

for the Government, through the Minister for Planning, to consider sponsoring visual privacy legislation of the kind I have outlined. If that does not occur, people will experience that greater level of invasion in their own backyards and it will adversely affect their lifestyles. It is true that the lack of a general law protecting privacy at a state level is also giving rise to some unnecessary increase in hostilities between neighbours. I commend the idea to the Government. People in South Perth are left with a council which I know is conscientiously trying to wrestle with it but, nonetheless, a policy has yet to be determined for single residential developments. This means that effectively there is no interim protection for these constituents, and in a constituency such as South Perth the problem will get worse before it gets better. As the general level of financial wellbeing increases so, too, does people's capacity to build a second storey, seeking the view that may not be there at the moment. Into the bargain, they are causing, albeit in most cases unintentionally, a fair bit of grief and disharmony to their neighbours. The time has come for the Government to act, and I commend the idea to it. On that basis I support the motion.

MRS PARKER (Helena) [4.27 pm]: While the member for South Perth is still in the Chamber, I comment on and support his call for a change to the federal Constitution, which he mentioned in his contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, with regard to allowing the State Governments to be involved in the ratification of international treaties. It has caused some disquiet in my electorate and among people I know for some time now. Should the member for South Perth introduce a motion to that effect, I would support that motion, because it is another way in which the States are losing part of the responsibility they have under the Constitution, as intended.

The member for South Perth also commented on the role of the High Court and said it can no longer be trusted to act in the way we have always understood the Constitution intended it to. In regard to the High Court decision on *Mabo*, I quote from an essay by Geoffrey de Q. Walker to illustrate this point -

Most of the controversy has centred on how the Court's decision should be 'implemented', by federal or State legislation, or both. Yet the hallmark of a genuine judicial decision is that it declares what the current law is, and applies it to the facts

The public response to the case reinforces that conclusion. The function of the courts is to settle the disputes that arise in a society, not to exacerbate them.

He also states -

Reform of the High Court is essential if there is to be any prospect for the revival, or even survival, of any form of federalism in Australia. . . .

The federalist principle is triumphing throughout the world. No federation, even in this century, has ever changed to a centralised system except when it has fallen under totalitarian rule.

Perhaps that is happening under our present Prime Minister. It continues -

Australia's constitutional reformers should recognise and respect federalism for its positive values and cease their mindless striving for its destruction.

In a display of unity, rarely seen in this sitting of Parliament, I take up the issue raised by the member for Kalgoorlie in his address this morning. That is, the crisis facing gymnastics in Western Australia currently. I will outline a few other aspects that he did not cover regarding the Government's support of the athletes, their families, the Western Australian Institute of Sport, and sport being represented by the State as a whole.

The Western Australian Institute of Sport, through the Western Australian Government, the Western Australian Gymnastics Association and the parents, has spent millions of dollars in developing the current program. This includes a world-class training facility, the recruitment of world-class coaches, and the provision of general program costs. The WAIS program has been highly successful. I will outline some of the success in recent years. The WAIS program has provided two recent national champions and three of the

seven members of the 1992 Olympic team - the most successful result ever in Australian Olympic gymnastics competition. WAIS also produced three of the original six members of the 1994 Commonwealth Games team - and between 40 and 50 per cent of most Australian teams chosen between 1988 and 1994. These are very impressive statistics and achievements. I congratulate everyone at WAIS for those results. With all that effort and that outstanding performance WAIS has received minimal funding from the Federal Government. It has ranged between \$25 000 and \$35 000 per annum. With that small amount of money WAIS achieved significant results, with between 40 and 50 per cent of national team representation. While WAIS was producing half of the team members in Australian gymnastics with funding between \$25 000 and \$35 000 per annum, the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra was being funded with \$450 000 - 10 times the amount that our centre has received - and produced fewer athletes at elite level. That illustrates the benefit of the courses here and the very significant results we have achieved.

