



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament  
First Session**

**Thursday, 19 September 2019**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bills .....	1483
Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 .....	1483
Second Reading Debate .....	1483
Business of the House .....	1488
Postponement of Business .....	1488
Bills .....	1488
Non-profit Bodies (Freedom to Advocate) Bill 2019 .....	1488
First Reading .....	1488
Second Reading Speech .....	1488
Motions .....	1490
Hayley Lawrence, Children's Book Author .....	1490
Filtered Smoke Stacks .....	1492
Nurses and Midwives .....	1500
Central Coast Health Investment .....	1509
Visitors .....	1516
Visitors .....	1516
Members .....	1516
Representation of Ministers Absent During Questions .....	1516
Question Time .....	1516
Ministerial Standards .....	1516
Sydney Fish Markets .....	1519
Regional Public Transport .....	1520
Ministerial Standards .....	1522
Electoral Law Reform .....	1523
Member for Drummoyne .....	1527
Business Tax Cuts .....	1527
Regional Drought Assistance .....	1529
Western Sydney Investment .....	1530
Business of the House .....	1532
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Order of Business .....	1532
Petitions .....	1532
Petitions Received .....	1532
Private Members' Statements .....	1533
The Order of Australia Association .....	1533
Wage Theft .....	1533
Education Week .....	1535
Ryde Wednesday Walkers .....	1536
Turkish Victory Day .....	1536
Petitions .....	1538
Wyong and Gosford Hospital Parking Fees .....	1538

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Motions .....	1543
Hansard Record Expurgation .....	1543
Private Members' Statements .....	1543
Jersey Day .....	1543
Public Education Awards .....	1544
Water Supply Management .....	1545
Marine Rescue Port Macquarie .....	1545
Mental Health Services .....	1546
Wollondilly Electorate Sport .....	1547
Sydney Cruise Terminal Proposal .....	1548
Police and Community Charity Ball .....	1549
Police Remembrance Day .....	1549
Shoalhaven Electorate Projects .....	1549
Maitland Electorate Jobs .....	1550
Griffith Education .....	1551
Windsor Public School .....	1552
NSW Fair Trading Product Safety .....	1553
Inner West Council .....	1553
Grace's Place .....	1554
Riverina on Demand Bus Service .....	1555
Warrarah 2 Coal Project .....	1555
Link Housing .....	1556
Homelessness .....	1557
NSW Fair Trading Product Safety .....	1558
Terrigal Electorate Surf Life Saving Clubs .....	1559
Community Recognition Statements .....	1560
Coffs Harbour Police .....	1560
Jopuka Productions .....	1560
Seven Hills Electorate Public Schools .....	1560
Shellharbour Winter Toy Drive .....	1560
Erina High School .....	1561
Bondi Wave Program .....	1561
Kakadu Adventure Challenge .....	1561
Detective Superintendent Jason Weinstein .....	1561
Community Technology Centre and Robertson Men's Shed .....	1561
Janice Anderson .....	1562
Walk Towards Hope .....	1562
Matthew Calbert .....	1562
Miranda Kindergarten .....	1562
Dani Campbell .....	1562
Hornsby Heights Netball Club .....	1563
Waverley Community Men's Shed .....	1563

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

R U Ok? Day.....	1563
Clinton O'Connor.....	1563
Dylan Littlehales.....	1563
Behind the Seen.....	1564
Sir Roden Cutler Park Ninja Course.....	1564
Global Climate Strike.....	1564
Ellen Roberts.....	1564
Terrigal Electorate Community Organisations.....	1564
David Ward.....	1565
Vickie Hyde.....	1565
Surf Life Saving Volunteers.....	1565
Empire Bay Progress Association.....	1565
Unischools Steer Challenge.....	1565
Charlie's Run 4 Kids.....	1566
Veterans' Health Week.....	1566
Women of Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club.....	1566
Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School.....	1566
SES and RFS Presentation Dinner.....	1566
Andrew Lazaris.....	1567
Deb Heard Big Shave.....	1567
Mars Factory.....	1567
Bill Turner Cup Final Series.....	1567
Dance Spectacular.....	1567
Threads of Glebe.....	1568
Macarthur Multicultural Children's Festival 2019.....	1568
Dora Creek Swampies.....	1568
Ullambana Festival.....	1568
Jennie Wilson.....	1568
Teresa Hanna, St Clair.....	1569
Bellfield College.....	1569
Rotary Writing Competition 2019.....	1569
Env Solutions.....	1569
Jax Tyres.....	1569
Middle Harbour Yacht Club.....	1570
Bishop Keith Dalby.....	1570
Sutherland Shire Business Chamber.....	1570
Italian Immigrants World Abruzzo National Day 2019.....	1570
City of Lismore Orchid Show.....	1570
Betty Wallace OAM.....	1571
Cronulla Lions and Skillz4me.....	1571
Michael Meredith.....	1571
Blacktown Division.....	1571

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Hastings Public School Tournament of the Minds .....	1572
Splash of Colour Fundraiser .....	1572
Brisbane Walk Lindfield.....	1572
Baulkham Hills Electorate Early Childhood Learning Centres .....	1572
Tribute to Anthony Jukes.....	1573
West Tamworth Tennis Club .....	1573
Dr Sophie Calabretto.....	1573
Frank and Beryl Rigby.....	1573
Miroma Inala 2019 Art Exhibition 'through Line' .....	1574
Network Awards .....	1574
Broken Heel Festival 2019.....	1574

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Thursday, 19 September 2019**

**The Speaker (The Hon. Jonathan Richard O'Dea)** took the chair at 9:30.

**The Speaker** read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

*[Notices of motions given.]*

## *Bills*

### **JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019**

#### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from 21 August 2019.**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (09:46):** I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Justice Legislation Amendment Bill. The Opposition does not oppose the bill. The bill contains a wide variety of provisions ranging over a number of pieces of legislation and covering several portfolios. There are several amendments to the Coroners Act contained in schedule 1, section 1.4. Item [1] amends the definition of a "reportable death" in section 6 of the principal Act. Relevantly, this removes from the definition—and thus removes from the obligation to report to the Coroner—a death where the deceased died in circumstances where the person had not been attended by a medical practitioner within the period of six months immediately before the person's death.

In his second reading speech the Attorney noted that this amendment brings New South Wales into line with most other Australian jurisdictions and will mean the Coroner no longer has to consider what are obviously deaths from natural causes. The Attorney went on to argue that this would allow the coronial jurisdiction to focus on more serious matters. This was, I know, certainly the position of previous State Coroner Michael Barnes, who is now the Ombudsman. Reducing the number of natural causes deaths being reported to the Coroner has obvious benefits. It is better because it is quicker for families, it frees up forensic resources for more complex cases and it reduces costs, especially in the regions, because fewer bodies need to be transported.

I understand that the figure usually quoted is that 60 per cent of the cases reported to the Coroner in New South Wales are natural causes deaths. Interestingly in Victoria with a similar number of cases reported annually only about 40 per cent are regarded as due to natural causes. The real public policy issue is how more likely is it that the risk of homicides and deaths due to neglect and mismanagement will increase because of this amendment? That is probably unknowable. My fear is that the motivation for this amendment is due to this Government's chronic inability to properly resource the coronial jurisdiction. The fact that that is the motivation does not necessarily mean that the substantive measure should be opposed and the Opposition does not oppose it. Granted that other jurisdictions have this position apparently without adverse consequences, the Opposition will not oppose the change—even if it is driven primarily by inadequate resourcing.

The second amendment to the Coroners Act would add a new section 88A. This will allow a pathologist to carry out a preliminary examination of the remains of a deceased person without the need for a direction from a coroner. This amendment seems to have only positive effects. It will accelerate some procedures that can be done by forensic pathologists shortly after bodies arrive at mortuaries. This could include CT scans, X-rays, and external examinations of bodies. The Attorney noted in his second reading speech that these amendments are only immediate measures and that a high-level task force is available to undertake an end-to-end review of the coronial process. That task force needs to address some pretty serious issues that the Government has thus far failed to come to grips with. As previous State Coroner Barnes said at a hearing of the Parliament's oversight committee on the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the Coroner's jurisdiction is underfunded.

All of the arcane arguments and obfuscations about the report of government services, the ROGS figures, cannot hide the fact that the number of inquests held in New South Wales have declined significantly. Without proper resourcing no amount of legislative fiddling can address the ills of the coronial jurisdiction. The structure needs to be properly addressed. Should there be a specialist Coroner's Court, as there is almost everywhere else in comparative jurisdictions or alternatively greater autonomy within the Local Court for the Coroner's Court. I understand those positions were forcibly argued in the statutory review of the Coroners Act, which has been delayed so long it has almost reached the status of the statutory review of the Defamation Act. It is now apparently being held up or caught up with the work of the taskforce mentioned by the Attorney in his second reading speech.

If the taskforce is only concentrating on delay, or timeliness, as I think its title suggests, that seems completely inappropriate. The issue is much broader than just delay or even just resources.

As well there needs to be a focus on the quality of the Coroner's Court and how their recommendations are dealt with. There are, for example, far fewer recommendations by country magistrates conducting coronial inquests than in the Coroner's Court in Sydney. That is hardly the fault of country magistrates. It is a result of the structure of this system. It also echoes some of the comments by the Chief Magistrate in his foreword to the recently tabled review of the Local Court Act 2018. The Coroner's duties are over and above their normal magisterial function and the Chief Magistrate knows it. In addition to that, the mechanism for implementation of recommendations by coroners is at the moment, at best, haphazard.

A third amendment proposed in this bill to the Coroners Act is to include the Legal Aid Commission of NSW as a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team, known as DVDRT. The DVDRT has historically done good and important work and anything that can improve its effectiveness should be welcomed. It used to report annually but this Government reduced its reporting to only every two years, a move that disappointed members of the team and appalled other observers, including me. I would have thought the team's work was important enough to merit annual reporting.

The bill also has provisions relating to justices of the peace. The Government released a discussion paper on the justices of the peace framework review and submissions closed on 17 September 2018, almost exactly a year ago. Arising from that, a couple of the proposals in the paper are picked up in this bill. The first few items in schedule 1.13, however, do not seem to result from the consultation paper. They allow the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice to delegate functions under the Act and regulations to senior officers of the department. Item [5] of the schedule inserts a new section 13A into the Justices of the Peace Act. This allows a JP to apply to use the title "JP (retired)" after the person's name if the person has ceased to hold office as a JP, was at least 65 years of age when the person ceased to hold office and had held office for at least 10 consecutive years. There are requirements for good character and a mechanism to cancel the authority to use the title.

Schedule 1.18 amends the Oaths Act. This is a welcome amendment, although well overdue and nowhere near extensive enough especially for many constituents of mine. Section 26A of the Oaths Act permits a JP to, in effect, witness a statutory declaration for use in another State, Territory or the Commonwealth if permitted by the other jurisdiction. Schedule 1.18 extends this by adding "or witness the execution of a document". Quite often this might involve the witnessing of Land Title documents. It of course makes no sense to allow JPs to witness interstate statutory declarations but not other documents. Indeed, it was not a practical problem until a few years ago when the department started issuing various directives telling JPs they could not do it for reasons that still frankly escape me. What this amendment does not deal with of course is overseas documents.

Quite often there are, for example, proof-of-life forms to allow residents to receive payments from overseas governments. Sometimes they are in the nature of a pension. In my experience they can also include Chileans who were tortured and imprisoned under Pinochet's fascist regime and are entitled to social payments. To recoup those payments they need proof-of-life forms. They have traditionally been witnessed in New South Wales by JPs. For many years such documents were signed by JPs. The department then issued a directive saying New South Wales JPs could not do this. The practical problem is that the payments are often quite modest, albeit significant in both actual and symbolic terms to the recipients, for example, victims of torture from Chile, and the only alternative is a public notary who will charge several hundred dollars. The situation is Kafkaesque and should be resolved.

Equally missing is a provision to indemnify JPs who act in good faith. Other jurisdictions have this provision, for example, section 19 of the Western Australian Justices of the Peace Act. I struggle to see the public policy benefit in denying indemnification, certainly if it can be done in other jurisdictions. Finally on justices of the peace, I note that the Attorney General in his second reading speech thanked a number of people, including Paul Mannix, who was described as the President of the New South Wales Justices Association. Paul no doubt deserves thanks. He is certainly someone I know. He was involved with the Liverpool Justices Association for many years and his father was a distinguished predecessor of mine in this place. It is, however, a little while since he was president of the association. The current president is Dr John Brodie, who equally deserves thanks. This inaccuracy probably reflects how long it has taken to get the legislation to this place.

Schedule 1.8 provides amendments to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act. One provision increases the standard non-parole period [SNPP] for the offence called bushfire arson to nine years. Twelve months ago the maximum penalty was increased from 14 years to 21 years but the SNPP was left unchanged at five years and the SNPP issue was referred to the NSW Sentencing Council. In a report dated June 2019 the council made recommendations. I note the findings of the council that a relatively low percentage of such charges result in a conviction, a relatively large proportion are dealt with through provisions that take into account the defendant's mental health and a relatively large number of charges are withdrawn by the prosecution.



The Sentencing Council recommended the SNPP should be set somewhere in the range of eight to 10 years. This is more than the 37.5 per cent of the maximum penalty recommended in its 2013 report on SNPPs. The council recognises this and explained its reasons for that in the report. This was recommendation 4.1 of the report. The SNPP in the bill, in the middle of the range recommended by the council, is logical. There is a range of other amendments in the bill that should be acknowledged. The calculation of time provisions for postal service, as has happened in other legislation, is amended under the Anti-Discrimination Act to reflect changes in Australia Post delivery. It is taking longer to deliver letters. Official visitors in correctional centres and detention centres have their terms of appointment extended from two to four years.

There are clarifications that committal proceedings for serious children's indictable offences are dealt with under the Criminal Procedures Act; that Justice Health and the forensic mental health network are referred to correctly in legislation; about the prosecution of a child sexual offence where there is uncertainty as to precisely when the alleged conduct occurred be brought where the potentially applicable sexual offences have the same maximum penalty; that a person whose release from custody has been delayed with the person's consent continues to be held in custody technically as an inmate until the day of release; and the type of information about prisoners that should be subject to the limitation or authorisation of disclosure.

The Court Security Act is amended to include portable document scanners as a type of recording device that is prohibited for use in court premises. This keeps legislation up to date with technology. The Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act, known as LEPR, is amended so that applications for notices to produce that are made in the Local Court can be made electronically at all times, not just after hours and in urgent situations. The Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act is amended to clarify the power of courts to take action if an offender breaches a suspended prison sentence that expired before the commencement of last year's amendments. Ambiguities in the operation of the early appropriate guilty pleas program are dealt with in schedule 1.2 and schedule 1.9. There are also provisions relating to the child sexual offence evidence pilot concerning witnesses who reach 18 years of age before the proceedings conclude.

Schedule 1.9 [6] and [8] and schedule 1.19 provide that certain offences under the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act and Health Practitioners Regulation National Law (NSW) can be prosecuted summarily in the Local Court unless the prosecutor or accused person elects otherwise. This is another example of the problems recently highlighted by the Chief Magistrate in his foreword to the 2018 Local Court annual review—the continual expansion of the Local Court's jurisdiction without the provision of additional resources. As the Chief Magistrate said:

Adding further to the rising impost are amendments to indictable offences which are capable of being dealt with summarily (known as 'Table offences'), resulting in changes in the complexity and seriousness of the matters dealt with in the Court's criminal jurisdiction.

He also said:

There is a limit to the capacity of the court to continually cope with broad levels of under resourcing.

The consequent changes to court practice the Chief Magistrate may have to make will affect the court's reputation but the blame should be laid at the feet of the Government. A new legislative basis is provided for the maintenance of a juvenile justice victims' register for victims of young offenders. This follows earlier legislative changes. Absolute privilege is provided under the Defamation Act to legal regulatory authorities which provide copies of compliance audit reports to each other and to the Independent Planning Commission in relation to some of the material it publishes. Schedule 1.20 clarifies that the NSW Sheriff and staff may validly accept and perform duties delegated to them by the Commonwealth. There are also a number of other comparatively less consequential proposals that I will not deal with. The Opposition does not oppose the bill.

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (09:58):** I am pleased to speak in support of the Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 introduced by the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Hon. Mark Speakman, on 21 August 2019. Specifically I speak in support of two amendments detailed in schedules 1.41 and 1.42 of the bill, which contain amendments to the Coroners Act 2009 that seek to improve coronial processes and reduce delay in the system. At the outset I acknowledge both the Attorney General, and the Minister for Health and Medical Research, Brad Hazzard, for their compassion, understanding and considerable efforts regarding this issue.

Since my election I have vigorously advocated for changes to legislation and regulation that will help families; changes that will ease the compounded pain of those who have lost someone without warning, who must then endure the hardship of their deceased loved ones being sent hundreds of kilometres away for a post-mortem examination where resulting delays impact the timely conduct of funeral services. The doors of both the Attorney General, and the Minister for Health and Medical Research have been open to me always. Their unwavering

support is reflected through the amendments in this bill, and other measures that I will reference separately, where we see important changes for the benefit of grieving families—changes I warmly welcome.

For families who have lost a loved one the world stops turning. Everyday life is something that continues happening to everybody else. The grieving family is caught in a sealed bubble of sorrow, confusion and endless tears: All they want to do is get through this dark period and start coming to terms with their loss. It is perfectly understandable then that rural communities have grown increasingly vocal at the delays caused by the requirement for a post-mortem examination that will be conducted in a major city such as Newcastle, Sydney or Wollongong.

From the Cootamundra electorate, I acknowledge Jill Jones of Gundagai and her husband, Bronc, who lost their son Mark in a car accident on the Gocup Road in July 2017. Mark, a father of three, a brother, a husband and a wonderfully treasured member of the Gundagai Tigers rugby league community, was taken for a post-mortem examination and did not return for an agonising two weeks. At a time when all they wanted was closure, an opportunity to say farewell to their son and start the long and never-ending journey towards coming to terms with their loss, his family found themselves in limbo. They could not arrange a funeral because they had no idea when one could be held.

Gloria Schultz underwent a similar experience after the sudden loss of her son, Dean. An unbearable 16 days passed before he was brought home to his family from Newcastle. Jill and Gloria have been passionate voices on the challenges that amendments proposed in this bill seek to address. They have maintained constant contact with me on their journeys, so I am very aware of their desire to ensure other families in rural communities do not have to suffer as greatly as they and their families did. Current legislation, specifically section 35 of the Coroners Act 2009, provides that any person who has reason to believe a death or suspected death of another person is a "reportable death" within the meaning of section 6 of the Coroners Act must report the death to a police officer, Coroner or assistant coroner.

Section 6 (1) (d) currently provides that a person's death is reportable if the person who died did not see a medical practitioner in six months prior to their death. A practical consequence of this is that families in rural areas right across New South Wales must wait while their loved ones are taken to Newcastle, Sydney or Wollongong for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death before they can establish a day and time for a funeral service. Such post-mortem examinations can be carried out only by a limited number of highly specialised forensic pathologists. It is widely acknowledged that there is a worldwide shortage of these highly skilled professionals. Lengthy delays in the process become inevitable.

The first amendment, in schedule 1.4 [1] to the bill, will amend the meaning of reportable death in section 6 (1) (d) under the Act. It will remove the requirement in section 6 (1) (d) by providing that deaths no longer will be reportable to the Coroner simply because the person did not see a medical practitioner within a period of time before their death. This will reduce the number of natural deaths unnecessarily reported to the Coroner. Currently, around 60 per cent of all cases reported to the NSW State Coroner each year are the result of a natural death. The amendment to section 6 (1) (d) of the Act will play a part in reducing the number of deceased people who are sent away for full invasive post-mortem examinations and the inevitable resulting delays for families.

Turning to schedule 1.4 [2], I point out that the bill also introduces an amendment to the Act to improve coronial processes and reduce delay in the system through the improvement of post-mortem investigative procedures. In practice, the new provision will be introduced into the Coroners Act 2009 as new section 88A, "Preliminary examination of remains of deceased person", which will provide greater clarity into the cause of a death, and improve the quality and timeliness of coronial decision-making. The new provision will allow a pathologist, or another person a pathologist has arranged, to undertake a preliminary examination of a deceased person without the need for a direction by a coroner.

Blood samples, hair samples, MRI scans and ultrasounds can provide a wealth of detail, all of which can be obtained quickly and without the need for an invasive post-mortem examination. In many cases the results of these initial samples can be used to determine whether an invasive post-mortem examination of a deceased person is subsequently required. Where it is not, preliminary examinations may resolve matters quickly, allowing loved ones to be returned to families without unnecessary delay. Given the non-invasive nature of these procedures, it is anticipated that there will be very few objections to such an examination by family members. However, NSW Health will review operational processes for these new preliminary examinations. Importantly, these non-invasive procedures will not be carried out over the objections of a senior next of kin.

Section 96 (1) of the Coroners Act 2009 allows a senior next of kin to request that a coroner not exercise a relevant post-mortem investigative function. Sections 96, 97, 98 and 99 of the Act set out the process to be followed if there is such a request. If a senior next of kin objects to a preliminary investigation, this will not be carried out over their objections. NSW Health Pathology social workers will work with the senior next of kin to

try to resolve any concerns, but if objections remain a post-mortem investigation direction from a coroner will be sought. This will enable a senior next of kin to request that directions for certain post-mortem investigations not be made, and for the existing process under the Act for dealing with such a request to be followed. These two amendments will have an immediate and positive effect on the number of deceased people being sent away from their loved ones.

Of course there will still be cases where there is a requirement for post-mortem examination. Importantly, the obligation under the Act to report unnatural, violent or suspicious deaths and sudden deaths from unknown causes will remain untouched. These amendments will not hinder the ability of the NSW Police Force to gather evidence for an investigation. In these circumstances, by removing the legislative obligation to perform post-mortem examinations in the case where a death is natural, forensic pathologists will be able to focus on cases where questions remain about the cause of death. Ultimately, the aim of the amendments to the Coroners Act is for families who lose loved ones in unexpected or unexplained circumstances to get the answers they need sooner, providing them with an opportunity to farewell their loved ones without distraction.

We are determined that families will no longer have to endure similar experiences to those faced by the Jones and Schultz families, and others in the Cootamundra electorate. I will not pretend that these amendments are a complete solution to the problem. However, these reforms are part of a wider undertaking to put grieving families first during a time when they are at their most vulnerable. I acknowledge the high-level task force established by the Department of Communities and Justice and NSW Health to undertake an end-to-end review of the coronial process with the aim of improving the timeliness of the coronial processes for New South Wales families. Consisting of members of the judiciary, the Department of Communities and Justice, the NSW Police Force and representatives from NSW Health, I eagerly await its recommendations. [*Extension of time*]

I once again thank all of the families who have reached out to me and the President of the NSW Funeral Directors' Association, Mr Michael Mackay, the committee and members for their ongoing advocacy on this and other issues on behalf of grieving families. I will continue to advocate passionately for the communities of the Cootamundra electorate and communities right across New South Wales on this issue. I am pleased to support the amendments in this bill, which will improve coronial processes and reduce administrative burdens within the coronial system. I commend the bill to the House.

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (10:09):** I will make a few comments on the Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and its proposed amendments to the Coroners Act. Firstly, I congratulate and thank Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Mark Speakman and the Government for introducing this legislation. I note the support and considerable work of Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard and thank him. This bill is an important development and an encouraging step towards addressing coronial autopsy delays across regional areas, including in my electorate of Wagga Wagga. To briefly recap the issue for the benefit of the House: When an individual dies in suspicious or unexpected circumstances a forensic coronial autopsy is required to identify the cause of death and provide post-mortem information to the coroner. In 2016 the NSW Health Pathology forensic services were centralised. Since that time post-mortem examinations for coronial purposes for residents living in rural and regional New South Wales have been conducted in Newcastle and Sydney.

While the coronial autopsy process is generally short, taking up to three days in most cases, residents across the Wagga Wagga electorate and other parts of regional New South Wales have reported wait times of up to three weeks, and in some cases even longer. These delays cause immense distress for emotionally traumatised families and individuals. The removal of a body, its invasive examination and the uncertainty surrounding its return leave residents in a grieving limbo, unable to proceed with funeral arrangements. This is an issue that affects not only families but also communities. When sudden deaths occur in regional areas the communities are deeply affected. Delays to funeral arrangements impact on people. Residents who have been through this process have told me that the body leaving for a considerable period of time is very distressing and upsetting. It affects their mourning process.

Following representation to the Minister for Health and Medical Research, and the Attorney General by me and my fellow members—and I acknowledge the work of the member for Cootamundra and the member for Albury, who are in the Chamber listening today—I am pleased to welcome the combined Department of Communities and Justice, and NSW Health establishment of a high-level task force to undertake an end-to-end review of the coronial system. I hope the results of that review will go a long way to identifying and further addressing the causes of delays across the entire forensic coronial autopsy process. In the meantime, the amendments proposed in this bill are a step towards alleviating some of the unnecessary trauma and stress of grieving families and individuals.

Section 6 (1) (d) of the Coroners Act provides that a person's death is a reportable death if the person who died had not seen a medical practitioner within six months before their death. The amendment in

schedule 1.4 [1] will bring New South Wales into line with other States and Territories, except the Australian Capital Territory, by removing that requirement. New section 88A will allow for preliminary examinations to be carried out by pathologists without requiring direction from the Coroner. That will mean non-invasive procedures, such as taking blood samples, X-rays or CT or MRI scans, can be performed to determine if an invasive full post-mortem examination is even necessary. In the first instance, this may see matters resolved quickly and allow for bodies to be returned to families without unnecessary delays. In addition, I believe and hope that this provision may pave the way for specialist medical practitioners to conduct preliminary examinations in regional areas under the direction of specialist pathologists in Newcastle or Sydney.

In other words, we could make use of our considerable telehealth capacity in this State and our new facilities in regional areas. We should ensure that bodies do not travel away unnecessarily, and that we use technology to expedite examinations and improve the timelines for grieving families. I encourage the task force to explore models for conducting some autopsies in regional centres. In the meantime, I am encouraged by the Government's response to our concerns in the drafting of this bill and the establishment of the task force. I thank all the residents of my electorate who approached me, lobbied me and shared their stories. In particular, I thank Gina Caton and Matthew Hardwick from Adelong, whose support and advocacy on this issue has been considerable. I acknowledge their work and pay tribute to the fact that they have not let considerable stress and trauma impact on their ability to make things better for their fellow Australians. For those reasons, I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (10:14):** I add my support for the Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, introduced on 24 August, and I thank the Attorney General for introducing it. Whilst the bill covers many and varied matters, my first point of comment lies with schedule 1.13 and schedule 1.18 to the bill, which contain amendments to the Justices of the Peace Act 2002 and the Oaths Act 1900 respectively. Justices of the Peace [JPs] have provided invaluable service to the New South Wales community for more than 200 years. The primary role of a JP is to witness a person making a statutory declaration or affidavit, and to certify copies of original documents. These kinds of documents are often needed for official and legal purposes. JPs come from all sections of the community. They are widely available across New South Wales and provide their services on a voluntary basis.

The amendments in this bill provide an important recognition of the significant time many JPs have dedicated to their local communities over many years. Schedule 1.13 [5] to the bill introduces the title of "Justice of the Peace (Retired)" for people who were 65 years or older when they ceased to hold office as a JP and provided at least 10 consecutive years of service. The title of JP holds personal significance for many current and former office holders. However, it is a reality that some JPs need to relinquish office as they advance in age or otherwise find that they cannot fulfil the requirements of the role. Enabling these individuals to apply for the title "Justice of the Peace (Retired)" recognises their service and status in the community.

**Debate interrupted.**

*Business of the House*

## **POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS**

**Mr CLAYTON BARR:** In accordance with Standing Order 101, I postpone general business notice of motion (for bills) No. 2 [Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment (Abolition of Renewable Interment) Bill 2019].

*Bills*

## **NON-PROFIT BODIES (FREEDOM TO ADVOCATE) BILL 2019**

### **First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Paul Lynch, read a first time and printed.**

### **Second Reading Speech**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (10:18):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Non-Profit Bodies (Freedom to Advocate) Bill 2019 on behalf of the Labor Opposition. The object of the bill is to prohibit State agreements with non-profit bodies that restrict or prevent those bodies from commenting on, advocating for, supporting or proposing changes to State law, policy or practice. In 2015 I introduced a substantially similar bill in this place, but the Government voted it down in accord with the iron law of State politics that the Government will never support an Opposition bill, no matter how meritorious it might be. I note a Federal Labor Government introduced similar legislation; the then conservative Opposition did not oppose it. Similar legislation was introduced in South Australia and is still in force, despite the

election there of a conservative Government. When I introduced the 2015 bill, I quoted John Stuart Mill from his classic *On Liberty*. I shall do the same today. Mill wrote:

No argument, we may suppose, can now be needed, against permitting a legislature or an executive, not identified in interest with the people, to prescribe opinions to them, and determine what doctrines or what arguments they shall be allowed to hear.

Mill also wrote:

... speaking generally, it is not, in constitutional countries, to be apprehended that the government, whether completely responsible to the people or not, will often attempt to control the expression of opinion, except when in doing so it makes itself the organ of the general intolerance of the public.

As Mill argued, one way of developing good policy and arriving at the best intellectual conclusion is to confront opposing views. It is also a democratic method of decision-making. At that level of general principle, the case against gagging NGOs through funding agreement clauses is overwhelmingly powerful. There is also a very practical aspect to considerations here. NGOs will often have better detailed knowledge of problems and issues than any other body in their particular area of expertise. They are quite often exposed to an extensive client base. That means they have a better opportunity, in many cases, of seeing the systemic patterns that others do not see. On the other hand, because of their hands-on experience they deal with a multitude of individual cases, which can allow a level of insight and knowledge not available to decision-makers or other bodies.

These considerations become even more powerful with the increasing use of NGOs by governments to carry out functions traditionally carried out by government. If the Government wants to make the best possible decisions, it needs the best and most fearless advice that NGOs can give—even if it is sometimes inconvenient, unwelcome or downright painful. If that is too hard for governments or individual Ministers, perhaps they should seek alternate employment. It is part of the business of government. NGOs should not have to choose between expressing their opinions and receiving funding. Governments should not be in the business of buying the silence of potential critics. Not-for-profits should not be placed in that position; opinions should not be bought. Many of these arguments found an echo in the Productivity Commission's *Report into Access to Justice Arrangements*. Dealing with community legal centres [CLCs], the commission said that CLC advocacy on systemic issues was an efficient use of resources. The commission said about this:

... strategic advocacy and law reform that seeks to identify and remedy systemic issues, and so reduce the need for frontline services, should be a core activity ...

This approach was confirmed in the Government's own Cameron review in a December 2017 report entitled *Review of NSW Community Legal Centre Services*. Recommendation 1 said that "CLCs should continue to provide a complete range of legal assistance services", and it included law reform activity specifically. Recommendation 3 stated:

The NSW Government should continue to provide funding to CLCs that engage in strategic advocacy that seeks to identify and remedy systemic issues.

Turning to the bill, the operative clause is clause 4, which provides that an agency must not include a prohibited term in a State agreement. If such a clause is included, it is void. The terms "agency" and "State agreement" are defined in clause 3, which is the definition section. Clause 5 defines the phrase "prohibited term". The date of commencement is the date of assent. When I introduced the 2015 bill, I listed some of the threats to NGOs. They included the provision of gag clauses in contracts issued by the Howard Government and the imposition of gag laws by the Newman Government in Queensland in 2012. In this State there seemed a real likelihood that the Government was going to do the same. Then there is the near hysterical response by elements of the right to the Environmental Defenders Office NSW.

There has also been the use of tax policy and changes to the charitable status of various NGOs with which a conservative Federal Government disagreed. In a similar way, the Federal Government appointed as Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission someone who argued against advocacy by charities. There was also the profoundly novel argument by the Federal Government that the Australian Constitution prevented funding to NGOs for advocacy—despite that having occurred for decades and despite a plethora of distinguished legal commentators dismissing the idea. In April this year Jonathon Hunyor and Cassandra Goldie, CEOs of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and Australian Council of Social Service respectively, co-authored an article that set out the principles well and rebutted attacks on NGO advocacy. The article stated:

Advocacy by independent groups in civil society is vital to a healthy democracy and makes for better government decisions and outcomes. Civil society plays a vital role in ensuring a more diverse range of voices are heard and the interests of those who may otherwise be excluded or marginalised are represented.

However, governments and some powerful interest groups do not always like advocacy by civil society, and regularly object to government funds being used for that purpose. While often expressed as an ideological position that funding advocacy is 'not a role for government', it's a view that also aligns with the realpolitik: why support groups that may publically criticise you?

When this bill was previously debated, the best the Government could do was to say that it did not have clauses in its agreements like those voided by this bill, so it did not need the bill. That, with respect, is nonsense. If you say you are not going to do it, why not put that in legislation? There can be no adverse consequences if you say the bill would not void any currently existing agreements. If the Government does not support the bill, then it is entirely legitimate to conclude that it may well adopt gag clauses in the future. That is the only reasonable conclusion one can draw from the Government rejecting the bill.

There are two other considerations. One is that the Government has already started down this path. Principle 3 of the Principles for Funding of Legal Assistance Services in New South Wales imposed funding restrictions that mean all New South Wales legal assistance services funded by Legal Aid and the Public Purpose Fund should be spent on immediate frontline services and not on broader advocacy. Those provisions would not be struck down by this bill, but they are getting very close; they seem to be tempted down that path, despite the provisions of clause 2 (vii). The current principles certainly are described by the Human Rights Law Centre as an indirect prohibition.

The other consideration that is relevant here—and another justification for supporting the bill—is that there is a dramatic sense of self-censorship amongst NGOs. Many are frightened of speaking out now because they fear their funding will be impacted. There has already been a chilling effect on the NGO sector. The passage of this legislation would be one step in dealing with that fear—one step in trying to undo that chilling effect. The Government should heed the words and follow the doctrines of John Stuart Mill. It should move beyond Hayek. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

#### *Motions*

#### **HAYLEY LAWRENCE, CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR**

**Debate resumed from 22 August 2019.**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (10:27):** I resume my contribution to debate on this very important motion brought by the member for Port Macquarie on Children's Book Week and the work of Hayley Lawrence, a local author.

**Mr Geoff Provest:** Any pirate books?

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** I'll get to the pirates; don't worry about that. Previously I mentioned the importance of the Children's Book Council of Australia and the awards. I talked a little about Hayley's book and about Children's Book Week in schools. I will talk a little bit about—and I know the member for Port Macquarie would certainly appreciate this—the winner of the Eve Pownall Award. Entries in this category should be books that have a prime intention of documenting factual material, with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. This year's winner of that category was a book called *Sorry Day* by Coral Vass and Dub Leffler. A review of *Sorry Day*, written by Dani Solomon, states:

*Sorry Day* is told in alternating timelines. In the modern day, Maggie is in a busy crowd with her mother watching a man apologise for the actions of a country and government. In the past, several Indigenous children play and then hide from the white men who have come to remove them from their families.

The stories begin in parallel: Maggie is happy and safe with her mother; the children are playing in the dust, safe in the knowledge that their mothers are at a nearby fire. But their stories diverge when Maggie is briefly separated from her mum only to be quickly reunited and given reassuring cuddles. The children are not so lucky. The story does not delve into what happens to the children next and it doesn't need to. *Sorry Day* ends with hope, though I got goosebumps reading the last page. This is a gentle and important book, and a great way to start conversations with kids aged 5+ about our nation's past. This is a great example of literature that is written in the right way for young people teaching very important lessons.

Once again I acknowledge the member for Port Macquarie for bringing this motion before the House. As parliamentarians we should acknowledge as much as we can the importance of literature and reading and the messages in children's books that often are written in a simple way for children. When I was a primary school principal I often marvelled at the sometimes complex issues that could be explained through pictures and a few words. Pictures can assist in the understanding of very important issues. Once again I thank the member for Port Macquarie and I support the motion.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (10:30):** I thank the member for Port Macquarie for moving this motion in the House today. I listened to the speech of the member for Wyong, who is a former school principal and teacher. This motion recognises a Port Macquarie-based author. I holiday every year at Port Macquarie; it is a beautiful place. I regularly visit Wauchope too, particularly Timbertown, which is in the electorate of the member

for Oxley. The motion recognises Port Macquarie-based author Hayley Lawrence's novel *Inside the Tiger* being listed on the Children's Book Council of Australia notable books for 2019 and congratulates Hayley Lawrence on being one of two debut novelists acknowledged on the 2019 list of notable children's books.

**Mrs Melinda Pavey:** Have you read it to your son?

**Mr MARK COURE:** I have not read it to my son but over the years I have read many books to my son. I will also be reading to another son, who was born five weeks ago. I read to my first son *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, which I read as a kid. I also read *Pig the Pug* and *The Magic Pudding*. I am sure those opposite have read *The Magic Pudding* many times because they think there is a big magic pudding out there when it comes to budgets and expenditure.

**Mr David Harris:** It is called public assets.

**Mr MARK COURE:** Is it? I am sure those on the other side have read it many times. I have read *The Magic Pudding* once or twice. My favourite books are *The Bad Guys* series and Dr Seuss's *Cat in the Hat*. I am sure all members in this Chamber are familiar with the Dr Seuss books. Mem Fox's *Possum Magic* is not a favourite of mine but I am sure it is a favourite of other members. Sorry, I am being honest; it is Thursday.

**Mrs Melinda Pavey:** He is honest on Thursdays.

**Mr MARK COURE:** Just don't talk to me on Tuesdays. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl was—

**Mrs Melinda Pavey:** An Englishman.

**Mr MARK COURE:** —one of the many novels that I have read over the years. The Minister is right that he was an Englishman. He died in 1990. I am very familiar with his books. I remember a book I had as a kid that my mother gave me when I was about 10. *My Place* by Nadia Wheatley is a very good picture book about the changing face of Australia, from the first settlers to modern times. I still have it today because I have repurchased it and given it to my son, James. I thank the member for Port Macquarie for moving this motion in the House. I wish I had more time to talk about some of the amazing books that I have read over the past 41 years.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (10:34):** I too acknowledge the motion brought before the House by the member for Port Macquarie. As someone who was involved in the book printing industry for many years before being elected to this place, I know exactly what an important role books play in the lives of young people. The member for Oatley said that he is not a great fan of Mem Fox. Everybody has their favourite books. He mentioned Dr Seuss. I think *The Lorax* was one of my favourite books as a small child growing up. It is a really good book. Reading allows children to escape and to create a story in their mind. The member for Oatley talked about a book that was handed to him by his mother, which he has handed on to his son. My father handed down a copy of *HMS Ulysses* by Alistair MacLean. I think that was one of the first books I had a desire to re-read many times because it is such a great story.

As I said, I worked in the printing industry for 23 years so I know that books are a wonderful, tactile experience for young children. Kids can play and have fun with a book. In this day of digital technology with iPads, Kindles and other such tools, it is great to see the look on a young child's face when they get their first book. They can play with it, throw it around or do what they want with it. That is the joy of having a book. Books have gone from strength to strength. Times have changed and technology has advanced but kids still love the tactile nature of books.

The member for Port Macquarie has recognised Hayley Lawrence and her debut novel. That is a great credit to Hayley because being a successful and published author is a very difficult task. I have seen many authors who struggle at the beginning of their passion and drive to create good literature but then get across the line after people recognise how good their books are. There was a budding author who took her book to every major publisher in the United Kingdom. It was knocked back by all the publishers because they did not connect with the story. Then one publisher took a punt and published the author's first book. That author was J. K. Rowling. She had been knocked back by every single publisher in the UK but then someone took a risk on her and the rest is history.

There are wonderful authors in Australia creating wonderful children's stories. I talk about authors like Mem Fox and many others. It is great to see Hayley Lawrence joining that cohort of authors who bring the fun, joy and creativity of children's books to Australian children. I thank the member for Port Macquarie for moving this motion, which acknowledges the success of Hayley Lawrence. I also pass on my congratulations to Hayley. She should be congratulated for her wonderful creation; it is no mean feat. I hope all creative authors keep bringing joy and excitement to young people across New South Wales.

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (10:37):** In reply: I thank the member for Wyong for his contribution, which commenced in the last sitting period. I also thank the member for Oatley and the member for Terrigal. I was excited to have the opportunity to acknowledge the work of Hayley Lawrence. The award-winning novel *Inside the Tiger* has received many accolades. It is described on the Penguin website as "A powerful first novel dealing with life, loss and the redemptive power of love". This multi award-winning literary book was shortlisted for the Australian/Vogel's Literary Prize in 2017. Hayley won two fellowships from the Varuna writers' centre. As noted in my motion, *Inside the Tiger* was listed on the Children's Book Council of Australia notable books for 2019 and was long-listed for the Sisters-in-Crime Davitt Award in 2019. I noticed on Haley's website that she is working on another novel, which I look forward to reading, called *Ruby Tuesday*. It has already received notoriety with a mentorship residency through the Byron Writers Festival.

The member for Wyong and I started this discussion during Book Week, which was held in mid-August. The theme of Book Week this year was "Reading is My Secret Power". All members would have seen communities come alive at our local libraries, preschool and childcare centres with young people dressing up as their favourite characters, such as Superman, Superwoman and the like. I thank parents, carers and teachers, who are so instrumental in making sure that we encourage and inspire our young people to pick up books, to be enthralled by stories and to be captured by images and stories that take them into another world.

Book Week celebrates authors but it also celebrates the incredibly creative illustrators. In some of the books that members have referred to today, the illustrations are just as important as the words on the page. We all know the significant impacts that books have on children and young adults. It is critical that we share those stories and that we read often to young children and continue to keep them inspired to pick up books. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Hayley on her efforts. She has worked really hard on her first novel. As I have said, I look forward to reading her second novel, *Ruby Tuesday*, which will be published soon. Given the accolades she has already received for her novel *Inside the Tiger*, I have no doubt that there will be more books to come. She is a credit to her love of reading and writing. Once again I commend her for her work and I thank her for continuing the opportunity for young people to be involved in reading and to be inspired by books.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper):** The question is that the motion be agreed to.

**Motion agreed to.**

#### **FILTERED SMOKE STACKS**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (10:42):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Acknowledges that vehicle exhaust fumes pose a health risk to the community due to presence of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides as well as PM2.5 and PM10 particles.
- (2) Recognises that air pollution related deaths are on the rise in Australia, largely due to road pollution.
- (3) Calls on the Premier to honour her commitment to filter the proposed stacks at Iron Cove Bridge and Rozelle Rail Yards, in line with the world's best practice.
- (4) Acknowledges the concerns of the Premier regarding exhaust fumes when in opposition and calls on the Government to deliver the proposal.

