefits will accrue to all concerned. I refer to the decision to contract out transport services in the Ministry of Justice to Corrections Corporation of Australia. Some prison officers who have been employed as transport officers for some time will find it difficult because of age and medical condition to return to mainstream prison officer activity. Hon Tom Helm asked questions about opportunities for such officers to take redundancies. I asked an officer half an hour ago what had happened in this regard, he told me that his personal application has been denied. This officer has worked for government for 25 years - he is just an officer passing through! Some officers have worked for 20 or 30 years for government and many of them have decided to go. Will they be given the opportunity to go with dignity? No, as there will be no opportunity for them to take redundancy.

One of the points raised in debate on the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill, with which the Minister for Police was involved -

Mr Prince: For about six weeks!

Mr BROWN: Right. The Government stated in that debate that significant savings would be made through this contracting out. The Opposition indicated that it thought the savings would be made by Corrections Corporation of Australia in employing people at significantly lower rates of pay and conditions than those which currently apply to prison officers. Guess what - that is exactly what happened. The first group which is supposed to be transporting prisoners has been trained by CCA. I outline for members the way the new people are being treated as a demonstration of the Government's employment policy at work.

First, within the new group trained is a pool of casuals and a pool of permanents who will all be employed on workplace agreements. The Labor Party has a copy of the workplace agreement and the rate of pay it contains. During the training period, and for the first period in which the officers shadow Ministry of Justice employees, they will be paid the big wage of the minimum wage! The CCA document sets the rate at \$9.02 an hour; however, that is below the state minimum wage

and people cannot be paid that figure. After they graduate and become court security officers or custodial services officers, they will be paid an hourly rate of \$12.39, which is a little below \$500 a week. A prison officer undertaking that work currently receives \$640 a week. Therefore, if anyone were allowed to transfer to CCA - they cannot do so even if they want to - he or she would face a pay reduction, not an increase, of \$140 a week. Also, when a prison officer is transferred to Kalgoorlie or Broome, where some of these security people will be located, he or she is paid a removal allowance to move the officer and his or her family. The new employees of CCA have been told, "You go by yourself. There is no payment from CCA for you to move to these locations." Furthermore, they are told that in the event of any criminal charges being laid against them, they are on their own. Members are aware that police officers and prison officers constantly face the threat of allegations of assault or whatever. These officers are told they had better have a slush fund to defend themselves as they are to be by themselves.

Mr Prince: Does the union not provide assistance to them?

Mr BROWN: As the minister knows -

Mr Prince: I am asking you.

Mr BROWN: The prison officers' union provides assistance to its members. Prison officers are reasonably well paid, despite waiting for a pay increase which the police received but which does not seem to be forthcoming. However, prison officers pay a fairly large fee for that assistance. I suggest that someone on \$500 a week will not be in a position to pay \$5 or \$8 a week for such protection.

Yes, the Government will make some savings on this contract. It will casualise the jobs, and the conditions of employment will go from reasonable to appalling. I do not know whether the Minister for Police knows about the training for these people. Training finished two weeks ago. Does he know where these people have been for the past two weeks? They have been at home. What wages did they draw while waiting for this contract to commence? None. CCA is offering to send these people forms so they can apply for unemployment benefits. Many of the people who are skilled drivers were overlooked for driving tasks so people unskilled in driving tasks can be trained. CCA has applied for traineeships for driver training for which it receives a government subsidy. The Government can be very proud of this situation! It is appalling. It is back to the slave-labour days. It is treating employees and prospective employees with contempt, as seen repeatedly, but this is perhaps the worst example. It is diabolical. I will write a résumé on this matter for distribution throughout the State to show how the Government is screwing workers.

MS ANWYL (Kalgoorlie) [7.48 pm]: This is the fifth budget I have had the pleasure to consider, and I continue to be dismayed about the inability to match up the papers from one year to the next. The Minister for Police may think that is positive and clever.

Mr Prince: I don't.

Ms ANWYL: It was a facetious comment.

Mr Prince: Do not misunderstand me. For a long time we have been going to accrual accounting, but it should have been completed a long time ago.

Ms ANWYL: I refer to not accounting but the presentation of the budget, which should be done in a meaningful way to indicate the provision of education, health and other services. It is impossible to draw proper conclusions about an amount of money and the number of full-time employees in certain areas. I am sure that is a deliberate act by the Government. We will come to that next week in the Estimates Committee, and I look forward to that process.

I will now focus on my electorate and make some comments about what I believe has been left out of this budget and what should have been included. These issues are not necessarily in any particular order, but education is one of the key issues in regional areas. With regard to education, it is always interesting to look at the Government's measures of timeliness and efficiency and the other graphs and so forth that we receive in the context of the budget. The Government's figure of a 60 per cent retention rate for students from year 8 to year 12 is not the story in my electorate and is not the story in country areas all over Western Australia. The retention rate to year 12 is much lower in country areas than it is in the city. It is no secret that retention rates have been declining significantly since 1993.

Mr Omodei: Why is that?

Ms ANWYL: Because this Government is not putting the resources into education that it should.

Mr Shave: Rubbish! Read the figures.

Ms ANWYL: The minister should make a speech - which he never does in this House - if he wants to carry on like that when he is absolutely ignorant of the true situation on this issue.

Mr Shave: Read how much money has gone into education. Why don't you read the figures?

Ms ANWYL: How many of the young people in the minister's electorate go to private schools? It is a significant proportion. The minister can doorknock all he likes in Alfred Cove and he can come in here and suggest that the retention rates -

Mr Shave: Why not read the figures?

Ms ANWYL: I have read them - I suspect a lot more closely than the minister has - and I am sick of people who come from privileged electorates sitting in this place and telling members on this side of the House that they do not know what they are talking about, because the fact is that the people in my electorate -

The SPEAKER: Order! This is the member for Kalgoorlie's opportunity to make her contribution to the budget debate. Perhaps if she made it through the Chair not as many members would interject.

Ms ANWYL: The comments that I made were in response to interjections. If members want to interject, then it should be at my discretion whether I want to respond. I am sick and tired of hearing comments like that from members from privileged electorates and who represent people who have much higher incomes than people in the electorates of many other members of this place. It is simply not factual to suggest that retention rates have improved under this Government. Since 1993, there has been a marked decline in the number of young people who go through to year 12. That is particularly the case in country electorates.

Mr Omodei: Will you take an interjection?

Ms ANWYL: I will not take an interjection, because I will then get the censure of the Speaker. What a situation! There has been a steady decline in the retention rates of students, and I suggest that those members opposite who do not believe that is the case get a briefing on the subject and discuss the issue with some of those involved in the public high schools in their electorates rather than spend all their time sliding their way around private schools and similar places.

A pledge of some \$12m has been made with regard to Eastern Goldfields Senior High School, the only government high school that exists in my electorate. A very controversial situation has arisen with regard to the way in which the new school will be built. Unfortunately, it is not clear from the budget papers how many extra teachers will be employed in this process, and that is a flaw in those budget papers. Over the years some capital works funding has been applied to several of the primary schools in my electorate, but they still have significant needs, not the least of which because some of those schools are the oldest in this State. For example, Kalgoorlie Primary School, which is over 102 years old and which is the oldest school in my electorate, has no four-year-old program on the school grounds. That is of significant concern and is the reason that school is one of the few schools that has a declining enrolment rate. Last year, that school was given a small grassed playing area, which is very unusual for Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The parents and citizens association does not want any of that land to be used to construct more school buildings, but it has identified some premises which are very close to the school and which the school would like to acquire so that it can set up a four-year-old program. The playing area could then be shared between that program and the existing preprimary program. That is an example of where funds are needed. It appears from my perusal of the budget papers that an extra \$10m has been allocated for early childhood development. I am not sure whether the four-year-old program comes under that heading - I presume it does. It is unfortunate that there is no further detail of what moneys have been allocated.

O'Connor Primary School, which is the newest primary school in my electorate, already has four, and possibly five, transportable classrooms. We all accept that some transportables are inevitable, although they are not the best option. Houses are still being built in the subdivisions adjacent to that school, and it is likely that the enrolment numbers will continue to increase. A public safety issue has arisen at that school, because an open ditch that is on land adjacent to the preprimary area tends to collect water and may create a health hazard. I have taken up that matter with the minister, and I appreciate that he is not here tonight to make a response, but I hope that at some stage he will read my remarks in *Hansard*.

South Kalgoorlie Primary School, which is one of the largest primary schools in this State, also has a significant need for capital works because several of its classrooms are the old Bristol buildings. You may be familiar with those buildings, Mr Speaker. Those buildings, which date back to the second world war, or post-Second World War, and were used for accommodation, have now been classed as permanent buildings. While they are a little better than transportables, they are not much different. Some issues are also associated with the fact that some of the classrooms are fairly old. The school has a cluster-type environment, which can create difficulties for teachers due to the transmission of noise through concertina fabric-type doors. Those are just a few examples of primary schools which have a need for capital works expenditure.

Another issue which has come to the forefront in the goldfields since the last budget is that while the privatisation of school cleaning services took place in the metropolitan area some time ago, it is a recent phenomenon in the goldfields, and some concerns have been raised with me by various parents and citizens associations about the decreased number of hours that are now being allocated for school cleaning. One of the issues that always arises with regard to public safety, particularly that of school children, is that my electorate has the unfortunate privilege of having four and a half times the state average of needle and syringe use. That creates particular difficulties in school areas, because unfortunately it is not rare for used needles and syringes to be disposed of on school grounds. One of the jobs that we would like the cleaners and gardeners to be able to do is find those used needles and syringes to avoid potential risk to young children.

I will now make some remarks about the Health budget. I acknowledge that some capital works moneys have been put aside to build accommodation for nurses in the goldfields. That is very important, because the goldfields is a difficult-to-staff location and we experience difficulty in attracting health professionals, particularly nurses for aged care. I will not say police, so the minister does not need to smile. It is extremely difficult. I know it is not only a goldfields phenomenon -

Mr Prince: It is statewide.

Ms ANWYL: It is Australia wide; it is a very significant problem. I was recently talking to the very dedicated, solitary

registered nurse at the Kalgoorlie Nursing Home. The director of nursing is available, but this nurse is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is not realistic to expect someone to do that indefinitely. I pay tribute to the staff of that facility because it is fantastic and great improvements have been made there over the years. We must have incentives to attract nurses to regional areas.

One of the difficulties we have had in this regard is the provision of accommodation. Some controversy has been generated in that the Health Promotion Services proposed a development in a parkland. Residents in Finnerty Lane, Hannans had not realised that part of the parkland was owned by the Health Department, and that created some difficulties. Building should start on alternative sites that have been identified and made available. Planning is underway for a psychiatric ward at the hospital. However, there are many other very complex health needs in my electorate.

My electorate has one of the highest birth rates in Western Australia with about 800 births each year at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. Many of those births are classed as difficult in that they involve twins, diabetes, high blood pressure, previous caesarean births and so on. We are very fortunate to have a gynaecologist - it is unusual for a country hospital - and many general practitioners who work in the obstetrics field. That field of medicine involves frequent litigation and high insurance premiums, so many doctors avoid it. At a public policy level, we must encourage as many doctors as possible to practice in that area and we must look after our specialists.

I was surprised last week to be advised by a general practitioner that, because of the failure to finalise the state medical agreement - it expired some years ago -

Mr Prince: We cannot; it is illegal.

Ms ANWYL: Federal and State Governments will have to work out something. I understand that there are Australian Competition and Consumer Commission implications.

Mr Prince: Under the Trade Practices Act -

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Bloffwitch): I ask the minister to resume his seat.

Mr Prince: It is illegal.

Ms ANWYL: As a result of that, another very concerning situation has arisen in my electorate, and I am surprised it has not arisen elsewhere. A verbal arrangement was reached between the Northern Goldfields Health Services Board, Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, the various medical practitioners who undertake obstetric procedures and the specialist I mentioned previously. Members should keep in mind that 800 births occur at the hospital each year - King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women has 5 000 - and a number of those births are difficult. The arrangement was that the doctors would be paid a particular rate for those difficult births. That arrangement was entered into verbally, but it had been acted upon. The doctors' accounts had been paid according to it for many months by the accounts clerk at the hospital. On 27 April, the general practitioners and the gynaecologist concerned were advised that they had been overpaid - they should have been paid at a standard rate - and that they would have to pay back the money. The amount for one doctor is \$40 000.

Mr Prince: If that is a breach of contract, it is wrong.

Ms ANWYL: The minister and I are both lawyers. I believe the contractual situation is very clear. Notwithstanding that it was a verbal contract -

Mr Prince: It is still a contract.

Ms ANWYL: There has very clearly been consideration and that consideration is the payment.

Mr Prince: The Sale of Goods Act does not apply; therefore it is a contract.

Ms ANWYL: I hope the minister will have a word with the Minister for Health, and I will do so myself. I attempted to resolve this matter informally by contacting the Health Minister's office. Mr Deputy Speaker, as a country member you would understand that we must look after our medical specialists. Many of the general practitioners who now take on these difficult births would not do so if our gynaecologist left the area. They would not have the security of knowing that experienced specialist was there to assist if needed. The stresses and strains on King Edward Memorial Hospital and some private hospitals would be much greater as a result because many women would then have to go to Perth for these births. That is not desirable from a public health perspective or an economic perspective and certainly not from the women's perspective. If they were required to travel to Perth to deliver their baby, they could be confronted with many other stresses and strains, including cost and other children who may have to be accommodated. It is a difficult situation.

I would like to see the situation resolved quickly. I am sure we all applaud the fact that the federal budget has provided extra money for doctors to go to regional areas. My electorate is classed as difficult to staff, and your electorate is probably in the same category, Mr Deputy Speaker. The scarcity of doctors in these areas causes huge problems. If our gynaecologist leaves Kalgoorlie, we may not be able to replace him.

Mr Prince: We have a similar problem in Albany.

Ms ANWYL: He is an excellent specialist. I am told by some general practitioners that we have the lowest caesarean rate in the State. That is a tribute to him because he deals with many difficult births. The hospital caters for much of the desert region and confronts low birth weight babies, diabetes and other maternal and infant health issues.

I hope the Health Minister will respond to these concerns. His chief of staff was very cooperative in that he did respond. However, I was told that the Health Department was confident of its legal position. I am not sure that it deals in morals -

Mr Prince: That is unkind.

Ms ANWYL: The department does not believe the matter should be raised with the minister. I disagree; the minister should be involved.

Mr Prince: Mr Deputy Speaker and I agree that the Health Minister will be informed.

Ms ANWYL: I thank the minister for that.

Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital has excellent staff, but unfortunately it experiences a high turnover of agency nurses, which impacts on the cost of providing health services. I have a concern relating to the stresses and strains put on the hospital, particularly given that it is the only provider of alcohol and drug detoxification services outside the home. Rehabilitation services do not exist. I know nurses who refer to some patients as "frequent flyers" - they come back again and again. The funding for the sobering-up centre has been increased. That is very necessary from a safety perspective, and we should keep in mind the deaths in custody report, but it is a bandaid solution. All we are doing is creating a place where people can be off the street for the night. If no form of alcohol rehabilitation is available, bearing in mind that many of these people are itinerant and homeless, we will not get very far with resolving the situation. The hospital takes on a huge strain in that area.

Fortuitously, I received an answer to a question on notice to the Minister for Health today in which I asked about ward A of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. I asked when and why the ward was closed, and when it will reopen. I was told that it closed in December 1997 for routine maintenance work but that there is no plan to reopen it as a medical ward. That is a fair while in which to complete some maintenance. Presumably, it was not closed just for maintenance; there must be some other explanation. I know that the view of the health service board is that it is not necessary to reopen it. We should get past this charade of saying that it was closed for routine maintenance. If the ward were closed because it was not necessary to keep it open, so be it. It is an absolute nonsense to say that a ward can be closed in December 1997 for routine maintenance; yet, two and a half years later the maintenance presumably has not been carried out. There were 28 beds in that ward in 1993. Although it is used to some extent for dialysis at the moment, there is a plan for the development of an acute mental health in-patient facility, but that is some way down the track. Governments of whatever persuasion must get over this nonsense of saying that something is closed for routine maintenance. I note that it was the Court Government which closed it for routine maintenance.

I will raise another matter which relates to the police, so I am pleased the Minister for Police is in the Chamber. I asked the minister a question without notice on this issue today. I am told that the full complement of the Kalgoorlie Police Station is approximately 120 officers and it is about 10 officers short.

Mr Prince: There are eight vacancies, but four people have been appointed. They are all on transfer right now and are coming, so there are four vacancies. I spoke with the commissioner this afternoon at four o'clock and that is the information I have.

Ms ANWYL: I am obliged to the minister for relaying that to me. The information I received during the week is slightly different from that. I hope that the minister is right and I am sure he would not mislead the House. As at 1 July there will be a new budget so money is available for transfers and so on and a number of police have flagged their intention to leave. I do not know that they have been factored into the minister's figure of eight minus four, which equals four. We must have some form of incentive. These police officers are receiving only \$14 a fortnight by way of district allowance, which would not cover the cost of a tank of petrol if it is compared with Perth prices, not to mention the other issues that have been raised with both the minister and the deputy commissioner. This matter may come up again during the estimates and it must be sorted out.

Unfortunately, I have been the victim of a number of burglaries at my electorate office.

Mr Prince: I am told it is five.

Ms ANWYL: I think it has gone up since the last media report.

Mr Prince: That was the briefing note I had at question time.

Ms ANWYL: The police have been absolutely marvellous, and I thank the police officers involved. I have now had the opportunity of observing first hand their response times and so forth. There is no doubt that the police are under pressure. We have one forensic officer. There has been an increase in the number of burglaries and stealing offences reported for the month of April. Some argue that that is related to the school holidays. Unfortunately, the trend is not just an April aberration. There was a steady decline last year and, in part, that was in response to a number of measures implemented by the police. However, they cannot carry out that type of crime prevention and so forth at the moment because of the shortage of officers. I believe the police have an extremely stressful job anyway. Of course, their personal safety is always under some threat, and we have reminders of that from time to time. Recently in the north of our State some police officers were injured in the course of their duties. There have also been recent shootings in other States which show how dangerous a police officer's job can be.

For the record, the police in Kalgoorlie do an excellent job but they are under some strain. If the minister could send us some mounted police for a short period so we could have street patrols, it would be a great help. A number of things could

happen in the short term which would boost the morale of not only the Police Service, but also the community generally. I spent last week in my electorate. It is unusual to have a whole week in my electorate, because I am always in Parliament and carrying out my shadow ministerial responsibilities. From speaking to shopkeepers it became clear to me that there is a perception, right or wrong - it is supported by the statistics - that there has been an increase in petty crime, particularly shoplifting and that type of offence. It must be extremely frustrating for retailers who spend their whole day in their shops watching what is going on in their shops and on the street. It would be a great thing if more police were on patrol. Police are doing street patrols on Thursday to Saturday evenings and that is good. However, Burt Street in Boulder and Hannan Street need that extra duty.

I also note from observation that some of the crime prevention and school-based officers are being drawn out into patrols and the like. It would be more desirable if they focused on their designated duties and that would be more in the public interest. I ask that urgent action be taken in relation to this, because many police officers to whom I have spoken suggest that this is a problem.

The 44-hour week is an issue on which police officers are focusing. It would provide an immediate solution to this problem, albeit at a cost of approximately \$6 000 per officer. However, the cost of crime to the community is much greater than that. I ask the minister to continue to look at that issue and to take urgent action.

I have examined the justice papers and I have not found the heading for this item. Through the justice budget, moneys were allocated for the prevention of crime, and this program was a juvenile justice component. I refer to the funding of an existing automotive workshop program and that funding has stopped. A couple of similar projects operate in the Perth area and we had a project under way in my electorate. I freely admit that I am a bit biased because I was the chair of the committee that set it up. I had ceased to be involved with that committee prior to its de-funding. My biggest beef is that that amount of money has not been spent in the last budgetary year. As I cannot find an item heading, I do not know whether it will be spent this year. The figure is about \$1.2m for the whole State and a number of programs operate across the State. That is an absolute waste because a number of young men participated in that program. Some of them were successfully placed into apprenticeships. The minister should spend money early in the cycle to encourage people to stop offending. In the case of juveniles, it costs \$110 000 a year to keep one person in detention. The whole cost of our program was equivalent to one young person being in jail for a year. The community is much better off if we utilise the more productive option of a program like the training project. It is a great source of regret to me that the shed which we utilised is standing unused at the moment. We were involved in fundraising, but all the equipment and the like is not being used. If the funds had to be reallocated, I could have lived with that, but the fact that they have been idle for over a year when young people could have been going through that program speaks volumes. It is important to note that we had the support of local business and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder which gave us some funding. It is a great shame to see this decision taken so lightly.

In the meantime, some money has been allocated to the youth engagement program. The idea behind that is to provide a casework focus for young people who are offending or who are at risk of offending. I support that program; however, given the problems in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the allocated amount of \$16 000 is a pittance. I ask for some response about what has happened to that funding. It is \$120 000, which is a huge amount for my electorate.

Mr Prince: I cannot tell you, but if you ask during the Estimates Committee, I am sure an officer who can tell you will be present.

Ms ANWYL: The Minister for Police is in charge of the House at the moment, so I ask that he get someone to come back to me with an answer.

The figures show that the Government has collected about \$53m through the gold royalty. It is well known that the gold industry, particularly the exploration sector, has had a hard time recently. It is a shame the Minister for Lands has left the Chamber, because he could have yelled out, "Native title! Native title!" The gold industry has had a difficult time, but it is not entirely the result of native title. Native title creates problems, but the Government has not assisted the industry with job creation programs and the like. I cannot help but contrast the situation with the south west. I appreciate that government policy in that area changed, creating difficulties for workers. I put a range of questions on notice to various ministers over the past few months. Huge numbers of initiatives have been taken to try to ameliorate the problems associated with the changes to the timber industry. However, there have been massive job losses in my electorate. Some people estimate that many thousands of people have left the electorate. A large amount of economic pain has been created. Yet, I do not think that one cent has been spent in the goldfields. Not one initiative has been put forward to assist workers in the mining industry to cope with the job losses. The member for Eyre has seen massive job losses in Kambalda, Norseman and Coolgardie. In my capacity as shadow minister for the goldfields, it is clear the small mining towns have suffered most of all. Yet the Government has not taken action. The \$53m it has taken from the gold industry would create many jobs. If the Government spent even a small amount of that royalty on this issue, we would be in front. That has created some resentment.

The Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission's budget is secure. It is receiving a slight increase and is undertaking some very good projects. However, it does not focus on social development as much as it ought. I have made that view known. Members might be surprised to learn that the legislation prescribes that the commission focus on both economic and social development. Its budget is almost \$1.5m, which is a fair amount of money for an agency located in a regional centre. There is plenty of opportunity for that money to be spent in ways that improve the social fabric of the community, as well as on purely economic development issues. Some positive changes have been made, but the perception of many

people in the community is that development commissions exist for political purposes. Members need only look at the budget papers to see that the first issue the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission identifies as significant is that of native title. What has the development commission been doing about native title? A goldfields land access group was set up some time ago. The Government - the Premier and the Deputy Premier as leader of the National Party - was invited to be part of that and the first meeting was held in July last year. Many months went by and no real response emerged, although further meetings were eventually held. There is huge potential for people at the local level to forge ahead with regional agreements and the like. I will not use the remainder of my time to talk about my views on the Government's attempts to frustrate that process; however, the Government has not provided any evidence that it wants to resolve these issues in the goldfields. I have previously quoted a letter by Peter Conran of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, who works with native title and strategic development. In that letter, he stated that the Government would not enter into any mediation process with native title claimants in the goldfields. This position is unlike other areas of the State where mediation is occurring. That is one example. The Premier has said in this House that he anticipates four to five years of litigation for native title claims in the goldfields. That is not in anyone's interests. The development commission ought to use the resources it has available - and they are significant - to encourage local agreements or, at the very least, to encourage all stakeholders to sit down together and talk. That does not happen at a state level. The native title working party has not sat down with the stakeholders and representatives from the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to try to forge ahead with some solutions.

The goldfields land access group had not met for a while, so I rang the chief executive officer to find out why. Before I did that, I rang the independent chair. The land access group has an independent chairperson, who has done a good job on the rare occasions it meets. He said he thought it was up to the development commission to organise a meeting. I rang the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission and spoke to the acting chief executive officer, who advised it was the chairman's role to convene a meeting. I told the acting CEO that the chairman thought it was the development commission's role. I make clear that the chairman is not an employee of the development commission. Perhaps there was a lack of communication; however, the acting CEO went on to say there was no point in the meetings because the Goldfields Land Council - the representative body for the goldfields area - did not turn up. I pointed out that I did not think that was true; while its representatives had missed one or two meetings, so had the mining industry's representatives. I think the Goldfields Land Council representatives have attended more meetings than the representatives from the peak mining bodies! We still have not had a meeting. We are missing a great opportunity to forge ahead in this issue. It is possible for progress to be made when goodwill exists. Any lawyer will say that negotiations cannot take place unless there is goodwill. Goodwill in this State has evaporated as a result of these experiences. The Goldfields Land Council said a while ago that it was not prepared to attend meetings where state government representatives were present. That is a sad state of affairs. At the end of the day, a consensus arrangement for native title is the way forward. I believe that is possible. There are indications of that in many areas.

In Queensland, the state regime has not yet been approved by the Senate, and may be disallowed. The federal Attorney General has not yet ticked off the Queensland legislation, which has been waiting over a year for approval. Earlier this year, we found out that the Premier - or his staff - took a long time to give the native title legislation to the federal Attorney General's department after it passed through the Parliament last November. Queensland has been waiting for over a year for approval; it is likely we will have to wait just as long. In the meantime, the Government should be doing everything it can to progress the matter. However, I do not think there is much evidence to suggest that is happening. I would like the development commission to play a constructive role or give up.

Land release is another issue. A variety of government ministers and upper House members have promised a grassed golf course in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, which has a big land release problem. Native title in the Hannans north-west sector was resolved last May. It is now May again. We are still waiting for firm proposals. I recently received a briefing from staff of the Department of Land Administration, who told me about 50 blocks would be available in the Hannans sector by the end of next year. That is fine, except that there is a land shortage now. Although the economy is depressed at the moment, there is potential for it to pick up. When people invest, it is largely about perception and confidence. They invest because they feel that a place either does or does not have a strong future. Dealing with the golf course, I cannot find any mention of dollars allocated in this budget. At page 816, a figure of \$3.3m appears for the development of the land in question. I do not think that could be read as being for the development of a grass golf course, yet clearly those promises have been made. On page 802, under the Department of Land Administration, it is stated that the demand for developed land in the goldfields is expected to be strong. If it is expected to be strong, I hope that some blocks of land will be available for release before the end of next year, 2001, because this is a matter that requires planning.

I also looked at the allocation of funds for the Western Australian Sports Centre Trust. Under that heading, large amounts of government assistance are given to particular projects. I do not see Geraldton included there, Mr Deputy Speaker, although something is coming up that may possibly be very good. There is \$16m for the Kwinana Motorplex. Arena Joondalup, Challenge Stadium and the Midvale SpeedDome are the principal items. Clearly, there is a missed opportunity in that area. We continually hear how sure the Court Government is that it has already won most seats. If that is the case, I thought it would have found a few million dollars for the grass golf course, because ministers and other representatives have been in that area drumming up expectations about my seat, yet the dollars are not there.