I turn now to a letter dated 3 March written by the state Minister for Sport and Recreation after consultation with the parents, coaches and people involved at the institute. The letter was written to Senator John Faulkner, the Federal Minister, requesting urgent assistance in resolving the problem facing gymnasts at elite level in Australia today. It reads, in part -

My Government objects to this plan for two reasons.

1. It is improper to expect the parents of young, female athletes to relocate to a centralised training program for extended periods of time. Such a proposal will inevitably be detrimental to the social and psychological development of the children and clearly contradicts acceptable practices in Australian society.
2. The threats that non-compliance with the National program will result in funding being withheld and selection to National teams being compromised, amounts to coercion and is un-Australian in its approach.

Further on, the Minister states -

It should be noted that the majority of the gymnasts preparing for the 1996 Olympic Games are based at the Victorian and Western Australian Institutes of Sport. The problems identified in this letter equally affect the Victorian Institute of Sport, which highlights the magnitude of the overall problem. The parents in both States have made it quite clear that they will withdraw their children from the sport if their only option is to continue in Canberra. This will decimate the National program.

It would be appreciated if you could urgently take the necessary steps to resolve this matter in a manner that is socially, culturally and athletically acceptable to the majority of those involved in the sport. It would require only the minimum of compromise and concession on the part of the AGF to resolve this matter.

Although that letter sought an urgent response, the Minister has not yet seen fit to reply. In a letter to one of the parents, the State Minister states -

... the Western Australian Government fully supports the actions being pursued by the WA Gymnastics Federation to prevent the relocation to Canberra of young gymnasts under training here.

I express my appreciation to the member for Kalgoorlie, the shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, for his comments today in support of and in agreement with the Government's position. Certainly we have done as much as we can at the state level to support the parents, the athletes and the Institute of Sport. We have worked in consultation with them. Perhaps the shadow spokesman could support our efforts in urging Minister Faulkner to intervene. I trust I have the total support of this House when I urge the federal Minister to intervene and ensure that funding will not be cut if our children choose not to relocate. I hope that the very successful state program will continue. I hope that we will have successful representation at Atlanta, Sydney and

beyond, as it is the right of Western Australians to expect and enjoy. I will see the member for Kalgoorlie about this matter later. I am disappointed that he is not in the Chamber.

In responding to the Address-in-Reply debate I will comment on an issue of importance to the State - one of the two most significant issues facing Western Australia this year. I will comment also on an issue of specific importance relating to heritage in my electorate of Helena. In doing so, I will use a family occasion which occurred on the weekend, for reflection and as a point of illustration of some of these issues. With my family on Saturday night I had the pleasure of attending the golden wedding anniversary of my parents-in-law. It was interesting to reflect upon their lives, to note certain aspects of their life experience, and to relate that to Western Australia in 1995. My parents-in-law, Rod and Ada, are essentially country people. Ada grew up on Black Flag station out of Kalgoorlie, a pastoral lease, with her parents, brothers and sisters. Ada never attended school. She was educated at home by a series of governesses. I am not sure whether the quick succession of governesses was due to the naughty girls or naughty boys in the family. Certainly they had a very interesting and fascinating childhood. My father-in-law spent his childhood as an only child, by comparison. He spent years in Narrogin, Esperance and Albany, and later moved to Kalgoorlie to operate an ore crushing battery on the goldfields with his father. A comparison of the sort of gold mining technology used in my father-in-law's time and those used these days would provide a stark contrast. Even a contrast in the housing industry would be interesting to make. Both my parents-in-law served in the armed forces during the war. One weekend after the war they had a working bee and knocked up a home very quickly. I am sure no building permits were involved. The family moved to Perth. It spent much of its time in the suburbs of Perth but its links with Kalgoorlie remained because my mother-in-law managed a station, on behalf of the family, after her parents passed away. While she was managing Woolibar Station the development of the Kambalda mine and townsite took place. The link with the pastoral and mining life continued. With much community involvement and the interests of family life, this couple has seen 50 years together. It was great to share that night with them.

