New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 19 September 2024

The Speaker (The Hon. Gregory Michael Piper) took the chair at 10:00.

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[*Notices of motions given.*]

Bills

ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AMENDMENT (TENDER MORATORIUM) BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 21 June 2024.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (10:18): As the Minister representing the Minister for Energy, I contribute to the debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Amendment (Tender Moratorium) Bill 2024. The Government does not support the bill as it will slow down the delivery of the New South Wales Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, also known as the road map, which is a strategic priority of the Government. The bill relates to the biannual tenders for long-term energy service agreements run by the New South Wales Consumer Trustee established under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020, also known as the EII Act.

These tenders support investment, construction and operation of renewable energy generation, long-duration storage and firming infrastructure in New South Wales. If passed, the bill will prohibit the Consumer Trustee from running tenders for long-term energy service agreements until a parliamentary inquiry into the EII Act is complete. This inquiry would be required to consider site selection, impacts on agriculture and business, adequacy of regional community consultation and adequacy of related programs. An inquiry into the impact of renewable energy zones, also known as REZs, on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales is currently on foot and covers much of this. The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap coordinates investment in new transmission generation, storage and firming infrastructure to ensure New South Wales has an electricity system that provides affordable, clean and reliable energy for everyone across New South Wales.

This investment will bring more renewable energy into the grid, which will put downward pressure on electricity bills. In recognition of the importance of this mission, the New South Wales Government has endorsed the road map as a strategic priority. An all-of-government effort is underway to make sure that as coal-fired power stations retire, New South Wales has enough renewable energy, transmission and storage to meet the energy needs of every household, school, hospital, farm and business across the State. The road map is enabled by the EII Act, which was passed with multi-party support. The EII Act has set legislated renewable energy and storage objectives for New South Wales to meet by 2030, and even more over time. Long-term energy service agreements are a key feature of the road map. They provide long-term certainty to incentivise investment in energy infrastructure. Regular tenders are essential to ensure that there is sufficient time to construct projects, maintain investor certainty and coordinate and underwrite investment in the infrastructure required to meet legislated minimum objectives for new renewable energy and long-duration storage.

The proposed moratorium would slow down the delivery of the energy transition and put the delivery of the road map and the minimum generation and storage objectives at risk. The Minister for Energy would also be prevented from directing the Consumer Trustee to hold a tender for firming long-term energy service agreements to address forecast breaches of the energy security target while a moratorium was in place. Timely delivery of the road map and tenders for long-term energy service agreements are, therefore, critical to ensuring that the lights stay on in New South Wales. The issues raised in the bill are already considered in the tender process, as set out in gazetted tender rules. Tender bids are assessed as high merit if they make commitments to improve regional economic development, to engage and share benefits with local communities and if they demonstrate projects will improve land use, including through opportune site selection.

The Consumer Trustee's assessment must also consider requirements of the Renewable Energy Sector Board's plan. If successful in the tender, proponent commitments become binding terms in contracts to develop

the project. These matters will be further considered in the statutory review of the EII Act, due to commence in December 2025. The review is to consider whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing these objectives, which include supporting economic development and promoting local industry. A report on the review must be tabled by December 2026. For these reasons the New South Wales Government does not support the bill.

Debate adjourned.

The SPEAKER: I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later time.

Business of the House

POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS

Mrs HELEN DALTON: In accordance with Standing Order 101 (3) (b), I postpone general business notice of motion for bills No. 12 [Water Management Amendment (Water Access Licence Register Reform) Bill 2024].

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (10:26): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended this day to provide for the following routine of business for the remainder of the day:

(1) General business notices of motions (general notices) for up to 70 minutes.

(2) At 11.00 a.m. question time and the associated routine of business.

(3) Resumption of interrupted general business, with Speaker to then leave the chair at its conclusion.

(4) At 2.25 p.m. Speaker to resume the chair. Members to then proceed from the Legislative Assembly to the Legislative Council Chamber for the joint sitting.

(5) Speaker to resume the chair following the conclusion of the joint sitting.

(6) Community recognition statements for up to 30 minutes.

(7) Government business for up to 20 minutes (if required).

(8) Private members' statements.

(9) Adjournment without motion moved until 10.00 a.m. on Friday 20 September 2024.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (10:28): The Opposition supports the suspension of standing orders moved by the Leader of the House.

The SPEAKER: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (10:30): I move:

That this House:

(1) Notes that over two in five Australians aged 16 to 85 are estimated to have experienced a mental disorder in their lifetime.

(2) Acknowledges the Government is committed to taking meaningful action to support the mental health of the people of New South Wales.

(3) Commends the Government's first step in this long journey by announcing a $111.8 million package of initiatives to support community mental health and wellbeing, including three new full-time equivalent community mental health team members, and one mental health housing liaison officer.

Over two in five Australians aged 16 to 85 are estimated to have experienced a mental disorder at some point of their life, and my electorate of Parramatta is not immune to that. This sobering statistic is significant as the impacts of a mental illness are far reaching, not just on the individual but also on family and friends and on an individual's wider social circle. In the Parramatta local government area, according to the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics census, 5.1 per cent of residents identified as having a long-term mental health condition. That is a staggering 13,000 people. The tragic flow-on effect of severe mental illness is estimated to reduce life expectancy by nearly 16 years for men and 12 years for women.

The NSW Suicide Monitoring System notes that in 2023 approximately 934 people died by suspected or confirmed suicide in New South Wales. That is more than 2½ times the 348 deaths from road accidents in 2023

and equates to losing two to three people a day. My heart goes out to everyone that has lost a loved one, a work colleague or a friend to suicide. It is a terrible tragedy that some people experiencing mental health issues end up taking their lives. World Suicide Prevention Day was on 10 September, when global observance brings over 60 countries together, uniting us in our shared mission to promote stigma reduction, advocate for policy change, encourage people to seek help and honour the memories of those lost to suicide, and acknowledge those who have survived suicide attempts and those who bear the weight of grief. It is pleasing that the New South Wales Government is committed to doing all it possibly can to better support the mental health of people across New South Wales.

Parramatta Mission is a stronghold for providing community support in the Parramatta electorate. Twice a month it runs a homelessness hub. The reality is that many of the people supported by the hub are not facing primary or secondary homelessness; they are facing mental health issues. It is such a confronting situation that so many resources from our community organisations and non-government organisations are being thrown into providing basic everyday support to keep these people alive—literally, in many cases. While the Government has confidence in our State services, frontline clinicians and quality assurance mechanisms, there is more work to be done to ensure that our system is people-centred, recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and built with and for our community.

Upon entering government, the Minister for Mental Health immediately commissioned a gaps analysis as an initial step to understand the size of the problem and prioritise immediate actions. As such, this year's budget saw an investment of $2.9 billion towards mental health services in New South Wales—the largest on record. This includes the new investment of $111.8 million for boosting community mental health services, enhancing support for mental health consumers with complex needs. Of this new investment $38.9 million will go towards establishing the mental health Single Front Door through Healthdirect. It is a statewide single point of contact for mental health care, integrated with our Federal health services. No matter what type of mental health care people require, the Government has created the central pathway to find it.

The opening of the jointly funded mental health Medicare centre, currently referred to as Head to Health, has been a success story in Parramatta. Located on George Street, the service operates seven days a week. It is accessible to anyone in the community, whether they have a Medicare card or not. That is such an important aspect of this service, because we know that mental health services need to be available to every single person in our community. So many people living in places across Western Sydney come to Parramatta to seek out services that in the past have not been affordable and accessible. Having a service jointly funded by both governments that is available seven days a week is truly a step in the right direction. Recently I was at the announcement of the opening of four more centres across New South Wales, which is truly good news for the people of this State.

The recent budget also saw an investment that added 35 senior mental health clinicians to existing teams located in key areas across New South Wales. Western Sydney, South Western Sydney, Hunter New England and South Eastern Sydney local health districts are each funded for three full-time equivalent community mental health team members, while the Mid North Coast, Murrumbidgee and Southern New South Wales local health districts each received funding for two. The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network will have seven full-time employees to provide transition support and community follow-up. These initiatives are making a big difference. Complementing this is an enhanced investment in the crisis support helplines. Mental health touches people of all ages, so we are ensuring that this support is there for kids as well. I commend consideration of the motion to the House and acknowledge all the work that the New South Wales Government is doing in this space.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (10:37): I make a contribution to debate on the motion. I am really struggling with the motion in many ways because I feel that the mental healthcare system in New South Wales is broken. It lacks the significant funding it needs to do its work. It is failing its patients, their families, carers and friends, our broader society and even our economy. Increasingly we see people being overlooked when this current Government plans mental healthcare programs. Those in the mental healthcare workforce are underpaid and are experiencing burnout. Families are feeling under supported and are struggling with cost-of-living pressures. As the shadow Minister for Veterans as well as mental health, I am extremely conscious that the lived experiences of our veterans are disregarded and ignored.

Ageing affects all ages and people with different histories. The care needed and the carers who provide that support cannot be ignored. We must support the mental healthcare system so that generations to come are equipped with the skills needed to effectively manage their physical and mental health, as well as self-regulate their access to resources. Right now, State funding is barely keeping up with inflation. This is a huge detriment for people needing external care services, all while battling cost-of-living pressures, impacts of continuing natural disasters and the already unmet funding needs. Mental healthcare funding in New South Wales has been devastated by a funding cut of $57.6 million since March 2023. What happens when our youth are not provided

with the tools and assistance to manage their mental health issues? Will we see a further increase in the need for aged care in the next five years, 10 years or 15 years?

Services that positively impact a person's right to physical and mental health and wellbeing are crucial in the step towards a better supported aged-care system. Carers themselves feel the weight of their career choice. We have amazing Samaritans who want to offer everything and will give all they can until they cannot anymore, but that is the problem. The recent inquiry into equity, accessibility and appropriate delivery of outpatient and community mental health care in New South Wales sat for 11 months. The report includes 17 findings and makes 39 recommendations. It found that the New South Wales system is in crisis.

Community mental health care cannot get secure funding to build sustainable organisations because the cost of running those organisations is outstripping funding and there is a lack of information sharing. Mental health care for regional and remote communities is particularly poor. Disadvantaged groups are regularly overlooked when planning mental health programs. The underpaid, burnt-out public and community workforce is unable to provide the care it wants to give to its patients, and people are leaving as a result. At the report's release, we heard from the mother of a man shot by New South Wales police while he was having an acute psychotic episode. The mother pleaded for a different approach, one led by mental health professionals. The message from mental health professionals is that the time for review is over.

The NSW Mental Health Alliance is holding the New South Wales Government to account for its inertia. The alliance includes the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, the Australian Society for Psychological Medicine, BEING Mental Health Consumers, the Black Dog Institute, Mental Health Carers NSW, the Mental Health Coordinating Council, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and WayAhead Mental Health Association. The alliance has demanded that the current New South Wales Government "stop playing politics and start real reform" in mental health. It calls for an immediate increase in funding, a whole-of-government reform approach, an expansion of the Safe Haven program to be available 24/7, an expansion of supported living services, mandatory training for police officers and a new approach to responding to mental health crises.

The current budget's funding allocation of $111.8 million—which the member for Parramatta talked about—will not address the 58,000 people in New South Wales with severe and complex mental health challenges. Hidden in the $57.6 million of funding stripped is a masked cut to the Pathways to Community Living Initiative. The original tenders from community health services included $40 million annually, providing 230 beds for those with long-term mental health needs. The Minister acknowledges that the program will now only have $10 million of annual funding, providing a maximum of 20 beds. We are going from 230 beds to 20 beds, yet the Labor Government is still spruiking that it is doing a fabulous job in mental healthcare funding. It is a reduction of critical mental health care by stealth. There have been 50 reviews into mental health in the past decade. It is now time for action from this New South Wales Government.

I understand that the motion was moved in good faith and that this Labor Government believes that the $111.8 million in funding to support community mental health is the way forward, but the Government needs to do much more. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that there were 3,144 deaths by suicide in the Australian population in 2021; 42.9 per cent of people aged between 16 and 85 years had experienced a mental health disorder at some time in their life; and 21.5 per cent of people had a 12-month mental disorder, with anxiety being the most common. I could go on about the statistics. At the end of the day, that motion, whilst it has merit, could go much further.

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (10:44): I make a brief contribution to debate on the motion moved by the member for Parramatta regarding the incredible challenge that is mental illness. The motion notes that over two in five Australians aged 16 to 85 are estimated to have experienced a mental disorder in their lifetime. However, that does not describe the impact that it has, nor the devastation of families and friends in our communities. It is an issue in every part of the State, no matter the socio-economic status or profile of the area. In Camden, I speak with people weekly who are struggling with the effects of the debilitating issue. I have spoken to those suffering and those on the periphery. I have heard stories of bright, young, brilliant members of our area who have become paranoid, anxious and fragile, often needing support and care far into their adult years.

As a former teacher, I know that the debilitating effects of anxiety and depression are all too prevalent amongst our young people. The effect it has on their social, emotional and educational development, which are all so important, is monumental. However, it is a problem that the New South Wales Government is determined to focus on, despite the neglect of the previous Coalition Government. This Government is committed to doing all it can to better support the mental health of people all over New South Wales.

Upon coming into government, the Minister acted immediately, commissioning a gaps analysis as an initial step to understand the size of the problem and prioritise immediate actions. The motion acknowledges the

Government's commitment to taking meaningful action to support the mental health of the people of New South Wales. This year's budget saw an investment of $2.9 billion towards mental health services in New South Wales, the largest on record. It includes a new investment of $111.8 million, including boosting community mental health services. Those services are often the first line of defence in supporting those who are suffering. There is also the Single Front Door Program, delivered through Healthdirect, which provides access to virtual GP services, specialist virtual paediatric services via virtualKIDS and urgent care services.

The Government is aware that the priority must always be frontline professionals. The recent budget also saw investment in 35 senior mental health clinicians added to existing teams located in key areas across New South Wales, enabling the Government to enhance services in localities and communities that need them the most, including three full-time senior mental health clinicians in south-west Sydney. While the Government has confidence in the State's services, frontline clinicians and quality assurance mechanisms, it is clear that there is need for improvement in the system and much more work to be done. The Government is aware that those improvements are just the beginning and vows to continue to work on this serious issue. It is needed to ensure that the system is consumer centred, recovery oriented, trauma informed, culturally responsive, and built with and for the community. For anyone who is struggling, please do not forget to talk to someone. They can call the Mental Health Line, Beyond Blue, Kids Helpline or any of the specialised services designed to catch them in a crisis. That includes carers, family members and friends. They are not alone. The Government is with them, hears them and sees them. I support the motion.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (10:48): I speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Parramatta. The motion says that two in five Australians aged 16 to 85 are estimated have experienced a mental health disorder in their lifetime. In speaking about suicide, suicide impacts families forever. When families experience it, it never leaves them. I note that people in the Lismore electorate, whom I represent, talk to me about those issues and where they have experienced it. It is awful. We can only imagine the anguish felt by people who believe that they have to commit suicide. Suicide has touched my family, so I know what that is like. Luckily, the person in my family is still alive, but that does not always happen. I know that every member in this place will support this notice of motion because we all care about this matter. We all want to do better in the area of mental health.

I recently read a Coroner's report regarding someone who had committed suicide in my home town of Lismore. The report showed all of the attempts that the person made to get the right support. From my experience and observations, I believe that we must change attitudes towards mental health and how we respond to it. There are a couple of issues around that. One is that mental health is very much individualised and treated as an individual illness or disorder, when really it is a huge public health issue. Studies that I have read from Johns Hopkins University indicate that by 2030 mental health will be the biggest global public health issue, and yet we still do not respond to it in a big public health way. We have some way to go. The Government has done some terrific work on it, but we need a lot more to happen.

While I was reading the Coroner's report, I noticed words like "malingerer" and "self-indulgent". Those words are commonly used in connection with mental health as though the person is choosing to be like that while in a state of psychosis. But those words and mental health do not go together. Coronial reports are not easy reads, but members should all read them to get a better handle on how we respond to suicide or people who say that they are going to commit suicide. Often those people are not believed or their words are seen as a threat or as being dramatic, but we have to take it seriously. When working with people who have said things like that, my response has been to be really frank and say, "Please, don't do it. We couldn't live without you." We need a wholesale change in attitude towards mental health and how we respond to it. I commend the motion. Every time we talk about mental health we come closer to providing better care for people.

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (10:52): I thank the member for Parramatta for bringing the motion to the House. This is a very important issue and I am pleased to be discussing it today. I speak briefly about the mental health inquiry chaired by my colleague Dr Amanda Cohn in the other place to highlight some of its findings. While I commend the motion, it is really critical that we talk about the need for increased funding to support mental health services. That mental health inquiry resulted in several recommendations. It has been promising to see some movement, but it has become quite clear that significantly more money needs to be invested in mental health. We know that it is a huge crisis.

A young 43-year-old man called Jesse Deacon was living in public housing in my electorate of Balmain. Jesse was self-harming and living in real anguish. His well-meaning neighbour called 000 to ask for an ambulance but, rather than an ambulance, the police arrived. They forcibly entered Jesse's home and he was shot and killed. I acknowledge the pain and suffering felt by the Glebe community and by Jesse and his family. His mother, Judy Deacon, has been a significant voice in the call for more support services for mental health. I back the findings of that mental health inquiry chaired by my colleague that noted the desperate need for first responders to mental

health emergencies to be people with backgrounds in mental health rather than police. It is incredibly important that we continue to do a great deal of work in this space because police should not be arriving at mental health emergencies when they are not equipped to understand or deal with mental health conditions.

New South Wales police were deployed to 64,000 mental health-related incidents in 2022 alone. Police Force Deputy Commissioner David Hudson has been quoted as saying that for many of those incidents police should not have attended. Over the past five years, 43 per cent of critical incidents involving a police officer that resulted in the death of or serious injury to a person also involved an interaction with a person in a mental health crisis. We know that 52 people experiencing mental health distress died in interactions with New South Wales police during the past five years, and that includes Jesse Deacon. It is terribly sad to see that continue to happen. I know that all members across the Chamber want to see action in this space and more investment in mental health support, particularly in response to issues where police are called.

The inquiry demonstrated that New South Wales can do a great deal to change its approach. Other States are dealing with mental health crises in different ways. A mental health-led response that results in better outcomes for the people involved—the patients, the families and also the workers—can be implemented. It is critical that police do not turn up to situations that they are not equipped for. I thank Judy Deacon, who has been a powerful voice in a time of grief after the event in which she lost her son, Jesse. She has been speaking out and doing everything she can to highlight the need for a different response. Judy said:

> … crisis mental health response programs exist that don't involve police, but are underfunded. The Western Sydney Health Model Teams respond to acute distress of community members without police involvement. The South Australian core model allows Triple Zero calls to be referred to mental health clinician and paramedic, not police.

We would really like to see those changes happen in New South Wales as well.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (10:56): Like many of my colleagues, I am pleased to support the motion moved by my colleague the member for Parramatta. As other members have outlined, suicide and mental illness impact all of our communities, and Liverpool is no different. Indeed, despite the growing discussion about mental health and wellbeing in our community, stigma remains and barriers to accessing care can be insurmountable for many, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities, including those of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people in suburban, regional or rural areas, amongst others.

As a former mental health worker myself, I was disappointed that the member for Hawkesbury politicised what should be a shared goal to deliver the mental health services and supports that all of our communities are crying out for. To give members some context about my work within the mental health system, I worked for two years as a telephone crisis supporter for Lifeline. So many of the people who called the service were looking for connection, somewhere to find hope and somewhere to find resources and assistance. The New South Wales branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists made a submission to the New South Wales inquiry into the current and future provision of health services in the south-west Sydney growth region. It stated:

> … it is critically important health services including those for people with mental health conditions, are well-planned and established long-before populations reach their limit.
>
> …
>
> In our view, the mental health system has not benefitted from consistent, integrated and sophisticated service planning …

That was back in 2020, when the needs of our community in the south-west were growing. That is why it is such an important step for the Minns Labor Government to have made an announcement—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): The Clerk will stop the clock. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. The House is considering a motion about the important topic of mental health and suicide. Members will show the member for Liverpool the respect she deserves during her contribution to debate.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. That was very generous. That is why it is important to acknowledge the strides that have been made in the most recent budget announcement. The addition of 35 mental health professionals, which will include five outreach mental health housing liaison positions to support care coordination and pathways into housing, is significant because, as the member for Lismore outlined, mental health care occurs in an intersectional way. It is not a matter of putting mental health resources into one box or another; it is important that all parts of our system come together so that we can address the mental health needs of our community. As a former mental health worker, I can attest to the burnout and the incredible lengths that many staff who work on the front lines will go to in support of their clients.

If we are talking about paying people what they are worth and making sure that the remuneration for those mental health workers is commensurate with the value they provide, the former Government had 12 years to engage in award reform to address pay issues. That was not done, but it is happening now under this Government. That is why I am proud to support this motion, as well as the many other initiatives that the Minister has introduced in this space to make sure this Labor Government puts at the heart of its response the people who are experiencing mental health distress, their carers, the staff who work on the front lines and the system that needs to respond. I commend the motion to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): It being 11.00 a.m., pursuant to standing and sessional orders, debate is interrupted for question time and the routine of business. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I extend a warm welcome to Mr Murray Aitken, First Secretary for Regional Resilience, British High Commission in Canberra, guest of the member for Prospect. I also welcome to the Chamber student Tilly Rose Cooper, principal Laetitia Richmond, and Mandy Loomes from Brigidine College, St Ives, guests of the member for Londonderry, and Deputy Premier. I welcome volunteers and staff of HammondCare Braeside Hospital, guests of the member for Fairfield. Finally, I welcome Bill Duncan, Ron Arnold, Nick Goddard and Ashley Eustace, guests of the member for Castle Hill. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, the beating heart of representative democracy in New South Wales.

Announcements

PARLIAMENTARY LIONS CLUB

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the Parliamentary Lions Club. The member for Riverstone is in the Chamber. Yesterday the club held a fundraising barbeque in the rooftop garden and raised $1,707.50. I was not the winner of the raffle, so I will not be announcing who won.

Standing Orders

UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

The SPEAKER (11:03): I have made previous statements about the use of offensive or unparliamentary language in this place, and I have made it clear that offensive personal remarks will not be tolerated. In the context of the recommendations of the Broderick report and in consultation with the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee, I am issuing a guideline, pursuant to Standing Order 9 (2), regarding offensive or disorderly words in respect of the application of Standing Order 74 and matters of disorder. The purpose of this guideline is to clarify that offensive words include words that are sexist, racist, homophobic or otherwise exclusionary or discriminatory. We can all agree that such words are beneath the dignity of the House, and this guideline confirms the standard for conduct and language to be observed in this place. It will signal to the broader community the Legislative Assembly's commitment to upholding the standards expected of elected representatives. Therefore, I issue the following guideline, pursuant to Standing Order 9 (2):

> Members are not to use language, make gestures, or behave in any way in the Chamber that is sexist, racist, homophobic or otherwise exclusionary or discriminatory. Such conduct may be considered offensive and disorderly, in accordance with Standing Order 74.
>
> Where a Member has used such language, taking into account the context, tone and manner of the Member speaking, the Speaker may intervene and direct the Member to withdraw the remark, resume their seat or discontinue the behaviour concerned.
>
> Under the authority of the relevant Standing Orders, it is the role and responsibility of the Speaker to deal with any such conduct as matters of disorder. Where a Member refuses to comply with a direction of the Speaker, further action may be taken, including directing the removal of the Member from the House under Standing Order 249 or 249A.
>
> I also note that Standing Order 250 (3) provides that a Member may be named by the Speaker for using offensive words, and refusing to withdraw them, with the potential consequence of suspension from the service of the House.

It is my expectation that all members will take personal responsibility to abide by proper standards of debate in this place and that I will not be required to intervene. I thank members for listening to my ruling. I am sure that we will be able to progress in accordance with the intention of the statement.

Members

JOINT SITTING

The SPEAKER: I remind members that, pursuant to the message from Her Excellency the Governor concerning a joint sitting in the Legislative Council, the bells will be rung at 2.25 p.m. to allow members to assemble prior to proceeding to the Legislative Council Chamber.

Question Time

MINISTER FOR SPORT

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:07): My question is directed to the Minister for Sport. The Minister spent $34,000 of taxpayers' money and took a charter flight to Vegas to watch the footy. What does the Minister say to the thousands of sports fans this weekend who cannot use a charter flight and could miss their game because of industrial chaos under this Government?

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. We are all excited to hear the answer.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (11:08): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his strange question. I went through budget estimates and had questions left, right and centre about the trip to Vegas. I have expressed on many occasions how valuable that trip was in our support of the NRL and in engaging with elements relating to the promotion of our State and events in our stadiums. Now, if there is an industrial relations issue, the Leader of the Opposition should be asking the industrial relations Minister about it. Even during budget estimates, the Opposition was questioning why I spent so little on food while I was there. That is because I paid for it out of my own pocket, unlike those opposite when they were in government. They would be spending $20,000 or $30,000 on food and entertainment during their term.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. The Leader of the Opposition rises on a point of order.

Mr Mark Speakman: My point of order relates to direct relevance under Standing Order 129. Vegas was the context. This weekend is the issue. Why is the Minister turning a blind eye to industrial chaos like every other Minister in this Government? Why are they closing their eyes to industrial chaos?

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. I uphold the point of order. The Minister will be more directly relevant.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: The question was about Vegas and the expenditure there, and I have been directly relevant to that.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Wahroonga to order for the first time. I will have members removed from the Chamber if they continue to interject.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: If the Leader of the Opposition has a question of the industrial relations Minister, that is fine. He should direct that question to her. In relation to Vegas, it added value to the State. We on a number of occasions have expressed how valuable it was for the State of New South Wales. The Leader of the Opposition should direct his question to the right Minister on future occasions.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Minister, have you concluded your answer?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I definitely have.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (11:11): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the New South Wales Government's school mobile ban and the joint Social Media Summit with South Australia?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:11): That is an important question for the State. As members would know, the New South Wales Government and the South Australian Government are partnering to deliver a two-day Social Media Summit—the first of its kind—to be held in October this year. The New South Wales Government will host it at the International Convention Centre in Sydney on Thursday 10 October and the South Australian Government will host the second day in Adelaide on Friday 11 October. This is important. Members should note that the call on the Government's Have your say survey website for input from parents on social media in New South Wales attracted a massive 21,204 submissions, which, I have to report, is the largest number of submissions ever received by the Government on any particular Have your say survey.

In addition, I note the Federal Government has made recent announcements about imposing a social media ban for young people in Australia, a much-needed and important step. As the Premier of South Australia has said, it is far better if we can work in concert with other States across jurisdictions so that we can send a message that this needs to change and this is important and that, at the end of the day, this is a global, unregulated experiment on young people and we need to put some guardrails around it. The State Government has also instituted a mobile

phone ban in New South Wales schools, led by the education Minister and Deputy Premier. It came into effect on day one, term 4, 2023.

I can report to the House that teachers are suggesting to the Department of Education that there has been a drop in bullying and violent incidents, and an increase in attendance from those who have been repeated truants in New South Wales schools. Teachers have recorded a dramatic increase in learning time, with one Blacktown High School teacher reporting an extra 50 minutes a day to engage with students—a huge turnaround in the classroom, with kids not able to jump on their phones and social media and be distracted. Members would appreciate that a lot of adults, let alone children, find it difficult to concentrate on the task at hand rather than looking at their mobile phones. I note that the member for Hawkesbury had her say about the mobile phone ban in a motion. She said:

> The words "institute" and "ban" go beyond my Liberal values of freedom of speech and the right to choose.

Then she said:

> We are not living in a communist country.

"Let the kids do what they want. *Lord of the Flies*—it doesn't matter. You can't put in bans." That is ridiculous. But it is also important to note that those kinds of changes in social behaviour do not just extend to children. [*Extension of time*]

We have to combat misinformation. There has been a recent social media post going around. It is misinformation. It says, "Anthony Albanese and his climate tsar Matt Kean want you to stop eating red meat," and there is a picture of Anthony Albanese and Matt Kean. That was shared by the member for Willoughby. He has been sending it around. I know what he has got against Matt Kean. But what has he got against Albo? That is what we want to know. Has he ever tried a veggie burger? For goodness sake, he should not be a snob. We have to combat misinformation. I know that at the moment Donald Trump is saying that there is an attack on family pets. People are eating family pets, eating the family cat. Guess who is worried about that? It is the member for Ryde. Harassment is a major issue as well.

Ms Jenny Leong: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Newtown rises on a point of order. Members will come to order so that the member for Newtown can be heard.

Ms Jenny Leong: I know that people find it funny and I appreciate the Premier was just making a joke but I note that at the start of this question time, Mr Speaker, you talked to us about issues around racism and sexism. While I absolutely am not suggesting the Premier was doing that, the reference he was making—

The SPEAKER: I will consider the member's point of order in the context of my earlier statement. At this stage I rule that the Premier has not offended against the intention of that statement.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: I am hardly being racist. You can take these things too far. At the end of the day, we have not heard a lot from Jinxy cat, from the member for Ryde.

Ms Jenny Leong: I wanted to repeat what I said because I appreciate I was not at the microphone. I did not accuse the Premier of being racist. I explicitly said that I know the Premier was not doing that. I was saying the Trump quote that people were making jokes about was incredibly racist. I wanted to bring that to your attention, Mr Speaker. I was certainly not suggesting the Premier was doing that at all. It is important to make that point.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Newtown for her clarification. There has been no offence against our standing orders.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: I do not think there should be an implication that there was. Harassment on social media is an important issue. I draw the House's attention to the Hon. Wes Fang, MLC. He has made an outrageous post. I am defending the Liberal Party because of his post "Why the New South Wales Liberals do not represent the bush". He has written a long screed. He was typing it out, early in the morning, on his laptop. He said:

> If you've ever wondered why the Upper House Nats are as close as we are …

We have all wondered that. That is an important issue. He says it is because they have to "stand as one" and that they have to fight against NSW Labor, The Greens and often the New South Wales Liberals in order to deliver for their communities. Then he says:

> Mark Speakman was clear about how he … would act when a member of his team behaved in such a manner. Unless he is … a hypocrite, he has to immediately remove Natalie Ward.

Enough harassment of the Leader of the Opposition.

REGIONAL SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (11:18): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Education and Early Learning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Minns Labor Government is ensuring students in regional New South Wales have access to quality school infrastructure and is delivering the upgrades that have been neglected for 12 long years?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (11:18): I thank the incredible member for Cessnock for that important question and for not missing the deadline. The member was an excellent educator in regional New South Wales. He is committed to world-class school infrastructure in his electorate. While members opposite talk about nuclear reactors in the Hunter, the member for Cessnock is delivering a new primary school and high school in the Hunter—and that is on top of six public preschools in Cessnock. I remind the House that while in government the Opposition invested absolutely nothing in the electorate of Cessnock in terms of school infrastructure. On the other hand, as I have said time and again in this House, the Government firmly believes that every child, no matter where they live in New South Wales, deserves access to high-quality, fee-free public education.