Global experience of major toll road construction throughout the world demonstrates conclusively that projects like WestConnex actually increase air pollution, encourage car use, fleece road users with exorbitant tolls and eventually fill the increased road capacity they create. WestConnex is shaping up as the most expensive road project in the world but it will not deliver on the most basic promise of solving Sydney's congestion problem. Governments sell tollways like this to the public as a way to reduce traffic congestion. It is a logical enough idea and it is one that makes sense to a lot of people who have been stuck in traffic. On Saturday mornings in Sydney people might think, "Well, small communities are served by small roads. They grow bigger and roads need to grow with them."

More lanes create greater capacity, meaning cars should be able to pass through faster and people should be able to get to their destination quicker. But what actually happens when these roads are built—and anyone paying attention to the international literature will know—is that when construction is undertaken for these motorways that increased roadway capacity actually encourages more people to drive and therefore it fails to improve congestion. This is called "induced demand". Induced demand occurs because trips that would have once been best embarked upon by bicycle, bus or train may now be more attractive to take in a car. This mode shifting puts more people in cars, which fills the increased capacity of the new tollway. That is why governments around the world are tearing down tollways and investing in world-class public transport. That is what my community wants.



In a memo prepared by Transport for NSW in 2017 on potential rail improvements between Sydney and Wollongong—a project that would compete against funds for the proposed F6 motorway—it was revealed that the Government had said clearly that public transport alternatives to motorway projects should be ignored by officials and that they should not be taken into account when determining the performance of these motorway projects. If public transport is proactively not considered, this Government is absolutely heading the wrong way. But this project is even worse because it proposes to build five exhaust stacks up to 35 metres high in Rozelle, St Peters and our inner west community.

The Government will talk about ventilation stacks but in fact they are chimneys that take the concentrated exhaust from this motorway into our communities. The concept design that is proposed provides for four unfiltered stacks to be placed in Rozelle, which will release exhaust fumes from the whole tunnel from St Peters to Rozelle, the Cross Harbour Tunnel travelling south, the tunnel from Haberfield to Rozelle and the tunnel from Iron Cove to the Rozelle Rail Yards. It represents concentrated pollution from almost 15 kilometres of mostly four-way tollways being poured into Rozelle. At a community meeting at the recent Western Harbour Tunnel proposal, parents were told that emissions from the tunnel would be pumped back 2.5 kilometres into Terry Street, Rozelle, again increasing the amount of toxic and potentially deadly emissions released into our local area.

I present this motion on behalf of parents, students and residents who want to work, recreate and exercise locally and are concerned about these impacts. We know that the Government has been concerned about these proposals because we have heard the Premier speak about them. In fact, the Premier was so concerned about a similar proposal to build unfiltered stacks as part of the Lane Cove Tunnel in 2008 she was implacably opposed to it. She delivered a rousing speech to the House, in which she said:

Members of Parliament should examine their conscience and consider how they would feel if their children or the children of loved ones were exposed to this level of fumes every day and they were part of a government that could have put in place measures to reduce the impact of the fumes.

...

World best practice is to filter tunnels, to ethically provide information to constituents, and to ensure the health and safety of constituents by maximising the purity of the air.

I agree with the Premier. The then planning Minister who approved the Rozelle interchange without any detailed design, Anthony Roberts, was also enraged in 2008. He said:

The issue then is one, I believe, that transcends party politics. There is no difficulty, in my view and as one who is familiar with the stack filtration issues during the last few years, for any person of integrity in telling the good guys from the bad guys, especially in the saga of events recounted.

...

I believe the totality of the evidence is beyond reasonable doubt in favour of installing filtration and makes it obligatory for Government to unanimously endorse the installation of filtration technology in tunnels and stacks as a responsibility and a duty of care.

The then planning Minister went on to list the schools in his electorate. In regard to the stacks that were proposed to be built in his community, the 2017 education Minister was quoted as saying, "I will not be party to putting stacks near kids." We want that to apply not just to Coalition electorates. We want it to apply to all electorates around New South Wales to ensure that our air is clean. The impacts on my local community in particular when it comes to proximity to schools is quite alarming. One stack is planned for Terry Street, Rozelle, which will be less than 200 metres from the playground at Rozelle Public School. The school is located at the top of the hill on a stretch of road between Victoria Road and Rozelle Bay at the Iron Cove Bridge. Because the base of the stack will be several metres closer to sea level than the Iron Cove Bridge, the top of the stack will probably be a similar height to the playground. Sydney Secondary College is only 400 metres from the stack, as is King George Park, where 4,000 kids from over 17 local schools come to participate in Little Athletics, run cross-country and compete in carnivals.

We want a duty of care. I live in Rozelle and I believe this community needs protection, as do all communities that are impacted by these stacks. I congratulate in particular the work of Sunil Badami and Ben Prag, who are both parents of students who attend Rozelle Public School, and all the local residents behind Rozelle Against WestConnex, Leichhardt Against WestConnex, Annandale Against WestConnex and the WestConnex Action Group, who have been staunch and unflinching supporters of our community. Of course, we have had some wins. During this Government's tenure there was a parliamentary inquiry into WestConnex. That inquiry recommended that the New South Wales Government install filtration systems on all current and future motorway tunnels in order to reduce the level of pollution emitted from vehicle stacks.

We have heard it from the Premier, from the former planning Minister and from the current planning Minister: All of them want to ensure that we have filtration on these stacks to help protect the air quality in our local communities rather than the concentrated pollution from kilometre after kilometre of these tollways being

emitted on our local community. Is it any wonder our community is so cynical when the Premier and the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections supported filtration when they were in opposition yet now when they are in government they refuse to act. I call on the House to support this motion.

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (10:49):** I speak in opposition to the motion moved by the member for Balmain. The New South Wales Government recognises that good air quality is important for everyone. As our population continues to grow, we are committed to maintaining high air quality standards. The Office of Environment and Heritage data shows that Sydney's air quality has improved significantly in the past 30 years. Rather than filtration, which would not meaningfully reduce community exposure to motor vehicle emissions, the best approach is to continue to reduce emissions at the source by adopting cleaner fuels and vehicles.

Although there are more cars on the road, NSW Environment Protection Authority data shows that total emissions from motor vehicles in Sydney have fallen significantly over the past 20 years as a result of improvements in fuel quality and better engine designs. Total emissions from motor vehicles are set to continue to fall over the next decade due to the new cleaner vehicles continuing to replace old-technology vehicles. This is despite an increase in the number of cars in Sydney as the population grows. The New South Wales Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth and support initiatives to further reduce motor vehicle emissions at the source.

When we came to government we moved to address community concerns around ventilation outlets for motorway tunnels by establishing in 2013 the Advisory Committee on Tunnel and Air Quality [ACTAQ], which advises government on tunnel ventilation design and operation. The committee is chaired by the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer and consists of a range of experts in fields related to road tunnels, air quality and human health. This includes the New South Wales Chief Health Officer and an independent international air quality expert. The committee's *Initial Report on Tunnel Air Quality* stated:

... emissions from well-designed road tunnels cause a negligible change to surrounding air quality and, as such, there is little to no health benefit for surrounding communities in installing filtration and air treatment systems in such tunnels.

Motorway tunnels enhance the road network and minimise disruption to communities. Removing vehicles from surface roads into a tunnel network reduces local traffic congestion and emissions by transferring stop-start traffic from surface roads into free-flowing underground motorways. The Government has in place strong protections around air quality in motorway tunnels. Recent New South Wales tunnels longer than one kilometre are required to have zero emissions from portals, with tunnel air exhausted from ventilation systems that use fans to eject emissions high into the atmosphere. Outside Australia almost all road tunnels have portal emissions. These emissions are released at ground level, do not disperse as well and can have an impact on the quality of the air people breathe.

Sydney's motorway tunnel ventilation outlets are designed and operated to propel tunnel air high into the atmosphere. Once in the atmosphere the ejected tunnel air is diluted hundreds of times as it mixes with the surrounding air before mixing down to ground level, resulting in little if any change to the quality of the air people breathe. This dispersion is so effective that if a filtration plant is put in the bottom of a ventilation outlet and monitoring stations are located in the local area it would be difficult to measure a difference in the air quality between when the filtration plant is working and when it is not. Filtration does not remove all pollutants from tunnel air, so we still need to run ventilation outlets to protect local air quality.

Members might wonder how we know a ventilation design will achieve the necessary dispersion of tunnel air. The effectiveness of a ventilation outlet design in dispersing tunnel air under all operating and weather conditions is assessed through sophisticated computer modelling using real hour-by-hour weather data for all 8,760 hours of a year. A comprehensive air quality assessment was conducted for the M4-M5 link, which included the proposed ventilation facilities at Iron Cove Bridge and the Rozelle Rail Yards. The assessment was subject to a detailed review by independent international experts, coordinated by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer. The expert review concluded:

Our overall conclusion of the WestConnex environmental impact statement [EIS] is that it constitutes a thorough review of high quality. It covers all of the major issues and areas that an EIS for a project of this scale should.

...

We find that the assessment methodology is sound and represents best practice. All of the models and data used are appropriate and expertly used.

...

Overall, the project (as assessed) seems to deliver improved air quality at a majority of receptors despite increased emissions and traffic—a simple yet important conclusion that the EIS does not emphasise.

The Government has introduced requirements for new motorway tunnels to undergo additional checks before displaying the environmental impact statement. These include that the Advisory Committee on Tunnel Air Quality will coordinate a scientific review of a project's air emissions from ventilation outlets, the NSW Chief Health Officer will release a statement on the potential health impacts of emissions from tunnel ventilation outlets and the planning Minister will not approve a motorway tunnel project until the ACTAQ scientific review is considered. This new enhanced process is being used for the first time for the F6 Extension stage 1 environmental impact statement [EIS]. Following review of the F6 stage 1 EIS, the NSW Chief Health Officer stated:

Well-designed and operated road tunnel ventilation outlets discharge in-tunnel air to the atmosphere at a height and velocity that promotes dispersion of the in-tunnel air, minimising ground-level impacts.

The EIS predicts that the contribution of emissions from road tunnel ventilation outlets to community exposures is small, relative to the contribution of emissions from traffic on surface roads from other pollution sources.

The NSW Chief Health Officer specified:

The primary source of community exposure to air pollution is from pre-existing regional air pollution, followed by pollution from surface road traffic.

Any potential air pollution-related health effects from the project are likely to be primarily a result of changes in volumes of traffic on the surface road network, not a result of the tunnel ventilation outlets.

Sydney's tunnels are designed and operated so that tunnel air from the ventilation outlets will have a negligible effect on local air quality. Ambient monitoring in the community has confirmed this for operating tunnels. All new tunnels will be required to conduct ambient monitoring for at least two years to detect any effect due to the ventilation outlets. The best approach to reduce community exposure to motor vehicle emissions is to continue to adopt cleaner fuels and vehicles to reduce emissions at the source rather than attempt to filter them out of the air once they have been released. I oppose this motion.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (10:55):** I thank the member for Balmain for moving this motion today. I speak in support of it. I also thank the member for Miranda for her contribution. She read a very sanitised script prepared by the department for the purposes of her contribution today. It seems apparent from the member for Miranda's contribution and the department's script that it is considered by the Government not to be its responsibility to protect communities, such as that of the member for Balmain, from the impacts of air pollution that is emitted from the very infrastructure they are creating.

According to the Government, it is up to the motorists and up to everybody else to solve these problems. It is certainly something that the Government seems to think it has no responsibility for whatsoever. There are two very important elements to the member for Balmain's motion. Firstly, the motion recognises that air pollution is a serious health issue that needs to be addressed and ought to be addressed by the Government. It is an issue that has been completely disregarded by the Government, notwithstanding the very real and significant impacts on people's health, which continue to increase. The Doctors for the Environment Australia state:

Ambient air pollution contributes to over 3,000 premature deaths each year in Australia. Even at low concentrations nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone are impacting public health.

This is an issue that the Government should take very seriously but fails to do. Secondly, of course, the motion holds the Premier to account for her own words, which were said in this place on 8 May 2008. *Hansard* is a wonderful document. It seems that the Premier, when in opposition, was very vocal on this issue relating to the filtering of smokestacks. We know what her real views on this issue are because she spelled them out in a 3,000-word speech in this Chamber 11 years ago. I for one am very grateful that the Premier was given an extension of time during that debate, otherwise her contribution may have been much less. The Premier stated:

World best practice is to filter tunnels ... and to ensure the health and safety of constituents by maximising the purity of the air. There is not a lot of ambiguity in those words. However, the Premier was even more explicit than that. She said that whatever the then Government says on climate change, the environment, health and youth, it means nothing if you do not filter smokestacks. She said this issue was a matter of safeguarding the health of local residents, ensuring air quality and taking out insurance on the future health of people who live, work and play in the vicinity of these stacks. Yet when it comes to the Iron Cove Bridge and the Rozelle Rail Yards the Premier is now not interested in safeguarding the health of local residents.

As the leader of the Government she is now not interested in ensuring local air quality. According to her own words, this is what is required, and the way to do it is to filter these stacks. She has no interest in taking out insurance for the future health of people who live, work and play in the vicinity of these stacks, yet she seemed to in 2008. When it comes to air quality, air pollution and concerns about the health of communities the Government is found wanting. On the very basics that we need—the air we breathe, the water we drink—the Government is failing communities across New South Wales.

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (11:00):** I oppose this motion, even though over recent weeks I have had many discussions in the elevator with the member for Balmain, who has been telling me about his Prius. I think the member for Castle Hill has one as well.

**Mr Ray Williams:** No, I've still got a hybrid. I have had two Priuses.

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH:** He has a hybrid. Getting back to the motion, the New South Wales Government manages the assessment, determination and compliance of significant road tunnels and associated ventilation systems. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment assesses proposals under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in consultation with relevant State government agencies. The assessment process is public and transparent, with formal opportunities for agencies, local government and the public to provide comment. Prior to public exhibition of the environmental impact statement [EIS], for all tunnel projects after WestConnex the Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer [OCSE], on behalf of the non-Roads and Maritime Services members of the Advisory Committee on Tunnel Air Quality [ACTAQ], provides a scientific review of the project's air emissions from ventilation outlets for the planning Minister's consideration. The Chief Health Officer then releases a statement on potential health impacts of emissions from tunnel ventilation outlets, informed by the review by the OCSE.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority [EPA] provides technical advice to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on operational air quality impacts during the assessment of the EIS. NSW Health advises the department on air quality health impacts, including appropriate health assessment methodologies, for in-tunnel and ambient air quality during the assessment of the EIS. The OCSE, on behalf of the non-conflicted members of the ACTAQ, provides advice on the technical adequacy and appropriateness of the air quality modelling and impacts during the public exhibition of the EIS. The department may also seek advice from an independent air quality expert during the assessment of the EIS.

The planning Minister is the approval authority for complex infrastructure proposals, including road tunnels. If approved by the Minister, a significant road tunnel will be regulated by the project approval. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment regulates the construction and operation of the project in accordance with the project approval. These functions are generally delegated to the secretary of the department, or their nominee, under the project approval. The EPA currently licenses tunnel construction activities under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. The EPA will license emissions from tunnel ventilation facilities once the New South Wales Government initiative announced in February 2018 to strengthen the approach of addressing air quality issues associated with road tunnels is fully implemented. I oppose the motion.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (11:03):** I support the motion moved by my Greens colleague the member for Balmain highlighting the need to filter smokestacks in our community. We heard the member for Balmain outline the real impact that it has on his community. From the quotes that he provided from the Premier and the planning Minister when they were in opposition, and from what we have heard now from the current Labor Opposition, it is clear that there is a need for us to address air quality across our city because the impacts are huge. Just the other day the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, joined with the Minister for Energy and Environment to install an air quality monitoring station back in the CBD, the first one to be returned there in 15 years. I don't know. Maybe what is going on here is that the Liberal Government is more concerned about the health of the corporate business types working in the city than about the schoolchildren in our communities.

Air quality and air pollution monitoring in this city has been problematic, and the introduction and delivery of WestConnex has been concerning when it comes to air quality monitoring. It is worth repeating that when the Premier was in opposition she called for the filtering of stacks in her community. In 2008 she delivered a speech in this House chastising the then Iemma Labor Government for refusing to filter the stacks. Let us not be fooled, sadly both the former Labor Government and the current Liberal-Nationals Government of New South Wales have an absolute commitment to delivering big, polluting toll roads in our city and failing to filter the stacks. It is not just this Government that is doing that, it is governments from all sides of politics. We need to stop the State's addiction to the idea of delivering toll roads that cause worse air pollution. When in opposition the Premier stated:

Members of Parliament should examine their conscience and consider how they would feel if their children or the children of loved ones were exposed to this level of fumes every day and they were part of a government that could put in place measures to reduce the impact of fumes.

The Premier went on to say:

World best practice is to filter tunnels, to ethically provide information to constituents, and to ensure the health and safety of constituents by maximising the purity of the air.

As the member for Balmain pointed out, the planning Minister, when he was in opposition and before becoming the planning Minister or the education Minister, called for the filtering of stacks.

**Mr Jamie Parker:** It was 2017.

**Ms JENNY LEONG:** It was in 2017, so as a Minister he was calling for the filtering of the stacks. It cannot be the case that we want to protect the lungs of the children just in our own electorates. We should have a slightly larger and more holistic perspective. Rather than just being about protecting the lungs of the kids in our own electorates, let us try to protect the lungs of the kids in all 93 electorates. Maybe that is a good idea. Instead, when we look at it we see that the impact of WestConnex has been huge, particularly in a range of areas in the inner city and inner west. I will quote Dr Chris Ho, a social researcher at the University of Technology Sydney. She is a parent at St Peters Public School, which has been hugely impacted by WestConnex. I acknowledge Wendy Bacon, an investigative journalist and activist, who has been doing a lot of work exposing the completely outrageous— *[Extension of time not granted.]*

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (11:08):** First and foremost, I place firmly on record my congratulations to the Government on constructing the great WestConnex and providing a seamless motorway from the foot of the Blue Mountains all the way to Wattle Street, Ashfield. Tens of thousands of vehicles have been removed from Parramatta Road, and one can only imagine the immense reduction in emissions along that road by virtue of putting vehicles in an underground tunnel and introducing world's best practice ventilation stacks to eject dangerous emissions high above communities and improve the air quality for everybody. It is very similar to what will be achieved on NorthConnex when we remove tens of thousands of vehicles—including heavy vehicles—from Pennant Hills Road, once again ejecting the dangerous emissions high above the community and improving the quality of air for all of our communities.

The New South Wales Government manages the assessment, determination and compliance of significant road tunnels and associated ventilation systems. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment assesses proposals under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act in consultation with the relevant State government agencies. The assessment process is public and transparent, with formal opportunities for agencies, local government and the public to comment. Prior to the public exhibition of the environmental impact statement [EIS], the Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer [OCSE], on behalf of non-Roads and Maritime members of the Advisory Committee on Tunnel Air Quality [ACTAQ], provides a scientific review of a project's air emissions ventilation outlets for the planning Minister's consideration. The Chief Health Officer releases a statement on the potential health impacts of emissions from tunnel ventilation outlets, informed by the review of the OCSE.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority [EPA] provides technical advice to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on operational air quality impacts during the assessment of the EIS. NSW Health advises the department on quality of health impacts including appropriate health assessment methodologies for in-tunnel and ambient air quality under the assessment of the EIS. The OCSE, on behalf of the non-conflicted members of the ACTAQ, provides advice on the technical adequacy and appropriateness of the air quality modelling and impacts during the public exhibition of the EIS. The department may also seek advice from an independent air quality expert during the assessment of the EIS.

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is the approval authority for complex infrastructure proposals, including road tunnels. If approved by the Minister, a significant road tunnel will be regulated by project approval. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment regulates the construction and operation of the project in accordance with the project approval. These functions are generally delegated to the secretary of the department, or their nominee, under the project approval. The EPA currently licenses tunnel construction activities under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. The EPA will license emissions from tunnel ventilation facilities once the New South Wales Government initiative to strengthen the approach of addressing air quality issues associated with road tunnels, which was announced in February 2018, is fully implemented.

I add for the record once more that the fact is that we have delivered a tunnel under Parramatta Road to complete that particular road corridor and we had to do it because of the failure of our predecessors to retain a road corridor from Concord through to Wattle Street, Ashfield. They chose instead to sell the corridor and force the new government to build a tunnel underneath. We are the ones who delivered the WestConnex project and I look forward to the next stage.

**Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (11:12):** By leave: I think I have heard it all now. I have heard everything from that side of the Chamber. It is just the most outrageous—

**Mr Mark Coure:** You haven't heard my speech. I am next.

**Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ:** That is good. I will be interested in your speech, because you can answer a few of these questions. I have been around Parliament long enough to remember 2003, when those members sitting

opposite stood up with the Residents Against Polluting Stacks group. If they want to, members can have a look at its website that still exists. They will see John Brogden standing up there with all his Liberal mates and saying that they are going to put filtration systems in stacks and they are going to deliver all these things.

Duncan Gay was marching up and down before the election in 2007, saying, "We're going to put them in the M5 East tunnel. We're going to have them in every stack that we put up." But the minute those opposite are in government, what do they do? Suddenly the science—which they will not accept on any other issue—does not suit them, so they are not going to do it. Instead they hide as they always do, by saying, "We have done community consultation, we have got environmental impact statements and we are doing the right thing." This is the mob who said that they would build an open cut tunnel up Parramatta Road as their expressway. Marie Ficarra still owes me \$1,000 over that bet. How long did that solution last? About two minutes.

Now members opposite are in this Chamber saying that back in 1981 or 1975 the Labor Party did something or other. They ignore all the Labor infrastructure that was built such as the roads, the hospitals, the stadiums and the Lane Cove Tunnel because apparently they are the only blokes that ever did anything. They never bothered delivering anything in the 1990s when they were in government. They had to wait for a Labor government to deliver it.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper):** Order! Government members will come to order.

**Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ:** They gave a rock-solid guarantee that they would put filtration systems in every stack across Sydney. That great policy has disappeared like every promise they come up with.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (11:15):** By leave: I am surprised that the member for Auburn gave up halfway through her allocated time. She still had another two minutes to go.

**Mr Jamie Parker:** She wanted to give you a go.

**Mr MARK COURE:** That is very nice of her. As we have heard, the New South Wales Government recognises that good air quality is important to everyone. It will continue to work with the Commonwealth and support initiatives to further reduce motor vehicle emissions at the source. Office of Environment and Heritage data shows that Sydney's air quality has improved significantly over the past 30-odd years. As our population grows, we are committed to maintaining high air quality standards. Rather than filtration, which would normally meaningfully reduce community exposure to motor vehicle emissions, the best approach is to continue to reduce emissions at the source by adopting cleaner fuels and vehicles.

There has been some discussion about the M4 and the M2 et cetera. Sydney's motorway tunnel ventilation outlets are designed and operated to propel tunnel air high into the atmosphere. Once in the atmosphere, the ejected tunnel air is diluted hundreds of times as it mixes with the surrounding air before mixing down to ground level, resulting in little if any change to the quality of the air people breathe. Recent New South Wales tunnels longer than one kilometre are required to have zero emissions from portals, with tunnel air exhausted from ventilation systems that use fans to eject emissions high into the atmosphere. The Government has in place strong protections around air quality and in motorway tunnels.

Outside Australia almost all road tunnels have portal emissions. These emissions are released at ground level, do not disperse as well and can have an impact on the quality of the air people breathe. Sydney's motorway tunnel ventilation outlets are designed and operated to propel tunnel air high into the atmosphere. We have seen that in recent examples. A comprehensive air quality assessment was conducted for the M4-M5 link, which included the proposed ventilation facilities at the Iron Cove Bridge and the Rozelle Rail Yards. The assessment was subject to a detailed review by independent international experts, coordinated by the Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer. The expert review concluded:

Our overall conclusion of the WestConnex EIS is that it constitutes a thorough review of high quality. It covers all of the major issues and areas that an EIS for a project of this scale should. ... We find that the assessment methodology is sound and represents best practice. All of the models and data used are appropriate and expertly used. ... Overall, the project (as assessed) seems to deliver improved air quality ...

In the 40 seconds that I have left, I point out that this Government has introduced requirements for new motorway tunnels to undergo additional checks and balances before displaying their environmental impact statements, including that the Advisory Committee on Tunnel Air Quality [ACTAQ] and the Chief Health Officer will release statements on the potential impacts of emissions from tunnel ventilation outlets. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will not approve a motorway tunnel project until the ACTAQ scientific review has been considered. We have seen that previously and we will see it in the future. I thank the member for Balmain for his motion and I thank many of the speakers who have made contributions to the debate.

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (11:19):** In reply: I thank the members for the electorates of Miranda, Port Stephens, Newtown, Wollondilly, Castle Hill, Auburn and Oatley for their contributions. First, I again point

out that tollway projects induce traffic because people shift modes when transport in a vehicle is easier. We know that. That is international experience and the literature demonstrates it conclusively. Secondly, if Government members were so proud of their tollways they would not have instructed public officials to ignore public transport options when examining motorway options like the F6. If tollways are so good, they should be compared and benchmarked against similar public transport options. However, this Government directed Transport for NSW not to compare motorway projects to public transport options and that is a scandal.

We have heard quotes from the now Premier, the now planning Minister and the former Minister for Planning, all of whom demanded emphatically that filtration was world's best practice and that the science demanded it. In fact, we know more about the science today, which makes filtration even more pressing. This highlights again why people are so disillusioned with politicians. A few short years ago the current Premier and the current planning Minister, who is the former education Minister, stood up in this Parliament and said how important filtration is. Now when they are in government they say, "No, we're not going to do it."

We have heard also about the geography issue. Several members, including the member for Oatley, have said that these stacks are 35 metres high and are pushing the pollution up into the sky. The Rozelle stack is just a few hundred metres from a school. The geography of the place means it is located quite low down while the school is on a ridge, so we know that the fumes are more likely to drift directly from the stack into the playground and into the lungs of the children. Those 700 small children face the prospect of being showered with pollution, including diesel and particulates, before, during and after school, as they play, eat lunch and stand in line for morning class. It is absolutely unacceptable.

We have been told that reduction in vehicle movements must be addressed. New South Wales and Australia have some of the filthiest fuel standards in the world. In fact, our fuel standards are the lowest in the OECD. Everyone used to laugh about Mexico; now Australia has the filthiest fuel in the OECD. For example, regular unleaded fuel in Australia has 150 parts per million of sulphur while premium unleaded has about 50 parts per million. Those standards have not changed since 2005 and 2008. In the rest of the world they are down to 10 parts per million of sulphur. Our air quality standards in Australia are a joke. If we compare our sulphur and air quality standards with those of the World Health Organization, we are a laughing-stock. I understand that the Environment Protection Authority has done some work on this but the Federal and State governments must address our air quality standards and fuel standards.

We notice this in particular with cruise ship pollution. Cruise ships that could not even berth in North America and Europe are sent here to Australia. The filthiest, dirtiest vessels are sent out to the edge of the old colony, here in Australia, where we accept those filthy vessels that no other country will take. In places like the Rozelle goods yards three 35-metre stacks will spew unfiltered pollution from kilometre after kilometre of motorways onto people who are down in the Rozelle Rail Yards area. We hear members say today that ambient measures are better. That is because all of the filtered pollution from those roads will be taken and exhausted in one location. We are merely asking for the same standards that people in Tokyo, Spain and other places get, which is filtration of those stacks. The parliamentary inquiry recommended it. The Premier and the planning Minister supported it and so should this House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper):** The question is that the motion be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....41

Noes .....50

Majority.....9

#### AYES

Aitchison, Ms J  
Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Leong, Ms J  
McGirr, Dr J  
Mihailuk, Ms T  
Park, Mr R  
Scully, Mr P  
Voltz, Ms L

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Dib, Mr J  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
Lynch, Mr P  
McKay, Ms J  
Minns, Mr C  
Parker, Mr J  
Smith, Ms T.F.  
Warren, Mr G

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lalich, Mr N  
McDermott, Dr H  
Mehan, Mr D (teller)  
O'Neill, Dr M  
Saffin, Ms J  
Tesch, Ms L  
Washington, Ms K

## AYES

Watson, Ms A (teller)

Zangari, Mr G

## NOES

Anderson, Mr K  
 Berejiklian, Ms G  
 Conolly, Mr K  
 Coure, Mr M  
 Davies, Mrs T  
 Elliott, Mr D  
 Griffin, Mr J  
 Hazzard, Mr B  
 Kean, Mr M  
 Marshall, Mr A  
 Perrottet, Mr D  
 Provest, Mr G  
 Sidgreaves, Mr P  
 Smith, Mr N  
 Taylor, Mr M  
 Upton, Ms G  
 Williams, Mrs L

Ayres, Mr S  
 Bromhead, Mr S  
 Constance, Mr A  
 Crouch, Mr A (teller)  
 Dominello, Mr V  
 Evans, Mr L.J.  
 Gulaptis, Mr C  
 Henskens, Mr A  
 Lee, Dr G  
 O'Dea, Mr J  
 Petinos, Ms E  
 Roberts, Mr A  
 Sidoti, Mr J  
 Speakman, Mr M  
 Toole, Mr P  
 Ward, Mr G  
 Wilson, Ms F

Barilaro, Mr J  
 Clancy, Mr J  
 Cooke, Ms S (teller)  
 Dalton, Mrs H  
 Donato, Mr P  
 Gibbons, Ms M  
 Hancock, Mrs S  
 Johnsen, Mr M  
 Lindsay, Ms W  
 Pavey, Mrs M  
 Preston, Ms R  
 Saunders, Mr D  
 Singh, Mr G  
 Stokes, Mr R  
 Tuckerman, Mrs W  
 Williams, Mr R

**Motion negatived.**

## NURSES AND MIDWIVES

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (11:30):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes the commitment, compassion and professionalism of nurses and midwives caring for patients in the public health system.
- (2) Recognises that International Day of the Midwife is celebrated on 5 May 2019 and International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May 2019.
- (3) Congratulates the Government on committing over 5,000 new nurses for New South Wales.

I am honoured to help mark International Nurses Day and the International Day of the Midwife, which fall annually on 12 May and 5 May respectively, and celebrate nurses and midwives, who are the backbone of our health system. On these commemorative days we recognise the compassion, skill, professionalism, and round-the-clock commitment of nurses and midwives who are caring for patients in our health system. International Nurses Day is celebrated each year on the birthday anniversary of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale. This annual event is an opportunity to reflect on the invaluable contribution that nurses make to our health system and to highlight the critical role nurses play every day in the health of the Australian community.

The 2019 theme, which has been set by the International Council of Nurses, is Nurses: A Voice to Lead Health for All. The theme focuses on access to health care, the wideranging impacts of good health care and the critical role that nursing plays in the overall wellbeing of the global community. In Australia, and specifically New South Wales, we are fortunate to have one of the best healthcare environments in the world. It is accessible, equitable and efficient. As the single largest workforce group within NSW Health our nurses are at the forefront, leading care and making a real difference to patients and their families.

The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government has boosted the State's nursing and midwifery workforce by almost 20 per cent to 51,890 and the number of doctors has soared 35 per cent to 12,100. In total, 16,000 extra frontline health staff have been employed since 2011—an increase of 23 per cent on Labor's last years in government. But there is more that we can do and that is why the New South Wales Government promised during the State election campaign to deliver an additional 5,000 nurses and midwives over the next four years. This increase in nurse numbers equates to even higher nurse-to-patient ratios than the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association asked for and leaves the original promise that Labor made during the election campaign in the dust.



Across NSW Health on a typical day, six and a half thousand people are seen in an emergency department and 17,100 people spend the night in a public hospital. Over 1,000 patients have surgery and there are 5,600 admissions. Over 62,000 episodes of treatment are provided for non-admitted patients. At all of these points of healthcare delivery, nurses are present, providing skilled and compassionate care in our public hospitals within community health centres and within patients' homes. Nurses are pivotal in providing safe evidence-based personalised care, partnering with and advocating for patients and their families, and working as part of a team with colleagues across all disciplines. For these reasons, nurses are consistently among the most respected and trusted of all professionals.

I will highlight a lady who is an example of how nurses are respected and loved. Jen McKenzie, who is one of New South Wales's first palliative care nurse practitioners, is a fine example of true patient-centred nursing care. Jen has led and championed palliative care in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District for over 20 years. She is the clinical lead for a palliative care service that provides important care to patients living in rural and remote areas and is a tireless advocate for quality end-of-life care for patients and their families. She has driven the expansion of palliative care services, which has allowed wider access to palliative care in rural New South Wales. She was recognised in the 2018 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards and was a joint winner of the Consumer Appreciation Award. She went on to be awarded 2018 NSW Health Staff Member of the Year for her outstanding work.

Jen is an exemplar of the exceptional care nurses provide for the people of New South Wales. On behalf of the New South Wales Parliament, I extend my appreciation and a thankyou to Jen McKenzie and other incredible nurses and midwives who are just like Jen. The World Health Organization recognises that midwives are essential to the provision of quality maternity care in all settings globally and that midwives are crucial to reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality worldwide. In Australia having a baby is considered safe and women have a wide range of options to choose from in regards to prenatal care, birthing and early parenting, and midwives are central to this.

Every day within NSW Health, around 205 babies are born and it is essential that we take time to recognise and appreciate midwives across NSW Health for the invaluable work they do in supporting women and their partners through this period. I commend all the midwives for their outstanding work, in particular Chantelle Mackenzie from the Midwifery Group Practice at Blacktown Hospital. She was nominated by a previous patient for a NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Award. She was described by her nominator as a wonderful, dedicated and supportive midwife who goes above and beyond any expectation. On behalf of the New South Wales Parliament I personally thank every midwife working across New South Wales for their ongoing commitment to high-quality midwifery care—for being passionate, understanding, patient, professional and for being experts in their field at times of high emotion and perhaps uncertainty during the prenatal, birthing and early parenting stages.

Each year many nominations for nursing awards are received. There are plenty of examples captured in award nominations of integrity, compassion and great skill attested to by patients and their families as well as colleagues. I encourage anyone who has been touched by the excellence of a NSW Health nurse or midwife, whether as a patient, a carer or colleague, to nominate them for awards recognition. I am grateful to all nurses and midwives for the dedication they show in providing safe, quality care and advocacy every day of the year. These attributes are the foundation that makes our health environment one of the best in the world and for this we say thank you. Happy International Nurses Day and happy International Day of the Midwife to all New South Wales nurses and midwives. You are outstanding and we could not do what we do without you.

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (11:37):** I thank the member for Mulgoa for moving the motion. Labor supports the first two parts of the motion, one of which refers to the commitment, compassion and professionalism of nurses and midwives. Of course Labor will support that part of the motion. Labor also supports the second part of the motion, which recognises that International Day of the Midwife is celebrated on 5 May 2019 and International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May 2019, which is my son's birthday. He is a Taurus. However, Labor will not support the third part of the motion, which is a pat on the back for the Government.

I will explain Labor's reasons. In the lead-up to the State election I had the opportunity and real pleasure of being the shadow Treasurer. Most Government members are probably not familiar with a small unit of this Parliament, the Parliamentary Budget Office, which is an interesting position. Labor wanted to make the position permanent but the Government did not, and I can probably see why. The motion is interesting because paragraph (3) "Congratulates the Government on committing over 5,000 ... nurses", and there is a small problem with that. This document forms part of the Parliamentary Budget Office 2019 Coalition Election Policy Costings. I take it that we still think the document is accurate. In the Parliamentary Budget Office 2019 Coalition Election Policy Costings, which were submitted on 4 February 2019, there is a proposal entitled "5,000 nurses and midwives". That is pretty simple. The Parliamentary Budget Office notes and assumptions state:

The policy assumes that 3,807 nurse FTE positions and 252 midwife FTEs will be recruited through existing growth, funding for which is already included in the forward estimates. Accordingly, the PBO has only estimated the additional cost of hiring a further 893 FTE nurses and 48 FTE midwives.

That is not quite what the motion says. It is a little bit different from what the motion says. I move:

That the motion be amended by omitting paragraph (3).

Then we can congratulate nurses and midwives and recognise International Nurses Day and the Day of the Midwife. That is the first problem. I will address another couple of problems I have with Government members talking about nurses and midwives. My good friends on the Central Coast—and the shadow Minister for the Central Coast, the member for Wyong, is in the Chamber—have had a few issues. There have been one or two rallies, with people not very happy with the Government about the fact that when people leave positions those positions are not being filled.

**Mr Adam Crouch:** Is that right?

**Mr RYAN PARK:** Yes, tragically that is right. They are concerned that that will lead to burnout among nurses and midwives as a result of staff shortages and absent staff not being replaced. Nurses on the Central Coast—I am using them as a real example—are concerned that they are unable to deliver proper care and that their registrations are at risk when they are working on short-staffed wards. There is a real shortage of staff. The other day I spent some time with the member for Newcastle, who is also in the Chamber. We met with some nurses from John Hunter Hospital. We once again spoke with frontline nurses and health staff. John Hunter Hospital is the biggest hospital outside Sydney. It is the major catchment for anyone north of Newcastle, all the way up to very near the border. It is a major trauma hospital.

Those nurses were concerned about a number of issues, including staff shortages, staff not being replaced and staff not being backed up when they have to do retrievals. In a number of instances the ratio of staff to patients has led to a situation that is completely unsafe. We are not going to allow Government members to come in here and pat themselves on the back. The Government is misleading itself with that reference to 5,000 new nurses because 85 per cent of those positions are already budgeted for. That is the first thing. The second thing is that my colleagues and I—including the member for Port Stephens, the shadow Minister for rural and regional health, the shadow Minister for the Central Coast, the member for Newcastle and the member for Wollongong—will not stand here and allow motions like this to pass without very clearly saying to the Government that it needs to start listening to what is happening in wards right across New South Wales in rural, regional and metropolitan hospitals.

A lack of midwives is a major issue at Wollongong Hospital. Like John Hunter Hospital, Wollongong Hospital is one of the largest hospitals outside metropolitan Sydney. Nurses and midwives across the State are saying that when positions become vacant the Government is not filling them. There are dangerous nurse-patient ratios. It is important to address these issues. We will continue to lobby on behalf of nurses and midwives. We will not be supporting this motion in its totality.

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (11:44):** I am delighted that the member for Mulgoa has moved this very important motion today. It is an opportunity for me to recognise the wonderful nurses who work at a number of health facilities across the Port Macquarie electorate. On 12 May we celebrated International Nurses Day and Florence Nightingale's birthday and on 5 May we also celebrated—and I am pleased it was included in the motion—International Day of the Midwife. At Port Macquarie Base Hospital—along with many health facilities right across the State—our nurses and midwives were honoured with a special lunch and award ceremony in the hospital courtyard, where some major awards were presented. I acknowledge Role Model Nurse of the Year Shirley Murray, Role Model Midwife of the Year Kathryn Riley and Community Nurse of the Year Pauline Smith. I thank Shirley, Kathryn and Pauline for their leadership, dedication and commitment to the provision of health services across our community.

Everyone in this House acknowledges the wonderful work that our nurses do. They always go above and beyond to make sure that patients across our health services, including our hospitals, our acute care facilities and those in our community, all receive fantastic health service. And they can get that great service because they are backed by a government that is absolutely committed to supporting the healthcare workforce, including nurses, midwives and allied health workers. I acknowledge that the member for Keira indicated that the Opposition will not support the third paragraph of the member for Mulgoa's motion, which acknowledges and congratulates the Government on committing to more than 5,000 new nurses in New South Wales. The member for Keira likes to talk about problems and wave his paper around, but there are a couple of problems with what he said. The first is that whilst Labor members pretend to care about our hardworking healthcare workers, we know that is not true.

The second problem is that in the 16 years it was in government Labor did not listen to the needs of health workers across the State. I said there were two problems, but there are three. The third problem is that those opposite seem to forget, quite conveniently, that it was the former Labor Government that cut nursing positions,

midwife positions and healthcare positions. The member for Port Stephens can sit there and shake her head but in 2010—and I am happy to provide this information—400 full-time equivalent healthcare positions were taken out of the North Coast area health service. That is 400; not 40. That is shameful. I know very well how much stress that put on our workers because I was working alongside them at Port Macquarie Base Hospital. The member can shake her head all she likes, but Labor's record on supporting healthcare workers across our State is disgraceful. Government members know, and the figures provided by the member for Mulgoa demonstrate quite clearly, that unlike those opposite, we support our healthcare workers. I say well done and congratulations to our nurses and midwives across the State.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (11:49):** I speak in support of the amendment that the terrific shadow Minister for Health has moved to the motion of the member for Mulgoa. The amendment is needed to stop the sham of a policy commitment that was taken to the election by this Government. It is a complete sham, and we know it because the Parliamentary Budget Office figures and report show that the commitment to deliver 5,000 additional nurses into the health system was not in addition to what was already budgeted: only 893 nurses and 48 midwives in addition to what was natural growth. It is little wonder that the amazing members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association stood by Labor as we went to the election. They stood by Labor because they knew that our commitment was a real commitment. They knew that when we said that we would introduce 5,000 nurses into the system, they would be in addition to what was already part of the budget and what was part of natural growth. They knew that.

As we went to that election I could not have been prouder to stand side-by-side with my local nurses because they knew that only Labor was going to deliver what regional and rural hospitals and services need. We are not going to stand here today and back this Government's sham commitment. If we had adopted the Government's theory, we would have said we were going to deliver 9,000 more nurses. But we go to elections telling the truth, unlike all the rubbish that those opposite lob up every single time. What is worse is that not only do they go to the election with these sham policies and commitments, but also they back them in afterwards as if they are real, like they are trying to do today. We are not going to support that. We will always support our amazing nurses because we know how hard they work and we know their professionalism.

*[Government members interjected.]*

I do not understand why members opposite have got such an issue with what I am saying right now. I am backing the nurses, as Labor would have done if we had won the election. Our nurses do the best job that they can do with the minimal resources that they have. Under the Government's commitment, if somebody has worked their guts out during their entire working career and the Government leaves their position vacant after they leave, when somebody fills that position the Government will count that as a new nurse in the system. That is going to be one of those 5,000 nurses—someone who is replacing one of the existing positions. That is not 5,000 new nurses in the system; that is a sham policy and a sham commitment that those opposite are trying to back in today.

Our nurses deserve so much more than this sham that those opposite are backing, because they work so hard. Members on this side of the House understand and appreciate the work that nurses do and we would have given them the resources that they need to do their jobs as well as they would like. Instead it is nothing but pretence and sham. Members on this side of the House support the nurses. We wish the Government would too.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson):** I remind all members that the member with the call should be heard in silence.

**Ms Kate Washington:** You could have said something while I was speaking.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson):** Would the member for Port Stephens repeat that?

**Ms Kate Washington:** They were continuing to speak while I was speaking.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson):** I am happy to ask members to come to order at any time. I do not need aspersions cast on me. I waited before calling the member for Myall Lakes to remind members to be silent during the debate.

**Ms Kate Washington:** For the purposes of the Government member. Nice.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson):** If the member for Port Stephens continues to argue with me, I will call her to order.