I will relate some of the elements of their life to that which is experienced in Western Australia today. The mining and pastoral industries were essential to my parents-in-law. How much has changed? Statistics from the June 1990 census, long after the involvement of my parents-in-law had finished, show that employment in the mining industry stood at 19 995 people. In 1994 it had increased to 36 000 people, an increase in five years of 16 000 people employed in that industry. Indirectly 120 000 people are involved in the mining industry in 1995. One in six people employed in Western Australia obtains an income that is related either directly or indirectly to the mining industry. This is a very large proportion of our economic and employment bases.

The Mabo decision represents a serious challenge to that industry. I do not wish to dispute the issue of native title, but rather the challenge and the problem of the workability of the legislation. In fact, the head of the tribunal has admitted that some parts of the legislation are unworkable. The federal leader of the National Party, Tim Fischer, has said that there is now a political responsibility to make Mabo workable for all Australians. When we think of the mining industry and Mabo we think of something in the far flung, isolated regions of Western Australia; whereas it affects one in six people employed Western Australians. We have a responsibility to make Mabo workable for all areas. Tim Fischer went on to say -

WA was particularly exposed to all that was going to go wrong with the native title process in its present form.

It was not good enough that mining and exploration and pastoral pursuits had been derailed and that security of title had been eroded . . .

He criticised the lazy element of the Canberra Press Gallery with its social justice agenda for brushing over the practical problems associated with Mabo. I challenge the Opposition in this session of Parliament and in the process through which we must work

this year not to brush over any of these issues. We are not just talking about a social agenda; we are talking about a critical element of employment in Western Australia that we must deal with. We have an urgent need to determine the status of pastoral leases, and we have made that very clear to the Federal Government. Approximately 10 000 land titles have been approved annually until now and we could reasonably expect, given the complexity of the legislation, to have that number reduced. An industry that is critical to employment and to the export capacity of Western Australia is under challenge by an unworkable piece of legislation. I look forward to seeing that issue dealt with and, in some way, partly resolved.

I have referred to the fact that my parents-in-law now live in the suburbs. That family, along with all the other families in the street would put out their milk bottles at night with the cash to pay for the milk order, waiting for the milko to arrive. How curious and different is that situation from what occurs today. Can any member imagine householders leaving cash near the letterbox, with a street lined with available cash left overnight from between 9.00 pm or 10.00 pm until the milko came along at about 5.00 am. My parents-in-law are not old. My father-in-law gave up breaking in and training horses on a small block near Armadale only a few years ago. We realise that with the sophistication and development of our cities, some things have been lost.

I will comment on how things have changed and what I trust we will see happen this year in the area of law and order. I look forward to seeing the impact on offenders of the laws that were passed in this Parliament late last year and have now been enacted. Recently we saw the media coverage of the first conviction under the new antistalking legislation. As time goes by, we hope to see some change and tougher penalties being handed out so that there are more appropriate sentences for crimes that are committed. In this session of the Parliament the sentencing Bill, the coroner's Bill and an amendment to the Criminal Code will be introduced. I hope we have cooperation from the Opposition on those pieces of legislation.

It gives me a great sense of satisfaction when we talk about law and order to know that the tenders for the police station in Forrestfield were accepted last week. The tender process has now been completed and the successful tenderer will soon be advised, with work expected to begin this month. The people in Forrestfield have worked hard on this project for more than 10 years. Today I congratulate them and give them some thanks on behalf of all community members who have been awaiting that facility. I specifically thank Doreen Southam, Nita Sadler, Rita Mahoney and Lorna Orr from the Forrestfield residents' association who have worked tirelessly towards this project. It gives me pleasure to see their delight in knowing this project has finally become a reality.

Despite the things that have been achieved during this Government's term in office, some very disturbing matters must be addressed. Much has been said about law and order during the Address-in-Reply debate, and I will not revisit those issues. I simply endorse the remarks made by my colleagues. However, I do wish to comment about the staggering rate of youth suicide in our community. It gives me great concern. What a tragedy in our time this is. Our children, on outward appearances, have everything to live for, yet they are taking their lives in unprecedented numbers. What an irony this is in Western Australia, the land of milk and honey. It grieves the hearts of parents and it should be of concern to all members of this House who, as responsible legislators, must take this issue on board and examine the support we can give to the workers in the relevant departments, the community and the industry who deal with these young people. I exhort the Government to take note of what is occurring. It might be a silent epidemic, but it is one that we must address.