I have dealt with a range of matters concerning education, and also the hospital issue. Again, I urge the minister to take that matter to the Minister for Health, because it is of great concern to me that a specialist is being asked to pay back more than \$40 000, and several general practitioners are being asked to pay back money. Potentially, the difficult births will not be performed in my electorate. That would be a great shame, and it will cause great economic and emotional cost to the

people involved. I have also dealt with the justice issues. The fact is that although \$53m is being collected from the gold royalty, job creation has not occurred. I did not have an opportunity to examine the Department of Minerals and Energy's budget, but suffice to say that there appears to be a budget decrease in the area of health and safety. That would be of grave concern to most of my constituents who work in the mining industry.

Finally, I mention that last week was national Volunteers Week. In Esperance, there is a volunteering centre. Money has been allocated from Family and Children's Services for that centre. Clearly, community development in my electorate is suffering because of the number of people who are moving away from the town due to the economic downturn. Also, I guess people must focus on their own backyards at times of economic concern. A volunteering centre is a cheap yet positive initiative in the sense that there could be a staffed office, and people who wished to carry out volunteer work could access the office in the same way as the Volunteering Western Australia centre works in Lotteries House at CityWest. It would be positive to have something of that nature across all regional areas. It would not cost much, yet it would be a positive thing. I hope that sooner or later some money will be spent by this Government by way of a social dividend.

MR CARPENTER (Willagee) [8.33 pm]: I will make some comments about aspects of the budget which pertain specifically to my areas of responsibility as a member of the Opposition. They are in Education, Family and Children's Services and the drugs policy. Education is the biggest of those portfolio areas, so I will probably spend more time dealing with it than with the other two areas. As I have said in the Parliament previously, one thing that Vladimir Ilich Lenin got right was that everything is connected to everything else. I hope I can make the truth of that statement clear as I go through the different portfolio areas.

This year, the Education budget is an interesting document which bears scrutiny. The grand total of the budget estimate for Education spending for the next financial year is \$1 469 078 000. It is a most interesting document when one breaks down the figures, especially when compared with the estimated figures that were produced in last year's budget documents. The difficulty of comparing the figures that are provided in one year's budget papers with those that went before, and the lack of consistency in the figures, has been remarked upon tonight by another speaker. In this year's recurrent allocation for Education - that is, the estimated actual recurrent allocation for the financial year 1999-2000, the financial year in which we are now operating - the Government and the Education Department have estimated that they will spend \$1.301b. That is an interesting figure, because the amount of money that the Government estimated in last year's budget papers as recurrent spending on education in this current financial year was \$1.275b. Therefore, in effect, there is about a \$26m excess in spending in this current financial year as opposed to what was forecast in the budget papers last year. That is interesting to me, because it leaves open the possibility that that amount of money is a deficit carried over into the next financial year - that is, the one with which this year's budget papers deal - and that, in reality, the increase in recurrent spending of some \$75m in this year's budget papers will be somewhat less than that. If one takes into consideration the possibility that a deficit of some \$26m is being carried over, the increase in recurrent spending is considerably less.

There are two other significant components of the budget allocations. In Education, the anticipated capital expenditure for the 2000-01 financial year is approximately \$91m, which is down from \$112m in the financial year in which we are now operating; that is, the 1999-2000 financial year. In other words, something like a 20 per cent reduction in capital expenditure in Education is anticipated in the budget papers for the coming financial year. Therefore, the increase in the Education budget is all in the recurrent area. It is unfortunate that the Minister for Education is not here, although we will have an opportunity during the Estimates Committee hearings to pursue the issue of whether that \$75m or \$76m increase in recurrent spending in Education is as significant as it appears or whether it will reduce by approximately 30 per cent because of a carried over deficit from the current financial year.

There are also the anticipated \$7.3m costs for the implementation of the goods and services tax. In education terms, \$7m is about the construction price of a decent sized primary school. The implementation of the GST will have a significant bearing on Education as well -

Mr McGowan: That is why the Waikiki Primary School has -

Mr CARPENTER: - particularly when there is a great demand for increased educational facilities in Western Australia, with population growths in some of the hot spots, such as the southern suburb to which the member for Rockingham has just referred, in Busselton and other areas. Of course, a little earlier in today's proceedings we heard about the issue in Bunbury.

There is the potential for significant stress on the Education budget, even on the figures that we have before us so early in the proceedings. I anticipated a greater allocation increase in the Education budget than there has been. I do not have the figures before me, but my recollection from the minister's press release and the Premier's speech was that there was a 5.8 per cent increase in the Education budget. When the underlying inflation factor of about 2.6 per cent is taken into consideration, the real increase in Education comes down to about 2.3 per cent. That increase should be seen against the scenario of enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations between the State School Teachers Union of WA and the department. The teachers are seeking 7 per cent this year and 7 per cent next year, while the Government has offered 3 per cent this year and 3 per cent next year. A 3 per cent real increase in the Education budget will almost completely be swallowed up by the pay rise that has been offered by the Government to school teachers. When one takes into consideration the other elements of the budget figures to which I have alluded, no capacity exists for increased resourcing over and above the pay rise offered by the Government, which is only half of what the teachers have asked for. We may see a prolonged dispute in that area. We should be concerned about that lack of capacity for growth in additional resources.

Another point which is related to that lack of capacity for growth emerges when one reads the fine print in the budget papers

and examines the changes in the number of full-time equivalent staffing positions in the various outputs in Education and changes in the anticipated student numbers in the various outputs. Output 1 in the budget papers relates to preprimary education. The student population in 1999-2000 numbers 19 246. That is anticipated to rise in the next financial year by 36 students to 19 282. That is a small but real increase in the student population. At the same time the FTEs in the provision of education at the preprimary level reduced by 46 from 2 639 full time equivalent staff to 2 593. Output 2 of the budget papers deals with primary education. The number of students in the current financial year is 142 681, and is expected to rise by 58 to 142 739. That is a small increase in the number of students. However, when one examines the FTE staff numbers to cater for those 142 000 students, we see a decline from the year 1999-2000 in which there are 11 803 full time equivalent staff to 11 736. That is a decline of 67 FTEs in delivering output 2 of primary education in Western Australia.

Output 3 relates to the delivery of secondary education in Western Australia. The budget papers say that in the current financial year the number of students is 81 464 and the anticipated number in the 2000-01 financial year is 81 944. That is a significant increase of 480 students. If we do the same exercise as we did in outputs 1 and 2, we see the number of students increases by 480 students but the number of FTE staff declines by 84 from 8 779 in this financial year to 8 695 in the new financial year. Several other output areas deal with the delivery of education in agricultural colleges, senior colleges and so on, but in those three output areas the increase in student numbers as specified in the budget papers is 574 on my reckoning - I have been told I may be incorrect - and the decline in FTE staff numbers is 187. Across the Education budget the decline in FTE numbers is 195. That poses an interesting question: Who are these FTEs? Are they teachers, teachers' assistants, aides, or are some of them gardeners and cleaning contractors? If they are - as I suspect they are - significantly involved in the delivery of education, not only can we see how the Government has managed to rein in some of the spending but we can see a potential for increased difficulty in delivering quality education across the government sector. That is simply because there are more students and fewer teachers.

It should be underlined that I am referring to full-time equivalent teachers. There may not be any reduction in the number of people who are employed as teachers, teachers' aides and so on. However, it would be interesting to analyse school by school the capacity of schools to employ part-time teachers. For example, if in 1999-2000 a school was granted 17.6 full-time equivalents but in the new financial year it has the capacity to employ only 17.4 FTEs, we will see how that reduction in full-time equivalent staff across Education has been occurring. I hope I am wrong, but I suspect it will occur by a reduction in the number of part-time staff teaching hours that is available at school. That will mean a reduction in the teaching capacity in the government education system and consequently a decline in the quality one would expect of the education delivered to our children. I hope that there is another explanation for that decline in full time equivalents. However, if that is the answer, we are heading in completely the wrong direction.

I do not know if I am alone in this, but I believe the preparation of budget papers in this format is hopelessly inadequate. It is unacceptable for the major financial statement of the Government of the day not even to tell us how many school teachers are employed in the system. Nowhere in this budget can we find out how many school teachers are employed in Western Australia. That is not acceptable. In order to find out how many teachers are employed in Western Australia one must go to the annual report of the Education Department, which comes out at a different time, and that does not tell one how much they cost. The budget papers give a global figure of the number of people employed and how much they cost. It does not give a breakdown of who they are or what service they are delivering. They should. It should not be beyond the capacity of the department to provide that information nor would it breach the new guidelines for budget presentation for that information to be provided. That is probably a point for another time. However, I do not think it is acceptable and I cannot imagine that many people would.

The reason that the decline in the number of FTE teaching staff is such a vital issue in Western Australia is that Western Australia is in a position in which its education system, in the overall context of what it is supposed to do, is not delivering what is needed. The Minister for Education, other people and I say Western Australia provides excellent quality education. That is true for the people who get that education, but a study of the performance and output of our education system shows that it does not provide the outcome that it should. The purpose of the Education Department and the education system is to educate our children - not some of them, but all of them - to the maximum possible level. It is a very sad fact that in Western Australia it is simply not happening. It is impossible to expect that every child in every jurisdiction should reach the ultimate level of education that is available in that jurisdiction, but it should be aimed for nevertheless. It is pleasing that in recent times the current Minister for Education, echoing figures to which I have referred, has said that we should be aiming at a retention rate, to the end of year 12, of 90 per cent. He has started saying that only since I have been making a bit of an issue about the fact that we do not achieve that level, but good on him. To give members an idea of how far short we are of that target, these budget papers reveal that the retention rate to year 12 in Western Australia in the current financial year is 60 per cent; in other words, 40 per cent of our children do not get through to the end of year 12.

I believe that this is a huge public policy issue. I am astounded that more people do not think it. It is an important issue, and this shortcoming of our education system is related to many other issues that are debated in this Parliament from time to time, including general crime rates, juvenile crime rates, youth suicide rates, health problems - the whole gamut. I believe that in a very highly educated community the crime rate will be lower, the health statistics will be better and a whole lot of other social statistics will improve. I do not think that anybody with much knowledge of social dynamics would disagree. In the world in which we are living and into which our youths come when they come out of the education system, if people do not have a very high level of education, their employment opportunities are narrowed. Everybody knows that people's capacity to get gainful and long-lasting employment is diminished for every year that they fail to stay on at school. Studies all over the world demonstrate that. What then happens is that some people get locked into a series of events which

have adverse consequences. Their earning power and capacity for life-long employment are diminished; they are more likely to suffer from social problems if they are unemployed and face a whole lot of other social pressures; they are more likely to find themselves in contact with alcohol and drug problems; and they are more likely to find themselves subject to all sorts of social pressures that impact on families, marriages and so on.

A key component of the problems we are having in our society is the failure of the education system to deliver what it should be delivering. The current Minister for Education has shown some recognition of that point, as he says he agrees that we are now at 60 per cent retention to year 12 and that we need to get to 90 per cent. However, how quickly are we getting there?

Mr Tubby: What about those young people who leave to get jobs?

Mr CARPENTER: To answer the question, when I was 15 years of age the retention rate to year 12 was very small. Probably all people could leave school at the age of 14 years and get a job. If the member says that today it does not matter if people leave school early to get a job, he should cast his mind back to the time when students were leaving school at the age of 14 years and bring that social phenomenon into the present. He would not find it acceptable. In 20 years' time when someone says to him that students were leaving school at 15 years of age, and that he said at the time that it was okay because they were about to get a job, he would find what he has to say now about that issue almost unbelievable.

It is not good enough for students of 15 years of age to be exiting the education system in large numbers. That is what is happening. We are not talking about a small percentage. The minister has said that there will always be 5 per cent or 10 per cent of students who exit early. However, to have 40 per cent exiting early is just not acceptable.

Mr Prince: When you talk about 40 per cent, are you talking about the numbers who go from school to technical and further education centres? I hear what you say about retention rates. Those colleges offer a superb education, which is similar to schools and yet quite different.

Mr CARPENTER: I know that. I will ask the minister about this in the estimates committee, but the number of 15 and 16-year-olds in TAFE is very small.

Mr Prince: I do not know, and that is why I am asking.

Mr CARPENTER: They come back later. From that age group it is not acceptable to have students leaving the education system.

Last year the retention rate in Western Australia was 59.6 per cent. This year, as it is expressed in the budget papers as a significant achievement, it is up to 60 per cent, which is a 0.4 per cent increase. At that rate, it will take 75 years for us to get to a retention rate of 90 per cent in Western Australia. None of us will be alive to see it. In other words, it cannot go on. Something must change. I have been carrying around this graph for some time to show people who are interested in these things - probably not enough people are - that in 1982 or thereabouts, about 25 per cent of Western Australian schoolchildren reached year 12. By 1992 that figure had increased to about 65 per cent, an almost threefold increase. There has been a decline in that figure from 1992-93. It got down to about 58 per cent and has now levelled off at around 60 per cent. The figures are not improving. The records for the past seven or eight years show that the figures have gone backwards, which is not acceptable. Something must be done about it. The Government does not seem to be making any serious attempt to grapple with this problem. I find that most unfortunate.

These retention rates or, to turn it around, the drop-out rates in government schools in Western Australia are not reflected in the private system, which is doing very well and has a 78 per cent to 80 per cent retention rate. Although it is happening in the government system, it is not happening universally across the government system. That is why it is of particular interest to me. I know where it is happening and to whom it is happening. It is happening to children who grow up in lower socioeconomic areas and in country areas. You may well find, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is happening in Geraldton, although there have been changes there about which there is some ambivalence. I have tried to get the figures but I do not know whether there has been a significant impact on the phenomenon I am talking about. What is happening is that children in lower socioeconomic areas, children of parents who are not wealthy and children who grow up in country areas, are missing out. I do not believe that they should.

I grew up in a combination of both of those. I do not accept that the people with whom I grew up and their children should accept lower education expectations than anybody else. If I say this once, I am sure that I will say this 100 times: If members were to go to Hale School and gather the parents round and say to them, "Isn't it good that we have a retention rate in year 12 of 50 per cent", those members would be strung up. The parents would expect their children to get to the end of year 12. They would not accept that half of the children going to Hale School would leave before they completed their education to the end of year 12. Nor should we as a society accept that this should occur at Albany, Bunbury or Hamilton Hill High Schools, or any other high school, because the children attending those high schools have the same potential and capacity for intelligence and development and to become successful citizens and professional people as children attending any other school. They must be nurtured. Although some social factors come into play that might inhibit their progress, it is the role of government to overcome those factors. We must do that. We cannot continue to accept that a school in Bunbury, for example, has a retention rate among boys of 35 per cent. That is not good enough. Nothing in this budget addresses that problem.

At some other time in another capacity we will be talking about the people who cannot get through the education system for one reason or another. They will have lost their jobs. When a huge global economic shift occurred in the 1980s, blue

collar men my age and older lost their jobs and found it very difficult to adjust. We have not progressed from the time that huge educational changes were made in the 1970s and through the 1980s. We must move forward.

The process of education cannot stand still, because the world is changing rapidly and the information and knowledge that people need to become productive citizens is also constantly changing. Therefore, we as a community must keep moving forward and we are not. At best, we are static in Western Australia and we are paying for the lack of attention to our education system.

Historically, Western Australia has been blessed with vast natural resources on which we have relied for our wealth. However, we have underplayed and undervalued education and what it means. We cannot go on in the modern world with that attitude. It has caught up with us. That is one reason the Minister for Health finds it almost impossible to meet his budgetary requirements when there is such a lot of demand on the system. The Minister for Police is increasing policing levels. However, huge growth and demand continues and crime is increasing. All these issues are related.

We have a Government that understands the structures but not what they are all about and, therefore, it is not delivering. The Minister for Health says in this House every day that he is increasing funding for health. However, if he does not understand why the structure is in place, he will not bring about any improvements. To use a simplistic example without intending to denigrate anyone or reflecting on anyone in the Government, a monkey can drag its knuckles all over a typewriter, but it will not produce anything of any value. We can have a perfect system and every police station we need, but if we do not understand what is going on in the community we will not bring about any positive change.

Mr Bloffwitch: Do you understand that TAFE takes about 40 per cent of the students from Geraldton Secondary College? Do you understand that if they start at year 9, which they can do because that is the way we have organised our system, by the time they have finished year 12, they have a year to go and are fully qualified accountants? That affects the figures because they do not go to high school any more. They are totally integrated with TAFE within their school hours. That is the system we have in the secondary college. That is occurring more and more throughout this State, as it should be.

Mr CARPENTER: I thank the member for Geraldton for that positive interjection. I will be visiting Geraldton soon, so I will be able to see it first hand.

Mr Bloffwitch: I would love you to see it. I would be only too happy to take you around.

Mr CARPENTER: I thank the member for Geraldton for the offer, but I do not want him to do that; nonetheless, he has brought it to my attention and I will examine it. Some information has come my way about the education structures in Geraldton and I will see it with my own eyes when I visit the area.

In spite of that interjection I do not resilie from one word of anything I have said. The Minister for Education knows that we are funding an education system that is not producing the results it should, but he is not doing anything about it. I agree with his comment that the retention rate should be 90 per cent. If we continue at the present rate we will achieve it in 75 years. That will be too long.

I would like to pursue other issues in education, but given the time left to me I should devote attention to Family and Children's Services. Before doing so I refer to one other "achievement" at page 392. It reads -

Fifty-one per cent of all eligible students at government schools achieved Secondary Graduation in 1999, compared with 50.5 per cent in 1998.

In other words the percentage that achieved graduation has increased by 0.05 per cent. I shudder to think what this means regarding the system to which I have been referring. When the figures show that only 50 per cent of students who reach the beginning of year 12 graduate and the number of students who reach year 12 is pathetic we have some problems. It is a critical public policy issue in Western Australia that is being ignored. That ignorance must end.

People have echoed the comments made by way of interjection that young people are exiting education and going into employment and saying that is all right. However, in the vast majority of cases it is not all right. It also completely ignores the value of education for its own sake rather than simply a means of training people for employment. Education has great value for its own sake and we do not educate our people sufficiently. That must change. If I have anything to do with the situation it will change.

Family and Children's Services, the other major portfolio area for which I have responsibility, makes an interesting link with education for the reasons I have just explained. Family and Children's Services received a small increase in the budget, although it was not enough. However, no doubt any increase in a portfolio is not enough. I will devote a few minutes to output 2 in Family and Children's Services which is the allocation in the budget of resources for child and family safety. The description of the output at page 535 begins as follows -

Services in this output support families and individuals in crisis and help reduce the occurrence, or the effects of, abuse within families. For families and individuals in crisis, services include accommodation for homeless people and victims of domestic violence . . .

Output 2 deals with funding for homeless people and victims of domestic violence. An examination of the amount of money being provided for this output reveals that it is in decline. It is unforgivable that the Government is reducing the amount of money available for these two vital social policy areas. The estimated actual expenditure on child and family safety for this financial year is \$44.184m. The estimate for the new financial year is \$43.703m. The budget papers show

a real decrease in funding in that area. In the last sitting week before the recess the issue of homelessness in Western Australia was brought to the attention of the Minister for Family and Children's Services. She made an interesting commitment that every homeless young person who required support or help would be given it. I can only assume from that commitment that the minister is of the view there will be fewer homeless people in Western Australia in the next financial year than in the current financial year. In the face of her statement, the Minister for Family and Children's Services is presiding over a reduction in the budget allocation to help people who are homeless. That is bad enough. However, the allocation for people who are victims of domestic violence has also been reduced. That is a retrograde step for which the Government should be condemned, particularly bearing in mind that in the current financial year the Government is spending about \$80m on advertising and self-promotion when its entire budget for Family and Children's Services - not just this one output - is about \$140m. It comes down to a matter of priorities.

The Minister for Youth in one single episode of extravagance spent more than \$50 000 promoting himself, launching a government initiative by use of a video showing him leaping out of a helicopter. At the same time the Government has reduced the amount of money available for the most desperate and needy people in the State - the homeless. It can be seen that this Government has its priorities the wrong way around. As the Leader of the Opposition has said previously, this Government is completely and utterly out of touch, and is falling into the same trap that all Governments do when they are in decline. It is out of touch with the needs of the community, and is trying to make up for its decline in popularity by building monuments to itself and becoming involved in acts of self-promotion. In the old totalitarian regimes it was called developing the cult of personality, and the Government is now indulging in that. The Minister for Youth, for example - I do not want to pick on him, but he is such an easy target - in a State which has the highest youth suicide rate in Australia, spends huge amounts promoting himself while the Family and Children's Services budget allocation for homeless people has been cut. The Government should be condemned for that.

The member for Kalgoorlie recently provided information to the Parliament, which she had obtained from the Youth Affairs Council, indicating that only 40 crisis beds are available in Perth city and they are constantly filled. Agencies are turning away between 20 and 30 people a week who seek some assistance, but the Government is involved in this self-promoting indulgence. It is unforgivable and I hope people will make the correct judgment when they have an opportunity to do so.

Last Wednesday I spent the afternoon at the Townshend Street clinic of Dr George O'Neil, whose naltrexone program is of great interest to many people in Western Australia. The clinic is an interesting place and it is an interesting program. It is controversial but, on the information Dr O'Neil was able to provide, it seems to be having a significant and positive impact on people addicted to heroin. When I was at the clinic it was full. I do not know how many people were being treated that day - possibly between 20 and 25 - but many young people, some clearly in their teens, were lying on the floor in all the rooms of the clinic, having been treated by Dr O'Neil and his volunteers for their heroin addiction. Some of those young people would have left the clinic and returned to the supportive environment of a family, but many would not. The figures Dr O'Neil has accumulated for the naltrexone program indicate that 20 per cent of people treated who have no family support will fail, compared with a success rate of 90 per cent for those with a family support structure.

Mr Prince: That is always the case; people must have a very good support network. Naltrexone is not a silver bullet.

Mr CARPENTER: It makes sense. Although the exact figures may be debatable, the ratio is understandable. What struck me, apart from the tragic situation of these young people, was one young person who had been treated, and for all intents and purposes was still unconscious; he had nowhere to go. I remembered the words of the Minister for Family and Children's Services who said that help was available for every young person in Western Australia who was homeless if they sought help. That is not the case. Even for a Government which has so badly lost touch with many trends in the community, it is important that all ministers and members of Parliament not live in fairyland or believe that just because they say something, it is true. Just because the minister said in this place that help is available for everyone who wants it, does not make it true. That help is not available for everyone. The people in Dr O'Neil's clinic were living evidence of that. This young fellow had been treated but he had nowhere to go. It was a tragedy. I do not know the outcome of his treatment, but he had been motivated sufficiently to go to the clinic for treatment and he needed further support. Approximately 20 people were being treated that day and only one person was pointed out to me as having no support, but against that background and the minister's statements, it is very sad that the budget, which deals specifically with accommodation for homeless people and victims of domestic violence, has been reduced. I hope some adjustment can be made during the course of the financial year to overcome that deficiency.

MR MCGOWAN (Rockingham) [9.19 pm]: I shall make a few remarks on an area quite unrelated to my portfolio areas; that is, the Health Department. I would like to place on the record my thoughts on some public health issues of increasing concern in the community, and some items I have read in this area. I shall also speak about some ideas I have about how matters may be improved for people suffering from some illnesses.

The particular subject I will address is cancer, which is a disease from which many people suffer, have suffered and will suffer during their lives. First, I compliment many of the programs and ideas to combat cancer that have come forward, as well as the prevention measures. In the past 20 years or so, there has been a quantum leap in trying to educate the public about the risks of cancer and the way that people can reduce their propensity to develop this debilitating disease. Also, measures have been taken to try to make people aware of the available treatments and the consequences of suffering the disease.

Cancer is obviously a broad field, and there are innumerable numbers of cancers of varying styles and descriptions. I will concentrate on one form of cancer which is well known to the health professionals in this State and which is particularly

prevalent among younger men and women; that is, skin cancer, and its most virulent form, which is melanoma. At the outset, I say that that is one of the most common cancers in our community. Skin cancer in a generic sense is the most common cancer in the Western Australian community. In fact, Western Australia has the second highest rate of skin cancer in the world. I think the only place in which it is more prevalent is Queensland. Certainly, Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, and outside of Queensland, Western Australia is the second most likely place for people to develop it. Eighty per cent of all cancers are preventable. In the case of melanomas and skin cancer, that would be particularly true. I expect that more than 80 per cent of melanomas and skin cancers would be preventable by a person taking appropriate precautions throughout his or her life. Of course, some cancers are hereditary and unavoidable for some people.

Mr Prince: I think it is more accurate to say that there can be a hereditary predisposition.

Mr McGOWAN: That is correct.

Mr Prince: The member should be a bit careful.

Mr McGOWAN: I am familiar with the case of a grandfather, a father and a granddaughter, aged 12 years, who suffer from melanoma.

Mr Prince: That is a predisposition, though, rather than inevitability.

Mr McGOWAN: Of course. If something is hereditary, it does not necessarily mean it is inevitable.

Mr Prince: There are some hereditary diseases.

Mr McGOWAN: Yes, but some people seem to avoid them to some degree. The vast majority of melanomas are preventable, and that is the subject I want to address. As I said at the outset, we have done a good job for those people who have not already contracted this illness. For young kids these days, the amount of work that has been put into making sure that this disease is preventable has been very good. However, the illness has got worse over the decades. An American study showed that from 1973 to the present, the incidence of melanoma doubled in the United States. It has a high prevalence of melanoma, only second or third in the world to Australia. There is a range of reasons for that. I will deal with the causes of it.

Historically, the lack of knowledge of the way this illness could be contracted and the factors that came into operation in contracting it were the cause of many of the melanomas that are presently suffered. I have recently dealt with constituents whom I will not name. Their daughter, who was in her twenties, developed a melanoma. From the time she discovered it until the time she died was about a year. Those constituents contacted me because of concerns they had about some of the actions of the girl's employer. I took up their case and obtained some information for them. It brought home to me that it is a tragic illness for many young people who, although still relatively young in our wider community, grew up at a time when there was a lack of awareness of the illness. It is called the 20-year disease. People can contract it when they are 10 years old and it will develop when they are 30, or they can contract it when they are 15 years old and it will develop when they are 35. That is the way it works. It is a 20-year incubation period.

This young woman's family was particularly distraught because of what had happened. It brought home to me that this disease is prevalent and that the public should be even more aware of it than it is at the moment. I know a great deal of effort is put into anti-smoking campaigns and other campaigns dealing with other illnesses in the community, particularly lung cancer. Lung cancer is a bigger killer than melanoma. It is the most deadly cancer, and it is highly preventable. A great deal of effort is made to educate the wider community about the prevention and detection of lung cancer, breast cancer and other cancers. To a minor degree, we could improve education about melanoma.