That is why we are investing $1.4 billion in rural and regional schools. We are upgrading and building schools across regional New South Wales. We are going to build the schools, like those in Huntley and Medowie, which were promised. Those schools are needed because they are growing communities, and they have always deserved them. Those communities have cried out for a school for years and years. Three weeks ago I was very pleased to go to the beautiful town of Bathurst to make a few big announcements, particularly about the Kelso High Campus of Denison College.

Mr Paul Toole: I did it before you!

Ms PRUE CAR: The member for Bathurst says he did it. The last time I checked, this Government announced it. It took a Labor government to fund that major upgrade at Kelso High Campus. It is a really sore point for the member for Bathurst.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Ms PRUE CAR: One would think the member would be happy that Kelso High Campus is getting a major upgrade; instead he is whingeing from the sidelines. I give a shout-out to principal Mick Sloan and his wonderful students and staff at the school. We are making a multimillion-dollar investment in multiple upgrades. The member for Bathurst congratulated the Government locally on that work. It would be nice if he took that spirit into this Chamber. At Kelso High School we are removing six demountables. We are very proud of that. There will be four new classrooms and two new student support hubs. At Bathurst High School we are upgrading toilet blocks and installing new accessible toilets. In budget estimates Opposition members like to ask me about toilets, but that basic maintenance was one of the things they neglected when in government. [*Extension of time*]

The Labor Government is proud to be delivering what the former Liberal-Nationals Government failed to deliver in regional New South Wales. We are also upgrading the toilets at Carcoar Public School. I am sure the shadow Minister is happy about that. On the way to Bathurst, together with the member for Blue Mountains, I popped into Katoomba High School. I give a shout-out to principal Tess Devine. We promised a multipurpose hall facility only two years ago. In fact, when the Leader of the Opposition at the time, Chris Minns, went to the school a couple of the students said, "We really need this, Chris." Two years later, that is almost completed. We are very proud of that multipurpose hall facility; we are very proud to be delivering for schools like Katoomba.

At Dapto High School we are finally getting on with the job of delivering the very best covered outdoor learning area in the State. The previous principal, who served for decades at that school, fought for that learning area for years and years. It has taken a Labor government to deliver for that school. I am also proud to report to the House that finally, after years of inaction by the former Government, a site is being investigated and master planning is underway for a new school at Albury-Thurgoona. I know the member for Albury has been talking about this ad nauseam for some time. It was a pity his Government did not make any progress on that.

Finally—the skills Minister is very happy about this—we have announced a new site for a long-awaited high school at Bungendore. A high school will finally be built for that community, who have been waiting for that high school. We are ensuring that that growing community can access high-quality education. We have announced the site; it is on top of a hill. It will be a beautiful high school. Minister Whan fought for that high school and the community deserves it.

HEALTH FUNDING

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (11:24): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Yesterday the Minister said he would not defend Federal Labor on health care "when it is not putting its shoulder to the

wheel". If State Labor cannot get Federal Labor to do its job, will the Minister admit that State and Federal Labor are failing the people of New South Wales?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:24): I thank the member for Vaucluse for her question—they are still waiting to see her at Blacktown Hospital. Let us talk about funding. On a number of occasions the Government has had very robust discussions with the Commonwealth about the future national health funding agreement. I have made it very clear—the member may wish to follow this up—that that deal is not good enough, as it currently stands, for the people of New South Wales. The reason is very simple: New South Wales is doing too much of the heavy lifting in an area that is traditionally—it should be and it is meant to be—funded by the Commonwealth.

I made it clear yesterday, and I will make it clear every day, that the New South Wales Government—through a range of initiatives such as urgent care services, geriatric outreach services, expanding scope of practice, investing huge amounts in the back end of healthdirect—is investing record funding into health. However, whether we like it or not in this country, we have a two-tier funded health system, and none of us are going to change it. When one tier is not doing the heavy lifting—

Ms Kellie Sloane: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. The Federal and State governments blaming each other does not help New South Wales. How will the Minister address that?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Minister has been completely and directly relevant to the question.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: This is the second time the Opposition has infringed Standing Order 131 (9) by making statements while taking points of order. Statements are impermissible. If Opposition members do so again they should be found to be disorderly and removed from the Chamber. They know they cannot do that.

The SPEAKER: That is the first time the member for Vaucluse has done it.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The Leader of the Opposition did it as well.

The SPEAKER: Yes, and he was warned about it yesterday. The Minister has the call.

Mr RYAN PARK: The member for Vaucluse must be careful as a new shadow Minister. We have all been caught out, but there is a thing called *Hansard*. The member was quoted as saying:

> It's time for them to step up and deliver real solutions for our hardworking health workers and the patients who rely on them.

However, late last year she said in this place:

> Labor was so beholden to its union paymasters that Labor members did not have the stomach to introduce—

wait for it—

> a wages cap.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

Mr RYAN PARK: A wages cap. My question to the member for Vaucluse is very simple: Is the Opposition bringing back the wages cap? Are you bringing back the wages cap?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat.

[*Interruption*]

I call the Minister for Health to order for the first time. That was an egregious breach of the standing orders.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Throw him out!

The SPEAKER: I do not need advice from the member for Dubbo. The member will be called to order or removed from the Chamber if he continues to provide gratuitous advice.

SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LGBTIQ HATE CRIMES

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (11:28): My question is directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. For decades the NSW Police Force neglected the murders of gay men like Scott Johnson and other LGBTIQ people. That led to the former Coalition Government establishing a Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes, which reported late last year. Will the Government accept and implement all the recommendations of Justice Sackar's harrowing report?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (11:29): I thank the member for Sydney for his very important question. He is a visible and proud advocate for his community, and I know that that community has an enduring interest in this issue. Today the New South Wales Government has released its response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes. I am pleased to advise the House that the Government is supporting all 19 recommendations resulting from the inquiry, and I know that that response will be welcomed by all in this House. The special commission of inquiry, which was established in 2022 by the former Government, investigated the manner and cause in all unsolved suspected hate crime deaths that occurred between 1970 and 2010 in New South Wales where the victim was, or was presumed to be, a member of the LGBTIQ community.

I know that people whose loved ones' stories are told in the almost 3,500 pages of the report are watching Parliament today. I know that these stories include some about people who have been let down by those whose job was to keep them safe. These people never wavered in their pursuit of justice—pursuits that have traversed decades and time zones. To these people, to their families and loved ones, and to the LGBTIQ community, who share this collective pain, I apologise on behalf of the New South Wales Government. The NSW Police Force features prominently in the recommendations from the inquiry. I know that the New South Wales police are deeply committed to learning from the past, and they have already made significant progress on work to address recommendations from the inquiry.

The police have established Task Force Atlas to oversee implementation of the recommendations for the Police Force. They have also established the LGBTIQ+ Consultative Committee, which is co-chaired by police and representatives from the LGBTIQ community and has membership from a cross-section of that community's organisations and representatives, along with victims' families and advocates. The consultative committee is an important forum to seek input into the police response to key recommendations, and I know that it will be a very valuable source of advice for the police. [*Extension of time*]

The New South Wales police have commenced the significant task of conducting a systematic review and audit of all unsolved homicide cases from between 1970 and 2010, establishing a taskforce comprising 25 investigators to undertake this important work. I assure the House that each case is being thoroughly and methodically reviewed. The police are keeping a close eye on international developments in forensic capabilities that could assist in the re-examination of exhibits from unsolved homicides. As recommended by the inquiry, the police are engaging with international police jurisdictions and academic experts on their practices relating to unsolved homicides and suspected hate crime murders, including records management and forensic procedures. My hope is that, through the work to address the recommendations from the inquiry, the New South Wales police can give to the families and loved ones the answers they so desperately want.

In 2018 ACON produced the report *In Pursuit of Truth and Justice*, which gave a voice to victims of suspected gay hate motivated murders that occurred in New South Wales from the 1970s to the 1990s. I take this time to particularly acknowledge former ACON CEO Nicolas Parkhill, who recently departed ACON but whose legacy cannot be understated. I thank all New South Wales police officers involved in Task Force Atlas, including Commissioner Karen Webb and Deputy Commissioner Peter Thurtell, for the care and diligence with which they are responding to the inquiry. Under their leadership, the NSW Police Force can move forward side by side with the LGBTIQ+ community in a relationship that pays respect to their history but is not defined by it. I thank the member for Sydney once again.

PATTERN BOOK DESIGN COMPETITION

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (11:34): My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Will the Minister update the House on the progress of the Minns Labor Government's pattern book to help redesign Sydney's housing future?

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (11:35): I thank the member for Strathfield for his question. I have spent some time in his electorate, and he introduced me to a number of members of his business community. They understand all too well just how important it is to have enough housing so they have access to not only good workers but also more customers. As members would know, the New South Wales Government has launched an international pattern book competition to design homes for the future of New South Wales. These are designs for more diverse housing—townhouses, terraces and three- and four-storey apartment buildings. They are the types of homes Sydney relied upon during some of its periods of growth and that we want to make sure have a place in our housing future because they not only provide density but also restore housing choice so people have good opportunities for different stages of housing in different stages of their lives.

While all Government's policies and reforms to deliver more homes are incredibly exciting, the pattern book is the one that has gotten international attention, from Sydney to Hong Kong, London to Perth—New York,

New York—from Auckland to Berlin and from Venice to Mumbai. Architects from across the world have jumped at the chance to submit expressions of interest for our pattern book. It is interesting that there seems to be more interest in the future of housing in New South Wales and Sydney from the opposite side of the world than there is from members opposite. We have had more than 200 entries in the design competition—nearly as many as the design competition that delivered us the Opera House, which we all know and love. Some 200 different groups of professional and student architects from around the world want to help design our housing future.

I am pleased to let everyone know that the competition has entered its next exciting phase. Twenty-one teams have been shortlisted for final designs. The shortlist includes 12 architecture firms from Australia, including some from New South Wales, and three international firms, from New Zealand, India and across Europe. The finalists include people who have designed co-housing designs, terrace houses and walk-up apartment developments in the past. The shortlisted finalists have until mid October to submit their final designs. I bet they will not miss the deadline. Then a five-person jury will judge the designs on criteria including liveability, buildability, replicability, cost-effectiveness, sustainability and the ability to meet the needs of both industry and local communities. This process is now really heating up, with the competition's winners to be announced in November. [*Extension of time*]

The most exciting part is the level of interest from homegrown architecture students. After all, who better to design the future of our cities and our suburbs than the people who will actually live in them? It is really exciting that the pattern book will include designs from some of those young students as they seek to shape the city they will inherit. Pattern book home designs have influenced and shaped homes in New South Wales since the earliest days of European settlement. This competition will also help to tackle the housing crisis by providing a fast-track process for the pattern book designs. Critically, the pattern book will have a fast-track process that will provide certainty for builders, owners, renters and communities. It means that, once the designs are finalised, if you pick one of those designs you can be assured of a swift and certain pathway to approval.

We will make it simple enough so that even members opposite will be able to get the application right and in on time. We will make it that simple. It will mean that builders can get moving quickly and will be able to tailor their business models to deliver pattern book homes. It will assure first home buyers, downsizers and renters that they can access well-designed homes by world-leading architects. It will create a pathway for them to build and live in those homes as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hawkesbury will come to order.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: The pattern book will be a template for the diverse homes that New South Wales needs into the future. It is yet another lever that the Government is pulling to help deliver more homes in New South Wales. This Government is about building better homes and better communities, while members of the Opposition work to block new homes at every possible opportunity.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Port Macquarie to order for the first time.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT SERVICES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (11:39): My question is directed to the Premier. XPT regional train services in New South Wales have been cut for 11 days with no notice because Steven Miles is rushing through a project in Brisbane ahead of the Queensland State election. Will the Premier pick up the phone and call the Queensland Premier to ask why regional New South Wales citizens are paying the price for his electioneering?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:40): I will seek information and report back to the House.

BUSHFIRE READINESS

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (11:40): My question is addressed to the Minister for Emergency Services. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is preparing for the start of the bushfire season?

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (11:40): I thank the member for Camden, who deals a lot with emergency services and has experienced a series of natural disasters. I give a shout-out to her local RFS crews, who we have spent some time with, and, of course, RFS crews across the State. Today, as all members know, there is a total fire ban across Greater Sydney, the Illawarra and the Shoalhaven. Whilst bushfire season in this State does not officially start until 1 October, we have already had a series of fires, including a couple of weeks ago when we had up to 100 grassfires at one time. Approximately 22 fires are burning at the moment. Our RFS crews are out there and we are doing everything we can to contain those fires. In addition, aerial assets have been deployed, while others are waiting to be deployed at Bankstown Airport and the Albion Park airport. In the lead-up to the bushfire season, we have done everything we can to prepare.

I said at the outset that hazard reduction has been difficult over the past couple of years. I am not stepping away from that. We have had massive events that we could not control, including, obviously, the weather. All members recognise that over the past couple of years the weather pattern and the amount of rain have made it increasingly difficult to undertake burns as part of hazard reduction. We take any opportunity we can, but there are only very small windows. We will continue to do that.

We are still monitoring for La Niña conditions. The outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology is that it may be neutral for storms and fires. That does not mean there will be none of the storms or fires that we have been experiencing for the last little bit. It only means that neither La Niña nor El Niño conditions can be committed to. Spring is usually a time of hazard reduction burns; people will still be able to smell the smoke in the air from them. We will continue those burns. I give a shout-out to the RFS and the other agencies, including the Crown Lands team that has been up there checking our fire trails. We have people from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Corporation working with RFS and Fire and Rescue to try to undertake as many hazard reduction burns as possible.

There are other forms of hazard reduction, including mechanical clearing in areas that we cannot get into to undertake burns. There have been burns in the Blue Mountains, northern beaches and south west. We are focusing on areas, including areas west of the divide, where we are concerned because the lowland grassland has been growing so much, as well as areas that were not burned through during the 2019-20 bushfires. [*Extension of time*]

I need all members to help. This weekend is Get Ready Weekend. I want members to share information with their communities and encourage them to go out and visit their local RFS. It could be at the local brigade, local shopping centre or local Bunnings. We want people to visit the RFS, meet their local firefighters and get some tips from them. All the Get Ready Weekend locations for Saturday and Sunday are available on the RFS website. We can all do it together, as we did last summer. We need to get that information out to the community. I remind members once again of the Hazards Near Me app. I sound like a broken record when it comes to the Hazards Near Me app, but it is the one true source of up-to-date information. It gives people the latest information and informs communities if there is a hazard reduction or burn. The RFS and SES can update it all together.

As part of the support provided by this Government, we are also putting in $10 million of additional funding for mitigation crews so we do not have to rely on only volunteers and other agencies. The Chinook helicopter, which carries up to 10,000 litres of water and retardant, is in the final stages of being converted so it can be used during night flying exercises. The *Marie Bashir* has been overseas. New South Wales is the only State in the nation with a large air tanker. We are doing everything we possibly can, but we need everyone to do their bit. That includes landowners. Members should encourage people to be prepared, which is a shared responsibility. People can start at home by trimming overhanging trees and any shrubs; mowing the grass and removing the cuttings; removing any material that could be burnt around the home; clearing and removing the debris from gutters to prevent ember fires; and preparing a sturdy hose that can reach every part of the house. Together we need to take this seriously. Together we need to get this information out. Together we will be able to face any challenge that comes our way.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (11:45): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. This morning at a press conference when discussing the metro conversion, the Minister said, "The delays will cost over $100 million a month." Why is the Minister letting $100 million a month of taxpayer money go down the drain while she sits back and does nothing?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (11:46): It is disappointing that the member for Hawkesbury has brought selective interpretation to what was a long and clear explanation of what the Government is doing when it comes to the challenge of providing frequent and reliable public transport services and ensuring ongoing, good-faith negotiations with our transport workforce. As Minister for Transport, my responsibility is to do everything I possibly can to prevent disruption and inconvenience for people on our public transport network so passengers can have a reliable service.

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

Ms JO HAYLEN: As I explained this morning, unfortunately, despite the fact that we have been in long and constructive conversations with the unions over several days and late into the night last night—and I appreciate the spirit that they have brought to the table—we do not have an agreement yet. My door is open and there is still time. Today was the time to tell the travelling public that we do not have an agreement and, therefore, there will be disruptions to services on the weekend and that we will not be able to provide the level of service that was planned.

I was very clear to the union in particular that they should not let their opposition to the metro stand in the way of families getting to the football this weekend, or the people of the south west getting the metro services that they have been promised for years and the taxpayers of New South Wales have already paid billions of dollars for. A delay to that critical construction and conversion period will cost more. Every contract has been let, every bus driver has been hired and every bus is ready to provide services while we convert that line. I have said to the union that we need to make sure there is a way forward. My door is open to work that out. That is always the best way to do it. I note the politicking by member for Hawkesbury of this issue. It is disappointing because ultimately we know that the approach of the previous Government was conflict and not solutions; this Government's approach is to find solutions. The previous Government's approach was conflict and a wages cap.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Terrigal to order for the second time. I call the member for Wahroonga to order for the second time. I call the member for Tamworth to order for the first time. I call the member for Terrigal to order for the third time.

Ms JO HAYLEN: That wages cap denied this State the essential public transport and other public services, including teachers and nurses, that we need every day. This Government will continue to work constructively to find solutions for the people of New South Wales. The Opposition's policy is another wages cap.

REGIONAL ROAD SAFETY

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (11:49): My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on the action taken by the New South Wales Government to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our regional roads?

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (11:50): I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for the question. She is a great Parliamentary Secretary and is really passionate about safety in all of its aspects. I will talk about the Government's recent announcement. At *The Daily Telegraph* Bush Summit in Orange the Premier made a key commitment of $202 million to target and deliver road safety improvements on identified high-risk regional roads to save lives in the bush.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Revenue raising from the regions.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I acknowledge the interjection from the member for Dubbo. No, we are spending $202 million.

Mr Dugald Saunders: You budgeted 70. Where is the other—

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: You cannot read the budget. Do not start. It just makes you look like a fool.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Through the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The member for Dubbo initiated the exchange. He is already on one call to order. He will be directed to leave the Chamber if he continues to interject. The Minister will direct her remarks through the Chair.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Round two spans three years, including this year and 2026-27, and projects will receive the funding prioritised as needed by the Centre for Road Safety. That is $120 million going out the door in the western region, over $46 million going out in the south of the State and nearly $15 million in the northern region. They are all regional areas. I see the very happy faces of the members of the real party of the west. Why are we doing this? Because we are the party of the bush. I misspoke on Tuesday when I said the Premier announced this funding in Dubbo. That is because I went to the first Bush Summit that was held there, but the announcement was made in Orange. But it did make me think about Dubbo, and I went back through the vault.

Someone in the Opposition—it could be the member for Dubbo—has been telling a few porky pies. Last week he told 2GB that there was only $70 million for the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program. It is over three years. The member for Dubbo was wrong. I would expect better from a former Minister. Then the member for Dubbo said the revenue from average speed cameras will fund toll relief. What a lie! Revenue can only go to the Centre for Road Safety. Then he started calling for things like overtaking lanes, rumble strips, barriers and better surfacing. That is what we are doing. That is what the $202 million is for. How much of that is going into his electorate? His electorate is getting $47.5 million. Has he told his community about that? Let us look at what he has said about road safety.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Twenty per cent of the funding is not good enough for him. Between 2015 and 2019 he had a different view on road safety. He talked about 60 people who had been killed, very sadly, in Dubbo, and he said— [*Extension of time*]

He said that it "unfortunately places us in the top 10 when it comes to all of New South Wales". I agree. That is why the Government is spending $47.5 million in the Dubbo electorate. In 2019, the member for Dubbo was telling his Facebook followers, "There's never a safe amount to speed. Say, 'Yeah, nah' to speeding." In 2022 he was a big fan of speed cameras. He told his followers, "Speed cameras play an important role in keeping commuters safe by reducing fatalities across our road network." Average speed cameras have been used in this State since 2009. I wonder what he is saying to the truckies who have been using them since 2009. When the Opposition was in government, they rolled out 23 of the 25 regional speed cameras. It seems like the member for Dubbo wants to change his views. I found an article in the vault showing happier times. I remember when the member for Bathurst was in Cabinet and the member for Dubbo was not. They were happier times.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order: I take my point of order under Standing Order 73. If the Minister wants to bring on a substantive motion and debate it, I am more than happy to do that. If she wants to reflect on my Facebook—

The SPEAKER: The member for Dubbo will resume his seat. The Minister has the call.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Mate, I am; it is called legislation. It is in the House. Next week, you and me, let's do it.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time. The Minister will direct her remarks through the Chair and not address the member for Dubbo directly. The Minister is experienced and she knows that addressing members across the table results in disorder. The Minister has been chastised.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The Speaker anticipated one of my points of order, which is that the Minister was not directing her comments through the Chair. My other point of order is taken under Standing Order 74. The Minister was being deliberately quarrelsome.

The SPEAKER: My ruling probably encapsulated that. The Minister will now be well behaved.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Mr Speaker, I will speak to you so I do not get distracted. It is deliberately quarrelsome when you go out in the media and you lie, and that is what has happened. The member for Dubbo is saying—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: I ask the Minister to withdraw that comment.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I withdraw it.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has withdrawn the comment.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: "Being loose with the truth" is what I should have said. The member for Dubbo wanted to know whether he would be speeding if he had to get to 110 kilometres per hour to overtake someone doing 98 in a 100 zone. There is no such thing as safe speeding, Dugald.

Mr Dugald Saunders: There is. You just won't admit what it is yet.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Yeah, nah. You said it yourself, "Yeah, nah."

The SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to order for the first time.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (11:56): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. In February 2023 the Minister announced an election commitment, saying, "Labor will review the train timetable to deliver better train connections." Why is the Minister now planning to cut peak hour train services between Hornsby and Roseville?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (11:56): I thank the member for Davidson for his question. His community has been one of the great beneficiaries of the new city metro. Every day there are more than 400 new services available for his constituents and the constituents across Sydney. Because of our Government's commitment to an integrated public transport system that works as a whole, we have added 375 new bus services. We have seen the incredible success of that in an increase of 7 per cent in people interchanging between bus and metro and an increase of 21 per cent, as of last week, in people interchanging between heavy rail and metro.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The Minister is talking about the metro. The metro does not run between Hornsby and Roseville. The question was about train services between Hornsby and Roseville, and not about bus services or the metro.

The SPEAKER: I understand the point of order. The question was about transport.

Mr Alister Henskens: No, train services.

The SPEAKER: A train is a form of transport. The Minister is the Minister for Transport, and she is giving a comprehensive answer. I do not uphold the point of order.

Ms JO HAYLEN: As I was saying, it is about an integrated public transport system, and we have seen an increase of up to 21 per cent in people changing between the heavy rail system and the metro system. That is indication of people, one, having confidence to use public transport more often—tick—and, two, people using the system overall. As a great global city, we want people to have end-to-end active and public transport journeys because that is good for them, their families, their wallets and the environment, but it is also good for our road network because it frees up more space. We will not only introduce new services but also make sure we are using the existing services to their maximum potential, including ensuring—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The Minister has been speaking for two minutes and not a word has been said about cutting peak train services from Hornsby to Roseville, which is what the question was about.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order. The Minister is being directly relevant.

Ms JO HAYLEN: He is really quite impatient. I think his impatience indicates that he is not really committed to an integrated public transport system. Members on this side of the House are; they are not. We are so committed, in fact, that we will introduce a series of timetable adjustments over the course of coming years to make sure that more people can catch public transport more often and that will result in more services, not less.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (11:59): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is supporting women's healthcare needs?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:59): I thank the member for Wallsend for her question and for recently opening in her part of the world one of our menopause hubs, an important health facility. I know she and many other members in this Chamber have advocated for that for a long time. For many years I have been championing accessible healthcare services for women. In Opposition we rolled out a number of significant policies that are now being implemented. For the first time we have record investment in women's health centres. All of us in this Chamber will agree it was very much needed. Women's health has not had an increase in real term funding since the '80s, but now record funding is going to those centres across New South Wales.

For a long time the member for Shellharbour has advocated for a trauma recovery centre in Shellharbour. We invested $2.5 million in that centre, which opened just recently. We also invested and worked through a policy in Opposition around the McGrath nurses, and we have rolled out an increase of these cancer nurses across New South Wales. That is something near and dear to the hearts of many members in this Chamber and their communities. We also actively supported and participated in the recent birth trauma inquiry. On behalf of the House, I wholeheartedly acknowledge the women who appeared in that enquiry to share very difficult circumstances and experiences going back many years.

As a result of that inquiry, we are now expanding and enhancing midwifery services across New South Wales. Today I can announce we will fund and allocate a $20,000 sign-on payment to midwives who go to work in eligible areas of rural, regional and remote New South Wales, to help alleviate the critical shortage of midwives in those areas. Those places include Tamworth. I know the member for Tamworth has written to me and raised this shortage, as has the Australian Medical Association. I was in Tamworth earlier this year and met with Jill from the Nurses and Midwives' Association. She and a team of nurses and midwives made it clear to me that there were challenges in Tamworth. Since then we have worked on this initiative and today we are delighted to announce that type of payment going into recruiting and retaining our midwives. [*Extension of time*]

We are doing much more than that. Obviously we are investing in menopause hubs. These hubs are particularly important because they provide specialised treatment for women experiencing extreme symptoms of menopause. The member for Wallsend advocated to have one of these hubs and it is now a part of the community she represents. These are important initiatives. In the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, as a result of the advocacy of groups like Better Births Illawarra, we are rolling out an expanded midwifery group practice—the gold standard.

Recently in Moruya I had the opportunity to speak with a midwife by the name of Chloe. She helped to deliver baby Stephen to mum, Bianca, and dad, Dwayne. She had gone to that community because she wanted to be part of the gold standard of midwifery practice. The delivery of that model is important to us as we rollout the birth trauma inquiry recommendations.

Before I conclude, I acknowledge a woman in NSW Health who has given 40 years service in midwifery, helping to improve birthing and midwifery practices across New South Wales. Deb Matha will retire soon, after 40 years of incredible work and experience. She was instrumental in setting up birthing suites in the State's hospitals. She stayed on board in NSW Health to see through the birth trauma inquiry. She has been working on our blueprint. On behalf of the people of New South Wales and the broader health family, I thank Deb for all she has done for women, children and families across New South Wales.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (12:05): My question is addressed to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Will the Minister update the House on the historic steps the Minns Labor Government is taking to prevent domestic and family violence in New South Wales?

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (12:05): I thank the member for East Hills for her ongoing passionate advocacy in this space. This year has certainly been a difficult year for people experiencing domestic and family violence, for people who work in the sector and, most importantly, for the families of the women and children who have lost their lives in 2024. We have seen too many women and children lost to violence this year. Today the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research released its most recent quarterly report. That report shows that 15 adult women were victims of domestic violence murder in the year to June 2024. In the 10 years to June 2024, reports of domestic violence related assaults increased by 28.3 per cent. That is up 2.8 per cent a year on average over those 10 years. Disturbingly, reports of sexual assault increased 107.2 per cent over those 10 years. This simply cannot continue. I know that all members in the House feel strongly about this and certainly no-one more than the Government.

Government has spent many years focused on crisis responses and, without doubt, that work is important. We have to support victim survivors as they experience domestic violence and as they choose to leave it and rebuild their lives. They need wraparound support when they escape violence. They must be able to access safe housing and trauma-informed support that will help them recover and rebuild their lives in a future free from abuse. But that focus on crisis alone does very little to bring down the rates of domestic, family and sexual violence we experience in our communities. If we are going to drive down the rates, we have to focus on the drivers of gendered violence and the behaviours and cultures where violence against women is tolerated, and too often condoned. That is why the Minns Labor Government has committed $38 million to implement the first dedicated primary prevention strategy in New South Wales. This Government serious about addressing domestic, family and sexual violence, including at the very source. [*Extension of time*]

Last Friday I was proud to stand alongside the Premier and the sector peaks—Domestic Violence NSW and Full Stop Australia—and New South Wales Women's Safety Commissioner, Dr Hannah Tonkin, to launch the pathways to prevention strategy, which is our State's first dedicated primary prevention strategy. It sets out the work that we need to do to address the underlying gendered drivers of violence against women. Our strategy is supported by evidence, including the Man Box data. I recommend that any member who is interested look at that. Our strategy is aimed at the drivers of gendered violence and disrupting those drivers, which disturbingly appear to be worsening, particularly among some younger men. The strategy begins where we know change is possible: in our schools, local communities, workplaces and sporting clubs. We know we can change attitudes by getting to places where people live, learn, work, socialise and play. Those organisations drive people's values, cultures and attitudes.

I am working with Minister Car. We will support school and early education teachers and staff to embed evidence into our curriculum and to provide education about respectful relationships and consent. Minister Cotsis spoke in Parliament yesterday about what the Government is doing to drive down gender-based violence and sexual harassment in workplaces to make them safe. Minister Kamper will work with me to make sure that our sporting clubs have safe and healthy environments. Importantly, we will also work with Aboriginal organisations. I was out in Brewarrina, Walgett and Dubbo with Minister Harris only a couple of weeks ago. We know that community-led programs are better for Aboriginal people, and we want to work with them. I am very pleased to be working inside government on this strategy.

RAIL SERVICES

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:10): My question is directed to the Minister. This week *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that peak-hour services on the T8 and T1 lines will be slashed by up to four trains an hour at the end of October. Affected stations in the Newtown electorate include St Peters and Erskineville, which are already losing services due to the closure of the T3 Bankstown line for metro construction. Will the Minister confirm how many hourly trains will service St Peters and Erskineville from the end of October and explain why commuters at these stations will have fewer services, despite the expansion of the rail network?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (12:11): I thank the member for Newtown for her question. She is a longstanding advocate for public transport, particularly for the passengers in St Peters and Erskineville. Our Government is in the business of delivering more reliable and more frequent public transport services to the greatest number of people across Sydney as possible. We want people to choose public transport more often. Whether that is in the inner west, the south-west or the north-west across our city, we want to make sure that those options are available to people. Through the introduction of Sydney Metro, we have totally transformed our transport service. It means that there are more services available to people—over 400 services a day on the metro.

As I informed the House earlier, we are seeing greater interchange between metro services and heavy rail services. That is taking pressure off our heavy rail service. In the first couple of weeks of metro operation, we saw not only a 99 per cent level of reliability on metro but also a 99 per cent on-time running result for Sydney Trains. Again, that is an indication of an integrated public transport system working well. As we introduce new parts of infrastructure to our public transport system, we will make adjustments so that it works well. We will not do what those opposite did and introduce one wholesale, massive transport timetable change, like occurred in 2017. It wreaked havoc across the network that communities are still trying adjust to. We will instead work methodically and carefully so that we see the benefits as each of these changes occur—Sydney Metro City and Southwest, then the new Mariyung fleet will come to the north, to the west and to the south. As each of those opportunities are presented, we will be able to adjust the timetable and make it work together.