Another matter of concern in my electorate, and I am sure in every electorate, which is probably not such a hidden problem as suicide, is the problem of drug abuse. Although the trade of hard drugs in this city is a problem, I focus my comments on the so-called harmless drug, marijuana. Marijuana use is prevalent; it is obvious and it is becoming a part of the experience of younger and younger children. In my electorate I am working with concerned parents of not only high school children, but also primary school children, who feel that this problem is encroaching on what seems to have become the

norm for community life in their suburbs. We are putting together a community forum where they can hear support speakers and find out how best to deal with the problem within their schools, family and community, and how best to equip their children to deal with the problem.

Interestingly, in today's *The West Australian* an article from Sydney states that the new Premier of New South Wales, Bob Carr, told ABC radio that he was interested in the South Australian and Australian Capital Territory systems of on-the-spot fines for marijuana users. The Lawyers' Reform Association president said the Premier was taking a positive step towards legalising marijuana. The president supports the new Premier's moves. I will address the problems of this so-called harmless drug. It poses a health risk to our children. People will argue that it does not, but a great deal of evidence indicates that that is not the case. In some places - for example, South Australia - trafficking offences have doubled since cannabis was decriminalised in April 1987. Great problems exist in South Australia. Since the ACT decriminalised cannabis in 1982 a treatment agency has recorded a 40 per cent increase in problematic cannabis abuse.

I could go on and talk about the risk to society. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology says that cannabis was detected in 11 per cent of road fatalities in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia between 1990 and 1993. We certainly do not condone drink driving and we do not say that it is harmless to society, because in many ways whatever we do will impact on other people. I give the last word on this matter to a magistrate who says: "Before we start liberalising cannabis laws, we must ask ourselves, 'Shouldn't we be doing everything we possibly can to keep illicit drugs away from our children?'" Although there is no move from this Government to do such a thing, there is a feeling that this is a harmless drug. I am working with parents in my community to help our children deal with this problem. I encourage others to do the same.

Mr W. Smith: Do you think there should be an education program?

Mrs PARKER: Yes, we should have a committed education program to help our children deal with this, but I would be careful not to overload school systems with all matters of social responsibility.

I welcome the reintroduction of the Swan Valley legislation into this House, specifically in relation to my electorate. I look forward to seeing it passed this session. The Swan Valley has great heritage value in environmental, cultural and viticulture terms. It will give me pleasure tonight to dash during the dinner break to the end of vintage celebrations with the industry and supporters in the valley.

If I can take any satisfaction in electorate matters, it is from the fact that the Forrestfield Police Station will soon be opened. The project I would now like to take on board in my electorate is the Guildford historic town site. There is much value in the town of Guildford. It is very much the gateway to the Swan Valley. There are real problems in transport issues. I have spoken with the Minister for Planning on this matter and I will speak with the Minister for Transport this week.

I flag to this Parliament that I am working with the community and the shire and looking at old plans which have never been acted upon, to deal with the real issues so that we can be secure that the special qualities of Guildford will be retained. One need only visit the National Trust property of Woodbridge to see what Guildford was in its heyday. I would like to see its renaissance. On behalf of the people of Guildford I will continue to seek a solution on this. In many ways the generation of my parents and parents-in-law laid a great foundation for us in Western Australia in 1995. I intend to ensure that as we move forward we do not lose some of the special things of the past. I endorse and support the motion on the Address-in-Reply and thank the House for its time today.

DR CONSTABLE (Floreat) [4.56 pm]: I commence with a brief comment on the Governor's speech. I was disappointed that two things were not mentioned in that speech. Firstly, the mutual recognition legislation which should be introduced into the Parliament this year was not mentioned, given the Government's commitment to that. I hope that was an oversight. Secondly, there was no mention of the introduction of