As everybody knows, the causes of skin cancer are sunburn and sunlight. There are various forms of ultraviolet light that can cause skin cancer. There are three types of ultraviolet light: UVA, UVB and UVC. UVA and UVB can cause the metastasising of the melanin in one's epidermis, which results in the skin cancer developing. Many people do not realise that those UV rays are present when it is overcast, although they are reduced. There has been an increase in the prevalence of this disease over the past 30 years or so because of what has happened to the strength of the sunlight and the UV rays as a result of what the human race has done to the ozone layer. We are at risk because we occupy a continent in the southern hemisphere. New Zealand is at risk, and people who work in Antarctica are at extreme risk because of that fact. The other people who are at extreme risk are the Americans. The harmful effects on the ozone layer have also affected people in America. Additionally, more than 50 per cent of its population is still comprised of people of northern European origin, and those people are much more likely to contract this illness. As I said, sunburn and sunlight are the most obvious causes of skin cancer. There is the aspect of hereditary predisposition, as the minister relayed to me earlier, which is also a cause. The latitudes in which people live are also a factor in developing the illness. I was unaware of some of those things before I researched this subject. Certain skin creams and lotions that I think are used to treat some skin problems like psoriasis contain some materials which, if used over a long period, can increase one's propensity to develop a melanoma. I suggest it would be a sensible thing to avoid using those particular creams if at all possible. Research in America has also found that exposure to organic arsenic which is in some pesticides and chemicals increases one's risk of developing a melanoma. The other cause which is well documented is the use by some people of tanning booths or sun lamps. That is prevalent in western society among particularly those people who are self-conscious about their looks. I do not think the member for Girrawheen is guilty of using sun lamps. A range of people, some of whom I know, are regular users of sun lamps, solariums, tanning booths and the like. That increases one's likelihood of developing this illness.

People who have not researched this issue believe that all skin cancer is bad, which is true to some extent. Three types of skin cancer affect the general community, two of which are prevalent but not life threatening, and thousands of cases are picked up every year in Australia. I recall that a couple of weeks ago the Premier of Queensland had one removed from his face. They are known as basal cell carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas, which are different from the deadly melanoma. Very few people die as a result of a BCC or an SCC. They manifest as an itching spot, an uneven patch of discoloured or flaky skin and in a range of other ways. In a general sense Australia wide I could probably count on one hand the number of people who die each year as a result of BCCs and SCCs. Even though they are cancers they are not recorded in public health surveys in the same way as lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, testicular cancer and melanoma. They are often removed under local anaesthetic by a simple procedure using a scraping device. In Western Australia in any one year 27 000 of those cancers are removed. That is an enormous number, which is not recorded as cancer in the statistical surveys.

I did not explain the other skin cancer which develops from all those causes that I mentioned. Melanomas are found in the melanin in the epidermis. They occur when the melanin metastasises. That produces an uneven or discoloured piece of skin which oftentimes is not picked up. Males in particular are much more likely not to take action and see a health professional about these illnesses, firstly, because in a general sense they do not notice them. Most male skin is different from female skin and it is more difficult to determine if a melanoma is present. Secondly, a general male characteristic - this is by no means a rule - is a reluctance to see a health professional when one is concerned that one has an illness.

The member for Peel related a story of a former member of this place, Clive Hughes, who died from a melanoma. Mr Hughes was dismissive of any efforts to get him to consult a doctor. He developed a melanoma which travelled to his lymph nodes, and eventually he died from it. His melanoma was identified by other people, but he had that classic male characteristic and did not get it investigated and dealt with.

Melanomas are much more serious because they can spread quickly to other parts of one's body. The least serious is known as an in situ melanoma, which is on the top of the skin. If it is removed quickly the survivability prospects - which is the language of cancer specialists - are high. In fact, it is almost 100 per cent for melanomas that are caught within days of developing and removed in situ. If they are not caught within that time one's survivability prospects are determined by the depth to which the melanoma has grown. If it grows below 0.7mm in one's epidermis one's survivability prospects decline greatly. A very simple explanation of what occurs with melanomas is that they drop seeds that travel around the body by some means. If they get into the lymph nodes, which are found throughout one's body, particularly in armpits and groins, they can develop and be transmitted through other organs throughout the body and eventually they will kill a person. That is the cause, quite often, of a range of cancers that develop in the brain, organs, the trunk of one's body and the like. That is why melanomas are particularly dangerous.

I would like to talk about the statistics for this disease. As I said, 27 000 BCCs and SCCs are cut out of Western Australians every year, and 270 000 are removed nationally. Approximately 6 000 new cases of melanomas are reported Australia-wide every year and it has been calculated in relation to the average Australian's life span, that one man in every 26 will develop a melanoma at some time during his life with the corresponding figure for women being one in every 38. The disease is particularly prevalent among young men and women. The statistics are horrifying, particularly as this is such a preventable illness. In the 15 to 39 age group in Australia, melanoma of the skin continues to be the most common cancer in males, and it was detected at a rate of 14 per 100 000 people. Among females, it was more common in this age range than breast cancer. A total of 138 melanoma cases were diagnosed last year among women in the 15 to 39 age group in Western Australia.

Among men of all age groups 378 cases of melanoma were diagnosed last year. That figure comprised 11 per cent of all cancers. Among women, 285 cases were recorded, which comprised 9.6 per cent of all cancers. In relation to mortality rates, 43 males and 28 females in the last recorded year died from melanoma. As I indicated, this form of cancer is particularly common among younger people who are probably not aware of the dangers.

I have not been able to find the figures for the number of person-years of life that were lost due to melanomas. In relation to all forms of cancer before the age of 75 years, the last recorded year shows a total of 12 481 person-years of life were lost for males due to cancer, and 11 210 person-years of life were lost for females. As we all know, cancer is a problem, but the incidence of melanoma around the world is increasing. Since 1973, in the United States the rate of new melanomas diagnosed each year has doubled from six per 100 000 to 12 per 100 000. The American Cancer Society estimates that about 44 200 new melanomas will be diagnosed in the United States during 1999, which is a 6 per cent increase from 1998. About 7 300 deaths will be attributed to melanomas in the United States in 1999. Death from melanoma is increasing and we should be doing something about it in Western Australia.

In our State we have established education programs which have generally been run by the Cancer Foundation of WA Inc, an organisation which is primarily self funding. It operates on the basis of bequests and donations and through the sale of merchandise. I have been very impressed by the Cancer Foundation and I have visited the local cancer support groups in my electorate, where a range of people who suffer from cancer meet. The Cancer Foundation sets up groups for people who suffer from the same forms of cancer so that they and their families can attend and talk about their illnesses. They get together and sort out various issues and pass on information about treatment, diet and social and mental wellbeing. These groups are run regularly by the Cancer Foundation and one group in my electorate meets weekly. The foundation does a number of other things: It provides a range of speakers' kits for health professionals to make sure they are fully aware of what goes on; it runs public awareness campaigns such as the "slip, slop, slap" campaign; it tries to make people aware of the dangers of solariums and tanning salons; and it does a great deal of good work with no public funding.

This brings me to other steps which can be taken in relation to this illness to ensure public awareness. Advertising is already in place. Solariums, tanning salons and sun lamps are well-known as causes of melanoma. The United Kingdom has a very low incidence of melanomas because of its latitude, especially when compared with Australia, except among two groups of people: Those who travel regularly to Australia, the United States, Bali or other such places and those who use solariums, tanning salons and sun lamps, probably for reasons of vanity. Those two groups of people suffer much higher levels of melanoma than do other groups. It is quite common in the United Kingdom for people to use solariums as it is here. Solariums often advertise their services on the basis that they are completely safe, but they are not safe by any means. They provide an intensive burst of ultraviolet radiation. It is a disgrace that the operators of solariums are able to advertise to the general public that their services are completely safe, because many people believe what they read. A lot of people hire or buy sun lamps and use them to tan. It is a travesty of justice that people are advised in advertisements that such things are safe, and we should do something about it. This Parliament should make sure that people are aware that solariums and sun lamps are not safe and they should not be permitted to advertise in this fashion. We should examine whether we need these facilities at all and whether they are viable businesses and activities. An examination should be conducted into closing these places and prohibiting the sale of sun lamps and the like to Western Australians, because next to Queensland we suffer the highest skin cancer rates in the world and we should be reluctant to allow those items to be sold in the community.

The breast cancer screening service bus regularly visits my electorate and pulls up for an extended time. The service is excellent and is a marvellous development for allowing women to get screened regularly without any necessary prompting. The bus is painted pink, so it stands out and can be seen everywhere. A woman can turn up and make an appointment or go in directly and get tested for breast cancer. The bus is a marvellous innovation and a testament to the fact that many women in our community have made health a number-one issue. Woe betide any Government that ignores women's health. It is wrong that so many people used to die of cancer, and although some still do, at least others are made aware at an early stage when it is much more preventable.

A similar approach on a trial basis could be adopted for the detection of melanomas. Many melanomas if discovered early are preventable. A trained doctor can easily spot and identify them if a person is presented to them in the right light and they have the right equipment. The doctors use various magnifying glasses and the like. Some might say that people can make an appointment with a doctor to be seen about these things. Many men in particular do not make appointments with a doctor. They do not even know they have melanomas. If such a service in the manner of the buses that operate for breast cancer were freely and readily available on a trial basis in places people frequent, such as shopping centres, men could walk in, take off their shirt and trousers and get checked for one of the skin cancers. I expect that melanomas would be identified much earlier. If they were identified earlier at the in situ stage or when they were less than 0.7 millimetres into someone's epidermis, people's survivability could be increased by up to 95 or 100 per cent. If a melanoma goes into the skin more than 0.7 millimetres, a person's survivability decreases rapidly according to the depth to which the melanoma progresses. If the melanoma reaches through the epidermis and the fatty tissue to the muscle, people's survivability decreases to 55 per cent, which means that 45 per cent of people who are affected to that extent will die.

If such a service could go to places which people frequent or where people are less likely to frequent a doctor, which are usually lower socioeconomic areas, outlying areas and country areas where people are less likely to worry about their health, and people are not required to go through the rigmarole of making an appointment but can be checked in a simple five-minute procedure by a trained health professional, it would be a very good thing. It would require a bit of effort to think outside the circle and go out into the communities to provide health care in that way. If it is done, it will pay dividends, because once cancers develop they cost the community a huge amount of money and many lives. With those two small changes to the way we operate solariums and go out to people, we would be able to save a lot of lives, which is the essence of what I want to say tonight. Melanomas are not a particularly rivetting subject, but those are my two suggestions. It would mean that I would have fewer constituents coming to see me whose daughters aged 29 had died from a preventable illness.

For kids these days prevention is really what it is all about. Kids in the water wear a T-shirt; they wear a hat when they are out; they are covered in sun protection factor 15 or 30; they sit in the shade; and they wear a hat in the playground. All those sorts of things amount to prevention. Between the time when the ozone layer started to disintegrate and when people became aware of skin cancer in the 1980s, a generation of people who could have melanomas grew up. Those melanomas require early detection, not prevention. Those two simple methods for taking health into the community is the way we should go. A trial at places where people socialise or work could even cover other diseases which are particularly deadly and prevalent and which do not require a great deal of testing. Obviously such a trial could not be conducted for such diseases as lung cancer because an enormous amount of testing would be required. As I say, a trained eye can spot a melanoma in 30 seconds. If we adopted such a trial, we might save a few lives.

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [9.58 pm]: May I congratulate my colleague the member for Rockingham on drawing the attention of the House to the preventable nature of various cancers, and skin cancers in particular, and his suggestions on how we might go about preventing them. I am very familiar with skin cancer. My family has a very high incidence of it, even the most serious kinds. I know that the messages he was delivering to the House are very important indeed.

If one adopts the view that society should be judged by the way it treats the least advantaged people in it, one must say that this Government has some way to go. If people feel, as we on this side of the House feel, that it is more important to spend budget dollars on housing the homeless and capital spending on public hospitals than on lavishly advertising how clever the Government has been in handing out budget dollars, the Government has a long way to go. The Government has

certainly been spending taxpayers' money - there is no question of that - but the community and the electorate will obviously judge at the next election whether it has been spending it on the community's real priorities or on its mates and on inappropriate projects. The Opposition's view is that the necessities, such as proper policing, public health, public schools and housing have been neglected while a vast amount of money has been spent on consultants and advertising, among other things. As we have said on other occasions, we are referring this year to the Government's wrong priorities.

This evening I will speak about homelessness in Perth, a subject that has recently caught the attention of the media. I am acutely aware of homelessness because my interest in the subject has long existed. Also in the inner city the homeless are visible. From my first days as a member of Parliament I could see the homeless all around me in parks and alleyways and squatting in empty houses and sleeping under bridges. It became obvious to me fairly early in the piece that homelessness was a problem of the inner city and a growing problem of the metropolitan area in general. I became very concerned about it and I have spent much time talking to people who work at providing both short and long-term housing for the homeless.

Perth has numerous hostels and houses, but alas, it has fewer and fewer of the old boarding houses, most of which have now been turned into holiday-makers' backpacker hostels. It becomes more obvious as every week goes by that although facilities exist in my electorate for the homeless, there is not nearly enough to cover existing needs. Hostels in the area, for example, are always full and all emergency accommodation of which I am aware turns away requests every day of the week. I certainly hope that the Government will replace the beds lost from Tudor Lodge in Mt Lawley, which will be closed down for refurbishment or perhaps permanently closed or reassigned to some other use. Regardless of how we feel about the placement of that facility, there is no question that the accommodation provided by Tudor Lodge was very important.

The Government recently pledged a bed to every homeless child. I certainly hope the Government will make good on that promise because calls I made during the past week suggest people are still sleeping in parks, alleyways and squats all over this town. There are not enough beds for the homeless of any age, but of course we are particularly concerned about the young. Any non-government organisation that accommodates people can tell us all about that. In fact, organisations for the homeless recently ran a public campaign to draw the problem to the attention of the Government. It sent the names of young people who could not find a roof over their heads to members of the Government. The Minister for Family and Children's Services quickly promised a bed for every homeless young person.

Mrs van de Klashorst interjected.

Ms WARNOCK: As the minister would have discovered when she began to do more research on the subject, that is not possible in this town. Since the minister made that admirable promise, I have rung numerous organisations that accommodate homeless people. They are still turning people away. When I asked what they expected would happen to those people, they said they would be doing what they did last week, the week before that and last year; that is, sleeping under bridges, in parks, in squats or on the floor of houses if they are lucky enough to have relatives who are prepared to accommodate them.

Mrs van de Klashorst: Did they approach Family and Children's Services?

Ms WARNOCK: Yes. Everybody to whom I have spoken has had contact with Family and Children's Services.

Mrs van de Klashorst: On that night?

Ms WARNOCK: Without a doubt a problem remains. Some people have a reluctance to contact the department perhaps due to the days when it used to be regarded as "The Welfare". That view could have been handed down through generations. People see it as an organisation with a big stick, which is regrettable. When I heard the minister's promise a couple of weeks ago I was interested because I have been interested in that area for a long time and I still find a problem exists with accommodation.

Mrs van de Klashorst: If people had contacted Family and Children's Services on that night and not found help, I need their names because the department assures me it is handling them.

Ms WARNOCK: Certainly. I have mentioned that every time I have spoken to the people involved.

Mrs van de Klashorst: Make sure you get the names to me so I can follow it up.

Ms WARNOCK: However, some people are reluctant to do that. I will explain shortly how long it can take to find a bed of any kind despite the involvement of Family and Children's Services. I have related this story before, but when I was having a problem finding accommodation for one person, unfairly perhaps, at the end of a frustrating day of multitudinous telephone calls, I contacted the previous minister's office and threatened to send the people to her place in a taxi. It might not have been fair, but it was efficacious because after approximately nine hours of telephone calls we found the person some accommodation. Be that as it may, that was 18 months ago; we are referring to the present problem with accommodation.

Crisis accommodation is needed, but so is long-term supported accommodation for young people still falling through the gaps. I know the minister's aim is to get people back with their families. I agree that it is more agreeable to people to live in a congenial home with other people to whom they are related or at least get along with. However, as we all know, that is not always possible. That is one of the reasons young people are floating around the streets, sniffing substances and finding themselves looking for various kinds of accommodation. I regret that, as I know the minister does. However, people are still falling through the gaps and they are the ones we must try to accommodate.

I understand that Perth has only 40 crisis beds for young people and they are pretty much always full. If the Government intends to make good on that promise, it must front up with more money. According to the Youth Affairs Council, about 3 000 young people in Western Australia are homeless and, as I said a moment ago, accommodation services regularly turn away young people. The minister said that Western Australia is trying to get a fair share of the \$15m offered nationally by the Federal Government to provide beds for homeless children. I would like to know when that will occur and how much is likely to be offered to Western Australia.

When I was preparing this speech, I telephoned various organisations who house the homeless to get some up-to-date facts and figures. They change over time and it is possible that circumstances surrounding an issue may have changed since last making a telephone call or hearing from someone who had a problem. The Salvos told me they had a heavy three months in the first quarter of 2000. More and more people are seeking shelter. They come into the city and cannot afford to leave for various reasons. They have no money for bonds for private accommodation so they are stuck in hostels of various kinds.

There is a huge increase in the number of people with psychiatric disabilities. Other people have referred in their budget speeches to the problems in mental health. Much of the increase results from bed closures at Graylands and other psychiatric facilities and various kinds of deinstitutionalisation. Many people are both mentally ill and homeless, which is a devastating combination for them and sometimes not very comfortable for their carers. The Salvos estimate that one third of their clientele have a psychiatric disability. They claim that is a big increase on the situation of five years ago. According to the Salvos we must recognise that second and third generation homeless people exist. Some people cannot be deinstitutionalised; they cannot leave or move on because they have reached a stage at which their needs are long lasting. This must be taken into account when thinking about accommodation needed in the inner city.

Mrs van de Klashorst: Is this one of the reasons to concentrate on an early intervention program so that they do not get to that stage?

Ms WARNOCK: Absolutely. I could not agree more. I am 100 per cent in favour of community development but it is a long and difficult process for which it is difficult to get funding. If the minister is trying to extract funding from her federal colleagues, she will find exactly the same thing. Immediate results cannot be achieved; this must be built into a program which goes on over several years. It is extraordinarily important.

Mrs van de Klashorst: That is the reason we have some money for the Building Blocks program. There are two intervention programs -

Ms WARNOCK: It is extraordinarily important, but as well as those long-term programs, which I hope will prevent the need for so much housing for the homeless, the Government must take care of the problem in front of it. The Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and various other organisations are accustomed to dealing with the problem which confronts them every day. I am familiar with their work because I see this need around me all the time. What happens when people ring these places or turn up on the doorstep? The Salvos do a bed count twice daily to see if they can fit in anyone else. They check whether anyone has moved to other accommodation, gone to live with a relative or moved out of town. St Vincent de Paul does the same thing, but those organisations still must knock people back. Where do they go? They squat, sleep on someone's floor or sleep in a park. Who knows where they go? One person said that unfortunately they did not have time to follow them up. They would like to do long-term, preventive and outreach work but they are so pressed with their existing work that they do not have time to follow up matters.

What is the solution? It means more places, preventive work and, unfortunately, for any Government which intends to do its job properly with the taxpayers' money, more funding. Incidentally, all those people who run houses for the homeless have noticed that not only are there more mentally ill people on the streets, but also there is much more violence among the people using their facilities. Some have drug problems, and there is an increase in drug and alcohol abuse. Of course, difficult people take up much more of the staff's time. They are not easy to look after and they make life difficult for the carers. The staffing level in most community housing organisations is not adequate; there is less money to go around and more need. This is obviously the curse of economic rationalism striking again.

I quote a person well known in the welfare field, Ian Carter, the chief executive of Anglicare WA, who spoke recently about the widening gap between the rich and the poor in Australia. He said how depressing that was for the people who see their life's work as helping people who are falling through the gaps. He said -

This is a "steady as she goes Budget" which assumes that economic growth is delivering prosperity to all West Australians.

The reality, highlighted by many reports at both State and national levels, is that the gap between the rich and the poor is growing ever wider.

We now have in many localities entrenched areas of second and third generation poverty.

He speaks about particular areas of concern. The Government will be happy to hear that he said there were some good things about the budget. He spoke about increased funding for disability services and dental health, and the fact that neither the Government nor the Opposition intends to increase revenue from gambling. He also said there were serious areas of concern as a result of the budget. He spoke about -

A decline in funding for housing purchases and construction by Homeswest.

Greater reliance on Keystart and Goodstart when even these programs put adequate housing beyond the reach of many people.

No comprehensive strategy to deal with the crisis in accommodation for homeless young people.

A more than significant increase of 15.2 per cent in the Budget for the Department of Commerce and Trade, compared to a modest increase of 4.5 per cent for Family and Children's Services.

He said -

A further concern is that there appears to be no mention of the use of revenue from the privatisation of AlintaGas and Westrail Freight. I remain concerned that the introduction of the GST will have a significant impact on the community sector to deliver much needed social services.

He would not be the only person in the community sector who is afraid of the GST. Notwithstanding those very expensive and political advertisements, which are appearing at our expense on television and in the newspapers, a great many people fear the effect of the GST.

Before I move on from the subject of homelessness, I will give members a few facts and figures on the subject. Anglicare told me that the latest census figures - they would be from 1996 because as I recall that was the last census - indicated that there were 91 000 homeless people in Australia and that would mean about 9 000 in Western Australia. Some people say that that figure has now increased to 150 000 in Australia in just the four years that have passed. A third of those are young people. The St Vincent de Paul Society said that figure of 91 000 in 1996 should be 105 000 because it believed that a lot of homeless people could not be picked up by a census for obvious reasons. When census people come around with their little yellow bags, they ask us to fill out a form. They ask us whether anyone is staying with us, which can be an embarrassment to some people. Clearly some people will be missed by that census because a census person is not likely to be wandering around the local park. It is St Vincent de Paul's view that there is a larger figure of homelessness simply because these people have no fixed address.

About 15 per cent of these homeless people are accommodated in a supported accommodation assistance program, so that only 15 per cent of that need is being taken care of by the Federal Government. Of course, that is a federal government program. The non-government sector which is accommodating the homeless is concerned that the State Government is making no statement about whether it will add anything to the relatively small amount that the Commonwealth Government will be putting into the housing for the homeless. I am speaking about the \$15m. It sounds like a lot but it is over several years and it is for the whole of Australia. The non-government sector wants to know whether the State Government will be putting in any money. It has had discussions with the minister and it has been told that the Government is looking at it, but it is very keen to see more than a look cast on this serious problem. It is clear to everyone in the field that more is needed, and they are hoping that there will be more funding for that area.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that those services are full most of the time. When I spoke to these people last week, I was told about someone who had made 31 telephone calls in four hours a few weeks back and who had no success in finding a bed for the young homeless person whom he or she was trying to house. About 15 per cent of those people are a sleep away from being on the street, under a bridge or in a park, as someone said to me. Why are so many young people homeless? This is something in which the minister and I are both interested. Family breakdown is obviously the No 1 cause. Of course, the drug culture is another reason that is taking people from their homes and putting them on the streets. There are few detoxification centres in the State. I understand there are no live-in detoxification centres especially for young people. They are certainly needed; there is no question about that. Mental health is also part of young people's problems, as it is for older people, and there is no special service for young people. The people to whom I have been talking have drawn that matter to my attention.

I will have a quick glance at an excellent report put out by the St Vincent de Paul organisation a couple of weeks ago when it launched its winter appeal. It is called "Living at Risk", and it is about the situation of the homeless in Australia. It talks about the whole of Australia, but what it says is particularly relevant to Western Australia. The report says that every night more than 2 300 homeless people sleep in refuges and medium-term accommodation services run by the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. It points out that they are not the kind of people whom everybody imagines as homeless; that is, those wandering around the streets and looking like eccentrics. They are the people who live next door and who happen to fall on bad times; their lives take a wrong turn and they suddenly find themselves in difficulties. In other words, it can be anybody. There are tens of thousands more Australians who are living at risk - that is the title of this report - and who are under constant threat of falling into the homeless persons category. Prevention strategies are essential to stop the cycle that they are in.

The report mentions the statistics I mentioned earlier; that is, the data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics which showed that on census night 1996 more than 105 000 people were homeless in Australia. It points out that that is almost the equivalent of a city like Newcastle in New South Wales. It also mentions that between 60 and 70 per cent of those people who were homeless on the census night in 1996 had been homeless for six months or longer. The report points out that the St Vincent de Paul Society believes no Australian should experience homelessness, and it calls on Federal and State Governments to shift their focus onto the prevention of homelessness. It talks about root causes and gaps in the welfare net needing to be addressed by policy planners, rather than Governments relying solely on the important work of crisis care which charities carry out. I agree with that. An enormous burden falls on the non-government sector because it is so expensive to take care of people when they find themselves in this difficult situation.

The report says that prevention of homelessness is clearly preferable to tackling the problem once it has taken hold. This requires greater efforts by Governments and the community to ensure that poverty and unemployment are eradicated and that the supply of affordable housing is increased. I say, "And so say all of us," because that is obviously something that needs to be done. The society points out one reason that it has a lot of facts and figures and gives many vivid illustrations about the problem of homelessness in Australia. It says that the primary reason it has released the report "Living at Risk" is to continue the work of community education and advocacy, which it sees as an integral part of its mission. It works hard in a practical sense on the day-to-day work that is necessary in our community, but it is also a strong advocate for the disadvantaged, and it sees that as an important part of its work.

The report talks about risk factors and prevention strategies. It is a useful report for anybody who is concerned about this problem. It mentions solutions that are possible, but it also says that we must put in place long-term strategies to try to change the situation. The society's view about the matter is summed up in this way -

The future of homelessness in Australia is more homelessness unless the resolve is found to shift economic and political thinking away from competition to co-operation, from the exclusive to the inclusive and from lifestyle choices to the enhancement of all life. Home and community are two guiding principles that may assist us along this path.

I commend the report to anybody who is interested in those kinds of social problems in our community.

Because my area of concern is women's interests, I will mention a few matters about the women's interest portfolio while I am on my feet in this budget debate. One hundred years after women got the vote, which has been celebrated over the past year and recently brought to a conclusion by the present minister, a report card on women in this State would show that although many things have improved dramatically, women are still grappling with equal pay. Here in Western Australia the pay gap between men and women is greater than in any other State in Australia. Obviously, Governments and private employers will have to continue to work on that.

Attitudes have changed in many ways except in one respect; that is, the way in which some men still think of women as their possessions. I say "some men" because I know it does not apply to all men. In fact, 100 years ago, women effectively were the possessions of men with no social or legal status to speak of. That is what the velvet revolution of the past 100 years has been about. However, there are still men in our community, even at this stage of our history, who think of women as their possessions and because of that, they believe they have the right to assault them if they do not like something they have said or done. We still have a way to go and it is up to the Government to provide an alternative strategy which will help us to develop an entirely different view about this matter. Obviously, there are other groups in the community who will regard it as their business to try to improve the status of women and advocate a changed view of women's status. However, I believe all Governments have an advocacy role in this kind of way. Those men and women who are celebrated as changing the views of the community about the women's vote at the end of the nineteenth century are justly celebrated. Not only individuals can do this important work, but also Governments. Governments have been very important in this country in changing the view about issues like smoking, for example. Fifty years ago an entirely different attitude to smoking prevailed from the one that exists now. In large part that has been the result of the work of Governments. I mention that because I believe Governments also have an advocacy role in changing views about women.