That will ensure better services for everybody, including people in the inner west. I confirm to the member for Newtown that St Peters and Erskineville stations will temporarily change to the T8 line during the conversion of the T3 Bankstown line to metro, and passengers at St Peters and Erskineville stations will continue to receive direct services from their local station to the CBD all day, via the T8 Airport and South line. As we announce those changes, I will ensure not only that the community has time to adjust, to know where they are going and how to get there, and I will also keep the member for Newtown up to date.

Documents

SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LGBTIQ HATE CRIMES

Government Response

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I table the Government's response to the Special Commission of Inquiry on LGBTIQ Hate Crimes.

ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018, I announce receipt of the report of the Office of the Anti-slavery Commissioner entitled *Be Our Guests: Addressing urgent modern slavery risks for temporary migrant workers in rural and regional New South Wales*, received on 18 September 2024. I order that the report be printed.

Committees

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

Reports

Mr GREG WARREN: As Chair: I table report No. 1/58 of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety entitled *Electric and hybrid vehicle batteries*, dated September 2024. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 (3) general business notices of motion (general notices) Nos 1714 to 1745 will lapse tomorrow.

WITHDRAWAL OF BUSINESS

Ms KOBI SHETTY: I withdraw general business notice of motion (for bills) No. 1 [Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Inclusionary Zoning Targets) Bill 2024].

Motions

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (12:17): In reply: I respond to the member contributions that have been made today on this important motion. First, I thank the member for Camden for sharing her experiences in her electorate, where people are struggling with everyday situations of mental health, which does not discriminate on socioeconomic grounds, age, race or any other aspects of life. I also thank the member for Lismore, who has also seen how closely connected mental health is to extreme weather events, with people in her community facing mental health challenges accompanied with the loss of basics that we all expect to have, such as shelter, and the ability to work and have a livelihood. I also acknowledge the member for Balmain for her contribution and for bringing to the attention of the Chamber Jesse Deacon's story, which highlights the need to improve our responses especially when it comes to all-of-government responses in times of crisis. Our Government is focused on crisis mental health responses, and we intend to address that. I also acknowledge the member for Liverpool, who is a former mental health worker. She highlighted the importance of increased funding in this budget, with an investment of $2.9 billion for services across New South Wales and in her area of south-west Sydney.

I also acknowledge the member for Hawkesbury for her contribution to the debate. However, I highlight that it is disappointing that she politicised such an important issue. Statements from the member such as "the system is broken in New South Wales" and "employees are underpaid" are quite hypocritical from a former Minister in a government that sat on its hands and failed to address any wage demands and, instead, implemented a wages cap. It is appalling, and speaks volumes to the genuine concern of the Opposition, that only one speaker was put forward to speak about what the member for Hawkesbury acknowledged is an important issue right across the State and, indeed, the nation. That is why the Minns Labor Government is taking action.

This year's budget saw an investment of $2.9 billion towards mental health services—the largest on record—with an increase of $111.8 million for boosting community mental health services, $38.9 million for the mental health Single Front Door Program through Healthdirect and enhanced support for mental health consumers with complex needs. Thirty-five senior mental health clinicians will be added to existing teams located in key areas across New South Wales, including Western Sydney, which incorporates my electorate. The Mid North Coast, Murrumbidgee and Southern NSW local health districts will receive funding for two full-time-equivalent community mental health team members, and there will be three in South Western Sydney, Hunter New England and South Eastern Sydney local health districts, as well as Western Sydney.

The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network will have seven full-time equivalents to provide transition support and community follow-up for people. The funding will also include 35 additional mental health professionals to include five outreach mental health housing liaison positions to support care coordination and pathways into housing. The Government is developing legislation for a whole-of-government approach to suicide prevention, recognising that mental health is not always the sole driver of distress leading to suicide. It is only one factor. I acknowledge the work that the New South Wales Government is doing in that space. I commend the motion to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

BOWEL CANCER

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (12:22): I move:

That this House:

(1) Notes that June marks Bowel Cancer Awareness month and that 19 June 2024 marks Red Apple Day.

(2) Notes bowel cancer is the deadliest cancer for young people aged 25 to 44, and that you can never be too young.

(3) Recognises those affected by bowel cancer, know that you are not alone and keep hopeful that you can beat this disease.

(4) Recognises the work and advocacy of Bowel Cancer Australia.

First of all, I thank all members who are present in the Chamber and the people present in the gallery, whom I will expand on further. I thank them for coming early; the House's business has sped up today. I start with lyrics from The Beach Boys from 1966:

God only knows what I'd be without you

The song's inspiration was created through prayer by composer Brian Wilson and his brother Carl. Those lyrics have had added meaning to me since 23 April 2024. On that day I was diagnosed with bowel cancer. In the days following, I was not sure of the stage of the cancer. My mind went to a place of worst-case scenario, and I questioned whether I had only weeks or months to live. Clearly, I was in fear, shock and denial. I turned to prayer and eventually accepted that God has plans for all of us. I then turned to hope and gratitude that, thankfully, I had actually been diagnosed. That would not have been the case without my wife, Gessika. I am not sure that I would have got a diagnosis and been able to live a full life without her. Gessika booked my colonoscopy when my doctor told me to do so. If it were up to me, I can probably 100 per cent guarantee that I would not have had a colonoscopy when I did, and I may not have had one to date. It would have potentially been too late.

Members of this House know that we are always busy and that every single one of us can be fatigued. My only symptom at the time was fatigue. It finally caught my attention when I attempted to donate blood at the Australian Red Cross, which I had been doing since my late teens. I was told at the time that I had low haemoglobin levels, also known as low iron levels. My call to action is that everyone, in particular us very strong men—well, we think we are very strong—if they are not feeling well, should visit their doctor. I feel blessed that it appears that we caught the bowel cancer early; however, my cancer journey is not over. I again thank my wife, Gessika. I love her very much, and God only knows what I'd be without you. That brings me to bowel cancer. Bowel Cancer Australia said it best:

99 per cent of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated when detected early.

The organisation's logo, which is an apple—I do not have a prop here today—represents an abstract of the human bowel. The small hole in the apple is caused by a worm. If detected early and removed, the worm is unable to continue affecting the apple or the health of the tree. I recognise those in the gallery from Bowel Cancer Australia: CEO Julien Wiggins and his wonderful team, Aimee Palfreeman, Cielomar Cua, Fiona Radford, Michelle Campbell and Stephanie Bansemer-Brown. I also recognise advocates Jessica Kidd, Robbie Barnes, Shelly Barnes, Amy Graham, Adam Kearn, Mehroz Afzal, as well as the chair, Craig Jackson.

Sadly, we have a challenge: Bowel cancer is the deadliest cancer for people aged 25 to 44. One can never be too young. I welcome that testing kits are now available for people aged 45 and over, and I thank the Federal health Minister, the Hon. Mark Butler. But at age 39, I would not have been able to get that test, and that is the same for anyone under the age of 45. I also recognise the Hon. Chris Bowen, who, thanks to the Gut Foundation, hosted a worthwhile lunch with the support of Paul Nicolaou and Nerida Pearson. Chris and I were on the panel, and I pay my respects to Chris's family. He sadly lost his father in recent times. But Chris spoke of hope too—that his father had been diagnosed with bowel cancer and lived for another 15 years. I recognise the Gut Foundation, led by CEO Roy Wakelin-King, AM; and the president and founder, Professor Terry Bolin.

I now recognise those affected by bowel cancer. I want them to know that they are not alone and to keep hopeful that they can beat this disease. I am currently receiving chemotherapy treatment. I am attached to this bottle for two days, so I am looking forward to it coming out tomorrow. It is round eight of 12 rounds. Chemotherapy is not widely understood by the public. Everyone experiences chemo differently. Thankfully, with the treatment that I am getting, I will not lose my hair. The work of the Cancer Council NSW makes the treatment less invasive. I acknowledge Bev, who is a cancer survivor. Every week, she volunteers at St Leonards and helps all of us who are getting treatment. She gives us great support. I also recognise Jacqui Greenfield and Maddi McEnaney for their work. The member for Willoughby and I proudly thanked our nurses, doctors and medical staff on Daffodil Day with Jacqui and Maddi. It was inspirational, and I know the staff appreciated it. I pay tribute to our health staff, who go well above and beyond, and say a really big thank you.

I now acknowledge the member for Campbelltown. He and I have agreed to establish the Parliamentary Friends of Bowel Cancer. I thank him for his support and encourage all members of this House and the other place to be a part of it. That will be set up in the coming weeks. In 2025 I look forward to having a big Red Apple Day, Daffodil Day and all of the other events that raise awareness for cancer. I also thank all members of this House for their support in this time. It has been encouraging and means the world to me.

Finally, I share the story of an individual who, sadly, passed away from bowel cancer in recent times. Her name is Betty Tudehope. She is the Hon. Damien Tudehope's niece. On Friday, Raddison Blu is hosting a

fundraiser in Betty's honour. Betty was diagnosed with bowel cancer in her thirties, just like me, but, sadly, it was stage four. She had her surgery and she underwent chemo. She continued to work throughout her chemo, which is extremely brave. Sadly, Betty passed away recently, but her memory will stay with all of us. I did not get to meet Betty but I look forward to Friday, when I can champion her work to raise awareness. I commend the motion to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): We hope the member for Davidson makes a full recovery.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:29): I am delighted to contribute to debate on the motion. I thank my friend the member for Davidson for bringing this matter before the House so that we can further highlight the important issue of bowel cancer and cancer more broadly. I thank everyone in the gallery for coming today. I am sure they all have very busy lives, but being here is something truly special. I see some familiar faces. It is good to see Gess. Like the member for Davidson said, I look forward to establishing a parliamentary friends group and doing some work in that space to support each other.

I had the pleasure of being a member of the road safety committee with the member for Davidson. He works very hard and is an effective member of that committee. We established a good relationship during that time. He is a new member of Parliament, and I have watched him continue to perform, grow and fit into that role. That is a true and symbolic representation of his passion for his role as a member of Parliament. I commend him for that. Most importantly, I am sure that all my colleagues will join me in wishing him well during his cancer journey. He has four treatments to go. We know that he is tough and strong and will do well. All our thoughts are with the member for Davidson. When we spoke on the phone and he told me about his diagnosis, he could have knocked me over with a feather, given our working relationship and everything he is going through. I know that his lovely wife is with him and will be there the whole way through.

Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in New South Wales. It is also the second most common cause of cancer death in New South Wales and across the nation. I highlight some frightening statistics. This year in New South Wales it is predicted that there will be 1,751 deaths from bowel cancer. That accounts for just over 11 per cent of all deaths from cancer in New South Wales. It is encouraging to see, though, that the rate of bowel cancer diagnoses and deaths in New South Wales has decreased over the past 10 years. I pay credit to the researchers, physicians, clinicians and governments of all persuasions who have done a lot of work on treatment, preventative treatment and research. It is truly appreciated. No member knows more about that than the member for Davidson. That rate could decrease even further if eligible people participate in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

I know it will come as a surprise to members, but I turned 50 last November. I celebrated my birthday in all the usual ways. I had a cake and went out for dinner and had a few glasses of wine to celebrate being halfway to 100. But I also got a letter in the mail saying that I needed to do bowel cancer screening. I thought, "I'm not doing that. Why would I want to do that?" But it interested me so I did my research and realised how important it is. Members will also be aware, given their commitment to following my Facebook page, that I had a heart check as well. To cut a long story short, turning 50 prompted me to get tested. Whilst not old, I am not getting younger. This is a stage in people's lives, particularly in the lives of men and people with a family history of disease, to get everything checked out. If we do not test now, there will be problems for us in the future. I got myself tested more for my family than for me. I remember my dad saying to me, "I know it's a pain and it's a hindrance and you're busy but, if you are not doing it for yourself, do it for your kids and wife." That is precisely what I did. I am fortunate and blessed that everything came back clear, but that is not the case for many people.

Debating this matter in the House is something small yet significant that we can do as members of Parliament to draw attention to the issue of cancer and bowel cancer. I will highlight that further in the future as I work with the member for Davidson. All members will work together proactively to achieve that. I note that the member for Davidson acknowledged the passing of the Hon. Chris Bowen's father. I express my sympathies to him. I did not know that Chris's dad had passed away, so it was news to me. In New South Wales the rate of bowel cancer diagnosis for the 20 to 39 years age group has increased since the mid-2000s, while it has steadily declined in the 50 to 79 years age group since 2007. That shows how effective the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, which started in 2006, has been. In 2021 in New South Wales bowel cancer was the second most common cause of cancer death in the 20 to 39 age group.

Nobody is too young to be diagnosed with bowel cancer. That message is loud and clear. No matter somebody's age, if they notice any symptoms—including more frequent trips to the bathroom, blood in the stool or a change in bowel habits—they must go to their doctor and get tested. Like the member for Davidson pointed out, sometimes it can be too late. It can be a silent disease. Thankfully, our friend the member for Davidson got diagnosed early, but not everyone does. I am delighted that he did. People aged 45 to 49 can now request a kit from the National Cancer Screening Register by going online or calling the helpline or by asking their GP. Over

90 per cent of bowel cancers can be treated successfully if they are detected early, but only half of all bowel cancer cases are detected early. That goes to show the importance of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program and completing the test when it arrives in the mail, like I did, or of visiting a GP if you experience any symptoms. In conclusion, I commend the member for Davidson and thank him for putting this motion before the House to highlight this important issue.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (12:36): I thank my friend and colleague the member for Davidson for bringing this important motion to the House. This is personally significant to him and it is equally important to all people in New South Wales. The first I heard of the member's diagnosis—the first that many of us heard of it—was when he stood in this place and announced to the House that he had bowel cancer and would be taking some time out for his treatment. Gosh, when you hear news like that, it takes the wind out of you. We all think of someone who has heard that news. Cancer is a formidable opponent. When we hear the c-word, it fills us with dread. I have to say that being in the Chamber today and seeing the member for Davidson standing there with a bottle of chemo around his neck, so full of optimism and determined to advocate for a cause that is so important, while in great spirits and remarkably good health despite the rigorous regime he is going through, I am filled with hope.

The signal that the member for Davidson sends is so powerful. It is something I always knew about him: He is a powerful advocate for his community and the people of Davidson. They see him stand in the Chamber and work through something quite traumatic and life changing for him. They see him advocate for something so important to all of us. The member for Davidson is showing people that, if we heed the warning signs and do something about them, we can work through it and be a force for good. That is what I see in the member today. I acknowledge that and I applaud him for it. I cannot wait for him to come out the other end after the next four rounds of treatment because he will continue to do good and he is a messenger of hope.

All of us in this place know someone who has had cancer. It does not discriminate. There would not be a person in Australia who has not had a story like this. Despite New South Wales being a global leader in cancer care and research, there is so much more to be done. Bowel cancer is Australia's second-biggest cancer killer, and it is the deadliest for young people between the ages of 25 and 44. It can develop without any family history and may show no signs or symptoms. It affects men and women equally. Ninety per cent of bowel cancers can be successfully treated if caught early, and we must increase screenings in New South Wales. We must all individually be vigilant. My local health district of South Eastern Sydney had 2,686 bowel cancer cases from 2017 to 2021, with 832 deaths. In 2022 the participation rate for people aged between 50 and 74 in the New South Wales screening program was only 38 per cent. That tells us something important: We all need to get the message out, and that is what we are doing today. We can do better; we must do better.

The majority of people who do not participate in bowel cancer screening intend to but often say they are too busy, or they do not get around to it. When that fiftieth birthday present is delivered, we must put it in the bathroom next to the toilet and get it done. It is not that hard. The consequences can be so much harder. It will be the best birthday gift that anyone can receive. The gift to our family is getting the test done and either getting peace of mind or catching this dreadful disease early, knowing we can come out the other end. We can all do a Matt Cross—you can get over this, and you can get on with your life with your beautiful wife, Gess. It is important to do the test straightaway because it will save lives. I say to the member, go get 'em! I thank him for his advocacy.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (12:41): In 2024 in New South Wales, it is estimated that 33 people will die in New South Wales from bowel cancer every week. Prevention is paramount in disease control. Bowel Cancer Australia encourages people to understand the risk factors for bowel cancer and to make changes to their lifestyle. There are things everyone can do to reduce their risk of bowel cancer. They include not taking up smoking in the first place and quitting smoking, if you are a smoker; drinking alcohol in moderation and maintaining a healthy body weight; eating healthily, avoiding excess processed meats; and being active. This general advice reduces the risk of other cancers and preventable lifestyle diseases generally.

The risk of bowel cancer increases with age, and our risk is greater if we are aged 50 and over. Therefore, this is the target group for screening low-risk, asymptomatic people. Screening for bowel cancer saves lives. There are several cancers—such as breast cancer, cervical cancer and bowel cancer—for which screening has been demonstrated to be a life-saving tool through early detection of the disease and its precursors. Bowel cancer screening is well researched, non-invasive, cheap and widely accepted. Cancers found early are easier to treat and cure. People who are diagnosed with a cancer via screening are almost twice as likely to be diagnosed at an early and more treatable stage. If more people between the ages of 45 and 74 participate in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program by having a faecal occult blood test every two years, the proportion of cancers detected at the earliest and most curable stage will be dramatically increased.

Unfortunately, participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program is low across Australia. The national participation rate for 2021-22 was only 40 per cent, and in New South Wales only 38.7 per cent of people

participated. If this participation rate could be increased to 60 per cent, almost 16,000 lives could be saved between 2024 and 2040 in New South Wales alone. Research commissioned by the Cancer Institute NSW investigated why people do not participate in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. Barriers include a lack of understanding about the purpose of screening, lack of confidence in completing the test, and embarrassment.

The test is simple and easy to complete in the privacy of our own homes. People from culturally and linguistically diverse communities also have language barriers. The Cancer Institute has a particular focus on increasing screening participation in communities with lower rates of screening and poorer cancer outcomes, including Aboriginal communities and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Increasing participation in cancer screening among eligible people from Aboriginal communities and multicultural communities is a priority of the NSW Cancer Plan 2022-2027.

In 2024 the Cancer Institute's community education grants program continues to be a key engagement activity with multicultural communities. The grant program provides an opportunity to upskill the bilingual community workforce on the importance of bowel cancer screening and the key messages of early detection. "Helping Mob Live Healthy and Prevent Cancer" is a digital toolkit developed by the Cancer Institute NSW, designed for people working in Aboriginal health. Finally, the most important thing to do for everyone aged between 45 and 74 is participate in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program every two years when their test arrives in the mail.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (12:45): I thank my good friend the member for Davidson for his courage and also for the education that he has brought to the community about this important issue. I thank everyone in the public gallery for their work on bowel cancer, which is regrettably a very common form of cancer within our community. However, it is encouraging, not only for the member for Davidson but also for other people who have bowel cancer, that it has a good recovery level relative to other cancers. Today I will share family anecdotes with regard to bowel cancer. People like me, who have a family history of bowel cancer, have an eight times greater chance of getting it than the general population. As the member for Bega has said, prevention is always better than cure. We can make choices in our diet and lifestyle to enhance gut health, which can protect people from bowel cancer.

Early detection is absolutely critical. I have spoken many times about my father in this place, including how he was a member of the Dutch resistance and a war hero. In 1984, when he was only 59 years of age, he contracted bowel cancer. He saw some blood on some toilet paper when he went to the bathroom one day. Unlike most men, he actually acted on it and went straight to his doctor. He was diagnosed with bowel cancer very quickly and underwent surgery very quickly. I was in my second year at university, and we were all incredibly worried about him.

After about a year of having a temporary bag and then having his bowel reattached, he lived for a further 33 years and died at the age of 92½, which I think is an encouraging story to tell. He never would have seen any of his 10 grandchildren if he had not taken that action. He would not have sat in the gallery when I gave my inaugural speech in this place. So many things over those 33 years would not have happened. As the member for Bega made it clear, there is a very low take-up of those bowel testing kits. As someone who has had multiple colonoscopies, I assure members of this House that a bowel testing kit is a much more preferable way of detecting any problems with the bowel, including cancer.

I encourage members of the community to use those bowel testing kits, as perhaps unpleasant as it maybe, as it is much better than the alternative. Bowel cancer attacks the body and the psychology. That is probably true of most cancer survivors. My father said that the fear of getting it back was always great. It is important for people who are recovering from cancer to look after themselves psychologically as well as physically. I congratulate the member for Davidson on bringing the issue forward. We all wish him the very best recovery.

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (12:49): Like every member in this House, I absolutely welcome this motion from the member for Davidson bringing awareness of bowel cancer to this House. Having heard his personal journey and what he has been going through, I thank him for telling his story. It is probably a hard story to tell. As the member for Vaucluse has said today, we all have a story. We all know somebody or we have heard about somebody who has had bowel cancer. I will put my hand up: I received the kit. It sat in my bathroom drawer—I apologise to the member for Bega and the people in the gallery—for 18 months.

A couple of months after that, I had a mammogram done. As I was having the mammogram done, I thought, "Why would I be having the mammogram done and ignoring the bowel cancer kit?" It did not make any sense to me. I went home and I thought, "I'm going to do this test," and I did. Then I badgered my husband into it. I had to ring and order him one because he threw his out and he did not even tell me about it. It went in the bin. So I rang up and got him one and made sure that he got tested. Now we have regular colonoscopies. To me, this issue is about awareness and education. Any good health policy always has fantastic efforts around awareness. Look at

the smoking issue, and the sunscreen and melanoma issue. It is up to every MP in this House to make sure that their communities are aware of bowel cancer. It is up to the MLCs in the other place to do the same thing.

As the member for Bega has said, bowel cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in New South Wales. But it is also the second most common cause of cancer death. Thankfully, the rate of bowel cancer deaths in our State has decreased over 10 years. That is promising. We need to not only hold onto that but also build on it and bring those statistics down. The Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care is responsible, as we know, for operating the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. Every two years when the kits are sent—I am not too sure whether it is done on a birthday or a calendar date.

Mr Matt Cross: It is done on the birthday.

Ms ANNA WATSON: If that is the case, on all of our birthdays and on all of our family members' birthdays, we should say, "Happy birthday," but also add, "Go and get your bowel checked for bowel cancer." That is a pretty simple thing to do. There is so much that we can do if we really think about it and if there is political will in this place—and I think there is. In New South Wales we are delivering localised social marketing and stakeholder engagement. That is very important. Again, it comes back to public education and support to promote the delivery of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. I am aware of my time limit, so I will not go on. But I again wish the member for Davidson all the very best in his recovery. He has the support of every member in this place and the other place. I thank him for bringing attention to the issue.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (12:53): By leave: I want to speak briefly about my mother's experience with bowel cancer. She was diagnosed with bowel cancer when she was 70. She had anaemia and the doctor went looking for the cause of her anaemia. It was quite a big shock for her, but her recovery was really good and she is still going at 87. Annoyingly for me, she embraced the direction to not eat food with fibre in it. If you have a large part of your gut cut up, you cannot eat fibre for a short time. She has embraced it for the past 17 years. I do not think that has been great for her.

When I received the envelope in the mail, I also ignored it. I thought, "Oh God, I'm so old that the Government wants my poo." But I finally did the test earlier this year and it actually was not great news. I failed the test and spent months waiting to get an appointment with a specialist and then had the colonoscopy and the gastroscopy. But I was cleared. I had polyps but they were not cancerous. I will now have to go through colonoscopies all the time for the next however many years. I know a few other members also want to make contributions to debate, so I will leave it there.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:56): By leave: Matt, you are a bloody champion, mate. We love having you here. Your voice is really important. You have hit all of us in a place that we do not expect to be hit in our workplace, which is in the heart. It is really beautiful. I acknowledge you. I would also like to acknowledge the advocacy of Chris Bowen and the impact that this issue has had on people around me. Ross Bowen was a member of my branch of the Labor Party. I pay tribute to Ross, because those of us in the Central Coast stand on his shoulders. I also acknowledge the fantastic Rotary BowelCare Program, which people can jump online to access. East Gosford Rotary has been running that program for Australia for 30 years. Its work on prevention is a credit to it.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety) (12:57): By leave: I too congratulate the member for Davidson and acknowledge the fantastic work he has done to increase awareness of bowel cancer. We wish him all the very best. It is fantastic to see him in the Chamber while he is enduring treatment. As a cancer survivor myself, I know the rigorous, very difficult and devastating process. You will make it. You will get there. Thank you for your message to all of us to get screened. Well done.

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (12:56): In reply: I thank the member for Camden, the member for Vaucluse, the member for Bega, the member for Wahroonga, the member for Shellharbour, the member for Granville, the member for Gosford and the member for Canterbury. In particular the member for Canterbury gives me so much inspiration and hope. It is great to see her at the highest levels of government and continuing to make a sensational contribution in survival. In politics the rule is that you must stay on message. I think we did all stay on message today about getting checked, getting the kit, taking the test and getting colonoscopies. The good doctor, the member for Bega, mentioned eating well and not smoking. They are all really key messages. I am glad that everyone echoed that. We all stayed on message. That is pretty good. Finally, I say to all the people in the gallery that it really means a lot that they came. I hope they join us for a cup of tea and coffee afterwards. I commend the motion to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.25 p.m.

Members

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VACANCY

At 14:25 the House proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to attend a joint sitting to elect a member to fill a seat in the Legislative Council vacated by the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, resigned.

At 14:39 the House reassembled.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I report that the House met with the Legislative Council in the Legislative Council Chamber this day for the purpose of electing a person to fill the place in the Legislative Council rendered vacant by the resignation of the Hon. Bronnie Taylor and that Mr Scott James Barrett was duly elected. I table the minutes of proceedings of the joint sitting. I order that the document be printed.

Community Recognition Statements

WESTERN SYDNEY DIABETES

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (14:40): Western Sydney Diabetes has reached the milestone of 10 years in operation. Unfortunately, Western Sydney is a diabetes hotspot. The Western Sydney Diabetes team, based in Blacktown, is led by Professor Glen Maberly and supported by Sumathy Ravi, Heloise Tolar, Aruni Ratnayake and many others. The team approaches the challenge in a holistic way by engaging with schools, encouraging physical activity and advocating for better urban design by improving transport, roads and recreational facilities. Western Sydney Diabetes has started the 2kg Challenge to encourage people to make minor changes to their daily routine that can result in huge health improvements. The Blacktown Workers Club is the foundation partner of the program. It has actively encouraged its members to get a health check and get active. I congratulate Western Sydney Diabetes for its noble cause and wish it all the success in the future.

GRAFTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPRING GALA BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (14:41): I congratulate all of the winners of the Grafton Chamber of Commerce 2024 Spring Gala Business Awards, which were held at the Grafton Golf Club's Clubhouse Bistro and Grill. Small business is the driving force in our regional economies. I congratulate Paper Daisy Florist, the Grafton Jacaranda Festival, Solitary Islands Resort in Wooli, The 383 in Wooli, the Clarence Valley Anglican School, Latsyrc Project Management, O'Donohue Hanna and Associates, Remember When Cottage Museum, Jetts Grafton, the Crown Hotel Motel and all of the finalists. The night was emceed by Kerrie DiMattia. I congratulate the chamber of commerce and everyone who attended for celebrating the success of small businesses in the Clarence Valley. I particularly congratulate the winners and finalists.

TRIBUTE TO NEIDRA HILL, OAM

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (14:42): On 31 July Camden lost one of its great community members when Neidra Hill, OAM, passed away at the age of 88. She was a committed long-time coach and umpire of hockey and softball, and an ardent campaigner for the preservation of history in Camden, particularly Ben Linden, our famous federation home in Narellan. At St John's she was considered the life of the parish, where she was teacher for many years. She spent 50 years with Girls' Friendly Society. She taught scripture from 1990, teaching nine classes a week until her passing. In 1993 Neidra was named a life member of the Macarthur Hockey Association, in 1994 she was awarded Camden Sportsperson of the Year, in 2000 she was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for service to youth, and in the same year she also received the Australian Sports Medal. Our first hockey field is named Neidra Hill Field in her honour. Vale, Neidra. She will be greatly missed.

KERRY HORT

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (14:43): I recognise the incredible contributions of Kerry Hort as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement from NSW Health. Throughout her illustrious career, Kerry has exemplified unwavering dedication and commitment to advancing health services in our region, leaving an indelible mark on the Goulburn community. Kerry Hort's tenure as general manager of Goulburn Base Hospital was marked by her steadfast advocacy for the betterment of health care in the area. A pillar of the Goulburn community, Kerry's impact extends beyond her professional responsibilities. Her genuine care, empathy and strong connection to the community have earned her the respect and admiration of all who have had the pleasure of working alongside her. As she embarks on this new chapter in her life, Kerry Hort leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service and compassion. Her outstanding contributions to health care and the Goulburn community will be appreciated and remembered for years to come. I congratulate Kerry.

LINDA DOWNEY

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (14:44): I congratulate former councillor Linda Downey on receiving the Elected Representative Award at the 2024 Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government. Linda served on council for 16 years as mayor of the former Bankstown City Council, and she most recently represented the Revesby ward at Canterbury-Bankstown Council. Linda has spent her life in Panania and Picnic Point. She is the wife of former East Hills MP Alan Ashton and has two daughters. She served as a teacher in the local area, and in 2017 was awarded life membership of the Australian Labor Party. I have had the pleasure of knowing Linda for over 15 years. We are both residents and passionate Labor members in the electorate of East Hills. That award is an excellent accolade for a strong supporter of women in our community and local government. It is an amazing way to cap off over a decade representing the people of Canterbury-Bankstown. I am sure Linda will continue to serve the community we both love. I thank Linda for her advocacy, support and hard work over many years.

EAST KURRAJONG RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (14:45): I acknowledge the efforts and achievements of the East Kurrajong Rural Fire Service brigade, which recently participated in the NSW Rural Fire Service State Championships. The competition was held in Albury this year from 13 to 15 September. Participants competed in various real-life scenarios that required great determination and skill. Brigades were encouraged to utilise practical training and knowledge in a range of fabricated events such as car accidents and fires. East Kurrajong came first in both the "PACFIRE Hacienda" and "Code 3 South of the Border" tasks. I congratulate the team on those achievements and applaud their efforts in those demanding tasks against many other brigades from the Rural Fire Service. I thank the East Kurrajong brigade volunteers for their dedication and commitment to Hawkesbury and look forward to seeing them return in the 2026 championships.

BUSINESS EDUCATORS AUSTRALASIA

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (14:46): The 2024 Business Educators Australasia Conference, hosted by the University of Sydney Business School, was an essential gathering for secondary school educators in business, economics, commerce and legal studies. As a workshop presenter on "Law Reform and Crime" I was inspired by the conference theme, "Innovative Perspectives", which encouraged us to embrace new ideas and approaches that will ultimately benefit our society and enhance business education across Australia. I thank the organisers from Economics and Business Educators NSW, including president Nick Ward, vice-president Roset Khair, director Cheryl Brennan, director Mai Ni Pham and director Carolyn Muir. I thank director Michelle Mitchell and president Debbie Perrett from Business Educators Australasia, as well as CEO of the Rule of Law Education Centre, Sally Layson.