**Ms Kate Washington:** Go for it.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson):** I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (11:53):** It gives me pleasure to speak in support of this motion. Who can deny the wonderful work that nurses do? I point out I have a conflict of interest: I am a third-generation registered nurse and my wife is a registered nurse. So I speak with a little bit of knowledge about nursing in New South Wales. I thank the member for Mulgoa, Tanya Davies. What a champion for the people of New South Wales. I congratulate her on bringing this motion forward. The member for Keira and the member for Port Stephens like to mislead the House. One always knows when the member for Port Stephens is misleading the House, because her lips are moving.

Let us go through a few of the facts. Those opposite are saying we are not going to deliver 5,000 nurses. Looking at the record, in the first term of government we said we would deliver 2,475 nurses. In that first term we delivered over 4,500 nurses. So when we say we are going to deliver something, we deliver. Labor when in government said it would deliver the Tillegra Dam. They spent \$100 million and did not turn a sod. The previous Labor Government said it would deliver the Rozelle Metro. It spent half a billion dollars and did not lay a centimetre of track. That is Labor's record. It is absolute rubbish to say that when a nurse is replaced by a nurse, that counts as a new nurse in the system. Those opposite know it is rubbish. They are misleading the House when they say so.

Rather than, like Labor, trying to politicise a motion about International Nurses Day and about midwives and nurses, we should look at the great work that they do. It started with Florence Nightingale, and what a wonderful person she was. She totally revolutionised nursing around the world. She was the one who took nursing—which was seen as one of the lowest classes of employment that any woman could have in the Commonwealth—and raised it to being a profession to be proud of and that today is looked upon so favourably by the community. By politicising the debate on this motion, members opposite are highlighting things.

The member for Keira spoke about nurse-patient ratios, but it was the Labor Government that signed the agreement with the nurses for nurse-to-patient hours. It was not this Government; it was a Labor Government. The reason is because the nurse-to-patient hours ratio is best for patients. It allows the administration to move nurses around within the system and make sure that where a person needs one-to-one nursing, they get one-to-one nursing; and where patients are better able to look after themselves, they can be looked after by nurses as required.

The nurses in my electorate do a fantastic job. The Manning Base Hospital is under the stewardship of CEO Jodi Nieass, who was in charge of the emergency ward there before she was made CEO. The nurses there do a fantastic job. Recently I went to their award presentation ceremony and the community could not be prouder and happier than they are with those nurses. I conclude by saying what a great job this Government is doing: \$40 million for stage one of the redevelopment of that hospital, \$100 million for stage two, and 35 more staff since we came to government. In addition, a new public hospital is planned for Forster.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (11:57):** I contribute to the debate on this motion acknowledging the great work of our nurses and midwives. As the member for Keira rightly said, last week fellow Labor MPs and I met with around 20 emergency department nurses at the front of Wyong hospital. They spent more than an hour telling us of the very, very difficult situation that they were facing. One of the nurses, who had worked at Wyong for about 25 years, said that she was seeing the difference and that she was considering retiring because the pressures were becoming too much. She no longer thought that she was able to do the job that she wanted to do. For her it was not about pay; it was about the fact that she could not get around to see her patients.

Another young nurse recounted to us that she had gone home the previous day in tears because she could not get around to all of the patients in the ward. She went home feeling absolutely guilty because her offside had been called away and she had been left with 12 patients. She knew that there were patients who had rung for help—patients who needed attention—whom she had not physically been able to get to. We can be political and throw bombs at each other in this Chamber, but the reality is that this is what our frontline nurses are putting up with every single day.

When a motion like this is moved members can acknowledge the good things that are done—each party in government does things; it does not do nothing—but such motions should focus on the hard work that people are doing and recognise the difficulties of their jobs. As members of this place we should be focused on how we can better support them in their jobs. We may argue back and forth in this Chamber and say which party spends more dollars, but the reality is that these people turn up to work every day. For them it is not about the money; they do their jobs because they care about people. Governments—I am talking about both major parties—do not support healthcare professionals enough to do their jobs. It is not just the patients who suffer: Nurses suffer. A lot of them are burning out and leaving the profession very early. After their training they make the decision that it is far too hard.

I heard from the nurses—I was quite shocked—that in the past 24 hours there had been three assaults on staff by patients. They said that they were not being protected because security staff were stretched too thin to be

where they needed to be all of the time. One of the young women said, "I come to work to help people; I do not come to work to be punched and kicked." So let us cut through the rhetoric and talk about the hardship that these people go through every single day when they turn up to work. They are being assaulted and overworked. Let us talk about how we can address that so that we make their lives better and make the lives of their patients better by giving them the resources they need. Until members talk to nurses and hear their stories they really have no right to say anything in this Chamber.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:02):** By leave: I thank the member for Mulgoa for bringing this motion before the House today. My wife is a nurse in the Central Coast Cancer Centre at Gosford Hospital and I get to speak to her every day about her job and what she does, which gives me every right to talk in this Chamber about what nurses do. It gives me great pleasure to speak on this motion on that point. I could not agree more with the first part of motion, which notes "the commitment, compassion and professionalism" of our health professionals. Regardless of which ward they work in, or which hospital they are based at, all of the nurses and midwives across New South Wales are committed to caring for patients in our public health system.

The Central Coast has two public hospitals: Gosford and Wyong. Thanks to our Government's strong budget position, it has delivered a \$348 million redevelopment of Gosford Hospital, and it is also working towards a \$200 million redevelopment of Wyong Hospital. We know that there is an ageing demographic across our region and that there is also a growing population. More than 75,500 people will call the Central Coast home between 2016 and 2036. That is why a health infrastructure investment of more than half a billion dollars on the Central Coast is so significant.

We may have the best hospitals in Australia, but they are nothing without the committed, compassionate and professional healthcare professionals who work within them. During the recent election campaign the Government made a number of significant promises to the people of New South Wales. Because we have a strong economy and good financial management, the Government was able to deliver on these commitments. I bring to the attention of the House one particular commitment. On 17 February 2019 our Premier, Gladys Berejiklian—the King of Cheds biscuits—Deputy Premier John Barilaro and health Minister Brad Hazzard announced the largest workforce boost in the history of Australian health care: 8,300 would be added to the health workforce in New South Wales, including 5,000 nurses and midwives.

Let me stress that this is only possible because the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government has worked for the past eight years to deliver a strong budget and strong economy. As the Premier said, patients will now have more nurses to look after them. Nurses will now have more colleagues to share the workload. Forty-five per cent of the new health staff will be employed in regional areas across New South Wales, including on the Central Coast. For the member for Keira's edification, our local health district is set to receive 51 more doctors, 256 more nurses and midwives, 43 more allied health staff and 62 more hospital support workers, which is a total of 412 extra health staff for the Central Coast alone. Those opposite may complain about the Central Coast being ignored, but that could not be further from the truth. This Government is delivering record numbers of health staff and making record investments in local health infrastructure.

To conclude I want to speak about palliative care, which affects each of us when a grandparent, great-grandparent or loved one of any age is reaching the end of their life. As I said earlier, the Central Coast has an ageing population, so there certainly is a need for palliative care services in our region. That is why the Government has made an additional \$45 million investment in palliative care, which follows on from an earlier \$100 million palliative care package from 2017. During the election the Government was able to announce that eight additional palliative care staff will be added to the workforce of Central Coast Local Health District, ably led by Dr Sally Carr, the head of palliative care.

The local health district is best placed and best equipped to determine the location and position of these new staff. I have been working very closely with our health Minister, Brad Hazzard, and also the passionate volunteers from Elsie's Retreat to deliver for the needs of palliative care patients. From firsthand experience I can say that the emotional and financial challenges for patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families are considerable. I commend this motion to the House.

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (12:06):** By leave: I cannot miss an opportunity to talk on something as important as this and, just by fluke, I am on House duty, which gives me a great chance to speak on this motion. I thank the member for Mulgoa for putting this motion before the House. The shadow health Minister told the House that the Opposition will move an amendment to the motion, but I will talk to the first part of the motion. Not one person in this House, or anybody in society, would not agree that the work of nurses and midwives is incredibly important. They are the people you do not want to see, but who you are grateful are there in your time of need. Everyone has needed to visit hospital, whether it is for their own needs or to visit loved ones. It is the incredible passion of the nurses that always strikes me—their ability to make you feel better.

Scientists tell us about medicine, but I believe that, while medicine makes some difference, the person who is looking after you in your time of need makes the most difference. I had to take one of my young children to our local hospital—Canterbury Hospital. I do not want to talk about the fact that it could use more nurses—of course it could—because I want to talk about the way the nurses at that hospital supported my young daughter. She was freaked out because having to go to hospital is a pretty scary experience. She was not in too good a state; I was not too good myself. I am not very good with the sight of blood, and I certainly find it difficult seeing one of my own kids in so much pain. The nurses, Jane and Mark—I did not catch their last names—were absolutely incredible. They comforted my daughter, and made her feel better and at ease while we waited for a doctor.

That was my experience, but I know that everybody else would have similar experiences of the professionalism and compassion of nurses and their desire to help others. That is why people go into nursing. Those who go into teaching have the same kind of attitude—the desire to help people and to make a difference. People do not go into those professions for the money, but because they believe in giving back to people and helping them when they need it most. The International Day of the Midwife is important, as is the recognition of any nurses. When we put politics aside—whether members belong to the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, The Greens, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party or are Independents—we can all value the role of nurses and other healthcare professionals because we know that we need them.

I think those sorts of things are really important. Of course, one of the sad things about this place is that things become political. When we put that aside I do not think there would be any disagreement that nurses not only do a fabulous job but also do a really important job, and everybody wants to support them. At the most recent election both of the major parties made big commitments to nursing and both of the parties made big commitments in terms of ratios and supporting nurses. There is absolutely no doubt that there is a genuinely collaborative approach when it comes to recognising the professionalism of nurses, recognising the compassion of nurses, recognising the important role they play and recognising their value in our society.

Because of that I would encourage anybody who is looking for a career—I would give them two careers to go into, and I do not know that politics would be one of them—to go into nursing and teaching. I think they really match up so well because they are the things that are really important. Whilst there is a bit of a political element to it, genuine sincerity and a desire to help people are the most important things that we can instil in people. For that I congratulate all nurses and those who step out of their comfort zone to help others.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (12:10):** By leave: I thank the member for Mulgoa, Tanya Davies, for bringing this important issue to the House. We are reminded that nursing is the single largest profession in the healthcare workforce and provides an invaluable contribution to the health and wellbeing of people in Australia and across the world. It would be fair to say that nursing is more than a profession, it is a calling. I remind the House that International Nurses Day is celebrated each year on 12 May, the birthday of the world's most famous nurse, Florence Nightingale. The International Day of the Midwife is on 5 May each year. That day recognises midwives for their compassionate and dedicated care and support for women, babies and families through pregnancy, childbirth and the early weeks of new life.

This House should congratulate the 52,000 nurses and midwives in the New South Wales public hospital system on their invaluable service to the community and on their significant contribution to improve the health of our population. The International Council of Nurses and the International Confederation of Midwives respectively lead the commemoration of these days with new themes each year. The theme for 2019 for nurses was, "A Voice to Lead Health for All", in recognition of the opportunity for nurses to actively engage with the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The theme for the 2019 International Day of the Midwife was, "Midwives: Defenders of Women's Rights", which is an interesting title. Nurses and midwives are at the frontline of our health system.

As patients and their families journey through our healthcare system it is the nurses and midwives who are there at every turn, making a real difference to the care and the experience of patients, family members and carers. I have heard that from other members who have spoken in this debate. There are few Australians whose lives have not been touched by the care and compassion that nurses and midwives provide every hour of the day, every day of the year. They are there standing beside us at some of the most exhilarating moments of our lives, and also at some of the most devastating. For this reason we want to recognise and honour the nurses and midwives of New South Wales in this House, and express our sincere gratitude to each and every nurse and midwife in New South Wales for the critical work that they do. Sometimes in this Chamber there are those who only stand up to criticise the performance of others. Today is a day to acknowledge the compassion, commitment and professionalism of nurses and midwives in the public healthcare system. Today I say thank you.

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:13):** By leave: Today I join the member for Mulgoa to congratulate and thank our nurses and midwives across New South Wales, celebrating Florence Nightingale, that leader. Both my mum and my sister chose an amazingly generous profession to help out people in our community. I commend

the nurses on the Central Coast who provide amazing care to our patients. So many patients from the coast come back and say, "The care was incredible, but those poor nurses are absolutely run off their feet." Nurses today should not be exploited for their passion to care for people in their communities. Yet due to budget cuts and pressure on budgets more and more nurses in our community are not replaced when other nurses are away sick.

Nurses in the Gosford Hospital are pointing out to me that they are working understaffed on the wards. They are really scared because their registration depends on this. When matters go to the Coroner because something has gone wrong, there is no place to say that nurses who were sick and who were not there, were part of the cause of anything that goes wrong. Nurses are also worried because there are no nurses to replace them when they are meant to have breaks, so nurses are working straight through their shifts. Nurses are being asked to look after way more patients than they are meant to be looking after. Sometimes there are four patients when there is meant to be only one patient per person, left in a corridor with a nurse whose qualification level means that they should not be looking after those patients.

We are looking forward to increased palliative care services on the coast. Federally, Labor promised a standalone palliative care facility on the coast. The people of the coast applauded this as we are a demographic that is modelling Australia's ageing population, and the need for this facility is really clear. Yet at the moment we have palliative care nurses who are only available to our people on weekdays between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Sometimes people put their names on that list for the palliative care nurses to go out to see them, yet the call comes to say that those nurses are available after those loved ones have passed away.

On this special day I commend the nurses and all of the staff in the Wyong emergency department. They work really hard as a family, but the budget pressures on those people are causing so much stress and anxiety. As the ambulances are coming in they are being forced to take patients out of ambulances when they do not have beds in the hospital. Although they are supporting each other to the hilt they need more resources invested in that community. They do not want to park and pay in that community too, I might just say, Minister. I must point out that the member for Terrigal is talking about 5,000 new nurses across the State, but we also need to look at nurse retirements.

These numbers are great, but we need to add to the number of nurses who are retiring from the profession, and also recognise the amazing skills of those older nurses who have been nurturing our younger nurses through the length and depth of their profession. We need to make sure that we look after our young nursing staff. The member for Lakemba talked about teaching and nursing as really highly commended professions, but we need to make sure that our older staff have opportunity to support these new staff to stay in these amazing care professions. Today I commend our nurses and midwives for their incredible work in our communities. Thank you.

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (12:17):** In reply: I thank members for their contributions to this important motion on International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife. I will make a couple of comments in response to contributions made by members in this House. First of all, I place on record the truth in relation to the number of nurses in our hospital system. It was the former Labor Government that introduced the nurse-to-patient hours-per-day formula that the Coalition Government has continued with over the past 8½ years. So let us put the truth of the matter on the table today: Labor was in power in New South Wales for 16 years and for the duration of those 16 years Labor rejected nurse-to-patient ratios. Labor had an opportunity to have input and to commence nurse-to-patient ratios, but it chose not to.

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** Carmel Tebbutt said it does not work.

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES:** The former Labor health Minister, Carmel Tebbutt, said it did not work. I thank the Liberal health Minister behind me for reminding me of that truth. Comments have been made by members in this House in relation to concerns around the security of our incredibly hardworking nurses. It was the Coalition Government that announced that former Labor health and police Minister Peter Anderson would conduct a review of security and of the systems that govern security in our hospitals.

Again, this was to endeavour to cross the political divide, to get straight to the facts and the truth of what is happening—what our nurses, our doctors and our health administrators say on this issue—and to explore a range of options. He has provided an interim report, which indicates that there are still areas he wishes to explore further. He has been given extended time to continue that detailed review. We are expecting his final report by the end of this year. However, after the Government received his interim report it commenced a trial of some additional security staff through consultation with the very hardworking and well-respected Gerard Hayes from the Health Services Union [HSU].

The Government is demonstrating its willingness to talk to everyone in this space to do whatever it takes to provide high levels of care and safety, not only to our nursing staff but to every worker in the hospital system, patients, their carers and family members attending our hospitals. In his review into hospital security the former

Labor health Minister and police Minister Peter Anderson has had the opportunity to travel to every corner of New South Wales. He has spoken to a range of MPs, including Labor MPs. He has spoken to hundreds and hundreds of staff across our hospital system. He has visited over 40 hospitals and other multipurpose service [MPS] facilities. He has spoken to the HSU and the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association to explore what it is that we need to do to provide a safer working environment for our nurses, our hospital staff and our patients.

These facts that I have placed on the table further demonstrate that it is the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government that is committed to supporting our nursing staff by building and refurbishing world-class hospitals up to the standard that is required—not only in metropolitan cities but right across the regions. The incredible health infrastructure boom that our Government has delivered leaves the former Labor Government's tenure of 16 years in the dust and in a shameful state. We are a government committed to nurses and midwives and we thank them for their service to this State.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson):** The question is that the amendment moved by the member for Keira be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....42  
Noes .....49  
Majority.....7

**AYES**

Aitchison, Ms J  
Barr, Mr C  
Catley, Ms Y  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Dib, Mr J  
Finn, Ms J  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D (teller)  
O'Neill, Dr M  
Saffin, Ms J  
Tesch, Ms L  
Washington, Ms K

Atalla, Mr E  
Butler, Mr R  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Daley, Mr M  
Donato, Mr P  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lalich, Mr N  
McDermott, Dr H  
Mihailuk, Ms T  
Park, Mr R  
Scully, Mr P  
Voltz, Ms L  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Bali, Mr S  
Car, Ms P  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Dalton, Mrs H  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Leong, Ms J  
McKay, Ms J  
Minns, Mr C  
Parker, Mr J  
Smith, Ms T.F.  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

**NOES**

Anderson, Mr K  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Lindsay, Ms W  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Petinos, Ms E  
Provest, Mr G  
Sidgreaves, Mr P  
Smith, Mr N  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

Ayres, Mr S  
Bromhead, Mr S  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A (teller)  
Elliott, Mr D  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Piper, Mr G  
Roberts, Mr A  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G

Barilaro, Mr J  
Clancy, Mr J  
Cooke, Ms S (teller)  
Davies, Mrs T  
Evans, Mr L.J.  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Lee, Dr G  
McGirr, Dr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Preston, Ms R  
Saunders, Mr D  
Singh, Mr G  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tuckerman, Mrs W  
Williams, Mr R

**Amendment negatived.**



**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson):** The question is that the motion as moved by the member for Mulgoa be agreed to.

**Motion agreed to.**

### **CENTRAL COAST HEALTH INVESTMENT**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:28):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Acknowledges that the Government's record investment in health infrastructure now extends to 90 different projects.
- (2) Notes the Government's successful delivery of the \$348 million Gosford Hospital redevelopment, which was on time and under budget.
- (3) Notes that at least 412 new medical professionals will be employed by Central Coast Local Health District, part of the biggest ever health workforce boost in Australian history.

This motion gives me an opportunity to note the unprecedented investment by the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government in our world-class public health system. As the motion notes, our investment in infrastructure now extends to 90 different projects. Indeed, since 2011 more than \$10 billion has been invested to build, upgrade and redevelop hospitals and health facilities across the State. A further \$10.1 billion has been committed over the next four years to continue current projects and start the upgrading or building of a further 29 hospitals and health facilities. This is all about ensuring everyone in our State has access to world-class care close to home.

As a representative of the Central Coast region in this place, I highlight the health investment in my local area. Major capital projects on the Central Coast include a \$200 million redevelopment of Wyong Hospital and a \$348 million redevelopment of Gosford Hospital. The upgrade at Gosford includes a state-of-the-art, 11-storey clinical services building, which we call the tower and which I am led to believe is the tallest building in Gosford. In June last year Premier Berejiklian and Minister Hazzard officially opened that wonderful facility. The refurbishment of existing hospital buildings at Gosford includes a new main entry forecourt, refurbished spaces for allied health, a cancer day unit, an emergency department short-stay unit and cardiovascular services. All of this work is underway and on track for completion in the coming months.

**Ms Liesl Tesch:** Good.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** Yes, it is good and it has come about because the Government delivers. It is a very good outcome. The technological advancements involved in the 11-storey tower are incredible. For the first time there is a nuclear medicine service, which will greatly improve diagnoses for a range of conditions and will speed up scans for emergency patients. There are a number of innovations right across the redevelopment. When I recently toured the new facilities I was truly in awe of installations like the smart glass panels, which change from clear glass to frosted glass at the touch of a button. As I found out, this is an important hygiene improvement as it removes the need for curtains in rooms. In the intensive care unit the windows are larger than in any other public hospital in New South Wales. The facility has an outdoor courtyard which has a fantastic view over the golf course and has oxygen and gas fittings installed. That means that the sickest patients can enjoy fresh air outdoors. The new tower has been designed with patients in mind and with privacy and comfort front and centre. I am proud of this amazing new hospital, which the Liberal Government has delivered to the Central Coast community.

Other new features of the tower that I will briefly highlight include a special care nursery, which has expanded capacity for newborn cots and pull-out beds for parents and carers. The special care nursery is a massive increase in size on the existing facilities in the old hospital. The facility has an MRI machine to diagnose stroke, cancer, infection and joint abnormalities. Each unit features a single or double room with an ensuite and a patient or relative lounge. There are dedicated staff and patient lifts, which offer greater privacy. That separation is important because it means that patients can be moved from floor to floor in private lifts rather than in public lifts. That gives them a greater level of privacy when they need it most.

At Wyong Hospital the \$200 million redevelopment will deliver a range of improved and expanded infrastructure and services to the growing Wyong community and surrounding areas. I know the member for Wyong is very excited about the redevelopment of that hospital. As I have said many times before, between 2016 and 2036, 74,500 more people will call the Central Coast home. Many of these new residents will be centred around the northern end of the region. That is why the redevelopment of Wyong Hospital is a priority for this Government.

The first stage of works was the car park upgrade, which commenced in 2018. The main works, which will begin in the coming months, include an emergency department, increased maternity intensive care services,

paediatric services, inpatient beds, an additional operating theatre and rehabilitation and ambulatory services. It should be noted that both Gosford and Wyong hospitals work together to deliver great services. The two hospitals boost the availability of facilities and support each other. That is why there has been a staggered development across the two hospitals. The two hospitals provide mutual services during the redevelopments, thereby providing minimal inconvenience to patients.

I highlight the great work of the staff and the CEO, Dr Andrew Montague. The hospital redevelopment at Gosford has been an almost seamless exercise on a difficult site, yet patient care has remained at the forefront of the project. I read with great delight in this morning's edition of the *Central Coast Express Advocate* that the expansion plan for Wyong Hospital has been given planning approval. I was surprised to read that this is the first major expansion of Wyong Hospital since the early 2000s. The growing population has made this expansion necessary and our strong budget has made it possible. Construction of the building is expected to be done in a single stage, with work starting soon and expected to conclude by 2022. Paragraph (3) of my motion states:

- (3) Notes that at least 412 new medical professionals will be employed by the Central Coast Local Health District, part of the biggest ever health workforce boost in Australian history.

As members know, my wife is a nurse who works at the Central Coast Cancer Centre. Obviously I am biased and like to talk about the great work performed by our health professionals. I bring to the House's attention that on 17 February 2019 Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Deputy Premier John Barilaro and the Minister for Health and Medical Research, Brad Hazzard, announced the largest workforce boost in the history of Australian health care, with 8,300 people to be added to the health workforce in New South Wales, including 5,000 nurses and midwives. I stress that this is only possible because of the work of the New South Wales Government over the past eight years to deliver a strong budget and an even stronger economy.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (12:35):** I make a contribution to the debate on the motion of the member for Terrigal. The member for The Entrance, the member for Gosford and I acknowledge that upgrades are needed to our facilities on the Central Coast. However, I move:

That the motion be amended by omitting all words after "House", with a view to adding:

"Recognises that population growth on the Central Coast necessitates urgent additional health resources."

I will speak specifically about Wyong Hospital and the member for Gosford will speak about her electorate. In 2015 the Government made a commitment of \$200 million to upgrade Wyong Hospital. It is now 2019, which means that \$200 million is not worth as much as it was in 2015. Dr Andrew Montague and his team have been trying desperately to fit the services that were promised into the funding envelope. That has been extremely difficult to achieve and unfortunately a number of compromises have had to be made. I talked to staff in radiography. That unit currently has 10 beds. After the redevelopment the brand-new unit will have only eight beds. One has to ask: If there is a \$200 million upgrade, why are the number of beds reduced? I have been told that workflow and other issues in the emergency department are still being sorted out but there are significant issues about the size of the unit and access to the site.

At the last election, with all the money that was being splashed around all over the State, it was hoped that Wyong Hospital would be recognised and provided with additional funding to ensure that the upgrade that was committed to in 2015 could actually be delivered. The original plans included a multistorey car park. The hospital will now get an at-grade car park, not a multistorey car park. My colleagues will talk more about this in their contributions. It seems that parking charges will be introduced at Wyong Hospital. Currently it is free. On the north of the coast, we have labelled these charges a "sick tax". Public transport services in the area are poor, yet patients and staff will have to pay for the right to park at their hospital, which they attend because they are not well. The people up north, whilst encouraged about an expansion of the hospital, are not necessarily happy little campers because of what they are finding out about the redevelopment.

**Mr Mark Coure:** You had 16 years of government and what did you do? You did nothing.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** We rebuilt the hospital, which was completed in 2006. We totally rebuilt the hospital. That was when I was the local member.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Order! The member for Wyong will address his comments through the Chair.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** It is a myth that nothing was ever done. Between 2003 and 2006 Wyong Hospital was totally rebuilt, with a brand-new car park out the front, for the population that lived there at the time. Since then, the population has increased and the hospital needs another major upgrade.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Order! The member for Oatley will come to order.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS:** All this Government does is keep up with population growth. The Government members pat themselves on the back but at the end of the day Labor built the hospital to match the size of the population. That is what those opposite are doing now and nothing more. When the upgrade was first raised, Wyong Hospital needed around \$230 million to \$280 million. The commitment came at the 2015 election, after Labor originally made the commitment. I am happy to say that I lobby and fight hard for my area. Those opposite appeared on a Sunday afternoon. I have a photo of them on the grassy knoll out near the emergency sign at Wyong. They rushed out as quickly as they could and matched our commitment.

Those opposite will not acknowledge it but originally they did not have the money to pay for the upgrade. So they came up with a scheme to privatise the operation of the hospital. They would pay for it by getting someone else to do it. When they made the original commitment, they had no intention of actually funding it themselves. When the community fought back hard, with massive rallies, petitions, candlelight vigils and all sorts of things, the Government decided it could not privatise and scrambled madly to find the money. What we now see at Wyong is the cut-price budget option rather than the option that we really need. We need about another \$30 million to \$80 million to build a facility of the size that is needed at Wyong just to keep up with the population growth. That is why I moved an amendment to the motion.

The amendment to the motion asks for urgent additional health resources to keep up with the population growth on the Central Coast. In my area there are 4,500 new houses and around 9,000 to 10,000 new residents. The residents who will live in the 2,000 houses that are going in at Wyee will use Wyong Hospital. With all these people, our nurses, whom we met with the other day, are stretched to the limit and are overworked. The staff cannot keep up with the population demand. The Government should focus on providing the resources, not on moving motions, patting themselves on the back and saying, "Aren't we good little fellows?" The Government has to commit the money and provide the facilities that it committed to in 2015. I am pleased the Government matched Labor's commitment but it really had no choice. However, there was a massive 9.3 per cent swing to me after it made its announcement. I had a further swing to me at the last election. What did I campaign on? I campaigned on making Wyong Hospital better.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (12:43):** When it comes to health infrastructure, this is a government that delivers. Those on the other side do not. For 16 years they neglected St George Hospital, they neglected hospitals on the Central Coast and they neglected hospitals in western Sydney.

**Mr David Harris:** There are four hospitals on the Central Coast.

**Mr MARK COURE:** You guys neglected every single one of them. They neglected Liverpool Hospital and Bankstown Hospital. Labor treated St George Hospital, in my electorate, like it was some sort of Bermuda Triangle when it came to health infrastructure. In 16 years those opposite failed to deliver one new building or one upgrade at St George Hospital. St George Hospital was upgraded under the Askin Liberal Government, under the Greiner Liberal Government and under the O'Farrell, Baird and Berejiklian Liberal governments. In fact, when it comes to St George Hospital, Labor is no friend.

Our area has a good hospital now. We might not have a good football team but there is always next year. When we first came to government in 2011 we reopened the hydrotherapy pool, which had been closed by those opposite. Since 2011 this Government has built, delivered and funded a new emergency department at St George Hospital at a cost of \$41 million. In addition, we delivered stage two of the redevelopment with a seven-storey acute services building, which now includes a new intensive care department, new operating theatres, more inpatient beds, cardiac laboratories, a sterilising department, a new helipad plus additional parking. Stage three of the redevelopment of St George Hospital, which we announced during the election, takes this Government's total investment since its election in 2011 to over \$700 million. Not in 16 years did Labor deliver a single upgrade to St George Hospital. Labor forgot and neglected St George Hospital.

In this year alone, since the Berejiklian Government's re-election, we are seeing more nurses, with \$2.8 billion allocated to recruit 8,300 frontline health staff over four years. That means 5,000 more nurses and midwives, including mental health palliative care nurses. We are also seeing over 1,000 medical staff and 880 allied health pharmacists, social workers and occupational therapists. I note that 45 per cent of these new staff will be for regional New South Wales. This week I visited the new birthing unit at St George Hospital. This brand-new birthing and delivery suite, which will begin operation later this year, is double the size of the existing unit, which was built under the Greiner and Fahey governments. For 16 years those opposite did not even upgrade the birthing unit. This Government is getting on with the job of rebuilding St George Hospital as well as our many other hospitals across the State.

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:47):** I thank the member for Terrigal for bringing the issue of Central Coast health investment to the Parliament. I speak in support of the amendment of the member for Wyong to scrap the motion and insert instead that the population growth of the Central Coast urgently necessitates additional

health care. This Liberal Government is not listening to the great people of the coast. We might have a flashy new hospital and the promise of new staff but the reality for the people of the coast is that it is not much different to what it was before. The percentage of patients waiting more than four hours for emergency service treatment is 43 per cent at Gosford and 35 per cent at Wyong, and these figures are climbing. The State average is 25 per cent.

Waiting times are climbing and we are seeing more acute admissions, with 510 a year. Worryingly, there is a massive increase in the number of people attending emergency departments who should not even be at hospital. They should be seeing their GP or allied health care professional but they cannot get in the door because the Liberals have made it more and more expensive and harder and harder to access this simple care, which is so important to the people of the Central Coast. It is an embarrassing joke that the Liberal Government has not updated the Admitted Patient Survey since January 2017. Is that customer service? What else is the Government hiding? One thing the Government cannot ignore is the ambulance block that is occurring daily at our hospitals, with Gosford Hospital looking more like an ambulance depot every single day. Only 50 per cent of our ambulances are able to arrive within 15 minutes of the most urgent of emergency call-outs. That statistic is down nearly 10 per cent in only one year.

Not only are ambulances locked in at hospitals instead of being out on the road but call-out numbers across the board are up, with 591 additional call-outs in the last year and a 58 per cent increase in non-urgent calls. Is that fair for our ambulance officers and hospital staff? Let us talk about access to health across our whole region and the Federal Government's lack of delivery to our community, which adds so much more pressure to our State budgets. I commend those trying to work under-budget who have been smashed by this cutback as well. Gosford Hospital is already way over budget and the cut in costs is not helping health outcomes and health access for people on the Central Coast.

Our nurses are calling for change. They are very concerned about understaffing and have been working short-staffed for far too long. Just two years ago this was not heard of. Absent staff are not being replaced at Gosford Hospital and wards are working three staff short, with nurses not taking breaks for their whole roster. This is putting patients at risk. Stress, sick leave and injuries are becoming endemic and normal. That is not good enough. We need greater investment now. It is not good enough for patients or for staff, who came into this profession to serve the community and do a good job.

Add to this the cost of the new parking. A petition containing 10,000 signatures of people across the Central Coast stating that the delivery of health services by this Liberal Government will be debated in Parliament this afternoon. Parking fees have gone from \$1.20 an hour to \$6.70 an hour for people visiting their loved ones on the Central Coast. This is a 450 per cent increase in cost to our visitors. Our nurses have taken a \$1,200 a year pay cut to work at their own workplace. This Liberal Government needs to learn to listen to people who live on the Central Coast, listen to those who work there, listen to those who are trying to access the emergency department, listen to our ambulance officers, listen to people who are visiting their loved ones in hospital and listen to people outside our hospital system who try to find a doctor or allied health professional to visit in our local community.

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (12:51):** I thank the member for Terrigal for putting forward this motion as it allows me to speak about some of the wonderful investment that is taking place in my electorate. It is clearly evident that these types of investments in health are welcome in my electorate. My electorate alone has an \$8 million redevelopment currently underway at Yass District Hospital, \$2.5 million for an upgrade to Crookwell District Hospital and new ambulance stations in Yass and Goulburn, which are underway. The major works project would have to be the \$150 million development at Goulburn Base Hospital. The Government's commitment to redevelop Goulburn Base Hospital will ensure world-class facilities are delivered to the Goulburn community and will remain a critical component of the local health network.

The New South Wales Government has committed more than \$14.4 billion in infrastructure spending in health over the forward capital program. With over 90 projects underway—from billion-dollar precinct redevelopments to new hospitals, community health facilities and ambulance stations—Health Infrastructure NSW is working hard to deliver this enormous program of works, which includes the many projects in my electorate. Consultation—yes, we are listening—on the Goulburn Base Hospital redevelopment project has been extensive, with over 2,000 interactions with community, consumer and industry representatives across the district to ensure the Goulburn region continues to receive excellent care into the future.

As the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government knows, building hospital infrastructure is much more than construction of a building. Both hospital staff and the local community have played a key role in the redevelopment. The feedback they have provided has been very important in helping ensure the new health facilities meet the community's needs both now and well into the future. The enabling works for the project to prepare the site for the new clinical services building have been completed. These works included the construction, demolition and relocation of a number of buildings and services that were in the existing footprint of the new

acute building. The site is now covered in Geofabric and that will remain onsite as an erosion and dust mitigation measure while documentation and the building facade are being redesigned and finalised. The redesign of the building facade is a result of community feedback and consultation—proof of a government that listens and works with its communities to achieve best outcomes.

The project remains on track for main works to commence in the coming months and the entire project will be completed at the end of 2021. An additional \$30 million was allocated to Goulburn Base Hospital in the 2019-20 budget. The full \$150 million redevelopment is expected to be complete in 2021 and will include a new four-storey clinical services building with a new main entry and hospital reception; a new emergency department; a new medical imaging department; a new intensive care unit; new operating theatres, day surgery and recovery areas; new medical, surgical, paediatric, rehabilitation and geriatric inpatient units with specific designated palliative care beds; a new maternity unit and birthing suite; as well as ambulatory paediatric and antenatal clinics. The additional funding will improve the ambulatory care services at Goulburn Base Hospital. These projects are just a small part of the New South Wales Government's commitment to keeping people healthy and out of hospital, providing world-class clinical services with timely access and services. These investments prove that people do not have to live in a big city in order to receive high-quality health care under a Liberal-Nationals Government.

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (12:55):** I welcome the motion from the member for Terrigal about Central Coast health and support the amendment moved by my colleague the member for Wyong. The motion allows me to talk about health care and how health care should be organised on the Central Coast. It is worth reminding the House and people on the Central Coast that only one side of this place voted against privatisation of health on the Central Coast. It was not the member for Terrigal; he was silent when the Government moved to privatise Wyong Hospital. Mark my words, privatisation of one part of Central Coast health services would have been privatisation of the entire Central Coast health services. It would have been the beginning of the end for public health on the Central Coast. The member for Terrigal was silent on that point and that is his legacy. It is one thing to build buildings. To deliver for all members of the community one must be committed to the delivery of public health. The member for Terrigal is on the record as not opposing privatisation on the Central Coast.

I acknowledge that building is occurring on the Central Coast but the new building must be staffed. Everybody makes claims in this place but I can talk to the lived reality of my constituents and what I see on the Central Coast. In the last couple of weeks my colleagues and I have been invited to rallies held by the Nurses Federation and the Health Services Union [HSU] on the Central Coast in relation to hospital security and insufficient staffing. We talk about extra staff on the Central Coast but those extra staff do not seem to be getting to the frontline rosters, which are necessary to be filled to satisfy the health needs of the community. Why are staff rallying in demand of extra staffing and extra places being filled on the roster? Why are staff up in arms if new staff are being appointed to the Central Coast? It does not make sense. People can see it in front of their faces on the Central Coast. Their lived reality is that the new building does not have enough staff.

Members of the Ambulance Division of the HSU said on ABC radio in the last couple of weeks that there was bed block because of staffing issues. They had the new building but it was not being adequately operated. The Government is not committed to the proper delivery of public health. It is pretty good with the figures but it is not very good with delivering because it is not committed to the concept of public health and the delivery of public health for all. The public record, the lived experience, on the Central Coast shows that only Labor members want to keep healthcare delivery in public hands on the Central Coast. Government members will always seek to drag it down and hand it over to the private sector. I support the amendment moved by my colleague. I welcome the opportunity afforded by the member for Terrigal to speak about the reality of health care on the Central Coast and the threat to Central Coast health posed by the member for Terrigal and his privatisation obsession.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (12:59):** By leave: I join other members who represent Central Coast electorates, being the member for Gosford, the member for Wyong and the member for The Entrance, in acknowledging the motion moved by the member for Terrigal. This morning as I watched a debate from my office I was quite intrigued that Government members would have the audacity to crow in this House about their success in health and health infrastructure in this State. When I read the motion moved by the member for Terrigal I was very surprised that he had the audacity to crow specifically about health resources on the Central Coast. As my Labor colleagues quite rightly have pointed out time and again this morning, the Central Coast's health facilities are in dire need of improvement.

We are not making this up. Messages are coming directly to us from the nursing staff and patients. They of course tell us how fantastic the staff are in the facilities on the Central Coast but they also say how staff are under the pump and under-resourced, which unfortunately impedes them in doing the best job they can. Health facilities staff are proud health professionals who entered the medical profession to assist and help people, yet on the Central Coast they cannot do their job to the height of their professional capacity, all because of a lack of

resources provided by this Government. I regard the motion as absolute hypocrisy. Remember that only a few years ago the Government wanted to privatise hospitals on the Central Coast and in other parts of the State.

**Mrs Wendy Tuckerman:** Shame!

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** Goulburn was on the list too. Thank goodness you came along. We expect you to be definitely supporting Labor's model of public hospitals and not supporting a privatised model.

**Mrs Wendy Tuckerman:** Hear, hear!

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** I will hold the member for Goulburn to that. Labor also will hold the member for Terrigal to rejecting privatised hospitals, if we can ever get him to agree that public hospitals are fantastic. I listened to the member for Goulburn and I am pleased that her electorate is receiving healthcare resources, but shiny buildings do not provide healthcare services. It is what is inside hospitals that provides those services. We can take the Northern Beaches Hospital as an example of that. It is a disaster and a failure of the privatised hospital model that operates in New South Wales. The member for Goulburn should not for one moment think that when the Government tells her it will build something it means she will get good facilities, because we know that the Government's report card has a big F for failure in that area right here in Sydney on the northern beaches. What a joke that is.

I absolutely agree with the amendment moved by the member for Wyong and suggest that the Government consider supporting it. It is obvious that the population growth on the Central Coast requires services to support that growth. At the moment the Central Coast does not have that in any way, shape or form. The Government should ensure that it is providing a level of funding that will support population growth on the Central Coast particularly. The member for Wyong knows that firsthand. He sees the absence of money—we all do but it is particularly so in the burgeoning suburbs of Warnervale and the like—for roads, hospitals and schools. The list goes on. For Government members to crow about the Government's record investment in health on the Central Coast is hypocrisy at its highest. I do not support the motion but I do support the amendment moved by the member for Wyong.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:03):** In reply: This morning some interesting contributions have been made to the debate on the motion. I acknowledge the excellent and valuable earlier contributions from the member for Goulburn and the member for Oatley. Members of the Labor Opposition made interesting contributions and referred to hospital privatisation and closures. I was surprised by what short memories they have. It was Labor that was closing Woy Woy Hospital.

**Mr David Mehan:** No, not true.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** Here we go. Labor members hate it when they get caught out by the truth.

**Mr David Mehan:** It was just the rehab.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** What about the 400 jobs they cut? It was Woy Woy Hospital that those guys were closing. They hate it when they get caught out by the truth. I was interested to hear the member for Swansea slagging off the services at the Northern Beaches Hospital. The member for Manly has just come into the Chamber and told me what a great hospital it is. His son was recently born there. He meets with the staff. It is a fantastic hospital.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** He had no choice. You closed the rest of them.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** Here we go again. Here is Labor slagging off the hardworking staff at the Northern Beaches Hospital. What is really clear is that this Government is delivering record infrastructure. But not only is it delivering record infrastructure, there is record investment in additional nurses, doctors and support staff. In the Central Coast Local Area Health District this Government has appointed an additional 51 doctors and 256 more nurses and midwives. That is worth repeating for the benefit of Labor Opposition members, just in case they missed it: 256 more nurses and midwives at Central Coast hospitals. Moreover, the Government has provided 43 more allied health staff and 62 more hospital support workers.

While Labor was shutting down beds and closing hospitals, this Government has turned around the health system in New South Wales by upgrading almost every hospital across the State to world-class standards. The Government appointed an additional 5,000 nurses. In the lead-up to the State election, Labor members put up Facebook posts extolling the virtues of nurse-to-patient ratios. But the very day this Government announced the additional 5,000 nurses, those Facebook posts magically disappeared. What a surprise!

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Why don't you talk about the Central Coast?

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** If the member for Swansea had been listening, I mentioned the additional 5,000 nurses, among which were 256 more nurses and midwives for the Central Coast. The figures are pretty clear. Obviously the member for Swansea was not paying attention, as usual. The people of the Central Coast are receiving the benefit of the Government's record investment in health for every hospital on the Central Coast. Labor would be shutting Woy Woy Hospital, closing beds and leaving doctors and nurses out in the cold.