Women have made huge progress in the past 100 years but inequalities still remain. All Governments should make it their business to continue the fight against violence against women and economic inequalities that leave women living in poverty after a divorce or separation. I said this week that despite some good work by the Government on domestic violence, there is still a most regrettable lag in some men's attitudes to women. We have not got the message across that domestic violence is a crime and should always be treated as a crime. Domestic violence is never acceptable and our community must accept that and act on it; that means everybody in the community, not only individuals who might think that they can have a whack at someone with whom they have had a quarrel, but also the police who might be called in to take action in a domestic violence case. Having been to a rally on this subject recently and heard a very good police officer speaking about the changes he was making in the force, I am impressed that there are some people at least in the Police Force who take the subject seriously and are determined to change colleagues' attitudes about it.

I want to finish with some general reflections about our community. Many writers have spoken lately about the growing gap between rich and poor in our community and the declining belief in Australia as the land of the fair go. Some writers even have the view that this economic divide is one of the most serious problems facing our community in the future. There is strong economic growth in Australia. Everybody is pleased about that and nobody denies it. However, not everybody is sharing in the good fortune that comes out of that economic growth. A permanent underclass seems to be developing in Australia. Two to three weeks ago an article written by Deborah Hope was published in *The Australian Magazine*. A couple of weeks later in another edition of the magazine the editor reported that the paper had never had such a reaction to a piece that had been written in the magazine. It said basically that the services in our community had declined, because our society had fallen for economic rationalism and had become preoccupied with the bottom line. The writer referred to shocking service declines in aged facilities, public hospitals, banks and public transport. I add that she was writing from New South Wales but she quoted instances from around the country. Cost-cutting frenzies had seized Governments as well as businesses and, as a result, services to the people had deteriorated. I am sure these were not the aims originally of people who talked about cost cutting and efficiencies but, alas, in many cases this has turned out to be what has occurred. Business for various organisations, whether government or private, has not actually decreased but the staff of those businesses, because of the cost cutting, are expected to work harder. As Deborah Hope said in the article -

The evidence is everywhere: in our health system, aged care, public schools, transport, banks, longer work hours. The Australian economy may be healthy but our quality of life is under attack.

This is something that more and more people are noticing and Governments should take notice of. People pay taxes and expect some return from them. They want more not fewer services from public servants, but they are getting fewer services, not more, because of drastic cuts. It is not good enough to balance the books and to leave people feeling cheated because they have been left behind, waiting in long queues for the sort of service they expect. Efficiency is all very well but it is not good enough to expect people to accept that their taxes are being used in this way. They are paying taxes and, as they see it, they are not getting the results they expect. They find themselves in longer queues in public hospitals, banks and so forth. They do not feel public transport services are improving. They feel that services are declining, and they do not understand why that is, because their taxes are not declining.

[Quorum formed.]

Ms WARNOCK: Those few remarks about homelessness in our city and the status of women in our State will conclude my speech. The article by Deborah Hope which I mentioned is extraordinarily important. The interesting reaction which the editor of the magazine quoted was an overwhelming rush of mail from members of the community wanting to express their views and sharing the views of the writer that while we are not being taxed less, we are getting fewer and fewer services for our tax, and this is not what we expect from a good Public Service in Australia.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [10.33 pm]: My contribution to the appropriation Bills will relate largely to the importance of safety in the workplace. When Western Australian men and women go to work, they expect to work in a safe environment and to return home safe from injury or disease incurred from practices in the workplace. That issue requires considerable attention from government - from any Government at any time. It is something that is always changing, and we need continual reform and advancement in health and safety practices in the workplace. Unfortunately, we have seen these things languish in Western Australia in the period of the Court Government. The last major reform of occupational safety and health legislation occurred under the Labor Government in 1988. The approach then was really to catch up with the rest of Australia. We were behind in picking up the Robens reforms from the United Kingdom of some decades ago. Other States have moved ahead of Western Australia, and we are again playing catch-up on occupational health and safety. I could spend time talking about basic principles, but I refer to the performance of the Government, and the many problems we face and how they should be addressed.

As a brief introduction, it needs to be made clear that health and safety is the responsibility of everyone in the workplace; namely, each worker is responsible for himself or herself and for the general community, and the employer has a responsibility to exercise a duty of care for the employee. It is a total approach. Workplaces with an "us and them" approach, as fostered under this Government, undermine the culture required to establish better health and safety in the workplace.

I return to my theme of problems in occupational health and safety, how we might measure them and the steps needed to improve this area in Western Australia. I have received many complaints in the past few years regarding health and safety practices in the workplace. These complaints relate to a tardiness by WorkSafe in investigating worksites. With the new responsible minister and a change in the chief executive officer, I note a marked improvement in that regard; however, we still have a long way to go. Since the Government was elected in 1993, a declining attitude in the workplace to health and safety has been evident. This is at variance with the public image resulting from the high-profile advertising the Government has undertaken. That advertising is good in itself as we need to change public perceptions on health and safety and to drive home its importance. Public education campaigns have a proper place, and I do not wish to put them down. Nevertheless, when one relies only on high-profile media campaigns, one will not achieve much in health and safety in the workplace. The reliance has been on advertising, not tackling workplace safety, during the period of this Government.

Most distressing is the quite large number of parents who see me because of the death of their children in the workplace. Many are aggrieved with the system and obviously still suffer the grief and trauma of the loss of their child. They then gain an understanding of how the bureaucratic system works relating to deaths in the workplace and a range of occupational health and safety issues. These parents are appalled at the injustices and the sheer stuff-ups in our system. One mother came to my office - she probably has seen a number of other members - and made some comments concerning graffiti she saw outside my office: "When you know how rotten the system is, you can understand why kids want to graffiti the place to make a sign indicating that they think society stinks." For a well-educated, mature woman to make that comment drove home the need to reform the occupational health and safety system in this State. Also, we must address the system operating through the Coroner's Court and its investigative process. When a person is killed, and an element of negligence on the part of the employer is involved, one must have a proper system to investigate and take appropriate action; namely, to drive home culpability for clear negligence resulting in the death of a worker. I have seen many parents who feel the system does not work and is a total travesty. People do not see how we can continue with an advanced democratic State without a proper procedure to follow through when a young worker is killed.

For the next election the Labor Party will promise to implement major reforms in this area. I will not go into those now but we hope that we will have the opportunity to be the next Government so that we can introduce major changes to improve work health and safety so that more young Western Australians can lead a full life - lives that are free from the injury and disease that is being caused by what is currently happening in the workplace. If someone were to look to the public record of what this Government says is the situation, he might ask, "What are you talking about? What you say is not reflected in the official record." I quote from the budget papers under WorkSafe Western Australia -

Over the past five years (up to June 1999) lost time injury and disease rates have reduced by almost 20%.

That reflects the official statistics. I am not taking issue with that. The official statistics show that there has generally been a decline in lost time, injury and disease rates in Western Australia - as in most of Australia. What then is the issue? There is a major problem with the collection of data. One must ask what reliability can be placed on the data. Most, if not all of it, comes from the workers compensation system. It generally does not come from surveys and comes in only a very limited way from WorkSafe inspections. It is mostly from workers compensation data. If one changes the rules for workers compensation, one changes the figures that are collected on accidents in the workplace. One has a whole range of reporting issues and non-reporting issues because the collection is through the statutory system set up under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act. A change to what benefits are available can mean more or less people appearing in the figures as having accidents. The Government hangs its reputation on a hotch-potch system to collect the data. We had major changes to our workers compensation system last year which have created huge problems. I will not go into them now, but I want to give a couple of examples of how those changes are affecting the collection of accident data.

The increase in premiums for workers compensation has meant that some employers - this may be anecdotal and I do not know whether it is a very small number or an appreciable minority - simply urge their workers not to report a workplace injury. They tell them to take time off for which they will be paid. They are told to take leave as the employers do not want to report a workplace injury because it will create a bad record and will feed into the costs of premiums, and the employers do not want to pay the extra. There are stories of injured workers with broken arms and legs who are sent taxis to bring them to work, who then sit in the office all day and are then driven home again in another taxi, because the employer does not want to report an injury that occurred at work. I suspect that those cases are rare, but I have spoken to someone who worked for some months in a labour hire company, and I was told that it was regular for workers to come in injured or affected by chemicals who were sat in an office and told that their injuries would not be reported but they would be paid.

These changes also apply to the employees, because under the changes last year, if a worker is injured and goes onto the weekly payments, those weekly payments drop in some cases, and after four weeks they drop again. Workers are aware of that and they know that they cannot take the drop in wages if they are off work with a strained back, for example, for six to eight weeks, so they take long service leave instead. I am getting numerous reports through union people of this happening. The workers are not reporting accidents because they do not want to forgo income, which is what will happen if they go onto workers compensation. I cannot quantify whether we are talking about a fraction of a per cent or 5 per cent of the work force, but it is clearly something that is happening. One incident that was related to me this past week was related to the election that is now required when someone goes to common law in a case of less than 30 per cent body disability. A person had a serious injury and was aware of the fact that he would need to have an election in order to get common law and that he had to elect six months after benefits started being paid. The person decided to take extended leave on full pay to see how the injury settled down before he put in a claim.

That deferred the start of the six-month period, after which that right is lost. This worker is simply not reporting a clear workplace injury in which he believes negligence was involved to preserve his right in the system, due to the changes this Parliament made. That is an extreme case and I hope there are not many of them; however, I was surprised when I heard the worker say that he took that action because he wished to preserve his right to go to common law. The way people react to the system and whether they report an accident is changing. We cannot help being sceptical of the figures used to indicate that the health and safety situation in the workplace is improving. I quote again from WorkSafe Western Australia's figures contained on page 1535 in the budget papers. It refers to the Government's target for fatalities and continues -

The base fatality rate used for comparison was a rate of 26.9 deaths per million workers in July 1995. The rate at 30 June 1999 was 12.8 deaths per million workers. This represents a decrease of 52.4%.

The figures look impressive: The number of deaths per million workers was reduced from 26.9 to 12.8. As the number of workers increases, the rate of deaths needs to be maintained or reduced. WorkSafe WA has presented the figures as rates. That is a good way of presenting them; however, I will use raw numbers as my figures make it difficult for such a system to be used. What is the validity of WorkSafe WA's figures? I have asked the minister how work-related fatalities are measured. There is no definition for what is and is not counted as a workplace fatality. Regardless of the system used, the collection of the data has real problems. It is difficult to obtain good, reliable figures. For the past three or four years, ministers across Australia have been trying to get amendments to coroners Acts so the Coroner can help collect data. That would provide a better reflection of the number of people dying through injury or disease in the workplace. To my knowledge, that process has been stalled and nothing much has happened. A Coroners Amendment Bill was passed in this place a few weeks ago and it did not contain anything to try to fix the issue of reporting workplace deaths. The way data for this area is collected presents real problems. Workers may die of diseases caused by carcinogenic chemicals or asbestos many years after they were exposed to that chemical or substance. It can be difficult to be sure it is workplace related. The system must cope with that. Many people are self-employed, and unless someone draws their death to the attention of the authorities and WorkSafe WA, it goes unreported. I knew a gentleman who died about four years ago. He was self-employed doing house maintenance. His death is not included in the figures for workplace fatalities. He was working on a contract fixing someone's roof when he fell off the ladder and landed on his head. He died in hospital about three or four days later. That was not counted as a workplace fatality. His death is not recorded in the statistics. The way the figures for deaths are collected presents a big problem. The other area of ambiguity is motor vehicle accidents. People killed in motor vehicle accidents are often not recorded as workers. A definitional problem exists. Truck drivers killed in motor vehicle accidents during the course of their employment should be included in the statistics. Generally, they are not. It depends on whether the accident is reported to WorkSafe WA and whether there are special circumstances. They are not

automatically included in the figures. A coroner's inquiry was held when a lady was killed by a truck on Canning Highway. I suspect that is regarded as a workplace fatality even though the lady was simply a pedestrian. The truck was not functioning properly and a boom or crane swung out, hitting and killing her. The truck driver was working at the time, and the accident was reported to the authorities and investigated. I understand that is counted as a workplace fatality, as it should be. Those are examples of some of the difficulties that arise through the hotch-potch system that exists for collecting that information.

Perhaps members may think that I am making a case without substance. I will refer to the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission's "Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics, Australia, 1995-96". Its reports are usually two to three years behind because the national body must collect the data from all the States and work on them, so there is quite some delay. However, at page 90 of the 1995-96 report there is an interesting observation on the collection of statistics on fatalities in Western Australia, which reads -

It should be noted that for most jurisdictions subsequent acceptance or rejection of fatality claims lodged, results in little alteration to raw numbers with most fatalities incidence rates remaining unchanged. The significant exception here is Western Australia, where operational records maintained by WorkSafe Western Australia showed fatalities initially reported but subsequently rejected resulted in a drop of around 50% in the raw numbers and also in the fatalities incidence rate.

Therefore, Western Australia is quite different from all the other States. We reduce our fatalities by 50 per cent through statistical means; the numbers somehow vanish. When I asked the officials in WorkSafe why this was the case, they could not tell me. I have asked the minister on some occasions and her predecessor some years ago whether they have specific guidelines so that when there is a death the inspectors at WorkSafe are guided by specific definitions as to whether they should consider a particular death a workplace fatality. I was told that they had that, but it could never be produced. The current minister in the past couple of weeks first of all provided me with a page called "WorkSafe Western Australia: Traumatic Work Related Fatality - Investigation Criteria". I will not go through it all but that is what it covers - investigation criteria. It is a guide for officers for when they should or should not investigate. It does not tell them when they do the investigation what are the criteria for counting a death as a workplace fatality. They are general guidelines on whether it should be worthwhile investigating. It gives some guidance for what might be left in or out, but it is so loose that in no way could it be used to categorise a workplace fatality. When I pointed this out to the minister, she came back with another piece of paper headed "Summary of Inclusions and Exclusion in Fatalities Data reported by Workcover WA and WorkSafe Western Australia".

Mrs Edwardes: You cannot say that I have not tried to assist you in your understanding.

Mr KOBELKE: The minister is very helpful but the point is that there are no guidelines that officers have to stick to when declaring a death as a workplace fatality.

Mrs Edwardes: It does provide a framework.

Mr KOBELKE: It provides a very loose framework but does not help define whether a particular death is a workplace fatality. There are a range of issues here showing the difference between the Workcover and the WorkSafe collection of data, and that is all. They are very different figures. It does not give a definition of what is a workplace fatality.

Let us take a couple of examples. The young Thorpe girl who was killed on a farm at Esperance was in her home and was killed in an accident. That was clearly a workplace fatality. I do not argue with that. Let us bear in mind that she was a child who was not working but playing at her home. The death of the boy at Clarkson Primary School a couple of years ago was counted as a workplace fatality. He was at his school in a designated work area when a concrete tank rolled on him and he was killed. I accept that that was a workplace fatality. However, at Gracetown, eight people were killed who were all there on a school excursion. One death went into the statistics as a workplace fatality and the other seven did not. Why? There is no definition. Clearly the why is because it is too embarrassing. The Government cannot have its fatality blow out by seven in one year, so it does not count them. That is why there is no definition. If there were a definition and the Government had to stick to it, we would get realistic figures. Realistic figures are not what this Government wants because it would paint the wrong picture and be an honest and true picture. The Government could not live with that, so we do not have a definition. A lady and a child were killed in a shop fire at Northam two or three years ago. They were both in a workplace, and they were both killed. The woman was a workplace fatality, but the child was not. It is not good for the statistics, so it is not counted. It is a case-by-case decision to try to minimise the numbers. That is the criterion which is unspoken and unwritten. We need a written set of clear criteria by which to judge whether an investigation by WorkSafe should lead to a determination that a fatality will be counted among the fatalities for that year, but that is not the situation.

Mrs Edwardes: Irrespective of statistics, I think you and I would agree that one workplace death is one death too many, and that the emphasis has been on prevention. Workplace safety is far more than just statistics.

Mr KOBELKE: It certainly is far more than statistics, but when the minister is not willing to take statistics seriously she is not taking health and safety seriously.

Mr Court: What nonsense!

Mr KOBELKE: I know the minister will take offence, but I do not believe the minister or her Government is taking workplace health and safety and fatalities seriously.

Mr Court: We have one of the best preventive campaigns that this State has ever seen.

Mr KOBELKE: I have said that. The Government is great at advertising, but it does hardly anything else. That is the problem. This Government has an appalling record; and I will come to the figures shortly. This is not an area in which I have a great deal of expertise, therefore I have gone to major companies that place a huge emphasis on health and safety. We have some world-class, international companies in Western Australia that have good health and safety records. They say that they need to count every little incident. They need to get the figures down for everything that happens, even near misses that do not hurt anyone, because if they do not do that, people will get sloppy and will not be driven to realise the importance of health and safety in the workplace. This Government wants to get away with spending a lot of money on Glen Jakovich and flashy ads - and they have their place - but it does not want to take it further. It does not have an adequate inspectorate. Why is the Government cutting the budget to the inspectorate?

Mrs Edwardes: We are not.

Mr KOBELKE: I will come to that in a moment and give the minister chapter and verse. The Government is cutting the budget.

Mr Court: Are you saying that if Glen Jakovich went to Collie and talked to a heap of workers about workplace safety, that would not be a positive way of addressing the issue?

Mr KOBELKE: The Premier should listen. The Premier does not have a clue about what he is talking about. All he wants to do is knock, knock, knock. The Premier does not have a clue. Every time he is caught out, he misrepresents what is said. I have said three times already that the Jackovich campaign is a good thing. The Premier does not want to listen, and that is why we have a health and safety problem in this State. The Premier is not interested in saving the lives of Western Australian workers. They are just work-fodder to the Premier. If the Premier listened to my speech, he might see that he has a huge problem.

Mr Court: You have got the huge problem. Why don't you stop knocking?

Mr KOBELKE: The Premier should listen to what I have to say and get up and respond. Not one member from the Premier's side has been willing to speak, other than by interjection. I turn now to the figures to show just what a scandalous situation we have in Western Australia. I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* a table and a graph that are the result of the workplace fatality figures that I have received.

[The material in appendix B was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See page 7064.]

Mr KOBELKE: This is drawn from the answers that the minister gave to question 1835 of 5 April 2000. I asked what were the number of deaths investigated by WorkSafe in each year, what were the deaths declared by WorkSafe in each year, and what was the number of compensable deaths; that is, when a person died and a claim was made for workers compensation, which came through the workers compensation system as opposed to the WorkSafe system. In March 1999, over a year earlier, I had asked a similar question, and I had received an answer. The numbers in those two answers bear no resemblance and are totally different. Information collection problems exist, and the numbers do shift; for example, someone makes a claim and it is discounted. However, the overall conclusion from the earlier figures is the same, even though the numbers are 50 to 100 per cent greater. I will not use those figures; I will use the most recent figures provided by the minister in her answer of 5 April 2000. If we average the five years from 1988-89, which was the start of data collection under the new system, to 1992-93 which was the change of government, and take the six years from now - I have five years, but I am using six because the result is slightly better for the Government - in the first five years under the Labor Government 17.2 deaths were investigated each year. Under the present Government the rate averaged 17.7. Fatalities vary from year to year, so I see those figures as being relatively equal. The number of workers has increased so the rate would have dropped. However, I am examining actual numbers.

Under deaths declared, where no definition is shown, the number of deaths has dropped. It was 17 during the Labor years, and it is down to 14.5 for the six years of this Government. The number of deaths compensated, less the journey claims because the changes to workers compensation in 1993 ruled them out, have risen to 42.3. Rather than having 27.2 deaths a year compensated, 42.3 deaths are being compensated. There are problems in that we are not looking at the year of death but at the year in which the claim is made, so things move a little from year to year.

Mrs Edwardes: Just a little - talk about a long bow!

Mr KOBELKE: Averaged over five years, those effects are eliminated. The graph shows a huge increase in compensable deaths. The minister might like to take the issue seriously and look into it, because there may have been increases in the number of claims from asbestos diseases, although my inquiries have told me that is not the case.

However, on these figures, although the number of reported deaths has decreased, the average number of deaths compensated increased from 27.2 a year to 42.5. That is a huge increase. The number is averaged over sufficient years to ensure we are not looking at chance fluctuations. If the number of people killed has increased but is not being counted, and compensation is being paid and the Government does not want to face up to it, we will not address the real situation of occupational health and safety.

Fatalities are the tip of the pyramid. We have a small number of fatalities, a larger number of serious injuries, a larger

number of lost-time injuries and a larger number of total injuries. The figure for the number of near misses is even larger. At the pinnacle of that triangle for occupational health and safety is fatalities. The statistics reveal a marked increase in the number of fatalities for which compensation has been paid.

For many people, particularly young men who are killed, no compensation is paid because they do not have dependants. They die and no claim is made on workers compensation. They are not counted in these figures. Even these figures reflect only a portion of the number of people being killed. Rather than the figure being 17 a year on average, it has increased from 27 in the last five years of Labor to 42 over the past six years of this Government. That reflects that we cannot place any confidence in the figures used by the Government. We need a more thorough approach to this issue.

If the Opposition is given the opportunity of addressing this issue after the next election, as I hope and believe it will, we will do a lot of work on this area. As a result of that work, the statistics will show a huge jump in the number of fatalities and incidents because we will not try to hide them. We will bring them into the open so that we can implement proper strategies to improve occupational health and safety in the workplace. While this Government hides the problem we cannot deal with it. By bringing it out into the open we will see a substantial increase in the reported incidence of injury, disease and fatalities. The fact that people are dying and the Government is hiding it does not solve the problem. It simply stops the Government addressing the issues that may lead to solving the problem, and that is what we want to see.

Page 1533 of the *Budget Statements* indicates that the funding for regulatory services has been reduced from \$9.88m to \$9.44m. Allowing for the inflation factor of 2.5 per cent - the implicit price deflator, not the consumer price index - and taking no account of population and employment growth, that is a real decrease of 7 per cent. However, funding for information services has been increased by 13.6 per cent. The Government intends to spend more money on advertising and so-called information provision and to reduce funding to regulatory services.

Mrs Edwardes: We are not cutting the number of inspectors, which is what you are claiming.

Mr KOBELKE: I said that the Government has cut the budget.

Mrs Edwardes: We are not cutting the budget for inspectors.

Mr KOBELKE: How can we have the same number of inspectors with less funding?

Mrs Edwardes: We will go through that in great detail next week in the Estimates Committee.

Mr KOBELKE: The inspectors will be required to sit in an office, they will not have cars and they will not be able to do inspections.

Mrs Edwardes: We do not want them in the office. We are going to give them laptops.

Mr KOBELKE: This sounds like the method used with the Police Service. Its budget has been increased, but it cannot afford to buy petrol, so officers cannot investigate crime!

Mrs Edwardes: That happened under the Labor Government.

Mr KOBELKE: That is happening now and everyone knows it. The *Budget Statements* indicate a 7 per cent reduction in real terms in the regulatory services budget and a 13.6 per cent increase in real terms in the information services budget. That reflects what I have been saying: This Government is about image and not addressing the real issues of health and safety in the workplace. This Government is about image promotion, whether it relates to health and safety or any other area. It does not do the hard things necessary to ensure it has in place the appropriate policies and enforcement regime. In addition to its advertising program, it must have an integrated program to improve health and safety in the workplace. A Labor Government will ensure that such a system is implemented. While the statistics may initially get worse, the matter will be taken seriously and we will see big improvements.

Mr Court: We know what Labor Governments do. We have seen you in action.

Mr KOBELKE: Labor Governments have not produced budget deficits of the magnitude produced by this Government. Members on this side have been speaking all day and half the night, but not one government member has had the gumption to speak in support of this budget. Backbench government members are so ashamed of this budget that they have scurried into hiding. They cannot go on the record supporting their own budget. I have been in this place for 11 years, and this is the first time I have seen a Government so ashamed of its budget - the last budget before an election - that not one government member has spoken on the first day of debate. We are sitting well beyond the normal adjournment time and not one government member has had enough confidence to speak.

This is another deficit budget. The Government has enjoyed huge increases in revenue, it has sold off many public assets and it has blown the money. That has resulted in the State's biggest deficit in dollar terms. The Government has had to cut departmental budgets because it does not have the money it needs. It has wasted it through its incompetence and poor management. It is little wonder that no government backbencher is willing to make a contribution to the debate.

This Government has all the wrong priorities. It is spending \$90m a year on advertising when it is running a budget deficit. Members opposite believe that they can put a spin on everything. They spend large amounts on spin doctors and advertising but do not deal with the issues. The chickens are finally coming home to roost. The people know this Government is going nowhere; it is leading people down blind alleys and is not addressing problems. This city has become the crime capital of Australia. Hospitals simply are not functioning adequately. The police tell people not to ring for help because they have

no resources. There is a mess in every area because the Government is not dealing with the issues; it is interested only in advertising. Of course, advertising has its place, but when it is not part of an integrated program to achieve something it is of little value. In most cases it is done to promote the image of this Government.

In this budget the Government has deceived the people of this State. For the current financial year the budget shows a cash deficit of \$600m; however, that deficit would be much more if the Government had not milked some trading enterprises to try to rescue the bottom line on the budget. The sad part is that the ordinary working men and women and pensioners of Western Australia are paying exorbitant amounts to government entities to fill the holes in this Government's budget.

Mr Court: Are you talking about electricity and gas?

Mr KOBELKE: I will give an example using water charges. I looked at the annual report of the Water Corporation of Western Australia for 1998-99. The revenue for that year was \$925m, the total expenditure was \$511m, and the net profit was \$420m. What did the Water Corporation pay the State Government? In that 1998-99 year, it paid a dividend to the Government of \$196m, income tax equivalents of \$158m, and sales tax, rates and land tax of \$9.5m. That amount includes local government as well. It paid a total amount of \$364.2m to the Government. That was not enough. It made an upfront repayment to the Government in settlement of a general loan fund debt of \$23.4m which was brought forward, and then paid \$60m for superannuation liability. Those amounts must be paid in time, but they were brought into that budget to fix it up. Out of a total revenue of \$925m, the Water Corporation paid the Government \$448m.

Mr Trenorden: How much was CSO?

Mr KOBELKE: The community service obligation contribution was \$192m. The net payment to the Government was \$255.7m.

Mr Trenorden: The CSO was not \$192m. Read it again.

Mr KOBELKE: The community service obligation contribution was \$192.1m. The member may not like the statistics, but they can be seen on page 1453 of the *2000-01 Budget Statements*. I checked the figure in the annual report as well and it is the same. The net amount paid to the Government, less the CSO contribution, was \$255.7m out of a total revenue of \$925.2m. That represents 27.6 per cent.

Mr Court: It has low debt and why should it not pay it back?

Mr KOBELKE: Is the Treasurer saying that the Water Corporation has a low debt?

Mr Court: If it were properly geared like a public corporation, it would have a completely different profit and loss statement.