MICK WATTS

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (14:47): I acknowledge the bravery displayed by Mick Watts. Last week a fire broke out in a public housing apartment on Elliott Street in Balmain. Mick saw the smoke from a distance, located the apartment, got through the front door, crawled through thick, black, acrid smoke and located a semiconscious resident, helping her to escape. In a further act of extraordinary bravery, Mick ran back into the apartment building to alert other residents to the danger and ensure they escaped unharmed. He was able to shut off power to the building while people nearby contacted emergency services. Mick is a resident of the northern beaches and member of Marine Rescue Middle Harbour. It was fortunate that Mick was nearby and acted swiftly and decisively. Those acts are a testament to Mick's bravery. I am so grateful that he was in the right place, at the right time. On behalf of our community, I thank Mick. He is a true local hero.

STARRY SARI NIGHTS FESTIVAL

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (14:48): The coming of springtime in the first weekend of September saw George Street in Liverpool transform into Sari Street for the Starry Sari Nights festival. A tribute to Liverpool's large South Asian community, the festival returned to its home on George Street this year to mark the official inauguration of the street as Liverpool's Little India. The weekend engaged the whole family, with South Asian cuisine, dance, music and culture taking centre stage. It also featured a fashion show. Special props to Liverpool Public School's senior dance group for its fabulous performance. I was particularly proud to see this event succeed. The State Government contributed $150,000 towards activating George Street as part of the Minns Labor Government's commitment to vibrancy and the 24-hour economy. I congratulate the hardworking business owners on George Street who have come together to form Liverpool Little India in a quest to elevate Liverpool's status as an important cultural hub. I also congratulate the hardworking staff of Liverpool City Council's events team. Their work often goes unacknowledged, but I recognise them all in this place today.

OATLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (14:49): I congratulate the Oatley RSL sub-branch for reaching an impressive milestone recently, with this month marking the eightieth anniversary of its formation. The Oatley RSL sub-branch was established on 23 August 1944. However, its origins go all the way back to 1915, when a local branch was formed by a group of World War I diggers. Over the past 80 years, the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch has done some incredible things in our community. It runs an Anzac Day memorial service each year and supports many local organisations. This year, there was a guest speaker, Sarah Watson, whom I thank for her service to the community. As a former member of the Australian Defence Force, Sarah now supports the Soldier On organisation, offering mental health support to former service men and women. To conclude, I thank Clay Marks, Kevin Grimes, Doug Torode, Mal Vincent and Bill Wright for their continued dedication to the sub-branch. I look forward to continuing to work with the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch well into the future, supporting veterans in our local community.

MARYANNE THOMPSON

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (14:50): I congratulate Maryanne Thompson on receiving the Public School Parent of the Year Award at the 2024 Public Education Awards ceremony at Sydney Town Hall. This prestigious award is presented to parents, guardians and caregivers who have made a significant contribution to their local public school community. Maryanne has been a part of the Rydalmere Public School community for 14 years, since her daughter started kindy in 2010. Being a mum is rewarding but also challenging. However, Maryanne has taken parenting to the next level, volunteering for 14 years on the P&C, which has included various roles on the leadership team. She has assisted with everything from Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls to volunteering in the canteen and uniform shop, and at raffles, discos, movie nights and much more. Maryanne is an example of community spirit at work, volunteering to make time spent at school enjoyable and accessible for every student. On behalf of the Parramatta community, I extend my thanks to Maryanne and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

CALROSSY ANGLICAN SCHOOL

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (14:51): It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Calrossy Anglican School's R U OK? Day committee, led by year 10 student Bronte Gillan, on a successful R U OK? Day on Thursday 12 September. Calrossy students were inspired by local speaker Sam Bailey, who became a quadriplegic as a result of a car accident many years ago. His story was about conquering his disability and becoming a successful farmer, ultralight pilot and best-selling author. Sam's inspirational message was about never giving up and overcoming the odds. You could have heard a pin drop in the hall. The whole school showed great respect for Sam. I congratulate Bronte and her committee. Another event is on the way. On 11 November Calrossy will be hosting 2022 Australian of the Year Shanna Whan for a free educational and conversational evening with parents and caregivers. The theme of "Rethinking social norms" is a valuable one. I encourage local parents and caregivers to register for the event. I thank Bronte, Calrossy and the R U OK? Day committee.

MOLLYMOOK SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (14:52): I take this opportunity to congratulate the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club's competitors on their incredible achievements at the Lifesaving World Championships, recently held on the Gold Coast. Marty Drysdale, Russell Bartlett, Kevin Whitford, Paul Jones and Paul Newman proudly represented our community in the master surf boat competition and brought home the gold medal. Their teamwork and dedication truly shone on the world stage. Additionally, I give a huge congratulations to Mischa Boniface, who secured a gold medal in the Taplin relay and became the world youth sprint champion after an outstanding performance on the sand. Sprinting is Mischa's specialty, and she had her sights set on this title from the start. Mischa said she loves the challenge of chasing people down, and her hard work has definitely paid off. The South Coast community is extremely proud of these remarkable athletes for representing Mollymook and Australia with such excellence. I congratulate Team Mollymook.

GREG VERDON

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (14:53): When Lockhart Shire Council Mayor Greg Verdon was first elected to council, the shire's population was shrinking. Twelve years later, the Lockhart shire is one of the fastest growing in New South Wales and has a bright future. This is in part thanks to Greg, who, after 12 years of service, has retired from the council, leaving a strong legacy of achievement, including helping to stave off the disastrous forced mergers of 2016, the refurbishment of sporting facilities and the upgrades to the town pools. More recent improvements include the new community centre at The Rock and the redevelopment of the Blue Harper Pavilion at Lockhart. His service included three years as mayor, five years as deputy mayor and five years as chairperson of Riverina Water. He thanks a great community and council team, who deserve much of the credit,

and his wife, Marie, and daughters, Angela, Lauren and Sarah Verdon, for their support. With his job at council done, he plans to spend more time with his five grandchildren. I congratulate Councillor Verdon on his contribution to the Lockhart shire community. Greg has been a tireless advocate for his community, and we are all the better for his work.

MADDISON SAULLE AND NOAH ESPOSITO

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (14:54): I congratulate Maddison Saulle and Noah Esposito of St John Paul II Catholic College, who are award recipients in the Victor Chang School Science Awards. These year 11 students were nominated by their teachers, who have recognised their commitment to the studies of biology, physics and chemistry at a level that exceeds expectations. Much like the namesake of the awards, these students will realise successful and pioneering careers in the STEM field, leading to research and development of solutions that improve lives, making the world a better place. Their achievement is also a credit to the incredible science teachers at the college, who encourage their students to reach their full potential. I speak for all of the Riverstone electorate in saying that we are incredibly proud of these students. Our community is richer because of them. I encourage them to keep up the hard work and I wish them all the best for their HSC studies. I look forward to hearing of their future successes.

BLUES POINT BOOKSHOP

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (14:55): The spirit of my local community across the North Shore is truly second to none and was on clear display when Blues Point Bookshop, which had been in place for 30 years, had to relocate. The owner, Helen, reached out to the community to ask it to lend a hand. After more than 30 years at the same address, fortunately for McMahons Point locals, it has moved only just across the street. Helen and Blues Point Bookshop are local institutions. Helen's passion for books and dedication to fostering a welcoming atmosphere have made the bookshop a cherished local hub for readers of all ages. The community was able to return the favour to Helen, as droves of locals headed to McMahons Point to help move the shop to its new location. With a crowd of 50 people moving over 8,000 books convoy-style across the road, the entire shop was moved in just 15 minutes, which was a simply incredible effort. I acknowledge the kindness and determination of all the locals who helped out on the day, and I thank Helen for being such an important part of our local community, supporting us and getting us involved in reading and for always greeting everyone with a friendly smile.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS WALK

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (14:56): The Out of the Shadows Walk, part of Lifeline Australia's suicide prevention efforts, is held annually every September, as part of World Suicide Prevention Day, to honour those lost to suicide and to raise funds for vital crisis support services. The initiative encourages open conversations, reduces stigma and provides hope to those in need while people also get a bit of light exercise. I took part in our local Out of the Shadows Walk, held at Greenway Park last Saturday. Hosted by the dedicated "friends who understand" team, participants walked in memory of loved ones and to shine a light on this important issue. Following the walk, participants were treated to a delicious barbecue lunch. The day raised over $9,000, which will directly fund Lifeline's crisis hotline. The vital contribution ensures that Lifeline can continue to provide immediate, lifesaving support to those struggling with mental health issues, making a meaningful impact in the fight against suicide. I congratulate Dimitrios Marvo and the entire "friends who understand" team.

MICHAEL BANASIK

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (14:57): Outgoing councillor Michael Banasik has been a steady and respected presence in Wollondilly for almost 30 years, and it is with gratitude that I farewell him from his role on the Wollondilly Shire Council. I am proud to have worked alongside him. I extend my heartfelt thanks to him for the integrity, passion and hard work he has demonstrated during his 29 years of service in the local government sector. He served as mayor and completed seven terms as a councillor, with three as deputy mayor. Michael is known for being the second longest serving councillor in Wollondilly, who always spoke on matters he believed in and did not shy away from a bad dad joke. Michael has always advocated for the community, and his lobbying has seen dozens of projects and improvements in Wollondilly, including the recently opened Picton to Tahmoor cycleway. He has protected the beautiful Thirlmere Lakes as a founding member of the Friends of Thirlmere Lakes and has lent his support and voice to the campaign for the Picton bypass. His departure marks the end of an era, but his contributions will continue to benefit the community for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARK AYLIFFE

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (14:58): I pay tribute to Mark Ayliffe, a former captain of the Cobargo Rural Fire Service Brigade. Last month, Mark passed away suddenly at the age of 54. Mark joined the RFS in 1981 and served as a junior firefighter under his father's captaincy. In particular, Mark contributed to the

Cobargo community during the disastrous Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20, which devasted the town. He was acknowledged as an invaluable trainer who shared his experience and expertise and supported others to achieve their qualifications. According to his Cobargo neighbours, Mark devoted his whole life to helping his neighbours and community unconditionally. Former RFS Buckajo captain Robert Burgess said that Mark's knowledge of the RFS, the country, who-what-where, terrain, where to and not to put a fire truck, how to handle a fire, when to make a stand and when to make a decision to run will be missed. Vale, Mark Ayliffe.

OCTAVIA WILLIAMS

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (14:59): I acknowledge an outstanding young member of the Manly community, Octavia Williams. At just 16 years old, Octavia already boasts a proud and proven track record of advocating and delivering better outcomes for young people in the Manly area and across the State. As a local junior basketball coach and New South Wales basketball representative, and through her involvement in initiatives such as the Push Up Challenge, Octavia has demonstrated her fierce passion for the role that exercise can play to make tangible improvements to youth mental health. I was impressed when Octavia recently reached out to me and described how overcoming her own injury setbacks was formative in instilling resilience and driving home the immensely powerful impact that basketball, and indeed sport more broadly, can have for the social, physical and mental wellbeing of young people in our community. On top these feats and, of course, her studies, Octavia is also a recipient of the Lions Sydney Youth of the Year Award and is the current president of the Gawura Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. I thank Octavia for her tireless advocacy and the impactful work she is doing in our community.

ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (15:00): I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Enfield Public School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. This milestone represents a century of dedication to educational excellence, community engagement and the nurturing of young minds under the school's motto, "Our best always." Since its establishment, Enfield Public School has played an integral role in shaping the lives of generations of students, fostering values such as respect, resilience and responsibility. The school's commitment to ensuring that each student achieves their full potential continues to inspire both staff and the wider community. As I reflect on this significant achievement, I also celebrate the countless contributions of the teachers, parents and community members who have supported the school over the years. The centenary is a testament to their unwavering efforts and a reminder of the enduring importance of public education in building a brighter future for all. I congratulate and thank principal James Wratten and the leadership, teaching and administration teams, as well as all the students. Here's to the next 100 years of success at Enfield Public School.

PACIFIC LINK HOUSING

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:01): Recently I was delighted attend the Pacific Link Housing fortieth anniversary celebration, a remarkable milestone for an organisation that has made such a positive impact across the Central Coast. For four decades, Pacific Link Housing has provided social and affordable housing, understanding that a stable home is more than just a place to live; it is the foundation for a brighter future. The Pacific Link team's commitment to the community has been unwavering, and this celebration was a great opportunity to recognise their incredible work. Pacific Link Housing has built strong partnerships with government, the private sector, community organisations and donors to transform lives and foster thriving, inclusive communities. These partnerships have been key in delivering not only housing but also tenant programs, engagement activities and holistic support services that empower people to achieve independence. Through these initiatives, hundreds of tenants have been supported to sustain their tenancies and thrive in communities where they truly feel they belong. I congratulate everyone at Pacific Link Housing on this fantastic achievement.

THAN THI KHANH

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:02): It brings me great happiness to extend my best wishes to Mrs Than Thi Khanh on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Mrs Than is a proud Greystanes resident of more than 37 years. Born in Vietnam, Mrs Khanh arrived in Australia in June 1979 and worked as an accountant before her well-deserved retirement from professional life. When I asked her favourite thing about her local Western Sydney community, I was humbled by her reply. She said, "I love that I am surrounded by kind, generous and welcoming people from various backgrounds. We share our stories, our food and genuinely want to make a great country like Australia even better." Her words of advice for our youth were priceless. She said, "Respect and be kind to others. Have an open mind and be willing to learn new things. Make right choices and stay healthy." I congratulate Mrs Khanh and wish her many happy returns.

LINDFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (15:03): On 16 September 2024, I attended the 2nd and 3rd Lindfield Scout Group with the Federal member for Bradfield, Paul Fletcher, at the scout hall on Beaconsfield Parade. It was a special visit, with Paul and I speaking about the work we undertake in the New South Wales and Commonwealth parliaments and in the community. On the night, I officially announced $6,709 from the New South Wales Government Community Building Partnership program for repairs to the hall roof. We know the improved roof will make a real difference, particularly when it rains. For more than 100 years, the 2nd and 3rd Lindfield Scout Group has been an integral part of our community for our youth to learn about leadership and the outdoors. The Davidson community is proud to have the highest volunteer rate in New South Wales. I recognise volunteers Amanda, Greti, Thusi, Karwing, Jessica, Nancy, Nathan, Connie, Gideon, Lily-Rose, Patrick, Mikey, Hong Ping, Isabella, Carrie, Rhys and Angela. They make us very proud, and I thank them for their service.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET "PEGGY" GORDON

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (15:04): I pay my respects to Margaret Peggy Gordon, known to everyone as Peggy. Peggy's journey began as a 10-year-old orphan who was sent to Australia through Britain's child migrant program. As part of the program, Peggy was sent to work for a family in Rockhampton as a housemaid. As luck would have it, it was also where she met and fell in love with a young motor trimmer named Phil. Peggy built a loving and supportive family with Phil. They had three sons, Phil, Richard and Matthew; four grandchildren; and a great grandchild. Peggy adored all of them. Until the day of her passing, Peggy tried and failed to find any of the family she had left behind in England. Peggy devoted herself to her community and was a constant source of friendship and good humour. With her sister-in-law Lynnette, Peggy opened a restaurant in the city, and they took on the roles of cooks. It is a testament to Peggy's cooking that on the first night, when they offered a homeless man a meal, he passed away after he had eaten it. Peggy's cooking career finished then. We love you, Peggy.

SUTHERLAND TITANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (15:05): Everyone's favourite local sporting team, the Sutherland Titans Football Club, held their grand final day on 3 August. Champions for inclusivity, the volunteers at the Titans are dedicated to including kids with disabilities in the world's favourite game and ensuring they have plenty of fun. Another successful season was concluded with an award presentation at Coachwood Oval, which I was delighted to attend. The 2024 Titan of the Year Award, also known as the Teal Cup, was presented to Sebastian, a cherished member of the senior 3 team who is known for his big heart and unwavering support for his teammates. Volunteers are the heartbeat of football and are responsible for making the Titans such a success story. I recognise the Titans 2024 committee members George Lazarou, Lisa Brown, Gary Lockwood, Linda O'Connor, Bronwen Curtis, Helen Moore, Lisa May, Niya Andrews, Steve Bourke and Darren Seward for their dedication to our community. I thank everyone at the Sutherland Titans Football Club for encouraging inclusivity in sport and providing opportunities for youth with disabilities.

TRIBUTE TO ALINA KAUFFMAN AND ERNESTO SALAZAR

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (15:06): On 1 September I joined hundreds of community members to remember the lives of Alina Kauffman and Ernesto Salazar and mark one year since their tragic passings. The outpouring of community support for Alina and Ernesto's mother, Angelina Kauffman, was a reflection of how deeply they have touched our hearts. Motorcycle riders from all over Sydney, Canberra and regional New South Wales volunteered to ride adorned with blue and purple balloons down Sadleir Avenue in Heckenberg, where Alina and Ernesto lost their lives, to remember Ernesto's love for motorbikes and celebrate their favourite colours. The memorial bench bearing Ernesto and Alina's names, which I organised through Liverpool City Council, overlooks the scene. A fruit tree, which will hopefully help young people in the community, was planted in their names. Alina and Ernesto's loved ones and community miss them and will always remember them. Rest in peace.

ABBEY SLOAN

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (15:07): Abbey Sloan, currently in year 12 at Cootamundra High School, is a highly accomplished student known for her academic performance and dedication to the arts. From a young age, Abbey has shown a remarkable talent and passion for dance, which began at the age of three when she joined the Christine Wishart Dance Studio in Cootamundra. Over the years, Abbey has not only continued her dance training at the studio but also taken on the role of a teacher for students of all ages. Her commitment to dance and education extends beyond her personal achievements as she also tutors fellow students, demonstrating her dedication to helping others succeed. Abbey's talents have been recognised on a larger stage with her

successful application to the 2024 Schools Spectacular, a prestigious event that showcases the best young talent from across New South Wales. She is set to take on multiple roles, including being a student choreographer and performing as a dancer in both the tap and jazz ensembles. Further highlighting her abilities, Abbey will represent regional and remote participants in the promotional film clip for the Schools Spectacular.

DR PATRICK MORRISEY BOOK LAUNCH

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (15:08): Former Byron Shire councillor and author Dr Patrick Morrisey has chronicled the history of Byron's hinterland with his book *Conquer or Conserve: Goonengerry and the Byron hinterland*. Patrick told *The Byron Shire Echo* that his book was a painstaking historical reconstruction, with personal reflections spanning 35 years. The book's launch was one of the highlights of Goonengerry Public School's 125th celebrations at the weekend. I popped into the school for part of their day of celebrations and it was fantastic to witness such a vibrant school community of teachers, students, former students, parents and caregivers. Patrick told *The Byron Shire Echo* that the village of Goonengerry in the middle of the parish of Jasper emerged as a sweet spot on an elevated tabletop with commanding views of Cape Byron and the Pacific Ocean in the headwaters of the Richmond River. Goonengerry is indeed a special place in my electorate.

CENTRAL COAST BEARS BASEBALL CLUB

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:09): I had the pleasure of joining Jason Martin and so many of the young members of the Central Coast Bears Baseball Club. I was absolutely delighted to provide the club with $6,670 through the Local Sport Grant Program. The funding will go a long way for the fledgling young club. It is great to see so many young people wanting to take up baseball. They joined me at Baseball Park on Newcastle Street in Springfield for the presentation. It is also exciting to see so many young women wanting to take part in the exciting sport of baseball. Baseball Park in Springfield has been the recipient of many grants from the former Liberal-Nationals Government, delivering new dugouts, lights, outfield and drainage. It is great to see a club like the Central Coast Bears Baseball Club going from strength to strength. I congratulate Jason Martin and all the volunteers at the baseball club for succeeding in securing this grant. I know it will go a long way to making baseball even more exciting on the Central Coast.

Private Members' Statements

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN TORCH

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (15:10): Last month, our local newspaper the *Canterbury Bankstown Torch*, an institution that had served us for over 100 years, published its final edition. The last pages marked the end of a long tradition of local journalism providing consistent, reliable news and information to the people of south-west Sydney. For more than a century, the Torch did not just report on local news and events; it played an active role in shaping our collective understanding of who we are. It gave voice to issues that mattered most to our community, highlighted our achievements and documented the stories that would otherwise go unnoticed.

John Engisch, chairman of Torch Publishing, said that when his grandfather founded the Torch in June 1920, he envisioned it as a voice piece for the community, making small voices larger. For over a century, the Torch fulfilled that vision, acting as a vital link between local residents, government, schools, sporting clubs and organisations. Without publications like the Torch, there is a risk that local issues, often overshadowed by national and international news, will go unreported. Over the years, it covered everything from council decisions to community events, helping residents stay informed and engaged in civic life. The Torch highlighted the positive contributions of individuals and organisations, showcasing acts of kindness, fundraising for charity and the many ways people made a difference, reminding us of the goodness in our community and beyond.

The decline of the Torch is not an isolated event, nor is it unique to our community. It is part of a broader trend with the disappearance of local newspapers across the country. When local newspapers disappear, so does the infrastructure that supports the local community. Without local reporters keeping a close eye on council meetings, public decisions and other developments in our area, there is a vacuum that can be filled with misinformation and unchecked narratives. This is where the need for trusted sources of information becomes paramount.

As print newspapers fade, people increasingly rely on digital platforms and social media for their news. While these platforms offer convenience, they are not always reliable. The spread of misinformation is a concern, and without the presence of professional journalists who adhere to high standards of accuracy and accountability, it becomes harder for people to distinguish fact from fiction. As an MP, I know that I am subject to a range of reviews, some positive and some not so much. It is part of the job and it keeps me on my toes.

Despite the mixed feedback, the role of local news in our community is vital, providing the information and scrutiny we all depend on. Local journalism holds people and institutions accountable, providing crucial oversight that helps ensure transparency and good governance. The closure of the Torch will affect some members of our community more than others. My office often receives calls from elderly residents asking for information that used to be readily available in the local paper—details about community events and local tradespeople. Not everyone in our community is comfortable navigating the digital world, and for those individuals the loss of the Torch represents a loss of connection.

As we reflect on the closure of the Torch, it is important to recognise the contributions made by its staff, the editors, journalists, photographers and others who worked on the paper over the years, who were dedicated to keeping our community informed. They reported on stories big and small, sporting scores from the week and shone a light on local achievements. The Torch brought attention to issues that affected our daily lives. Local reporters understood the nuances of our community in a way that national or global outlets cannot replicate. We bid farewell to the Torch and acknowledge its role in documenting over a century of our history. The stories it told, the issues it raised and the conversations it sparked have shaped our community. I thank all those who made the Torch what it was.

COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (15:15): Domestic violence is one of the greatest challenges we are facing in our State. Changing attitudes, providing tangible resources to first responders, police and social workers, and identifying those at risk requires us all to stand up where we can to call for meaningful change and support. In rural New South Wales, it is no different. Women in the regions are at greater risk due to social isolation, income disparity and the tyranny of distance. But escaping violence starts with having somewhere else to go, and in the Hilltops region, a local government area [LGA] with the highest levels of domestic violence-related assaults across the south-east LGAs, two organisations are working tirelessly to meet the needs of this community.

Right now, the Young Crisis Accommodation Centre [YCAC] is the only specialised service provider in the entire electorate of Cootamundra, with over 356 cases a year or about a case a day. They are over capacity and fighting hard to find solutions for their clients and communities. Kerri Palmer and her dedicated team help women, families, men and young people from Boorowa, Harden, Cootamundra and Temora, and have done so since 2008. It has been a great privilege to support the work of YCAC since I was elected as the local member for Cootamundra, attending fundraising nights, lobbying for funding and more recently planning a time to experience their pop-up vintage shop with some unforgettable offerings.

YCAC is determined in its mission to support all those who walk through its doors to find safety and be empowered in their chosen goals. But it needs help to provide more housing and more safe havens for those in crisis. Thankfully, a solution is right on its doorstep: Margaret House. Named in honour of Margaret Browne, Margaret House Refuge is comprised of two facilities to accommodate women and children experiencing homelessness or domestic violence. Over the past five years, staff at both organisations have identified an urgent need to expand their housing services to young people, men and families.

Just this week, representatives from Margaret House Refuge and the Young Crisis Accommodation Centre met with Ministers Jackson and Harrison in Parliament House. I was very privileged to join them for that meeting, and I thank both Ministers for taking time to hear from Anna Hays, Alex Dalglish and Kerri Palmer about their proposal to build more emergency accommodation for more women and children escaping domestic violence. In just one year, Margaret House provided more than 700 nights of emergency accommodation to families across the region through YCAC. Imagine how much more could be done with further homes across the Cootamundra electorate. Kerri and the team are pressing on. They have launched fundraising campaigns and continue to work hard on grant applications for their site with development approval that they have already secured for future housing.

We all know there is no time to waste when it comes to providing life-saving assistance to people living on the fringes, and those at Margaret House and YCAC know it more than most. Regional New South Wales faces unique challenges in overcoming housing shortages and domestic violence. How does a woman make her escape when the nearest town is a 20-minute drive away or when the only service provider may be assisting both victim and perpetrator with emergency housing? These are real situations that our frontline workers are managing in growing regional communities with diverse incomes, cultures, needs and opportunities. There is no time to waste on shovel-ready projects like these across the State. It is not hyperbole to say that these housing projects will save lives, protect families and provide young people with an opportunity to thrive and grow.

I am proud to live in a community that is fighting so hard to change the record on family and domestic violence. I thank the volunteer board of Margaret House, the team at YCAC and volunteers for their determination.

I will not rest until we see safe, secure housing for women, children, men and young people across the Cootamundra electorate.

SOUTH COAST ELECTORATE SURF RESCUE STATIONS

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (15:20): The South Coast is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. The South Coast electorate spans approximately 115 kilometres of coastline and has around 100 beaches, coves and numerous lakes attracting locals and visitors alike. The downside to this is that many of our beaches are remote. With only three surf lifesaving clubs along this long stretch of coastline, it means that the majority of our beaches are not patrolled. Each year far too many people drown off our beaches and rock shelves and in our lakes and waterways. Last year there was a 16 per cent increase in drowning deaths across the country. Every year there are drowning incidents on the remote beaches of the South Coast, and they are traumatic for everyone involved. As we move into the warmer summer months, it is a firm reminder for everyone to be surf safe and water wise when swimming and surfing, especially on the more remote beaches of the South Coast.

Twenty-six per cent of those drownings happen at our beaches and 35 per cent happen in our lakes. Not surprisingly, 55 per cent of all drownings occur in summer and 52 per cent of these tragedies happen more than one kilometre away from a surf lifesaving patrolled area. This is where a couple of dynamic women from Manyana and the Five Villages Community Group come in. They decided that they had to take action to help address these startling drowning statistics in their local area of Manyana and Bendalong, and started an initiative to install three surf rescue stations at Washerwomans Beach, south Inyadda Beach and Manyana Beach to help save lives. Patti Bartlett and Jenny Cleary co-wrote a book called *Five Villages*. It is a wonderful coffee table book, with photos and stories of events and people who have lived in the area over many decades. It is a fabulous book. I have one in my living room and everyone who comes to my house loves to look through the pages. If they are from the South Coast, they usually comment, "I remember when," and a story ensues.

However, I digress. Patti and Jenny donated the entire proceeds from the sale of *Five Villages* to have surf rescue stations installed in the Manyana and Bendalong area. Their slogan "Buy a book, save a life" helped drive the total amount of funds raised to more than $23,000. Following these first three installations, a holiday house owner from Manyana raised $8,250 from 10 families to pay for another two rescue stations. The families are regular visitors who love the area and, while they would like to remain anonymous, wished to be part of this amazing community. Another local couple, Lesley and Tim Dunn, donated the entire cost of two more surf rescue stations, which were installed at north Manyana Beach and the northern side of Lake Conjola, taking the number of rescue stations located on beaches in the area to seven.

This is an absolutely amazing and outstanding achievement. Each rescue station contains two rescue tubes and a defibrillator, and there is surf lifesaving approved signage and instructions on each station. The stations are monitored daily and all information is logged on a shared Google document. As Patti said to me, we live in a geographically isolated and unpatrolled beach area with a large influx of visitors, and each year we see people get into difficulty and often drown. Patti and Jenny are now offering to help other local communities in the area produce a historical fundraising book to raise funds for surf rescue stations or other community defibrillators. I thank Patti and Jenny and the wider community of Manyana-Bendalong for this incredible initiative to help save people from drowning or heart attack. I look forward to seeing more of these rescue stations along the South Coast for locals and visitors alike.

CENTRE FOR VOLUNTEERING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (15:24): On Thursday 12 September the Centre for Volunteering 2024 Central Sydney Volunteer of the Year Awards recipients were recognised in a ceremony at Club Parramatta. The Centre for Volunteering is the peak body for volunteering in New South Wales. Part of its charter is to act as a consultancy and a resource to drive and encourage volunteering within the State as it exists to represent, promote and provide support to over two million volunteers and countless organisations. Led by the talented Gemma Rygate, part of the centre's valuable work includes honouring and acknowledging the work of volunteers. To this end, the volunteer of the year awards recognise our hardworking volunteers who help others by giving back to the community.

Yuna Cho was selected as the Central Sydney Young Volunteer of the Year. It was a pleasure to present the Young Volunteer of the Year Award to Yuna, who has been a passionate advocate for the environment, volunteering at the OceanEarth Foundation, the Jane Goodall Institute with Sydney Zoo, the Merrylands Youth Centre and the Bravehearts Youth Advisory Council. Young people like Yuna display amazing agency, transforming their values into action. At a time when environmental issues are of primary concern to government, industry and community, we need young people like Yuna to step forward and stand up, helping to make a difference and protect our planet's future. I also note her volunteer work with Bravehearts, which involves

providing a voice in a complex policy area where young people need to be heard. Yuna lives in the heart of my electorate. We are very proud of her achievements thus far.

Michael Quailey has reached an impressive innings, with almost 50 years of service to the North Sydney District Rugby League Referees' Association. Michael has worked hard to train and mentor referees while also giving up his weekends to manage game days. The lifeblood of community sports clubs are volunteers like Michael who make it possible for players to get on the field and play the game. I have known Michael for several years and recognise his commitment to family, community and the greater good. I congratulate Michael on his well-deserved recognition as the recipient of the Adult Volunteer of the Year Award. I also acknowledge Anthony Tang, who has worked hard to organise programs and events that reflect the incredible diversity of cultures and faiths within our community, such as the Aussie Day Lunch, the Moon Festival and Ryde Lunar New Year. While Anthony resides in Dundas Valley, his work in the Ryde Community Forum coaching soccer and leading science programs plays an important role in building confidence, skills and knowledge among school students.