**Mrs Shelley Hancock:** That's what they do.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** I note the presence in the House of the Minister for Local Government. I understand the hospital in her electorate is also being upgraded. The Government is delivering this wonderful level of service because it can run a budget. In addition to the brand-new upgraded hospitals, the 5,000 additional nurses and—just once more for the benefit of the member for Swansea—the 256 more nurses and midwives on the Central Coast, this Government has funded 51 more doctors, 43 more allied health staff and 62 more hospital support workers for the Central Coast alone. These are record investments and record numbers of staff that have been provided to achieve the best health care possible across the Central Coast. As someone whose wife is a nurse, I get to talk every day about the great services that the Government is delivering at those hospitals. Obviously Labor treats them with contempt, as usual. Labor members say one thing but do another.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** The people of the Central Coast can see it every day. I am so proud to be part of a government that has made a record multibillion-dollar investment in health infrastructure and staff across the Central Coast.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** I call the member for Oatley to order for the first time. I call the member for Oatley to order for the second time. He will be on three calls to order if he continues to interject. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....44

Noes .....47

Majority.....3

#### AYES

Aitchison, Ms J  
Barr, Mr C  
Catley, Ms Y  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Dib, Mr J  
Finn, Ms J  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Leong, Ms J  
McKay, Ms J  
Minns, Mr C  
Parker, Mr J  
Scully, Mr P  
Voltz, Ms L  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Atalla, Mr E  
Butler, Mr R  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Daley, Mr M  
Donato, Mr P  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D (teller)  
O'Neill, Dr M  
Piper, Mr G  
Smith, Ms T.F.  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

Bali, Mr S  
Car, Ms P  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Dalton, Mrs H  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lalich, Mr N  
McDermott, Dr H  
Mihailuk, Ms T  
Park, Mr R  
Saffin, Ms J  
Tesch, Ms L  
Washington, Ms K

#### NOES

Anderson, Mr K  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
Griffin, Mr J  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Perrottet, Mr D

Ayres, Mr S  
Bromhead, Mr S  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A (teller)  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Henskens, Mr A  
Lee, Dr G  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Petinos, Ms E

Barilaro, Mr J  
Clancy, Mr J  
Cooke, Ms S (teller)  
Davies, Mrs T  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Hancock, Mrs S  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Lindsay, Ms W  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Preston, Ms R

## NOES

Provest, Mr G  
Sidgreaves, Mr P  
Smith, Mr N  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

Roberts, Mr A  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Saunders, Mr D  
Singh, Mr G  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tuckerman, Mrs W  
Williams, Mr R

**Amendment negatived.**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** The question is that the motion as moved by the member for Terrigal be agreed to.

**Motion agreed to.**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome to the gallery year 10 commerce students and their teachers from All Saints' College, Maitland, guests of the member for Maitland. I also welcome work experience student Lucia King, guest of the member for Balmain.

*Members***REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian: I inform the House that the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education will answer questions in relation to the portfolio of Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans.

*Question Time***MINISTERIAL STANDARDS**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:18):** My question is directed to the Premier—and, Premier, this is the easiest question you are ever going to get from me.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** Point of order: That conduct by the Leader of the Opposition was entirely disorderly.

**Mr Ryan Park:** So was your conduct in cancelling the ICAC vote yesterday.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** Just hold on a second. First of all, members are supposed to rise and seek the call and then be invited to the dispatch box. Secondly, that type of pre-question commentary is unparliamentary. I ask you, Mr Speaker, to direct members when they are called to speak directly to their question.

**The SPEAKER:** Members will come to order. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the first time. The Leader of the House is correct that questions should not contain a preamble or be prefaced with other comments. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to respect that ruling in future. I invite the Leader of the Opposition to ask her question now.

**Ms JODI McKAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I apologise. My question is directed to the Premier. How does the Premier manage conflicts of interest in her Cabinet?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:18):** Ordinarily, what happens in Cabinet is not disclosed. However, I will disclose this because I am confident that the Leader of the Opposition never did it when Labor was in government. I am confident the Labor Party would never have done this, but the first agenda item at every Cabinet meeting is disclosure of conflicts of interest. We do that at every Cabinet meeting. I say to members opposite that we know that they dealt with being in government in certain ways. We are not like that. We do not abide by the standards they abide by. I reiterate that obviously our expectation is that not only every Parliamentary Secretary and every Minister but also every member of Parliament—whichever side of the House they sit on—has obligations to fulfil. Not on one, not on two but on maybe three or four occasions the Leader of



the Opposition has been lax in fulfilling those obligations, as have a number of other members on that opposite side.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. I have a copy of the disclosure rules. I would like to inform the Premier that Mr John Sidoti had to notify her in writing about the conflict and she—

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat. I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time. She is close to being placed on two calls to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I find it interesting that yesterday members opposite objected to me repeating information about the member for Kogarah that had been revealed on the public record, yet they do not think twice about compromising an existing preliminary investigation.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order: It is Standing Order 129. Clearly the Premier has moved a long way from the leave of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier has answered the question and is being relevant to the—

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Then she should probably sit down.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** They have no shame, and hypocrisy is their modus operandi. They would not even let me say that on the public record information was revealed publicly and then commentators and journalists wrote about the fact that the member for Kogarah—

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order: Under Standing Order 73, if the Premier wants to cast aspersions she should do so by way of substantive motion.

**The SPEAKER:** I am comfortable that what the Premier is saying is not breaching Standing Order 73.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I am simply highlighting the hypocrisy. I remind members opposite that in all seriousness—

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Auburn to order for the first time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** In all seriousness, when there are matters in which the ICAC has said they are conducting a preliminary investigation let them do their job.

**Mr Chris Minns:** So why are you—

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** All I did was repeat what was on the public record.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Kogarah to order for the first time.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the second time. She was called to order for the first time earlier today.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. All we know is the Premier has it on an agenda. That is all she has been able to tell us.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** Point of order—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** The question was about how she manages conflicts of interest.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will hear a point of order from the Leader of the House. The Leader of the Opposition will not continue to speak after I have asked her to stop speaking.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** On a number of occasions those opposite have, in defiance, after a Minister, or in this case the Premier, has concluded an answer and sat down—

**The SPEAKER:** I apologise; I did not realise that the answer had been concluded.

**Ms JODI MCKAY (Strathfield) (14:24):** I ask a supplementary question. More than two years ago eight questions were put to the Premier regarding John Sidoti's conflicts of interest at Tallawong. She then appointed him to Cabinet. How did she manage that conflict?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:24):** I receive that question from the Leader of the Opposition but how is it different from what she asked me yesterday. Hang on—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The question has been asked. There has been too much interruption of the Premier when she is attempting to answer a question. I will start putting members on immediate calls to order for the rest of this answer if they continue to interrupt. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** As I said in my previous answer, it is not for members of the Opposition to conduct the preliminary investigation. It is a matter for the ICAC.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Londonderry to order for the first time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I also repeat that the Leader of the Opposition still has not answered why it took her 18 months to correct the record.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. With all due respect to the Premier, this is not about ICAC; it is about her managing a conflict of interest. She has failed to explain to this House how she did that.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The Premier will continue.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Firstly, it is not for the Leader of the Opposition to assume there ever was a conflict of interest.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Auburn to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** It is not for the Leader of the Opposition to cast aspersions on any member of this place while she has not explained why on three occasions she failed to make the appropriate disclosures.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**Mr John Barilaro:** It is a protection racket. You never want to hear the truth.

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier will restrain himself.

**Mr John Barilaro:** When they do it on that side.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the Deputy Premier to order for the first time.

**Mr John Barilaro:** Why don't you pull them up?

**The SPEAKER:** I call the Deputy Premier to order for the second time.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The Premier is not answering the question. When she appointed Mr Sidoti to the Cabinet how did she manage the conflict? That is the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier will continue.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** As I have said on numerous occasions, for any member of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary or Minister there are obligations that must be fulfilled—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** What about your obligations?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Can you please let me answer the question? Given that the Leader of the Opposition is asking me a question in relation to these matters, I ask her: On how many occasions did she ask the Secretary of the Labor Party how donations were being handled in the Labor Party? How many times did she ask the member for Kogarah, after it was revealed on the public record, what he knew about donations from Mr Wong?

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73 and Standing Order 129. It is a substantive motion if she wants to attack a member of my team—

**The SPEAKER:** There is no breach of Standing Order 73. I ask the Premier, having made broadly relevant comments, to be more mindful of the specific question.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I will make some broadly relevant comments. There is a preliminary investigation being conducted by the ICAC. I have full confidence in the ICAC to deal with all these matters. I say to those opposite that they should not demonstrate every day in this place their utter hypocrisy. Yesterday those opposite were very touchy when I made the observation that revelations had been made that the member for Kogarah received donations—

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order: Two weeks ago the member for Campbelltown was saying—

**The SPEAKER:** What is the member's point of order?

**Mr Ryan Park:** —either put up or shut up.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Keira to order for the second time.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** To that point of order, a number of speakers—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. Does the member have a new point of order?

**Mr Andrew Constance:** It is a new point of order.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** What is the member's point of order?

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Cessnock to order for the first time.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** My point of order is that former Speakers Rozzoli, Murray and Aquilina made very clear rulings in relation to tedious repetition on points of order to disrupt the flow of the House. We have now seen that for the best part of 10 minutes from those opposite. I ask, Mr Speaker, that you consider that ruling and make sure that we do not continue to see this practice from the Labor Party today.

**The SPEAKER:** I have made it clear on a previous occasion when I was speaking about relevance that when repeated points of order were raised previous Speakers, particularly Speaker Aquilina, had put members on multiple calls to order immediately. I have not done that today. I have indicated that during this answer I will put members on immediate calls to order. I have been doing that. There is a long list of people on calls to order. I will start to put people on multiple calls to order if I believe they are being disruptive for the sake of it. I have been very patient both yesterday and today. I will become a lot stricter, not only in the context of this question but also for the rest of this question time, because I feel that that is being abused.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The final thing I will state in relation to this question is that I think the people of New South Wales would like to know what action the Leader of the Opposition has taken to ask all of her colleagues about donations accepted by people mentioned in public commentary in recent weeks. Has she asked her colleagues whether they received those donations? What has she done to clean up Sussex Street. I have concluded my answer.

#### SYDNEY FISH MARKETS

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (14:31):** My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the progress of the new Sydney Fish Markets?

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier will be heard in silence.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:32):** Obviously today's announcement is extremely exciting for the future of Sydney and New South Wales. Today the Government announced that it will be making a \$750 million investment to completely rebuild the fish markets in Blackwattle Bay.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Kiama will remain silent.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** What is very exciting about this announcement is that many of our regional communities that provide produce to the fish markets will be able to double their capacity over coming years because the new fish markets will be double the size, ensuring that both wholesalers and retailers will have the opportunity to provide their produce to the people of this great State. Outside of the Sydney Opera House and the Royal Botanic Garden precinct, the fish market is the second most frequented place by tourists in New South Wales. In fact, the Minister for Planning today highlighted that there are more people who visited—

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the first time. I call the member for Prospect to order for the first time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** As the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces rightly highlighted this morning, there are more people who visit the Sydney Fish Markets than visit the Great Barrier Reef. That is something all of us can be proud of. Today was very heartwarming—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much general conversation in the Chamber. I ask that members be more respectful.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I do not know why those opposite are not interested in creating jobs and supporting an industry—

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Prospect to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** —which contributes so much to New South Wales.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Kiama to order for the first time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** On that point, I do not want to steal the Treasurer's thunder but the job figures just came out a couple of hours ago. New South Wales has the lowest unemployment rate in the nation at 4.3 per cent. I do not want to rub it into the other States but the gap between New South Wales and the other States is growing.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the third time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We are leading the nation by a mile. The nation's unemployment rate is at 5.7 per cent, we are at 4.3 per cent. We will keep pushing it down. We are the party for the workers, we are the party for jobs and we are the party for getting things done in this State. Whether it is roads, schools, hospitals or improving infrastructure in culture, arts, sport or in important precincts like the fish markets, we will get on with the job of doing that. I am sure the member for Port Stephens would be happy about this fact. As I was saying to a lot of people at the fish markets today, one of the board of directors is a fisherman from Port Stephens. He was telling me how happy he was that the fish markets were doubling in capacity.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Kate Washington is the member for Port Stephens.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Thank you. Commercial break: The Leader of the Opposition has said that Kate Washington is the member for Port Stephens. Thank you. None of us knew that, did we?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Londonderry to order for the second time. I call the member for Keira to order for the third time. I call the member for Maitland to order for the first time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Remember how you wanted to win government? Remember how you were going to win government? The member for East Hills is doing a great job. The member for Seven Hills is doing a great job. The member for Holsworthy is doing a great job. The member for Penrith is doing a great job.

**Ms Jodie Harrison:** Point of order: My point of order is in relation to your ruling on 31 July regarding soliciting interjections. The Premier is clearly soliciting interjections from the Government benches.

**The SPEAKER:** It is not of that nature. The Premier will continue.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I thank the member for her point of order. In fact, I was responding to an interjection from the member for Maitland, if the truth be known. In any event, this morning's announcement highlights that we were elected on the promise of getting things done. We are building the roads, the schools, the hospitals and the railway lines. We are also upgrading important infrastructure like our sporting infrastructure, our cultural infrastructure and the fish markets because we know that every time we build new projects— [*Time expired.*]

## REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (14:37):** I address my question to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on what the Government is doing to boost public transport—

**The SPEAKER:** Members will remain silent. The member for Port Macquarie will repeat the question and be heard in silence.

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS:** I address my question to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on what the Government is doing to boost public transport for regional New South Wales?

**The SPEAKER:** Members will remain silent. I call the member for The Entrance to order for the first time. I call the member for Mount Druitt to order for the first time. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the second time. It seems that Opposition members feel they have the licence to interject when Ministers are not even speaking. They do not.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (14:38):** I thank the member for Port Macquarie for her question. She is a member who knows what it means for a region to have better public transport options. She understands that better transport translates to better opportunities. This Government is delivering both for the people of regional New South Wales. What an exciting week it has been. It has been an exciting week because in the north of the State we have introduced two new coach services.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I will start tossing members out if they continue to interject. Members have been warned. I call the member for Newcastle to order for the first time.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** The new Dubbo to Tamworth service is a day return service that runs twice a week. You can jump on or jump off at towns along the way, including Gilgandra, Mullaley and Gunnedah. We have also added a new service from Tamworth to Port Macquarie that connects towns, including Bendemeer and Walcha, with the coast. These are services that we trialled and now they have been made permanent because the communities love them and they benefit from them. Those Opposites should give them a try. But fair warning: Unlike NSW Labor, our buses do not accept cash.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Wollongong to order for the first time. I call the member for Prospect to order for the third time. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the second time. I call the member for Newcastle to order for the second time.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** There is excitement in the Riverina because they have a new midweek train service from Griffith to Sydney, which completed its first run today. This is the second weekly service for the Riverina that is giving travellers more choice and more flexibility. It is benefiting not just Griffith but the communities along the way, like Junee and Harden. The other big winner this week has been the Central West. On Monday we saw the maiden voyage of the new Bathurst Bullet 2.0 service, the second daily service from Bathurst to Sydney that we promised before the election. It now includes stops at the villages of Rydal and Tarana.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for the Blue Mountains to order for the first time.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** I rode the train down to Sydney on Monday with two couples from Tarana who were so excited by the connection, by the opportunity that this has created for them to be connected with the city and the opportunities that it has opened up to entice people from Sydney to visit their small village. Local resident Greg Dargan said it best: "It is good to have something to put a smile on people's faces". Maybe it is because we see the smiles on these people's faces that we remember when Labor was last in government they said that nobody would use this service. They either said they would not or could not deliver it. Labor said time and again that it would never happen. There is a very powerful lesson for all of us in this House today when we are told that something will never happen. That goes too for the member for Kogarah. I tell him, "Mate, do not let anyone tell you it cannot happen because dreams can come true."

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Lakemba to order for the first time. I call the member for Bankstown to order for the first time.

**Ms Tania Mihailuk:** Yes!

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Bankstown to order for the second time.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** The Government has delivered not only for Bathurst, Lithgow, Rydal and Tarana but also for Orange. Starting from 16 October we will see two seven-days-a-week coach services connecting Orange residents with the two Bathurst Bullet services. As I said, these services are not just for people living in regional New South Wales. This is about creating opportunities for Sydneysiders to get out and visit our great regional towns. How good would it be to see some of those opposites who are just passengers in this place to get out and be passengers on some of our trains and see some of the benefits that we have in regional New South Wales. I know that cost is always a factor. I understand that Labor has had a bit of a hit to its bank account this week—you know, they dropped about \$100,000. The good news for them though is this: A return journey on the Bathurst Bullet is \$13. [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Rockdale to order for the third time. I call the member for Blue Mountains to order for the second time. Before the additional two minutes starts I will remind the House which members are on calls to order because it will get ugly in a moment. The member for Shellharbour is on one call to order. The member for Blue Mountains is on two calls to order. The Leader of the Opposition is on one call to order. The member for Prospect is on three calls to order. The member for Lakemba is on one call to order. The member for Swansea is on one call to order. The member for The Entrance is on one call to order. The member for Bankstown is on two calls to order. The member for Auburn is on two calls to order. The members for the electorates of Mt Druitt, Kogarah and Maitland are on one call to order each. The member for Port Stephens is on three calls to order. The member for Newcastle is on two calls to order. The member for Keira is on three calls to order.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** You should actually say who is not on a call.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time. The member for Londonderry is on two calls to order. The member for Wollongong is on one call to order. The member for Cessnock is on one call to order. The member for Rockdale is on three calls to order. The member for Canterbury is on two calls to order. The Deputy Premier is on two calls to order. The member for Kiama is on one call to order.

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** In relation to the calls, I thought I was on two calls to order.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Rockdale is on three calls to order. The Minister has the call.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** These services are just the beginning of what we are doing. We also have two new coach services from Broken Hill to Mildura and also to Adelaide. These services are improving connections for some of our most regional communities to nearby hubs, including air services, shopping facilities and medical specialists. We are halfway through community consultation on 13 new coach services that will help connect 44 regional communities across the State. Some of these 44 regional communities are isolated communities. They are communities that have never had public transport in their towns or villages in the past. This means that we are able to ensure that we can connect them with large regional centres. We are pretty excited about the fact that these services will be starting in early 2020. Of course, our new regional rail fleet is well and truly on the way. We will keep delivering new services. It is this side of the House that delivers for the people of regional New South Wales.

### MINISTERIAL STANDARDS

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:47):** My question is directed to the Premier. If the Premier cannot explain to the House how she managed John Sidoti's conflicts of interests, is she not complicit in a cover-up?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:47):** For the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition, she has been a member in this place twice—once as the member for Newcastle and once as the member for Strathfield—and she has been a Minister of the Crown in this place. The responsibilities of a Premier, the responsibilities of every Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and member of Parliament in relation to disclosures and managing conflicts of interest are publicly available information. If she is too lazy or too incompetent to look up the responsibilities of a Premier, a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary, a member of Parliament, she should not be in that seat. Frankly, all of these obligations are publicly available.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. This is in regard to the code of conduct for members of Cabinet. The first question was for her to explain it, which she could not—

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The Premier is being relevant and will continue.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I say again: Everything she is asking in relation to my obligations, in relation to the obligations of Ministers, members of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretaries and the like is publicly available. I even divulge—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** No, it's not.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Have you not read the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. This is not an opportunity to debate the Premier. The Premier will be heard in silence.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I remind those opposite of the current inquiry going on. I also remind those opposite of the action I took in having the independent process established prior to the preliminary investigation. Why did those opposite not allow me to repeat on the public record the fact that this week in the public domain it was revealed that the member for Kogarah's campaign—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** —accepted donations from Mr Ernest Wong? What I want to ask you—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** My point of order relates to Standing Orders 73 and 129. I think Standing Order 73 speaks for itself.

**The SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. The Premier is speaking on questions of fact. I am happy to hear questions of fact and she is being relevant. The Premier will continue.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I find it curious that the Leader of the Opposition would ask me that question when, in fact, yesterday I could not get a sentence out because of points of order taken by members opposite.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** They would not allow me to repeat what was actually mentioned in public commentary and provided on the public record about the member for Kogarah's campaign. I say this as a statement of fact. The member for Kogarah's campaign—

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129—

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier is being relevant. That is fine. The Premier will continue.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Yesterday the Opposition kept taking points of order merely because I was repeating what was in a newspaper article and on the public record—the fact that the member for Kogarah's campaign accepted donations from Mr Ernest Wong.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for The Entrance to order for the second time.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** What is the member's point of order? I want to hear the standing order. This is starting to become disruptive.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129—

**The SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the third time. The member will resume her seat. The Premier has the call.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** You can't put me on a call for taking a point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** I have just ruled on relevance, yet you are standing to take another point of order on relevance. It is disruptive and it is disorderly. The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat. I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the third time. The Premier has the call.

**Ms Lynda Voltz:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 74. The Premier repeats and repeats—

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier is being relevant in response to similar questions of a similar nature. If she is repeating some of the same messages it is because members are asking the same questions. The Premier has the call. I call the member for Kogarah to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I simply highlight the fact that those opposite are very touchy about this issue, aren't they?

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Auburn to order for the third time. I call the member for Maitland to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I say to those opposite that the issues raised in recent weeks have shaken—

*[An Opposition member interjected.]*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member for Auburn from the Chamber under Standing Order 249 for the rest for the day.

*[The member for Auburn left the Chamber at 14:55 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]*

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I say to those members opposite: Do not attempt to derail a process that is taking place at the moment through a preliminary investigation to take attention away from the systemic failures of your party and your members.

### ELECTORAL LAW REFORM

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (14:53):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Roads and Transport, and Leader of the House. Will the Minister update the House on public affairs, with particular reference to electoral law reforms and donations?

**The SPEAKER:** I will continue to eject members from the Chamber if the disorderly interjections continue. The Leader of the House has the call.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:54):** I thank the chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for his question, and I know his interest in this issue. This week the Premier of New South Wales outlined very clearly the need to clean up issues particularly around small donations that are made at functions by having a cash donation capped to \$100. This is fundamentally important because in today's world, with the ability to have a digital footprint of transactions, we need a mechanism that ensures absolute openness, accountability and transparency when it comes to electoral matters and in particular

donations in New South Wales. That is fundamental. On a number of occasions in this House over the years there have been questions in relation to electoral reforms and donations. Efforts have been made to ensure that we have full transparency, particularly from political parties.

When it comes to small donations this change is fundamental. There is no reason why anybody should donate \$900 in cash at a function. I point out that there is no doubt, certainly in terms of this issue, that if there were to be a function in which, for example, \$67,000 was raised and around \$27,000 of that was in small donations, they should be disclosed. I will give an example. In November 2017 the Australian Labor Party held a Chinese Friends of Labor dinner in Sydney, successfully reaffirming a friendly policy towards China. At this function \$27,000 in small donations was received. Naturally, one might be inquisitive and look at the electoral returns. I went to the Labor Party disclosure return, and guess what? I could not find the \$67,000 that was raised at that function. That is cause for concern. But it is okay. It is all right. I did find that donation: It was in the Country Labor donations. We might have Resources for the Regions on this side of the House but they have their own resources for the regions on that side of the House.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** What I thought I would do is—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member for Port Stephens from the Chamber under Standing Order 249 for the remainder of the day.

*[The member for Port Stephens left the Chamber at 14:57 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]*

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** What I thought I would look at who was at the function. Here is the photo. There is Ernest Wong next to the member for Strathfield and the Leader of the Opposition at the function.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the House will resume his seat.

**Mr Ryan Park:** We respect your rulings and pay careful attention to them. You have removed two people now from our side for noise and interrupting.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes. The Clerk will stop the clock.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Just then when the Minister was speaking the entire frontbench opposite and most of the backbench were reacting in a way no different to the way the member for Port Stephens and the member for Auburn did. There are two sides to this Chamber.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not accept that. There is a general level of noise that sometimes occurs in the Chamber. I have called the Deputy Premier to order on two occasions, which I know he did not like, but the calls were warranted. I am more than prepared to put any member on a call to order. There has been a degree of noise from the Government benches that I have asked them to keep in check, but I do not accept it was equivalent to the behaviour of the two members who have been ejected. The Leader of the House will continue.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** We have a Chinese Friends of Labor function that was held in Haymarket, donating to Country Labor. We have the Leader of the Opposition standing next to Mr Ernest Wong at the function, and we have Kenrick Cheah on the other side of the photograph, and we all know the history there. It is very interesting. It leads to potentially future questions of the Leader of the Opposition about her relationship with the Chinese Friends of Labor, in particular what she knows and whether she received—

**Mr David Harris:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I anticipate the point of order. If it is Standing Order 73, I will hear further.

**Mr David Harris:** Can we have a definition of what "imputation" actually means? Because if this is not it, then it is not in the English language.

**The SPEAKER:** I have ruled on that previously. I want to hear further from the Leader of the House.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** The point I was going to make is that there is a fundamental question. All members, when we attend functions—and I have been questioned by those opposite, as we all have—should be accountable. The fact that \$27,000—

**Mr Chris Minns:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. I have just ruled on Standing Order 73 and I am listening. I hope the point of order is a different point of order.



**Mr Chris Minns:** I think it is building to an imputation. The member opposite—

**The SPEAKER:** What is the standing order?

**Mr Chris Minns:** It is Standing Order 73. The member opposite has not declared a political donation in nine years.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The member for Kogarah will resume his seat.

**Mr Chris Minns:** You haven't declared a donation in nine years.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Kogarah to order for the third time. He is on the edge. The Leader of the Opposition is on three calls to order. The member for Prospect is on three calls to order. The member for Keira is on three calls to order. The member for Rockdale is on three calls to order. The member for Auburn and the member for Port Stephens have been ejected. I am happy to add to that list today. The behaviour of members is unacceptable. The Leader of the House has the call.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** It is interesting that the member for Kogarah was the person who took that point of order—

**Mr Chris Minns:** Am I wrong?

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** —because I am now happy to table the cheque from Ernest Wong to Chris Minns, the member for Kogarah—

**The SPEAKER:** I direct the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member for Kogarah from the Chamber under Standing Order 249 for the remainder of the day.

*[The member for Kogarah left the Chamber at 15:01 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]*

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** —which has been evidence in the ICAC this week.

**Ms Sophie Cotsis:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock.

**Ms Sophie Cotsis:** My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. If the Leader of the House has something to say by way of a substantive motion we are happy to debate it—

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Ms Sophie Cotsis:** —because we have questions for that side of the House. I want to know why in 2103 there was a by-election in Miranda—

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough.

**Ms Sophie Cotsis:** —and there were some things that were not declared back then.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Canterbury to order for the third time. She joins other members who are on three calls to order. The Leader of the House will conclude his answer. Have you finished your answer?

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** No, I have not.

**Mr Lee Evans:** I require further information.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Are you taking a point of order?

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Correct.

**The SPEAKER:** I am happy to hear from the member for Cessnock.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** My point of order is taken under Standing Order 131 in regard to the material being presented by the Minister, which caused all sorts of disorderly conduct yesterday. Mr Speaker, you did not give an extension to the Minister yesterday for the same reason.

**The SPEAKER:** No, I did not.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** He is canvassing the same material today.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** It will become more disorderly.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The question today was very different from the question yesterday, when I ruled that the Leader of the House was not being relevant to the question. The Leader of the House is being relevant to the question. The Leader of the House has the call.

[Extension of time]

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** The point that I was making is that from time to time members of Parliament will be questioned in relation to donations. When members are questioned by journalists in this regard and they say that they have not received a donation from, for example, another member of Parliament when clearly they have and there is evidence to that effect—fact—why does the Leader of the Opposition refuse to put them on the backbench?

**Mr David Harris:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the House will resume his seat.

**Mr David Harris:** My point of order is under Standing Order 73. If this is not an allegation, then I am really lost as to how this is acceptable under Standing Order 73. There are other avenues under the rules of the House to debate this. This is not one of them because no-one has the right of reply in question time.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The Leader of the House has the call.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** I am talking fact. On 3 September the shadow Minister for Transport said to Brad Norrington from *The Australian* that he had not received a donation from Ernest Wong. The ICAC has proven otherwise. The Leader of the Opposition is running a protection racket.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Keira seeks to take a point of order. The Clerk will stop the clock.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Because quite frankly those opposite want to throw mud at our side and here they are refusing to have the decency—

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the House will resume his seat. I call the Leader of the House to order for the first time. You will resume your seat when a point of order has been acknowledged.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Again, we respect your rulings. At the previous sitting the member for Campbelltown was named and removed from this House and his access to this House was restricted.

**The SPEAKER:** What is the member's point of order?

**Mr Ryan Park:** It is a very clear Standing Order 73. The Leader of the House is now inviting a debate about the member for Kogarah.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough.

**Mr Ryan Park:** We are happy to bring it on. He should bring it by way of a substantive motion and we will have the debate.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough.

**Mr Ryan Park:** The Leader of the House did not sit down when you asked him to, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The Leader of the House was placed on a call to order when he did not resume his seat. I also make it very clear that I am listening and distinguishing between statements of fact and allegations of a nature that are more towards impugning somebody's character of themselves as opposed to straying to containing statements of fact. The Leader of the House has the call.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** In order to help with the factual basis on which the Leader of the Opposition is failing to act on this matter, I will table Brad Norrington's article in which Mr Minns said that he did not have Mr Wong involved in fundraising in Kogarah when, quite frankly, there is now a cheque that proves that he did.

**Mr Paul Scully:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I am happy to take a point of order from the member for Wollongong.

**Mr Paul Scully:** The Minister is like a dog returning to its own vomit.

**The SPEAKER:** What is the member's point of order?

**Mr Paul Scully:** This is an outrageous display and he is flouting your ruling.

**The SPEAKER:** What is the member's point of order?

**Mr Paul Scully:** It is under Standing Order 73. If he wants to bring it on, we will bring it on. But bring it by way of substantive motion, as he should.

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the House will continue.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** The bottom line is the Leader of the Opposition wants to throw mud at us but she does not have the decency or the integrity to put the member for Kogarah on the backbench where he belongs. That is her failure.

**Mr Paul Scully:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The answer has concluded. Before I take a question from the member for Keira, I insist on silence so that he can ask it without competition.

#### **MEMBER FOR DRUMMOYNE**

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:06):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads.

**Mr David Elliott:** You're going to regret this; you're really going to regret this.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Baulkham Hills to order for the first time.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** Yesterday the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections categorically said he had no knowledge of the member for Drummoyne's property empire at Tallawong and Five Dock and therefore did not notify the Premier. Why can't the Minister for Transport and Roads give the same answer?

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (15:07):** Interestingly I took that same question earlier in the week and indicated that I absolutely 100 per cent comply with the ministerial code of conduct in relation to that and particularly in relation to the matter that those opposite want to raise.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** But it is a little bit galling to be lectured to by those opposite when we have copped a week of rubbish from them in relation to a member? Let us call a spade a spade. Why won't you stand down the member for Kogarah? Why won't you answer questions in relation to donations to your campaign from Ernest Wong? Why won't you answer questions in relation to Ernest Wong and the Strathfield campaign? I do not understand what would happen if a senior shadow Minister lied to a journalist about a donation and that then appears as evidence at ICAC.

**Ms Jo Haylen:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question was very clear. It related to the ministerial code of conduct and the Minister's relationship to that. It has nothing to do with the matters that he is straying to right now, nothing to do with them at all.

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the House will continue. I remind him of the question.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** That is right. And I remind those opposite of my answer in relation to the ministerial code of conduct and the fact that I comply. The big issue this afternoon relates to the Leader of the Opposition and whether she is willing to disclose if she has had any electoral funding assistance from Mr Wong in the same way the member for Kogarah has.

**Mr Paul Scully:** Point of order—

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** I have concluded my answer.

#### **BUSINESS TAX CUTS**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (15:09):** My question is addressed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how tax cuts are providing more opportunities for businesses and the people of New South Wales, and are there any other fiscal or economic updates?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (15:09):** I thank the member for his question. Question time is when the Opposition is meant to hold the Government to account. I have never seen an Opposition in my entire time in this place more under pressure during question time—more under pressure, more under the pump. They are the ones asking the questions and they are getting smashed in the meantime. This has been an absolute destruction in here today. They are losing the Leader of the Opposition and they will lose the next leader, all in one sitting. The great member for Manly asked this question. He knows as a good Liberal the importance of cutting taxes and how that ensures greater prosperity for the people of this State.

Over the past three budgets we have cut \$5 billion in taxes, which has helped farmers in the bush, small businesses and first home buyers get the keys to their very first home, and that provides greater economic opportunities for the people of our State. Our tax cuts for businesses have seen 2,000 businesses pay less payroll tax in 2018-19, saving over \$5,000 a year. That is hard-earned money of business owners that they can reinvest into their business, employing more staff and putting more money back into the New South Wales economy. Since introducing those payroll tax cuts we have seen business investment continue to grow right across our State. Over the year to the June quarter, underlying business investment in New South Wales has risen by 9.5 per cent. That strength has been driven by the building construction area, engineering construction, new machinery and equipment investment.

But what also underpins these figures is our record \$93 billion investment in public infrastructure. Over the past year over 60 per cent of the engineering work in New South Wales was commissioned by the public sector and 75 per cent of that was delivered by the private sector. That is public investment driving public infrastructure and driving private investment as well. And what are we seeing off the back of this? As the Premier has pointed out today, the unemployment rate in New South Wales is once again the lowest in the country: It is down a point to 4.3 per cent. That is now a full percentage point lower than the national average, 2.1 per cent lower than Queensland and 3 per cent lower than South Australia.

New South Wales continues to drive the economic growth of our country whilst we see backward Labor States like Queensland fall further and further behind. Our strong employment results are a positive sign for our State and it is a vindication of our policy positions, but we know the most substantial ones have been opposed by those opposite. On the topic of good news, I congratulate Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg on finally balancing the Federal budget. It was a challenging task, following on from the destruction left for them by Wayne Swan, now National President of the Australian Labor Party. The Federal Government is running a strong budget and New South Wales is running a strong budget, which is important so that we can deliver the investments that matter for people right across our State.

As Treasurer I am always looking for better ways to improve the budget position. Today I can announce an improvement in the projected surplus for 2019-20, because I was reading in *The Daily Telegraph* this morning, as one does, that ICAC has been told that the New South Wales Labor Party has given back the \$100,000 donation that was in the Aldi bag. It says the money will be transferred to the NSW Electoral Commission and will now go to NSW Treasury. This is the first time in our State's history that the New South Wales Labor Party has done anything to improve the budget result for New South Wales. I say to them: We do not need the money in a plastic bag; I am happy to give you the BSB details of NSW Treasury. We can do this in the traditional way.

**Ms Gladys Berejiklian:** Now they can. That will be the law anyway.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** We could deliver it in your paper bag.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** That will be the law. No cash. We just want an EFT transfer to NSW Treasury. While you're at it, we are happy to receive the blood money on the way through. We don't know where the blood money is. Given the whole hoo-ha— [*Extension of time*]

Given the hoo-ha on the blood money, "Oh, we're going to pay back the blood money, the Medich money"—no news, complete silence, as if it's a thing of the past, part of the last Opposition. No. We will be coming after you.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** It is not a charity.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** So where is it? Where is the update? Where is the Medich money? You got the Medich blood money. You got the Wong Audi money.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** No, Aldi.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Audi, Aldi, you'd know.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the members for the electorates of Parramatta, Tamworth and Kiama to order for the first time. Members will not clap in the House.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** They come in this week and ask questions about taxpayer salaries. Last week I was reading in *The Australian*, as one does, about "Scandal-hit Labor boss Kaila Murnain". She is the one who got them all into Parliament, the successful one, the one who was going to be the next Prime Minister. Lost two elections—

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Point of order: My point of order is relevance to the question under Standing Order 129.

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer will continue.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Apparently she is getting a \$305,000 payout.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. Is it a different point of order?

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Yes.

**Dr Geoff Lee:** A \$300,000 payout?

**Mrs Melinda Pavey:** Yes.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** In cash.

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer will resume his seat. The member for Blue Mountains seeks to take a point of order. I call the member for North Shore to order for the first time. I call the member for Kiama to order for the third time. The member for Oatley was on two calls to order earlier today; he is now called to order for the third time. I remind the member for Canterbury that she is already on three calls to orders.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** My point of order is under Standing Order 59. I ask you to direct the member to discontinue—tedious repetition.

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer will continue.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** It is not one, it is three bags full for the boss lady. When they said "Fortress New South Wales", I did not know they were talking about Cooma jail where she will end up. I asked the Leader of the Opposition today to confirm, given the Labor Party receives taxpayer dollars from the NSW Electoral Commission, that it rule out that it will not pay out \$300,000 to the boss lady, somebody who lied at ICAC, has received corrupt donations and will soon go to jail, not collecting \$300,000 from the New South Wales Labor Party courtesy of the taxpayers of this State.

#### REGIONAL DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (15:17):** Mr Speaker—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Barwon will be heard in silence. The member for Maroubra and the Leader of the House will cease their exchange across the Chamber.

**Mr ROY BUTLER:** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. This ongoing socio-economic drought is resulting in a loss of employment and businesses in towns, ultimately leading to people leaving many regional communities. There is no relief on the horizon and any recovery without more intervention will be very slow. There is not currently enough assistance going into regional areas. What additional support will the Government provide to keep businesses open and keep people employed to maintain population and economic activity in regional New South Wales?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (15:18):** I thank the member for Barwon for his question, which is a good one, especially compared to the questions we have received from the Opposition this afternoon. The question is so real and raw in one way. I acknowledge the member for Barwon—we had a chat yesterday—who is working hard in his electorate, but he found time to jump on a beautifully renovated motorbike with his wife and did the Wall to Wall Ride from Sydney to Canberra, but he actually left from his home. I think he has to ride the bike back to his electorate. He is a member who cares about our police and his community.

It is a tough question because it asks what can we do if it does not rain. I can assure the member that on top of the \$1.8 billion we have put into drought assistance to support our farmers behind the farm gate through subsidies, freight subsidies, switching off Local Land Services fees, fixed water rates and truck registrations—which is significant and is one of the largest single packages supporting farmers in this State and probably the history of this nation in line with it being the worst drought in recorded history—in the budget this year we announced \$170 million to fast-track a whole heap of infrastructure projects at a local level to try to keep those local economies ticking.

We saw the unemployment figures today and it is good to see those numbers are coming down. We know that in the past 12 months 35,000 new jobs have been created in regional and rural New South Wales, but against that we know that about 20,000-odd jobs have been lost since the start of the drought. It is a balancing game and the Government has a role to play in stimulating the economy to make sure that somehow we diversify local economies. A number of months ago I was in the electorate with the member for Barwon. It was one of my first visits off the back of the \$170,000 announcing a number of projects across the Barwon electorate—in Gilgandra,

Coonamble, Nyngan, Cobar and up to Broken Hill. We announced millions of dollars in support for local projects, from a museum in Nyngan, to industrial precincts in both Cobar and Gilgandra, and the local caravan and tourist park in Coonamble. Many thousands of motorists pass through Coonamble, but if we can draw them in to stay, that money will stay in that local economy.

The Government has done a lot, but I can assure the member for Barwon that there is more to be done, and we accept that. Internally as a government we are looking right across government—every single Minister, every agency and every opportunity—to see what more we can do to support our farmers, and our regional and rural communities. That is our focus. It is about fast-tracking infrastructure water projects so that we do not run out of water—members have heard me talk about that in this House—local projects to create jobs to make sure that local subcontractors, businesses and tradies continue to get some money churning through their community.

I know the Federal Government's \$1 million grant to local government areas has gone to try to generate more economic activity. But, as I said a couple of days ago, I fear from my trip to Narrabri, sitting in cafes and meeting with local businesses, that the impact is now beyond the farm gate, it is actually beyond communities: It is impacting businesses. It is no different from the water shortage that we are seeing in Tamworth. There was a real chance this week that we could have lost 500 jobs at Baiada, but I know that the environment Minister, the water Minister and the local member were able to work with the council on some recycled water that has kept those 500 jobs. We have stresses in mining. Mines across the State will have zero water allocation, which could mean loss of jobs in mining. This is a very serious situation that we are facing as a State and the Government is focused.

I can assure the member that the Government is working on what happens next. First, fingers crossed, if it rains and the drought breaks, I believe government has a role to play to help our farmers and communities get back on their feet, so we are looking through that lens. Second, the other lens is that if it does not rain in six months or 12 months, we have to map that out. We have to look at the time lines. Our priority has to be making sure we do not run out of water in regional and rural New South Wales, and I know the water Minister is working hard. I know the Premier, the Prime Minister and this Government are trying to work through the initial issues.

But whatever we can do to support businesses, communities and regional communities we will look at, and I think that is important, but it is going to take bipartisanship. There is no question that this is the sort of stuff we should be debating in this House today. I commend the member for Barwon for asking this question. It is an important one. I am sure the tens of thousands of people who watch question time today are more focused on these sorts of questions, knowing that in Macquarie Street there are members like the member for Barwon and the Government who are focused on the real issues and that is the drought and its impact on communities.

#### WESTERN SYDNEY INVESTMENT

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:23):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is delivering on major projects and supporting families and investment in western Sydney?

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (15:23):** I thank the member for Seven Hills for his question. He is a passionate advocate for his community and a passionate advocate for western Sydney. When you are a passionate advocate and you a member of a government that is delivering for the community that is how you can provide \$2 million for the Toongabbie railway bridge, which is exactly what that member has been able to do for his community. He sits alongside other members right across western Sydney who have benefited from this Government's focus on a strong economy. The infrastructure in which the Government has invested can be seen right across western Sydney.

There is no better example of that than the North West Rail Link, which has completely changed the way that people across north-western Sydney have been able to move around the city, access their communities and get to jobs and home to their families. It is a project that Labor had absolutely no interest in ever delivering. Labor promised the project time and time again but never delivered. That is because Labor members were never focused on the people of western Sydney, they were just focused on themselves. The same can be said for the M4 East tunnel, which people are raving about. Travel times have been cut by 10, 15 or 20 minutes, helping people access jobs. Once again this is an example of infrastructure delivered by the Government. Labor members are so focused on themselves they have forgotten the people of western Sydney. I know all too well the focus of the Labor Party in western Sydney. I first was elected to this House because Labor members were before ICAC in 2010. Nothing has changed.

**Mr Paul Scully:** Point of order—

**Mr STUART AYRES:** This is as relevant as it gets for Labor members.

**Mr Paul Scully:** We on the Opposition side of the House—

**The SPEAKER:** What is the member's point of order?

**Mr Paul Scully:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. There is nothing relevant about repeating allegations around ICAC that are under investigation. We are interested to hear what the Government is trying to do for western Sydney and failing to do for western Sydney because it is all budget blowouts and cancelled projects.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen to the Minister further.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** I can tell the member for Wollongong there is no allegation against Karyn Paluzzano. She went to jail because she lied to ICAC. I can tell the member for Wollongong what else she did. She rorted the system. There was a by-election and the people of Penrith changed this State.

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. This answer has absolutely nothing to do with the good people of western Sydney but everything to do with this Government's failure to deliver what is needed.