Mr KOBELKE: The Treasurer said that he increased water rates by 2 per cent because the money was needed for capital works. To plug part of the hole in the budget, the Government is taking more than 27 per cent of everybody's water rates. He has used the Water Corporation as a cash cow. The Treasurer made it borrow \$100m to transfer to the Government so that the Government did not have such a big hole in the cash accounting for government departments. It was already higher than \$600m, but the Government pulled this nice little fiddle and said that the rates would go up 2 per cent because the money was needed for further capital investment. The Government would be able to fund those capital investments if it had not ripped hundreds of millions from the Water Corporation to fix the huge hole in the budget. It gets worse.

According to the budget papers, in 1998-99 the dividend from the Water Corporation was \$163.9m. In this budget it goes up to \$313m. The Government will up the dividend by more than twice the amount. It is adding an extra \$180m in dividends from the Water Corporation for the coming year to try to fix the hole in its budget. That is milking the ordinary mums and dads of Western Australia. Through the water bills, the Government is extorting money from the men and women of this State and their families to try to cover the hole in the Government's debt. It is absolutely disgusting that the Government made the Water Corporation borrow \$100m in 1998-99 - I do not know the figure for the current year - so that money could be passed through in dividends to the Government. Then the Government says that it will balance the budget and it will have a deficit of only some hundreds of millions of dollars when it could have been a lot more if it had not pulled this shonky little deal of dragging money out of the Water Corporation.

We see further evidence of this Government's total deceit. If the Government is so deceitful with its budget and with the way it taxes the people of this State by causing them to pay much higher water bills than they need to in order to fund the deficit of this Government, how can we have any confidence that it will take occupational health and safety seriously? The figures from the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission report - a national expert body - that I have laid before the House point out that Western Australia is the only State in Australia that halves its fatalities numbers by statistical means. When one asks for a definition of how one counts a death that would be a workplace fatality, there is none. It is left to a case-by-case basis so the numbers can be kept to a minimum. When one looks at the figures for the number of deaths for which compensation has been paid, one finds that there has been a huge hike during the period of this Government. We know that there is a problem in occupational health and safety in this State. It is a problem which will not be fixed by glossy advertisements. They have their place, but by themselves they simply cover the issue. They do not allow us to address the fundamental issues and put in place in this State health and safety programs which would deliver safer workplaces. That is what we want: Safety in the workplace. We do not want just advertisements and gloss. We want a Government that will do something which is important to people. However, a Government which has made Western Australia the crime capital of Australia obviously does not care. A Government which came in on the basis of doing

something about law and order and which saw Western Australia go from a reasonable position on law and order to being the crime capital of Australia has lost the plot. No matter which area one turns to with this Government, it is hard to find an area on which it has performed well.

Mr Court: Have we done anything right?

Mr KOBELKE: The Government will certainly do a good thing when it loses the next election. That will be the best gift to the people of this State.

Mr Court: You belonged to a totally corrupt Government.

Mr KOBELKE: The Government has squandered the heritage of this State with the sell-off of assets and the way it has upped taxes in the good economic times and yet when the bad times come, it cannot even balance the budget. This Premier runs on at the mouth with a whole lot of verbiage that means absolutely nothing. The Premier spoke about corruption in the last Government. A royal commission spent millions of dollars and found no evidence of corruption. That is what the report said. All the Premier can do is allow garbage to flow from his mouth. He is a disgrace of a Premier!

MR MARLBOROUGH (Peel) [11.18 pm]: On Monday of this week we had the launch of schizophrenia awareness week.

Mr Trenorden: Did we? We just saw it in action!

Mr Cunningham: It is a serious subject.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I must plead guilty to the fact that although I intended to speak about schizophrenia, I was not aware until I received Wednesday's newspaper that the launch of schizophrenia week was on Monday. It is appropriate because it is an issue that I want to raise with the Government and my colleagues today. I suppose all of us as we have gone through life have been aware of, or have come into contact with, somebody in the family who has suffered mental illness, or we have come across people with mental illness problems of one kind or another through our activities as politicians. As a politician of some 14 years standing, in my electorate of Peel, including in the Town of Kwinana, I come across and deal with people with mental illness, particularly schizophrenia on a regular basis. I am increasingly concerned that we do not have in the community the appropriate backup and support facilities required to allow those people to live as normal a life as possible.

I will give a description of the problems associated with people with whom I am dealing at the moment who suffer from this illness. I have been dealing with one of my constituents, whom I have known for some 10 years. In all the time I have known that person, he has had schizophrenia. He is now a man well into his thirties. He has had schizophrenia all of his adult life and part of his teenage life. He has been married and is the father of a daughter who is now approximately 21 years of age. During his lifetime, as a result of his illness, he has suffered. For example, he has already been in jail because of an offence committed while suffering the downsides of his illness. As I now speak, he is facing a trial and he will probably receive a further jail sentence. My observation of this constituent is that there is no way the jail system can affect this man's future actions, other than to lock him up away from society. He has no track record of committing what I would call a major crime.

Mr Trenorden: He is not violent.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: No, there is no evidence of that. His track record shows that he will continue to get into trouble with the law. I have put up a bond to the tune of \$1 000 for this constituent on the basis that I am willing to say that he will attend the court hearing. The matter before the court has been going on for over 12 months, and he has been required to attend two court hearings. He has not let me down yet. He is due to attend another court hearing shortly. I am saddened by the processes which have put this man before the judicial system. I am not saying that he has not committed an offence. However, we should not put someone like this man, with a record of schizophrenia that goes back to his childhood, through the legal processes. That is not the way to handle him.

I will briefly run through the circumstances. First, there are hardly any resources in the community for people with schizophrenia. In many instances these people are unacceptable to their own families. In this man's case, his family disowned him many years ago. As a result of the charges he is facing, not long ago I spoke to his stepfather in South Australia. I tried to get a message to his mother who lives in South Australia and I tried to speak to his sister, who is a nurse in Western Australia. It is clear from the first time I spoke to members of the family that they have lost all interest in supporting their son, who is now 38 years of age. His marriage has broken up and his daughter is 21 and living her own life; he therefore has no family support. He is not originally from Western Australia but has been living in WA for many years. Therefore, what happens? There is no backup community support. There is not enough necessary psychological expertise in the community or community health funding. No backup mechanism is in place that is worth considering to help this person. In reality these people end up living with fellow travellers. The only people who will accept or have any understanding of them are people who suffer the same mental problem. He therefore ended up living in a house in Kwinana with a fellow schizophrenic, another male about 10 years younger. They are left to their own devices to deal with their ongoing health maintenance. They are given medicine which, if taken appropriately, gives them greater control over their behaviour. However, unfortunately, all the jokes we tell about schizophrenia are truly part of the lifestyle. If they take their medication and feel well, a part of their brain tells them they are well enough not to take the medication, so they stop taking it. There is no backup mechanism, no-one checking on them daily and no process by which they must check in as they are not locked away in an institution. They are simply left to their own devices. What does that mean in reality? It means that about every 10 days or so in the past 10 years, when he is not in such a bad state, this constituent comes into my office, sits

down with me and tries to convince me that he is cured of his schizophrenia. Once he escaped from the Alma Street clinic in Fremantle at 4.30 pm, came to my office at 5.15 pm in a hell of a state and tried to convince me that he had cleared himself of his schizophrenia, while telling me he was negotiating with Gorbachev in Russia and Clinton in America over the state of the world and being spied on by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. I know, as a member of Parliament and a concerned citizen, that the best I can do is try to convince him to return to an institution. Yet I know that institution will not hold him, and has no intention of holding him unless he is shown to be at risk of harm to himself and/or the community. In a week or so he will be released back into the community. When he gets into a position where he starts to feel well he comes into my office, as I said earlier, and starts telling me that he is cleared of schizophrenia. He has said, "Norm, you've got to understand, there's nothing wrong with me. I can't understand why I'm no longer able to hold onto my part-time job down at the shopping centre delivering pizzas. Yes, I have this problem but I am now cured. I am not in remission. I am not partially cured. I am not cured today knowing if I take my medicine tomorrow I will continue to be cured. I am actually cured. The disease has gone. You don't understand, Norm," says my constituent, "it can be cured."

How can people who have such an illness be treated in the same way as common criminals if they commit an offence? That is beyond my comprehension. I do not see any benefit to society in treating them that way other than completely confining them. There is a benefit in that if they commit a major offence they will be locked away, but is that the way we should be treating these people?

Mr Prince: You are not suggesting he may wind up in jail because he is a schizophrenic?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: He will wind up in jail because of an offence he committed. He has been in jail previously for an offence not dissimilar to the one he is presently facing and my view is that there is a very good chance he will end up in jail again. His view is that he has a very good chance of ending up in jail. He moved to a unit in Kwinana with a fellow schizophrenic. After a period of taking these mind-altering medications, they convinced themselves they were well. In the euphoria of being well they ran across a fellow traveller who happened to be female, a mature woman in her twenties, who also has a long record of mental illness. She is well known to the authorities. They got together in the unit and, as a result of getting together and being men and women, certain things are supposed to have taken place. Some time afterwards, this woman went to the authorities and said she was physically interfered with while she was in these premises. There is no need to go into the details. Under the present processes, the law moved in on this group of schizophrenics. The men were picked up by a police officer and taken into a police station. They were given no medication and no medical advice was sought when they got there. The authorities showed little understanding that they suffered a medical condition, and when they mentioned it to the authorities, no notice was taken of them.

When this man went into Casuarina Prison on the last occasion, he tells me that he advised the authorities within a day of arriving that he had a history of schizophrenia and needed medication. He was denied that medication; he was just a prisoner swinging the lead. When schizophrenics go into the prison system there is no process that I am aware of by which their medical records go with them. They go into the prison system and they are treated like any common criminal and not like somebody with a severe illness who has also committed a crime. They are treated as if they were any other person who has committed a crime. We cannot run a just, fair and caring society if we believe that that is the appropriate way to treat people with these sorts of illnesses. This man is now in his late thirties, but 10 years ago he not only was refused medication but also no recognition was given to his illness, and because he was vulnerable, within the first week in the prison system he was raped; in fact, he was raped on numerous occasions. The outcome of his schizophrenia and his treatment by fellow prisoners was that he attempted suicide. He has been through that most horrific circumstance.

Mr Bloffwitch: Does he have anyone talking to him?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I said that he has no family.

Mr Bloffwitch: I mean where he is staying. Is no-one providing counselling?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: That is a very good point which I made earlier. He is a 38-year-old mature adult.

Mr Bloffwitch: He does not sound too mature the way you're describing him.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: In what way?

Mr Bloffwitch: I am serious. If he is mentally ill, that is not mature.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: He is mentally ill.

Mr Bloffwitch: He needs some sort of counselling.

Mr Prince: I find it difficult to necessarily accept the word of the man you're talking about concerning the way he was treated. My personal experience with clients in similar situations is that that is not the case. However, it can happen. If you can give me the person's name in private, I will pass it on to the Attorney General and have an inquiry made.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I think the last prison offence was eight to 10 years ago.

Mr Prince: It should still be looked into, especially if there is a possibility of his going back.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The point the member for Geraldton raised is touched on in the article in *The West Australian* - that is, the public's attitude to people with these sorts of illnesses. To suggest that a person who suffers such an illness is not a mature person is nonsense. My point, which I thought was clear, was that they are totally different people when on medication.

Mr Bloffwitch: He might be mature in body, but he is certainly not mature of mind.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I do not know that mature is the appropriate word. He has an illness of the mind termed as schizophrenia. It has nothing to do with maturity.

Mr Bloffwitch: How can people with schizophrenia move into a house? There should be four or five together with a counsellor who stays with them all the time. When they are confident enough to go out on their own, that carer stays in contact with them. What is wrong with that system?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I suggest that that system is not happening.

Mr Bloffwitch: I am telling you that it is in Geraldton.

Mr Cunningham: It is not in Girrawheen.

Mr Bloffwitch: Then get it happening in your electorate!

Mr MARLBOROUGH: To the degree it is happening, not enough processes are in place. Too many of these people are in the community without resources made available. As the local member of Parliament - I do not know about other members' experience - I have a direct line to the head of the south west mental health services.

Mr Cunningham: I am in exactly the same boat.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I ring him about all sorts of people with all sorts of mental conditions. He will be the first to say, "We don't have the resources to look after these people at the level necessary." If they are not committing an offence, are a mature adult and are taking their medication, they can, as reported in the article, be seen to be living independently. I say that the process which allows them to be in the community with little ongoing management and hands-on support is fraught with danger. This is a real case, not some fictitious issue.

Mr Prince: You are not suggesting that we go back to institutionalisation.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: Absolutely not.

Mr Prince: You're looking for something by which they are living and looking after themselves in the community and receiving some support, but not institutionalised.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The article best describes it. A group is known as the Schizophrenia Fellowship of WA, situated at Lorikeet Clubhouse.

Mr Prince: I have been there.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: The article reads -

In a move aimed at reducing the level of institutionalised care, the fellowship has applied for a State Government grant to provide secure, independent housing for people with mental illness.

I have not spoken to the group although I will do as a result of this article.

Mr Prince: Go and visit them - I have.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I am happy to do that. I am presuming that "to provide secure" housing and to go no further than that would mean the sorts of things that I want to see in place and the sort of things of which the member for Geraldton indicates he has evidence in his electorate. That means that there will be enough experienced people on the ground to look after the sorts of cases we have been discussing. There is a strong possibility that if my constituent is treated by the legal system in the same way as he was some eight or nine years ago for a similar offence, one can see that he is going to end up in similar circumstances and once again he will be put in jail. I am saying to the Government, and to Governments in general, that we need to look at our processes which allow such people with mental illness to be locked away in prisons. It is simply not appropriate. If another member wants to speak and if they want to articulate why such processes are appropriate, I am happy to sit down now. There is no sense in locking away a person who has suffered such an illness all their life: A person who can come into my office and tell me that today he is cured when there is no known cure and when his history shows that two minutes after leaving my office he will need to be back on medication, and who comes into my office and talks about being on first-hand terms with Gorbachev and Clinton and that he is being watched by ASIO. There is no way we can think that such a person can be put into a prison system and somehow that prison system will sort them out. As a society we have made a decision that we will no longer institutionalise these people as their quality of life makes them far better off in the community when support mechanisms are in place to look after them. I am saying that there are not enough support mechanisms. However, when they commit a crime, all of a sudden, we want to reinstitutionalise them. We suddenly find a reason because society demands that such people be institutionalised. The institution of prison does not even begin to come to grips with such mental states of mind. There is no capacity in prisons to look after such people. I suggest that in many instances there is no safe environment for them unless they are locked in a private prison, as used to happen in Fremantle with the HIV prisoners, where they were locked away in the prison hospital. Unless that sort of thing is done with a prisoner, there is no way that a prisoner with mental illness could benefit, or even survive, without major ramifications. We may kid ourselves that the prison system is run by bureaucrats, but anybody who has any knowledge of the system knows that it is run by the key criminals. The key criminals in the yard tell other prisoners to line up for pills in the morning, and then take them off the prisoners at the other end of the line. The key criminals in the yard

decide who goes on the roster to get moved to an outside prison like Karnet and who stays within Casuarina. They are the people who run the prison system. Somebody with a mental disorder, who is put into that system, cannot survive. They come out of the system traumatised and in shock at the treatment they experienced with the part of society they thought would protect them if they were ill. They committed the crime because they were ill. If the person was thinking normally, there is a good chance the crime would not have been committed.

Mr Prince: If the person is not thinking normally at the time of the act that constitutes the offence, an examination of his mentality and capacity to be found guilty should be undertaken. In other words, the question of the person's sanity at the time of offence should be examined.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: As I said earlier, I have paid a \$1 000 surety for my constituent. I have been to court with him on two occasions in the last 12 months. The judicial process has not made any attempt to look into his medical history to gain an understanding about how his medical condition should be evaluated.

Mr Prince: Does he have a lawyer?

Mr MARLBOROUGH: He is attempting to get appropriate legal aid. These people are on pensions. He has part-time work delivering pizzas. He has no resources or money.

Mr Prince: It is a serious indictment offence that could result in him being sent to jail. If he is the sort of person you describe, he ought to receive legal aid and get a competent criminal lawyer. The question of his sanity ought to be first on the list.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I am pleased the Minister for Police says that, because that is the issue I am asking the Government to look at. I did not raise this issue to be critical of the Government, other than to say that more resources are needed. These are my experiences in the electorate. I am using this example - and it is not isolated - to illustrate what the problems are, how bad they can get and what we can do about them. I am delighted to hear the minister say that.

Mr Prince: I have represented a few such cases.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I am sure that is the case. I am delighted to hear the minister say that those sorts of things ought to be put in place; I am going one step further and building on that. I am not aware of any Act - any section of the Health Act or the Criminal Code - that prescribes for such people to be treated in a manner different from normal people. I am delighted and heartened by the minister's comments. A select committee of this Parliament should be set up to look into this area of mental health, particularly the history of the mental health and capacity of people in the prison system. That committee should formulate a bipartisan approach to policy that would clearly indicate that, in the society in which we want to live in the new millennium, it is no longer appropriate to use Dickensian standards for understanding and treating people with mental illnesses.

The newspaper article clearly outlines the problem far better than I have. One in every hundred people in Western Australia, and the nation, suffers from some kind of schizophrenia.

Mr Trenorden: It would be a rare member of Parliament who does not receive a regular visit to his electorate office from someone who is not in our world.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: My position is the same. I am sure we could all tell similar stories. That is my point.

Mr Trenorden: The difficulty is that there are different colours and shapes, are there not? I had a constituent who was for many years a likeable person but when he did not take his medication he became quite violent. That is why I asked the question. I have several constituents who are basically happy people. They have delusions but do not hurt anyone. We have all read what happened in Victoria a year or so ago. There is an extreme range of circumstances.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I am listening to the member while quickly scanning through this article. The point made by the member for Avon highlights the point I am making; that is, schizophrenia affects one in a hundred people. The member for Avon has indicated he is having the same experience with numerous problems, although not necessarily the same problems I am having as a member of Parliament. Other members have indicated by nods and interjections around the Chamber that they have the same problems. As a result of this debate, I am happy to have some talks with the minister and put something in writing, so that we may go through the process of a parliamentary committee.

Mr Bloffwitch: Why do you not give Baptist Care a ring? I suggest that earnestly. Ask Baptist Care to go to Homeswest and set up a house in your area. You will be amazed at the difference it will make.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I am sure that I will be. That is one of the things that I am asking for, but I am saying to the member for Geraldton that there are not enough of these resources around.

Mr Bloffwitch: Homeswest has offered Baptist Care as many houses as it wants.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: These people live in Homeswest accommodation and pay rent. I am not saying that they do not have accommodation; what they do not have is a regular backup facility with expertise.

Mr Bloffwitch: Baptist Care provides a carer for them.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: It may provide them in some areas. We need to go much further than that.

Mr Bloffwitch: Ring Baptist Care.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: I am happy to ring Baptist Care. However, regardless of those mechanisms, they have still not stopped the legal processes which treat as a common criminal the person about whom I have spoken. Regardless of the offence, we cannot treat a person with such an illness in the same way we would a person with normal mental faculties.

Mr Bloffwitch: You do not treat him; you take him in, give him care and look after him, as the carer does. You will then find that with the right treatment he will live a normal life.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: That is our hope. I have a constituent with schizophrenia who has been charged with a second crime. He has already been in prison for another crime. Prison is not the appropriate way forward for these people. There could be a meeting of the minds across the Chamber to look at the statistics, if there are any, which might indicate what percentage of prisoners had a long mental history when entering prison.

Mr Prince: I cannot tell you the percentage but it is quite significant.

Mr MARLBOROUGH: Yes, and I recognise that there are different types of mental illnesses. I have raised the issue of schizophrenia because statistics show many people have it. A parliamentary inquiry's terms of reference should cover the appropriateness of a prison institution's function in the ongoing maintenance of those people if and when they commit a crime. The terms of reference of such an inquiry could look at that matter and at models elsewhere in Australia and overseas. I have not done the research. My point tonight is that I have been watching this man for 10 years. When he is taking his medication, one could not meet a more articulate, intelligent and pleasant person to be with. Unfortunately, the bouts of schizophrenia seem to come around with greater frequency as the years go by, because this man is left to his own devices in the community and does not have an ongoing daily program where someone is monitoring his medication. He sees the psychologist on his two or three-monthly visits, he is given his medication, and he goes away to fend for himself, take his own medication and look after his own health. Unfortunately, he happens to have a mental health problem. It is not as though he has a broken leg, an arm in a sling or a migraine. He has a mental health problem, and after two or three days of taking these mind-bending drugs, he comes into my office and articulates to me that the disease has gone. I always fear that when he leaves my office, after I have tried to gently convince him that he is not cured and is not clear, he will go out and get into strife. I want to be in a position where, for his own good, when he is in that state, someone can be on hand to look after him fairly immediately. That is simply not available, unless I can demonstrate that he is a danger to himself or the community, and he walks out the door and goes about his own devices and we cross ourselves and hope he does not get into any trouble.

I was pleased with the interjections from the Minister for Police, who indicated that on a number of occasions he has had to represent such people in the court system and that he knows, from his background as a lawyer in Western Australia for many years, that what I am talking about is happening and that people are being caught up in the court system. This week we have seen cases in the courts where people with serious mental illnesses who have committed serious crimes have been treated as though they have no mental problems at all, and at least in terms of sentencing options there has been no evidence that they have been treated any differently from a person who is mentally sound. I was pleased with the minister's interjections, and perhaps this week the minister will give some thought to whether we can progress this issue in the direction I am suggesting, because it is the sort of community dividend that we need to look to improve the quality of life of a large section of our community. I hope that if we can provide the sort of backup services that are required, we will be able to assist these people to live a worthwhile life, to gain jobs and hang on to them, and to live as normal a family life as other members and I without a medical condition do. We need to recognise that some mental disorders are akin to alcoholism. The day will not arrive when the person will be cured; an ongoing management process is involved. Although the old alcoholic, who may not have brain damage, may be able to manage himself each day, there is not much evidence these people can. If we acknowledge that it is an illness that must be treated appropriately and, as I suggested to the Parliament, a committee were to make recommendations that met with support from both sides of the House, fewer people with mental disorders would enter the prison system, which, as I said earlier, is not an appropriate place for them.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Dr Edwards.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [12 midnight]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

It is my understanding that, although it is the Speaker's decision to make, as we will proceed beyond 7.00 pm tomorrow we will probably suspend the sitting for dinner and continue afterwards. I am sure Mr Speaker will confirm that tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 12.01 am (Wednesday)

APPENDIX A**INQUIRY INTO OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGICAL SERVICES AT KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

I, Richard Fairfax Court, Premier and Minister for Public Sector Management, pursuant to section 11 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and I, John Howard Dadley Day, Minister for Health, pursuant to section 9 of the *Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927*, direct and appoint Mr Neil Douglas, Legal Practitioner, as Chairman of the Inquiry, Professor William Walters, Professor of Reproductive Medicine, and Associate Professor Kathleen Fahy, Associate Professor of Nursing, to inquire into the provision of obstetric and gynaecological services at King Edward Memorial Hospital during the period 1990 to 2000 in accordance with the terms of reference set out below.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) To consider whether the incidence of adverse clinical outcomes at the hospital is acceptable and appropriate for a hospital that handles the most difficult obstetric and gynaecological cases in Western Australia;
- (2) To recommend any changes to accountabilities, policies, procedures and practices that may assist in reducing the incidence of adverse clinical outcomes;
- (3) To proceed by examining representative cases and in choosing such cases to respect the views of patients who are unwilling to be involved in such an inquiry;
- (4) To proceed with expedition;
- (5) In particular, to consider the adequacy of clinical:
 - (i) records;
 - (ii) reporting systems;
 - (iii) policies, procedures, practices; and
 - (iv) peer review.

The Inquiry is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Minister for Public Sector Management and the Minister for Health by 29 September 2000.

Should any allegations of gross carelessness, incompetence or improper or unprofessional conduct on the part of any healthcare professional come to the attention of the Inquiry, which the members of the Inquiry consider may warrant further investigation or inquiry, they are to refer such allegations to the appropriate professional or other bodies.

In these terms of reference and for the purposes of the Inquiry:

"Adverse clinical outcome" means a death or permanent or serious injury or incapacity which was attributable to the provision of obstetric or gynaecological services to a patient of the hospital.

"Healthcare professional" means a medical practitioner, a midwife, a nurse or other related professional.

"Patient" includes an unborn child.