The Parramatta Mission Meals Plus Volunteer Team was recognised as the Volunteer Team of the Year. There are 185 volunteers who prepare and serve over 1,500 meals per week. That is 80,000 meals a year, along with over 8,000 hampers per year. For half a century, I am sure that close to a few million meals have been served to people from Parramatta and surrounds by Meals Plus and its volunteers. The mission is not only located in the heart of our city; it is the city's heart, providing nourishment, care and compassion to people in need. The Meals Plus team supports those with a high volume of complex and varying needs. Its services go way beyond the basics to also include fortnightly homelessness hubs, where its brings government and community services, a barber and medical services to its car park to provide an incredibly accessible level of support to our most vulnerable residents. I pay tribute to all those volunteers who serve at Meals Plus. In the words of CEO Gemma Rygate:

> Whether it's in the local sports club, in health care, education and cultural centres, legal support or emergency response, volunteers are essential for the ongoing health and viability of local communities.

Gemma's words speak to the underlying truth: Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities. Without people putting up their hands and giving their time and resources, so many needs would go unmet. It is important that we, as elected representatives, take the time to acknowledge those who make things possible in our communities and give meaning to the word "community".

MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (15:29): I address the House on a critically important issue and one that strikes at the very heart of my region's future prosperity: the diabolical decision made by the Federal environment Minister to reject the Regis Resources McPhillamys Gold Project proposal for a mine at Kings Plains. It is an issue that cuts to the core not only of the economic livelihood of Blayney and the broader Central West but also the confidence of future investment in Australia's mining industry. The decision to reject the project that had the potential to transform our region raises fundamental questions about the Federal Government's handling of major economic decisions and the message it sends to our local communities and international investors.

The McPhillamys mine as proposed by Regis Resources was expected to generate several hundred jobs. For a town like Blayney, the promise of stable and well-paid employment was a game changer. We are talking about real families, real livelihoods and real opportunities. The mine was projected to contribute significantly to the local economy. But, with the stroke of a pen, that opportunity has been taken away. Mining operations do not benefit just one small town; they stimulate an entire region. Towns like Orange, Bathurst and Cowra would have seen direct benefits. Yet this decision has pulled the rug from beneath them, leaving businesses that had invested on the back of our State's robust planning approval processes missing out. It is hard not to see this rejection as an autocratic decision, made with inadequate consultation with the local community or consideration of the broader economic impacts. The Minister disregarded the Orange local land council's position on this project. The decision is an outright insult to them and mocks our State's robust planning processes.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to uphold environmental standards, and rightly so. However, a rigorous process was undertaken and the authorised Indigenous body gave it the go-ahead after it scrutinised the plan. When decisions like this are made in isolation, ignoring the voices of statutory representative groups and the people who will be most directly impacted, it raises serious concerns. The Minister invoked a section 10 declaration on 13 August 2024. Curiously, I note the Minister's rhetoric has changed in recent times. She has shifted the weight of her decision based on the mine site being "a significant Aboriginal area to be preserved and protected from injury or desecration" to now saying in the Federal Parliament just last week, "The tailings dam cannot be built on the headwaters and springs of the Belubula River."

What evidence did Minister Plibersek rely on for her decision? Did she ever visit the mine site or the local community? Did she meet and speak with the local land council or other legislated authorities regarding the alleged impacts the project would have? Were local voices given a real platform to influence the outcome? Was

the economic future of the region given the same weight as the alleged environmental and cultural considerations? We are left with a sense that a Minister who is navigating her own political struggles and prioritising her professional aspirations as the Federal election looms has now imposed her will from above, without regard for the locals who are directly impacted by her decision.

The rejection of the mine is not just a rejection of a project; it feels like a rejection of the future of our local communities and the future of our nation. It is a stark reminder of the disconnect between Canberra and the realities on the ground in regional Australia. The question must be asked: Are we now entering an era where economic development in regional Australia will be stifled in the name of environmentalism? If so, what future is there for projects like McPhillamys? What future is there for mining, agriculture and other industries that rely on the responsible use of our natural resources? Australia is blessed with vast natural resources, and mining is one of the pillars of our economy. But projects like McPhillamys are long-term investments, and they require a stable, predictable regulatory framework. Investors need confidence that they can navigate the approvals process and emerge with a viable project.

The rejection of the McPhillamys mine sends exactly the opposite message. It tells investors that even after years of planning, millions of dollars in feasibility studies and adherence to all the rules and regulations, their project can still be scrapped. Already, we have seen international investors express concerns about the risk of regulatory overreach in Australia's mining sector. The future of investment in mining—and, by extension, the economic future of regions like ours—depends on the confidence investors have in our system. Minister Plibersek's rejection of the McPhillamys mine is not just a local issue. It is a matter of national significance. It represents an arbitrary decision that threatens the economic future of Blayney and the Central West. Indeed, it is a dangerous precedent impacting all of us, regardless of where we live.

NSW GOVERNMENT APOLOGY TO FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS AND FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS

NSW GOVERNMENT APOLOGY FOR FORCED ADOPTION PRACTICES

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (15:34): I recognise two important anniversaries where we reflect on dark times in New South Wales' history. These are difficult conversations, but that cannot stop us from being honest and confronting past injustices, because without honesty change is impossible. Today marks the fifteenth anniversary of the New South Wales Government apology to the forgotten Australians— children who grew up in orphanages, children's homes and other institutions last century. Tomorrow marks the twelfth anniversary of the New South Wales Government's apology for its past forced adoption practices. I not only acknowledge those important anniversaries but also take this opportunity to offer my deepest apologies to those people whose lives were turned upside down by former practices of the State. Those impacted come from all corners of our State, including from my electorate of Port Stephens.

I will start with the forgotten Australians. On this date in 2009, at a ceremony at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, the then New South Wales Premier, Nathan Rees, apologised to the State's forgotten Australians for the hurt, neglect, abuse and distress experienced by many of the children who grew up in institutional settings and other forms of out-of-home care. Forgotten Australians include members of the Stolen Generations and child migrants, many of whom experienced sexual, physical and psychological abuse when in the care of the State. I acknowledge the profound, lifelong and intergenerational impacts those experiences have had on the lives of the people who grew up in those institutional settings—and on their families.

Children and young people should be able to grow up in safe, loving and nurturing homes with people who love them—not cold, impersonal and dehumanising institutions that robbed many children of that loving home. The trauma of their experiences remains with many forgotten Australians to this day and rings across generations. It serves as a sobering reminder of the harm the State can do when wielding one of its strongest powers: the power to remove children from their families. Our Government is committed to continue its support for survivors through funding for the forgotten Australians program in New South Wales. While we cannot undo the wrongs of the past, it is important that we listen to and learn from the forgotten Australians so that we do not make the same mistakes again.

On 20 September 2012 in this Parliament, the then Premier the Hon. Barry O'Farrell issued a formal apology for past adoption practices in New South Wales. Forced adoptions led to thousands of women in New South Wales being robbed of their babies. As a mum, I simply cannot imagine what that would have been like and how painful that would be. Those practices were profoundly wrong, and nobody should ever pretend that an apology can take away that pain. Forced adoptions severed connections to family, identity, culture and country, causing untold sadness not only for those affected, but for many in the generations who followed.

Instead of being offered the care and support they deserved, unwed mothers were shunned, stigmatised and deprived of the opportunity to love their children and watch them grow. Many fathers were ignored and excluded from making decisions about their children. Those who were adopted were raised without ever knowing their birth parents. Those practices were inexcusable. Just like for the forgotten Australians, I know that the pain and trauma caused by past forced adoption practices continues to this day. I would like to assure the community that the New South Wales Government will work alongside the Commonwealth and other State and Territory governments to identify opportunities to address the current and changing needs of those impacted by past forced adoption policies and practices. Anniversaries of shameful aspects of our history act as powerful reminders that we need to learn the lessons of the past and never repeat them.

To members of the forgotten Australians and those forcibly adopted, I admire your resilience in the face of so much suffering. You have my support and that of this Government. I can assure you that lessons have been learned. The Minns Labor Government is undertaking significant systemic reform of the child protection system to give kids the future they deserve. We are determined to shape a system that helps more families to stay safely together so that children and young people stay connected to family, culture, community and country. Where that is not possible and we must respond, we want to provide safe, stable and loving homes for vulnerable children. We know it will take a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach to strengthen families and communities and keep kids safe. On the anniversaries of the formal apologies, as a government and as a Parliament we reflect tonight on the enduring impact of the harmful practices of the past and commit to never repeat them. The forgotten Australians and those who have suffered from forced adoptions will not be forgotten by our Government or this Parliament.

STARS OF TAMWORTH DANCE FOR CANCER

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (15:39): It was a sensational night on Saturday 14 September at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre [TRECC], where the Stars of Tamworth Dance for Cancer was held. It was an enormous success as the dancers and the entertainment lit up the stage and the ceiling, achieving a record-breaking $221,000 for Cancer Council NSW. I say a huge thanks to Sara Mayo, Kate Dubois and the whole team that made it happen. It was a big move to take the event to the TRECC for the first time, and it was an outstanding success. The event demanded a bigger venue, and it was perfect. It was beautifully decorated and was the perfect stage to showcase the dancers. I thank the TRECC's staff, Mitch, Luke, Rob and Angie, and everyone who contributed. I thank all of the incredible stars, their dance partners and the fabulous Paul, Kellie and Lily Singh of the Tamworth City Dance Academy. Their huge ongoing efforts, passion, commitment and dedication continue to offer every resource possible to the stars who dance for cancer.

Apart from the stars, the Tamworth City Dance Academy put on a show of aerial skills. It was simply breathtaking. It was the type of performance where artists perform aerial acrobatics while hanging from specialist fabric. It was amazing. I say a huge thank you to Rebekah Bianca Studios for its hard work in capturing the magical moments of the night. Splashpool put in a performance to keep everyone dancing right to the end. I was part of the judging panel, with ABC Radio's Kristy Reading, and Alec Clydesdale, a rising star in the stable of agent Daniel McCulloch. It was an outstanding effort by the local stars who put in months of training. Each has their own personal reason for taking part, and they shared their story with us on the night.

The Stars of Tamworth included Amy Hughes, Rebecca Creighton-Clarke and Abbey Condon from the PRD Trio; Ben Sutton; Josh Crelley; Wade O'Shea; Tradies Support the Ladies; Fiona McKnight; Stacey Summers and Carly Syron of the Summers Group Duo; Bryan Singh; Eliza Fagan; and Damien Thom. It was an outstanding effort by all, each bringing their own individual colour and cabaret spectacular. It was a special event to watch. Picking the winners was very difficult. There were three winners on the night. The highest fundraiser was Wade O'Shea, who broke the record for Tamworth's highest ever individual fundraising effort, raising an incredible $57,000. The people's choice award went to Sara Irwin and Tradies Support the Ladies. They brought their own WWF Stars of Tamworth belt. The judge's choice was the fabulous Fiona McKnight. It was a spectacle to behold. It was so nice to be a part of. Well done to the Tamworth branch of Cancer Council. I thank the wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to run the behind-the-scenes efforts to pull the spectacular together. Get ready for 2025; we will see you then.

LIVERPOOL ELECTORATE HOUSING

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (15:43): In the iconic words of Darryl Kerrigan, "It's not a house. It's a home. A man's home is his castle." Part of that stems from what we call the Great Australian Dream, which is the belief that home ownership can lead to a better life. That is especially true for so many people in Liverpool, who, for a variety of reasons, may be the first in their families to fulfil the Great Australian Dream. I recall recently speaking to my mother about the significance of buying her home. She said, "After coming to Australia and starting a new life from scratch here, having a home of my own was a sign that I had some roots

and I could stand on my feet. It made me feel like I'd achieved progress and independence." For many who have scrimped and saved to buy the roof over their head, that is a familiar sentiment.

A recent investigation into practices within the strata management industry conducted by and aired on the ABC's *Four Corners* revealed shocking evidence of questionable charges, phantom fees and suspect deals with contractors, and even situations where the developer retains control over the owners' corporation to avoid responsibility for building rectification works where defects have been identified. Many of the people impacted are ordinary people who see buying into a strata scheme as a way of entering the property market or a way of downsizing and living within their means in a convenient location.

I recently met with a group of owner-residents of 69-73 Elizabeth Drive, Liverpool. Those residents contacted me, concerned about the apparent takeover of their owners' corporation by a strata company. They advised me that it was done without a democratic process or transparent notification to owners of NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal [NCAT] proceedings. I was initially contacted about the matter last year following issues related to the 2022 annual general meeting [AGM] of the strata management committee that raised issues with the behaviour of the strata management company, including shutting owners out of the 2022 AGM while important motions were dealt with, the use of questionable proxy votes for meetings held in 2021, and the allowance for pre-meeting votes to be cast by the director of Titles Strata Management [TSM].

The situation escalated following what residents tell me is a pattern of anti-democratic behaviour by Titles Strata Management, especially after the events of 19 July 2023. The AGM held on that day was organised by TSM to be held at 3.30 p.m. at its offices in Drummoyne. It was an unusual location choice given that the residents and building are located in Liverpool. It was to be the first strata meeting not held in Liverpool, with others taking place at the building itself or at Club Liverpool. The time of the AGM, on a weekday in the afternoon, while many owners were still at work, acted to disenfranchise residents of the complex. Furthermore, the location, some 50 minutes away from Liverpool, added to the difficulty of access. However, residents organised to take time off work and re-organise caring responsibilities, and more than 50 people attended at TSM's office.

Clearly not expecting the residents to turn up, TSM promptly cancelled the meeting, citing that the location, which TSM itself selected, was not able to accommodate the number of people that arrived. As a result of the cancellation, tempers flared and police were called to the scene. Through negotiation, the meeting was rescheduled to Club Liverpool on 2 August 2023. TSM further delayed the meeting to 8 September 2023. In the intervening weeks, TSM would apply to NCAT for an interim order for the compulsory appointment of a managing agent for the owners' corporation. The owners would lodge an application to set aside the NCAT order on 4 September, which was dismissed as the owners were not a party to the initial proceedings. As a result, owners were denied their right to vote in the AGM.

The NCAT proceedings were undertaken without the knowledge of those living in the building. How that can occur beggars belief. The owners I met with identified a range of grievances, with the most pressing being failure to manage the strata finances transparently and ethically; charging for unknown expenses, an example of that being a $330 charge imposed every time the building manager, Dino Khoury, was sent a text message after 6.00 p.m., despite his contract not specifying working after hours; failure to perform its duties with duty of care or skill; and intimidation of lot owners with false claims of by-law breaches and fines. The compulsory order is due to expire in December. I share with the House the concerns of the owner-residents that the order will be extended, compounding their anxiety and distress. I call on the NCAT to immediately review the situation and ensure due process, fairness and justice for those residents, who just want to live in their own home in peace.

SURF LIFE SAVING NSW AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:48): I recently had the pleasure of attending the annual Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence night in Sydney on 24 August. It was a great evening, celebrating our wonderful Surf Life Saving clubs and their volunteer members. Those individuals ensure the safety of beachgoers and embody the spirit of community and selflessness, giving up their time to safeguard the lives of others along our stunning coastline. One of the most heartwarming moments of the night was seeing the Central Coast clubs shine so brightly. In fact, the Central Coast secured six awards in total, a staggering one-quarter of the awards on offer, showcasing the immense talent, dedication and leadership that exists within the region.

A huge and well-deserved congratulations must go to Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club, which had a standout night and truly scooped the pool. The club walked away with the prestigious titles of Club of the Year, Coach of the Year and Masters Athlete of the Year, which is an incredible achievement. To be named New South Wales club of the year for 2024 is a testament to the hard work, passion and commitment of every member of Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club. It is particularly exciting because it marks the first time the club has received that prestigious honour. With its newly renovated clubhouse opening later this year, I have no doubt that this is just the beginning of even greater things to come for Terrigal.

I specifically recognise some of the outstanding individuals who contributed to that success. Ryan Quick, who was named coach of the year, has clearly played a pivotal role in nurturing talent and fostering a sense of teamwork and excellence within the club. I congratulate Ryan on this incredibly well-deserved recognition. Paul Lemmon, who was awarded masters athlete of the year, exemplifies the commitment to fitness, discipline and personal excellence that defines the surf lifesaving movement. Paul's ongoing achievements inspire not just the younger generation but all of us as we strive to stay active and engaged in our communities.

It is also important to note the broader achievements of the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club. With 274 trained and vigilant patrolling members, the club has been responsible for performing 22 rescues this season. Yet what is truly remarkable is that this number could have been far higher had it not been for the club's proactive approach and its ability to mitigate over 2,000 potentially dangerous situations on the beach. Its vigilance and professionalism have undoubtedly prevented many emergencies from escalating and, for that, we are incredibly grateful.

In addition to the club's outstanding patrolling efforts, Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club has shown great leadership and a strong sense of community engagement. Its efforts to improve governance and inclusivity have been commendable, with members ranging from as young as five to an inspiring 98 years old. The club has also hosted a range of key events, not just for locals but also for the broader region, further cementing its role as a cornerstone of our community. A special mention must go to Richard Green, the club president, whose leadership and vision has been instrumental in guiding the club to such a historic achievement. Richard has rightly acknowledged the countless committed volunteers who have worked tirelessly to achieve this honour, and we all share in that sense of pride and accomplishment.

I congratulate Jackie Sproll from North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club for earning the title of patrol captain of the year and Richard Grimmond of Ocean Beach Surf Life Saving Club for being named trainer of the year. Jackie and Richard exemplify the skills and leadership necessary to keep our beaches safe, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them as part of our community. On this celebratory night, we also witnessed another individual reach the pinnacle of recognition within the surf lifesaving community. Mollie Murphy of Umina Surf Life Saving Club was crowned surf lifesaver of the year. Mollie's extraordinary contribution has earned her not only this esteemed title but also the recent recognition as a Rotary emergency services community award winner. Her dedication and selflessness embody everything that is great about surf lifesaving, and she is a true role model for future generations.

Finally, I acknowledge the professional support and coordination provided by Surf Life Saving Central Coast under the outstanding leadership of President Matt Slattery, who is a former surf lifesaver, Chief Executive Officer Michael Hyslop and the entire team. The success of our Central Coast club is a direct reflection of the incredible support that they provide. The Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence are a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and celebrate the efforts of these remarkable individuals and clubs. With over 78,000 members across the State, the work of every volunteer is invaluable. To see so many of our Central Coast lifesavers recognised for their commitment is a source of immense pride for our entire region. Once again, I congratulate all the award winners and finalists from the Central Coast. I thank them for their unwavering dedication and for everything they do to keep our beaches safe every season.

ARTSAKH ETHNIC CLEANSING ANNIVERSARY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:53): A capital city bombed. Enemy tanks on the streets. Amidst chaos and destruction, people flee from their homes carrying their precious belongings on their backs or strapped to the roof of their cars. Children, in tears, flee to save their lives. People leaving their ancestral homeland of 3,000 years. One may have thought that those descriptions of barbarity and human suffering belonged to the past, to the world wars and genocides of last century. Sadly, exactly one year ago today, the world witnessed the ethnic cleansing of more than 100,000 Armenian Christians from their ancestral homeland. Today marks the first anniversary of the ethnic cleansing of the Republic of Artsakh—an entire nation—of its Indigenous people.

During those dark days only one year ago, I stood with members of the Victorian and New South Wales Parliaments and the Armenian National Committee of Australia as part of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Armenia delegation to Armenia, and witnessed firsthand over 100,000 Indigenous Armenians being forcibly expelled from their homes as Azerbaijani tanks and troops rolled in and bombs fell in the streets of Stepanakert. The Azeris' plan to rid the region of Artsakh of its Indigenous Armenian population was successful, and now, having ethnically cleansed and occupied Artsakh, their aggressive foreign policy against Armenia continues.

Azerbaijan embarked on a campaign against Artsakh's cultural and religious heritage to remove all physical signs that Armenians ever inhabited this land. Its objective was to erase more than 3,000 years of Armenian history from the map. Churches, cemeteries and schools have been destroyed, while statues and monuments were toppled and broken in an attempt to erase all trace of Armenian civilisation—all confirmed by satellite imagery released

by independent monitors. Such a campaign of human and culture erasure and destruction can only be described as genocide. The Azeri regime also continues to illegally detain an unknown number of Armenian hostages and political prisoners, including prisoners of war, civilians and government officials from Artsakh. Among them is Davit Ishkhanyan, former President of the National Assembly of Artsakh, whom I had the privilege of meeting both in Artsakh and in this Parliament.

Today I join the former Australian foreign Minister, Gareth Evans, who wrote to Australian foreign Minister, Penny Wong, calling for more to be done for the release of Artsakh's political prisoners, including former State Minister Ruben Vardanyan and his colleagues. The Azeri regime must be held accountable for such crimes, and that is exactly what this Parliament sought to do when a motion that I led in 2022 received bipartisan support, recognising the independence of the self-determined, democratic Armenian territory of the Republic of Artsakh. Instead, the international community has rewarded Azerbaijan with hosting the upcoming global Climate Change Conference, COP29, in Baku later this year. That conference will be held in the same city in which Armenian political prisoners and hostages are illegally rotting in Azeri prisons. I firmly believe that Australians should not attend the upcoming COP29 conference. Any individual with a shred of integrity or conscience must abstain from the conference this year, lest they lend legitimacy and respect to a criminal regime that is deserving of neither.

On the first anniversary of this terrible invasion of Artsakh, I demand justice for the Armenians. I demand justice for a peace-loving people who respect the rule of law and cherish democracy over tyranny. I demand justice for an Armenian nation that has suffered in defence of their faith and their values over centuries and which has endured and persevered through genocide. The desecration of Armenian religious and cultural sites by Azerbaijan in Artsakh must stop. All Armenian hostages held by Azerbaijan must be released. All Azeri soldiers within the sovereign borders of Armenia must be withdrawn. Only when Azerbaijan allows the people of Artsakh to return to their ancestral homeland should we once again engage in respectful diplomacy. I encourage all Australians to stand with me for the Armenians who have lost their lives and properties, in a firm stance against the Azeri regime. To the Armenians of Artsakh, I say that this Parliament stood with you before and stands with you now. God bless and protect you, your family and the Armenian people.

ARTSAKH ETHNIC CLEANSING ANNIVERSARY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (15:58): Today marks one year since the ethnic cleansing of over 100,000 Armenians from their ancestral homeland in the Republic of Artsakh, a brutal event that unfolded due to Azerbaijan's military invasion. This was not merely a conflict or a territorial dispute; it was an orchestrated attempt to erase an entire people, whose ties to Artsakh stretch back for millennia. I acknowledge the member for Prospect and his earlier private member's statement. I respect greatly his remarks. Last year, like the member for Prospect, I co-led a delegation to Armenia. The visit turned into one of the most remarkable yet challenging experiences of my life. What was meant to be a diplomatic and community and business-related mission became a heartbreaking firsthand encounter with the impact of ethnic cleansing.

As we approached the town of Goris, I never thought I would see scenes of families, vehicle after vehicle, fleeing for their lives. These were people forced to abandon their homes and their heritage under the shadow of an aggressive military force. It was one of the hardest days of my life. I met children who had not eaten properly for over nine months due to an Azerbaijani blockade that had starved them of basic necessities. The streets were filled with the displaced, their entire lives packed into cars, as they fled a land their ancestors had inhabited for centuries. I listened to stories of men and women captured, tortured and killed, victims of a violence that seems almost unimaginable in this day and age. Above all, I witnessed firsthand the horrific consequences of ethnic cleansing—the brutal displacement of people who had every right to remain on their ancestral land. Clearly, such an experience deeply affects you. You return home, safe and sound, and yet you carry with you a profound sense of helplessness, wishing you could do more for those still suffering.

Azerbaijan has tried to cleanse its image on the global stage, particularly as it prepares to host COP29 later this year. However, we cannot forget that the same regime responsible for hosting an international summit is also responsible for ethnic cleansing, continued occupation of Armenian land and the jailing of Armenian people. Those prisoners, including democratically elected officials, languish in Azerbaijani jails without any prospect of justice. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan continues to destroy Armenia's Christian and cultural heritage, erasing the very history of the people it has displaced. While Azerbaijan parades as some sort of wannabe leader in global initiatives, its actions in Artsakh and Armenia speak volumes about the true nature of its regime. This is a regime that starved civilians, launched a brutal military assault and continues to occupy internationally recognised Armenian territory. It is crucial for the international community to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its actions.

I urge all my colleagues in both Houses of the New South Wales Parliament to boycott COP29 in Baku, and I call upon all Federal parliamentarians of Australia to refuse attendance at this summit. I understand that Chris Bowen will be attending COP29, and I strongly urge him to reconsider this. His presence would be a direct affront to Australian-Armenians and to the principles of human dignity and international justice. By attending this

summit, Chris Bowen would send a message to the world that Australia is willing to overlook the oppressive and dictatorial regime of Azerbaijan. To attend would be to legitimise a regime that has shown utter disregard for human rights.

At the same time, I want to speak of the hope and resilience of the wonderful Armenian people, their culture, their history and, indeed, their future. Amid the devastation, I witnessed incredible strength and support. Families who had lost everything still found the will to carry on, and communities torn apart by violence clung to hope for a better future. But these people need our support. This is not just a regional issue; it is a broader human rights issue. The atrocities committed in Artsakh should compel us all of us to act. I urge the New South Wales Government and all governments in other jurisdictions of our country to support Armenia and Artsakh in their time of need. The ethnic cleansing of Artsakh is a crime that cannot be ignored, and justice must be sought for the people affected and the principles we proclaim to stand for.

Let us not ever forget the over 100,000 people displaced, the lives lost and the culture under threat. We owe it to the Armenian Australian community to demand justice and accountability. This anniversary is a sombre reminder of what has been lost but also a call to action. Today we remember the victims, and we recommit ourselves to seeking justice for the people of Artsakh. Their resilience in the face of unimaginable adversity is a testament to their strength, but they cannot do it alone. We must stand with them and do everything in our power to ensure that their suffering is not in vain. Now is the time for action. Please let us all lend our time and interest to this cause and to the aid efforts underway. Let us work together to bring justice to those who have suffered to help them rebuild and to right this terrible wrong in the modern era. Let them come home to Artsakh. I will continue to stand up for Artsakh and demand justice, today and always.

RIVERSTONE ELECTORATE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (16:03): Prior to entering Parliament, as the vice-president of the North West Business Chamber, I lobbied on behalf of the interests of small businesses in our area. This, in time, opened my eyes to the broader infrastructure concerns—the roads, the transport and the overall service delivery in the area—that the State Government was responsible for and failing to deliver. It was during that time I started becoming aware of just how large of an issue school overpopulation was becoming. To put it into perspective, the Ponds High School celebrates its tenth birthday later this year. This was the last school delivered to our area, 10 years ago, and it is the most overpopulated in the State.

I vividly remember visiting the previous member for Riverstone after mapping out the catchment area of Riverstone High School, with the projected population numbers, and pointing out that the anticipated number of 13- to 18-year-olds who would be living within that catchment by 2036 came to 20,000. His response was, "The catchment area will change with new schools," to which I replied, "It is going to be hard to change the catchment when there is no budget for new schools." That exchange is one of the triggers that brought me to this place. Between the census of 2016 and 2021, Riverstone faced the highest population growth in the State—primarily young families with school-aged children. This growth did not stop in 2021; instead, it accelerated at a rapid rate.

I have made it my priority in my time as the member for Riverstone to spend as much time with teachers and students as I can to try to understand, at a local level, what we as a government need to do to clean up the mess. That was how I learned that, under the former Government, residents living in units were not counted in student projections because it was assumed that people living in units do not have children. This type of false assumption was also noticed by the Minister for Education and Early Learning. As a result, the NSW Department of Education conducted an audit of enrolment growth in the State's schools at the request of the Labor Government. The audit, which covered 2018 to 2023, aimed to analyse student population trends. It revealed significant student population growth in the north-west and south-west growth corridors, which should come as no surprise to parents living in an electorate where almost every public school is significantly over capacity.

The Schofields east region of the Riverstone electorate experienced the most substantial increase, with government school enrolments surging from 1,535 students in 2018 to 4,762 in 2023, exceeding the projected number of students by more than three times. The order of magnitude can only be attributed to either astonishingly bad management by the previous Government or wilful neglect of the thousands of families moving into the area. The number of students in Schofields was so grossly underestimated that the actual number of students in this area is now higher than the number that was predicted for 2041. In fact, three of the top 20 suburbs with the most significant growth were in the Riverstone electorate and another three were in neighbouring suburbs, like Box Hill and Marsden Park.

Ignorance of the crisis in schools was so acute that, despite the rapid student enrolment growth, the former Government sold off multiple school sites in my electorate and replaced them with housing. Riverstone students are crammed into overcrowded classrooms, their playgrounds have been invaded by temporary buildings and their teachers are overburdened. That raises the question: How could such a massive planning failure have been allowed

to persist? The former Government's handling of education in the Riverstone electorate can only be described as woeful. The pursuit of rapid housing development, without the necessary infrastructure to support it, blindsided the students and families of Riverstone.

As an indication of our commitment to public education, I am pleased to say the Minns Labor Government is working to bring public education back on track. Under the education Minister's leadership, the New South Wales school system is receiving an historic boost in funding of $3.6 billion in Western Sydney. A multitude of school upgrades, temporary schools and new fast-tracked schools, permanent teaching positions and teacher salary upgrades are just the first steps to fixing this mess. Work is already underway on eight new schools in the most critical areas, including new public schools for Nirimba Fields, Tallawong, Marsden Park, Box Hill and The Gables, and new high schools for Tallawong/Schofields, Marsden Park and Box Hill. In addition, even more schools are being planned.

Addressing the infrastructure crisis is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach. The audit report suggests several actions that can be adopted to address the crisis. Custom school population projections, continually enhancing projection models, engagement with local stakeholders, developing strategic land provisioning strategies and actively monitoring school growth in the area, using Medicare data, are some of the ways forward. The findings in that report paint a clear image of how the State was left when I came into office. Each finding suggested abject failures of the previous administration. Those failures extend beyond the scope of education and speak to the broader issues in my electorate. An overreliance on private developers and abrogation of responsibility have compounding effects across every element of government service delivery.

GOLDMATE LAND ACQUISITION DECISION

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (16:08): I raise an important issue concerning property acquisition that is unfairly and disastrously impacting many good and honest people. I have been informed by numerous landowners in my electorate of Badgerys Creek—whose properties have been subjected to the land acquisition process and who have attempted to work in good faith with Transport for NSW, the acquiring authority—that the process and offers from Transport for NSW were purposefully delayed for unreasonable time frames in order for Transport for NSW to await an outcome of its case before the Land and Environment Court against Goldmate Property. Transport for NSW subsequently aligned its offers according to the outcome of that case, offers which are now substantially lower than what otherwise would have been provided.