**The SPEAKER:** I am happy, as normally happens in a response, to have a slight digression, but I do not want the Minister to continue with this line for too much longer.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** This is what happens when members of political parties are focused on Aldi bags and \$100,000 instead of delivering the M4 East, the North West Rail project, a new stadium in western Sydney, the new Bankstown hospital for the new member for East Hills, the upgrade to the Liverpool Hospital for the member for Holsworthy, the St George Hospital and a billion dollars to the Nepean Hospital. For the last 10 years, from the very first day I walked into this place, Labor members have been focused on themselves, counting dollars and finding their way to ICAC. Two elections later we are in exactly the same position.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. I am happy to hear the point of order. I am stopping the clock because I consider that the Minister is making his answer relevant to the question that was asked.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** No, he is not.

**The SPEAKER:** He is; he is very much making it relevant. The way he is linking his answer to the question is relevant. I will not hear the member for Swansea further. I have given my ruling. The Minister has the call.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** I have not actually said what my point of order is.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Swansea is arguing with me over relevance. If the member for Swansea has a different point of order I am happy to hear it.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** No, I do not have a different point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister has the call.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** Not a single thing has changed from the 2011 election to the 2015 election, when we saw Eddie Obeid and Joe Tripodi find their way to ICAC and go to jail, to where we are at right now. Those opposite are more focused on themselves than on the people of western Sydney.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** How is this possibly relevant to the question? The Minister was telling us how he got into the House 10 years ago. I will tell him how I got in here six years ago—as a result of Operation Spicer.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Swansea to order for the third time. I make it clear that the Minister has linked his response back to western Sydney and the Government's performance. Albeit he is not being directly relevant, he is being relevant. I am applying the standing orders and the Minister is complying with the standing orders. The Minister has the call.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** What we see today once again is Labor members turning up in Sussex Street with their Aldi bags and counting out the cash rather than focusing on the people of western Sydney and delivering the duplication to the M5 and finishing the Metro.

**Mr Paul Scully:** Point of order: My point of order is not based on relevance but on Standing Order 73. If the Minister wants to attack a Labor member he should do so by way of substantive motion and we can debate it. We will debate Operation Spicer. I will draft the motion now for him.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I again make clear that Standing Order 73 does not relate to attacks of a general nature and that is what the Minister has been doing. The Minister has the call.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** I do not need to move a motion in this House because the people of New South Wales voted in the 2011, 2015 and 2019 elections. Not once have the Labor members given the people any reason to vote for them again because they keep turning up to ICAC over and over again. The Government is focusing on the delivery of infrastructure right across New South Wales.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Wyong to order for the first time. The member for Wyong will cease interjecting.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** The Government has delivered \$93 billion worth of infrastructure because this Government is focused on the people who voted the Liberals and The Nationals into government. This Government is focused on the things people want their Government to do every single day.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Wollongong to order for the first time.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** This Government is focused on delivering for people and families right across New South Wales. Our record of delivery stands against Labor's constant and repetitious attendance at the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and the one thing we all know is that Labor members will be back there again in the future.

#### *Business of the House*

#### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:32):** I seek leave to move a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders to permit consideration forthwith of the Legislative Council message regarding reference to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, dated 18 September 2019.

**Leave not granted.**

#### *Petitions*

#### **PETITIONS RECEIVED**

**The SPEAKER:** I announce that the following petition signed by more than 10,000 persons was lodged for presentation:

#### **Doonside Railway Station**

Petition requesting the Government to expedite funding for an easy access lift at Doonside Railway Station, received from **Mr Stephen Bali**.

**The SPEAKER:** I set down discussion on the petition as an order of the day for a future day.

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following petitions signed by fewer than 500 persons have been lodged for presentation:

#### **Plastic Bags**

Petition requesting the banning of plastic bags in New South Wales, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

#### **Route 413 Bus Services**

Petition requesting more reliable 413 bus services, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

#### **Drug Summit**

Petition calling on the Government to convene a drug summit to investigate the use of drug detection dogs, the introduction of pill testing at music festivals and the decriminalising of drug use, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

#### **RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following Minister has lodged a response to a petition signed by more than 500 persons:



The Hon. Victor Dominello—Liquor and Licensed Premises Regulations—lodged 22 August 2019  
(Mr Alex Greenwich)

*Private Members' Statements*

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (15:33):** We are so lucky in the electorate of Vaucluse to have a diverse community of people from many walks of life with experiences in so many different fields and many who are making a real difference to our State, to the nation and to the world. There is no better time to acknowledge people who make a real difference than through the Order of Australia honours, which are announced annually on Australia Day, and the Queen's Birthday honours, which were instituted by Her Majesty the Queen on 14 February 1975 to recognise Australians for their distinguished service. The Order of Australia Association is made up of award recipients who promote the Australian honours system to celebrate the achievements of outstanding Australians.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members will take their conversations outside the Chamber.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** The New South Wales branch was formed on 22 July 1980 and since then over 70 members have served on the branch committee. Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley, AO, QC, Governor of New South Wales, is the patron. This year the New South Wales branch asked me to host its annual Queen's Birthday honours lunch at Parliament, and I happily obliged. From the Vaucluse electorate 21 residents received a 2019 Queen's Birthday Honour. I congratulate them all on their strong community work. They are Rodney David Levis, AM; Kim Jaggar, OAM; Alan Francis Brown, AM; John Cunningham, AM; Leo Radom, AC; Leon Simons, AM; Joan Masterman, AM; Hugh Jackman, AC; Regis Lansac, OAM; Geoffrey Roberts, AM; Meryl Tankard, AO; Matt Allen, AM; Eleanore Goodridge, OAM; Gary Weiss, AM; Caroline Wilkinson, OAM; Bruce Bland, AM; Alexander Gelman, OAM; Roland Gridiger, OAM; Sister Mary Shanahan, OAM; Gabrielle Thomson, AM; and Sarah-Jane Clark, AM.

Whether they are an entertainment personality on the world stage, a household name in the fashion industry or a champion volunteer or they excel in the field of science, they all deserve this very special acknowledgement. I thank also their partners and families, who support them in their community work. I make particular mention of Bruce Bland, Alan Brown, Alex Gelman and Leo Radom, who made it to the lunch that I hosted. I met their family and friends, who were so delighted to share in the special day. I commend the New South Wales branch for organising the special reception. It is held twice a year: once for the annual Australia Day honour recipients and again for the Queen's Birthday honour recipients.

The association committee members have all previously been awarded an honour. I acknowledge them as well. They are Chairman Peter Falk, OAM; Deputy Chairman Jim Mein, AM; the Hon. Secretary Carolyn Lyons, OAM; the Hon. Treasurer Gail Dunne, OAM; National Director John Archer, OAM; Regional Coordinator Ron Sharpe, OAM; Community Liaison Officer Louise Davis, AM; Website Coordinator Chris Dunne, OAM; Newsletter Editor Ian McKnight, OAM; John Lincoln Award Convenor Dr Frank Kelleher, OAM; Young Endeavour Coordinator Eddie Selwyn, OAM; Archivist Mary Doughty, AM; and Merchandise Officer Silvana Vidoni, OAM. I extend a special thanks to Associate Professor John Gullotta, AM, who was master of ceremonies for the lunch. John is the Metropolitan Coordinator and Events Manager for the New South Wales branch. I end by quoting some lines from the speech of Deputy Chairman Mr Jim Mein, AM, on the day, which captured the spirit of the awards. He said:

Community building is so dependent and enriched by using each other's skills, talents and experience, because so much more can be done and achieved by teams with greater depth, commitment and capability.

I congratulate each of the Order of Australia awardees here today on your honour and your recognised contributions. Your recognition, no matter what it is, has benefitted the community, and please do not hang up your proverbial boots as there is more to be done. You can continue to lead the way to community harmony and social inclusion. You can also encourage others through many ways, such as your example, mentoring and continued hands on support.

I thank all the Queen's Birthday honourees across the State. They make a significant contribution to New South Wales and beyond. I commend my statement to the House.

**WAGE THEFT**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (15:37):** Every worker has the right to receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. It is a simple truth that underpaying workers is theft and it is time that that truth was reflected in our legislation. If a worker stole money from their employer they would be guilty of theft. If enough money was stolen that worker would be punished to the full extent of the law, most likely facing serious jail time. But across New South Wales employers are stealing money right out of workers' pockets with little to no consequences. The policies of those opposite have effectively given greedy employers a green light. Under the

helm of successive Liberal governments wage theft has become a rampant business model across New South Wales. Celebrity chef George Colambaris is a mere symptom of the greater disease of wage theft that is infecting every sector of New South Wales, from hospitality to pharmaceuticals to construction.

Wage theft comes in many forms, including underpaying the legal minimum wage, not paying for breaks, not paying overtime, not paying superannuation and making illegal deductions from workers' wages. In whatever form it takes, wage theft contributes to a culture that threatens every worker in New South Wales. The celebrity chef Mr Colambaris' hospitality empire, MAde Establishment, stole a staggering \$7.8 million in wages and superannuation by underpaying more than 500 current and former employees. The penalty was a disgraceful and shockingly inadequate \$200,000 "contrition payment". Mr Colambaris extorted low-paid workers to build his corporate profits to an extent that far exceeds the penalty of \$200,000. With such a light civil punishment, we are encouraging businesses to flourish at the expense of workers. Empires are succeeding on the sweat, tears and backs of low-paid workers. Those opposite are too busy having 16-hour leadership spills to solve this crisis.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** Point of order—

**Ms ANNA WATSON:** It is custom and practice that no points of order are taken during private members' statements. I ask you, Madam Deputy Speaker, to direct the Parliamentary Secretary to resume his seat.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is correct. It is customary that no points of order are taken during private members' statements.

**Ms ANNA WATSON:** Thank you. George Colambaris' restaurant empire is just one name on a long list of businesses that are using the Coalition-endorsed wage theft business model. Lush Cosmetics, 7-Eleven, Domino's, Michael Hill and Subway are all massive corporations that were caught with millions of dollars of workers' money and were essentially only scolded. Not to mention the fact that those same businesses have been rewarded with another slash to penalty rates. Maybe Government members would like the minimum wage to be completely wiped out. In my electorate last year the Flinders Save and Deliver Pharmacy was found to be short-changing staff in excess of \$5,000.

In New South Wales we now have a culture where employers are not competing on the wages that they pay or the products they make. This issue affects every single electorate in New South Wales. What makes it worse is that we do not even have a full picture of how systemic wage theft has become. Last year the Fair Work Ombudsman received more than 14,000 allegations of underpayment but only 42 litigations were subsequently launched. Those most vulnerable to wage theft are the hidden victims of the Liberal's economy crisis: insecure workers. That typically encompasses youth who are facing the mass casualisation of the workforce and labour hire agreements. Unfortunately, if they say "I'm being underpaid", these workers face the threat that they could get no shifts that week or, worse, no job.

In the old days we had the strong power of the unions. We still do but they could be stronger. The shameless policy decisions heralded by Government members have effectively created prisoners in the workplace. By stripping essential union powers away unions can no longer come in early and get to the bottom of wage disparities. Big businesses' best friends across the Chamber have ensured that the unfettered right of entry to carry out appropriate inspections has been tampered with to avoid detection. This corrupt Government is protecting big business and is stepping on workers in the process. It is time that the workers rejoin the fight with their unions against the current wage theft business model that is encouraged by those opposite. As legislators we have a responsibility in this Parliament to send a clear message that the rights and conditions that were established through the awards need to be upheld. Only by criminalising wage theft can we deter the practice and finally work towards stamping out the practice of ripping workers off once and for all.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (15:43):** The speech given by member for Shellharbour is a good example of how her constituents are very poorly served by her representation in this Parliament.

**Ms Anna Watson:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Shellharbour will resume her seat.

**Ms Anna Watson:** He is making aspersions on my character.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Shellharbour will resume her seat. The Parliamentary Secretary has one minute to respond.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** The member knows very well that it was the Federal Labor Party that introduced the Fair Work Act, which governs industrial relations and award wages in this State.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the second time.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** It is an absolute disgrace that the member for Shellharbour walks into this Parliament and pretends that it is the fault of the New South Wales Government and this Parliament if people are paid under award wages. There is no excuse for people being paid under award wages but it is an absolute disgrace that the member is so unaware of the legal structure that— [*Time expired.*]

### EDUCATION WEEK

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (15:44):** I speak today as a very proud member for the Dubbo electorate in the wake of the recent Education Week 2019. Dubbo College Senior Campus was the regional host location for the launch of Education Week on Monday 5 August. The launch was simulcast in conjunction with a ceremony at St Marys North Public School in western Sydney. The entire production went off without a hitch. The students at Dubbo and St Marys worked really well together in the hour-long event, which featured some fantastic talent from the city and, of course, from the bush. Adding to the synchronicity of the event, Premier the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, was a special guest at St Marys while the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC, joined me at Dubbo College. What we saw was a meticulously planned example of public education at its finest. Leaders from both schools took turns to host proceedings while people across the State tuned in to watch the livestream on the internet.

The theme for this year's Education Week was "Every student, every voice" and it was a fitting motto. The event, in fact the whole week, was a celebration of student empowerment and of how the New South Wales public education system gives students the skills they need to have a voice and express that voice on their educational journey. The focus on student voice was about more than just having a say, it was also about listening. The idea of a genuine conversation is important. Recent research, co-funded by the education department, shows that valuing and acting on the ideas, opinions and expertise of all students has significant positive impacts on student wellbeing. This partnership in learning and listening also helps build a better education system.

Student perspectives, experiences and aspirations shape and enrich our schools and our communities and they should certainly influence our decision-making as we prepare young people for rewarding lives as engaged citizens in a complex and dynamic society. It was empowering for me to sit in the hall at Dubbo College and watch the launch of Education Week come together. To witness the collaboration between students and teachers at both sites, working towards a common goal, was quite amazing. I know the Minister in particular was excited to see public education at its absolute finest on display in Dubbo. It is important that each and every student who played a role in the launch is recognised, so I am doing that today.

The Dubbo College band was involved in the launch. Well done to Megan Brown, Olivia Khatri, Hazel Livingston, Caitlin Richardson, Charlotte Root, Isabella Seton, Mikaela Sutcliffe, Charlie Foster, Jarred Gundry, Jessica Hall, Elinor Wonderley, Lachlan Alexander, Riley Fish, Erin Gaydon, Sarah Hall, Hailey Quick, Kaitlin Quick, Tresor Sentence, Noah Woldhuis, Emily Wonderley, Robert Foster, Lachlan Galante, Jonathon Gleeson, Georgia Mawbey-Smith, Imogen Pettit, Sorelle Thomas, Sarah Williamson, Zach Woldhuis, Gabriella Riley, Maddy Eather, Emily Costa, Tara Peisley, Zoe Peisley, Kaylee Blunt, Lauren Blunt, Tailar Simcox, Harrison Crowfoot, Simon Ramirez, Dylan Blunt, Samantha Herbert and Johnathan Woods.

Dubbo College South Campus captains Jonathon Gleeson, Sorelle Thomas and Imogen Pettit spoke really well, as did Delroy Campus leaders Kady Lake and Jessie Trindall. Well done to Senior Campus leaders Grace Gower and David Woods, who emceed the event; Quincy Ross and Skye Crawford, who performed the welcome to country; and Darcy Wood, Lucinda Roberts, Thomas Nelson, Lucy Roberts and Jaimee Nixon, who made sure everyone was seated where they needed to be—quite a daunting task but they pulled it together extremely well.

One of the big things I took out of the event was that it showed yet again that the divide between the city and the country is narrowing. Recently in this place I spoke about the development of the new emergency services hub in Dubbo and about how our new NSW Rural Fire Service training facility is the equal of its city counterpart. The launch of Education Week showed that through technology and through the focus this Government places on education and learning opportunities in country areas our country students are the equal of children anywhere in the city. Thinking back to when I was at school, there is no way an event of this magnitude could have taken place, let alone be split across two completely different sites separated by a few hundred kilometres.

The other impressive thing I took out of the launch was how well the teachers and students came together to make it happen. I am talking about teenagers and I think it is fair to say that sometimes the relationships between students and their educators can be tested a bit; that is human nature. But it was nice to watch the engagement between the Dubbo College teachers and pupils firsthand. I can only imagine it was the same at St Marys North Public School. Well done to everyone involved in the great success of Education Week 2019 and a big thumbs up to Dubbo College.

### RYDE WEDNESDAY WALKERS

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (15:49):** Regular moderate exercise, such as walking, is amazingly beneficial for people. Walking has been shown to have numerous benefits. It can make people happier and more cognisant and is key to maintaining good heart health, reducing the risk of disease and stroke, maintaining bone density and providing a level of coordination, all while helping to manage a healthy weight. Those benefits are important to keep track of, as heart disease remains one of the leading causes of death and disability in our world and is a heavy burden not only on our health systems but also emotionally. In addition to important research funding and providing professional nutritional information, the Heart Foundation is active in promoting healthy living initiatives to help improve our society's heart health. One of the foundation's key initiatives is centred on walking and providing outlets for communities to form around walking and the increasing incentive of its health benefits.

I was privileged to take part in one of those walks with Ryde's very own Wednesday Walkers. The group meets, as its name suggests, on Wednesday mornings for the social opportunity of a morning walk as well as all the aforementioned benefits. The group was formed in 2011 and has been walking ever since. It has reached nearly 60 members, with the majority walking at least twice a month. Local organisers of the Wednesday Walkers, Christine Sellers, Sharon Lovelock and Margaret Westbrook, should receive commendation for their work in growing the group to what it is today and transforming a novel idea into a presence within the community. The Wednesday Walkers meet along the scenic riverside at Meadowbank Park.

Every week the group alternates its walking path between east and west along the Parramatta River, with an alternate course roughly every month. Each walk takes around an hour and the group meets for a social coffee after the event. The group goes above and beyond in fostering a sense of community, including a barbecue once a year, a mid-year evening out, quarterly birthday celebrations and newsletters, as well as a Christmas dinner and a morning tea following the year's final walk. I personally thank the Wednesday Walkers for raising awareness and welcoming me on one of their weekly walks. The group is very inclusive of everyone—from Honieh Deghan Nayyeri and Claire Leyten, who bring their kids along in prams, all the way up to its senior members Peter LeMarquard, Patricia Bull, Narelle Fillbrook, Margaret Wills, Majorie Bellerio, Jean Sciancalepore, Helen Pegler and Annette Brooks.

All the other members of the group share in the community and contribute to the group's atmosphere. They are Ambika Shrestha, Andrew Chung, Anh Thu Trinh, Anita Delhoji, Arthur Perry, Barbara Hoey, Bobbie Bory, Brian Robins, Bronwyn Brooks, Colin Osborne, Daphne O'Brien, Elma Kusic, Gail Caruso, Helen Olde, Ian Hamilton, Irene Chan, Jeanette Rothenbury, Jennifer Wong, Jenny Dalton, Jill Seaton, Johanna Bohm, Joy Giamboi, June Yam, Kanika Sarma, Kate Harrison, Kersha Liu, Lesley Redmond, Lillian Lee, Marcia Davis, Marion Percy, Mary-Claude Vienet, Mercina Simos, Michelle Trezise, Pamela Farley, Peita Boyd, Penny Wilcox, Sandra Kruk, Sandy Bradford, Shirley Wyndham, Shirley Ellis, Sue Walker, Terese Vallis, Terry Godfrey, Wendy O'Brien, Adian Banta, Jantana Cibik and Alice Taylor.

We are very lucky to have such a vibrant and unified community in Ryde. I have been on the walking trail, as it were, on two occasions and it is a great community event. When I am not walking along the Parramatta foreshore, I am often riding my bike. It is an amazing part of the world. If we put more effort into bringing communities together it would be great in terms of preventative health. There is a massive burden on the health system because there is an ageing population. As we get smarter and older we need to be more creative and innovative when it comes to preventative health. Walking is a no-brainer and an easy win.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (15:54):** There are very few people in this House more fit than the member for Ryde, and Minister for Customer Service, and there are very few places in Sydney as beautiful as Meadow Bank Park on the Parramatta River. The Minister is assisted by not only his commitment to exercise but also his traditional Mediterranean diet, which is so good for one's health. From time to time I have seen the Minister on social media with his mother extolling the virtues of the Mediterranean diet. It is very important that we hear about groups in our community who are committed to exercise and health because it is good for individuals and collectively good for the community and the health system. I thank the Minister very much for bringing those matters to our attention. What a great member for Ryde he is.

### TURKISH VICTORY DAY

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (15:55):** On 30 August I attended an event at Turkish House in Gelibolu Parade, Auburn. Though held in Auburn, it was an event of interest to many of my constituents in Liverpool, especially those of Turkish background. The event was organised by the Turkish chapter of the Cumberland RSL Sub-Branch and was a celebration of the 30 August Turkish Victory Day and the launch of a book entitled *Turkish Charlie Ryan*.

The event's emcee was Mehmet Evin, who is the Assistant Treasurer of the Cumberland RSL Sub-Branch and coordinator of its Turkish chapter. Those in attendance included Turkish Consul General Melih Karalar; Honorary Consul of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ilkay Yusuf; John Gillam and Yvonne Fletcher, the authors of the book *Turkish Charlie Ryan*; Captain Grant McLennan, who delivered the Major General Sir Charles Ryan address; sub-branch president Greg Read, previous president Chris Hurley and other sub-branch members; my colleagues the member for Auburn, the member for Campbelltown and the member for Granville; previous member for Reid and then Werriwa, Laurie Ferguson; and a range of local government representatives. There were also representatives from local schools.

The story of Charles Snodgrass Ryan, who was knighted and ended up with a military rank of Major-General, and who is known as Turkish Charlie Ryan, is really a quite extraordinary one. He ended up being decorated for bravery in battle by both the Turks and the English—by both the Ottoman Empire and the British Empire. It is a story well known in Turkey but very little known in Australia. Ryan was born on 20 September 1853 on a farm north of Melbourne. He attended university and graduated as a surgeon from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He subsequently went on a tour of Europe. While doing that, in 1876 he saw an advertisement for military surgeons for the Turkish army. He applied, and two days later he was on his way to the city now called Istanbul. After working at a hospital he went to serve in the Russian-Turkish War of 1877 to 1878. He went to Plevna, a town in current Bulgaria. He was caught there in a siege for four months and served with Osman Pasha, a senior military commander who became the hero of the Siege of Plevna. The Ottoman effort at Plevna stopped the Russians from invading further.

Charlie committed various acts of bravery during and at the conclusion of the siege. After Plevna he moved to Erzeroum, which was also besieged by the Russians for six weeks. The town was eventually taken and Charlie became a Russian prisoner of war. He was subsequently awarded the Order of Medjidie 4th class, which was a military and knightly order of the Ottoman Empire. He was also awarded the badge of the Order of Osmaneth, the second highest order in the Ottoman Empire, awarded to military leaders for outstanding service. He also, of course, received a Turkish war medal. He was widely known to Turkish people as Plevna Ryan, a war hero. He returned to Melbourne in 1878 establishing himself as a doctor. Although not strictly relevant to the Australian-Turkish aspect of the story, I cannot resist mentioning that in 1880 Charlie Ryan, as a doctor, tended to the injured Ned Kelly while he was in jail after Glenrowan. It was then his duty to officially declare Ned dead after his execution. I note in passing that that is on par with a young Monash encountering Kelly at Jerilderie.

Ryan joined the Australian Imperial Services in 1914, and ended up at the Dardanelles trying to deliver on the war aims of the Russian autocracy. Apart from the other things he did at the place Australians call Gallipoli, he was a pivotal figure in the temporary armistice on 24 May 1915 that allowed the opposing forces to retrieve their wounded and bury their dead. Being an avid photographer and being happy to completely ignore the prohibition on taking photographs, he took the only photographs of that period of fraternisation. He was also directing medical troops about their tasks. He wore his Turkish medals while doing so. It soon became known that Charlie Plevna Ryan was present and the Turkish troops cheered. There was a brief moment of goodwill amid the insane carnage. His is, as I said, an extraordinary story. He eventually returned to Australia and died in 1926.

As the authors Fletcher and Gillam note, the goodwill of common people for the brief moment of the May 24 armistice and the story of Plevna Ryan have contributed to the much more positive contemporary relations between Turkey and Australia, and between the Australian and Turkish people. Charlie Ryan's story is much better known in Turkey than here. Fletcher and Gillam point out that one book on Gallipoli by Turkish historian Haluk Oral has a whole chapter devoted to Ryan. The origins of their book reinforces that. A Turkish school, TED Mersin College, initiated a project called Two Trenches, One Letter in 2015, which involved Turkish students writing to Australian students. That came to students at Thornton Public School, where Yvonne Fletcher was a teacher. The Turkish students mentioned Plevna Ryan. He was not someone any of the Australians had heard of. Thus developed this book, which is intended for school students. The authors say:

How refreshing then, to relate this story from a place where much evil occurred and yet for a short time the goodwill of common people prevailed. The story shows that the simple understanding of another identifying what is common and good, can triumph over that which divides.

The other purpose of the event was to celebrate Turkish Victory Day. The story behind Turkish Victory Day is also an interesting one. It marks the final steps in the Turkish War of Independence, and particularly commemorates the Battle of Dumlupinar on 30 August 1922. The achievement of Turkish independence—indeed Turkey's very existence—is inextricably linked with Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, one of the more remarkable figures of twentieth century history. The War of Independence culminated in the Treaty of Lausanne, which recognised Turkey's sovereignty within its borders. It was a pleasure to be invited by the sub-branch to the event.

*Petitions***WYONG AND GOSFORD HOSPITAL PARKING FEES**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before calling the member for The Entrance, I welcome to the gallery the guests who have come to hear the debate on the petition relating to car parking fees at Gosford and Wyong hospitals.

The question is that the House take note of the petition.

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:01):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, for welcoming my guests—the people of the Central Coast. I thank them for their help in putting this petition together. When you or a loved one needs to seek hospital treatment you are, by definition, already under stress. The last thing you need to worry about is whether you can afford the parking fees. Many of my constituents have been, and continue to be, in this situation. Such is the concern of my community that my colleagues on the Central Coast and I have circulated this petition which asks the Liberal-Nationals Government to review its hospital parking policy and reduce hospital parking fees on the Central Coast.

It is a measure of our community's concerns that in no time at all this petition raised in excess of the 10,000 signatures necessary to bring on this debate. At Gosford Hospital a new car park has recently been completed, and a new parking fee policy has been put in place. Operation of the carpark has been contracted to Secure Parking—a private company operating a public hospital car park for profit. The result is the most expensive parking on the Central Coast. The fees to park at our public hospital range from \$6.80 for more than 15 minutes—the first 15 minutes being free—to \$20.20 for the day, or over five hours. That may not sound like much for those who park in the Sydney metropolitan region, but it is a huge increase for my constituents. The Minister has advised that the hospital parking policy operating at Gosford will also apply at Wyong when redevelopment of that hospital takes place.

Compare the fees now being charged at Gosford Public Hospital to the fees being charged at the council-operated car park in the Gosford CBD. There the first two hours is free and the maximum daily rate is \$10—less than half of what the hospital is charging patients. It is also unfair compared with other regions in this State. John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle charges fees which are less than half those being charged on the Central Coast. For my constituents the new parking fee policy is a huge budget slug, especially for those on low incomes, which is a whole bunch of my constituents, and those wanting to attend appointments or to visit sick family members. My constituents Mr and Mrs Marland of Shelly Beach told me:

Many of us are elderly people trying to cope with the added burden of the cost of living. We don't need the added cost of having to pay to see our loved ones in hospital as well.

Mrs Farrell of Adelene Retirement Village in Wyoming adds:

My late husband was in hospital many times and usually for six weeks at a time. I spent quite a lot on parking and [this added to] my stress.

I appreciate that concessional fees do apply. However, the concessional fees are still high compared to the low incomes of my constituents and the application process requires some effort. Recently my office had to assist a local resident whose husband is regularly hospitalised for three months at a time. She attempted to apply for the concessionary parking scheme at Gosford Hospital but found the process so difficult to follow she was obliged to ask me to intervene. We should not be putting our vulnerable citizens through the ordeal of navigating a soulless commercial process at a time when they need our support, not added stress. This user-pays policy is regressive in the extreme. It has gone too far. The concessional fee charged for one visit at Gosford Hospital represents over 1 per cent of a pensioner's weekly pension.

For members in this place like me and like the member for Terrigal, a full-day visit costs less than 0.5 per cent of our weekly wage. The fees charged are regressive for my constituents and for the Central Coast. Let us not forget the staff who are now paying \$23.20 a week just to do their job. Who in this place has to pay to attend their electorate office? My petition asks the Government to review the policy for the Central Coast. It is the most expensive parking on the coast. It is more than people pay for hospital parking in Newcastle. It is regressive for my community given our income distribution. I encourage the Government to consider the interests of my community, consider the representations made by me and my colleagues, rethink its position, review the parking policy and make a fair parking policy for the people of the Central Coast.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:06):** I acknowledge the many residents who have taken the time to sign this petition. I acknowledge the guests in the gallery who have made the trip down from the Central Coast. I also acknowledge our health Minister, who I believe will be in the Chamber shortly. He is no doubt watching this on TV as we speak, and I know that he is a champion of providing world-class health infrastructure and health services on the Central Coast, which I will talk about shortly. This petition debate today is an opportunity to

provide some facts on car parking at public health facilities across the Central Coast Local Health District. Members opposite have conveniently neglected to mention the NSW Health policy for concessional car parking fees at public hospitals. Concessional rates for car parking fees are set annually and are subject to an annual review. The policy states:

The concessional car parking fees are the maximum that can be applied. Some hospital car parks already provide concessions and local health districts and specialty health networks are able to provide a greater level of concession than the published rates at their own discretion.

As I said, that has been conveniently neglected by Labor. These are the current concessional car parking rates: Zero to three hours is free; more than three hours is \$5.60; a three-day pass is \$11.30; and a whole week is \$22.60. This is about assisting those who have to visit hospitals regularly for treatment or who are hospitalised for an extended period of time. Indeed, eligibility for the concessional rates include patients or carers who require treatment for a period of no longer than a week and patients or carers who attend hospital more than twice weekly. Other people who are eligible for the concessions include RMS Mobility Parking Scheme permit holders, Pensioner Concession Card holders, Veterans' Affairs Gold Card holders, cancer treatment patients, daily dressing outpatients, cardiac rehab patients and patients or carers who are experiencing financial hardship.

I draw attention to the fantastic mobile app called HosPark. I have it on my phone. It is a fantastic means by which patients, carers and hospital visitors can search for a hospital. I believe the member for Coffs Harbour has the app on his phone and I am pretty sure the health Minister has it on his. He probably uses it himself as an old person, potentially. My parents are well into their seventies and use the app on a smartphone. Users of the app can view information about quiet times and visiting times for each ward in a unit, and it has information about how to get to the hospital, how to park and where to park. That is another way that the Government is working to make life easier for patients, their families and carers. The Minister has now joined us in the Chamber. He does have the HosPark app on his phone. It is a very handy app indeed.

I highlight how significant the investment in Wyong Hospital is for our region. We know that 75,500 extra people will call the Central Coast home between 2016 and 2036. Many of them will be based at the northern end of the region. As I have said many times, that is exactly why the Government has committed \$200 million to get the redevelopment project done. Just today the *Central Coast Express Advocate* reported how the project has received the official tick of approval from planning authorities. That means work can begin very soon and it is expected to be finished in 2022. Of course, part of the redevelopment includes a further \$10.2 million for additional car parking facilities, which has been funded under the Sustainable Hospital Car Park Investment Program.

I also note that a new ground-level car park opened in November 2018 with over 250 parking spots available for patients, visitors and staff to use. I thank every single Central Coast resident who has come here today or has put their name on the petition. Our Government is delivering in spades when it comes to health needs on the Central Coast. We have looked at those concessional rates. They are clearly advertised and they are easy to access through the HosPark app. I am sure the Minister and the member for Coffs Harbour will go through that in more detail. Once again, I thank all of those people who have signed the petition and those who have taken the time to make the trip to Parliament.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:11):** I address a very serious matter that the Government wants to give the go-ahead to, and it will have an enormously negative impact on residents of the Central Coast who regularly access our local hospital. Our community has spoken loud and clear—and collected more than 10,000 signatures in a month. It is a record. I thank the people in the gallery for being here today. We will continue to fight on your behalf in this place; you don't have to worry about that. I thank you so much for making the trip here and for assisting us to get the signatures that have enabled us to debate this very important matter in the people's Parliament—your Parliament. First, the Liberal Government tried to privatise our hospital. It was not that long ago. Now they are telling us that they are investing an amount of money because it is so important.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Swansea will address her comments through the Chair.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, thank goodness Government members came to their senses. That is all I will say about that. Now they are trying it on with another quick cash grab, sticking a parking fine on us. If they cannot get it one way, they will get it another way. We cannot trust this Government when it comes to health. It took just one month to get 10,000 signatures from the coast community. They have said loud and clear, "We cannot afford to pay for parking in our regional hospitals". What this Government does not acknowledge is the lack of public transport for our communities on the coast. It is almost obsolete. People tell me that they just cannot get there.

Have members opposite ever been to Gwandalan? Have they ever been to Chain Valley Bay or Lake Munmorah? Do they know that those communities do not have any transport options? That is the problem:

Government members do not know our communities. They come down from their ivory towers and make these decisions about the good, taxpaying people of our communities. And then they want to whack you with another fine. That is what it is like: It is like another fine.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Swansea to address her comments through the Chair.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** What they are doing is ripping off those people in the gallery, the people that we represent. So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I will speak through you—and I will do so with the same amount of anger and passion, because it is absolutely outrageous that people in our communities cannot get to their local public hospital. The Government wanted to privatise that hospital not very long ago, let us not forget that. They cannot get to the hospital on public transport and now the Government wants to charge them for parking when they get to there. They can't have it both ways. There are people who have contacted me and I want to share their stories—that is what this is about. Lutricia contacted me, worried about the impact parking fees might have on the community. She said:

It would end up costing people quite a bit for parking when a loved one is sick and that's the last thing people need. We don't have much money but we really worry about it.

Lake Munmorah resident Angela told me about the problems she has getting to the hospital by public transport. She said:

It is very unfair that they should try to put paid parking as there is no public transport, maybe one bus service. Wyong Hospital services a big area and is not near a rail station, so people have to use their cars. We live at Lake Munmorah and there is no direct bus service to the hospital.

Pauline said:

As senior citizens on a fixed income we do not have extra funds to pay for the unnecessary charges when attending this essential service in our community.

I could go on and on, because that is exactly the tone in the electorate. People are really hurting as a result of this cash grab that the Government is trying to slap on the community around Wyong Hospital. It is totally intolerable. We only have to look at Gosford Hospital and what people are paying there. Nurses at Gosford Hospital have to pay \$1,230 a year to park at work. It is \$20 a day if you go there to visit, which is \$6.70 an hour.

**Ms Liesl Tesch:** It has gone up 10c on the app.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** I thank the member for Gosford for that interjection. My Labor colleagues and I are here to do the right thing by our community. We will not give up until the Minister has walked away from this unfair cash grab. [*Time expired.*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members who wish to have private conversations will do so outside the Chamber. All members will be heard in silence.

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:16):** It is great to be here talking about hospitals and, in particular, new hospitals. Coffs Harbour is the beneficiary of a \$194 million upgrade to the Coffs Harbour Health Campus with a new four-storey building taking about 12 months to construct and due to be completed next year and the existing building due to be refurbished a few years after that. Wyong has also received a similar investment with a \$200 million in funding for a new hospital. As part of the \$200 million investment in the expansion of Wyong Hospital, additional car parking spaces will ensure that current and future customers and staff have access to adequate parking infrastructure. The new state-of-the-art facilities at Wyong Hospital are part of the NSW Health forward-looking developments that focus on accessible patient care for the expanding community on the Central Coast.

**Ms Anna Watson:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. What is the member's point of order?

**Ms Anna Watson:** It is on relevance. We are talking about hospital parking—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Shellharbour will resume her seat. The member for Coffs Harbour is being entirely relevant. He is talking about car parking at hospitals and about Wyong Hospital. There is no point of order.

**Mr GURMESH SINGH:** On completion of the development of the Central Coast Medical School and Research Institute at Gosford Hospital there will be an additional 805 car spaces available at the hospital precinct, to accommodate the needs of current and future demand in the local area. The NSW Health Hospital Car Parking Fees Policy shows that the fees at these hospitals are used to fund the cost of building the car park and to improve



hospital facilities. Reducing the fees charged at the car parks would potentially require the redirection of funds from other services at the hospital.

Car parking developments have provided excellent accessibility and complemented infrastructure developments across many hospitals in New South Wales. The \$8 million Coffs Harbour Health Campus car park project was delivered in 2015 and has similar parking fees to those at Gosford Hospital and those proposed for Wyong's new facilities. More than 460 additional car parking spaces have been built to benefit staff, patients and visitors through improved access to facilities at the health campus. Car parking fees contribute to covering the costs and operations of new parking facilities. Concessional fees are of course available, with a range of concessions for patients and carers.

Earlier the member for Terrigal mentioned the HosPark app. I have it on my phone. With young children—and previously with grandparents living at home—trips to the hospital were unfortunately very regular. To know which hospital parking facilities my family could use, at what cost and at what time was very beneficial. It is a great tool from the Ministry of Health. I reiterate the member for Terrigal's comments regarding getting 10,000 signatures on a petition. I acknowledge all the people who have taken the time to sign the petition and acknowledge the residents in the gallery today.

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:20):** I acknowledge the fantastic people of the Central Coast who have travelled to join us in the people's Parliament, as well as our brothers and sisters from the Health Services Union and the Nurses and Midwives' Association. They often approach me to stand up for what is going on in our community and especially in our local hospitals. I thank all of them and all of the people of the Central Coast who put their name on that paper saying, "We don't stand for the prices that the Government is charging for parking in our community."

Terrigal residents struggle to get to the hospital on public transport. It is difficult for people from my electorate to get up the train line and the oldies struggle to get down the hill since the bus transport has gone from the train to the hospital. That is not to mention how hard it is for anyone who lives around Wyong Hospital where, as the member for Swansea said, there are a couple of buses a day from various locations across the beautiful Central Coast and they are convoluted by lakes. We do not really have a choice. Since the day it opened we were appalled by the cost of the new car park for coasties. On the ABC Radio Facebook page the hits went through the roof. People were disgusted. This is the first time the people of the coast have been smashed by parking prices.

It is a shame that this is what happened alongside the opening of our hospital. Parking costs increased from \$1.20 an hour. We thought they were now \$6.70 per hour, but today on the app—thanks very much, Minister—they have gone up to \$6.80, a 10c increase in six months. It was \$20 a day; now it is \$20.20 a day for parking on the coast. That is a record for the Central Coast. My colleagues from the coast hear so often how well our beautiful hospital employees look after our coasties, despite the circumstances in our hospital. Staff have to take a \$1,230 a year pay cut to park at their own workplace. Thanks to the Liberal Government, we can have it all!

I refer to the Hospital Car Parking Fees Policy. The local adjustment is based on locality, is site-specific and is linked to market rates. The policy states that it supports equitable, transparent, sustainable access to health campuses for all users, including patients, visitors and staff—including those with special needs. It is not really what we have landed on with Gosford Hospital parking. I thank the member for Terrigal for that concessional information—we all know that. However, 10 minutes is not really a long time in some of those wheelchair parks at the hospital when you have to get out, get your wheelchair and your kids out of the car, go to your appointment, come back and get in your car. Ten minutes—bonus!

We need the Government to listen to the people of the Central Coast. The community fought hard to stop the privatisation of Wyong Hospital. We had to fight for that—it was not something the Government was going to give us. We had to have thousands of people standing up for what we believe in on the coast at rally after rally, through the night and through the day. That is what our petition is saying to the Government. There are 10,000-plus signatures and there are more coming into our offices every single day. I thank the coasties for their voice.

Today I send a shout-out to the staff at Gosford and Wyong hospitals for their continued fight for justice. The staff do an amazing job despite the budget cuts, the scrimping and the increased parking costs at their workplace. I thank them very much for the continued rallies and for using whatever means they can to make their voices heard by a Government that is not listening to the people of the Central Coast. I am right there beside them. We are right there beside them. I know our community is right there beside us.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:24):** By leave: I join with my colleagues and thank the people who have come here today and who been part of putting this petition together. I know from the rallies that we have been to up there, walking around the hospital meeting the staff, being on street stalls and talking to people, that

this is a big issue in our community and it involves a principle of fairness. I will not criticise the current Minister for Health and Medical Research because he inherited this policy, which was mandatory at the time. The reason it is an issue of fairness is that the policy mandates minimum parking fees. The petition says that we want a review and to have the policy changed, because it should not be a one size fits all. We understand at Gosford Hospital, because there is a station right next door, that there probably needs to be a small charge to deter people from parking there while they go to Sydney to work. But at Wyong Hospital there is no argument for that whatsoever. As the member for Gosford said, the policy clearly states:

Pricing for car parking incorporates the following guiding principles:

Support equitable, transparent and sustainable accessibility to health campuses for all users, including patients, visitors and staff, including those with special needs.

That policy says that fees should be set for a specific site. At Wyong Hospital, where there is no transport, and which is in a low income area with a high number of people on the pension, one would think that the policy could be reviewed to ensure that it is affordable. Talking about fairness—and the Minister may not know this—I point out that across the road there is a bright, shiny, new private hospital that has just opened. Guess what the daily fee at that private hospital is? It is \$12 maximum. Under the car park pricing policy, which sets a minimum amount, across the road in the public hospital where there are people who cannot afford private hospital insurance, they will be paying \$20.20. That will increase year on year. By the time this car park is built it will cost \$22 or \$23 at Wyong. All we have at the moment in the first stage of the redevelopment is an on-grade car park, not a multi-level car park.

I am prepared to write to the Treasurer—and I hope the Minister will support this, and the member for Terrigal, who is a Central Coast resident—about these strict guidelines to build infrastructure that taxpayers have already paid for through their taxes and then are being charged again to use. When the Government says there is a \$200 million upgrade at Wyong Hospital, it is not really that at all. When the cost of the car park is taken out it is more like \$150 million. We are not getting value for money. That is because the Treasurer, who stood in the House and told us we can have it all—we can have stadiums, schools, everything under the sun, we can waste \$500 million on paying out companies over the light rail—will not give the health Minister enough money to build the facilities that we need. That is the problem. I know the Minister, and I know if he had the funds he would do it. I am sure he understands that charging people in a low income area where the private hospital has a maximum car park cost of \$12, and across the road the public hospital charges more than double, is not fair. It does not fit the policy. Unfortunately, because a minimum cost is set, it is unfair.