Dated 23 May 2000

Richard Court
Premier
Minister for Public Sector Management

John Day
Minister for Health

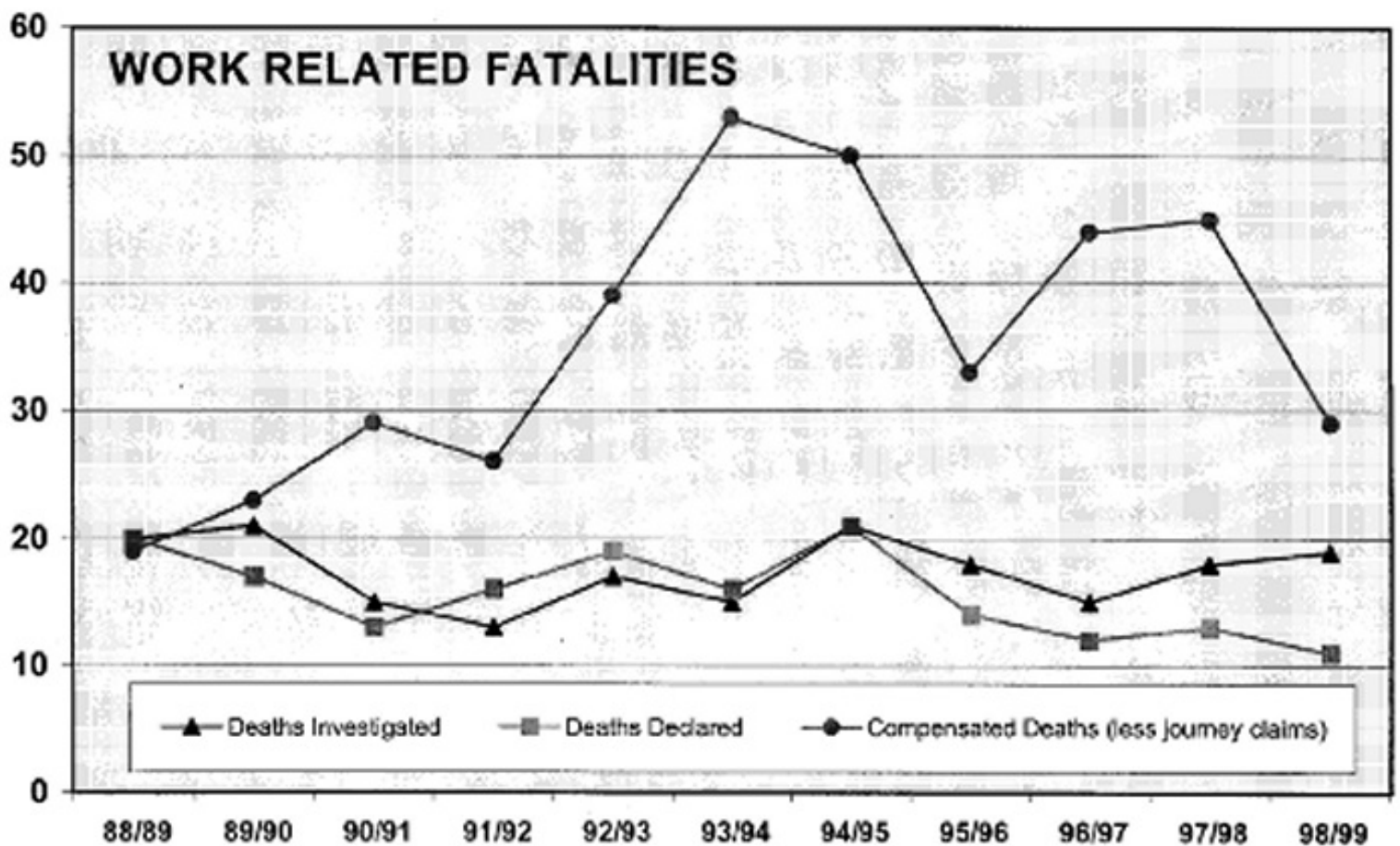
APPENDIX B

Number of work related fatalities:

WORKSAFE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Year	Deaths Investigated	Deaths Declared	Deaths Compensated	Journey claims	Compensated Deaths (less journey claims)
88/89	20	20	33	14	19
89/90	21	17	34	11	23
90/91	15	13	42	13	29
91/92	13	16	32	6	26
92/93	17	19	47	8	39
93/94	15	16	56	3	53
94/95	21	21	50	0	50
95/96	18	14	34	1	33
96/97	15	12	44	0	44
97/98	18	13	45	0	45
98/99	19	11	29	0	29
Total	192	172	446		390
5 year average 88/89 to 92/93	17.2	17	37.6	10.4	27.2
5 year average 93/94 to 97/98	17.4	15.2	45.8	0.8	45
6 year average 93/94 to 98/99	17.7	14.5	43.0	0.7	42.3



QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

WATER PIPES, BUILDING REGULATIONS

1730. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Are there regulations that specify a maximum temperature at which water comes through-
 - (a) hot water taps; and
 - (b) cold water taps?
- (2) Is it within building regulations to run cold water taps through the roof of a domestic dwelling?
- (3) If yes, why?
- (4) Will the Minister consider a review of the safety aspects of allowing cold water pipes to be enclosed in the roof cavity?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Cold water pipes may be run in roof spaces with the pipework retained in position by brackets, clips or hangers, in accordance with the National Plumbing and Drainage Code A/NZ 3500.
- (4) No.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, DATES OF COMMENCEMENT AND REVIEW

1832. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What was the date of commencement of the Freedom of Information Act 1992?
- (2) On what date was the statutory review of the operation and effectiveness of the Freedom of Information Act established?
- (3) On what date was the report completed containing the outcome of this review of the Freedom of Information Act 1992?
- (4) Has the Minister prepared a report based on the review of the Freedom of Information Act and if so, on what date was the report completed?
- (5) On what date was the report prepared by the Minister based on the review of the Freedom of Information Act tabled in the Western Australian Parliament?
- (6) What action, if any, is the Minister proposing to take following this statutory review of the Freedom of Information Act 1992?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Divisions 1 and 2 of Part 4 of the Freedom of Information Act commenced on 11 June 1993 to enable the appointment of the Information Commissioner on 1 July 1993. The remainder of the Freedom of Information Act commenced with effect on 1 November 1993.
- (2) On 11 June 1997 by letter from Attorney General to which was attached the terms of reference. The review was

to be completed by 1 September 1997.

- (3) 1 September 1997.
- (4) Yes, 31 October 1997.
- (5) 11 November 1997.
- (6) Consider the recommendations of the review and if accepted by the Government introduce amending legislation.

CALM, REVIEW OF PLANTATIONS BUSINESS UNIT ACTIVITIES

1838. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Forest Products:

- (1) Who wrote the “*Review of CALM Plantations Business Unit Activities*” report released on 22 February 2000?
- (2) What role did each of the four Government departments listed on the front cover play in the writing and/or editing of the report?
- (3) What role did the Minister or Minister’s office play in writing and/or editing the report?
- (4) Why was the release of the report held up for almost two months?
- (5) Why was the Minister’s media statement, released with the report, dated five days before the actual release date?
- (6) Does the report define the term ‘stockpile’, and if yes, on what page(s)?
- (7) What annual volume of pine sawlogs does the report say is available from public and private plantations -
 - (a) from now until 2003; and
 - (b) from 2003 onwards?
- (8) What volume of pine sawlogs does the report say is actually being cut now, and where is this stated in the report?
- (9) What was the volume of pine sawlogs cut in the last three years?
- (10) What annual volume of pine sawlogs does Judy Clark say is available, in her public and written statements since 1998?
- (11) Given that there is a large discrepancy between the volume of pine sawlogs available now, and the volume of pine sawlogs actually being harvested now, what will the Government do now to immediately expand the pine processing industry?
- (12) Will the Minister provide the report or reports prepared by the consultants that the Minister for the Environment said in her media statement of 17 September 1999 would conduct the assessment of CALM’s plantation operations?
- (13) How much were the independent consultants paid?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) Forestry Pacific Pty Ltd (FORPAC) were the principal consultants responsible for the preparation of the report. They worked in association with other consultants in preparing parts of the report. These were Beca Simons Pty Ltd and Forest Business Solutions.
- (2) Officers of the four Departments acted as a Steering Committee to recommend on the appointment of a consultant, to ensure the consultant adequately addressed the Terms of Reference provided by Cabinet, and to facilitate the availability of information to the consultant. A draft report was provided to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee reviewed the draft and provided feedback to the consultant.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) The Minister for the Environment, who was originally responsible for the Review, was on leave during January. The subsequent re-organisation of Cabinet responsibilities resulted in this responsibility being passed onto the Minister for Forest Products. The report was then released as soon as I was conversant with the issues.

- (5) The draft had been prepared before the final release. Due to an oversight it had not been updated.
- (6) It is not defined explicitly. On Page 33 of the Review it states “The review concludes it is necessary to grow a significant quantity of trees past rotation age in order to make up for yield reductions which will occur as shown in Figure 6.5. Thus no “stockpile” of wood exists”. By inference a stockpile could be defined as “a significant quantity of trees unnecessarily grown past rotation age”.
- (7) (a) Not stated but illustrated in figure 6.4.
- (b) Gross yield of 616,000 cubic metres available in 2003 and a sustainable supply of 576,000 cubic metres CALM-managed plantations in the Bunbury and Albany areas (Table 6.4 page 37). The report does not make any statement about sustainable sawlog supply from privately-managed plantations. It does provide a gross yield estimate of 120,000 cubic metres per annum (Table 6.4)
- (8) In Table 5.1 on Page 15 it is indicated that production of pine sawlogs from CALM-managed plantations in 1998/99 was 277,090 cubic metres.
- (9) Production in the last three years is shown in the table below. The volume from CALM excludes private plantation harvesting by CALM. The private plantations volume is an estimate based on returns provided to CALM.

	Volume (cubic metres)		
	CALM	Private	TOTAL
96/97	253,724	42,944	296,668
97/98	262,348	56,847	319,195
98/99	266,516	63,053	329,569

Source: Annual Reports

- (10) Judy Clark has made many statements over several years about the potential for log production from plantations. An account for all her public and written statements is not kept.
- (11) There is not a large discrepancy between log availability and planned supply. Projected supply and commitments are shown in Figure 6.4. The Government is managing its plantation estate to ensure the continuous and growing supply of logs to industry. Since 1992 the Government has been increasing its supply of sawlogs to Wespine towards the planned level of 400,000 cubic metres per annum. It has also sought the development of other new industries. As early as 1996 statements of capability were submitted for the establishment of a laminated veneer lumber (LVL) plant in Perth area and an oriented strand board plant in the Mt Barker area. The LVL proposal is still under active negotiation and is planned to utilise 160,000 cubic metres of log resource. It is not possible to immediately expand the pine processing industry as suggested. The expansion of the industry takes a great deal of planning to reach fruition. Due to the hard work done in the past I expect that over the next 3 years there will be a significant and progressive increase in the volume of sawlogs taken in by Wespine and I am hopeful that the LVL plant will have been built and deliveries commenced. If this is the case then the available sawlog resource from CALM-managed plantations will be fully committed. In addition there is the potential for the development of new industry based on the Albany plantation resource. These plantations are younger and in the short-term will provide log material of below sawlog size.
- (12) The Consultant’s report was released on 22 February 2000.
- (13) \$82,000.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ONSITE CHILD CARE

1855. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Premier’s control offer or provide on-site childcare facilities for employees?
- (2) What is the nature of the facilities offered?
- (3) Are any departments or agencies under the Premier’s control giving consideration to offering such on-site childcare facilities?
- (4) If so, what departments and agencies?
- (5) Do any departments and agencies under the Premier’s control have the plans to offer or provide on-site childcare facilities to employees?

- (6) If so, when?
- (7) What is the nature of the facilities that will be provided?

Mr COURT replied:

I am advised that :

Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet

- (1)-(7) The Minister of the Premier and Cabinet currently has no on-site childcare facilities for its employees. There are no plans by the Ministry to offer such on-site facilities.

Treasury

- (1) Treasury does not provide on-site childcare facilities for employees.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) No.
(4) Not applicable.
(5) No.
(6)-(7) Not applicable.

Government Projects Office

- (1) Nil.
(2)-(7) Not applicable.

Anti-Corruption Commission

- (1) The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) does not offer or provide on-site childcare facilities for employees.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) No.
(4) Not applicable.
(5) No.
(6)-(7) Not applicable.

Governor's Establishment

- (1) Not provided.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) No.
(4) Not applicable.
(5) No.
(6)-(7) Not applicable.

Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner

- (1) No on-site childcare facilities are offered by this Office.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) No.
(4) Not applicable.
(5) No.
(6)-(7) Not applicable.

Gold Corporation

- (1) Gold Corporation does not provide on-site childcare facilities for employees.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) No.
(4) Not applicable.
(5) No.
(6)-(7) Not applicable.

Office of the Auditor General

- (1)-(7) The Office of the Auditor General has no on-site childcare facilities for employees.

WA Treasury Corporation

- (1)-(7) The Western Australian Treasury Corporation does not provide on-site childcare facilities for employees. The Western Australian Treasury Corporation has no plans to offer such on-site childcare facilities.

1878. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

(1) Has each department and agency under the Deputy Premier's control assessed the degree to which the Goods and Services tax will effect all -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other costs; and
- (e) fees,

charged to consumers, clients, users etc of each department and agency?

(2) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

of each department and agency will be effected by the Goods and Services tax?

(3) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will increase a consequence of the Goods and Services tax?

(4) What will be the percentage and monetary amount of the increase?

(5) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will decrease as a result of the introduction of the Goods and Services tax?

(6) In percentage and monetary terms, what will be the amount of the decrease?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1)-(6) This information will be released as part of the budget process.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

1886. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

(1) Has each department and agency under the Attorney General's control assessed the degree to which the Goods and Services tax will effect all -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other costs; and
- (e) fees,

charged to consumers, clients, users etc of each department and agency?

(2) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

of each department and agency will be effected by the Goods and Services tax?

(3) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will increase a consequence of the Goods and Services tax?

(4) What will be the percentage and monetary amount of the increase?

(5) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will decrease as a result of the introduction of the Goods and Services tax?

(6) In percentage and monetary terms, what will be the amount of the decrease?

Mr DAY replied:

(1)-(6) This information will be released as part of the budget process.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

1893. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Has each department and agency under the Minister's control assessed the degree to which the Goods and Services tax will effect all -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other costs; and
- (e) fees,

charged to consumers, clients, users etc of each department and agency?

(2) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

of each department and agency will be effected by the Goods and Services tax?

(3) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;

- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will increase as a consequence of the Goods and Services tax?

(4) What will be the percentage and monetary amount of the increase?

(5) What -

- (a) charges;
- (b) fares;
- (c) tariffs;
- (d) other consumer charges; and
- (e) fees,

will decrease as a result of the introduction of the Goods and Services tax?

(6) In percentage and monetary terms, what will be the amount of the decrease?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

(1)-(6) This information will be released as part of the budget process.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL BUYING COMPACT

1897. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) Is the Premier committed to ensuring all departments and agencies under the Premier's control implement the Regional Buying Compact?
- (2) Have chief executive officers of all departments and agencies under the Premier's control been instructed to apply the Regional Buying Compact?
- (3) What processes does each department and agency under the Premier's control implement to ensure that work to be put out to tender in regional Western Australia is packaged in tenders capable of allowing local business to compete for such contracts?
- (4) Does each department and agency under the Premier's ensure, when preparing tenders for work in regional Western Australia, that such tenders are not of a size that preclude regional business from tendering for the contract?
- (5) In preparing and allocating tenders for work in regional Western Australia, does each department and agency, wherever possible and within the financial constraints imposed by the Regional Buying Compact, ensure that -
 - (a) tenders for work in regional Western Australia are allocated to local business in the region; or
 - (b) where tenders are not allocated to a local business, the successful tenderer uses local business to fulfil the contract to the maximum extent possible?
- (6) What procedures does each department and agency use to ensure -
 - (a) all tenders are prepared in such a way as to give local regional businesses a fair opportunity to compete; and
 - (b) contracts allocated to non-regional businesses are properly monitored to ensure maximum regional local content?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The Regional Buying Compact is applicable to all public authorities, including all government departments, agencies and trading concerns.
- (2) Chief Executive Officers are to ensure that Government policies are complied with and that they fully support local industries and regional economic development.
- (3)-(4) The structure of contracts is a decision for each Government department. However, in designing contracts, the

Regional Buying Compact encourages departments to package the purchase of goods and services in appropriately sized contracts to enable regional suppliers to participate.

- (5) (a) Chief Executive Officers are accountable for the conduct of the buying function in their agency and are expected to focus on structuring tenders on a regional basis, where possible, to encourage regional suppliers to participate in government buying.
- (b) A preference is provided to encourage non-regional tenderers to maximize the regional content within their bid.
- (6) (a) It is the responsibility of Chief Executive Officers to ensure that buying practices, procedures and specifications do not disadvantage local suppliers.
- (b) Procedures for monitoring contract requirements are undertaken as part of the relevant Public Authorities Contracts Management process. Guidelines for the establishment of contract management processes are available to agencies in *The State Supply Commission's Policies and Guidelines Manual*. Public authorities, as part of the ongoing contract management process, should ensure that commitments such as regional content in the delivery of the service, are fulfilled throughout the contract term.

KALGOORLIE-ESPERANCE, ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY LAYOUT PLANS

1954. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Has the Government prepared community layout plans for major Aboriginal communities in the Kalgoorlie/Esperance region?
- (2) If so, are the plans publicly available?
- (3) If not, is work underway to prepare the plans?
- (4) When will the plans be completed?

Dr HAMES replied:

The member is referred to the answer provided to Question on Notice No. 1953.

KALGOORLIE-ESPERANCE, MINERAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

1960. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has the Government prepared a mineral resource inventory for the Kalgoorlie/Esperance region to clarify the land available for future townsite expansion?
- (2) Does the Government plan to prepare such an inventory?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(4) See answer to Question on Notice 1958.

HOSPITALS, SUICIDES

2002. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) For each year from 1989 to 1999, how many suicides occurred at the following facilities-
 - (a) Fremantle Hospital Psychiatric Unit;
 - (b) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital psychiatric wards;
 - (c) Royal Perth Hospital psychiatric wards; and
- (2) For the same years and facilities, what were the number of admissions?

Mr DAY replied:

(1)	(a)	(b)	(c)
Year	Fremantle Hospital	SCGH	RPH
1989	**	#	*
1990	**	#	*
1991	**	#	*
1992	**	#	*
1993	**	#	0
1994	0	#	0
1995	1	#	1
1996	0	#	0
1997	0	0	0
1998	1	0	0
1999	0	0	0

* Data only available since 1993

** Fremantle Hospital's Psychiatric Wing opened in 1994 and figures are only available from that date

Specific data not collected in this period.

(2)	1989	+	
	1990		
	1991		
	1992		
	1993/94		398
	1994/95	577	635
	1995/96	1177	630
	1996/97	1498	707
	1997/98	1330	925
	1998/99	1554	794
	1999/Feb 2000	1142	814

+ Admission data is only available from 1996

KALGOORLIE REGIONAL HOSPITAL, WARD A

2045. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Health:

I refer to Ward A of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and ask-

- (a) when was the ward closed;
- (b) why;
- (c) when will it re-open;
- (d) how many beds did it contain in-
 - (i) 1993;
 - (ii) 1994;
 - (iii) 1995;
 - (iv) 1996;
 - (v) 1997;
 - (vi) 1998;
 - (vii) 1999; and
 - (viii) 2000 to time of closure;
- (e) how many staff were employed on the ward for each of the years referred to in question (d);
- (f) how much money has been saved by the closure since it occurred;
- (g) who made the decision to close the ward; and
- (h) what plans exist to establish a private ward at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) December 1997.

- (b) For routine maintenance work.
- (c) There is no plan to re-open A Ward as a medical ward. Tenders for the development of the 6 bed Acute Mental Health Inpatient facility will be called by the end of May 2000, which will occupy one wing of A Ward. The other wing is currently occupied by the Special Care Unit and the Gaburu Dialysis Unit which opened in 1997.
- (d) A Ward contained the following number of beds and staff (FTE) for the following years:
- | | | | |
|--------|------|----------------------|-------|
| (i) | 1993 | 28 | 25.6 |
| (ii) | 1994 | 28 | 25.6 |
| (iii) | 1995 | 16 (1 bed dialysis) | 14.5 |
| (iv) | 1996 | 14 (2 beds dialysis) | 13.9 |
| (v) | 1997 | 14 | 12.75 |
| (vi) | 1998 | 0 | |
| (vii) | 1999 | 0 | |
| (viii) | 2000 | 0 | |
- (e) As above. When the bed numbers fell in 1995 there was a corresponding increase in bed numbers on B Ward, the other acute medical ward. Therefore, there was no change in the number of acute medical beds. From 1997 the new dialysis unit became fully operational, employing 6.75 FTE (operating Monday to Saturday with no night shift).
- (f) No monetary savings have occurred as a result of A Ward closure as staff resources have been utilised in B Ward and the dialysis unit.
- (g) Hospital Executive.
- (h) As part of the Kalgoorlie Boulder Health Service Board strategic planning, discussions are continuing on the provision of a private ward on the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital site

JOONDALUP HEALTH CAMPUS, POSTCODES SERVICED

2049. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What are the postcodes that the Joondalup Health Campus public facility is required to service?
- (2) Of the patients who have needed to be admitted to a public hospital in 1998-99 what percentage of those admissions were from the Joondalup area, and which hospitals were they admitted to?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Joondalup Health Campus public facility is not required to service specific postcodes. The Government purchases health services from private and public providers. No provider, whether private or public may exclude a patient on the basis of the postcode where that patient is normally resident. All providers, including the Joondalup Health Campus, are required to treat any patient who requires emergency aid if they have the capacity to do so. All Health Services have geographic areas based on identified postcodes and statistical local areas located within their administrative areas. These indicative boundaries are used for the purposes of planning, management and epidemiological analysis but have no direct effect on the provision of health services at client level.
- (2) 6.03%.

Hospital	% of admissions from the Joondalup area
Albany Regional Hospital	0.15%
Armadale/Kelmscott District Memorial	0.45%
Augusta District Hospital	0.65%
Bentley Hospital	2.21%
Beverley District Hospital	0.42%
Bridgetown District Hospital	0.07%
Broome District Hospital	0.33%
Bunbury Regional Hospital	0.28%
Busselton District Hospital	0.65%
Carnarvon Regional Hospital	0.44%
Central Drug Unit	9.38%
Collie District Hospital	0.13%
Corrigin District Hospital	0.57%

Dalwallinu District Hospital	0.63%
Denmark District Hospital	0.19%
Derby Regional Hospital	0.08%
Dongara Health Service	0.44%
Donnybrook District Hospital	0.49%
Esperance District Hospital	0.22%
Exmouth District Hospital	2.27%
Fremantle Hospital	1.37%
Geraldton Regional Hospital	0.31%
Halls Creek Hospital, 6770	0.12%
Harvey District Hospital	0.10%
Kalamunda Community District Hospital	0.66%
Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital	0.17%
Katanning District Hospital	0.15%
King Edward Memorial Hospital For Women	8.86%
Kojonup District Hospital	1.05%
Kununoppin District Hospital	0.41%
Lake Grace District Hospital	0.57%
Laverton District Hospital	1.04%
Leonora District Hospital	1.36%
Margaret River District Hospital	0.95%
Meekatharra District Hospital	0.14%
Merredin District Hospital	0.33%
Moora District Hospital	0.26%
Mullewa District Hospital	0.51%
Murray District Hospital (Pinjarra)	0.19%
Nannup District Hospital	8.33%
Narrogin Regional Hospital	0.17%
Newman District Hospital	0.36%
Nickol Bay Hospital	0.32%
Norseman District Hospital	1.83%
Northam Regional Hospital	0.12%
Northampton District Hospital	1.00%
Onslow District Hospital	0.28%
Osborne Park Hospital	29.08%
Paraburdoo District Hospital	0.29%
Pemberton District Hospital	0.87%
Port Hedland Regional Hospital	0.07%
Princess Margaret Hospital For Children	12.89%
Ravensthorpe District Hospital	0.26%
Rockingham - Kwinana District Hospital	0.06%
Royal Perth Hospital	6.49%
Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital	5.44%
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	16.23%
Southern Cross District Hospital	1.55%
Swan Districts Hospital	2.00%
Tom Price District Hospital	0.30%
Wagin District Hospital	1.23%
Warren District Hospital (Manjimup)	0.12%
Wickham District Hospital	0.08%
Wongan Hills District Hospital	1.40%
Woodside Maternity Hospital	1.71%
Wyalkatchem - Koorda District Hospital	0.63%
Wyndham District Hospital	0.13%
Grand Total	6.03%

Note: Joondalup Area is the administrative area. These percentages include all patients including public, private, private uninsured, workers compensation, Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Defence Force personnel, ineligible, and Other. (Source of data WA HMDS).

HEALTH, MR JERRY CASSIS

2056. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

With reference to question on notice No. 641 of 1999, what are Mr Jerry Cassis' tertiary qualifications in financial accounting, commerce or economics?

Mr DAY replied:

Mr Cassis has a management and personnel diploma from a higher education institution (Wagga Wagga Institute of Higher Education).

HEALTH, MRS HARDCASTLE

2059. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

With reference to questions on notice Nos 402 and 640 respectively, was Mrs Hardcastle paid \$7, 250 or \$11, 000 for her services as a facilitator?

Mr DAY replied:

Mrs Hardcastle was paid a total of \$11 000, as advised to Parliament on 14 September 1999.

WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS, COMMON LAW DAMAGES

2065. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister assisting the Treasurer:

- (1) How many claims for workers' compensation were made in the public sector in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (2) Of those claims, how many applicants underwent medical assessments for common law damages claims for work related injuries caused by employer negligence?
- (3) What were the statistics recorded for the answer to (2) above, using the following degree of permanent disability categories –
 - (a) less than 10%;
 - (b) 11-15%;
 - (c) 16-29%; and
 - (d) above 30%?
- (4) How many of the applicants in the answer to (2) above, were successful in their claims for common law damages?
- (5) How many of the applicants in the answer to (2) above, are unable to return to work at the present time?
- (6) How many of the applicants in the answer to (2) above, are unable to work ever again?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) 5,420 claims (excluding Western Power and Fire & Emergency Services) lodged, but not necessarily incurred in the 1998/99 financial year.
- (2) 47 applicants have undergone medico-legal assessment arranged by the RiskCover Division of the Insurance Commission. This figure does not include medico-legal assessment arranged by workers' solicitors.
- (3)
 - (a) 9 claims
 - (b) 1 claim
 - (c) 14 claims
 - (d) 5 claims
 No indication of permanent disability - 18 claims.
- (4) 21 applicants.
- (5) 27 applicants.
- (6) 10 applicants.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION, COMMISSIONER PARKES

2078. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) When did the Minister for Labour Relations first become aware that there were complaints over the tardiness of Commissioner Parkes in handing down his determinations on matters he had heard as a Commissioner of the

Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission?

- (2) What action did the Minister take on receiving complaints due to Commissioner Parkes inability to give his decisions in a timely manner?
- (3) What action, if any, did the Minister take prior to these problems being raised in the Parliamentary Estimates Committee in April 1999?
- (4) At what stage did the Minister come to realise the extent of the problems created by Commissioner Parkes' inordinate delays in determining his decisions?
- (5) Why has the Minister failed to take any action on the recommendation provided to the Government in the 1995 Fielding Report that the principal act be amended to require Western Australian Industrial Relations Commissioners to make timely judgements?
- (6) What was the date of Commissioner Parkes' first letter of resignation and from what date, according to that letter, was his resignation to take effect?
- (7) What action was taken in response to this first letter of resignation and did these actions in effect amount to Commissioner Parkes' formal resignation from the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission?
- (8) As at 30 January 2000, how many decisions remained to be finalised by Commissioner Parkes?
- (9) Did Commissioner Parkes continue as a Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission beyond the appointed date of his first letter of resignation?
- (10) If so, then how was his term as a Commissioner extended?
- (11) As of what date was Commissioner Parkes actually no longer a Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission?
- (12) What was the actual work load by number of cases and registration of enterprise bargaining agreements allocated to Commissioner Parkes from April 1999 up until the time of his retirement?
- (13) What role did the Minister play with respect to the retirement or the postponement of the retirement of Commissioner Parkes in December 1999 or thereabouts?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) See answer to Question Without Notice 869 of 3 June 1999.
- (3) None. The first time the matter was drawn to my attention was in the Parliamentary Estimates Committee in May 1999.
- (4) See answer to Question Without Notice 869 of 3 June 1999.
- (5) Legislation is not imperative to achieve this end. It is a management matter for the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.
- (6) Commissioner Parks notified me on 2 June 1999 by writing of his intention to resign on 24 December 1999. Commissioner Parks' first letter of resignation to the Governor was dated 21 December 1999, with the resignation to take effect on 31 January 2000.
- (7) No action was required by me. Formal resignation requires the Commissioner to notify the Governor.
- (8) I am unaware. The Commission is an independent statutory body.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) Under the provisions of section 18 of the Industrial Relations Act 1979. The section provides that, notwithstanding the retirement of a member of the Commission, the Governor may extend his period in office in order to enable him to complete all matters he has not completed before the retirement.
- (11) Commissioner Parks' resignation was effective from 31 January 2000. He was subsequently re-appointed for a period from 28 February until 7 March 2000 inclusive, to enable him to finalise outstanding matters. As of 8 March, he was no longer a Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

(12) See (8) above.

(13) None.

METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE BOARD, VISITING MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

2098. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Annual Report of the Metropolitan Health Service Board (MHSB) and ask-

- (a) is the Minister aware that one visiting Medical Practitioner (VMP) has received between \$575,000 - \$600,000 for the 1998/99 financial year;
- (b) which hospital or hospitals were provided with a service by the VMP referred to in (a); and
- (c) how does the MHSB justify such a situation?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The doctor provided medical services to the Metropolitan Health Service at:
Kalamunda Health Service
Armadale Health Service
Swan Health Service
Bentley Health Service.
- (c) The situation has arisen because historically VMPs could be engaged within the Metropolitan Health Service under a separate medical service contract for each Health Service. The Metropolitan Health Service structure enables a review of medical service delivery arrangements across the metropolitan area to ensure they are justified on a value-for-money basis.