For a government agency to purposefully delay process in order to retrospectively apply the Goldmate decision to offers that should have been settled prior is outrageous and not in line with the principle of good faith. Honest and hardworking people are left to pay the price of unreasonably low offers. I understand that Goldmate lodged an appeal in July of this year, which is expected to take 12 to 18 months to work its way through the system. Irrespective of that, landowners who should have received offers prior to the outcome of the case should not have had the offers process purposefully delayed to their detriment.

For those unaware of the Goldmate decision, section 56 (1) (a) of the just terms Act states that, in determining the market value of land, it is necessary to disregard "any increase or decrease in the value of the land caused by the carrying out of, or the proposal to carry out, the public purpose for which the land was acquired". The Goldmate decision established that the public purpose may be associated with a coordinated cross-government strategy and that there is no requirement to limit the scope of the characterisation of the public purpose by reference to the legislation that gives rise to the authority's acquisition power. As such, it leads that valuations of property turn out to be much lower as the broader purposes are excluded from having an impact on the property's value.

That decision in itself is extraordinarily unfair and, even if it were the correct decision by law, the law would ultimately need changing. Why should property owners not have the benefit of the natural progression of a region and its infrastructure taken into account when determining the value during compulsory acquisition? I am sure that, when they and others purchase properties on the free market, they pay a market price that takes into account such things as broader access to transport, schools and shopping centres, and the inevitable future infrastructure that will occur with growth and an increasing population and much more. That very increase in valuation is occurring now in my electorate because of the Western Sydney international airport and surrounding aerotropolis, which are under development. Such things are expected. They inevitably flow from the natural growth of a region over time. Yet, when having compulsory acquisition forced upon them, my constituents have to settle for a valuation that excludes things that are part of a wider government strategy. It is outrageous and totally unfair.

I put on record that one such family actually came to a settled agreement with a New South Wales government department at the end of last year. Both parties settled on an agreed value for government to purchase the land. But despite the family contacting the department for months, it would not pay out that money. It was

dead silent until the day after the Goldmate case decision was handed down—when that department picked up the phone, called my constituent and offered them less than 50 per cent of what it had originally agreed to pay only five months before. Irrespective of the precedent established in the Goldmate ruling, it should not be retrospectively applied to create a lower valuation for property owners who should have had their valuations that were agreed to prior to the decision honoured. I call on Transport for NSW and the New South Wales Government to immediately correct this wrongdoing and provide those individuals the reasonable offers they are entitled to.

KIDSXPRESS SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (16:13): I recently had the pleasure of meeting with members from KidsXpress, a registered charity and leading specialist in children's mental health. KidsXpress was established in 2005. It provides trauma-focused expressive therapy and education services to children aged 12 and below as well as their caregivers. Since its opening, KidsXpress has provided free therapy services to more than 4,000 children who would have otherwise struggled to access appropriate mental health care. The School Partnership Program is an initiative designed by KidsXpress intended to address the urgent mental health needs of children, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The program works by embedding trauma-informed therapists and consultants within schools for up to three to five years.

Currently, KidsXpress is delivering the School Partnership Program in over five schools in the State, one of which is Bidwill Public School, located within my electorate. In the first half of this year alone, the program has seen 170 children between the ages of four and 12 receive support through expressive therapy delivered both individually and in group settings. The effectiveness of such interventions has been evaluated rigorously using a globally recognised psychological assessment tool, the Child Outcome Rating Scale. The scale measures changes to personal, family, school and overall wellbeing before and after receiving therapy treatment. The data collected from sites participating in the School Partnership Program through KidsXpress have shown a significant improvement in Child Outcome Rating Scale scores from the perspectives of not only the children but also their parents and educators.

Children in low socio-economic areas are at a higher risk of suffering from mental health problems. Those children face a higher number of stressful life situations such as parental mental illness, financial hardship and family instability. Research shows that over 50 per cent of primary school-aged children in those areas have experienced mental health challenges in the past year. Some 37 per cent of those children have been diagnosed with disorders such as ADHD and anxiety. Despite those staggering figures, 35 per cent of parents do not seek assistance for their children's mental health issues. This is often due to barriers such as social stigma, lack of awareness and limited access to resources.

Having a school-based initiative like the School Partnership Program administered by KidsXpress brings about awareness to this growing issue and helps to break the stigma around mental health problems in our youths. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to meet with KidsXpress and hear about the amazing work that it does for the community. It is imperative that we break the stigma surrounding mental health issues in children and encourage them to seek help when they are struggling to stop the cycle. I look forward to seeing KidsXpress continue to expand its fantastic services.

ENDEAVOUR SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (16:17): I acknowledge Endeavour Sports High School located in the Miranda electorate, which recently celebrated its sixtieth birthday. Founded in 1964 as simply Endeavour High School, the school has grown to exemplify excellence in both sport and academics, even nurturing some of our nation's finest athletes. Over the past six decades, Endeavour has expanded not only in enrolments and size but also in its contribution to the sporting success of our country, truly earning its place as one of the most incredible schools in New South Wales. Despite its early successes, it was not until 28 April 1997 that the school was officially designated New South Wales' third sports high school by then Minister for Education and Training, John Aquilina. At the time Endeavour's sporting program catered to 220 students across 16 sports.

Today nearly 500 students are enrolled in the targeted sports program, the largest among the seven sports high schools in the State. In 2023 Endeavour's standing as an elite sporting institution was further cemented when it was named an Australian Olympic Pathway School, a joint initiative between the State Government and Australian Olympic Committee that opens doors for the next generation of Olympians to advance both academically and athletically. Therefore, it is no coincidence that one of Endeavour's own, Telaya Blacksmith, made us proud by representing Australia and reaching the finals in the 400 metres T20 at this year's Paralympics in Paris—a tremendous feat at just 16 years old. Her achievement is one of many from a school that takes pride in its history of success.

Esteemed alumni such as Craig Stevens, Stacey McManus and Carl Wilson have represented Australia at the highest levels. They remain closely involved with Endeavour, having contributed to its ongoing legacy. What truly sets Endeavour apart is its strong sense of community and inclusivity. In 2010 the school established Endeavour Special Kids With A Disability—or SKWAD, as it is affectionately known—a charity dedicated to raising funds to support students in inclusive education, ensuring they have access to the resources they need to thrive. As the Sutherland shire high school with the largest population of students with special needs, Endeavour's commitment to inclusivity is both vital and inspiring. Recently I was proud to provide funding through the Community Building Partnership program to support Endeavour SKWAD with the construction of shade coverings for students with special needs.

In 2016 the school became the first metropolitan institution in Sydney to introduce a Clontarf academy, which works to improve the education and lives of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. The academy's impact has been profound, leading to increased student attendance and engagement. The success of the program was even acknowledged by royalty, when students and staff were invited to meet the Duke and Duchess of Sussex during their 2018 royal visit. Each year one of the highlights of my end-of-year festivities is visiting Endeavour for the annual Clontarf graduation ceremony. To mark its sixtieth anniversary, Endeavour Sports High School hosted a series of events, beginning with an open day on 7 September. The day was filled with joy and pride as students performed, historical memorabilia was showcased and the school's rich legacy was celebrated.

A special highlight of the morning was a performance by the school band, featuring none other than Murray Cook, one of the school's most beloved non-sporting alumni—known to many as the original Red Wiggle. The celebrations continued with a formal dinner on Thursday 12 September, where an impressive line-up of alumni and guests gathered to honour the school's contributions to sport and beyond. Among the distinguished athletes were former Matilda and Sydney FC captain Teresa Polias, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Simon Cowley, Sydney Kings hall of famer BJ Carter, Beijing Youth Olympics silver medallist Tay Clark and young Socceroo Hayden Matthews, who was school captain in 2022. Endeavour's influence extends beyond the sporting field. The event was graced by esteemed figures such as Walkley Award winning journalist Stephen Long; Dr Pamela Gower, AM, a senior forensic odontologist; and Dr Emmanuel Karantanis, a renowned obstetrician and gynaecologist, showing the wideranging impact of the school's education on its students.

I extend my deepest thanks to all who organised these memorable festivities, especially event coordinators Jess Rigg and Stacey Croft. I also acknowledge principal James Kozlowski for his tireless dedication throughout the year in ensuring the sixtieth anniversary was such a special occasion. When reflecting on the importance of celebrating the school's sixtieth anniversary, Mr Kozlowski emphasised that the events honoured the past, celebrated the present and looked forward to a promising future for the school. He underscored the vital role that public education plays in shaping society. Endeavour Sports High School stands as a shining example of what public education can achieve. I thank the entire Endeavour Sports High School community, including staff, students, alumni and supporters, for making this such a remarkable celebration. I thank them for acknowledging the school's proud history and hope that the next 60 years are just as remarkable.

COERCIVE CONTROL FORUM

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (16:22): Recently I attended a forum called Unmasking Coercive Control: The Hidden Abuse: How to Spot It and How to Stop It?, organised and conducted by Sharmily Nagarsekar and the team at LEAD Professional Development Services, together with Harinder Kaur and her team from the Harman Foundation. Practitioners from across Western Sydney were in attendance. All the speakers provided invaluable insights about deepening the conversation around this critical issue. Melissa Stubbling gave a wonderful welcome to country, including teaching those of us who were present at the forum words from the local Dharug language like "Warami mittigar", or hello and welcome. Author and journalist Jess Hill provided detailed information about and examples of gender-based violence, and the social issues that we must address to meet the challenges posed by domestic violence. Survivor stories from Kyra Quinlivan and Jasjeet Kaur were particularly inspiring, as those women shared their difficult journeys—and their resilience. They are the voices for the voiceless.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General the member for Prospect spoke on the Government's legislative program, and Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Local Court, Theo Tsavdaridis, gave practitioners at the forum an insight into what magistrates are looking for and the pressures everyone is under in the court system. The inaugural Women's Safety Commissioner, Dr Hannah Tonkin, spoke about the role, expectations and importance of collaboration with community organisations and women impacted by family and domestic violence. Annabelle Daniel, OAM, founding CEO of Women's Community Shelters and Chair of Domestic Violence NSW, which is the peak body for domestic and family violence associations, also spoke about the need for coordinated effort amongst the practitioners and improvements in the law. Kylie Durett, Tara Hunter and Emily Dale together presented on local challenges and the efforts of Full Stop Australia.

Sergeant Chris Miller from Mount Druitt Police Area Command provided much solace to all those who were present as he discussed police efforts in delivering and supporting victims of domestic violence and the empathy they showed to those families impacted by domestic violence as they try to traverse the challenges of gathering evidence and addressing the other issues at hand. Some two hours later there was a panel discussion, and no-one had left. The presentations and interactions were wonderful opportunities for practitioners to get together to learn from leading practitioners and network over lunch. Once again, I offer my heartfelt thanks for all the hard work undertaken by the Harman Foundation and LEAD. I thank them for allowing me to say a few words at the start of the forum. Together we can make a difference. Together we can end this scourge of domestic and family violence that is destroying so many lives and creating intergenerational trauma.

HENTY MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (16:26): Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the Henty Multipurpose Service [MPS]. Over lunch I spoke with 12 aged-care residents, including lifelong local Ruth Taylor and caring staff such as Tony, who prepared a beautiful meal for us. The MPS provides integrated health and aged-care services, including acute care, subacute care such as respite and palliative care, emergency care, allied health, primary health and community services. It allows seniors like Ruth to remain close to family and friends and receive the ongoing support they need from medical professionals in their later years. The visit highlighted to me the interface that exists between aged care and acute care, which is experiencing increasing difficulties across New South Wales, including in the Albury electorate. As an MP in a border electorate, boundaries and the interface between systems well and truly exercise many of my thoughts. The *2021-22 NSW Intergenerational Report* projected that over the next four decades advances in health care and medicine will see us all living longer. It stated:

> Our ageing population will increase demand for both specialist and basic health services. Rising costs, the prevalence of dementia, and the higher support needs associated with ageing create challenges for health service delivery, particularly for people over 80 years of age.

In July, Minister for Health Ryan Park revealed that nearly 1,200 people waiting for aged and disability care were occupying hospital beds across New South Wales, with 700 waiting well past their discharge date. He said:

> It's a terrible situation for them and it's a terrible situation for a system under pressure needing those beds. Our hospital system is not designed for people to be staying in there for months on end.

Workforce shortages are impacting residential aged-care facilities, resulting in some beds being left empty to comply with staffing ratios, while a growing number of GPs are choosing not to accept new aged-care patients. Both issues are having a significant impact on the demand experienced in our hospitals. Albury-Wodonga geriatrician Nicholas Sharroc agreed. He said:

> There is often lengthy delays in transferring from hospital to aged care, particularly for people with more advanced cognitive impairment and associated behavioural challenges.

Information sharing between the Commonwealth and the States must improve. Giving greater transparency and awareness about patient flow and the availability of beds would also help provide a much better experience for our elderly and their loved ones.

Whilst there are challenges in accessing aged care, other aspects of the system need to be improved. Seventy-four-year-old Albury resident Elizabeth Simpson recently shared with me her frustrations over the breakdown in communication and continuity of care at this interface. Elizabeth's 85-year-old husband, Russell, who has Parkinson's disease and can no longer speak or walk, was rushed from aged care to hospital in early August. On his discharge, information about the heartbreaking choice to start end-of-life care was not shared with his aged-care facility or his GP, nor was information about Russell's ongoing required medication. This resulted in even more upset and stress. At such fragile times ensuring that the highest level of care, dignity and respect is provided to patients like Russell is of the utmost importance.

We must ensure that our older residents have easily understood, streamlined information on healthy ageing, along with timely access to in-home care and support and, when the time is right, quality residential aged-care options that are close to home. Whilst the federally funded aged-care system faces challenges, it is important that families have early conversations about preparing for a time when they may need in-home care and support, including applying for an aged-care assessment, to help with cleaning, installing safety rails or personal care.

Belinda Mead manages the Bolton Clarke Riverwood retirement village in West Albury. She has flagged major delays in such support for the Albury community, saying that many residents are experiencing wait times of up to 12 months before they can get an aged-care assessment for home care or increased assistance or a change in package. With such lengthy waits for an appointment, it is well worth considering preparing an aged-care plan long before it is needed, much like writing a will. Anyone over the age of 65 and any First Nations person over

the age of 50 is eligible to apply for an assessment through My Aged Care. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt: "Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young."

RSL LIFECARE CENTRAL COAST VETERAN AND FAMILY HUB

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast) (16:31): I had the pleasure of attending the opening of RSL LifeCare's Central Coast Veteran and Family Hub in Wyong last Friday. As Minister for the Central Coast, Minister for Veterans, and member for Wyong, there are a few reasons why I was thrilled to have this hub open. The Central Coast is home to more than 7,600 veterans. It is the LGA with the highest number of veterans in New South Wales in every age category, which we learned from the census in 2021. Importantly, that data enabled the New South Wales Government and RSL LifeCare to work together with the Commonwealth to better plan veteran-related services and provide vital support to the areas that need them. Opening this hub on the coast is a significant step forward in providing crucial support to local veterans and their families.

I acknowledge the Commonwealth Government and, in particular, Emma McBride, the member for Dobell, for providing the funding as part of the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Veteran Wellbeing Grants One-Off Program. I give a big thanks to RSL LifeCare for doing the important work to research and establish a model that is a proven one-stop shop for service delivery. I acknowledge also the efforts of our local RSL sub-branches and Central Coast Council, that worked closely with RSL LifeCare to get this hub up and running.

The hub will offer a wide range of freely available support services to our veterans and their families. This will include financial assistance and employment assistance, educational opportunities, Department of Veterans' Affairs claims and advocacy, and mental health support, which is a key concern for veterans as they transition from the Defence Force. The centre will also host support groups, workshops and social events, encouraging social interaction and community building, which are so crucial to veterans and their loved ones. It will be a safe place where veterans and their families can come together, share experiences and build lasting connections. I look forward to seeing this hub becoming a humming hive of activity.

Activities such as meditation and yoga are available. In fact, I shared in my speech that I will cherish the opportunity to do yoga with the presidents of the Toukley and Wyong RSL sub-branches. Despite their age, I think their flexibility would outdo mine, so I might watch while they do it. But it is an important thing for them to do. I also took the opportunity to acknowledge the work of sub-branches, particularly the welfare officers. I do not know whether members know a lot about what welfare officers in RSL sub-branches do. One of their most important jobs, as well as looking after the members more generally, is visiting them in hospital when they are not well. One of their hardest jobs is attending people's funerals. They make sure that in the funeral services there is a proper acknowledgement of the individuals' sacrifice and their service to their country. They pay homage to their families as well, which is important. They take that job seriously. It is particularly difficult because often they are burying their mates, which is a really hard thing to do.

On the back of the report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide being handed down a week or so ago, I commit to ensuring that we will look at it carefully and, as well as the hubs and services, we will look at other ways in which the State can interact with the Commonwealth to ensure the welfare of veterans. I will be in Canberra tomorrow, meeting with veterans Ministers from around Australia and with the Federal Minister, to talk about that important report. I sincerely thank all our veterans and currently serving members of the Defence Force for their service on behalf of our nation. I particularly thank the families of veterans for supporting their loved ones in their service to our country and for the sacrifices they make to ensure that we have the protections we need. As a nation we owe them a debt of gratitude forever.

DAVIDSON ELECTORATE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (16:36): I advocate for transport infrastructure within the Davidson electorate local community. In my last update to the House, I spoke about fixing our local Forest Coach Lines bus services. Today I speak about fixing our local train services. On Tuesday morning I was alarmed to read a headline in *The Sydney Morning Herald* entitled "Cuts to peak-hour trains in shake-up of Sydney's rail timetable". The article by Matt O'Sullivan uncovered secret documents from Transport for NSW about the new transport timetable. It has been revealed that the Labor Government will cut four train services on the North Shore line in peak periods between Hornsby and Roseville. I am officially launching a community petition at www.mattcrossmp.com.au that states, "We, the undersigned, express concern about plans that train services on the North Shore line will be reduced by four services per hour in peak times from 20 October 2024 onwards." I encourage all residents to sign it. This is yet another kick in the guts for Sydney's North Shore by the out-of-touch Labor Government.

First, Labor cut $9.8 million from the Lindfield commuter car parking. Secondly, the Government rezoned Roseville, Lindfield, Killara and Gordon stations for transport oriented development [TOD] with zero consultation and zero funds for new infrastructure. The Davidson electorate includes four of the seven Sydney tier two TODs. Thirdly, our train services have now been cut. Our community needs and deserves world-class public transport, and only the Liberals can deliver it. Today I asked the Minister for Transport a question about the cuts being a clear broken election commitment. On 17 February 2023 she said, "Labor will review the train timetable to deliver better train connections." As expected, the Minister did not provide a relevant response, pivoting to talk about how good the Sydney Metro city line is. I do agree that Sydney Metro is absolutely fantastic, but residents need train services from the upper North Shore to Chatswood to get onto the metro.

In the recent Ku-ring-gai Council elections, the following results were recorded for candidates who were on the record as being against the TODs. In the Gordon ward, former mayor Jennifer Anderson, former deputy mayor Barbara Ward, Councillor Simon Lennon and Sarah Winn received a combined vote of 64 per cent. In the Roseville ward, Mayor Sam Ngai and Councillor Alec Taylor received a combined vote of 87 per cent. I thank those candidates for standing up for our community and putting their values and convictions first. I thank all the candidates for putting themselves forward for election to Ku-ring-gai Council. Standing for election is not easy and takes courage.

Finally, I place on the record how good the Sydney Metro city line is. I have been thinking about the future of transport and what is next for Sydney Metro. As I wrote in an opinion piece in *The Daily Telegraph* on 21 August 2024, "Sydney needs to keep the big transport picture alive." Sydney Metro is an absolutely amazing project. I have been on it several times. To get to Parliament, I catch the train from Lindfield to Chatswood and then walk across the platform to hop on the metro. It is absolutely fantastic. It is so successful that I can no longer do work on the train. When I first hopped on the metro, I thought I was in another country—it was that amazing. I look forward to the metro line expanding to south-west Sydney.

In the coming decades, each section of the Sydney Metro should come together to form a connected loop around Sydney. It should connect Westmead to Western Sydney airport and Bankstown to Glenfield. Passengers will then be able to hop on and off at stations at Chatswood, Central, Bankstown, Leppington, St Marys, Norwest and North Ryde. It should be a big continuous loop around Sydney. That would be an absolute game changer for Sydney. I urge the Government to commit to business cases, particularly for the two lines that I identified. Sadly, it was a Liberal Party election commitment and if we had been elected the business cases would have continued. If that was achieved, my local community could travel from Chatswood all the way out to Western Sydney airport and then connect with the rest of the world. That would be transformational.

I call on Premier Minns to start thinking about his legacy. Does he want to be a small-vision Premier, like his Labor predecessors, or a big-vision Premier, like Gladys Berejiklian, who drove Sydney Metro as transport Minister, Treasurer and Premier? Gladys truly imagined a twenty-first century Sydney and I pay tribute to all the work she did, along with her predecessors Mike Baird and Barry O'Farrell and Treasurer Dominic Perrottet. I thank them for Sydney Metro.

The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 16:42 until
Friday 20 September 2024 at 10:00.

Written Community Recognition Statements

According to Standing Order 108A, the following written community recognition statements were submitted.

27TH ANNUAL RUSTY IRON RALLY

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—The 27th annual Rusty Iron Rally, held at the Macksville Showgrounds over the Father's Day weekend, once again brought together a vibrant and enthusiastic crowd. This cherished event, a hallmark of the Nambucca Valley's cultural calendar, welcomed visitors from across NSW and beyond, all eager to dive into a world of vintage machinery and nostalgic charm. Hosted by the Mid North Coast Machinery Restoration Club, the rally showcased an impressive collection of vintage engines, tractors, and steam engines, some of which are over a century old. These historical marvels, meticulously restored, stand as a testament to the durability and craftsmanship of bygone eras. The rally's pavilion buzzed with excitement, featuring diverse stalls and unique collectibles. This year's event was not just a celebration of the past but an educational journey for younger generations, shedding light on the critical role this machinery played in local industry, transport, and farming. The Rusty Iron Rally continues to foster a deep appreciation for history and craftsmanship, ensuring that the legacy of these remarkable machines endures for future generations to cherish.

STELLA TIJOU REPRESENTS

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—I am thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of former Wauchope high student Stella Tijou. This year, Stella has excelled as a member of the Australian Army Women's Rugby Union Team, leading them to impressive victories over the Navy and Airforce at North Sydney Oval. For the second consecutive year, Stella has earned her place in the prestigious Australian Defence Forces Team, showcasing her as one of the very best from the Army, Navy, and Airforce. Her talent and dedication are truly remarkable. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Stella and wish her every success as she prepares to represent Australia later this year, with the exciting possibility of an overseas tour. Her accomplishments are a great source of pride for our community and serve as a shining example of what hard work and determination can achieve. Beyond the football field, she's a true game-changer, demonstrating unwavering dedication and commitment to everyone around her. Her service and spirit are a testament to her character and make her a standout in every sense. I look forward to seeing her continue to kick goals on the international stage.

NATIONAL ALL BREEDS JUNIOR HEIFER SHOW

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—It is with immense pride and joy that I celebrate the remarkable achievements of St Paul's Year 11 students Isabelle and Brianna, who recently represented our community with outstanding success at the National All Breeds Junior Heifer Show in Blayney. Over an exciting three days, Isabelle and Brianna immersed themselves in education workshops, Cattle Parading, Junior Judging, and Parade classes, competing against a diverse group of over 241 participants from Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Brianna's dedication shone through with a 3rd place finish in Junior Judging and 5th in Parading, showcasing her skill and commitment. Isabelle's triumph was nothing short of extraordinary, as she was awarded Grand Champion Heifer and secured a coveted internship with Branded Ag Marketing, a testament to her exceptional talent and hard work. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to both Isabelle and Brianna for their impressive accomplishments. Your achievements not only bring pride to our community but also inspire future generations to follow their passions with determination and excellence. Well done.

56 YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNISED

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Our Rural Fire Service members, many of whom are from rural areas, are the backbone of the RFS. They, along with the community, form a united front in safeguarding their surroundings during crises. They bravely confront the front line of extremely dangerous situations, yet they turn up, again and again, to not only fight fires but also train new members and educate the community on how they can play their part in keeping themselves and their properties safe. For the past 56 years, Ron Heffer of the Mallee Plains Rural Fire Brigade in West Wyalong has been doing just that, and his unwavering commitment and dedication has been recognised when he was recently awarded his Long Service Medal. Over five decades of dedicated volunteer service, Ron served for 22 years as the Senior Deputy Captain, 11 years as the Brigade president, and 34 years as the Permit Officer. Ron's tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on the community, inspiring others to follow in his footsteps.

WORLD TITLE PODIUM FINISH FOR GRENFELL'S BEAU BAILEY

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I wish to congratulate and formally recognise Grenfell's newest World Title holder Beau Bailey. Beau was recently named the World's number 2 in the prestigious Speedway Grand Prix 3 [SPG3] World championships at the World Titles on June 28th in Tetrow Germany. Beau's sensational podium finish has firmly established him as a rising star in the world of speedway racing. Competing against seasoned veterans and fierce rivals, Beau displayed exceptional skill and determination throughout the event. Despite challenging conditions and fierce competition, he managed to secure a second-place finish, earning his first podium at the world level. Following the races Beau was invited to take place in a training camp, where the students learned exactly what it took to become a professional rider. This was followed by two days of racing. His podium finish is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and natural talent on the track. As he continues to build on this momentum, Beau Bailey is undoubtedly a name to watch in the world of speedway racing, with many expecting him to challenge for world titles in the years to come.

GAMES HIGHEST HONOUR BESTOWED ON COOTAMUNDRA'S LES BOYD AND JUNEE'S KATRINA FANNING

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The Rugby Leagues' Men's and Women's Halls of Fame have received two greats from the Cootamundra Electorate. Katrina Fanning, a Wiradjuri woman, played in the first officially recognised Jillaroos team in 1995 and continued to represent Australia until 2004 as a front rower or hooker. Her commitment to the game has been lifelong, seeing her take on Executive roles with the League organisations and her leadership within her community was instrumental in her being awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia [AO] for distinguished Service to the Indigenous community through education and health

initiatives and for sport. Les Boyd made his first-grade debut in 1976 with the Western Suburbs Magpies and was selected to play for Australia against Great Britain in 1978. He achieved 276 games in NSW and 86 games for the English team, the Warrington Wolves from 1984 – 1989. He was renown as a hard and tough opponent and now joins players like Ben Elias and Johnathan Thurston.

FORSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE COMMUNITY HUB VOLUNTEERS

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to acknowledge the Forster Neighbourhood Centre Community Hub Volunteers, who were awarded the Mid North Coast Volunteer Team of the Year at this year's NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. These awards celebrate the work of thousands of individuals and volunteer teams from a diverse range of organisations across the state. The Forster Neighbourhood Centre Community Hub provides much needed support to people experiencing mental health issues, suicide concerns, homelessness, escaping domestic violence or in financial distress. Staffed by a team of volunteers five days a week, the Hub provides more than 500 emergency relief packages and 350 no-interest loans to vulnerable community members each year. I congratulate the Forster Neighbourhood Centre on their well-deserved recognition and I thank them for their valuable contributions to our community – helping those in need.

MELINDA LIGHTFOOT

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Melinda Lightfoot from Tuncurry, who was awarded the Mid North Coast Adult Volunteer of the Year at this year's NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. Melinda is a founding member of the Great Lakes Suicide Prevention Network, where she gives her time to raising awareness and supporting suicide prevention efforts. As a volunteer leader, she brings together dedicated volunteers and provides important information with the community, helping to reduce the stigma around suicide prevention. Having lost my brother to suicide, I personally know the importance of the work she does. I congratulate Melinda and thank her for her invaluable contribution to addressing the risks and impacts of suicide in our community.

MIDCOAST BUSINESS AWARDS WINNERS

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise the winners of the 2024 MidCoast Business Awards. These awards highlight the outstanding achievements and contributions of businesses across our region. Business of the Year – Bent on Food; 2024 Hall of Fame – MSS Inc; Outstanding Business Leader - Joshua Rogers (MSS Inc); Outstanding New Business – Coastal Workspace; Best Innovation Business - Burling Beds - Turn Assist; Best Trade and Service Business – Taree Off Road; Best Customer Service - Picture This Custom Framing; Best Health and Wellbeing – Pathfinders Ltd; Best Hospitality Business - Bent on Food; Best Personal Service Business – MSS Inc; Best Professional Service – Pathfinders Ltd; Best Retail Business – Lumpys Nursery & Landscape Yard; Best Visitor Experience (Tourism) – Bent on Food Outstanding Community Organisation – MSS Inc I congratulate all the winners for their exceptional contributions to our region and wish them the very best as they progress to the Mid North Coast Regional Awards. Their hard work is inspiring, and they each play an important role in making our community a better place to live, work, and thrive.

ORANGE SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Orange Society of Model Engineers on more than 40 years of bringing joy to the community with model railway rides in the city. Formed around 1982, the OSME has built an amazing miniature rail network at its home in Orange's Matthews Park, which it is only too happy to share with residents and visitors, much to the delight of our children. On the second Saturday morning each month, members bring out their miniature locomotives to carry kids and families on rides around the park. Bridge crossings and track switching are part of the fun. Since the first sleepers were put down in 1983 for a 170m-long 650mm gauge track, the OSME has grown its mini-network to make full use of the space available at the park, with signal boxes and a platform the latest additions. While the society provides fun for families, it also provides fellowship to its members, the majority who have fantastic rail knowledge and skills which would more than likely be lost without the society. Orange Society of Model Engineers is always evolving and I congratulate it on becoming an asset to Orange.

CELIA PAVEY

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to acknowledge the career of Forbes' Celia Pavey, now perhaps better known as Vera Blue. Bursting on to the Australian music scene as a finalist on the television show The Voice in 2013, Celia has carried that momentum to establish a career not only nationally, but overseas. Despite her success, Celia was delighted to return to her roots earlier this year as the headline act for Forbes Frost and Fire Festival, describing the invitation to play as 'an honour'. Forbes is where Celia cut her teeth musically, showing potential playing the violin and guitar with the Mitchell Conservatorium but it's been her exquisite and elegant

voice that has set her apart. She has gone on to record and tour successfully, worked with several renowned acts like Flume and has been nominated for a slew of industry organisation awards. Despite her rising star, Celia has never forgotten where she started with Forbes always her home town. I congratulate Celia on her wonderful career and wish her further success.