The other problem we have is about safety. I say to the staff of Wyong and Gosford hospitals here today that I know that the cost of parking forces them to park on the street a long way from where they work. Every night when those health workers change shifts and have to walk back to their vehicles their safety is at risk. I say to the Government that if a staff member is assaulted going back to their vehicle late at night or early in the morning, it will be on the Government's head. We should not have a situation where people are forced to take a pay cut in order to park their cars where they work each day. We have already had a debate about healthcare workers earlier today; they are under stress because their numbers are down and they are being assaulted at work. This is another assault on them. We ask the Minister to review the policy. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (16:29):** By leave: I thank each of the members who have spoken, the residents, members of the Health Services Union and the Nurses and Midwives' Association. I thank them for coming and speaking out on behalf of their community. It is a challenge to try to balance budgets across the State. We would all remember that the Labor Government found it a bit difficult to balance the budget. Whilst they were well intentioned in many cases, they just could not do it. It was left to us when we came to government to rebuild the health system. We spent about \$10 billion in the first few years and we are spending more than \$10 billion in the next four years. Part of that was renewing hospitals right across the State.

In this case we are talking about those on the Central Coast. I am delighted to have been up there on many occasions to see the work that was going on at Gosford Hospital as the \$348 million was spent and see on the other side of the road the space where there would be a new car park, then to see the new car park being built, and to see the arrangements with the University of Newcastle to build new facilities there. It has been a very positive outcome for the community on the Central Coast. Part and parcel of that problem of balancing the budget is that if a lot of new facilities are to be built, some way has to be found of paying for them, either by increasing taxes or asking the user to pay something. I thank the member for Wyong who spoke and noted that this was not my policy. I do not think I can escape quite that easily, but I thank him for contributing that. Whilst it was a policy of the former Minister, I was a member of the Government and I acknowledge that.

When I became the Minister I was approached by a young fellow called Gidon Goodman, who was a regular at the Children's Hospital at Randwick. As a result of that the policy that I am happy to accept as being

introduced on my watch is the concessional fees and eligibility policy. That was amazing because that was his work. All I can say is that obviously it would present issues for some if we did not have concessional fees. I do not walk away from the fact that it does present changes for some people anyway, but at least now, certainly for the staff—and if the staff were not aware of it, and I see one of my union colleagues in the gallery who would know this—it is pre-tax. I encourage them to ensure they are getting it pre-tax. And for others, the concession rates are: free for the first three hours, \$5.60 per day, and there is a seven-day ticket for \$22.60. Hopefully that will work.

If people have major problems, certainly my instructions to the health authorities across the entire State are to be flexible and reasonable. Hopefully that will work for the people on the Central Coast. I appreciate that. Last week my second mother passed away in Wyong Hospital. I am very conscious of the fact that we need to be respectful and work with the community, and I certainly will do that. My colleague the member for Terrigal is one of the people who got in my ear about the concession requirements early on. I appreciate all that the members have said today and we will continue to work together to see if there are further things we can do. I am not holding any hope of that immediately, but I am certainly happy to look at it.

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:33):** In reply: I thank all those who have contributed to the debate and I thank again our community for supporting the petition and putting their names to it. I thank my colleagues in the Health Services Union and the Nurses Association, and the Minister for his comments today. I appreciate he understands this is an issue. However, the Government has failed to address the central point being made by those members on this side on behalf of our community. Gosford Hospital is charging the highest parking fees of any car park on the Central Coast. That is unacceptable to our community. We are a community of generally lower incomes. The fees being charged at a public hospital are regressive. Even as low as the concessional fees might be, there are still considerable hurdles for people attempting to access those concessional fees. Also, compared to the incomes of our constituents, the fees are regressive.

We ask the Government to bear this in mind. The lived reality of the constituents in our community is that they do not know how many visits they are going to make when they first present to the hospital, so they do not access concessional fees right away. That means they will pay more than they are used to paying for parking on the Central Coast. This policy needs to be reviewed for the circumstances on the Central Coast. I appreciate that the Minister indicated his interest in this topic. I encourage the member for Terrigal to stop being an apologist for the Government on the Central Coast and to start being an advocate for the community by getting behind this petition. I look forward to seeing all members on the Central Coast apply pressure to the Government to make sure that hospital parking on the Central Coast is not the most expensive parking on the Central Coast. That is dumb, it is regressive and it needs to change. I commend the petition to the House.

**Petition noted.**

#### *Motions*

### **HANSARD RECORD EXPURGATION**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (16:43):** By leave: I move:

That certain words giving effect to an accusation about the member for Blue Mountains be expunged from my response to the private member's statement given by the member for Blue Mountains on 18 September 2019.

**Motion agreed to.**

#### *Private Members' Statements*

### **JERSEY DAY**

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (16:36):** Since the first Jersey Day in 2015, the inspirational legacy of young Nathan Gremmo has journeyed coast to coast, with people across Australia joining in to change the way we think about organ and tissue donation. On Friday 30 August I was privileged to join Nathan's father, Michael, and Principal Brother Steve with my sons, William and Lachlan, at Oakhill College in Castle Hill to celebrate Nathan's exceptional deed to give the gift of life and save five young adults and a baby. What differentiates Jersey Day and organ donation from several other causes is that organ donation does not cost a dime. People are not encouraged to buy or donate money on Jersey Day. They are only encouraged to wear to work a sporting jersey of their choice and to raise awareness by starting a conversation about the benefits of organ donation with their colleagues and the wider public, in particular DonateLife.

While Australia's donation rate has more than doubled in recent years, around 1,400 Australians are currently waitlisted for a transplant and an additional 11,000 are on dialysis, with an average waiting time of between six months and four years. Despite the fact that 69 per cent of people believe registering is important,

only one in three Australians are registered donors. Furthermore, while 71 per cent of Australians believe it is important to discuss with their family or partner whether they want to be a donor, only 51 per cent of Australians have had this discussion. While some still believe that it is better to let their family decide at the time, the fact is that if you want to become an organ or tissue donor, you need to tell your family. A main reason that families decline donation is because they simply do not know what their loved one wanted. When the family is unaware of their loved one's donation decision, only 44 per cent of families agree to donation. This increases to at least 90 per cent when their loved one is a registered donor. Families, therefore, play an instrumental role in the donation process and are involved in each step even if their loved one's decision is registered.

Notably, the organ and tissue donation process also accommodates religious and cultural end of life requirements as all major religions from Hinduism to Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam view the process as a deed of benevolence and solicitude. I also stress that people should not assume they are too old to become an organ and tissue donor. One does not have to be in perfect health either to save lives. There is every chance that some of a person's organs and tissues may be suitable for donation, so we should not rule ourselves out but should instead count ourselves in. Of course while each donor's age and medical history will be considered, every potential donor is assessed on an individual case-by-case basis so there is every possibility you may be able to donate your organs or tissues.

I cannot help but admire young Nathan's generosity and the selflessness of his parents, Michael and Kylie, and their daughters, Ashley and Annaliese, at a time of significant adversity. Their devotion to and perseverance with this worthy cause are more than words can describe and are indicative of the community spirit in which the Gremmo family live their lives, spreading the word and the deed of an extraordinary young man. One organ and tissue donor has the potential to transform the lives of many, so I encourage constituents in Baulkham Hills to consider joining the Australian Organ Donor Register at [donatelife.gov.au](http://donatelife.gov.au) and saving lives. It takes less than a minute to make your decision count and it will save somebody's life.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARDS**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (16:39):** I recently attended the 2019 New South Wales education Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence along with the member for East Hills, Wendy Lindsay, and other parliamentary colleagues. The awards enable New South Wales public school students, teachers, staff and parents to showcase major contributions to their school communities and serve as role models to their peers. I commend the following people from the Camden electorate who were recognised on the evening for their contributions to public education. Elderslie High School captain Georgia Cunnion was awarded the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Georgia is a natural leader and has earned the respect of both staff and students through her diligence, motivation and determination.

Elderslie Public School Deputy Principal Kate Caruana was awarded the deputy principal Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Kate has led her staff through an inquiry program using best practice and current research to drive student growth. In addition, she has led the whole school in initiatives to support staff and ensure classroom practice is data driven. Elderslie High School teacher Samantha Dennis was also awarded the deputy principal Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Samantha has coordinated performing arts over many years and has guided many students to achieve exceptional success in debating and public speaking, reaching the State semifinals on multiple occasions.

Oran Park Public School Deputy Principal Jodie Bland was awarded the Secretary's Award for Excellent Service. Jodie provides professional learning for teachers that ensures successful outcomes in student wellbeing, curriculum differentiation and literacy, special education, curriculum knowledge and student welfare by developing an evidence-based learning and support program, differentiated teaching, demonstration lessons and team teaching. Elizabeth Macarthur High School Principal Kylie Hedger was awarded the Secretary's Award for Excellent Service. Kylie has mentored many upcoming principals with her knowledge and expertise around the leadership capabilities framework.

The Think Team program at Elderslie Public School was awarded the Secretary's Award for an Outstanding School Initiative. The team comprises year 4 to year 6 students and is responsible for implementing effective learner qualities, developing expert learners and enhancing student voices. The students regularly collect and analyse data, design and implement engaging lessons and seek feedback to embed a culture of learning dispositions. Elizabeth Macarthur High School's professional learning inquiry platform was awarded the Secretary's School Achievement Award. The school uses an innovative integrated learning platform to ensure that all staff are consistent in their approach to programming, differentiation and classroom management. This learning platform has led to sustained and continued growth in NAPLAN and HSC value-added results that exceed the State's average growth. I commend all principals, executive staff, teachers, students and parents for the hard work and energy they put into educating students in all our wonderful schools in the Camden electorate.

### WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (16:44):** Today I bring to the attention of the House a crisis that the Coalition Government seems all too willing to ignore—the fact that our State is in drought. I made it clear in my inaugural speech that the people of Coogee care about issues beyond their own border, in particular, water. I am also aware that many of my constituents have written to the Minister regarding the drought and this Government's inaction. While so many parts of regional and rural New South Wales are desperate for water, I live in one of the few electorates of this State that gets semi-regular rainfall.

In my electorate we have a rainfall and stormwater problem but the Government has done nothing to ensure that metropolitan electorates like mine do their bit, as small as it might be, to bear some of the burden of this drought. Prior to this most recent rain Sydney dams had dropped to below half capacity for the first time since 2007 and the Murray-Darling system is at just 36 per cent, with the Northern Basin at only 9 per cent. Thankfully, as of today, Warragamba Dam is at just over 50 per cent. Bigger centres like Tamworth and Orange, and potentially Dubbo and Armidale, as well as smaller towns like Cobar, Narromine and Nyngan, are all considered to be at high risk and may have as little as six to 12 months water supply if things do not change.

What is the Government doing to respond to this crisis? Quite clearly it is not doing anywhere close to enough. A Government white paper in 2015 promised more dams for New South Wales but none has been built. The Coalition Government's inaction does not just limit itself to dams and water pumping; it continues across the policy spectrum. The last time level 1 water restrictions were introduced in Sydney, Sydney's water supply levels were just below 60 per cent. This time the Coalition Government waited until they were at almost 50 per cent before commencing water restrictions. When Sydney dam levels dropped below 50 per cent in 2004, level 2 restrictions were introduced and level 3 water restrictions were introduced when dam levels fell below 40 per cent in June 2005.

The Coalition Government has not introduced a statewide water tank rebate scheme despite such a scheme being introduced during the millennium drought a year before Sydney water restrictions. Such an initiative would be well received in the electorate of Coogee. A washing machine rebate program was introduced four months before the Sydney level 1 water restrictions were implemented during the millennium drought but no similar program has been implemented today. The current Government not only has failed to introduce adequate water restrictions but also has also failed to introduce any real and prominent water awareness programs. It was a whole year prior to the introduction of Sydney water restrictions in 2002 that the then Labor Government introduced the "Go Slow on the H<sub>2</sub>O" campaign, but now there is no campaign to be seen and the inaction of this Government shows. As of May this year more than 60 per cent of Sydney residents were unaware that there was a drought in New South Wales. Compounding this State Government's failure, its Coalition colleagues in Canberra have also done precious little to address water security and drought relief.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** Point of order: I wanted to extend a great deal of latitude but private members' statements are meant to deal with matters to do with a member's electorate. Talking about statewide policy is hardly that and now we are going to Federal policy. I ask you to bring the member back to the leave of private members' statements.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper):** I appreciate the point of order and I accept it is correct. However, in this case, having listened to the member, her remarks are an extrapolation of a specific concern from her electorate and they are in order.

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL:** My electorate, like so many others across Sydney, is now victim to this Government's overdevelopment, with giant apartment blocks being built as far as the eye can see, yet there is no requirement on any of these new apartments to ensure that they are environmentally sustainable or that water tanks are used to capture water to feed into people's toilets or to water gardens. Clearly the Liberals do not care about regional New South Wales and The Nationals are too powerless to convince them to do so. The current Government is asleep at the wheel and the people of Coogee and New South Wales deserve far better than what the Government is handing out.

### MARINE RESCUE PORT MACQUARIE

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (16:49):** Today I commend volunteers from Marine Rescue Port Macquarie, one of the incredible emergency services in the Port Macquarie electorate. The Marine Rescue members have won well-deserved international recognition for their bravery, skill and determination in a challenging operation in the dark to save the lives of three seriously injured men on board a sinking boat off Crescent Head earlier this year. The volunteers involved in this operation have been honoured by the International Maritime Rescue Federation, which represents marine rescue services around the world.

Our local members took out the title for Outstanding Team Contribution to a Maritime Search and Rescue Operation at the federation's annual awards on 10 September. The team also was commended in the National Search and Rescue Awards in Adelaide on the same night. I am sure the House will join me in congratulating the team members—Chris Condon, William Richardson, or Bill Richardson as we know him, Reg McGlashan, Yolanda Bosschietter, Tony Hallett, Rob Breskal, Owen Coulls, Gary White, Deputy Unit Commander Graham Gibbs and Unit Commander Greg Davies. These volunteers are now rightly recognised as among the finest rescue teams in the world. I know that I speak for us all when I say they have brought great distinction to their service and their State.

As volunteers, these men and women give their time and effort to serve our boating community, often putting their own wellbeing at risk in the line of duty. Without the professional efforts of these volunteers, three lives would have been lost on 14 April. The three boaters had sustained a number of injuries, including broken bones, severe lacerations, punctured lungs and a spinal injury when their 10-metre cruiser struck a submerged object offshore. The Marine Rescue radio base received a mayday call from the stricken cruiser at 1.07 a.m., but the location given by the caller—later found to have a broken jaw—was difficult to determine. As the watch officers in their base persisted in their attempts to gain accurate coordinates for the vessel's location, the rescue crew searched in darkness, eventually locating the cruiser, with the assistance of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, just south of Crescent Head in the Oxley electorate of my colleague the Minister for Water, Property and Housing.

When rescue vessel *Port Macquarie 30* arrived on scene, Mr Richardson and Mr Condon, without thought for their own welfare, bravely boarded the holed vessel to provide emergency first aid to those on board. They immediately located two of the men before finding the third, clearly suffering a spinal injury, trapped among debris below deck. As Marine Rescue NSW Chair Jim Glissan noted at a ceremony to present commendations and citations to the volunteers, none of the men was wearing a lifejacket. They could not be moved without the risk of further injury and as the boat began to take on water, they could not stay in place without drowning. The two volunteers remained on board as the cruiser began sinking and ensured all three injured men escaped, painstakingly extricating the patient with the spinal injury by using the incoming water to float him free of the boat.

They then kept all three afloat in the open ocean until they could be retrieved by the crew of *Port Macquarie 30* and rendezvous with *Port Macquarie 20*, which had NSW Ambulance paramedics on board. These volunteers are genuine heroes. The New South Wales Government is very proud to support the volunteers from Marine Rescue NSW, which recently marked its tenth anniversary of service. The Government has committed an additional \$37.6 million over four years to support the service's work to protect the boating public. Of course, the Port Macquarie community enjoys an enviable coastal lifestyle. Boaters and others on our spectacular waterways know they can rely on our Marine Rescue volunteers to watch over them and come to their rescue in an emergency. I congratulate these 10 volunteers, who are now known around the world for their brave efforts to fulfil the Marine Rescue NSW mission of saving lives on the water.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper):** The member for Port Macquarie has put a compelling story on the record. I, too, congratulate those volunteers from Marine Rescue NSW. Thank you very much.

#### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:53):** Mr Temporary Speaker Piper, tonight I will speak on a subject that I know is close to your heart. I will begin this evening by thanking every single person working in the mental healthcare sector in New South Wales with a special shout-out to those in the Gosford electorate and elsewhere on the Central Coast. On behalf of those living with mental health issues and their families and carers, thank you sincerely for all you do. I also thank you, Mr Temporary Speaker, for all that you did during your career in that field. I know that everyone in that sector works so hard and enters their career passionate about supporting those living with mental health issues, and their families and carers around them. I understand that you all want to do well by your patients and your clients, yet the lack of funding and understaffing in this sector is resulting in an overworked staff with little time for professional development and adjusting of procedures because the staff are so busy dealing with clients and their needs.

The damning report by the Bureau of Health Information [BHO], *People's use and experiences of mental health care in NSW*, reveals alarming statistics around mental health presentations to emergency departments [EDs], Gosford included. Mental health presentations to emergency departments in New South Wales increased by 18 per cent over the past five years, yet with little action by the Liberal Government to increase staffing levels to compensate for this increase. The report reveals that 30 per cent of mental health patients across New South Wales are not receiving treatment on time. With Gosford having one of the busiest EDs in New South Wales, the Bureau of Health Information shows that 42 per cent of Central Coast patients are not receiving care on time—the second worst in the State and second only to western Sydney.

Mental health related presentations grew at a faster rate than overall ED presentations, particularly among young adults. This is when our young people's support hotline and associated services are at absolute capacity. Staff at headspace are doing all they can, yet are failing to meet the needs of people living with mental health concerns on the coast. As a consequence, that leaves young people with over a six-week-plus wait for access to support. Just north of the coast, the Mental Health Line is under considerable strain in attempting to respond to the level of incoming calls from across the district and is failing to meet the current Ministry of Health key performance indicators [KPIs]. It is so bad that the district has requested staff to remove their phone number from email signatures, business cards, voicemail messages and out-of-hours contacts—just to meet the KPIs. What about the people and their families who are living with mental health issues?

The Premier has been re-elected and announced 14 new social priorities to tackle tough community challenges, including improving service levels in hospitals, outpatient and community care, and towards zero suicides. Well, Premier, this is not what we are seeing in the mental health sector across New South Wales. Reducing access to the mental health hotline, not answering nor following up on calls made to the mental health hotline, an ED bursting at the seams, a decrease in numbers of mental health-related admissions to the Gosford Hospital as the area's population continues to grow, despite the overflows outside—what is going on? On the coast we have the addition of an answering machine and a receptionist to deal with additional calls, yet a visit by one of my constituents revealed the damning information that despite seven calls to this hotline by the patient and supporting carers, there was no response and no assistance. That should not be possible in this day and age, especially in New South Wales, yet that is the lived reality of people in regional areas across the State who are desperately calling out for help.

When the ED is not delivering, and the Mental Health Line is not meeting its KPIs and so is deliberately reducing access, who is providing mental health support in our community, Premier? Mental health episodes of care in specialised inpatient units grew at a faster rate than overall admitted patient episodes, particularly among young adults in a community that has no adolescent mental health beds. Almost a quarter of overnight acute mental health-related episodes were experienced by patients aged 0-25 years of age. Nearly one in 12 people in New South Wales received mental health services from GPs in 2017-2018 and I thank all our local GPs for supporting patients as our local emergency services and our local specialist mental health facilities are stretched to the limit. You all work under pressure—under-resourced and undervalued by this Government. Please know that your community thanks you, your community appreciates you, and that every one of the lives you save is important. Tonight I stand with individuals who are suffering from mental health issues yet are struggling to get assistance due to a lack of Government support.

### **WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE SPORT**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:58):** The Wollondilly electorate is home to many fine tourist attractions, but equally many fine sporting organisations. In my electorate, as in many other electorates, sport plays an important part in community life. There is much to celebrate in just competing and enjoying the team environment, but this time of the year brings out an additional competitive spirit as finals come around. This season has seen unprecedented participation in many sports that are on offer in the electorate. One of the most pleasing aspects this year was the rise in the number of girls and women participating in traditional male football codes.

The strongest of the football codes is Group 6 Rugby League, which covers the Wollondilly electorate and is part of the Camden and Campbelltown electorates. The First Grade Grand Final at the Campbelltown Sports Stadium was one for the ages and went right down to the wire. I am pleased to report that the final was fought out between two local teams from my electorate, the Thirlmere Roosters and Picton Magpies. The Thirlmere Roosters are now the toast of the town following their 38-36 win over their local neighbours and arch rivals, the Picton Magpies, who won the competition in 2018. I was delighted to be at the grand final to be able to present the winners with their medals.

In Women's Rugby League, the Camden Rams defeated the Thirlmere Roosters 38-4 and in the Southern Highlands Shield the Warragamba Wombats defeated the Bowral Blues 24-8. Well done Wollondilly! The members for Camden and Campbelltown have a long way to go to match the success of my electorate in Group 6 Rugby League. That brings me to the mighty Bowral Blacks, who compete in the Illawarra District Rugby Union Competition. They fought hard but did not manage win the big one, losing 33-20. Perhaps my comeback to play in the Golden Oldies earlier in the year for the Blacks will spur them on to greater things in 2020.

The round ball game also is flourishing. The Picton Rangers, Appin United, Douglas Park/Wilton Razorbacks, Burragarang District and the Tahmoor Taipans are all part of the strong Macarthur Football Association. Junior level participation is going from strength to strength with over 90 teams participating. I was pleased to be able to secure \$1 million in this year's State budget for further developments at the Picton Rangers future home ground, the Picton Sportsground. I am looking forward to working with the Wollondilly Shire Council

to ensure that this project is delivered as soon as possible. The Southern Highlands soccer league has its grand finals being played at the David Woods Playing Fields this weekend in East Bowral. I wish all clubs the very best for those games and congratulate the association for another successful season.

In that other football code, the Australian Football League [AFL], the Wollondilly Knights, who are playing in the Sydney AFL competition, had a very successful season. The Junior Wollondilly Redbacks continue to expand and most pleasingly have seen a doubling of numbers of girls participating compared to previous seasons. The trend is also continued in other football codes where there has also been a significant increase in the number of girls participating. This Government's Active Kids voucher scheme has been a factor towards that participation. In netball the Wollondilly Netball Association based in Tahmoor has had another strong season.

The division 1 grand final saw Picton defeat Bargo 28-21. With over 750 active participants from nettas to masters, the association will also benefit from a \$1 million allocation in this year's budget to upgrade its facility to an elite competition standard. In the Southern Highlands competition the Southern Highlands under-17s played Moss Vale Dragonflies White. The game had to go into extra time. It was eventually won by the Southern Highlands under-17s by one point, 56-55. Whether you are playing in a Group 6 Rugby League Grand Final or being a participant in Netta or Auskick, sport is such a vital part of our community life. I congratulate all those participants, coaches, officials, parents and spectators in my electorate who are part of our great community activity.

### SYDNEY CRUISE TERMINAL PROPOSAL

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (17:02):** As I have said in this House and in other places previously, when it comes to the conduct of this Government over the past eight years there have always been constant themes: business always comes first, community always comes second, the environment always comes last. With respect to basically all of the activities of this Government, particularly its infrastructure program, there is always a degree of concealment, arrogance and bullyboy behaviour. Details are always kept secret, no matter what the outcome is, and, particularly when things go wrong, ordinary people always pay. This conduct is unfolding again in my electorate at Yarra Bay. This week the Minister for Transport and Roads, Andrew Constance, and the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, Stuart Ayres, issued a media release stating that planning is progressing for a third cruise terminal. The press release begins by stating, "A third cruise terminal in Sydney is a step closer with the invitation open to industry to work on a potential site in Port Botany."

It goes on to list two options: Yarra Bay or Molineux Point. Molineux Point is a complete and utter fallacy. You cannot put a cruise ship terminal there. It appears that it is full steam ahead with Yarra Bay. My community and the communities that surround the electorate of Maroubra, which will all pay if this project goes ahead, feel completely ambushed. They have every right to feel that way, particularly given the strong theme that emanated from this announcement and evidence given at the upper House estimates hearings last week. That evidence outlined that businesses have been talking to this Government about the proposal for a very long time whilst ordinary communities have been kept in the dark.

In fact, one of the people who gave sworn evidence to the committee last week said that the cruise industry, particularly Royal Caribbean, was becoming impatient with the Government. The Government should cool its heels a little bit and make sure that communities come first. It seems to me that when the Government says, "A cruise terminal is a step closer", it has already made up its mind, notwithstanding the fact that a strategic business case is going ahead. The business case should attend to all of the issues and look at all of the considerations that are relevant. But as usual big business is coming first and communities are being ignored. A witness said that Royal Caribbean and other businesses are losing patience, but so are we.

Over the years the community already lost six kilometres of beach on the northern side of Botany Bay. Yarra Bay and the little beaches that attend it, including Frenchmans Bay, are the last little bits of sand left for the community on the northern side of Botany Bay. The community is fully aware that if this proposal goes ahead it will add to the cumulative impacts of industry, the busiest airport in Australia, the second-busiest port in Australia, traffic noise, environmental destruction, heritage destruction, the destruction of Aboriginal heritage, the Botany Industrial Park, the Malabar Wastewater Treatment Plant and all of the other issues that the residents of the southern part of my electorate put up with. Enough is enough.

A business case is being conducted, but we have seen business cases like this before. The business case for Allianz Stadium did not stack up, but the Government stitched it up anyway. The business case for the light rail did not stack up, but the Government stitched it up anyway. Another stitch up is happening here. But the community will not stand idly by and watch this abomination unfold at Yarra Bay, one of the last beaches on the northern side of Botany Bay. This week Save the Bay Coalition member Maria Poulos put it very well in the *Southern Courier* when she said the group was disappointed that the State Government was undergoing



comprehensive consultation with industry leaders when it was still yet to reach out with any community consultation. She went on to say:

They are consulting comprehensively with the cruise industry and the community has been left hanging once again. It shows they are absolutely full speed ahead.

She said that the announcement was a "kick in the guts" and that it would be tragic to lose the bay to the cruise industry. The Save the Bay Coalition is a fiercely independent group, belongs to no-one and was formed by no particular party. It is fiercely independent. I commend the work the group is doing. All the elected representatives in the area, regardless of their political colour, are on side with the Save the Bay Coalition, including the Randwick City Council and Bayside Council. We will fight this to the death.

## **POLICE AND COMMUNITY CHARITY BALL**

### **POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:07):** Today I speak about our police officers in a different format than usual. I highlight the generosity of police on both sides of the New South Wales-Queensland border and the Australian Federal Police. In 2018 the inaugural Police and Community Charity Ball was held at Seagulls, a great club in Tweed Heads in New South Wales. In 2019 it was Queensland's turn and the event moved to the Star on the Gold Coast. Police forces on both sides of the border joined with community members to raise funds to update much-needed equipment at both the Gold Coast and Tweed hospitals. I am delighted to announce that more than \$129,000 was raised for children's wards at the Gold Coast and Tweed hospitals. The event raised \$63,105 this year and \$66,000 last year. We knocked over the Queenslanders just slightly there.

Commissioner Mick Fuller of the NSW Police Force and his wife attended the event, as did Commissioner Andrew Colvin of the Australian Federal Police and Deputy Commissioner Karl Kent. In 2018 the former Commissioner of Queensland Police Ian Stewart attended and this year the new Commissioner, Katarina Carroll, was there. On both occasions we had the pleasure of having the Federal member for Dickson, and Minister for Home Affairs, Peter Dutton and his Kirilly there. I sat next to the great radio announcer Mr Ray Hadley. I acknowledge Tweed-Byron Police District crime prevention officer Bradley Foster and his team for assisting the Queenslanders in putting the event together. The more than \$30,000 that went to each organisation in 2018 will buy five new paediatric cots for the children's ward at Tweed at a cost of almost \$8,000. It is fantastic that five of those costs will be replaced.

With hundreds of auction items donated by the local Tweed and Gold Coast business communities, the event was a huge success. I advise the House that in 2018 tickets were sold with a major prize of a runabout tinny. The Federal member for Dickson, the Hon. Peter Dutton, won that prize. I also advise the House that at this year's event I was asked by Ray Hadley and the other commissioners to buy a ticket. Fortune shone on my new fiancé, Kirstin Alexander, when she won a brand-new jetski. We have spent the past couple of weeks studying hard to gain our personal watercraft driving licences. That coincides with the movement of five new water police into the district of Tweed. As Deputy Commissioner Jeff Loy told me today, they may have an extra point of interest occurring there.

It would be remiss of me to not recognise the officers who have lost their lives. The thirtieth anniversary of Police Remembrance Day takes place on 29 September 2019. It is a day to commemorate Australian police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Our police officers go to work day in and day out not knowing what they will confront in the line of duty or whether they will return home safely at the end of their shift. Next Friday we will acknowledge those officers who have lost their lives as result of their policing careers. We must also pay respect to our local men and women in blue, who work tirelessly to keep us safe from harm. I acknowledge also their families, wives, husbands, partners and children. They sacrifice a lot to keep us safe. I know that members on both sides of the House extend their gratitude to those officers and their families for making that ultimate sacrifice.

## **SHOALHAVEN ELECTORATE PROJECTS**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government) (17:12):** Last week I had the great pleasure of welcoming the Premier to the South Coast electorate. She is a regular visitor to the region and over the past eight years since we were elected to government the Premier has announced a number of projects in the South Coast, Kiama and Bega. It was great to have her there last week. Since I was elected to this place in 2003 I have fought for a number of projects up and down the coast, into the coastal villages in the north and in the south, and in central Shoalhaven. There are great things happening on the South Coast. It is a beautiful part of the world and we are delivering great projects.

Last week the Premier came to look at the final stages of the new carpark at the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital, which was announced well before the election. It is an \$11.8 million carpark with five storeys

and two tiers. It is outstanding. Together with the member for Kiama, the Deputy Chair of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Jill Boehm, and the Executive Director of Health Infrastructure, Western Region, Bruno Zinghini, the Premier and I witnessed the final stages of the carpark topping out. During the election campaign we also announced \$434 million for the redevelopment of Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital. It is a beautiful hospital and we have done a great deal with it over the past eight years. Now we need a major expansion and we have a master plan on foot. We have some more consultation with stakeholders and then we will have a really beautiful redeveloped hospital. It is an incredible milestone and is testament to the strong work that the Government has put into Health in New South Wales: a number of hospitals throughout the State opened or under construction.

That day we had lunch; it was a bit of an indulgence, but I wanted to take the Premier to a place called Pelican Rocks Seafood Restaurant and Cafe at Greenwell Point. Pelican Rocks is owned by Mr Sam Cardow, who has about 30 staff working in the casual fish and chip restaurant. Three years in a row it was voted to have the best fish and chips in New South Wales, both by judges and by popular voting. In October it will be in contention to win best fish and chips in Australia, so we wish Sam well. We had a wonderful half an hour there with him.

The sense of community has always been strong on the South Coast because we have so many small communities. One of them is at Pyree, where the Pyree Hall—or Red Shed—is in need of refurbishment. The Premier visited many in the community there to talk about the funding that she was able to provide for a new fence. We are looking for a new kitchen and the committee discussed that with her. We have received two Premier's grants for that hall, and of course that means a great deal to a community like Pyree. It was great to meet committee members Adam Bowden, Malcolm Oke, Con Watts, Paul Anderson and Loraine Brown, who welcomed us with afternoon tea with very special cups and saucers—it only happens in the country—and a tour of the beautiful hall. On Saturday night I will be going to a function there for its 125th anniversary.

Our last stop was the Nowra East Community Garden, which is housed at the Nowra East Public School. It was a great way to end the day because I have been to that garden on many occasions—even seeing Costa from *Gardening Australia* come to talk to kids about growing plants and trees, and growing their own food. The Nowra East Community Garden Kitchen project was just a little short of finishing the kitchen, and the Premier announcing a further \$12,000 to finish the internals of that project. They were thrilled about that. The beautiful thing about the Nowra East Community Garden Kitchen is the fact that the kids will be growing food in the community garden and then learning to cook that food in the community kitchen, along with members of the community—including Aboriginal cooking programs as well. It is a remarkable achievement.

I congratulate Alex McNeilly on the enormous work he does on this project and others. He belongs to a not-for-profit organisation called All Sustainable Futures Inc. He also works outside the area. He is a success story and we are so pleased to have him on board. He has worked with schools, groups, organisations and residents to design, scope and consult. It was really inspiring to have the Premier in our little community kitchen when she visited last week. I thank Lisa Miller, also a director at All Sustainable Futures Inc; the wonderful principal of Nowra East Public School, Kristie Goldthorp; John Stovin-Bradford, the Nowra East Community Garden coordinator, who works tirelessly for that garden and for the kids at the school; Lynn Golding from the Nowra East P&C committee; and students Jemma Blackall, Kiara McPherson and Aisha McPherson for showing us around and doing a marvellous job displaying their leadership qualities at the school. I thank the Premier for visiting the South Coast electorate once again.

### MAITLAND ELECTORATE JOBS

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (17:17):** A few months ago I heard about plans by the Liberal-Nationals Government to move about 200 Maitland workers to a new government hub in Newcastle. The reports from members of my community were a cause of great concern for all of us. Stripping jobs out of Maitland CBD not only has the potential to uproot working families, but also to translate to a direct hit on our local economy. The news prompted me to seek information and clarification through a number of channels. I wrote to the Premier; the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade; the Minister for Finance and Small Business; the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces; the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and the Arts; and the Minister for Energy and Environment. In fact, the environment Minister was in the Chamber the last time I spoke about this matter, and after I spoke he undertook to have a meeting with me. I have since been informed through my office that the Minister does not have any time in his diary to meet with me. I do not know what the time frame is for that lack of time, but I assume it is "ever".

On 20 June this year I raised the issue with the Deputy Premier through a question on notice. I applied for information under the Government Information (Public Access) [GIPA] Act and I made a private member's statement, as I said. I joined with the Maitland Business Chamber in campaigning to keep these jobs, with a petition that I sent to everyone in my community. But none of this had any impact. There was a stony silence. No

confirmations, no denials; just diversions, avoidance, obfuscation and stony silence from the Government, the Premier and her Ministers, as usual. I think the Minister for Finance and Small Business might have got one of the parliamentary secretaries to write to me to say, "Everything's going to be alright, Jenny." Strangely enough, I did not find that reassuring, given the silence I was experiencing.

I found it particularly frustrating because a document I obtained through freedom of information laws revealed that in-depth and well-advanced plans to move Maitland staff to Newcastle had been underway in my community since the preliminary findings of the then Department of Industry's Hunter Accommodation Strategy in—which year? 2018? No. 2017? No. Way back in 2016 this Government started looking at how it was going to move workers out of my community. That document, which was a briefing for the Hon. Don Harwin—then Minister for Resources, Energy and Utilities, and Arts—was titled "Relocation of staff from Maitland to Newcastle". But none of the Ministers I approached knew anything about it when they were asked to give an answer on the record.

The options in that document were explored in some depth. They included all 340 staff in Minerals House, Maitland, remaining in the existing building; moving the Division of Resources and Geoscience to the Newcastle building, with the Resources Regulator division remaining in Maitland; and all Department of Planning and Environment staff—all 340—moving to Newcastle. Talk about centralisation; talk about stealing jobs from regional communities. The second option was preferred, but there was some concern that the Minister would want to take all the jobs. This plan proceeded to a ministerial briefing in late 2018 and was put on hold because of the State and Federal elections in quick succession. After the elections were done and dusted, of course, it all came back online. In May, Minerals House staff were briefed on their impending move to the new 12-storey, 6,000-square-metre building.

Modelling had been performed on metrics as diverse as the floor space allocation per person and the changes in expected employee commute times: All very detailed evidence that this Government wanted to move jobs out of regional New South Wales into a metropolitan location; compelling evidence that the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government did, indeed, have a plan to move Maitland jobs to Newcastle even after the Premier came here in question time, after the budget was handed down, and said:

... I assure every community in rural and regional New South Wales that their government jobs are protected ...

During budget estimates hearings last Friday, my upper House colleague the Hon. Mick Veitch was able to put my questions directly to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The secretary repeatedly denied that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment had any plans to move staff from Maitland. In fact, even people who were members of that committee did not speak up, even though their names are on emails that mentioned those plans going ahead. With this kind of obfuscation and avoidance, my community is not satisfied that the jobs will not be taken out in 2020 when the new building opens. I call on the Premier to keep her promise and guarantee those jobs.

### GRIFFITH EDUCATION

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (17:23):** Today I address the education crisis in my home town of Griffith and question why the education Minister and her bureaucrats are not only ignoring it, but also denying it exists. The New South Wales Department of Education website says some funny things. It states:

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve quality life outcomes.

Students at Griffith's only public high school would love to attend regular classes. Unfortunately, due to a chronic teacher shortage, they missed an extraordinary 767 lessons in the first five months of the year. Through no fault of their own, students have no teacher and no relief teacher, day in, day out. They assemble on the school lawn, where they learn nothing. They drift onto the streets, unsupervised, or go home. The Department of Education has not only neglected to fix the teacher shortage in Griffith, but has also actively tried to cover it up. Indeed, senior bureaucrats in this dysfunctional department are so adept at lying, bullying and incompetence that if they were school students they would have been expelled years ago.

Griffith's problems started with Adrian Piccoli, the former education Minister and the town's local member. You would think having a State education Minister living in your town would be good for your town's schools. Think again. During his 18-year reign of neglect he did nothing about chronic teacher shortages crippling Griffith schools. With student outcomes falling further and further behind those of Sydney during his tenure, he came up with a bizarre idea in his final year in office. He decided to merge the only two high schools in the town into a single school, which he dubbed the "super school".

Piccoli's underfunded and poorly planned super school has been a super disaster. While teachers are trying their best, a chronic shortage persists. But Adrian did not stick around to see it. Before his merger came into effect, he ditched Parliament for a plush job at the University of New South Wales and a fat lifetime pension.

A school's problems cannot simply be merged away. What Adrian should and could have done is address the reason for the persistent staff shortages. Griffith is the only town in the area where teachers are not offered incentives to teach at the school. Teachers in nearby towns such as Leeton and Darlington Point get thousands of dollars more to do the same job as Griffith teachers. As a result, nobody wants to come to Griffith.

Giving Griffith schools the same incentive point structure as Leeton would address the problem. It is something I have been fighting for since my election in March. Unfortunately, when I have raised this issue with the education Minister and the department they have covered things up. At first they tried to claim that only 150 classes were missed in term one. When their own data showed the true number was double that, they did not even apologise for their lie. Now they have commissioned a survey to evaluate Piccoli's school merger. Guess who is doing it? It is Piccoli's University of New South Wales, of course. No doubt the conclusion will be that everything is fabulous. But things are not fabulous for our children.

Indeed, a small group of year 11 and 12 students and their parents wanted to see me, their local member, to discuss the many problems at the school. The Department of Education then made the North Korean-style move of banning the students from meeting me outside school hours. Fortunately the students refused to be silenced by the bureaucrat bullies. This issue will not go away. More and more parents are withdrawing their kids from the merged school and sending them to private schools. Lynda Franks is one such parent and recently told me her reasons for doing so. "Murrumbidgee Regional High School is at a crisis point", she said, "The reality is the opportunities for our children in this community have been diminished by incompetence, lack of transparency and accountability to the on-ground outcomes ... I'm not waiting to see further poor results for our children." I am not waiting either. A postcode should not determine a child's life outcomes. It is time for the Minister and the Department of Education to admit to their failings and fix their mess for the sake of our kids.

#### WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:27):** It is my pleasure to update the House on my attendance on 6 September 2019 at Windsor Public School for its 150th anniversary. I congratulate the school community on this remarkable milestone. Sir Henry Parkes laid the foundation stone back in 1869, and on the 150th anniversary his great great grandson Ian Thom cut the cake. The cake was cut using the original trowel that was used when the foundation stone was laid by Sir Henry Parkes. What a wonderful moment in history to have this occur. Ian Thom is also the chair of the Henry Parkes Foundation. I acknowledge the member for Riverstone and Parliamentary Secretary for Education, who attended the event on behalf of the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell.

The celebration was one of great speeches, food and festivities. It was interesting to see a wonderful piece of the school's history on display, the original student punishment register. It listed details such as the name of the pupil, their age, the offence and how many canings they were to receive for their punishment. This was one of the numerous items of memorabilia cherished by the school and wider community. I commend Principal Mike Watson and his staff for continuing the great work of their predecessors in educating the children who attend the school. It was easy to see the passion the students had for their school and their desire to learn.

Windsor Public School provides a caring environment where students may achieve their full potential academically and socially. The sense of pride I witnessed among the staff and students during this celebration left me no in doubt about the commitment of the staff and students to achieving excellence in the academic field. Having met both current and former students of Windsor Public School, I can rest assured that the students passing through the school are having the correct discipline instilled within them through appropriate guidance—and these days without the cane. Many have passed through the gates of Windsor Public School to go on and become very productive members of our community.

The passion in the singing of the national anthem was reflective of the pride felt for one's community and country. A maypole dance performed by students in historical costumes gave a true reflection of what the playground would have been like 150 years ago. Celebrating this historical milestone among descendants, historical items, the national anthem, smoking ceremonies and patriotic Australian songs showed that while the years may pass the values held remain consistent. There was no doubting that the students' values were about achieving the best in academic and other respective fields, respecting the country and Indigenous culture and respecting their school and local community. Windsor Public School's motto is "Strive To Be Better". I pay tribute to the staff and students for abiding by this motto and encourage them, as well as all future staff and students who may pass through the school, to continue to live by this motto both within and outside their schooling. I congratulate all past and current students, staff and parents of Windsor Public School for a successful 150th anniversary and wish them all the very best in the years ahead.

### NSW FAIR TRADING PRODUCT SAFETY

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (17:31):** Today I will speak about bargain shops selling flammable toys and clothing to parents in my electorate and surrounding electorates. In recent Fair Trading NSW surveillance and raids on stores in Villawood, Cabramatta, Fairfield, Merrylands and Bankstown in July this year, Fair Trading officers seized toys, prams and children's nightwear that did not comply with mandatory safety standards. The Fair Trading NSW surveillance operation reportedly found that dangerous goods were being sold at 40 Sydney discount stores across the State. Toys seized in the operation failed the safety testing for a number of reasons, including the possibility that small parts could separate from toys during play or after reasonable wear and tear. Small parts can potentially cause suffocation and choking, which could be fatal.

While we all love a good bargain, these products threaten the very lives of young children and families in my community. Constituents in my electorate are already doing it tough and do not deserve to have the extra pressure of worrying about whether the clothes and toys they purchase for their kids are flammable. In recent years tougher regulations have been placed in our laws to prevent such items from being sold but, unfortunately, businesses are still importing these goods. In a recent article published by *The Sydney Morning Herald*, it was found that some items were deemed to be too flammable even to be classified under a flammable risk category, the lowest category. As noted by Commissioner for Fair Trading Rose Webb, it has become extremely rare for children to sustain burns whilst wearing pyjamas to bed. However, this situation has come under threat due to the irresponsibility of those businesses owners who import these non-conforming, dangerous goods and sell them in their respective shops.