HOSPITALS, DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE LIMITS

2111. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With regard to the ability of individual departments in major hospitals in the metropolitan area to order equipment and disposable materials, what is the dollar limit placed on departments for each order?
- (2) Who is responsible for agreeing to orders of equipment and materials which exceed this limit?

Mr DAY replied:

KEM/PMH	(1) \$10,000	(2) Clinical Directors up to \$50,000, CE to \$100,000
SCGH	\$10,000	Corporate, Clinical and Divisional Directors to \$50,000, CE to \$250,000
FREMANTLE Equipment	\$10,000	Corporate & Clinical Directors, Business Managers
Disposable Materials	\$15,000	
RPH Head of Departments	\$20,000	Divisional Directors & CE
Supply Manager	\$50,000	

"HEALTH 2020"

2113. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

When is the report '*Health 2020*' due to be released?

Mr DAY replied:

Health 2020: A Plan for Metropolitan Perth was released on Friday 3 March 2000.

HOSPITALS, CLINICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

2114. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the total number of clinical staff (FTEs) in each of the following hospitals -
- (a) Royal Perth Hospital (excluding Shenton Park Annex);
 - (b) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
 - (c) Fremantle Hospital;
 - (d) Princess Margaret Hospital;
 - (e) King Edward Memorial Hospital; and
 - (f) Joondalup Hospital?
- (2) What is the total number of administrative staff (FTEs) in the above listed hospitals?
- (3) What was the total number of clinical staff (FTEs) in these hospitals in 1997 and 1998?
- (4) What was the total number of administrative staff (FTEs) in these hospitals in 1997 and 1998?

Mr DAY replied:

(1)	(a) RPH 2957.58	(b) SCGH 1612	(c) FH&HS 1368.11	(d) PMH 936.80	(e) KEMH 591.14	(f) JOONDALUP 424.8
(2)	741.57	497	734.18	755.68 (combined)		265.29
(3)	1997 1998	3063.4 3055.5	1467 1590	1263.73 1329.39	935.96 916.76	591.97 591.23
						96/97 - 102.65) 97/98 - 172.85)* 98/99 - 345.08)
(4)	1997 1998	741.10 758.60	507 516	687.89 712.92	816.05 (combined) 803.73 (combined)	96/97 - 66.67) 97/98 - 107.12)* 98/99 - 219.00)

* Joondalup Health Campus records FTE staffing details by financial year only. FTE information is not readily available for calendar years. The answers for this question are therefore given for the financial years which span the requested time periods.

HOSPITALS, SENIOR MANAGERS ON SECONDMENT

2117. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

How many senior managers at each of the following hospitals are on secondment -

- (a) Royal Perth Hospital (excluding Shenton Park Annex);
- (b) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
- (c) Fremantle Hospital;
- (d) Princess Margaret Hospital; and
- (e) King Edward Memorial Hospital?

Mr DAY replied:

(a)	Royal Perth Hospital (excluding Shenton Park Annex)	- One
(b)	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	- Three
(c)	Fremantle Hospital	- One
(d)	Princess Margaret Hospital; and }	
(e)	King Edward Memorial Hospital }	Two

HOSPITALS, BED AND WARD CLOSURES

2118. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

In each of the following hospitals -

- (a) Royal Perth Hospital (excluding Shenton Park Annex);
- (b) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
- (c) Fremantle Hospital;
- (d) Princess Margaret Hospital;

- (e) King Edward Memorial Hospital; and
 (g) Joondalup Hospital,
- (i) how many wards were closed on 1 March, 2000; and
 (ii) how many beds were closed on 1 March, 2000?

Mr DAY replied:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
	RPH	SCGH	FH&HS	PMH	KEMH	JOONDALUP
(i)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii)	Nil	10 beds were closed but are opened when required	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PYRTON SITE, WOMENS PRISON

2128. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Does the Government plan to establish a minimum security women's prison on the Pyrtton site in Eden Hill?
- (2) Does the Government plan to use certain buildings on that site that were formally used by the Disability Services Commission?
- (3) What is the approximate cost of refurbishing those buildings?
- (4) What is the nature of work that needs to be carried out in the buildings in order to make them habitable for minimum security prisoners?
- (5) What is the estimated cost of that work?
- (6) Does the Government intend to call tenders for that work?
- (7) If so, when does the Government intend to call those tenders?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) Yes, it has.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Ministry of Justice has only developed detailed estimates for the refurbishment of the existing accommodation building of \$1.5M to \$1.7M.
- (4) Upgrade of existing building services to meet code requirements, minor alterations and fitout, furniture and equipment.
- (5) See (3) above.
- (6) It is intended that recommissioning of existing site services will be undertaken by the existing maintenance contractor and that the balance of the building works will be tendered.
- (7) It is intended to call tenders for that work as soon as practical after the necessary approvals are in place and necessary tender documents prepared.
- (8) Not applicable.

GRAYLANDS HOSPITAL, LETTER FROM MR JOHN MEAHAN

2143 Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that the Graylands Hospital (Frankland Centre) received a letter from John Meahan, President of the State Council of St Vincent de Paul dated 12 October 1998 about a former client "Eric"?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the date a reply to Mr Meahan was issued?
- (3) If no response has been issued, why?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) The files have been checked and Graylands Selby-Lemnos and Special Care Health Services (Frankland Centre) are unable to confirm receipt of the above letter.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, FUNDING TO NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

2144 Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What funding from the State Government Health Department have the following non government organisations-
 - (a) Salvation Army;
 - (b) Anglicare Welfare;
 - (c) De Paul – Rurah Inreach, Maralec;
 - (d) Baptist welfare;
 - (e) Vincent Care – St Vincent de Paul; and
 - (f) Wesley Mission,
 received for mental health programs during-
 - (i) 1994-95;
 - (ii) 1995-96;
 - (iii) 1996-97;
 - (iv) 1997-98; and
 - (v) 1998-99?
- (2) How many staff were employed in each of the above non government organisations during-
 - (a) 1997-98; and
 - (b) 1998-99?
- (3) What were the specific qualifications of staff employed in each of the above non government organisations during-
 - (a) 1997-98; and
 - (b) 1998-99?
- (4) Who determined the allocation of funding to non government organisations providing a mental health service during-
 - (a) 1997-98; and
 - (b) 1998-99?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) (a) Salvation Army

(i)	1994-95	1994/95 is not available
(ii)	1995-96	\$8,610
(iii)	1996-97	\$36,000
(iv)	1997-98	\$43,000
(v)	1998-99	\$44,100
- (b) Anglicare Welfare

(i)	1994-95	NIL
(ii)	1995-96	NIL
(iii)	1996-97	NIL
(iv)	1997-98	NIL
(v)	1998-99	NIL

- (c) De Paul – Rurah Inreach, Maralec; - known as the Daughters of Charity (RUAH Inreach)
- | | | |
|-------|---------|--------------------------|
| (i) | 1994-95 | 1994/95 is not available |
| (ii) | 1995-96 | \$1,126,890 |
| (iii) | 1996-97 | \$1,235,560 |
| (iv) | 1997-98 | \$1,400,500 |
| (v) | 1998-99 | \$1,158,289 |
- (d) Baptist Welfare (- known as WA Baptist Homes)
- | | | |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| (i) | 1994-95 | NIL |
| (ii) | 1995-96 | NIL |
| (iii) | 1996-97 | \$19,640 |
| (iv) | 1997-98 | \$119,200 |
| (v) | 1998-99 | \$301,800 |
- (e) Vincent Care – St Vincent de Paul
- | | | |
|-------|---------|-----|
| (i) | 1994-95 | NIL |
| (ii) | 1995-96 | NIL |
| (iii) | 1996-97 | NIL |
| (iv) | 1997-98 | NIL |
| (v) | 1998-99 | NIL |
- (f) Wesley Mission
- | | | |
|-------|---------|--------------------------|
| (i) | 1994-95 | 1994/95 is not available |
| (ii) | 1995-96 | \$139,000 |
| (iii) | 1996-97 | \$139,000 |
| (iv) | 1997-98 | \$159,000 |
| (v) | 1998-99 | \$163,000 |

- (2)-(3) This information is not required under the organisation's reporting obligations to the Health Department of Western Australia.
- (4) Allocations were determined through a number of different tender, panel and grant processes and endorsed by the General Manager, Mental Health.

PINJARRA HOSPITAL, CLOSURE

2148. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to Pinjarra Hospital and ask the Minister, if a decision has been made to close Pinjarra Hospital?
- (2) If so, on what date will it close?
- (3) If not, what are the Government's intentions in regard to this hospital?
- (4) What is the annual budget allocation for Pinjarra Hospital?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Health Department is currently engaged in examining the health needs of the area and will develop options for the optimal use of the hospital in collaboration with the local health service.
- (4) Figure is estimated as \$4.789M.

WATER RESOURCES, ALEX GARDENER'S REVIEW OF APPEALS

2175. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When was Alex Gardener commissioned to undertake a review of appeals relating to water decisions?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for this review?
- (3) When will it be released for public comment?

- (4) For what length of time will it be released for public comment?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(4) I consider that the current appeals system is working satisfactorily. Under the existing legislation, applicants can make appeals against decisions of the Water and Rivers Commission to the Minister for Water Resources. This system is considered fair and accessible, and has broad community acceptance.

The changes in the proposed new legislation mean that the appellant will have a choice as to whether the appeal is to be considered by a committee of inquiry before the Minister makes his decision. The Minister will be required to provide a copy of the inquiry panel's report to the appellant. It also means the Minister will be required to explain why he has made his decision. This will make the decision transparent to the appellant and community at large and will make the Minister fully accountable. However, there has been some concern raised as to its effectiveness by a small group of people. In order to ensure Western Australia has the most appropriate appeals system, I have agreed to review the system. As the first step of this review, the Commission engaged Mr Alex Gardner on 24 September 1999 to prepare a report independently evaluating the practical and legal aspects of the current and alternative appeal systems. The report is required to address the procedures for objections and appeals, consider the appropriate limits on who may object or appeal and who should bear the costs involved, and also examine alternative processes.

Following consideration of the report, it is my intention the report be used to prepare a proposal for public comment. I expect preparation of the proposal to take approximately three months and it will then be released for public comment for at least three months.

NATIVE TITLE EXPENDITURE, LITIGATION AND MEDIATION

2189. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Since and including the 1993/94 financial year, what has been the annual expenditure of the State's law agencies on -
- (a) native title litigation;
 - (b) native title mediation, including future act negotiations?
- (2) How many officers in the State's law agencies are dedicated to native title issues and what are their positions?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1)	(a)	Financial Year	Native Title Costs
		1993/94	\$ 721,798
		1994/95	\$ 746,825
		1995/96	\$1,871,163
		1996/97	\$2,313,695
		1997/98	\$3,957,520
		1998/99	\$2,745,536
		July 1999 to March 2000	\$3,733,453

- (b) Mediation and negotiations are undertaken by staff of other agencies.

- (2) I refer the member to the answer provided to Legislative Council Question on Notice 1422.

NATIVE TITLE TEST DECISIONS, COURT ACTION BY GOVERNMENT

2191. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many registration test decisions made by the National Native Title Tribunal in relation to native title applications are or have been the subject of court action by the State Government?
- (2) What were the matters and in each case, what was the outcome?
- (3) What was the Government's expenditure on this litigation?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Five (5)

- (2) Gnaala Karla Booja
Ngadju
Wongatha
Koara
Combined Metropolitan

The State applications to review were allowed in the first four matters whilst the fifth application remains adjourned to a date to be fixed.

- (3) Costs incurred by the Crown Solicitor's Office in relation to these reviews are as follows:
- | Matter | Expenditure |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Gnaala Karla Booja | \$11,565 |
| Ngadju | \$ 3,569 |
| Wongatha | \$ 9,898 |
| Koara | \$ 4,159 |
| Combined Metro | \$ 2,426 |

MINISTRY OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET, NATIVE TITLE AND STRATEGIC ISSUES DIVISION

2192. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

- (1) How many staff are employed in the Native Title and Strategic Issues Division of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet?
- (2) What are their names, positions and classifications?
- (3) What is the 1999/2000 budget for the division?
- (4) What is the breakdown of the budget?
- (5) How much of the budget is dedicated to mediation of native title applications?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) 6 full time, 1 part time (seconded).
- (2) Vera Novak, Assistant Director General, Level 9
John Catlin, Principal Policy Consultant, Level 8
Melinda Ashley, Principal Policy Officer, Level 7
Rachel Chapman, A/Senior Policy Officer, Level 6
Marlene Abreu, Personal Secretary, Level 2
Sue-Ellen Coldicutt, Records Co-ordinator, part time on secondment, Level 3
Vacant Consultant, Class 4
- (3) The total budget for the Division is \$1,108,000.
- (4) Salaries and allowances: \$532,000
Other staffing costs: \$136,300
Communications: \$15,000
Services and contracts: \$365,700
Consumable supplies: \$22,000
Maintenance of plant and equipment: \$7,000
Purchase of plant and equipment: \$30,000
- (5) Of the total budget, \$300,000 is intended to cover costs of native title negotiations.

NATIVE TITLE LEGISLATION, IMPACT ON SETTLEMENT OF APPLICATIONS

2194. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

Will the Premier explain how the State's native title legislation will expedite the settlement of native title applications?

Mr COURT replied:

The State Provisions (Native Title) Act 1999 focuses on the management of future acts under the Native Title Act and provides an alternative regime to Native Title Act's right to negotiate where land or mining titles are to be issued over pastoral leases. The State Provisions Act was never intended to compete with the role of the National Native Title Tribunal

in the management of native title applications. All applications would still be lodged with, registered and managed under the authority of the NNTT, not the State. At that level the State Provisions Act would not alter the settlement of native title applications. Where the State Provisions Act will have a significant effect on native title applications is in claims involving pastoral leases. The Act removes the incentive for some claimants to exploit the right to negotiate and not seek a settlement of their claim which requires them to prove their native title rights. This is particularly relevant where there has been a history of multiple native title claims over areas of high mineral interest and where there has been no attempt to develop proof for claims. Generally, the State Provisions Act will expedite settlement of native title applications simply by establishing clear legal parameters for the management of native title rights over some categories of Crown land tenure. This can only increase certainty for Government and lease holders and encourage negotiation.

NATIVE TITLE LEGISLATION, CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

2195. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

- (1) What correspondence has the State received from the Commonwealth Government in relation to the State's native title legislation, or draft legislation?
- (2) What was the date of each piece of correspondence and who sent it?
- (3) What was the Commonwealth's advice in relation to the likely compliance of the State's legislation, or draft legislation, with the Commonwealth Native Title Act?
- (4) Will the Premier table the correspondence?
- (5) If not why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The State Government has received numerous correspondence from the Commonwealth Government in relation to the State's native title legislation.
- (2) The correspondence dates between 1995 and the present. In recent times, the correspondence has come from the Attorney-General and the Native Title Task Force in the Attorney-General's Department.
- (3) The Commonwealth has been careful not to pre-empt any decision it has to make in relation to compliance. Discussions with the Commonwealth have related to structure of State legislation and issues relevant to compliance rather than "advice in relation to likely compliance".
- (4)-(5) The correspondence comprises mainly working documents which form the basis of policy deliberations by Government and Cabinet. The issues involved are extremely complex and fluid. Discussion with the Commonwealth is ongoing as the Commonwealth has not yet made a determination. It is in the public interest in ensuring the matter is brought to a successful conclusion. I, therefore, do not intend to release these documents at this time. I consider that it would be misleading and confusing to release documents which represent varying phases of ongoing negotiations.

SPINIFEX AGREEMENT

2202. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

What is the current status of the Spinifex agreement announced by the Premier in 1998?

Mr COURT replied:

It is anticipated a final agreement will be signed by all parties within the next two months. In-principle agreements have been reached between Government representatives and legal advisers to the Spinifex people on every substantive matter within the agreement.

BURGLARIES, CHARGES FINALISED

2224. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Of the distinct persons charged with domestic burglary in the period 1998-99, how many cases had been finalised at the end of 1999?
- (2) Of those charged with domestic burglary in (1), how many offenders were dealt with –

- (a) as juvenile offenders;
 - (b) in Magistrates' Courts; and
 - (c) in District Courts?
- (3) Of the distinct persons convicted, how many had prior convictions for –
- (a) domestic burglary; and
 - (b) other offences?
- (4) What were the number and nature of prior offences, if any, of those offenders in (1)?
- (5) What were the sentences imposed for juvenile and adult offenders?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

(1)-(2),(5)

The Ministry of Justice is not able to identify all domestic burglaries in its court data as aggravated burglaries are not recorded so as to distinguish those of a dwelling from those of other premises. This answer relates to Home Burglaries as defined by Criminal Code Section 401(1)(b) and (2)(b) without any circumstances of aggravation.

	Level of Court		
	Children's	Petty Sessions	District/Supreme
Number	749	239	144
Number convicted	549	179	120
Custodial sentences	153	87	83
Suspended prison	1	18	2
Supervised sentences	327	48	29
Fined	13	24	1
Other sentences	55	2	5

Table 1 - cases finalised for defendants charged with at least one Home Burglary, 1998-99 financial year

- (3)-(4) This information is recorded by the WA Police Service.

BOORARA STATE FOREST, NORTHCLIFFE, BLASTING

2231. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Was blasting undertaken in Boorara State Forest, Northcliffe on Wednesday 15 March 2000?
- (2) If so, for what reason and how many episodes occurred?
- (3) Was a warning siren sounded prior to the blasting?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) If no blasting was undertaken in Boorara Forest, what were the "blasting" noises heard by people in the vicinity?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Blasting was undertaken to remove tree stumps from proposed road alignments up to 13 stumps were planned to be blasted on that day.
- (3)-(4) All warning systems were implemented including the use of a siren, warning signs and regular patrols by police between individual blasting.
- (5) Not applicable.

WOMENS ADVISORY COUNCIL, MEMBERSHIP

2250. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Women's Interests:

- (1) Who are the members of the present Womens Advisory Council?

- (2) When were they appointed and for how long?
- (3) What are the qualifications for the role?
- (4) What experience do they have in the area of women's interests?
- (5) How many women from migrant communities are represented on the Council?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

(1)-(2)	Elizabeth Conti (President),	Date appointed	20/3/00	2 years
	Sue Ash	26/10/98	2 years	
	Joyce Crawford	26/10/98	2 years	
	Joy Emmeluth	20/3/00	2 years	
	Mary Fraser	26/10/98	2 years	
	Jane Jones	20/3/00	2 years	
	Lillian Makinda	20/3/00	2 years	
	Michelle Manook	20/3/00	2 years	
	Joy Puls	20/3/00	2 years	
	Christine Thompson	26/10/98	2 years	

- (3) There are no specific qualifications needed to become a member of the Committee. WAC provides opportunities for women who have an interest in the area to contribute to policy development and decision-making, to facilitate community consultation, to use and extend skills and knowledge, and to meet and work with women from all over Western Australia.
- (4) Elizabeth Conti is Executive Manager of Kindred Family Services. Ms Conti has worked in the field of welfare in prisons and has extensive experience in management, public speaking, program delivery and training in a number of other areas. She has also chaired a ministerial committee on domestic violence.

Sue Ash is Executive Director of Wanslea Family Services which is intimately linked with women's issues. She has a long history of working professionally and voluntarily for women in a variety of situations. Her knowledge base includes a sound understanding of single parenting, issues facing younger women, and issues facing rural women, including Aboriginal women. She has lived and worked for 10 years in rural communities. Sue has a keen interest in changes in social security and employment practices, the protection of women in our society and the health of women.

Joyce Crawford is a qualified workplace trainer with knowledge of workplace issues impacting on women. Her experience in women's issues as an employer, an employee, a full time mother and a student, have given her insight and interest in women's issues.

Joy Emmeluth is a recently retired Human Resource Manager in a large government department and is aware of areas where women require assistance and guidance. She has knowledge on issues such as domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and isolation of older women.

Mary Fraser is a founding director of "Creating Communities". She has a diverse range of experiences working in all tiers of government and with not for profit groups, professional bodies and the private sector, and at the community level to achieve results. She is keenly interested in economic independence, access and opportunity to input into decision making processes, balancing the demands upon women in their multiple roles.

Jane Jones is a mature age student completing her Nursing Degree at Curtin University. She is Deputy Chairperson of the Aboriginal Student body and member of community organisations, including volunteer organiser of activities and programmes for youth, young children and the elderly.

Lillian Makinda is a young migrant woman. She assists with events for the African Community in WA and for her Bachelor of Arts degree completed her practicum at the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Michelle Manook has worked in the area of alcohol and drug intervention, education and treatment programmes for young people and presents lectures and workshops to schools and partners. Michelle is academically highly qualified in this area. She has also been involved in leisure programmes for intellectually and physically disabled young adults.

Joy Puls has extensive experience working in the area of access and equity. She is currently involved in identifying the settlement needs of migrants and refugees and assisting in the development of policies and services to effectively meet the needs of local communities.

Christine Thompson is a family counsellor and group facilitator in Rural Community Development and Better Business Programme through Agriculture WA. She has lived and worked in the Great Southern for over 20 years and is well equipped to represent the views of women.

(5) Two.

WELLINGTON DAM TOURIST HOTEL, ASHWILLOW INVESTMENTS PTY LTD

2285. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the Government still negotiating with Ashwillow Investments Pty Ltd on the proposed tourist hotel at the Wellington Dam?
- (2) Has a contract been signed for the hotel?
- (3) If not, when does the Minister anticipate that a contract will be signed?
- (4) Has the Government set aside any funding to assist the project, and if yes, how much?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) When negotiations have been completed.
- (4) No.

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT, PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE

2287. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What was the total bill for the promotion and advertising of the Regional Forest Agreement?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a breakdown of this figure into -
 - (a) print advertising and production of the advertisements;
 - (b) radio advertising and production;
 - (c) television advertising and production; and
 - (d) other costs – please specify?
- (3) How much was contributed by -
 - (a) the State Government; and
 - (b) the Commonwealth Government?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(3) The State Government spent \$50 000 on advertising of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA). All of this expenditure was related to print advertising. The Commonwealth Government should be approached directly about their communication expenditure concerning the RFA.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED TREES, SPECIES AND AREA PLANTED

2292. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Have any genetically modified trees for wood production been planted in Western Australia?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) what species have been genetically modified;
 - (b) who has planted them;
 - (c) where have they been planted;
 - (d) when were they planted;

- (e) how many hectares have been planted; and
- (f) what further area is intended to be planted?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) No. The only organisation in Australia involved in this type of research is the CSIRO. It has been working on sterility and insect resistance of Eucalypts in Canberra but none of the plants has been released in the near future in Australia. To the best of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's knowledge, there have been no genetically modified timber trees imported into this country.

CATCHMENT GROUPS, GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

2305. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What impact will the Goods and Services Tax have on catchment groups?
- (2) What strategies are being put in place to manage this?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Catchment groups being entities carrying on an enterprise are subject to the Goods and Service Tax (GST). Catchment groups, as non-profit organisations, have the option of registering for GST if their annual turnover is below the GST registration turnover threshold of \$100,000.00. Where their annual turnover is \$100,000.00 or greater they must register for the GST. Regardless of whether catchment groups register for the GST or not, they must register for an Australian Business Number (ABN) or they will be subject to a withholding tax of 48.5% on all funding/payments received from other entities.
- (2) Catchment groups must register for the GST and ABN in their own right/standing. As independent groups they are essentially responsible for implementing their own GST planning and strategies. However, if requested, the Water and Rivers Commission will assist by providing advice and assistance in GST planning and preparation.

DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, COMPLIANCE WITH ACT, STANDARDS AND CODES

2323. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Does the Director General of the Ministry of Justice have to comply with, and ensure compliance with, the principles set out in Sections 7,8,9 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994?
- (2) Does the Director General of the Ministry of Justice have to comply with Public Sector Standards, Codes of Ethics and any relevant Code of Conduct?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(2) Yes.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, MR BRIAN LAWRENCE

2326. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What function or position is now being filled by Mr Brian Lawrence, a former member of the Ministry of Justice Intelligence Unit?
- (2) Is that a permanent appointment?
- (3) What classification level is that?
- (4) Does Mr Brian Lawrence have authority to use a private plated Government vehicle outside of normal working hours?
- (5) Has a Ministry of Justice employee/officer/investigator used this vehicle for surveillance purposes outside normal working hours?
- (6) Did Mr Lawrence have access to listening devices or surveillance equipment held by the Internal Investigations Unit and Intelligence Analysis Section?
- (7) Does he still have access to that equipment?
- (8) If not, what was the last date he had access to that equipment?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1) Mr Lawrence is the Assistant Superintendent Business and Industry at the C W Campbell Remand Centre, Hakea Prison. Since November 1998 he has been heading the Project team involved in the redevelopment of the Hakea site.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The substantive position is classified Level 7.
- (4) No. Mr Lawrence has the use of a government plated vehicle and is subject to the policy governing the use of such vehicles.
- (5) No. Other staff may use the government plated vehicle for Ministry purposes during the day but the vehicle is not used by anyone for surveillance purposes. Similarly, the private plated government vehicle used by the Superintendent may be used by others during the day but is not used by anyone for surveillance purposes.
- (6) See answer to Parliamentary Question number 4103 of 1995.
- (7)-(8) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2348. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Planning; Heritage; Minister assisting the Treasurer:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -
 - (a) have appointed; or
 - (b) have under consideration for appointment,
 a Facilities Manager or Managers?
- (2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?
- (3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?
- (4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?
- (5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?
- (6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?
- (7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)
 - (a)
 - (i) Western Australian Planning Commission.
 - (ii) Valuer General's Office.
 - (b) Nil.
- (2)-(3)
 - (i) The Western Australian Planning Commission has a contract with Joburne Pty Ltd (Blackburn & Co) to manage certain of its properties pending their requirement for the Metropolitan Region Scheme. As part of their responsibilities Blackburn & Co obtain quotes and engage contractors for repairs, maintenance and demolition of Commission properties. Quotes are submitted to the Ministry for Planning for consideration prior to engagement of contractors.
 - (ii) Mr Ross Ballard is responsible for the procurement of goods and controls contract management processes.
- (4)-(5)
 - (i) Not applicable.

- (ii) All purchases made and contracts let in regional areas are overseen by the Facilities Manager to ensure that the Regional Buying contract is adhered to and is consistent with Government policy and directives.

(6)-(7) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2349. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -
 - (a) have appointed; or
 - (b) have under consideration for appointment,
 a Facilities Manager or Managers?
- (2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?
- (3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?
- (4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?
- (5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?
- (6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?
- (7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Dr HAMES replied:

Aboriginal Affairs Department, Office of Water Regulation and Water and Rivers Commission

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

Ministry of Housing

It is not practical for the Ministry to commit the resources required to answer the question in its current form. If the member has a specific question in relation to Facilities Managers I am prepared to provide the relevant information.