EMUS RUGBY CLUB'S EMUS FOUNDATION

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, looking out for your mates is an integral part of any sporting code and I wish to acknowledge Orange Emus Rugby Union for taking the notion a step further by establishing the Emus Foundation. Rugby is a contact sport - injuries happen and while clubs fundraise to help, Emus has set up a charity dedicated to lending support to club members, and those across country NSW who sustain a serious on-field injury. Severe injury can be financially draining to a player who may require surgery and then extensive rehabilitation. Apart from the physical, players can also be impacted mentally, taking a toll on family and friends. As the club points out, medical services are not as extensive in the bush meaning travel is a necessity, and providing relief with costs is where the Foundation will step in, assisting with the recovery, or management of injury. Launched in August, the Emus Foundation will begin building a pool of funds with its first major fundraiser in October, the Emus Foundation Tens tournament, at the club's home, Endeavour Oval. I commend Emus for this initiative and wish the club every success.

TULIP TIME BLOOMS IN BOWRAL

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Tulip Time is back for another year. A tradition held every year in Corbett Gardens in Bowral, and one which is closely tied to the identity and character of the Highlands. On show from Thursday 12 September to Monday 30 September 2024, this year sees a range of events including Tulips after Dark for evening visits to the gardens, and a Tulip Tea Time Party as well as a special 'Dogs Day Out' for visitors to bring their dogs with them to the gardens. This event draws many visitors to the Highlands, and is the perfect way to welcome in the beginning of spring. Tulip time is one of the oldest flower festivals in Australia, and has been held for over 60 years. With over 75,000 tulips planted and 15,000 annuals along with another 30,000 in gardens throughout the Highlands this event is again a credit to the organisers.

EARTH FLIX 4 CHANGE SCREENING OF KOALAS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Earth Flix 4 Change, an initiative of the Wingecarribee Shire Council, continues to inspire with its ongoing screenings, the latest of which is the powerful documentary 'The Koalas' at Bowral Cinemas. The screening was followed by short documentaries: South-East Koalas Film [LLS] and SH Koala Conservation Project [DCCEEW]. My congratulations and thanks go to producers and directors Georgia Wallace-Crabbe and Gregory Miller (Film Project) for bringing The Koalas documentary to such a wide audience. It highlights the plight of this endangered species, including the koala populations that Wollondilly is so well known for. This is a cause close to my heart, and I thank all advocating for the future of koalas for your hard work in all that you do in rescuing and caring for koalas, and fighting to preserve their natural habitat. We haven't turned the corner yet, but the hard work you all do for koalas and Australian wildlife helps to slow the destruction down. Never give up and I encourage everyone to see this documentary.

PICTON BOTANIC GARDENS PLAY SPACE OPENS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Picton Botanic Gardens, already a favourite with locals and visitors from near and far, has even more to offer now with the unveiling of the Play Space on the 8th July, 2024. Members of Wollondilly Shire Council were present along with the Member for Hume Angus Taylor to celebrate the official opening of the park. The park sees another achievement of the Council in their efforts to provide more parks and recreational facilities in Wollondilly. It is part of the Picton Parklands Masterplan. The upgrades were possible thanks to funding from the Federal and NSW State Government Bushfire Local Economy Recovery Fund and NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program as well as a contribution from Council. The Picton Botanic Gardens offers facilities for a range of ages and abilities to enjoy, and along with its beautiful gardens and naturescape will continue to be a popular and highly visited park well into the future.

LESLIE (LES) TOWNSEND

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—It was my pleasure last weekend to join the Wanda Surf Life Saving Club as it named its latest surf boat in honour of 52-year member Les Townsend. Les joined Wanda in 1972 and with his strength, fitness and technique in the stroke seat soon found a place in in the junior surf boat, successfully competing in both junior and senior competitions. Les has held positions as boat captain, vice patrol captain, and since 1994 he's served as surf boat coach and sweep, roles he continues to share his experience and skills in today. He's highly respected and known as the 'go to' person for boat captains. When not on duty at the club, Les has been found towing boats to competitions as far as interstate. In 1997 Les received his 25 year National Patrol Service Award. In 2018 he was awarded life membership of Wanda for his distinguished and

exemplary contribution. The club says Les' unbounded willingness to be involved in Wanda, along with his friendly and supportive nature, has contributed enormously to the growth and success of the boat section and female crew numbers. I congratulate Les on his commitment to Wanda and surf lifesaving.

DANDELION SUPPORT NETWORK

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I recognise the wonderful work of the Dandelion Support Network, a Shire-based not-for-profit organisation that makes a difference in the lives of children and families in need. Last weekend it was a pleasure to join the happy crowd at Dandelion's annual high tea event to raise money to help the organisation in its work supporting vulnerable people in our community. The team accepts and processes children's clothes and nursery items using high quality assurance standards before packing them with love and working with 300 hospitals and community service agencies to provide them to families. Since December 2011, when it was started by two mums, the Dandelion team has helped more than 18,000 families. Together the board, staff and 80 dedicated volunteers work passionately to achieve Dandelion's vision that all babies and children have access to nursery items essential for their safety, well-being, and development. I acknowledge the wonderful work of everyone at Dandelion, which is led day-to-day by general manager Gabrielle Humphreys, and overseen by its board comprised of chair Kathryn Brennan, and members Craig Berger, Michael Barker, Dominique Brown, Tracy Edwards, and Amanda Treharne. So many people are thankful for their efforts.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN SERVICES SOCIETY (CASS)

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I recently attended a thanksgiving luncheon celebrating and recognising the volunteers of the Chinese Australian Services Society [CASS]. Established in 2002, CASS provides a comprehensive range of social and community services to multicultural communities, catering to needs from the cradle to seniors, including child care services, residential aged care services, home ageing services, disability services, settlement and health services, vocation and training services. CASS serve over 7,000 families every week across Greater Sydney, Wollongong and Melbourne. I acknowledge the leadership team of CASS - Chair Professor Stephen Li, Foundation Chairperson/Honorary Executive Director Henry Nan Hung Pan OAM. Emeritus Chair Dr Leng Tan, Deputy Chairperson/Secretary Anthony Pang OAM, Vice-Chair/Treasurer Sean Zhang, Vice-Chair Tica Lee and Directors Dr Bei Lu, Shun Cheng and Stephen Yang. They lead over 750 staff members and more than 350 active volunteers, who are from a diverse range of Asian backgrounds but united in their dedication and passion in serving their communities. The Volunteers Thanksgiving Luncheon is an annual event and it was a privilege to have attended this year to recognise and thank the wonderful volunteers who selflessly dedicate so much of their time to the services of others.

CROOKWELL CWA DAY BRANCH

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Crookwell CWA Day Branch. I am honoured to acknowledge the efforts of Crookwell CWA Day Branch, an admirable organisation dedicated to making a positive impact in their community. Crookwell CWA Day Branch has taken on the task of supporting "Eat Up Australia" by generously providing 200 cheese sandwiches to local schools. This initiative aims to ensure that children have access to lunch during their school day. The CWA has committed to delivering this service every three weeks or as required by the schools involved. Each sandwich will be wrapped, delivered, and snap-frozen, allowing for convenient storage on-site for children to enjoy as needed. It is truly heartwarming to see Crookwell CWA Day Branch's unwavering dedication to supporting the well-being of women and children in their region. Their continued efforts exemplify the positive impact that community organisations can have when they come together to support those in need. Crookwell CWA Day Branch's commitment to serving their community is an inspiration to us all and deserves the highest recognition. Their selfless actions undoubtedly make a meaningful difference in the lives of many, and for that, they should be celebrated and commended.

VICKI FURSEY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Vicki Fursey. Ms Fursey has demonstrated an innate desire to provide care and support for others from the young age of sixteen, when she began working at a nursing home in Thirroul, helping to prepare meals and care for patients. Completing her formal nursing training in 1979, Ms Fursey has worked in a variety of hospitals across NSW, going on to complete her midwifery training in Wollongong. Ms Fursey has been working at the Southern Highlands Private Hospital for the past five years and has now received national recognition as the recipient of the Outstanding Carer Award by the Australian Patient's Association. I take this time to acknowledge Ms Fursey's personal attributes which embrace the empathy, compassion and care provided to patients in her care. I also note her skills and role modelling that she exhibits to her peers and other multidisciplinary team members within the health care setting. Congratulations and thank you.

SARAH WATSON

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise today to recognise Sarah Watson, an outstanding individual whose achievements in sport and service exemplify dedication and resilience. Sarah's journey into triathlons began after competing in the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto, following her service with the Australian Army in Iraq. She embraced sport and fitness as an essential part of her life, becoming a role model for others and founded the Yass Valley Triathlon Club. Residing just outside Murrumbateman, Sarah remains committed to her rigorous training. Her efforts were rewarded when she qualified for and completed the Hamburg World Championships in Germany in 2023. Recently, Sarah claimed the World Champion title for her age group in the Standard Duathlon event at the Townsville Multisport World Championships. I commend Sarah for her remarkable achievements. Her determination and success are not just a personal triumph but a source of inspiration to many in our community. Her leadership and mentorship in sport have had a lasting impact, and the community celebrates her accomplishments today.

DAVID HOGAN

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I recognize and acknowledge a member of my local community - David Hogan. David was born and bred in The Hills – he attended The Hills Grammar School, played soccer for Pennant Hills, and grew up helping his family's local construction company. He recently moved to Boston in the US to study a Master in Real Estate at Harvard University, where he will focus on capital raising and innovative real estate financing solutions. He is particularly interested in addressing the pressing issue of housing affordability in NSW and Australia and aspires to learn from Harvard's best minds as to how other countries such as the US are tackling the issue. Given the prevalence of cost of living and housing affordability in the upcoming 2024 US election, I am sure that he will return to Sydney with a number of nuanced policy insights. The continuing study in any discipline, particularly an admission to Harvard, should be recognised to hopefully inspire other members of our community. It is particularly inspiring that someone who grew up and attended school locally can go on to study at a world-renowned educational institution like Harvard. I wish David the best in his studies and future endeavours.

BONSAI SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.-ORANGE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL DISPLAY

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—The Bonsai Society of Australia Inc as part of the Orange Blossom Festival held earlier this month presented a large display of exotic and Australian native bonsai trees. Bonsai is the Japanese and East Asian art of growing and training miniature trees in containers. The Society aims to promote knowledge of and an interest of bonsai and to serve as a national focal point for bonsai fanciers. I visited the Bonsai display on 6 September 2024 and I was able to see so many exceptional bonsai trees. There were some wonderful displays including my own favourites this year, the Tigerbark Fig, Ficus Microcarpa Tigerbark and the Satsuki Azalea, Rhododendron Indicum. I congratulate the Bonsai Society of Australia Inc for another great display. I recognise and thank the Bonsai Society of Australia Inc President Adrian Wells and the entire committee for your yet another wonderful display. Thank you to everyone who contributed to another great display.

RUN FOR THE HILLS-CHARITY FUN RUN 2024

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I record that that the Run for the Hills Charity Fun Run was held again this year at the historic Bella Vista Farm on Sunday, 8 September 2024. There were 153 runners for the 10.2 km course, 196 runners for the 6.8 km course, and 196 runners for the 3.4 km course. I complete one lap of the 6.8 km course with many runners and walkers. Whether running or walking everyone had a great day. The planning for the event takes eight months and many volunteer hours. I thank Raymond Danam from Castle Hill Rotary for the work to plan and conduct this years Fun Run. I also thank Castle Hill Rotary President, Juanita Rodrigues and the entire Castle Hill Rotary Team for your dedication and commitment to the Fun Run. The event raises much needed funds for great charities, namely the Positive Vibes Foundation, Youth Insearch, and Youth off the Streets. This year the event raised a total of approximately $35,000.00. I acknowledge every runner, every member of the community who attended, and every stall holder who attended. Thank you making the years event another successful day.

DEE WHY SOFTBALL FAMILY

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst)—Today I congratulate a high achieving softball family from Dee Why. Mum Kristen is in the over 35 Manly rep team, which achieved 3rd place in this year's state championships. Youngest daughter Lucy, aged 10, is in this year's U12 Manly rep team, who were runners up in this year's state championships. Lucy was awarded most valuable player for this championship. And eldest daughter, Matilda, aged 15, has a long list of softball achievements, including being a member of the: U16 Manly Rep team last year, who were NSW state champions, and assistant coach for this team this year, who made state championships again. U18 Manly rep team, who were runners up at this year's state championships; U16 NSW team, who were runners

up at this year's National championships; U18 NSW squad; U16 Australian training squad team; and Open Age Manly Reps state championship, where they recently achieved 3rd place. Congratulations again to Kristen, Matilda and Lucy, on all of your achievements, and best wishes for the ones to come.

TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—On Sunday, 8 September 2024, I attended the Tournament of Minds NSW South Coast Regional Finals. Tournament of Minds is a problem-solving program for teams of students from primary and secondary schools, aimed at developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment. Participating students are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from disciplines including the arts, STEM, language literature and social sciences. The Illawarra Tournament is one of the biggest regional tournaments in the country – in fact it's bigger than the South Australian tournament. Well done to all of the schools that participated in this year's tournament. Congratulations to this year's winners, The Illawarra Grammar School: Junior School and Smith's Hill High School, on their success at this year's regional final. Smith's Hill won first place in all four disciplines. A notable mention goes out to Honours award recipients Gwynneville Public School, Edmund Rice College and St Mary Star of the Sea College and my former primary school – Mount Kembla Public. Thank you to NSW South Coast Regional Director, David Wassink and his team for their dedicated and ongoing work in organising yet another successful tournament.

ILLAWARRA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2024

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—Congratulations to Alyssa Norris of Windang who was named 2024 Illawarra Young Volunteer of the Year. Alyssa received her award at the 2024 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards regional Illawarra Awards ceremony which was held in Wollongong on Monday, 2 September 2024. At 21 years of age, Alyssa is Vice-Captain of the Windang Surf Life Saving Club and is a passionate advocate for community safety. She actively participates in beach patrols, averaging 50 hours per season. Illawarra Adult Volunteer of the Year was Krystle Morgan of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Gender Alliance. Senior Volunteer of the Year was Barbara Adams of Jamberoo Red Cross. While Wollongong Meals on Wheels Daily Run Team were named Illawarra Volunteer Team of the Year. Wollongong Meals on Wheels has been delivering meals in the Illawarra for more than 50 years. The team was recognised for their commitment to delivering more than just meals, companionship and support, but also helping older people in our community to maintain their independence and stay in their homes longer. Congratulations to the 2024 award nominees and recipients, this recognition is thoroughly deserved.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS ALWAYS THERE FOR 110 YEARS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I WAS delighted to attend the Australian Red Cross 110th birthday breakfast at the NSW Parliament last month. It was a grand opportunity to meet so many Australian Red Cross friends and to say thank you to them for the wonderful work they do in our local communities and beyond. I caught up with local volunteer extraordinaire Kerrie Gray OAM and Lismore local Brendan Pearce, who is Government Liaison with Australian Red Cross. The Australian Red Cross Emergency Services team did exemplary work during the humanitarian disaster caused by the 2022 floods which devastated the Northern Rivers region and other parts of New South Wales. In 2022, this team experienced its busiest year on record, activating for 262 days and working across 54 local government areas. In the 2022-23 financial year, Australian Red Cross was present in 171 evacuation centres and recovery hubs across the state. They provided psychological first aid to 29,000 people, utilising more than 8,000 voluntary service hours. Australian Red Cross runs recovery and preparedness workshops to ensure local communities are better prepared for the next natural disaster. Australian Red Cross will continue to be there, for everyone, always.

LIVING LAB NORTHERN RIVERS VISITS NSW PARLIAMENT

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Living Lab Northern Rivers came to Macquarie Street last month to brief Members of Parliament and their staff on the important work it has been doing since the 2022 floods which devastated Lismore and other parts of our region. The Living Lab is a partnership between Lismore's Southern Cross University [SCU] and the University of Technology Sydney [UTS], primarily focussed on supporting the work of the NSW Reconstruction Authority through enhanced evidence-based decision making. Living Lab Northern Rivers is a space in Woodlark Street in Lismore's Central Business District where research and community come together to create the solutions that will allow the region to thrive in uncertainty. The team brings together deep knowledge of the Northern Rivers, broad professional and community networks in the region, and international experience in design and planning responses to natural disasters and climate change adaptation. As Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery, I was pleased to make opening remarks, along with Vice-Chancellors Professor Tyron Carlin [SCU] and Professor Andrew Parfitt [UTS]. We also heard from the Living

Lab's Dan Etheridge and Adjunct Professor Elizabeth Mossop on how communities rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina in the United States in 2005.

MAKE IT TENTERFIELD INCORPORATED'S EVOKE EXHIBITION

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—The Reid Pavilion at Tenterfield Showgrounds was the venue recently for Make It Tenterfield Incorporated's major EVOKE exhibition, local works of art hanging from the vast pavilion's four-metre-high beams. I warmly acknowledge Make It Tenterfield President Kay Gray, EVOKE project manager Ruth Rutherford, EVOKE project assistant/curator Dianne Rissler, and the project's 12 facilitators who ran workshops over 18 months. I have been a strong supporter of Make It Tenterfield and this NSW Government-funded arts project, where 57 participants aged over 55 years attended workshops in Tenterfield as well as the villages of Drake and Liston. This well organised collective, which recently moved to a shopfront in 340 Rouse Street, has done so much in the past six years to enliven arts and culture within Tenterfield Shire. Proceeds from opening night on Friday 6 September went to the Tenterfield Rotary Club. Most works from EVOKE's facilitators and participants were on sale. There was free entry on Saturday 7 September with a fashion parade of wearable arts and handmade creations; and free entry on the Sunday for a book launch for Time Well Spent, a compilation of works created during the Drake Writers' Group workshop.

VIP DOG CLUB

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of VIP Dog Club for taking out the award for best Pet Care at the Illawarra South Coast Local Business Awards. The Awards were held on Tuesday 16 July 2024. The Finalists at the annual awards are decided according to public vote. Businesses are then judged against a set criteria and according to information they provide, as well as their online presence. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate VIP Dog Club and wish their business all the success in the future.

GRACIE BARRA SHELLHARBOUR

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Gracie Barra Shellharbour for taking out the award for best Martial Arts Business at the Illawarra South Coast Local Business Awards. The Awards were held on Tuesday 16 July 2024. The Finalists at the annual awards are decided according to public vote. Businesses are then judged against a set criteria and according to information they provide, as well as their online presence. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Gracie Barra Shellharbour and wish their business all the success in the future.

SOUL BROW STUDIO

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of SOUL Brow Studio for taking out the award for best Brows & Lashes Services at the Illawarra South Coast Local Business Awards. The Awards were held on Tuesday 16 July 2024. The Finalists at the annual awards are decided according to public vote. Businesses are then judged against a set criteria and according to information they provide, as well as their online presence. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate SOUL Brow Studio and wish their business all the success in the future.

ASSYRIAN MARTYRS DAY 2024

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 4 August 2024, I had the honour of attending the Commemoration of the Assyrian Martyrs Day at the Memorial in Edensor Park. This solemn event was a reminder of the sacrifices made by the Assyrian, Armenian, and Greek people during World War I. The commemoration offered a moment for reflection and respect, as we remembered those who lost their lives during this tragic period. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Hermiz Shahen, President of the Assyrian National Council - Australia, The Young Assyrians, and all the members of the organizing committee. Their dedication to organizing this significant event is deeply appreciated. The ceremony was a moving tribute to the resilience and enduring spirit of these people, ensuring that their stories and sacrifices are remembered with the respect they deserve. During the commemoration, I prayed for the souls of those who died and honouring their memory. The event was a powerful reminder of the importance of preserving history and acknowledging the strength of the communities that have endured adversities.

VISIT AT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 12 August 2024, I had the pleasure of visiting Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School in Mt Pritchard. Originally opened in 1953 as St Peters Primary School and renamed in 1963, the school has a rich history. During my visit, I was delighted to commend Principal Ms. Michelle McKinnon and Assistant Principal Ms. Jodie Gioria for their successful application of the Community Building Partnership grant, which is dedicated to refurbishing the school's playground. I am informed

that this will fund the installation of two Futsal courts and eight handball courts, all featuring synthetic grass. These modern facilities are already making a significant difference. I've heard that students are thoroughly enjoying the upgraded playground, which not only provides them with enjoyable recreational opportunities but also helps them stay active. This increased physical activity contributes positively to their overall well-being and enhances their concentration in class. I look forward to seeing the continued benefits of this project for the students and the broader school community.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN YOUNG

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On the 4 August 2024, I had the privilege of attending the 34th-Anniversary Commemoration of the passing of Professor Nguyen Ngoc Huy at the Vietnamese Community and Cultural Centre in Bonnyrigg. As a founding member of the Tan Dai Viet Party and a distinguished academic, political figure, poet, and author, Professor Nguyen Ngoc Huy was globally recognised for his remarkable work and dedication to building a democratic society under the rule of law for Vietnam. The event also featured the launch of Professor Stephen Young's book, Kissinger's Betrayal: How America Lost the Vietnam War. Professor Stephen Young, a former Assistant Dean at the Harvard Law School, and a very close confidant of Professor Nguyen Ngoc Huy, travelled from the US to join us on this special occasion. His presence greatly enriched the commemoration of Professor Nguyen Ngoc Huy's enduring legacy. I thank Ms Kim Ngoc Dang, representative of the Tan Dai Viet Party in Australia for the kind invitation. I also thank all the volunteers for their support of this important event.

CASINO DANCE ACADEMY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations goes to Brieanna Parker from Casino Dance Academy for successfully auditioning for singer-songwriter Toni Childs' new music video. Brieanna had the great opportunity to travel to Byron Bay for sessions to learn the choreography for the video. Although Brieanna hadn't trained professionally in the video's theme of hip-hop, her training has been very versatile and has prepared her to confidently take part in any kind of dancing style. This accomplishment is an inspiration to all other dancers, and a nice reminder that you can achieve great things by just having a go. Congratulations Brieanna – can't wait to see the music video.

ST FRANCIS AGED CARE

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to extend my congratulations to Catholic Healthcare St Francis Aged Care as they proudly celebrated 30 years of service to the Clarence Valley community on August 7, 2024. Built with love and devotion, the facility is renowned for providing high quality care and support, with their core values centered on the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of their residents. With a history that spans over 150 years to their religious founders who had been serving the most vulnerable and aged, Catholic Healthcare was founded on July 21, 1994, when Bishops of NSW and ACT signed the foundation decree. Today, the facility stands as a warm single-story dwelling, providing a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for over 40 residents who happily joined staff and visiting dignitaries during a celebratory lunch. During the anniversary celebrations, long-standing dedicated staff member, Residential Manager - Sandra Winters was recognized for her service and dedication to St Francis Aged Care along with the wonderful staff. Well done to everyone that continues to make St Francis Aged Care the wonderful caring facility it is today.

YAMBA PUBLIC SCHOOL SPELLING BEE STARS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Students at Yamba Public School have recently been competing in the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee. The spelling bee is created for students in years 2 – 6, and the activities are designed to help students broaden their vocabulary and promote improved literacy skills. All of Yamba Public School's students have made great achievements in the program so far. A special congratulations goes out to Strickland and Willow for their outstanding performances in the Regional Spelling Bee. Willow won the Stage 3 Spelling Bee for our area and will be travelling to Sydney in Term 4 to compete in the State Spelling Bee. I congratulate all the students who have taken part in the spelling bee and wish Willow all the best for the State finals in November. Well done to all of the participants, you are all stars, keep up the fantastic work!

TAMMY JONES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker…… I would like to congratulate Tammy Jones of Narromine who was recently announced as the joint winner of the Western NSW Local Health District Staff Member of the Year. Tammy, the Support Services Manager from Narromine Health Service, shares the accolade with Registered Nurse Jasmin Jones from the Grenfell Multipurpose Service. Held at the Dubbo Rhino Lodge on 22 August 2024, the Western NSW Local Health District Awards recognise the hard work and outstanding success of teams, projects, and health professionals in the region. In her role Tammy has significantly improved patient care through her dedication and leadership. She is known for fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment, ensuring team members feel valued and empowered. Tammy promotes cross-departmental teamwork which

enhances patient outcomes and satisfaction. Her commitment to continuous improvement and excellence is inspiring. Congratulations on this recognition of your dedication and commitment to your role and the patients of Narromine Health Service Tammy!

NARROMINE JETS LEAGUE TAG PREMIERS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker…… I would like to congratulate the 2024 Narromine Jets League Tag Team on an outstanding season. The have competed the season, undefeated, including the preseason knockout. By doing this they have retained the Jessica Skinner Cup all season, something special to the girls with Jess being a local inspiration. Emily Edwards was awarded player of the grand final and Shian Chatfield who had an amazing season was named Castlereagh League, League Tag Player of the Year. Not only are they the 2024 Castlereagh League, League Tag Premiers, they can proudly boast they are dual premiers after also winning the title in 2023! Under the passionate guidance of coach, Lea Clarke, who has been involved with the Jets for several years, you can see the pride in her team and her satisfaction seeing the girls grow and learn. The girls have a close bond, value each other's friendships and to them it is about more than just footy, it is about fun. Whether it's coming to the matches in fancy dress or playing practical jokes there is never a dull moment! Congratulations girls on this brilliant achievement, you have certainly done yourselves, the club and community proud.

RACHEL EDWARDS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker…… I would like to congratulate Rachel Edwards on her nomination in the Healing Heart Colleague category for the Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards, The Healing Heart Colleague Nominated Award acknowledges an outstanding nurse/midwife who is an inspiration and role model to others for their compassion, commitment to workplace culture, improving the patient/women's experience and providing safe, quality care. Rachel is the Manager of the Dubbo Health Service Paediatric and Neonatal Care Unit. She is known for her genuine commitment to working honestly, openly, and respectfully with families and patients. She is a leader that encourages people to grow and is not afraid to have difficult conversations or challenge her staff to allow them to reflect, grow and become better clinicians. Rachel leads by example, holding herself accountable and striving to learn more about herself as a Manager. Congratulations on your well-deserved nomination Rachel. Regardless of the outcome in November, you are already a winner to your colleagues and patients of the Dubbo Health Service.

COROWA BUSINESS CHAMBER EMPLOYMENT 2024

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge the success of the recent 2024 Corowa Business Chamber Expo. The event, held at Club Corowa, and hosted by Business Chamber Executive Officer John Crothers, was an overwhelming success, bringing together 70 participants keen to explore new job options. The participating employers included: Rivalea, Federation Council, Cofield Wines, Amaranth Foundation, Corowa Golf Club, Kilara Group, and Uncle Toby's. Special thanks to Workforce Australia Murray Riverina's Jesmine Coromandel for creating a seamless event bringing jobseekers and employers together. The expo was not just about job vacancies, but also an opportunity to build community connections to help the Corowa community thrive into the future. Well done to all involved.

WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION ALBURY - 2024 WINTERGLOW

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate the People's Choice Winners of the 2024 WinterGlow Window Display Competition in Albury. First Place: Kiss the Cook Second Place: Seasons to Taste Albury Third Place: The Flower Girl This winter Albury's shopfronts came to life showcasing stunning window displays throughout the city. I had the pleasure of exploring these displays during my lunchtime stroll. I began with Varsha's incredible display at Kiss the Cook in Volt Lane, it was impossible not to be captivated by the stunning paintings that harmoniously blended the cozy warmth of winter with the rich and vibrant elements of Indian culture and cuisine. As evening fell, Carol and Barry's storefront at Seasons to Taste transformed into a magical spectacle, enchanting passersby with its charm. Meanwhile, the vibrant Neon Glory display at The Flower Girl florist, crafted by sisters Steph, Shan, and Jemma, added a brilliant burst of colour to Albury's festive ambiance. A big thank you to all participating businesses, to AlburyCity for its support in promoting the event, and to all who voted and celebrated the beautiful creativity that makes our community so special.

ALBURY'S MILLION PAWS WALK-30TH ANNIVERSARY OF RSPCA NSW

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the annual event of the RSPCA Million Paws Walk, celebrated in our community on May 26 at Albury's Hovell Tree Park. This event tirelessly supports animal welfare and combats cruelty, having been active for the past three decades. This year, more than 120 dogs and their owners gathered for a delightful stroll, which began at Hovell Tree Park, crossed over the causeway, and looped back. A big thank you to coordinator Leyla Al-Shujayre and the dedicated

organisers for their incredible efforts. The Million Paws Walk has grown over the years, uniting many people and their pets under the common cause of improving the lives of animals in need. The NSW RSPCA shelter provides essential care for dogs, helps transport injured and abused animals to medical care, and cares for mistreated, abandoned, and abused dogs. They also offer specialised training to help dogs learn to trust again. Thank you to everyone who has been part of the Million Paws Walk over the past 3 decades. Your dedication and support make a huge difference as we celebrate this milestone.

MICHELLE BUI

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise Miss Michelle Bui for her recent award for student excellence. Michelle is a student at St Clare's Catholic High School, which is located within my electorate, where she has been an avid member of the Student Leadership Team. Michelle demonstrates the Clarian values of humility and compassion that St Clare's Catholic High School strive to achieve. Michelle is a model student, participating in various activities at the school such as liturgical celebrations, altar serving at school and parish Masses and her volunteer work, in particular, the school Breakfast Club. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Michelle on this much deserved achievement.

HIDDEN HOMELESS PROJECT

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections)—It is small acts of charity by people with big hearts that can make all the difference in our community. The Ingleburn Rotary Club's Hidden Homeless Project demonstrates just that. Hidden homelessness is a sad reality for too many Australians, especially women and young people escaping domestic and family abuse, who are forced into temporary accommodation like refuges, motels and couch-surfing. Unfortunately, it is a situation that happens behind-the-scenes. But it is not overlooked by the generous volunteers at the Ingleburn Rotary Club who have set up the Hidden Homeless Project to support those experiencing homelessness in the Campbelltown area. Rotary Club members donate items and put together care packs, providing essential toiletries and clothing. Since the initiative started in December 2023, some 195 care packs have been delivered to more than 100 recipients, including single-parent families. The focus of the project is giving dignity and respect to those who are without a stable home. I commend everyone involved in the Hidden Homeless Project for their hard and generous work in caring for our community.

COMMUNITY CONNECT EXPO

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate Community Connect Southern Shoalhaven for their outstanding work on the Community Connect Expo. This event is all about bringing people together, and over the past two years, it has become a fantastic platform for everyone to discover the hidden gems of our local area. With 100 community groups participating, the expo beautifully showcased the services, achievements, and efforts of the Milton Ulladulla region. It's a wonderful way to increase awareness and boost membership within these vital groups. This year's theme, 'Celebrate Our Community,' was especially meaningful. Attendees were encouraged to show their appreciation by using gratitude cards to 'Thank A Volunteer' for their contributions. The committee also organised a full day of entertainment, free food, a fun scavenger hunt, and a special guest appearance by Isaac McCallum, from Australian Idol . A big congratulations to all the dedicated volunteers who helped make this expo such a success and who continue to make our community such a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

NAIDOC ART EXHIBITION

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate all the students who displayed their incredible work at the TAFE NSW Ulladulla NAIDOC Art Exhibition. The amazing talent showcased by these artists is truly inspiring and reflects the vibrant creativity within our community. This is the third NAIDOC Art Exhibition presented by the TAFE NSW Ulladulla Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts class, and it was an outstanding success. The Ulladulla Civic Centre provided the perfect setting for this celebration of culture and artistry. Each piece of art shared a powerful story, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our First Nations peoples, and it was wonderful to see such a strong turnout from the community in support of these talented artists. A special thank you goes to the Ulladulla Civic Centre for their continued support of this important event. I am looking forward to the 2025 exhibition, and I can't wait to see what these talented artists create next!