For the sake of their children's safety, constituents in my electorate deserve to know which businesses are selling these dangerous goods. It is only a matter of time before a child is seriously injured or loses their life as a result of these goods being sold. This is a very serious issue and one that the Minister with responsibility for fair trading and consumer affairs must deal with immediately. The Minister needs to release the details about which businesses are selling these goods as well as the specific products that are deemed to be dangerous so that consumers and families can steer clear of them. It should be noted that businesses caught selling non-complying items could face fines of up to \$500,000 for individuals and up to \$10 million for companies. This is a matter of being transparent but it is also a matter of keeping our community safe. Until the Minister intervenes, more young lives are being put at risk.

### INNER WEST COUNCIL

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:34):** I do not usually engage in detail about local council matters but something has happened in the inner west that is too important to ignore. One would think a council with a clear majority of Greens, Australian Labor Party [ALP] and community Independents would have a progressive mayor who had a progressive vision and understood the value of our precious urban environments. Sadly, that is not the case. Community interests do not appear to be a high priority for those who hold the titles of mayor and deputy mayor on the Inner West Council.

A few weeks ago Labor and Liberal members of the Inner West Council supported a last-minute amendment to a tree policy without consultation or forewarning that would allow any owner, business or community member to remove any tree within three metres of any structure on their property. Because of our small backyards in the inner west, this policy would apply to nearly every tree on private land and would have a huge impact on our local community and on our urban canopy. Due to the huge community backlash, Labor councillors have now said that they might wind back this policy slightly. But even with their amendments, this policy is set to decimate the inner west urban tree canopy. Anger and condemnation has come from far and wide.

I have been working closely with my Greens colleague Jamie Parker, the member for Balmain, to ensure that we are engaging, connecting and activating concerned residents. They have now gathered 2,000 signatures on a petition. Even the Liberal Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has called out the Inner West Council on this policy. With the climate crisis unfolding before our eyes, the urban heat island effect will be one of our greatest challenges in years to come. Everyone living in the inner west knows how hot the nights can be during a heatwave. Trees are our greatest defence against the urban heat island effect. Earlier this year Inner West Council officers developed a new tree policy, which had a community approval rating of over 80 per cent. This policy was then gutted by sweeping last-minute amendments supported by members of the ALP, the Liberal Party and two Independent councillors. It read:

Council approval is not required to prune or remove trees within 3m of an existing dwelling or ancillary structure, which has been approved through a Development Application or Complying Development Certificate, within the same lot as the tree. The distance is to be measured from the face of the tree trunk closest to the dwelling or structure to the external wall or roof line of the dwelling or structure, the definition of which may include a garage, carport, studio, shed, workshop, swimming pool, spa or retaining walls with a height greater than 600mm.

To be clear, the changes moved at the recent Inner West Council meeting will permit the destruction of any tree within three metres of an existing dwelling or structure without council permission and no consultation required, allow developers to remove trees carte blanche on sites for developments and allow the removal of any trees that drop annoying leaves, flowers, sap, the odd branch or material classed as a weed. We understand the mayor of the Inner West Council is now trying to respond to the huge community backlash against this devastating tree policy by announcing he will seek to make some amendments.

How could the mayor not know his own community and not realise that there would be a massive backlash at the idea of a Liberal-supported dodgy deal with Labor that sees the destruction and devastation of our urban canopy in the inner west? You do not have to be a rocket scientist. You do not have to have been elected for five, 10 or 20 years to know that the community in the inner west would not like that. We know that valuing and protecting our environment is key. We know that listening to community consultation and supporting a policy that has 80 per cent community support should not be gutted at the last minute because of the mayor's arrogance or his commitment to some deal that sees him delivered as the mayor of the inner west. I am very pleased to say that The Greens councillors have moved a rescission motion for the upcoming council meeting. Let us hope the council will see sense and save our urban tree canopy in the inner west for current and future generations.

### GRACE'S PLACE

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (17:39):** The official sod-turning for Grace's Place, a state-of-the-art care facility in Doonside to be run by the Homicide Victims' Support Group, took place on Saturday 7 September 2019 in front of a crowd of hundreds of wellwishers and supporters. Grace's Place has been a project many years in the making and the sod-turning event represented the culmination of the hard work of the Grace's Place committee and management team as well as funding provided by the New South Wales Government and the Federal Government. Once construction is complete, Grace's Place will provide support and a safe place where children, teenagers and their families grieving from the death by homicide of someone they love can share experiences, receive counselling, be involved in programs and learn life skills on how to survive the trauma from the loss of their loved ones as best they can. I have been incredibly pleased to support and advocate for the Homicide Victims' Support Group, first, in my capacity as the local member for Seven Hills; and, secondly, in my capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Justice.

Over three decades ago Anita Cobby, a young nurse, had her life tragically stolen. Six years later Ebony Simpson, a nine-year-old schoolgirl, had her life tragically stolen. Two innocent people were lost for no reason at all. The parents of Anita Cobby and Ebony Simpson met and the Homicide Victims' Support Group was founded. They recognised the need for an organisation to assist the families and friends of homicide victims through counselling, support and the provision of information. Grace's Place in Doonside has been named after the late Grace Lynch, the mother of Anita Cobby and founder of the Homicide Victims' Support Group.

The group has successfully lobbied this House for legislative reform, has transformed the role of victim impact statements in the New South Wales sentencing system and has influenced the implementation of many other reforms. The formation of the Homicide Victims' Support Group achieved the goal of providing the support that grieving families and friends desperately require. In the past the families and friends of homicide victims expressed a feeling of powerlessness while dealing with their loss. To add to the sudden shock of grief, despair and sadness that comes with homicide, the powerlessness they felt compelled them to take action.

A few years ago the Homicide Victims' Support Group, with the support of Simon Bouda from Channel 9, started the annual Ride for Justice, a fundraising motorcycle ride starting at the Prospect Reservoir, where Anita Cobby was tragically taken from us. This year's ride will start at Bondi Beach and finish at the group's Ebony House at Waterfall. Last year's ride raised \$25,000, which directly contributed to building Grace's Place. This year's ride will take place on Sunday 20 October 2019. I encourage all members to go to the Grace's Place website for further details on how to get involved. Later this year the group will host its annual Anita Cobby Charity Fundraising Dinner on Saturday 23 November at the Blacktown Workers Club. Once again, all funds will go towards the building and the operation of Grace's Place.

The support networks that the group fosters are outstanding. Regular meetings are held in various locations around New South Wales to assist the families and friends of homicide victims to deal with their grief. These networks can be tailored to best suit those who need them. There are specific groups for children, women and men, who all deal with grief differently. I especially mention the executive director, Martha Jabour, OAM, the patrons and ambassadors, Simon Bouda, and retired detective chief inspector Gary Raymond, APM, OAM, as well as the entire management team.

Grace's Place will provide support in a safe place where children, teenagers and their families can grieve the death by homicide of someone they love. They can share experiences, receive counselling, be involved in programs and learn life skills on how to attempt to survive the trauma of the loss of a loved one. I am very proud

to have supported Grace's Place in its journey so far. I very much look forward to seeing the vision of the Homicide Victims' Support Group become a reality in the months and years to come. I am aware that a number of members also strongly support those outcomes. I congratulate them, I congratulate the group and I wish them all the very best.

### **RIVERINA ON DEMAND BUS SERVICE**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (17:43):** The On Demand bus service funded by the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government provides a solution to longstanding problems for people who live in rural areas within the Albury electorate. The services are operated in collaboration with Transport for NSW under the Rural and Regional On Demand Transport pilot program, which is providing innovative new services that deliver a range of travel opportunities and enhanced mobility for residents of regional communities. The services link the major centre of Albury with Jindera, Burrumbuttock, Walla Walla, Holbrook and on to Wagga Wagga. The implementation of these services shows how nimble and flexible the New South Wales Government is in responding to community needs. When the direct service between Wagga Wagga and Albury did not succeed as hoped, we listened to the feedback and found another solution.

Bookings can be made from two hours prior up to one month in advance. The costs are very modest and mean that residents who cannot drive no longer have to rely on expensive taxis to get around. This is a way in which the Government is helping regional residents achieve equity with their city cousins. The two locals who have made this possible are Matt Kane and Allan Ofak. These two men are the owners of Regional Buses and are passionate about providing opportunities for people in the bush. I commend them for the excellent work they do.

Many families have benefited from the excellent service provided by Regional Buses. Ross Beale, father of Leevi, works at the Wodonga meatworks. Leevi is a student at Kandeer School, a school that implements quality education programs for students with backgrounds in complex trauma and other health and learning needs. Before the On Demand bus service commenced, Ross and Leevi would leave home at 4.30 a.m. so that Ross could get to work. Leevi would then sleep in the car until 8.00 a.m., when the workers have their smoko. Ross would use this time to drive Leevi to school. At 12.00 p.m. Ross would finish up at work and then drive to the school and sleep until 2.30 p.m. before taking Leevi home. Now that the service is in place and is door to door, Ross has complete confidence in the service. Leevi is picked up at 7.30 a.m. and then taken on a round trip with other customers before being dropped at school by 8.30 a.m.

Another heartwarming story is of an elderly couple from Jindera, Bob and Mary Allen, who used to be able to get to Albury only once a month because taxis were too expensive at \$140 a round trip. Due to the innovative new service delivered by the On Demand team from Transport for NSW and Regional Buses this couple now have their life back. They can go to town to see a movie and socialise with friends because they have more money, given that the total cost for travel is only \$2.50 per day. What a great win this service is for people in regional and remote areas.

The On Demand service is so effective that it not only saves people money but also contributes to better mental health and productivity for farmers. In the past farmers who needed to have machinery such as trucks repaired or serviced would have to travel into Albury and wait around all day whilst their vehicle was being fixed. Using the On Demand bus service, they can now deliver the vehicle for repairs and then catch a bus home, meaning that they can still work on the farm, thus increasing productivity and ensuring that they do not suffer stress as a result of missing out on work.

On 2 July I met the bus as it arrived in Lavington to drop off a load of passengers. It was then my pleasure to ride in the bus to see firsthand how the service works. To say that I was impressed is an understatement. It is truly a great service being delivered by Matt and Allan. The media story that arose out of this resulted in some great press for the service. In fact, Matt told me that staff from the Albury train station called the very next day to lend their support for the service through extensive promotion at the station. I understand that people are now using the service to get to the airport, train station, entertainment venues and restaurants as well as to go shopping.

This is a great example of the hub-and-spoke model in action and demonstrates that bold and innovative policies are working for regional New South Wales. This wonderful service is truly breaking down the tyrannies of distance that are often experienced by rural and remote folk. I commend Transport for NSW and Regional Buses for the initiative and the dedication they have demonstrated in implementing this program. I also commend the New South Wales Government for funding it.

### **WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (17:48):** I have been around this political game since 2006 and was elected in 2007. For that period—including the four years when I was in the wilderness and back teaching—I continued to fight along with my community against the Wallarah 2 coalmine. In 2010 the then Keneally

Government knocked back the mine using the precautionary principle. My community was convinced at the time that the newly elected O'Farrell Government had made an ironclad commitment to not let the mine go ahead. Our community is not against coalmines. At that time a brand-new coalmine just north at Mandalong had no protests—none at all—from the community. We understand that mines provide jobs, which is important. However, people who live in the area also understand the uniqueness of the water catchment and the proposed Wallarah 2 mine is located right underneath a very important part of the catchment.

The proposal went through a so-called independent process, which took a number of years, but the whole time our community thought there was political interference. I cannot disagree. We know through ICAC that certain people who were Ministers at the time travelled to South Korea and met with the government and government lobbyists. We actually lost a Premier over an expensive bottle of Penfolds wine. Tracking all the people involved, my community has a firm belief that there was a strong whiff of mischief in some of the negotiations that occurred behind the scenes. This mine was suddenly getting a very fast run. People are very sceptical about the whole process.

The calls and emails have not stopped since yesterday when it became known that the Bylong mine had been knocked back, and for good reason. However, it has been a kick in the guts for my community because the reasons given by the Independent Planning Commission for knocking back that mine are comparable to the issues that were raised in relation to the Wallarah 2 mine, such as how long it will take the aquifers to recharge, the long-term impacts and climate change. All those matters were rejected in relation to the Wallarah 2 mine. Not only that, in order to approve the Wallarah 2 mine project the State Government, together with the Federal Liberal Government, attached 132 conditions to it. You cannot tell me that the Wallarah 2 mine was not given a ride through the process. The mining company basically said, "We agree water will disappear so we will put some of it back again", and it came up with the magical figure of some 300 megalitres, which was drawn from nowhere.

One of the most eminent people to work in the mining industry, Professor Philip Pells, told the Independent Planning Commission that there were no baseline figures. That work has not been done by the company; the company has not done the necessary work. Yet the Government is giving it a tick by attaching conditions. The reasons given in the decision to say no to the Bylong mine are the same reasons that were given to say yes to the Wallarah 2 mine. We will be prosecuting this through the media and other places over the coming weeks. My community is asking: How is this an independent process? How has there not been political interference? Why has the same set of rules not been applied in an independent process that looks at each proposition on its merits?

When we look at the issues raised in the report and which resulted in saying no to the Bylong mine, they are exactly the same issues that were raised in the report on Wallarah 2. In the case of Wallarah 2, it was determined to be okay but in the case of Bylong it was not. I am thankful that the Bylong community has dodged a bullet. However, the decision on Bylong raises important questions about the politicisation by the Government of an approval process, going right back to what I mentioned about ICAC and all those characters who are not here anymore. Members can read the record and the Operation Spicer report to understand why my community thinks it has been ripped off. Our community will suffer the consequences of these bad political decisions.

### LINK HOUSING

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (17:54):** Link Housing is one of the oldest not-for-profit community housing providers in New South Wales. Formed in 1984 it manages around 4,000 homes, providing safe and affordable housing to thousands in need. Its vision is to enhance lives through community housing. It is a wonderful corporate citizen on the northern beaches and I pay special tribute to its CEO, Andrew McAnulty. In 2017 Link Housing launched "Home Sweet", a fundraiser to address the growing issue of youth homelessness in Sydney and on the Northern Beaches. The fundraising sleepover event raised \$120,000 for The Burdekin Association, which provides housing, support and hope to homeless youth.

This year Link Housing hopes to raise even more funds to support not only youth in the Northern Beaches, but also women escaping domestic violence and others in the community who are at risk of homelessness. Hidden homelessness is an insidious and destructive problem. Whether on the streets, in their cars, on couches or on trains, an increasing number of people in our community are sleeping rough or are at risk of homelessness, and some are more vulnerable than others. A significant proportion of women accessing homelessness services do so because they are fleeing family violence. On any given night in Australia nearly 30,000 young people aged between 12 and 24 years are homeless, and that is obviously not by choice.

Education can break the cycle of disadvantage and provide lifelong opportunities. Yet those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness can miss out due to poverty and financial strain, lack of stability of a permanent home and lack of support to stay in education. These are problems that can be solved. With specialist services and support, these vulnerable members of our community can move out of a life of housing stress or



homelessness and realise a life of opportunity. People can donate funds, support a "sleepee" or sleep over at Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club tomorrow night, 20 September 2019.

The beneficiaries of the sleep-out this year include the Women's Community Shelters. Women's Community Shelters work with communities to establish new shelters. These shelters provide short-term emergency accommodation and support in a safe environment that enables homeless women and those escaping domestic violence to rebuild self-esteem and achieve control and fulfilment. Another beneficiary of the sleep-out this year will be The Burdekin Association. Burdekin works to ensure that all young people are supported and have the opportunities to lead a full life. Link Housing and Burdekin have been working together for over 25 years. In the past five years nearly 90 per cent of Burdekin tenants have moved to independent accommodation or back to a safe family home. The third and final beneficiary is the Link Housing scholarship program. Funds from Home Sweet 2019 will be used to expand Link Housing's scholarship program. The program provides financial assistance to residents for education, training, social activities, arts, crafts and sports activity, all of which help support the potential of its tenants.

None of this would be possible without the support of wonderful corporate supporters. Some of these organisations are global in scale, but the real and positive impact they will have at a local level by supporting this event is truly appreciated. I specifically thank those organisations, including: Aqualand Australia, Pitcher Partners, Community Sector Banking, JLL, Grosvenor Performance Group, Trio Property Group, AON Insurance, Thomson Geer Lawyers, Custance Associates, SR Construction, Maintrade, The Generous & The Grateful, Bendigo Bank and Extendahome. I extend my sincerest thanks to the team at Link Housing and the corporate supporters of Home Sweet 2019. Their efforts are recognised. As the member for Manly, I am incredibly grateful to them for their support of this outstanding event.

### HOMELESSNESS

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:58):** I speak about the need for greater support for those people who have been homeless for some time and continue to have complex health and welfare needs when they are allocated temporary accommodation or social housing. I welcome news that outreach services like the Department of Communities and Justice Homelessness Outreach Support Team, or DCJ HOST, are successfully housing more people who have been sleeping rough, as seen in data from the August 2019 City of Sydney Street Count that found fewer people sleeping rough than previous years. I commend the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services for these positive outcomes and for taking part in the Street Count and Outreach events personally.

The latest Street Count found nearly 600 people in crisis, emergency or temporary accommodation in the inner city, with services at almost 100 per cent occupancy. This shows we need more permanent, low-cost accommodation for people to move on to if we want to reduce rough sleeping over the long term. There is strong evidence for Housing First approaches that connect people who are homeless with permanent housing swiftly with appropriate tailored services and supports. Studies show these approaches are cost effective and create stronger outcomes, reducing demand and costs for hospitals, emergency services and prisons.

Furthermore, many of those newly housed people who have complex needs require practical support to learn about making a home, being a tenant and being a good neighbour. Years of sleeping rough and their illnesses have left them without the skills or capacity to do basic but important tasks like cook meals, pay bills, shop, and clean and wash clothes. My experience on the SBS program *Filthy, Rich and Homeless* showed me you cannot even think about those things when you are on the street because your focus must be on finding food, drink, a toilet and a safe place to sleep. An increasing number of constituents are reporting new neighbours in social housing or boarding houses who have serious mental health, substance use and trauma conditions that impact on their capacity to live independently. I hear regularly of new residents who cannot prevent their homes being taken over by others, who struggle with active mental illness, or face serious isolation, having lost their social networks on the street.

Neighbours are reporting violence, threatening and antisocial behaviour. Distressed neighbours, worried about their family's safety and their new neighbour's wellbeing, are repeatedly calling upon police, DCJ housing or councils—or occasionally, indeed, my office—and the limited services available to respond to crisis, but there seems to be little ongoing help. Sadly, most support is only available when there is a crisis and it then falls away, leaving people too early, before they have the stability, skills and capacity to live independently. These tenants face high risk of eviction or abandoning their tenancy when things get too hard and it may seem easier to return to the street. The result is a repeated cycle of street, prison or hospital.

We should provide more enduring health and welfare support for people with serious and chronic conditions aimed at building their capacity to live independently, gradually reducing support over time. There is substantial research and evidence consistently showing both cost savings created through supportive housing and

its effectiveness in ending homelessness for those with the most complex needs and significant challenges. I understand that the DCJ HOST team organises household goods and caseworker support for those who need it for six months, and this is a great start for these new tenants to get back on their feet. However, some people will need ongoing support over a much longer period or may need supported housing permanently.

The Camperdown Project, which provides a safe environment with onsite support for people with persistent and serious health and welfare needs, has proven a great success. Tenants with chronic complex needs are maintaining their tenancies and learning to live and function in their new living situation. We need more housing that adopts this model with ongoing caseworker support to prevent the crises that put people with complex needs back in strife and on the street. I ask the Government to commit these extra resources to make the goal of reducing rough sleeping achievable and break the homelessness cycle for those with complex needs.

### NSW FAIR TRADING PRODUCT SAFETY

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (18:02):** Product safety is incredibly important and time and again we hear about declining standards in so many areas—from what is the biggest investment most people make, their homes, and apartment blocks costing millions in rectification works, to declining standards in vocational education making it harder to compete for jobs because employers are really sceptical about the quality of training, to the sale of dangerous goods that should never make it onto shop shelves or online stores. Time and again, the Government is left floundering because protecting consumers and fixing these problems is at odds with its ideological obsession of removing regulation, even if that regulation provides certainty and quality or even if it could save lives.

Last month the Commissioner for Fair Trading issued a media release that stated 40 discount stores across western Sydney, including at Merrylands in my electorate, had been raided by Fair Trading inspectors. They were found to be selling highly flammable children's pyjamas, toys that are a choking hazard and dangerous prams. The stores have been instructed to remove the items from sale and members of the public have been encouraged to return the dangerous goods for a refund. The only problem is that neither the Commissioner for Fair Trading nor the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation will say exactly what the products were or which shops sold them, which is as near as things can get to being totally useless.

The stores are across western Sydney in Merrylands, Fairfield, Cabramatta, Villawood and Bankstown, and possibly other locations. These are low-income communities with a large population of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Needless to say, people in these communities are unlikely to be aware of what to look out for when shopping for prams, toys or pyjamas for their children to make sure they will not be injured or killed—unless the Government tells them by communicating that information widely and in a way that is readily understood. The media release directed people to find more information on the Fair Trading website, with a link that went nowhere near product safety information. Even when I delved into the website, I only found detailed and complicated references to the Australian standards and the department's guidelines.

There were no useful pictures or any easy-to-understand information. Also, that part of the website does not appear to be accessible in any language other than English. I wrote to the Minister and the commissioner and requested this information—I do not want my constituents' children to choke on their toys or catch alight sitting near the heater on cold nights. Neither the Minister nor the commissioner replied. Two weeks ago in budget estimates they were both questioned again, and again their answers were vague and of very little use to anyone. Since then, the Minister has maintained his refusal to tell consumers which shops sold the faulty goods. The only clarification he has made is to finally state that if pyjamas do not have a fire hazard label on them, they should be returned for a refund. He said nothing about the toys or prams, but it is by far the most useful and readily comprehensible advice that he or the commissioner has provided over the course of the past month, so it was an improvement.

Previous New South Wales governments issued photos of faulty goods, circulated information widely and identified shops where such goods had been sold, as do governments in other jurisdictions. But in New South Wales in 2019 consumer protection is little more than caveat emptor—buyer beware. Do not get me wrong, I fully support Fair Trading inspectors doing their job and monitoring stores for faulty goods, real estate agents for underquoting and the like. However, unless they share the outcomes of their inquiries with the wider community they are next to useless. Consumers do not have perfect knowledge. There is a role for ongoing engagement, education and notification, especially in places like western Sydney with thousands of newly arrived migrants. It is not enough to sporadically meet community leaders and tell them what Fair Trading does.

It is not enough to fill the Fair Trading website with jargon and make it hard to navigate while hoping that consumers will persist and then establish for themselves whether goods are safe. When incidents like this occur, the community deserves to be notified effectively. It is a matter of public safety and of children's safety. Widespread media notification should have been sent to ethnic media, including print, radio, TV and metropolitan

and local papers, with pictures of the dangerous goods so that parents could easily identify and return them for a refund. The Government should also have included a list of the stores that had sold these goods to help remind consumers where they may have bought these dangerous goods months ago.

If this sounds far-fetched, I will explain using an example. On the afternoon that the Commissioner for Fair Trading issued her media release, a taxidriver called Mohammed came to my office about another problem and it occurred to me that there is no way he would be aware of—let alone comprehend and follow—Fair Trading's opaque and low-profile advice. Mohammed is originally from Somalia and he has six children. He and his wife are struggling financially—they are exactly the sorts of people who would buy their kids' pyjamas, toys and prams in a \$2 shop in Merrylands or Fairfield. If we want people like Mohammed and his wife to know about the potentially flammable pyjamas that their kids might be wearing or the choke hazards presented by their toys, we need to get that message to them. The best way to do that is by using multiple media outlets and images of the dodgy goods and the stores that sold them. Anything less than this is dangerous. We can do better. Consumers deserve better protection.

### TERRIGAL ELECTORATE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUBS

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:08):** Tonight I will speak on a topic that I have probably spoken about in this place more than any other—surf lifesaving. The Central Coast region is absolutely blessed to be bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the east. In my own electorate, we have seven surf lifesaving clubs: Wamberal, Terrigal, North Avoca, Avoca Beach, Copacabana, Macmasters Beach and Killcare. One of my proudest achievements over the past 4½ years has been to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the work of these surf life saving clubs. As well as keeping people safe at the beach, they are also social hubs for our community. The membership of each club is in the hundreds or thousands, which goes to show the significant effect they can have on our local community.

Tonight I am speaking about surf lifesaving because I want to highlight the achievements of our local clubs at the recent Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence. The event was held on 30 August at Dockside at Cockle Bay Wharf and I was delighted to attend the event with my wife, Jill. I was also absolutely delighted by the fact that a number of our locals were recognised at this awards night. We all know that Central Coast lifesavers are the best in New South Wales, and that night confirmed it. I also highlight that the member for Manly was there, representing the Minister that evening. Paul Lemmon is a long-serving member of Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club. He was awarded Masters Athlete of the Year. He has won this award for so many consecutive years that I have lost count, but I believe this was his eleventh time in a row. That is an absolute tribute to Paul Lemmon. He is an absolute legend in the surf lifesaving world, especially at the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club. What is more, he is an all-round top bloke.

The Club of the Year was Umina Surf Life Saving Club. I am told that although members of the Umina club expected to win some awards, they never expected to take home the coveted Club of the Year award. I congratulate the entire club on its phenomenal achievement. The last achievement I want to highlight is the Lifesaver of the Year Award. Matt Slattery won this award. He is the president of North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club in my electorate, and ought to be commended on being recognised in this way. It is phenomenal that three awards can be received by a single region—our Central Coast—all in the space of one year. Behind each successful surf life saving club on the Central Coast is the branch organisation itself, Surf Life Saving Central Coast. I have spoken about the former CEO of the branch, Chris Parker, many times in this place. Narelle Duggan is the new CEO and her name will definitely make a great number of appearances in *Hansard* over this next term of government.

Last week the New South Wales Government handed over a number of new support operations, such as cars and jet skis. There was one for each branch. That means one new car and one new jet ski for the Central Coast region. This is a significant and timely boost in advance of the upcoming season. The new equipment that has been unveiled forms part of a \$16 million funding package for Surf Life Saving NSW. The package will enhance its capability and support our volunteers for years to come. I thank the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, my good friend David Elliott, for recognising the contribution that surf lifesavers make to protecting and saving lives along our coastline.

There have been no drowning deaths on patrolled beaches on the Central Coast for the past four years. That is an absolute tribute to the surf lifesaving volunteers who put in almost 100,000 volunteer hours every year to keep our beaches safe. Their expertise and professionalism is clearly shown by that outstanding result of no drowning deaths on patrolled beaches. I acknowledge two local lifesavers who have recently received recognition awards: Matt Calbert from Umina Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club was awarded 2019 Young Volunteer of the Year, and Cathy Cole from Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club was awarded 2019 Adult Volunteer of the Year.

I know Cathy very well due to her work in recognising the surf lifesaving ladies who served our local area during World War II. Both of those awards were presented at a Centre for Volunteering awards ceremony a week ago on 12 September. I conclude by thanking in advance the thousands of surf lifesavers on the Central Coast who will contribute almost 100,000 hours of volunteer time to keep our beaches safe not only for local Central Coast residents but also for the hundreds of thousands of people who will visit the Central Coast over the summer season. Without their professionalism, dedication and passion, those people could very easily be at risk. I again acknowledge all the great volunteer work and the thousands of hours that people of all age groups will put in, sacrificing their time and effort this summer season to keep our beaches as safe as humanly possible.

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **COFFS HARBOUR POLICE**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (18:13):** The Coffs Coast is a major regional hub for migrant and refugee settlement and our community will always welcome people from diverse backgrounds. Many newcomers now have a better understanding of justice support services thanks to a Multicultural Open Day at the Coffs Harbour police station held on 11 September. Some of our new residents come from war-torn nations where an encounter with the police can result in an unjust outcome, but that is certainly not the case in New South Wales where our police do a great job helping to keep our community safe. The open day gave our new residents an overview of local policing, a tour of the Coffs Harbour Court House, and help navigating the justice system.

I thank Coffs-Clarence Police District Commander Superintendent Steve Clarke, Chief Inspector Peter Hayes, Senior Constable Daniel Dunn, Senior Constable Jo Brooker, Senior Constable Jane Shaw, Senior Constable Vicky Bamford, Rima Elhage from Performance and Program Support, Vigeeta Chauhan and Lisa Steward from Settlement Services International, Rachel Richardson from North Coast Settlement Service and Brodie Cowling from St John Ambulance.

#### **JOPUKA PRODUCTIONS**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (18:14):** The Central Coast Leading Arts Company Jopuka Productions Inc. began in 2016, finding its new home in 2018 in the Tuggerah Business Park launching the company into its 2019 season. The company was established specifically to provide performing arts training and development to emerging artists between the ages of 16 to 30 from all across the Central Coast. Jopuka provides a space for the young talented performers creating their own pathways into the arts industry. I met with the wonderfully talented cast from *Brutal*, the latest play from Jopuka Productions. The production is based on *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare with a modern Aboriginal theme based on deaths in custody. The fantastic cast included Josef John, Alex Rowe, Jissel Toomey, Marlee Carter, Hannah Duggan, Jordan Snook, Aroha Pehi, Katina Johnston and Declan Dowling. The production is created by graduates Neville William Boney and Amy Flannery from the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association. I congratulate the cast, graduates and director on an amazing production.

#### **SEVEN HILLS ELECTORATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (18:15):** The Seven Hills electorate has over 20 public schools that take part in the Public Schools Sports Association [PSSA]. Recently the winter PSSA competitions produced wins for students right across the Seven Hills electorate. The mighty Toongabbie Public School claimed first place in the junior girls soccer and second place in senior girls and junior boys soccer, so well done to Toongabbie Public School. Metella Road Public School claimed first in senior tag rugby league and senior mixed netball. It also came second in junior girls soccer. I congratulate all those students. Westmead Public School senior boys soccer team came second in the competition. I say well done to all those great students at Westmead Public School. I congratulate Toongabbie West Public School too on winning second place in senior mixed netball. Sport is an important part of a healthy lifestyle and it is great to see so many kids in our local public schools taking part in representative sports.

#### **SHELLHARBOUR WINTER TOY DRIVE**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:16):** I commend and thank every single resident who participated in my inaugural winter toy drive. I received so many wonderful toy donations and I know it will make such a huge difference to the lives of so many local children. The toy drive ran for four weeks with the purpose of collecting toys to be distributed amongst special education and early intervention units throughout the Shellharbour electorate. A call was put out encouraging the local community to donate toys that would be suitable for children with autism spectrum disorder. Hundreds of toys were donated by local residents, with the Oak Flats Lions Club generously donating \$500 worth of toys to the drive. It has been truly inspiring to witness the kindness of our local community. I thank Margaret Biggs and the Disability Trust for partnering with me on the toy drive. I trust that every donation will be deeply cherished and benefit the children of the Shellharbour electorate.

### ERINA HIGH SCHOOL

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:17):** It is finals time for many sports codes and today I congratulate the Oz Tag teams from Erina High School on adding some new silverware to their cabinet. The year 9 and 10 girls team and the opens team recently competed in the New South Wales Champions of Champions Tournament. It was a two-day competition and consisted of multiple games. The opens team recorded wins against Liverpool, Randwick, Beverly Hills and Glenwood, a quarter final win over Belmont and a semifinal win over Kirrawee. This put them into a final against Woollooware, which was a 3-3 tied match and was then won by Woollooware in a final drop-off. I congratulate the team on reaching this level. The year 9 and 10 side also performed spectacularly. They remained undefeated right to the end. They won against teams from Caroline Chisholm, Matraville, McCarthy, Hunter Sports and Oxley. They dominated the finals against Brigidine, Glenwood and St Marys to take out the State championship. I congratulate all players for representing Erina High so well.

### BONDI WAVE PROGRAM

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (18:18):** Today I inform the Parliament of the fantastic musical contributions made to the eastern suburbs community by those who participated in the Bondi WAVE Program this year. The Bondi WAVE Program is a songwriting program aimed at primary and early high school students. The program teaches students how to write and play original songs from music industry experts including Lindy Morrison, OAM, from the Go-Betweens and Jim Elliot from The Cruel Sea. Participants also get to take away a professional recording of the music that they make. I had the pleasure of attending the Bondi WAVE Showcase Concert and listening to the remarkable music created by students from across the eastern suburbs. All of those students should be so proud of the music they were able to create. I know for sure that this will not be the last time I hear from some of these incredibly talented students. I imagine next time it will be on the radio.

### KAKADU ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:19):** It gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of the House the outstanding effort of 16 wonderful women of the electorate of Manly who participated in the Good Will Hunting Co. 2019 Kakadu Adventure, which is both a physical and fundraising challenge that sees them trekking through one of Australia's most iconic national parks—Kakadu. Importantly, they smashed their fundraising target, which was \$15,000. They raised \$20,823, of which \$10,000 will go to Community Northern Beaches and \$5,000 will go to Starwin, the youth girls leadership program in Darwin. I am grateful that they have returned back to my electorate office in one piece.

### DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT JASON WEINSTEIN

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (18:20):** Recently I had the pleasure of spending some time with the Fairfield Police Area Command new area commander, Detective Superintendent Jason Weinstein, in the heart of Cabramatta CBD. Touring Cabramatta brought back many memories for Jason of the early days of his 24-year career. Prior to taking on his current role as Fairfield Police Area Commander, he was stationed at Fairfield and Cabramatta local area commands before then moving up and working in organised crime squads across the State. Times have indeed changed within the Cabramatta community compared with what it was back in the 1990s, and Jason and I had the pleasure of sharing these memories. Being a police officer is one of the toughest jobs out there, but the brave men and women serve to protect everyone in the community. I might be biased when I say this, but I believe we have the best officers in all of New South Wales stationed at Fairfield Police Area Command. I wish Jason all the best in the many years to come as he leads Fairfield Police Area Command towards creating a much safer and diverse community.

### COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AND ROBERTSON MEN'S SHED

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (18:21):** The community of Robertson is well supported with the collective hard work of the Community Technology Centre and the Robertson Men's Shed. These two organisations are working together to provide a large variety of services to the local community, including mental health awareness, information technology classes for seniors, internet and printing services to both individuals and businesses and even showcasing local artistry. Recently I met with Jenny Kena, John Kennis, Jenette and Karen to hear firsthand their plans for the future and I commend the hard work of all involved. This would not be the great success it has been over the past 15 years without the hard work of all staff and volunteers. I was particularly pleased during my recent visit to hear they have plans to include a women's shed. I wish them every success in their future endeavours. This is a fantastic example of community organisations working together for the benefit of the wider community.

**JANICE ANDERSON**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (18:22):** This evening I recognise one of our fantastic nurses at Narrabri. On 3 October local Narrabri nurse Janice Anderson will celebrate 50 years of service at Narrabri Hospital. Janice commenced her nursing post at Narrabri in 1969 at the age of 15, although she was not officially recorded as a nurse at the hospital until she turned 16. Janice studied to become a mothercraft nurse, dealing with mothers and babies and receiving an award for her studies in this field. She is also a qualified emergency room nurse. Janice has seen many changes to the nursing profession over the past five decades, including relocation to a new hospital built in 2012. Janice still works full time and has no plans to retire any time soon. I thank Janice for dedicating her life to the service of others.

**WALK TOWARDS HOPE**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:23):** On 7 September I was proud to join with a record number of Dubbo residents to take part in the Walk Towards Hope. The event is organised by the National Association for Loss and Grief [NALAG] and involves a walk across the LH Ford Bridge in Dubbo, followed by a special remembrance ceremony at Lions Park. NALAG does wonderful work in the area of mental health and coping with grief, particularly for people who need some assistance after losing a loved one. The recent walk was the eleventh event of its kind and attracted a big roll-up from locals, which was great to see.

At a time when there is such an emphasis on mental health in our communities, having an organisation like NALAG to look after those left behind is vital. While there is always more that can be done—we know it is a difficult topic to discuss—we are seeing some great work in the area of suicide prevention and awareness. But a forgotten group are the friends and family left to answer the questions and pick up the pieces when someone takes their own life. The Walk Towards Hope brings people together and provides an avenue for people to talk—and we know that is the first step towards helping people deal with their issues. I congratulate the organisers and everyone who attended.

**MATTHEW CALBERT**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:24):** Matthew Calbert, who is a young community-oriented local, has been recognised for his service as a surf lifesaver at the Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club by the Centre for Volunteering. Matthew has been named the 2019 Central Coast Young Volunteer of the Year. I take this opportunity to thank Matt for his commitment to the peninsula community and for his selflessness over the past years. Matthew is a regular fixture at the Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club and provides hundreds of hours of service to keep people safe when they are out and about enjoying Ocean Beach. In addition to his surf lifesaving, Matthew has also joined the NSW State Emergency Service and will be assisting our community again during times of crisis or natural disaster this summer. Matt is only 22 years old and already has demonstrated his love for his local community and his dedication to making it an even better place. The future looks bright for Matthew and I look forward to following his work over the coming years. Well done, Matthew!

**MIRANDA KINDERGARTEN**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (18:25):** I acknowledge the wonderful team at the Miranda Kindergarten who I visited recently to celebrate Early Learning Matters Week. Led by President Laura Barry and nominated supervisor Jenny Hind, the team provides a beautiful and safe environment where children are valued and encouraged to engage in quality learning experiences. I am delighted that the Miranda Kindergarten has been successful in its application for \$8,930 through the NSW Government's Quality Learning Environments program.

Through this grant, the Miranda Kindergarten will further enhance its outdoor learning environment with timber climbing and balancing equipment, which will expand upon the welcoming and exciting playground that its students love to enjoy. I commend the entire team at the Miranda Kindergarten for their dedication to early learning including teachers Jill Peters, Liz Amor, Teresa Borgese, Marnie Smith, Lisa Tibbey and Linda French, and educators Tracey Baker, Danielle Baldwin, Vera Diacoumis, Belinda Daly, Alicia Isaac, Kendall Frearson, Brandon Hughes, Christine Rendell, Melinda Seddon, Cassie Thanasoulis, Elinor Stanic, Helen Smith, and the administration manager, Kelly Awad.

**DANI CAMPBELL**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:26):** I bring to the attention of the House Mr Dani Campbell, who is a Kanahooka resident, and I would like to spotlight his incredible contribution to skateboarding. The 21-year-old young talent spends hours and hours training, which earned him the national title of Australian Skateboarding Champion earlier this year. This fantastic achievement only fuelled his fire to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Following an impressive community fundraising campaign, Mr Campbell now has his

chance, travelling to Los Angeles in late July to compete against the world's best. Good luck, Dani! Win or lose, Shellharbour is extremely proud of you.

#### **HORNSBY HEIGHTS NETBALL CLUB**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (18:27):** Today I mention the amazing netball club, Hornsby Heights, who have had a fantastic 2019 season. With eight teams making the grand final they came away with four premierships. The senior C1, B1 and A3 teams all took out a win while the 11Bs also took out the title. While the 10As missed out on grand final glory by just one point, they were joined by the 11Cs, Cadet 3 and B1 teams who were also runners-up on the day. It certainly was another amazing season for an amazing club. The club was also proud to see Ku-ring-gai Netball Association name Isobel Thomson runner-up for the Most Improved Junior Umpire. Congratulations, Isobel. I also thank the amazing committee: Nicole Sykes, Roslyn Roots, Jennie Thomson, Eloise Burrows, Tom McKenzie, Liz Bromley, Kate Pecar, Katrina Wrightson, Chemane Huon, Lisa Barnes, Linda Lazenby, Nicole Carr, Catronia Dryza, and Peta Stewart for their hard work and dedication to the club and congratulations on an amazing 2019 season.

#### **WAVERLEY COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (18:28):** I recognise and appreciate the hard work of the Waverley Community Men's Shed. The Waverley Community Men's Shed is located at the War Memorial Hospital and is part of the Australian Men's Shed Association, which is a community-based organisation whose primary activity is the provision of a safe, friendly, and healing environment. Members are able to work on meaningful projects at their own pace, in their own time, and in the company of others. The organisation's key focus is to advance the wellbeing and health of its members and to encourage social inclusion. The Men's Shed movement has now become one of the most powerful tools in addressing men's health and wellbeing. I recognise and thank those involved with the Waverley Community Men's Shed for the role that they play in providing such a positive environment for the men of the eastern suburbs.

#### **R U OK? DAY**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (18:29):** The R U OK? movement is a powerful advocate for raising awareness around mental health and suicide prevention. I am proud the Coffs Coast has taken up this important cause with such passion and dedication not only on September's R U OK? day of action, but every day. We celebrate, in particular, the inspirational work of Woolgoolga local Lisa Nichols, who is a driving force behind the R U OK? promotions Woopi Wears Yellow and Fluro Friday. It is about inspiring and empowering everyone to meaningfully connect with the people around them and start a conversation with anyone who may be struggling with life. You do not need to be an expert to reach out—just a good friend and a great listener. Woolgoolga won the R U OK? Award for the Best Community in Australia and welcomed the R U OK? Trust the Signs Tour. I commend Lisa for her community spirit and pay tribute to her team: Brett Pilon, Robert Watkin, Lisa's devoted partner, Brad Nelson, and the loyal band of Fluro Friday supporters.

#### **CLINTON O'CONNOR**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (18:30):** I draw to the attention of the House a fantastic young athlete, Clinton O'Connor. At 30 years of age Clinton O'Connor has become the first person from Brewarrina to play in a National Rugby League grand final, taking the field for the Newtown Jets in the Physical Disability Rugby League competition. Clinton was involved in a motorbike accident at the age of 18 that resulted in the amputation of one of his legs. Clinton had been a footy tragic, playing from the under 12s in his local team all the way up to senior level until his accident and did not think he would ever play footy again. Clinton discovered the New South Wales Physical Disability Rugby League competition and has not looked back since. The Newton Jets were successful in securing the rugby league premiership, a welcome accomplishment for Clinton after overcoming some tough physical and mental hurdles. Clinton has used this accomplishment to spread the word about the opportunities available for disabled athletes and is determined to get more people from the west involved.

#### **DYLAN LITTLEHALES**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:31):** With only a year to go to the Tokyo Paralympics, I congratulate Dylan Littlehales, a paddler from Avoca Beach. He has helped Australia secure the full quota of four athletes in Tokyo in 2020. Over 24 and 25 August, Dylan won fourth place at the international championships in Hungary, an amazing finishing place for a worldwide competition. Dylan belongs to the Avoca Kayak Club in my electorate of Terrigal. He also trains with the New South Wales Institute of Sport program, which is based in Narrabeen. In the lead-up to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, I have no doubt that the next 12 or so months will be a very busy time for Dylan and his team mates. I wish Dylan the best of luck in his training and preparation work. All of us on the Central Coast—and indeed across the country—will be cheering him on when he competes in Tokyo in 2020.