Water Corporation

- (1),(6) The Water Corporation has a Corporate Real Estate Branch that employs two Facilities Managers within its Property Management Section.
- (2) The two Facilities Managers are employees of the Water Corporation.
- (3),(7) The primary role of these Facilities Managers is to manage Corporation building facilities throughout the State that includes all issues relating to accommodation.
- (4)-(5) The Water Corporation has a Contract Services Branch which includes the Regional Buying Contract (RBC) in all tender documentation issued. Smaller purchases/contracts are predominantly dealt with at regional level and take into account RBC considerations.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2351. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Employment and Training; Youth; the Arts:

- (1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -
 - (a) have appointed; or
 - (b) have under consideration for appointment,
 a Facilities Manager or Managers?
- (2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?

- (3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?
- (4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?
- (5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?
- (6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?
- (7) What is the nature of the work proposed to be carried out by that Facilities Manager or Managers?

Mr BOARD replied:

I have been advised -

Youth

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(7) Not applicable.

The Arts

Ministry for Culture & the Arts (including ArtsWA and ScreenWest)

- (1) Ministry for Culture & the Arts (including ArtsWA and ScreenWest).
- (2) P&O Facilities Management & Transfield.
- (3) Breakdown repairs, preventative maintenance, improvement works & property services.
- (4) While the scope of the work undertaken by Managers does not include regional areas, all contract and purchases follow State Supply regulations and guidelines.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Nil.
- (7) Not applicable.

Library and Information Service of Western Australia

- (1) The Library and Information Service of Western Australia.
- (2) P & O Facilities Management.
- (3) Routine maintenance contracts, rectification of building / plant faults and minor works.
- (4) While the scope of the work undertaken by Managers does not include regional areas, all contract and purchases follow State Supply regulations and guidelines.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Nil.
- (7) Not applicable.

Western Australian Museum

- (1) The Western Australian Museum.
- (2) P & O Facilities Management.
- (3) Mechanical services and Fire Systems.
- (4) Compliance with State Supply regulations and guidelines.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Nil.
- (7) Not applicable.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (1) The Art Gallery of Western Australia.
- (2) P&O Facilities Management.
- (3) Routine maintenance contracts, rectification of building / plant faults and minor works.
- (4) While the scope of the work undertaken by Managers does not include regional areas, all contract and purchases follow State Supply regulations and guidelines.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Nil.
- (7) Not applicable.

Perth Theatre Trust

- (1) The Perth Theatre Trust.
- (2) Ogden International Facilities Corporation (Perth).
- (3) In accordance with the specific obligations of the Management Agreement between the Perth Theatre Trust and Ogden International Facilities Corporation (Perth) with the manager responsible for:

providing an effective management service for venues vested or leased to the Perth Theatre Trust;
ensuring the venues' facilities are maintained in good order; and
attracting events to the venues to optimise utilisation of the venues.
- (4) While the scope of the work undertaken by Managers does not include regional areas, all contract and purchases follow State Supply regulations and guidelines.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Nil.
- (7) Not applicable.

Employment and Training

- (1)-(5) See table below.
(6)-(7) Not applicable.

(1)(a)&(b)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Central Metropolitan College	Facility Management Service Agreement with: -P&O Facilities Management -Transfield Facilities Management	-Breakdown repairs -preventative maintenance -improvement works -property services -building management	Not applicable	Not applicable
West Coast College	SERCO	Breakdown, routine maintenance, restoration and construction	Not applicable	Not applicable
South East Metropolitan	-Transfield Facilities Management -Chiefton Management Pty Ltd	Faults, maintenance and renovation of buildings, plant and equipment as per CAMS contracts and processes	Not applicable	Not applicable
South Metropolitan College	Transfield Facilities Management	Breakdown repairs to large fixed equipment or that associated with the College buildings, routine and restoration maintenance to the College buildings and some minor works construction services	The Facilities Management Service Agreement for SMC is annexure of an existing contract between CAMS and Transfield. The terms and conditions relating to the application and operation of this contract, including regional areas, are the province and responsibility of the Minister for Works, Services.	

Midland College of TAFE	Chiefton Management Pty Ltd	Breakdown, routine maintenance, restoration and construction	Not applicable	Not applicable
South West Regional College	CAMS Country Service	Breakdown, preventative maintenance (routine & restoration), improvement works and general services	Apply CAMS Purchasing-Tender process	Yes
Great Southern Regional College	CAMS Country Service	Breakdown, preventative maintenance (routine & restoration), improvement works and general services	As per CAMS Purchasing-Tender process	Yes
Central West College of TAFE	-Department of Contracts and Asset Management Services -Also employs a Facilities Officer	-Coordinates the maintenance of facilities and services for the College, within College & Government Guidelines -Liaise with CAMS and coordinate facilities issues	The College actively supports the Government Buying Wisely Program and Regional Buying Compact	The College purchases all goods and services in accordance with the College's Supply Procedures Manual, which has been approved by the State Supply Commission
Eastern Pilbara College	Facilities & Services Manager-Level 4 Public Service Officer	Manages the delivery of services, including the negotiation of contracts for the operation of: -student resident management -canteen operations -airconditioning system maintenance -cleaning -security -fleet management -waste disposal -grounds and plumbing maintenance	Local suppliers are always given first priority according to the Regional Buying Contract	As per the State Supply Commission Guidelines
CY O'Connor College	Assets/Facilities Officer-Level 2 Public Service Officer	-Liaise with CAMS -Liaise with contractors -Reports and records faults and repairs and ensures repairs/maintenance is satisfactorily carried out -Monitors and controls current minor works -Also answers College's switchboard	The Facilities Officer follows current purchasing policy and procedures as outlined in the College's Purchasing Manual, including the Regional Buying Compact	The Facilities Officer ensures the Regional Buying Compact is adhered to

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, FACILITIES MANAGERS

2353. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

(1) What departments and agencies under the Minister's control -

- (a) have appointed; or
- (b) have under consideration for appointment,

a Facilities Manager or Managers?

(2) What are the names of the Facilities Managers so appointed?

(3) What is the scope of work undertaken by each Facilities Manager?

(4) To what extent do Facilities Managers ensure that purchases/contracts are let in regional areas for regional work?

(5) Do Facilities Managers ensure that the Regional Buying Contract is adhered to in relation to any purchases or contracts they manage?

(6) Will the Minister name the departments and agencies under the Minister's control that have under consideration the appointment of one or more Facilities Managers?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER

I refer to the answer to question on notice No. 2075 of 2000 and ask-

- Services as at 1 July -

- (aa) 1993;
(ab) 1994;
(ac) 1995;
(ad) 1996;
(ae) 1997;
(af) 1998;
(ag) 1999; and

(af) 1 May 2000?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (a) Yes. The department manages its human resources within each zone and not by individual work units.
- (b) The reduction is a result of the closure of the Craiggie Street Hostel, Laverton and the Millen Street Hostel, Kalgoorlie.
- (c) Demand has been constant since 1996/97.
- (d) Refer to answer 2075.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FINANCE BROKING SCHEMES, COMPENSATION TO INVESTORS

815. Mr McGINTY to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's comment, reported in the weekend media, that the Government would not, under any circumstances, consider compensating investors who have lost money through failed finance broking schemes and ask -

- (1) How was the Premier able to make such an assertion when the Gunning inquiry into the finance broking scandal is yet to report?
- (2) Has the Premier not pre-empted the inquiry's findings, given that it may conclude that the negligence of the Ministry of Fair Trading and the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board contributed to the losses suffered by investors?
- (3) Why should the public take the Gunning inquiry seriously when it is quite clear that the Premier does not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) I assure the member that we take the Gunning inquiry very seriously; it is the member for Fremantle who does not. He has done everything he can to denigrate the inquiry and has encouraged people not to participate.

My comments related to the general question of Governments funding civil actions and providing compensation. I made it clear that it is not normal practice for Governments to become involved in such civil actions, nor to pay compensation. In normal circumstances, a civil action is undertaken by the parties involved. The Minister for Fair Trading has already outlined to this House some of the concerns about the banks and other areas. The Government has said publicly that it will support those actions. We have provided all the funding to the liquidator so that these matters can be properly assessed. We are not simply talking about it; it is happening. My comments were in reply to the question of whether we would pay compensation, and I made it clear that it is not the case in normal circumstances. The only time I know of State Governments paying large amounts of compensation was during the WA Inc deals when the Labor Party paid out hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to bail its mates out of outrageous deals. This Government is handling this matter properly. We are fully funding the inquiry and what we see as the appropriate legal action so we can get to the bottom of the matter.

The member for Fremantle should not come into this Parliament and talk about supporting the Gunning inquiry when he has done everything in his power to try to denigrate it.

Mr Shave: That is very hypocritical. He is a hypocrite.

Mr McGinty: Is the pot calling the kettle black?

Mr Shave: No, I am stating the truth.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr KOBELKE: The interjection by the Minister for Fair Trading was unparliamentary. It impugned the member about to ask a question. I ask that the Speaker requests the minister to withdraw the remark.

The SPEAKER: I heard the minister say it was hypocritical of him. Someone impugns a person if he accuses him of being a hypocrite, but not if he describes that person's behaviour at that point in time as hypocritical. I did not hear the minister say someone was a hypocrite. If he did, I invite him to withdraw the comment. If not, we will move on.

Mr SHAVE: I did say that the member for Fremantle was a hypocrite and I withdraw that.

Debate Resumed

MFA FINANCE PTY LTD, LEGAL ACTION

816. Mr McGINTY to the Premier:

Given the Premier's claim that he will do everything he can to help investors recover their money, will he agree to provide funding to support the legal action against the directors of MFA Finance Pty Ltd to help those investors recover their losses?

Mr COURT replied:

Those parties have taken legal action, as they have every right to, in a civil court.

Mr McGinty: Will you fund them?

Mr COURT: I said the last time a Government got involved in large bail-outs occurred in the Opposition's time. The member asked me a question about MFA Finance Pty Ltd and I will give him an answer. The Grubb and Global companies have gone into liquidation and it was considered appropriate, because people lost money, for the Government to fund the liquidator, which is costing millions of dollars. MFA is a company still in operation and, I understand, it is not now involved in the mortgage business. However, it is not in liquidation with people having taken action against it. Is the member saying that if we fund one side, we should fund both sides? What a silly question to ask!

FOREST MANAGEMENT, NEW DIRECTION

817. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for the Environment:

What is the Government's approach to the conservation of old-growth forest under what it calls its new direction for forest management?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Government has always been conscious of a need to strike a balance between the preservation of our forests for future generations and employment for forest-based industries. I remind members that that protection will mean the preservation of 70 per cent of old-growth jarrah, at least 86 per cent and possibly up to 91 per cent of old-growth karri, and 100 per cent of old-growth and two-tiered karri tingle.

What is the Labor Party's policy? It announced on the weekend that it would create four new national parks and wilderness areas. However, it is a year too late as this Government already announced a wilderness area last year.

Mr Court: Is that the one that will be as big as Yellowstone?

Mrs EDWARDES: That was interesting because the Leader of the Opposition claimed that the 330 000 hectare Walpole wilderness area will be bigger than Yellowstone National Park in the United States. The fact is Yellowstone is nearly 900 000 hectares.

The Australian Labor Party, in its forest policy, also indicated that it would phase out logging in all old-growth forests by 2003, allowing current contracts to be honoured, and hold a moratorium on the logging of all high conservation value old-growth forest while it carried out a 12-month review. However, in that policy announced on the weekend, including a moratorium on all areas of high conservation value and an intention to meet all contracts until 2003, we want to know from the Labor Party which old-growth areas it will cut that this Government will not be cutting into; because it cannot do it all. To do all that the Labor Party wants to do, it will have to cut into old-growth areas that this Government is about to protect.

Dr Gallop: Rubbish.

Mrs EDWARDES: I ask the member for Maylands what are those areas?

Mr Court: You will have to cut old-growth areas that have been protected.

Dr Gallop: Get your facts right.

Mr Court: We've got our facts right.

Mrs EDWARDES: Mr Speaker, the Labor Party will not and cannot identify them. In fact, it does not have a policy.

Several members interjected.

Mrs EDWARDES: One and one does not make four, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I wonder whether we are finished interjecting. As members realise, I do allow some interjections but there have been too many. Does the member for Vasse have a supplementary question?

Mr Masters: No, just another question.

The SPEAKER: He is too greedy.

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

818. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Deputy Premier representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When was the decision taken by Main Roads WA to allow the environmental management plan that formed part of the original Northbridge tunnel construction contract to be changed to form the EMP dated August 1997?
- (2) What steps did Main Roads take to assess the reasons for and impact of the deletions of major sections from the original environmental management plan?
- (3) Was the advice of the Department of Environmental Protection sought concerning these changes; and, if so, what was the advice given, and in what form was it given?
- (4) If such advice was not sought, why was it not sought?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Transport provided the following response.

- (1)-(4) Main Roads received revision 1 of the environmental management plan in August 1997. Following an internal review, Main Roads submitted comments on the revised plan on 25 November 1997. The contractor responded on 3 March 1998. The contractor also submitted a copy of the plan to the Department of Environmental Protection. DEP wrote to the contractor on 16 December 1997 advising that the revised plan provided a good framework to address environmental issues on the site, and adequately identified likely sources and addressed their management.

OLD-GROWTH FOREST, EFFECT OF IMMEDIATE BAN ON LOGGING

819. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Forest Products:

What would be the impact of an immediate ban on logging old-growth forest on sustainable yield of first and second-grade sawlogs?

Mr OMODEI replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. If a ban were immediately placed on logging of old-growth forest, as proposed by the Australian Labor Party the sustainable yield of first and second-grade jarrah sawlogs would drop to a maximum of 251 000 cubic metres compared with the average level proposed by this Government of 324 000 cubic metres to the end of 2003, and 286 000 cubic metres thereafter. The karri sawlog yields would drop immediately from the target of 149 000 cubic metres proposed by this Government to a maximum of 56 000 cubic metres per annum. It is estimated that 1 470 direct and indirect jobs would be lost immediately if this change were made. The greatest impact would be felt at Pemberton, Deanmill and the Manjimup processing centre where the highest levels of investment and value adding currently exist, and at Nannup where the best opportunity exists for fostering a new centre of excellence. An immediate reduction would not give any time for restructuring to occur in the industry, leading to massive dislocation and unemployment. If one contrasts this with the Government's policy, which allows time to restructure into an industry based on high-value downstream manufacturing, it is clear that the existing contracts could not be honoured under Labor's policy. I find it amazing that the State Opposition is making noises about reserving old-growth forest, and at the same time has made deals to honour existing contracts that mean old-growth forests must be logged. Either the Labor Party is fooling the union and its friend Kevin Reynolds with whom it has done a deal, or it is fooling the electorate into believing the ALP will reserve all old-growth forest. It is about time the Opposition came clean with its own members, its union supporters and the electorate and said what is its real policy on forests

EVANS AND PECK MANAGEMENT REPORT, HIGHGATE HERITAGE AREA

820. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Deputy Premier representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the report prepared by Evans and Peck Management in response to complaints of damage by residents of the Highgate heritage area.

- (1) What was the precise content of the brief given to Evans and Peck in respect of this report?
- (2) Given that there are no legal proceedings on foot, will the minister table this report?
- (3) If not, will the minister tell us what he is trying to conceal?

Mr COWAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I advise that the Minister for Transport has provided following response -

- (1) The brief to Evans and Peck Management was to review and document changes to the Boulderstone Clough Joint Venture environmental management plan over the life of the design and construct contract for stage 1 of the Graham Farmer Freeway.
- (2)-(3) No. The report will not be tabled as notice of intent to claim with respect to this issue was given by the tunnel damage compensation group on 10 June 1999.

MARLSTON HILL, BUNBURY

821. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Lands:

It is well known that the city of Bunbury has been transformed in the past seven years, and nowhere more so than at Marlston Hill. Can the minister assure the House that the residential development undertaken by LandCorp at Marlston Hill is meeting expectations, and that this new style of housing product is being embraced in the local and wider marketplace?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Marlston Hill is not only meeting, but exceeding, expectations. Land sales continue to be extremely strong, and both resident and business numbers within the development are surpassing targets. Marlston Hill recently won the national Urban Development Institute of Australia award for the best urban renewal project in Australia.

Ms MacTiernan: A great Labor initiative!

Mr SHAVE: This project is considered to be a benchmark for redevelopments of this kind, and is leading the way for quality residential development in not only Bunbury, but also across the rest of Australia. Labor Party members talk about great initiatives. The difference between members of the Labor Party and members of this Government is that they talk and we produce. The Marlston Hill redevelopment significantly beat developments in the eastern States and locally, such as that controlled by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority, to win the award. This redevelopment has enhanced Bunbury's already strong position as a tourism destination. Evidence of this fact was my announcement in Bunbury last week of a \$50m development at the old silo site in Bunbury with the Kareelya Property Group. The Labor Party might like to take credit for that project as well! However, the reality is that if not for the efforts of the local members - namely, Mr Ian Osborne and Mr Dan Barron-Sullivan - it would not have progressed at the rate achieved. I compliment the two members on the terrific job they have done representing the people of Bunbury.

KALGOORLIE POLICE STATION, POLICE SHORTAGE

822. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the ongoing shortage of police officers at the Kalgoorlie Police Station, which is currently 10 officers down despite the minister's assurances a fortnight ago that it was only four officers down.

- (1) How many vacancies must exist at the station before the minister will take some action?
- (2) Why have no resources been allocated for incentives to attract police to Kalgoorlie-Boulder in the minister's recently announced budget?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for her question, and for some notice of it. She and I had a number of conversations on this matter, and we met at some length with the deputy commissioner and the state commander, Mr Brennan, on the Thursday of the week in which this House last sat. The advice given at the time to the member for Kalgoorlie was

that four police officers were posted, and are now on their way to the area. The number of vacancies is not as the member said, as new officers are going to Kalgoorlie. Undoubtedly, it is difficult to get police officers to go to Kalgoorlie, as it was difficult to get permanent fire officers to Kalgoorlie; that is why the Fire and Emergency Services Authority was able to run, for the first time ever, a training school outside Perth. This trained local people; therefore, we have some locally trained resident firefighters in Kalgoorlie. Such local training is not possible with police, as the member conceded in our discussions. It would be nice to recruit more people from Kalgoorlie who would be prepared to return when trained. It is not easy to get people to go to Kalgoorlie as police officers, firefighters, teachers or nurses, as I know.

As the member for Kalgoorlie also well knows, the area command - namely, the district superintendent - and the command team in Perth, are trying to work out how best to attract people to Kalgoorlie rather than to order them to move there, which is obviously the option of last resort. That is a matter for the commissioner and his command team, who are trying to attract people right now. How they order their money to achieve that goal is entirely up to them. There is a problem.

Mrs Roberts: Pontius Pilate, wash your hands!

Mr PRINCE: It is not a matter of washing hands; it is a matter of employing people to manage and command and letting them get on and do it, because they know how to do it far better than the member for Midland or I.

Mrs Roberts: You should give them the money.

Mr PRINCE: As for the amount of money going into the Police budget, when Labor was last in power the budget was \$240m; it is now \$440m. We have built 24 new police stations and have committed \$124m to communication and other technology. We have the best paid police officers in Australia, whose next pay rise is in July. They have never had better equipment or conditions. Vacancies in Kalgoorlie are still difficult to fill. Part of the reason is the cost of living, and part of the cost of living problem is to do with housing. Most of it is because of native title, which Labor has made a mess of for years.

EMPLOYMENT, PROFIT FROM EXPERIENCE CAMPAIGN

823. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Employment and Training:

I refer to the mature-age employment program Profit from Experience, launched last October. Will the minister outline why the program was implemented and what outcomes have been achieved since its launch?

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

The SPEAKER: The member for Armadale is at it again. The interjections, which have little to do with her, have totalled five so far. The member for Geraldton is not helping either. He must let the minister answer his question.

Mr BOARD replied:

The Western Australian Government is particularly proud of the Profit from Experience campaign because it leads Australia. It is recognised all around Australia that this State has recognised that people aged 45 years and over who want to upgrade their skills or transfer their employment or, if they are unemployed and need help to get employment, need assistance. Some \$3m has been committed to that program. The program involves 14 access officers located around the State who are specifically targeted to assist those of 45 years of age and over. Over the past 12 months or so 5 464 clients have been assisted, of whom nearly 1 000 have been placed in employment and a further nearly 3 000 job seekers have undertaken training and further education options. Profit from Experience officers assist with one-to-one career counselling, work placement, training options, job-search skills and skills recognition. The program is assisting those who are fairly vulnerable in our community. They have experience and a great deal to offer to employers but often there needs to be some bridging and assistance, which in this case the State has provided through this program.

NEDLANDS POLICE STATION

824. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Is the minister aware that the principal of a western suburbs school, alarmed at seeing an intruder in the children's playground during school hours, rang the Nedlands Police Station recently only to be advised by the officer who answered never to ring the station again because it was hardly ever staffed and was open only for cosmetic or political reasons?

Mr PRINCE replied:

I am delighted to hear that the member for Midland has been tapping telephones. I do not know how else she would have found out the information.

Mrs Roberts: Perhaps the principal told one of our members.

Mr PRINCE: Third party information - in which case the member has almost certainly got it wrong.

Mr Court: The member should get her facts right.

Mrs Roberts: It is a principal in your electorate, Premier.

Mr Court: It was made a part-time police station when you were in government.

Mr PRINCE: Exactly, in which case the member for Midland has almost certainly got it wrong. I will check and make sure exactly what did happen. The member can be assured that I will take it up with the Commissioner of Police if any action is required.

MITCHELL FREEWAY EXTENSION TO BURNS BEACH ROAD

825. Mr BAKER to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Will the minister please provide this House with a brief progress report concerning the State Government's plans to extend the Mitchell Freeway north to Burns Beach Road in Kinross?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Funds are identified in the second half of Main Roads' 10-year plan for the extension of Mitchell Freeway to Shenton Avenue. However, availability of funds is subject to budget discussions. Existing traffic volume estimates support an extension of the freeway to Shenton Avenue by 2006-07. Extension of the freeway between Shenton Avenue and Burns Beach Road, Kinross, is not included within the current 10-year plan. Concept plans have been developed for the extension of the freeway north of Hodges Drive, but detailed design work has yet to be undertaken. I can confirm that there will be full and open public consultation on the extension of the freeway, as there was with the previous extension from Ocean Reef Road to Hodges Drive, Connolly, and all other major projects.

EATON HIGH SCHOOL, BUDGET ALLOCATION

826. Mr CARPENTER to the Premier:

Does the state budget include a financial commitment for a new high school at Eaton, and has any money been allocated in the 2000-01 budget? If so, can the Premier tell the Parliament precisely where in the budget documents this commitment is included, and how much has been allocated for the Eaton high school; and what is the average cost of building a new high school?

Mr COURT replied:

I thank the member for this question on education, and particularly on the education facilities at Eaton. Members opposite should hang their heads in shame at what they did to our education system when they were in government.

Dr Gallop: The whingeing and whining Premier!

Mr COURT: That would be right! What members opposite did to our education system was an absolute disgrace. It got so bad that in their last two years in government, they did not even maintain our schools. Our record on education is the exact opposite. In our first budget, we spent \$950m on education.

Mrs Roberts: Are you embarrassed about that?

Mr COURT: No; to the contrary. This year we are spending nearly \$1.5b on education. In the next financial year, we will open five new primary schools, the new Shenton college, the Sevenoaks high school, Halls Head community college, and extensions to Ballajura Community College. Every year we have had an extensive capital works program right across the State. In Eaton, there will be a new high school that will be opened in 2003 or 2004. That is on page 391.

Several members interjected.

Mr COURT: This question should have been addressed to the member for Mitchell, because he is the one who has driven all of the education improvements in that area. In last year's budget, we did not say that we would build East Eaton primary school. That was not in the budget for that particular year. However, that primary school will be opened in three months' time. We have not neglected the education system. We have spent a lot of money, and we have delivered.

Mr Carpenter: What about the high school?

Mr COURT: That high school will be opened in 2003 or 2004. Funding is in the budget for a capital works program -

Mr Carpenter: Where?

Mr COURT: I have just told the member the number of the page - 391.

Mr Carpenter: There is no funding on that page. Tell us where it is.

Mr COURT: We have given education our top priority. I compare that with the Labor Party's time in government. Who was the Minister for Education in that Government? The Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for Education in that Government, and he oversaw a major rundown of facilities in the education system. The Leader of the Opposition should be absolutely ashamed of what he did to our education system.

Mr Carpenter: Eight long years of knock, knock, knock!

Mr COURT: This Government has had eight superb years.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is a pity opposition members could not see themselves. Sometimes the public sees them. I have said before that opposition members can get carried away with their interjections. They are now beginning to make this place look like a shambles and that will not occur. There has been far too much interjecting. I let it continue because opposition members have been needled a little. Let us get beyond stupidity.

Mr COURT: Every year we have been in government a major capital works program has occurred, major upgrades have been undertaken at existing schools and a significant number of new schools have been built. In the electorate of the member for Mitchell a new primary school will be opened in a few months and a new high school will be built. It does not matter what part of the State one visits, it is obvious that our education system has been upgraded significantly. The Government is proud of that record. The Opposition Leader should hang his head in shame as a former Minister for Education. What he did when he was the minister was despicable.

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE PREMIUMS, INCREASES

827. Mr TUBBY to the Minister assisting the Treasurer:

When the minister informed the House recently about increases in third party insurance premiums there appeared to be some queries about the validity of the information he was presenting to the House. Will the minister inform the House of the exact nature and content of the main documents to which he referred?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Recently when I was explaining the rationale of third party insurance premium increases, I highlighted the importance of maintaining the insolvency target, which our predecessors did not worry about when they were in government. To illustrate the difference in standards of economic responsibility between this and the previous Government, I referred to correspondence between the Chairman of the State Government Insurance Commission, the Premier and Treasurer and the then Minister assisting the Treasurer. I understand those documents have been tabled and are publicly available for all to see.

I mentioned most points raised by the chairman and the Premier's reply -

Mr Carpenter interjected.

The SPEAKER: The member for Willagee does not appear to be listening. I just called members to order after hearing a lot of rubbish. The minister should take his seat. Only a short time ago I excused the member for Willagee's ignorance when he stood and remained on his feet when I stood in this place. Perhaps he should start observing some of the rules of this place, otherwise he might find there is a different tone between thee and the Speaker.

Mr KIERATH: I mentioned most points that were raised, but in those letters there was clear unambiguous advice; in fact, it was a warning to the Government of the day to raise the premiums. Obviously Labor did not risk doing the right thing because it thought a rise in premiums could lose it votes. I guess it would have reminded the voters of this State of the awful WA Inc legacy. I believe the total losses at the time were around \$448m. For members opposite who use crayon from time to time, that is almost half a billion dollars. Labor was saying in effect that it did not care about the reasons; but it would save the ALP's bacon ahead of doing what was good for the people of Western Australia. I guess that is how the ALP has always operated. In government, the ALP sacrificed millions of taxpayers' dollars to save its own hide, and the people of Western Australia should realise that, given the chance, it would do exactly the same all over again. This Leader of the Opposition has no ticker for government. I do not think he is even good enough for opposition.