### BEHIND THE SEEN

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (18:32):** Congratulations to the Central Coast program Behind The Seen that won a TheMHS Award at the 2019 Mental Health Service Awards of Australia and New Zealand program for service to mental health. The event was held in Brisbane on 28 August. Veronica Moseley and Ross Beckley won the award in the Lived Experience Leadership category, one of eight awards made in the service and program categories. The Hon. Greg Hunt, MHR, who is the Federal Minister for Health, presented to Veronica Moseley and Ross Beckley a trophy given in recognition of the achievement of excellence, innovation and best practice in mental health services. Behind The Seen has been representing Australian frontline first responders and their families in the mental health sector for over six years. Behind The Seen is a proactive program incorporating face-to-face training to educate emergency service personnel to identify and deal with the stressors experienced by co-workers on a regular basis. Congratulations to Veronica Moseley and Ross Beckley for winning the award and making a great difference to our community.

### SIR RODEN CUTLER PARK NINJA COURSE

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:33):** Dubbo's next Ninja Warrior could soon be unearthed after the community threw its support behind the Sir Roden Cutler Park ninja course and car park project. The project will receive \$200,000 after garnering an avalanche of votes in the Government's recent My Community Project grant program. The ninja course will complement the Titan Macquarie Mud Run, which is a terrific local event combining physical fitness, teamwork and fun, and it will form part of the ongoing course. But also importantly it will form a unique outdoor attraction for Dubbo locals and visitors alike to enjoy Dubbo's great outdoors and take advantage of Dubbo's picturesque river-scape. Congratulations to Rod Fardell and the entire Dubbo Macquarie Mud Run committee, along with the boss of Club Dubbo, Rod Firth, for an excellent application, and well done to the Dubbo community for throwing its support behind such a fantastic project.

### GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:34):** In Parliament on Tuesday it was fantastic to meet students from across Sydney and the Central Coast to talk about the global climate strike. As an ex-geography teacher, I commend these young people for their efforts to bring the importance of caring for our planet into the faces of State and Federal politicians. These young people spoke from the heart about the importance of climate change and the limited time we have to take action to prevent an absolute climate catastrophe. They know that this Government does not believe in climate change, despite the science, despite the catastrophic fires and despite the frighteningly warm water temperatures. I commend Ethan Hill from the Central Coast, who was inspired by his year 6 teacher to watch the *War on Waste* and become involved in recycling and caring for the environment. Ethan is a year 8 student at Brisbane Water Secondary College. He led the first Central Coast student climate strike and will be coordinating tomorrow's event with other students and adults across the coast. I look forward to listening to the concerns of school students from across the coast at the Central Coast Leagues Club at midday on Friday.

### ELLEN ROBERTS

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (18:35):** I congratulate softballer Ellen Roberts, who is currently preparing to represent Australia at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Ellen started playing softball for Thornleigh Softball Club at the age of five and can now pitch between 105 and 110 kilometres an hour. She has hit an impressive 112 kilometres an hour on occasion, which is absolutely phenomenal. When Ellen attended the University of Memphis she broke 25 school records, including the most strikeouts in school history. Ellen has played for the Chicago Bandits in the Fastpitch Pro League and is currently part of the Japanese team Ogaki Minamo. Having been previously dropped as an Olympic sport, softball will make a return in Tokyo next year. Ellen hopes to help Australia qualify and get a spot to compete, which they will do this month in Shanghai. I congratulate Ellen on her outstanding success. Our entire community is cheering her on.

### TERRIGAL ELECTORATE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:36):** Gosford City Model Railroad Club and the Kincumber Men's Shed are fantastic local organisations in the electorate of Terrigal and deserve the recognition of members for their contribution to the community of Kincumber and the surrounding suburbs. Last month I was delighted to secure \$11,760 from the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government. That funding followed a number of months of advocating to the Minister responsible for volunteering, the Hon. Gareth Ward. The grant will be used to construct a new concrete pathway and railing, which improves access for people with disability and people with reduced mobility. It also will enable more prospective members to join these two great organisations. The Gosford City Model Railroad Club and the Kincumber Men's Shed are co-located at Kincumber Uniting Church. That means the upgrade will benefit them both, but particularly the members of the model railroad club, who first raised



this project with me earlier this year. I congratulate them on their successful request for this funding. It has been a pleasure to support both of those fantastic organisations in my electorate of Terrigal.

#### DAVID WARD

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:37):** I recognise Dubbo local David Ward, who is currently taking part in the 2019 Kidzfix Rally to support sick and disadvantaged children. David and his brother Andrew Ward, team "Two Dads", are driving "Errol", a 1992 Subaru Brumby ute, from Port Melbourne to Devonport on a fundraising mission through Tasmania. It is an important mission for David and he has been taking part for the past five years to help an organisation that helped him and his wife, Camilla, 10 years ago when their son Lucas was born three months early. Most of the participants in the Kidzfix Rally have similar tales. I think we all agree that any organisation that supports children is one we should support. I congratulate David and Andrew on their willingness to help such a worthwhile cause and wish them safe travels.

#### VICKIE HYDE

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (18:38):** I thank a lovely local lady by the name of Vickie Hyde who has been volunteering at the Serenity Garden at Hawkesbury Hospital for the past year. In 2017 the beautiful garden was launched. It provides patients, families and others with a serene environment at the hospital. The beauty of the garden is largely thanks to the great volunteering work of Vickie Hyde. It is wonderful that her efforts brighten the days of those whose days may otherwise not be so bright. Vickie is undergoing a knee replacement surgery next month and I wish her all the very best with the operation and recovery. I look forward to seeing Vickie return to her favourite garden after her operation and I am sure the community does too. I also thank all the other volunteers who assist Vickie at the Serenity Garden at the hospital.

#### SURF LIFE SAVING VOLUNTEERS

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (18:39):** The Coffs Harbour electorate is blessed with beautiful beaches—more beautiful than the beaches of Terrigal—and with brave men and women who patrol those beaches with vigilance. Each of those surf lifesaving volunteers are making waves in the sport that they love. Some of them are also making names for themselves at a State level. At the 2019 Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence, Sean Golding of the Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club was named Coach of the Year and Ainsley Dalton of the Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club was named Junior Male Lifesaver of the Year. The awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of our volunteer surf lifesavers across surf sports, education, administration, membership and lifesaving. Earlier this year Ainsley Dalton and Lily Betland, a member of the Coffs Harbour Surf Life Saving Club, excelled at an exclusive Sydney training camp, a gathering tailor-made for the State's top prospects. I pay tribute to all surf lifesavers on the Coffs coast. They are great ambassadors for our community. I thank them for keeping us safe.

#### EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:40):** I acknowledge the fantastic team at the Empire Bay Progress Association, led by President Carolen Barripp. Recently I had the opportunity to call in to the Empire Bay Progress Association Hall to see the fantastic work being done with the most recent allocation of Community Building Partnership funding. A funding allocation of \$17,500 has upgraded the front entrance of the hall, with new doors, a new bullnose veranda and new handrails. Over the past 4½ years I have been so proud to support the Empire Bay Progress Association with upgrades to the hall, including the installation of air conditioning, kitchen upgrades and external work that has taken place. Once again I congratulate President Carolen Barripp and all of the volunteers who take time out to keep the hall at Empire Bay looking so good. It is a tribute to them and they should be very proud of that community asset, which they own.

#### UNISCHOOLS STEER CHALLENGE

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (18:41):** I congratulate Bede Polding College for winning the Students Choice (Display) and Champion Junior Team categories at the 2019 UniSchools Steer Challenge. I congratulate also the Colo High School for winning the Champion School—Combined Beef Appraisal Team category. The challenge involved eleven high schools and a Western Sydney University team. The teams raised steers for nearly four months and then presented them for judgment. The participants were judged on the showmanship and performance of themselves and the cattle. In 2001 the UniSchools program was established to offer students an engaging and practical look at livestock production and potential career pathways across the food and agricultural industries. It is lovely to see young people involved in this field, taking the opportunity to explore their interests and talents. I congratulate all the other participants, many of whom won other categories. In particular I congratulate Caroline Chisholm College, which won the overall competition.

### CHARLIE'S RUN 4 KIDS

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (18:42):** I recognise the great work of the organisers of Charlie's Run 4 Kids. Yesterday the runners set off from Seal Rocks, heading all the way to Dudley in my electorate. There is a big bunch of runners, including some fabulous students from Whitebridge High School, who will run approximately 200 kilometres to raise money for young children who are suffering from terminal illnesses and their families. I recognise the great work that the organisers of Charlie's Run 4 Kids do. I also give a big shout-out to the Central Newcastle Butcher Birds, who are competing in the grand final of the girls' rugby league on Sunday. Go the Butcher Birds! I hope that they smash the Souths. I congratulate the team on making the grand final.

### VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:43):** I speak in support of Veterans' Health Week, which runs from Saturday 26 October until Sunday 3 November. I thank the Harbord Diggers club for putting on a number of events. Veterans' Health Week is an opportunity for former and current serving Australian Defence Force personnel, their families, carers and the community to improve their health and wellbeing and better understand some of the skills that veterans' bring in that respect. There is a packed agenda at Harbord Diggers, with free access to the club's recently refurbished gym for veterans, dining offers and a panel that will include some athletes from the Invictus Games, which were an incredible demonstration of the resilience of veterans and the effort that can go into sport and rehabilitation on behalf of our veterans. I sincerely thank Harbord Diggers for supporting the event.

### WOMEN OF DULWICH HILL BICYCLE CLUB

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—**Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club was established in 1908 and has a long history of fighting for women's inclusion in cycling. The Club encompasses riders from all walks of life, from the social rides with the Saturday Slowies to the Sunday road training rides. The Club takes an active role in fostering women's participation and around 20 per cent of the membership are women, despite statistics that show women make up only 8 per cent of all cyclists in Sydney. Margaret McLachlan was a trailblazing member of the Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club.

Margaret was a competitive racer beating many of her male counterparts in the 1960s. However, she was banned from competitive racing in 1966. Undeterred, Margaret fought on against this sexism and set her ambitions on doing what she did best—breaking records. In 1967, Margaret set a new record riding from Sydney to Melbourne in 36 hours and 33 minutes, which remained unbroken for three decades. Thank you to the Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club for continuing Margaret's legacy of fighting for greater female representation; and congratulations to the many women who volunteer and ride with the club.

### NORTHMEAD CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—**Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School is a terrific educational and creative environment for local students in the Seven Hills electorate. Many students have completed their assessed HSC performances for drama, dance and music. With visual arts, photography, design and industrial technology students completing their major projects. I wish these students best of luck and all Northmead students completing their HSC exams next month.

The creative and performing arts focus of the school draws incredible talent from across The Hills and Parramatta districts. The specialist teachers do a tremendous job in facilitating the furthering of students aspirations in this sector. I know the Northmead community enjoy watching the many performances the schools hosts. The teachers, support staff and P&C do a marvellous job in ensuring the school keeps its great reputation. The school's long-time principal, Narelle Vasquez has been ill recently. The school community wishes her good health for a return in term 4.

### SES AND RFS PRESENTATION DINNER

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services)—**On Friday 13 September 2019, I attended the Shoalhaven District New South Wales SES Awards and NSW RFS Medals Presentation and Dinner at Nowra Golf Club with the Acting New South Wales SES Commissioner Kyle Stewart APM, Member for South Coast Shelley Hancock and Mayor Amanda Findley and Shoalhaven Council CEO Stephen Dunshea. I would like to acknowledge Lorraine Mairinger of Kangaroo Valley for her 36 years of service and National Medal 2nd Clasp, Gail D'Astoli for her 26 years of service and National Medal 1st Clasp, Bill Chittick from Kangaroo Valley on his National Medal 3rd Clasp and 49 years of service and Keith Nelson from Kangaroo Valley for his 58 years of service, National Medal 4th Clasp and Long Service Medal 4th Clasp and Harold Sharman for his 41 years of service and receiving his Long Service Medal 3rd Clasp.

I would also like to acknowledge New South Wales SES Deputy Commissioners Fatima Abbas and Greg Newton, South Eastern Zone Commander Colin Malone, Acting New South Wales SES South Eastern Deputy Zone Commander Matthew Price and South Coast Local Commander, Glenn Wran, who were in attendance at the Presentation Dinner.

#### **ANDREW LAZARIS**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron)**—I congratulate Mr Andrew Lazaris OAM, President of the City of Sydney Basketball Association, on his induction by Basketball NSW to the NSW Basketball Hall of Fame, for his contribution to the sport. Andrew is a giant of Australian basketball, with over 50 years of service to the sport. As a young man he participated in New South Wales' first ever basketball competition, co-founded the Sydney Kings in 1987, played an instrumental role in the amalgamation of the Eastern Suburbs and Sydney Basketball Associations into the City of Sydney Association, and has served as its President continuously since 1985.

The Association was one of the first and only basketball associations in Australia that could afford to purchase its own facilities, the iconic Alexandria Stadium. Mr Lazaris was honoured for his contribution to sport with an Order of Australia in 2015, and his induction to the Hall of Fame is just one of great number of other accolades, including the prestigious Australian Sports Medal, South Sydney Council's Citizen of the Year, and the Greek Australian Sports Hall of Fame's "Honour Roll". Congratulations to Andrew and his family on this immense achievement

#### **DEB HEARD BIG SHAVE**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)**—Mr Speaker, Congratulations to Junee's Pink Ladies who last month once again held the annual 'Girls Night In' fundraiser for breast cancer and a very special mention to Deb Heard. Deb's metre-long plait, the product of 30 years of growth and care was snipped off and donated to become a cancer wig on the night. The Pink Ladies had already raised \$1600 before the night for breast cancer research through a tour up North, and I thank this wonderful group for their dedication, their vibrancy and the absolute joy they bring to Junee all in the name of such an important cause.

#### **MARS FACTORY**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)**—Today I rise to pay tribute to a fantastic business in my local community. The Mars Wrigley Factory in Asquith has been part of our community for the past 60 years, in fact, my grandfather used to work in the factory. They have been placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Great Place to Work institute study. The factory, which produces 60,000kg skittles each year, has more than 1,000 employees and clearly is one great place to work. I recently visited the factory and I am pleased they have chosen to continue to stay in Hornsby and to give opportunities to employ locals. Congratulations Mars Wrigley on this recognition and supporting your workforce, employees and the Hornsby community.

#### **BILL TURNER CUP FINAL SERIES**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—The Bill Turner Cup and Trophy is a school football competition for students aged 15 and under in Australia. The finals series took place over two days, with matches held at the Northern NSW Football Regional Complex, Speers Point. On 11 September, the Hunter Sports High girls team were beaten in the Bill Turner Trophy Final going down to Westfields Sports High 3-nil. The boys Hunter Sports High team won third place after beating Westfields Sports High 2-1 in the play-offs.

I would like to congratulate players from the women's Hunter Sports High team who competed in Trophy Final including Layla Whyte, Josie Allan, Amy Parkinson, Kimberly Trappett, Savannah White, Amber Ford, Charlize Whyte, Laine McFadyen, Mika Marolly, Charlie Field, Lara Gooch, Paige Abberfield, Hollie Finley, Meliah Baker, Ariana White, Jess McMorro, Tiana Roberts, Grace Kingett and Zoe Daly.

My congratulations extends to players from the Hunter Sports High boys team including Reef Parker, Xander Woweries, Samuel Jackson, Blake Robinson, Shiwa Dul, Murdoch Joseph, Reegan Clark, Phoenix Carroll, Braith Hedley, Seth Hedley, Lachlan Newton, Jameson Oakley McLean, Kobe Park, Riley Byrn, Mackenzie Alexander, Taye Hedley, Jordan Baylis and Antonio Calma.

#### **DANCE SPECTACULAR**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—I rise today to acknowledge all the wonderful children that participated in the Sydney Roosters dance Spectacular who helped cheer on the mighty Rooster and were paramount in their success as East thrashed the Titans 58 -6. The dance spectacular was AMAZING! And the kids all dressed in red, white and blue were phenomenal. I would like to thank Robyn Parras the director of Rock the Block Dance and The Roosters for this opportunity to get our community together (for two things I deeply love, The Arts and Sport!!) A very special shout out to the kids and schools in my electorate that participated in this

great community event, Rainbow Street Public School, Coogee Public School, St Anthony's, Bondi Public School as well as all the students from Rock the Block Dance and Circus dance academy.

#### **THREADS OF GLEBE**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)**—Today I recognise a wonderful community event, Threads of Glebe History, held recently in my electorate of Balmain. Taking place at the foot of the historic Tree of Life at St John's Bishopthorpe, Threads of Glebe History celebrated the proud history of Glebe lands and the diversity of our local community. The event was a commemoration of the long term stewardship of this land by the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as well as the landmark decision by the Federal Government to acquire the Glebe Estate in 1974.

Threads of Glebe History gives our community a chance to come together and celebrate our village and the preservation of social housing in the inner city. I want to acknowledge Darcy Vaughan and all the speakers from the day including Leo Patterson-Ross and Auntie Sharon Minniecon who gave a beautiful, thoughtful welcome. I also want to acknowledge the contribution of Glebe HAPN, St John's Bishopthorpe and the whole organising team behind Threads of Glebe History. Congratulations to everyone in our community who got involved with this fantastic event, we have so much to be proud of in Glebe.

#### **MACARTHUR MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL 2019**

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields)**—Play together and live in harmony. That is the message at the heart of the Macarthur Multicultural Children's Festival, which was held for the second consecutive year in Koshigaya Park, Campbelltown in August. The Macarthur event follows in the footsteps of the long-running and successful Canterbury-Bankstown festival, which was the brainchild of Thuat Van Nguyen. A Vietnamese refugee who arrived in Australia in the 1980s, Van Nguyen had the vision that children who played together lived together in harmony. This same vision is reflective of the Macarthur event – bringing children, families and community together to celebrate our rich diversity. I congratulate Festival Director Brian Laul – and everyone involved in the Macarthur Multicultural Children's Festival – on delivering a community celebration to foster harmony in our community.

#### **DORA CREEK SWAMPIES**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)**—I wish to acknowledge and congratulate the Dora Creek Swampies who broke a 13-year drought at the weekend and won Newcastle and Hunter Rugby League's A-grade grand final. The Swampies took an army of local supporters up to Waratah Oval in Newcastle on Saturday and after a tight first half, ran away in the second to beat Belmont Souths 44-4. The team means an enormous amount to the small Dora Creek community, and that was reflected in the reception the team got back at Dora Creek Worker's club after the win. The grand final win was just reward for a stellar season in which they only lost one match, ironically to Belmont Souths who they beat in the grand final. I congratulate coach David Hoban, man of the match Boston Smith, and all of the grand final try scorers in Tom Patullo, Sam Agalidis, Scott Fitzpatrick, Israel Smith, Zac Brown and Paddy Murphy. I also acknowledge the tremendous Dora Creek community which got behind the Swampies, and Dora Creek Workers Club which heads a long list of financial sponsors. Well done, and best of luck for next year's title defence.

#### **ULLAMBANA FESTIVAL**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I was honoured to join the local Vietnamese Buddhist Community on Sunday, 11th August 2019 for the ceremony at the Huyen Quang Buddhist Pagoda, Bankstown to mark the 'Ullambana' or 'Vu Lan' festival. I acknowledge and thank the Most Senior Venerable Mr Thich Quang Ba and Senior Venerable Mr Thich Thien Hien, as well as all the other Venerable Monks for hosting me and making me feel welcome. I thank the Secretary of the Huyen Quang Temple Mr Peter Pham for his efforts in organising the event and for allowing me to be a part of this important ceremony and address the congregation. Ullambana is a solemn occasion observed in many Asian cultures around the world and is a time to honour and reflect on family and friends who have passed and whose spirits are believed to return to their former homes. It's an immense honour to have such large and thriving Vietnamese and Buddhist communities in Bankstown and it was a privilege to participate in the ceremony.

#### **JENNIE WILSON**

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)**—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I would like to recognise Jennie Wilson for her commitment, 'out of the box thinking' and dedication to improving student outcomes in regional and remote schools. Jennie, is the principal at Moulamein Public School and recently received the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the 2019 NSW Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence. This award recognised the work Jennie has done over the years through the creation of a training centre for teachers to be able to link new research with classrooms. While the project started for Moulamein Public School, it has trained over

80 teachers from 20 regional and remote schools. I echo the judges' comments that Moulamein "is fortunate to have a principal with such dynamic leadership and teaching skills". Jennie is a role model to other regional school teachers and the Moulamein community. Congratulations to Jennie Wilson.

#### **TERESA HANNA, ST CLAIR**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—In 2018, just two days after bringing her youngest son Emmanuel home from the hospital, Teresa Hanna realised something was very wrong. Her son was diagnosed with a rare metabolic condition called Ornithine Transcarbamylase Deficiency (OTC). OTC, which affects one in 50,000 to 80,000 children, means that Emmanuel couldn't break down the protein in his body, causing his ammonia levels to rise, which slowly starved his brain of oxygen. This condition leads to seizures which can lead to neonatal death. More than 80 per cent of his brain has been damaged from the seizures so his motor and spine skills are not developed. The only thing that could save his life was a liver transplant. Thankfully, little Emmanuel received a liver transplant earlier this year. Teresa is now raising awareness of the Liver Transplant Unit. The 'Leaping Livers Lapping the Lagoon' walk is held each July and she is advocating for standardised ammonia testing for new-borns. Thank you Teresa for raising awareness and for your advocacy!

#### **BELLFIELD COLLEGE**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)**—I recognise Bellfield College located at Rossmore. Many of the students at the College are from families who live within the electorate I represent. It's an Islamic independent co-educational school. I've been to the school on a number of occasions, most recently on Wednesday 4 September. This was for a special Dymocks Charity Assembly held in the Junior School Quad. This event recognises the provision by Dymocks in partnership with Australian Independent Schools of books to schools such as Bellfield College. The event included a smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Ivan Wellington. It also featured the staff of Dymocks Charity and a very popular appearance by Dymock the Duck. Bellfield College CEO Principal Dr Sam Jebeile and other staff were also present. This is a great program and reflects well on both Bellfield College and Dymocks Children Charity. Anything encouraging children to read must be a positive.

#### **ROTARY WRITING COMPETITION 2019**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I had the great honour of attending the 2019 Rotary Writing Competition Awards Night, where Year 6 students battled it out to claim victory in this "war of the written word". Today, I would like to recognise and congratulate the Hills-Kellyville Rotary Club who have once again outdone themselves with this annual event - which began 15 years ago as an incentive to promote literacy. This year the challenge was to write a narrative (up to 500 words) entitled: "A new student has just joined our class". 15 schools participated in this highly contested event, with each school being represented by three Finalists on the night. It was a fierce competition! I was blown away at the outstanding calibre of the finalists and was thrilled to be able to present some of the school awards.

I would like to recognise the Members of the Hills-Kellyville Rotary Club for continuing this incredible event. In particular I would like to mention Club President - Fran Broadbent, Club Secretary - Wilfred van Emmerik and the coordinator of this highly successful event Jim Sifonios who was the Club Youth Service Director 2018–2019. Congratulations to all of the finalists and the winners of this year event and Congratulations to the Hills-Kellyville Rotary Club!

#### **ENV SOLUTIONS**

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today I acknowledge the inspiring work of ENV Solutions – and congratulate the company on winning the 2018 Ballina Shire Business of the Year Award. This year the company also won awards for Excellence in Sustainability and Excellence in Innovation. ENV Solutions has achieved this recognition in just four years, having previously won the prize for Best New Business. ENV Solutions is one of Australia's fastest growing environmental consultancy and remediation service providers. ENV Solution's work has taken the firm around Australia, and its directors have international experience.

#### **JAX TYRES**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)**—Mr Speaker Small Business is the backbone of regional economies and it is an honour today to recognise just one of the many who keep the Myall Lakes rolling along. I wish to congratulate Anthony and Olivia Naughton of Jax Tyres Forster who have recently celebrated their first year of operations. Twelve months ago I met Anthony after he moved to Forster with his wife Olivia and his 3 children Harrison, Will and Alex after buying the Jax Tyres centre. Over the last year Anthony has built a great team including service manager Shane Griffiths, mechanic Mark Drysdale and his tyre team Aaron Tini and Jason Keys. The team at Jax have put the customer service experience front and centre at everything they do and are

connecting with the wider community through partnering with the NSW Governments Seniors Card program and sponsoring Grand Final Champions the Forster Tuncurry Dolphins Rugby Club.

#### **MIDDLE HARBOUR YACHT CLUB**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Speaker With the sailing season having now officially commenced, I wish to recognise Middle Harbour Yacht Club to congratulate them for 80 years of sailing in my community. Started in 1939 by local sailors Togo Middows and George Griffin, Middle Harbour Yacht Club has a long and impressive history in the sailing world. Not only does this club set a great example of Australian sporting success, it continues to provide opportunities for people of all ages and skill-level to experience the pure joy of sailing on our beauty Sydney Harbour. I was thrilled to join club members, General Manager Karen Baldwin and the club's Commodore Peter Lewis for a formal salute on the marina to officially open the sailing season. I am proud to have sporting clubs like Middle Harbour Yacht Club in my electorate and was pleased to have supported them with government funding so they can continue encouraging active lifestyles in my community. I wish them well this sailing season.

#### **BISHOP KEITH DALBY**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai)**—I acknowledge and thank Bishop of the Murray, Keith Dalby, and former Rector of St John's Anglican Church Gordon. Bishop Keith was an invaluable member of the Gordon community, serving in his role for over fourteen years. Prior to his ordination, Bishop Keith served in the submarine service of the Royal Australian Navy between 1979 and 1991. This led to him and his colleague, Father Rob Sutherland, who also served in the Australian Army, form 'Warrior Welcome Home' in 2015 at St John's Church. This was an Australian-first pilot where the two used their defence force experience to help injured returning service personnel through prayer, studies and other services. In addition to his ministry duties, Bishop Keith was an active participant in the Gordon community, and will be missed by many. I take this opportunity to farewell Keith, his wife Alice and their children Rachael, Benjamin, Rebekah and Matthew and wish Keith good luck in his new ministry.

#### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE BUSINESS CHAMBER**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)**—I congratulate the newly elected executive committee of the Sutherland Shire Business Chamber. The Business Chamber was established in 2018 with the objective to promote, support and assist businesses in the Shire, whilst contributing to its being a commercially vibrant and attractive business district. The executive committee consist of local business owners who volunteer their time to contribute to the success and day to day operation of the Business Chamber.

I welcome President David Querzoli from QLoans Miranda, who has worked in the finance industry since 1985, and Vice President Hima Gupta, who has been the Director of 3E Accounting Solutions since 2016. I also acknowledge Secretary Mark Hooper of Sales XL, Treasurer Brendan Lucas of Hopscotch Accounting, and Committee members Paul Sheaffe of Pauls Productions, Brad Conyers of EspressoNet and Joel Curtis of Endeavour Wellness. I also take this opportunity to farewell retiring board members Joanne Ryan, Michael Zacharia and Karen Johnston, and extend my best wishes for their future endeavours. I look forward to working with the newly elected executive to promote and support small businesses in the Sutherland Shire.

#### **ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS WORLD ABRUZZO NATIONAL DAY 2019**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—On Sunday 8th September 2019 I joined in celebrations with the local community at the Italian Immigrants World Abruzzo National Day 2019 at Smithfield RSL. The celebrations were well attended with more than 200 guests in attendance to celebrate the contributions of Abruzzese immigrants to their new found lands. The Abruzzo Regional Parliament officially acknowledges the day annually, which recognises the many thousands who left Abruzzo and made significant cultural contributions and positive impacts around the globe. The Association of Abruzzo NSW is to be commended for its work in not only maintaining traditions and culture but for its fundraising activities to generously support a variety of charities. Proceeds from this year's celebratory fundraiser were being donated to a very worthy cause, Alzheimer's Australia. Congratulations to Association President Mr Luigi Bucciarelli and the committee for working so hard to organise such a successful gathering. We are all looking forward to next year's celebrations.

#### **CITY OF LISMORE ORCHID SHOW**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—I wish to congratulate the Lismore City Orchid Society Incorporated (founded in 1946) for their annual hosting of the Spring Orchid display. The magnificent display of orchids is showcased in the Lismore Central Shopping Centre or Centro as we call it. I popped across the road from my Electorate Office to view the City of Lismore Orchid Society Incorporated's Spring Orchid Show as Centro is that close to my office. The colourful display brightens up everyone's day. It was lovely to catch up with

Alstonville's Betty Garrard, who has been a Society member for more than 30 years and was fielding inquiries from the public. Betty was also selling orchids.

I ducked behind the ropes to take a closer look at the native orchids, the smaller ones that I love. A local woman saw me in the enclosure and asked if I also grew orchids adding to my list of activities and duties. I confessed I only admire them as left with me they would not survive or do too well. I congratulate president Steven Muldoon, secretary Christine Dyke, treasurer Judy Leadbeater, newsletter editor Lionel Frame and all members on their wonderfully diverse displays.

#### **BETTY WALLACE OAM**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—I would like to acknowledge Betty Wallace from Bargo, who has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her many years of service to the local community, in particular her work with Wollondilly Riding for the Disabled. Mrs Wallace founded Wollondilly Riding for the Disabled with her Husband Graham, in 1986. The volunteer-run organisation "provides equine assisted activities to people with disabilities to develop and enhance abilities". Now 86 years of age, Mrs Wallace still plays an active role in the organisation. With her generous and quiet attitude and love of helping others, Mrs Wallace has helped many volunteer groups over the years. Other organisations she has volunteered with include: Meals on Wheels; Support Committee Member, Queen Victoria Memorial Homes, Picton; Former volunteer, Tahmoor Bush Fire Brigade; Member of the Picton Show Society; and Former volunteer Tahmoor Children's Home. I thank Mrs Wallace for her selfless and valuable service to the Wollondilly Community.

#### **CRONULLA LIONS AND SKILLZ4ME**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)**—On 10 September I attended the presentation of a \$14,000 cheque to Jason Stanton on behalf of Skillz4Me. I congratulate Cronulla Lions Club president Shaun Cronin and the other members of the club who organised this fundraising. Skillz4me is an all abilities program based in the Sutherland Shire for children with additional needs, including children affected by autism and other sensory impairment related disabilities, who might otherwise be excluded from sporting activities. The outcome based program combines sports, fun and therapy. The program focuses on building confidence, improving social skills, coordination and balance, stimulating neural pathways, communication, eye tracking and concentration. Over 110 local families are already benefitting from the program, with 90% of families rating their child's enjoyment level as 9 or 10 out of 10. Skillz4me is at no cost to families. Details are at <https://skillz4me.com.au/>. These funds will be used to purchase new equipment including a custom inflatable obstacle course designed with balance beams, extended fall zones, climbing, sliding and special squeezing features.

#### **MICHAEL MEREDITH**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney Electorate, I rise to acknowledge Michael Meredith and the St Canice's Kitchen volunteers. Michael has retired as a volunteer with the St Canice's Kitchen in Elizabeth Bay. A friend brought him along to the church 17 years ago and he's been there organising Friday lunch teams since, preparing food, serving it and cleaning up afterwards – a whole morning's effort each Friday. Along with teams of volunteers, many of whom like him have been involved over many years, Michael has served 800 meals to people in need. Over time, he introduced inductions, health and safety rules and improvements to operations as well as regular coffee get-togethers and annual lunches for the volunteer team. He knows that the camaraderie and social connections are very important reasons people volunteer their time and skills. We are fortunate to have people like Michael and the kitchen teams giving back to the community, and they have our sincere thanks.

#### **BLACKTOWN DIVISION**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—The Blacktown Division of St John Ambulance NSW has helped to foster volunteerism and community spirit in the Prospect Electorate and throughout Western Sydney. The members of St John Ambulance – Blacktown Division spend countless hours volunteering at community events to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our families. It is these volunteers working in the background that ensures that we can have so many successful community events in Prospect. The Blacktown Cadet Division trains 50 young people aged 8 to 18 in first aid, giving them the skills and confidence to be able to save a life. Members of the cadet division also assist in providing first aid at community events.

I recently had the pleasure of attending St John Ambulance – Blacktown Division's regular Tuesday night training and presenting members with awards for their service. I would like to thank to Superintendents Keith Avery MStJ of the Blacktown Division and Superintendent Kyla Young of the Blacktown Cadet Division for inviting me to the training and also the volunteers at St John Ambulance Blacktown for all of the dedicated service that provide to our community. For the Service of Humanity.

### HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—I rise to congratulate students of Hastings Public School Port Macquarie, who were hugely successful in the Tournament of the Minds. Three teams from Hastings Public School were successful in winning at the Regional finals which saw them represent their school and Port Macquarie on the Sydney stage for the NSW State Final. Stephanie Lawrence, Zake Morris, Kaeleb Morris, Poppy McIntyre, Willis Jensen, Georgia Cowell and Rahni Walker formed the Arts team where their challenge was to create an Australian version of the Wizard of Oz. Their winning idea was about a young girl Dotti living through drought with Dame Edna, Steve Irwin and Steve Bradbury.

Caitlyn Thompson, Arjuna Devine, Grace Adlington, Hayley Blackwell, Kyson Stratton, William Suosaari and Bana Lavine tackled moral and ethical issues in society as part of the Social Sciences team. The STEM team of Drew de Silva, Tim Lawrance, Jamie Knott, Stephanie Dun, Benjamin Grummit, Frida Aaso and Addison Lunn used creative and critical thinking to design a machine to test DNA from endangered species. Congratulations on successfully working together to achieve these fantastic results. Good Luck in Tasmania for the National Finals in October.

### SPLASH OF COLOUR FUNDRAISER

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)**—I wish to place on the record my profound thanks and the gratitude of an entire community, to Mr Al Weekes for his generous contribution of time, expertise and energy in delivering the inaugural Gala Dinner in support of Australia's first ever Young Adults Hospice. The Hospice will provide age appropriate care to young adults from across New South Wales. Funds raised at the Gala Dinner have ensured the project will become a reality sooner, rather than later. The Hospice will welcome people from across New South Wales, and I have no doubt that all Members in this Parliament will share my view that without people like Mr Weekes in our communities, we would not achieve as much as a society. To Al and Cat, on behalf of a grateful community, I say 'thank you'.

### BRISBANE WALK LINDFIELD

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—I pay tribute to the community spirit of Lindfield and to Lindsay Somerville in particular. Six years ago Lindsay was a single person with a singular mission. He wanted to revive a spirit of neighbourhood and personal connectedness that is often missing in our digitally connected world. Lindsay's vision was to revive a network of walks joining the avenues area of East Lindfield. It was a simple idea, with the lanes for the walks already reserved. It would allow residents to take shortcuts through the large landscaped blocks of Lindfield and enjoy meeting neighbours, admire gardens and undertake a little exercise.

With energy and enthusiasm - plus a bit of shoe leather and doorknocking - Lindsay Somerville gathered the signatures of 200 of his East Lindfield neighbours and petitioned Ku-ring-gai Council. Lindsay and his team convinced the council to act, reviving the lovely little walk from Tryon Road through to Brisbane Avenue – the Brisbane Walk. The council paved the path and installed lighting so Brisbane Walk is accessible to all. It was an honour to attend the recent grand opening along with Ku-ring-gai Council Mayor, Jennifer Anderson, and many local residents.

### BAULKHAM HILLS ELECTORATE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTRES

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services)**—More pre-schoolers in Baulkham Hills will have access to state-of-the-art early childhood learning facilities and specialised educational programs through the NSW Government's Quality Learning Environments program. Yesterday, I announced the following preschools and not-for-profit long day care centres in Baulkham Hills will receive funding under the program:

- Baulkham Hills Pre-School Kindergarten will receive \$10,000 for outdoor creek bed;
- North Rocks Pre-School will receive \$10,000 for shade structure;
- Hills Montessori School will receive \$10,000 for installation of sound absorption panels;
- UnitingCare St Matthews Pre-School will receive \$10,000 for roof repairs;
- Sun Valley Pre-School Kindergarten will receive \$10,000 for new floor coverings and energy saving LED lights;
- The Hills Community Kindergarten will receive \$9,985 for interactive space; and,
- Hillsong Child Care Centre will receive \$8,820 for a mud kitchen and outdoor gym set.



Research shows the cognitive, social and emotional benefits a quality early childhood education has on our children. I am thrilled that the littlest learners in Baulkham Hills will benefit from this funding now and for years to come.

#### **TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY JUKES**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)**—I recognise the enormous contribution made to the Moree community by the late Anthony (Tony) Jukes. More affectionately as Jukesy, Tony was a pillar of the community, well-known for his cheeky nature, generosity to others and his love of motor cars. The Jukes family established Jukes and Sons Tyre Service in Moree in 1960. Tony and wife Kay took over the business in 1971, which is when his love motor cars began. Tony was a member of the Moree Motor Enthusiasts Club and was regularly seen driving around in his 1932 Ford Deuce Coupe at festivals, shows and market days.

Renowned for his fundraising efforts through numerous local volunteer groups, Tony raised funds for Can Assist, Fairview Retirement Village, Moree Family Support, Gwydir Industries, Westpac Rescue Helicopter and the Scrapheap Adventure Ride. Tony was a life member of Moree Apex and also involved in Moree Lions. He served on the board of Fairview Retirement Village and up until his passing, drove the Fairview bus for the elderly residents. Tony lost his battle with leukaemia on 9 May at the age of 72. He is survived by wife Kay, his three daughters and grandchildren. Rest in Peace Jukesy.

#### **WEST TAMWORTH TENNIS CLUB**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation)**—I recognise the West Tamworth Tennis Club who were successful in receiving a grant of \$100,060 is set to breathe new life and create a space for the whole community to enjoy games of tennis and table tennis. The windfall for the tennis club was funded by the NSW Government's My Community Project program. This is a real community project that captured the imagination of its supporters who put a lot of work into their ideas. It will provide a big improvement to the current facilities, including the upgrade of toilets and clubhouse to meet the requirements of the Australian disability building code. I want to see our kids get up off the couch, put down their screens and computer games, put on their joggers and get out and get active. Congratulations to the West Tamworth Tennis Club and its volunteer committee.

#### **DR SOPHIE CALABRETTO**

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)**—I draw the attention of this parliament to Dr Sophie Calabretto who is a resident of Redfern in the Newtown Electorate and who was a finalist for the 2019 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science. The Eureka prizes are an annual awards ceremony run by the Australian Museum to celebrate and reward excellence in the fields of research, innovation and science. Dr Calabretto is a mathematician who is passionate about changing the perception that maths is only for very smart people and to break down the stigma created from gender disparity to encourage mathematics as a field of study and employment for young women.

Dr Calabretto is a senior lecturer at Macquarie University and in 2017, she was awarded one of the ABC's 'Top 5 Under 40' researchers which has allowed her a larger platform to promote her ideas. Dr Calabretto believes in promoting mathematics because of its relevance to the world and the development of technology. As Dr Calabretto notes, 'we should care about maths because it's fundamental to our progress'. Congratulations to Dr Calabretto for her remarkable achievements and excellent work highlighting the critical place of mathematics in Australia's development.

#### **FRANK AND BERYL RIGBY**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)**—I rise to congratulate Frank and Beryl Rigby on the 70th wedding anniversary, a remarkable achievement. Frank and Beryl met in 1945, married on 3 September 1949 and settled in Stockton, where they continue to live today. They celebrated their milestone anniversary with a high tea with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Frank has carried several romantic traditions through their marriage, including spending six decades publishing love poems in the Newcastle Herald on Valentine's Day, and presenting Beryl with a flower every morning.

As they are both now aged in their 90s the flower tradition has been difficult to maintain, however Frank stills diligently attends to their home rose garden especially for Beryl and brings her a flower whenever he has a chance. When interviewed about their anniversary for the Newcastle Herald earlier this month they did not divulge any great secrets to a successful marriage, merely saying they do one simple thing – continue to love one another each and every day. Congratulations Frank and Beryl. You are an example to us all.

**MIROMA INALA 2019 ART EXHIBITION 'THROUGH LINE'**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse)**—On Thursday 5 September 2019, my local organisation Miroma Inala hosted the opening night of their Art Exhibition 'Through Line'. The Exhibition celebrated the idea that art is a 'through line' where we are all able to connect in spite of our diversity. Inala has three centres in my electorate; Miroma Vaucluse, Miroma Watson's Bay and Miroma Bellevue Hill. The centres provide support to people living with a disability including life skills, creative arts and crafts, and also health and wellbeing programs.

I want to congratulate the Miroma Inala team - Joint CEOs Martin Porteous and Rebecca Van Bilsen, and Day Services Manager Nathalie Neveu on an amazing exhibition which showcased over 50 amazing artworks by the centre's participants including Richard Mezrani and Dovid Rona. I also want to thank the Holdsworth Community Centre's CEO Ruth Kestermann and her team who hosted the Exhibition at the Woollahra's Gaden Café and Woollahra Council Mayor Peter Cavanagh who opened it with me.

**NETWORK AWARDS**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—I would like to recognise Mr Mark Betts and Mrs Marlene Greenwood for their ongoing commitment and dedication to key projects of improvement at Hammondville Public School. They have both been recipients of Network Principal Awards. Mark Betts is a teacher at Hammondville Public School who has spent extensive time working on improving the playground for Kindergarten students. Mr Betts sacrificed his own time to meet with landscapers, so that Kindergarten students could have a better playing environment.

Marlene Greenwood is the P&C President of Hammondville Public School and has been a dedicated member of the school community for over a decade. Mrs Greenwood has successfully applied for multiple grants for the school and has frequently volunteered at events. Once again, I would like to congratulate Mr Mark Betts and Mrs Marlene Greenwood for their ongoing service to Hammondville Public School. It is always encouraging to recognise the men and women who go above and beyond for their communities.

**BROKEN HEEL FESTIVAL 2019**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—For the past five years Broken Hill has held an annual LGBTIQ+ Broken Heel Festival. It is a five day festival that celebrates the theatrical anniversary of "Pricilla Queen of the Desert" at the Palace Hotel in Broken Hill with events taking place in Silverton as well as a revival day on the final day of the Festival. The festival is hosted by well-known drag queens both from local and away and the owners of the Palace Hotel, the festival has a large following by the local community of Broken Hill and surrounds.

The festival has gained national attention by so many that a special train "the Silver City Stiletto" travels from Sydney to Broken Hill carrying many passengers eager to attend and participate in the festival. Entertainment is offered for all ages with a parade being held in the main street as part of the festival with many people dressing up and marching or riding on floats. The event is a fun and educational way for the regional town of Broken Hill to celebrate LGBTIQ awareness and support.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:45 until  
Tuesday 24 September at 14:30.**