TINY TOWN WINNER HUSKISSON

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate Huskisson for winning the prestigious Tiny Town category at the 2024 National Top Town Awards, recently held in Canberra. This is a tremendous achievement for our seaside town, which was crowned

the best Tiny Town in Australia for populations under 1,500. After winning in the same division at the NSW competition earlier this year, Huskisson triumphed over other popular destinations. This award is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and passion of our local businesses and residents. As Shoalhaven City Council Tourism & Economic Development Manager Kristy Mayhew said, this win highlights the warmth and hospitality of our community, who work tirelessly to deliver exceptional services to visitors. President of the Huskisson Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Daniel Payne, also expressed his pride in accepting this award on behalf of the town, attributing the success to the remarkable spirit of the people who make Huskisson so unique. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making Huskisson the best tiny town in Australia.

INGLEBURN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections)—Robotics and coding are a key part of learning within our NSW public school system, cultivating creativity and problem-solving skills among young learners. Over the past three years, Ingleburn Public School's Coding and Robotics students have excelled in the annual Universal Robotics Challenge where they have consistently ranked amongst the top three schools nationwide. In September this year, Ingleburn Public School's robotics team have earnt the opportunity to represent their community and country at the Universal Robotics Challenge 2024 World Finals in Osaka, Japan. The Ingleburn Public School team is one of only three teams to represent Australia in the primary division and will be competing against other teams from around the world. This is a fantastic achievement, and our community is very proud of their efforts. Congratulations to the Ingleburn Public School Robotics Team, consisting of Claire, Winston, Flynn and Aarifa. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding teachers and staff who have been instrumental in the team's success and supported them on this incredible journey. Good luck to our students in Japan! I commend your efforts and wish you every success.

LOUISA MORRISON

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Tonight, I am proud to recognise Louisa Morrison for her remarkable accomplishments and growth as a Year 6 student at Woy Woy Public School. Lousia always exhibits a wonderful attitude towards her learning and personal development. Her dedication to academic excellence is reflected in her consistent effort and enthusiasm in the classroom as well as outside the school environment, where she has not only achieved impressive academic milestones but also actively contributed to the intellectual and social fabric of the school community. Louisa is an upstanding citizen and has represented her school in the wider community on numerous occasions with pride. Louisa is blessed with the jack-of-all-trades ability to perfect different kinds of sport such as netball, soccer, and swimming. On top of that, she is also very gifted when it comes to dance and drama. What an amazing role model Louisa is for her peers and younger students. As Louisa prepares to embark on the next phase of her educational journey, I wish her a fantastic time at Woy Woy Public School, and I know she will be missed dearly by her teachers and the school community next year.

CARING FOR OUR COAST AWARDS – CENTRAL COAST HEALTH

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Well done to each and every winner at the Caring for the Coast Awards last month. These awards recognise Central Coast Health team members who go above and beyond every single day for our people on the Central Coast. Well done to the Aboriginal Early Childhood Screening Clinic for securing the Excellence in Improving Equity in Healthcare Award. To the 'Move Like a Mariner' Program which reached over 3,300 children! To Janet Topp, well done for your tireless volunteering! To the germ-fighting 'CLEEN study team' for taking out the Maree Gleeson Award for Excellence in Research, thank you. To Staff Member of the Year, senior dietitian Emma Thompson, thank you. For Alternate Care Pathways and Improving Sustainability and Patient Experience, thank you. To the Wyong Hospital Breathlessness Clinic for securing the People and Culture Award. To those leading the Midwifery Group Practice home birth model for winning excellence in patient safety and experience. To Central Coast Health's eight-thousand-strong team of nurses, doctors, allied health, support staff and the four hundred incredible volunteers caring for our Coast twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, you ALL deserve a medal!

THERESA MASON AND SARA FOSTER

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Today, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful Theresa Mason who was the anchor for Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre (CCCWHC) in the past 5 years as the CEO. Theresa established quite a reputation for herself as she led the team through the Pandemic, and she had also been instrumental in the successful funding increase across 21 Women's Health Centres of NSW. Leading with passion and positivity, Theresa is an inspiration for everyone, especially to the individuals who are passionate about providing high-quality health related services to girls and women. Theresa left an enormous space to fill, and I am pleased that a new CEO, Sara Foster has been appointed. Sara is more than ready to take on the prestigious

CCCWHC's mission, and she came well equipped with a wealth knowledge from public, corporate and higher education sectors. With a vision to lead CCCWHC into a future where safe and healthy futures for all women are not just a goal, but a reality, Sara's vision is very welcome, and I am looking forward to cheering on that future for all of us.

RECOGNITION OF SOPHIE GREENTREE

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Inverell local Sophie Greentree, for her success in the sporting arena, particularly in women's Rugby Union and League. I congratulate Sophie on her many sporting accomplishments, in particular playing representative football. Sophie has played for Northern, Western and Group 19 in Rugby League, along with Rugby 7s for North West and NSW Combined High Schools, which led to an international tour to New Zealand, as part of a school-based side. Such is Sophie's love of Rugby, most weekends she can be found on the field playing League with the Inverell Hawks, or Rugby Union with the Glenn Innes Elks women's 10 side. I commend Sophie on the hard work and commitment to Rugby, for taking opportunities to be the best that she can and being a role model to others in Inverell community. Special thanks to those who have supported Sophie, including members of the Hawkes and Elks teams, coaches, committee members, family members and the people of Inverell.

JIM WILSON – GLEN INNES

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Glen Innes local Jim Wilson, the founder and a tireless volunteer for the Glen Innes Mens Shed. The Mens Shed group has the aim of bringing men together from all backgrounds to share common interests and activities, in the spirit of mateship. I congratulate Jim on his 15 years of service to the Glen Innes Mens Shed, serving as President, as well as for the well-deserved accolade of life membership to the organisation. Under Jim's leadership the group has donated more than $100,000 to charities and community organisations, along with seeing membership numbers grow and facilities evolve to their current home at the Glen Innes Showgrounds. I commend Jim on his tireless efforts over the years to support the local community and improve the lives of others, particularly those of men. The people of Glen Innes and surrounds thank you.

CROPPA FOR THE CHOPPER – ONYA BIKES PLEASE

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of the new fundraising initiative at Croppa Creek. Croppa for the Chopper cycling event was held on Sunday 11 August with a total of $6091.70 raised going to Westpac Helicopter Service, the vital service all bush communities and country towns are thankful is hovering overhead. I congratulate Carolyn Bellman who brainstormed the idea after participating in a similar event in Moree a few years ago. The event was supported by Croppa Creek Rural Fire Service, Gwydir Shire Council and Westpac Rescue Helicopter Moree Support Group. Riders set off at 10am from North Star and travelled 28km south to Croppa Creek, midway stopping for morning tea and crossing the finish line at Croppa Creek Soldiers Memorial Hall, where a lunch was held for all. I commend Carolyn Bellman, Joff Cannington, Croppa Creek Rural Fire Service, Gwydir Shire Council, Croppa Creek Soldiers Memorial Hall and Westpac Rescue Helicopter Moree Support Group for raising awareness and fundraising for such a worthy cause.

NORTHERN LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS 2024 - THE GROWERS

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I rise to acknowledge The Growers, who were recently awarded the 2024 Northern Local Business Award for Fruit & Vegetable Shop. Based in Ryde, The Growers have not only provided exceptional fresh produce to our community but have also made a significant impact through their dedication to quality and local service. Their win in the Fruit & Vegetable Shop category is a testament to their commitment to excellence and their strong connection to the Ryde community. Over the years, The Growers have become a trusted source for residents, supporting local farmers and offering a wide variety of fresh, healthy produce. This has played an important role in promoting healthy eating habits and sustaining the local economy. The Growers' contribution extends beyond their store; they have fostered a sense of community through their friendly service and by being a reliable partner to local food initiatives. Their success in this prestigious award highlights the importance of small businesses in building vibrant, sustainable communities. I ask the House to join me in congratulating The Growers for their well-deserved recognition and for their ongoing service to the people of Ryde.

NORTHERN LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS 2024-BANYO HAIR

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating BANYO HAIR, from Macquarie Park, on their recent success at the 2024 Northern Local Business Awards, where they were honoured as the winner in the hairdressing category. This recognition is a testament to their exceptional skill and dedication to their craft. Beyond their professional excellence, BANYO HAIR has made a meaningful contribution to the

Ryde community, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for clients and locals alike. The team at BANYO HAIR has consistently demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the community spirit of Ryde, participating in local events and initiatives that support local businesses and residents. Their involvement has gone beyond their salon doors, contributing to the broader social fabric of Ryde. This win is well-deserved, and I commend BANYO HAIR for not only setting the standard for professional service but also for their ongoing contributions to making Ryde a more vibrant and connected community. Let us celebrate their achievement and thank them for their dedication to their craft and community.

NORTHERN LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS 2024-WEST RYDE PHYSIOTHERAPY

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—Northern Local Business Awards 2024 - West Ryde Physiotherapy I ask the House to join me in congratulating West Ryde Physiotherapy for their well-deserved win in the Health Improvement Services category at the Northern Local Business Awards 2024. This outstanding local business has long been a pillar of support in the Ryde community, providing exceptional care and rehabilitation services to residents. Their commitment to improving the health and well-being of those in West Ryde and beyond has made a tangible difference to many lives. West Ryde Physiotherapy's dedication to patient care, coupled with their strong focus on community engagement, has seen them not only help individuals recover from injury but also promote ongoing wellness and prevention. Their impact on the local area cannot be overstated. Through their professional excellence, they have contributed significantly to the overall health of the Ryde community. I commend the team at West Ryde Physiotherapy for their remarkable achievement and their continued commitment to serving the health needs of our local residents. Their work reflects the best of Ryde's community spirit, and I wish them every success in the future.

LOUISE WOOD

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Much has changed in almost half a century of nursing for Wagga Wagga's Louise Wood, but throughout it all there has been one constant – the dedication of Louise and her colleagues to their patients. Louise retired last month after a remarkable 48 years at Wagga Base Hospital. She has worked in most wards, including ED, general surgical and medical imaging, and has seen a revolution in the care given to patients. She joined the profession at 19 in 1976 and as the years passed, she found herself working with increasingly younger colleagues, enjoying the opportunity to train and mentor students and watching their careers grow. One of the the joys of the journey was the camaraderie of the team, with nurses, doctors, allied health and other staff all working together for the common good. While she did not aspire to management, she always enjoyed working directly with patients and, in her words, providing "the same care as I would like for my own family". In retirement, Louise plans to enjoy tennis and golf, and may yet return to work as a casual. Whatever retirement may bring, congratulations, Louise, and thank you for your dedication to your community.

AWARDS

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Congratulations to three stars of our public education system - Wagga Wagga High School teachers Debra Clark and Samantha Shephard and student Emma Mundy - who have been recognised for their amazing work in and out of the classroom. At the Public Education Awards in Sydney last month, Ms Clark and Ms Shephard both received a Minister's Award for excellence in teaching and Ms Mundy received a Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Both teachers are highly regarded for their positive impact on students and staff, Ms Clark being recognised for her remarkable work in hospitality education and Ms Shephard for her wellbeing approach to teaching. Ms Mundy, a year 12 student, was honoured for being an outstanding student and valuable contributor to the school community. The awards were presented during Public Education Week in celebration of the excellent work performed by teachers, staff and school communities and the academic, cultural, sporting and leadership excellence of students. Wagga Wagga is fortunate to have outstanding teachers and students at all our schools and the work they do every day is a credit to our community. To our very worthy recipients of these prestigious Minister's Awards, congratulations and thank you.

WATTLE GROVE VILLAGE DISCOUNT PHARMACY

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy)—I would like to acknowledge and commend Wattle Grove Village Discount Pharmacy, a family-owned business that has been a cornerstone of the Wattle Grove community for the past 15 years. Under the dedicated management of Fatima El Mawey, who can be found at the pharmacy daily, this establishment has become much more than just a place to fill prescriptions. Wattle Grove Village Discount Pharmacy actively contributes to the community, participating in important charitable events such as the Business Morning Tea for the Cancer Council and 'Are You Okay?' Day, raising awareness and supporting crucial causes since its inception. Customers value the pharmacy not only for its wide range of products and services but also for the exceptional customer service and the genuine care exhibited by the staff. I extend my sincere gratitude to

the whole team for their unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of our community. Your dedication is deeply appreciated and has a lasting impact on the lives of many.

PICKLE AND LOU CAFE

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy)—I would like to recognize and commend Pickle and Lou, a family-owned café located in Wattle Grove Shopping Village, which has been serving our community with dedication for the past five years. Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Alicia and Nick Neckouski, their passion for crafting the perfect cup of coffee has made Pickle and Lou a local favourite, quickly establishing it as a go-to spot for breakfast and lunch. Pickle and Lou's contributions extend far beyond exceptional coffee and food. The café actively supports the community by sponsoring local sports teams such as the Moorebank Soccer Club and Panania Girls Soccer, while also participating in school fundraisers. Their commitment to community engagement, paired with their reputation for excellent customer service, makes Pickle and Lou a standout business in Wattle Grove. I extend my sincere thanks to Alicia, Nick, and their team for creating a welcoming space and for their continued support of local initiatives. Your contributions make a lasting impact on our community, and your efforts are deeply appreciated.

CROWN CHARCOAL CHICKEN (WATTLE GROVE)

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy)—I would like to take a moment to recognize and commend Crown Charcoal Chicken, a beloved local eatery nestled in Wattle Grove Shopping Village. Known for their delicious charcoal chicken, burgers, and fresh salads, Crown Charcoal Chicken has become a community favourite over the past 12 years. Owned by Max Wu and managed by Jackie Choi, this family-run business has built a loyal customer base, with locals returning time and again for their consistently high-quality food. Crown Charcoal Chicken's impact goes beyond the kitchen. They are dedicated contributors to the community, offering generous support to local schools and the Girl Scouts through donations and raffles. Their commitment to these causes highlights their role as not just a place to enjoy great food, but as a community partner invested in the well-being of those around them. I want to personally thank Max, Jackie, and their team for their dedication to providing excellent food and for their continued support of the community. Your hard work and generosity make Wattle Grove a better place to live.

ONE MEAL NORTHERN BEACHES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—I wish to recognise the terrific work of One Meal, a volunteer-run, not for profit organisation which provides free food relief and human services every week to those members of our community who are in need. From humble beginnings as a one-off street service providing individuals and families in need of 'one meal' at Christmas time, One Meal has grown to provide over 500 patrons across Sydney with weekly hot meals and community support. This year marks its tenth year of operation. None of this would ever have been possible without the tireless and selfless work of volunteers and supporters. I especially wish to acknowledge One Meal Northern Beaches and the many local volunteers from my electorate of Manly who give up their time to ensure that others do not go without. If there is anyone in the Manly area looking to volunteer, or who could use with a free-of-charge meal made with love and surrounded by other locals, then I would encourage you to reach out to One Meal or even pop down to one of their weekly Community Dinners at Gilbert Park in Manly, from 5-6pm.

JAMIESON LEESON MAKES HISTORY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I am thrilled to announce that Jamieson Leeson, who was selected to represent Australia at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, has written her name into the record books becoming the first female to win a silver medal in boccia. Prior to the Paris Paralympic Games, the best result Australia had ever recorded in the sport of boccia was a bronze medal. Jamieson, or Jam as she is known to her friends, is not only a Paralympic Games silver medallist, but also a valued member of the Manly Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice family. Hailing from Dunedoo in NSW's central west, Jam embarked on her boccia career at the age of fifteen and took to the sport like a natural. She skyrocketed up the ranks to compete at the Tokyo Paralympics at the age of eighteen – making her the youngest boccia athlete at the time. Alongside her ramp partner, Jasmine Haydon, Jam's success will no doubt pave the way for advancing the sport of boccia around the country, and indeed the world. I know that you have made Australia, Dunedoo, and the entire AYAH family so proud. Congratulations, Jam, on this historic achievement!

ISABELLE STAPF-GIANNAKIS NORTHERN BEACHES LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, on 13th August this year, I highlighted to the House the nomination of Isabelle Stapf-Giannakis for the Surf Life Saving, Sydney Northern Beaches Branch, Lifesaver of the Year Award. I am pleased to update the House with the news that Isabelle has taken out the prestigious award and in doing so, has become the youngest ever winner of this prestigious title. Isabelle is a member of the

Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club in my electorate of Manly and over the years has amassed an impressive list of achievements including her Bronze Medallion, IRB Crew and first aid awards in 2021, the Freshwater Young Patrol Person of the Year for three consecutive years, and earlier this year was named the Freshwater Patrol Person of the Year. She can now proudly add the Surf Life Saving, Sydney Northern Beaches, Lifesaver of the Year Award. Congratulations Isabelle on your outstanding achievements and on your greatly valued service to our community.

DR OMNIA YOUSSEF

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—On behalf of my electorate of Badgerys Creek, I congratulate and commend Dr Omnia Youssef for joining the team at Orchard Hills Veterinary Hospital and thank her for choosing to serve our community and wider region as a veterinarian. Dr Youssef grew up in Egypt and her journey in veterinary medicine began at Cairo University, where she completed her degree in 2011. She proceeded to complete a Master's Degree in Veterinary Microbiology in 2017. In 2020, Dr Youssef moved to Australia, passed the rigorous Australian National Veterinary Exam and has since worked in various veterinary practices around Australia. I'm delighted that Dr Youssef has chosen to serve in Orchard Hills where our community and visitors alike will have their cherished pets attended to by Dr Youssef's high standard of care, dedication and wealth of knowledge in the field. I congratulate and thank Dr Youssef and wish her the very best in this new chapter of her career.

ORAN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ORAN PARK CHARGERS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I thank and commend Oran Park Public School and Oran Park Chargers for welcoming NRL legend Royce Simmons and his crew on 14 August 2024, marking day 9 of 10 of his 300km walk to raise money for dementia research. Around 200 students from Oran Park Public School formed a path, clapping and cheering Mr Simmons and his crew, who were joined by other legends such as Brad Fittler, Paul McGregor and John Cross. Oran Park Chargers football club then hosted a BBQ to raise further funds for the Royce Simmons Foundation, which was created by Mr Simmons after being diagnosed with dementia These efforts displayed how a community can come together to make a great difference and I encourage all people to support Mr Simmons and his foundation. I thank and commend all who participated in this important cause.

PENRITH PANTHERS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—On behalf of the many Penrith Panthers supporters across my electorate of Badgerys Creek, I wish the mighty Panthers the very best as they chase their fourth consecutive NRL title. The players and staff of the Panthers have brought much joy to so many over the years and have inspired people of all ages in our region to pursue excellence in their respective fields. This generation of Panthers have proven themselves to be one of the mightiest in the history of the NRL and it's such an accomplishment have qualified for a Preliminary Final this year and to be on the verge of another Grand Final. I congratulate the Penrith Panthers on their extraordinary success thus far and wish them the very best in their upcoming Preliminary Final.

TWEED VALLEY HOSPITAL PLANNING AND DESIGN AWARD

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—I'm very pleased to report the brand new $723.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital has been awarded the 2024 International Association for Public Participation Australasia [IAP2] Core Values Infrastructure Award for Excellence in Planning and Design. This award celebrates projects and organisations that are at the forefront of public participation, highlighting the innovative approach taken by Health Infrastructure when planning and delivering the new hospital. Throughout the six-year process of creating Tweed Valley Hospital, Health Infrastructure engaged the Tweed community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander communities, local staff, and community representatives to ensure strong connections with the communities the hospital would service. Examples include art programs, local career expos, garden picnics and planting workshops, all creating lasting connections to local communities. Congratulations to the team at Health Infrastructure – this recognition is well deserved.

HEALTHY NORTH COAST

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—Congratulations to The Healthy North Coast organisation for being named winner of a 2024 Resilient Australia Award for their Community Wellbeing and Resilience [CWR] Program. The program was awarded the Resilient Australia Mental Health and Wellbeing Award. The program administers grants and aims to resource community-led, place-based initiatives that support disaster recovery and build the community's ability to face future challenges. The program aspires to strengthen partnerships and connections in the community to enable a responsive approach to local needs. Since 2022, the Program has administered more than $5 million in grants across the North Coast region. The Healthy North Coast will now go on to become a finalist in the National Resilient Australia Awards, managed by the Australia Institute for Disaster

Resilience, to be held in Canberra in November. Well done and good luck to The Healthy North Coast at the National Awards.

AUSTRALIAN LONGBOARD TITLES

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—I wish to congratulate Surfing Australia on another successful event with the 2024 Australian Longboard Titles held at Cabarita Beach. The event held over six days from Thursday, September 12 to Tuesday September 17, saw some amazing talent shine. With the events proximity to the Hyundai Surfing Australia High Performance Centre at Casuarina, the athletes were able to access support services such as coaching and physio during the event window. Congratulations to Tony Rae from Hastings Point, who used his local knowledge to his advantage in the over 60 men, posting the highest single wave score of the day with an excellent 8.50. Looking forward to seeing more Surfing events take advantage of the beautiful breaks we have here in the Tweed.

VISIT TO HORNSBY CONNECT

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Wednesday 10 September, I visited Hornsby Connect that services the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai community, including the Davidson electorate. I was joined by James Wallace. Hornsby Connect is a community-based organisation that focuses on helping people who are 'doing it tough'. They provide a range of services including personalised support for people going through long-term unemployment, affordable grocery distribution for those going through financial hardship and referral assistance. Hornsby Connect also has a café type facility where people can go to meet others in the community. The focus of this is to support people who feel isolated by their circumstances to feel connected to the wider community. I want to recognise the Hornsby Connect committee, President Doug Reid, Senior Vice President Stuart Armstrong, Vice President and Secretary Jo Grant, Secretary Ross Catterall, Treasurer Rob Giacometti, Anita Bruce, Brian Engert OAM and Greg Starr for their significant contribution to our community. Without the support of volunteers, donors and committed community members our community would not have access to this wonderful service. Thank you to all those in our community that work tirelessly to support people that are doing it tough.

OPENING OF FRENCH CORNER - FRENCH À LA CARTE

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I look forward to attending the grand opening of the French Corner in Killarney Heights on 27 September 2024. This is special, as we bask in the afterglow of the successful Paris Olympic and Paralympics. French à la Carte first opened their doors in 2009 at St Ives with a vision to provide people of all ages an authentic French learning experience. Since then, they have expanded to Mona Vale and Rose Bay. They pride themselves on providing an immersive experience where students gain lifelong French speaking skills, cultural appreciation and friendships. Proudly, my wife Gessika is a fluent French speaker, and I hope that one day I too (with our children) will be able to speak fluently. In 2020, Marion Kermann became the school director, with her vision being that French à la Carte members feel as though they are in France every time they come to the school. I recognise Marion and the team Céline Bruder, Odile Zorn, Samuel Huet, Fanny B, Marie Rautuerier, Brigitte Crendal, Julie G, Patricia Meunier, Margaux Nunoz and Angéline Ledoux. Thank you for your dedication to teaching Australians about the French language and culture.

CROMEHURST SCHOOL LINDFIELD ART SHOW 2024

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Thursday 19 September 2024, I will be attending the Cromehurst School Lindfield Art Show 2024. An annual event, it showcases the creativity and talent of their wonderful students. This is Cromehurst School's major fundraising event and helps fund uniforms, books, equipment, excursions and extra-curricular activities. Cromehurst School provides a comprehensive and specialised education for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. In great news, Cromehurst School will have two students graduating Year 12 in 2024. This is a great testimony both to the work ethic, commitment and dedication by the students and teachers. I recognise Principal Melinda Ritsinias and P&C President Brett Anslow for their ongoing leadership. I am proud and honoured to represent Cromehurst School and its wonderful vibrant community in the Parliament of NSW.

WAVES CAFÉ AVOCA BEACH

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Waves Cafe on winning the Café category at the recent 2024 Local Business Awards. These awards recognise the vital role that local businesses play in their communities, and this event was not just to celebrate the winners but all the finalists who have worked tirelessly to provide exceptional service to their customers. Being a finalist in such a competitive field is already a significant achievement, and given the high standard of nominees, the judges undoubtedly had a tough decision to make. Waves Cafe has stood out for its dedication to delivering the great food, drinks, and service to the Central Coast community. Their commitment to quality and welcoming atmosphere makes every visit a delightful experience, and it's clear why they have earned this recognition. Awards night such as these are

an opportunity to reflect on the hard work, passion, and teamwork that goes into running a successful local business. I'd like to extend a big thank you to the Central Coast community for their continued support of local businesses like Waves Cafe. Congratulations again to Waves Cafe!

WOODPORT EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate Woodport Early Learning Centre on winning the Outstanding Early Education Centre category at the 2024 Local Business Awards. This award celebrates the extraordinary impact of Woodport Early Learning Centre on the lives of young children and their families. Established in 2014, Woodport Early Learning Centre has built a reputation as a caring and nurturing environment, where children are given the best start in life through age-appropriate learning activities and the dedication of highly trained and qualified educators. Their commitment to ongoing professional development ensures that their service remains at the cutting edge of early education, always striving for excellence. Being a finalist in 2023 was already a fantastic achievement, but this year's win is a testament to their hard work, passion, and continuous improvement. The team at Woodport goes above and beyond to create a space where children can thrive, and this award is well-deserved recognition of their efforts. A huge thank you to the Central Coast community for your continued support of outstanding local services like Woodport Early Learning Centre. Congratulations again to the team—this is a win to be truly proud of!

ALL FIRED UP SERVICES

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate All Fired Up Fire services on winning the Specialised Business category at the 2024 Local Business Awards. These awards highlight the important role local businesses play in our communities, and All Fired Up Fire Services has been recognised as a leader in their field. Led by Managing Director Craig Doyle, All Fired Up has been dedicated to providing exceptional fire protection services for 15 years. As a wholly locally owned and operated business, they have built a reputation for honesty, efficiency, and cost-effective service, working tirelessly to ensure fire safety compliance for clients both locally and across the state. This award is a reflection of the hard work, expertise, and commitment of the entire All Fired Up team. It also recognises the strong partnerships they have built with their clients and suppliers to achieve this success. Winning this prestigious award is the perfect way to celebrate 15 years in business, and it acknowledges All Fired Up's ongoing dedication to excellence. Thank you to the Central Coast community for your continued support of local businesses like All Fired Up Fire Services. Congratulations again to Craig and the team for this well-deserved recognition!

WILLOUGHBY PET COMPETITION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—The Willoughby Pet Competition this year was a huge success with a record number of entries. I was overwhelmed by the amazing stories shared from pet owners in Willoughby about how their pets make an impact on their everyday lives—from offering comfort in tough times to bringing joy and laughter every day. The heart-warming photos of all the pets were a treat and every entry could have been a winner! Yet only one could take home the top prize and this year it was "Snowball the Bunny" who hopped away with all the carrots! Snowball was followed by some amazing runners-up, including Fudge the Goldendoodle who took 2nd place, while Rosie the French Bulldog and Kevin the Burmese Cat tied for 3rd! I thank Pet Town Chatswood for generously supplying the gift prizes for our winners. I thank all the entrants for participating and sharing a glimpse of the love and companionship these furry, feathered, and scaly friends bring to our community! We loved seeing them all and can't wait for next year!

NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Australia's National Flag Day was on Tuesday 3 September, and it was an opportunity for me to reiterate my pride in and appreciation for our Australian flag on behalf of my community. Our flag is a wonderful national symbol, capturing our history, celebrating our present, and representing our aspirations for the future. The Australian flag graces our public buildings, is waived with zeal at sporting matches, held with pride by our new citizens and woven into the uniforms of our defence forces. For almost 125 years, it has been an enduring symbol of the people that we are and all that we cherish. I am very proud to have one of the great champions for our national flag, John Vaughan OAM, as a constituent of mine in Willoughby. My friend John is an outstanding vexillologist and a great Australian patriot who has done so much for our flag, country and community.

NORTH SHORE POLICE AREA COMMAND MEDAL AND AWARDS PRESENTATION DAY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—On Wednesday 4 September, I had the honour of attending the North Shore Police Area Command Medal and Awards Presentation Day at Chatswood, together with Willoughby Mayor Tanya Taylor and other local dignitaries. The presentation was a fitting recognition for the dedicated men and women in uniform who serve our community with courage and commitment. I thank our local Police Area

Commander, Paul Devaney, of the North Shore Police Area Command for hosting the awards ceremony. I express my deepest thanks to all our police officers for their unwavering service to the people of Willoughby and NSW. Your hard work and sacrifice are deeply appreciated. I warmly congratulate all the award recipients for serving with such distinction. I give thanks to their families, so many of whom were present at the presentation, for their incredible support and sacrifice as well. The dedication of our police to keeping our community safe is commendable and invaluable.

PENRITH CITIZENSHIP

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—It is with great pleasure that I congratulate all those new Australians who became citizens in Penrith on 17 September 2024. The Penrith community are richer for the diversity of culture you all bring to our city: Timothy Ah Chong, Dut Athian, Vinoras Anthonipillai, Faith Fauoo Lemuelu, Al Junior Fauoo Lemuelu, Mahsa Bani Ardalan, Kian Razazpoor, Bassam Ghanem, Craig Burns, Sailoj Dangi, Michael Dunbar, Kapeneta Fa'aso'o, Damien Harris, Dean Joyce, Sothary Kea, Victor Lin, Yanmei Wang, Jacqueline Loye, Vailagi Leota, Gayathri Nair, Asmite Pathak, Vikram Pathak, Nayayani Pathak, Thelma Palacio, Zeehan Russull, Lavenia Salusalu, Claire Stone, Efleda Williams, Christine Alexander, Fraser Harrison, Sipchhun Klauth, Abinash Manandhar, Latu Sika, Anita Sajo, Aditya Sajo, Ardra Sajo and Iffat Zahara. I wish them all the best for their futures as Penrith locals.

LOCAL PENRITH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION ATHLETES ARE UNSTOPPABLE

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—Penrith's junior athletes are sweeping the court under the guidance of the Penrith Basketball Association. Penrith Panthers basketball team championed the Waratah 2 Youth League Men competition, bringing home an undefeated run of 16 games with an average margin of victory of over 40 points per game. Penrith's rising star, Angela Tako, is one of Australia's next generation of women's basketball players. She is heading to the Australian Institute of Sport [AIS] in Canberra for a selection camp ahead of the upcoming FIBA U15 Oceania Cup in November 2024. Angela has played under the Penrith Basketball Association in the Junior representative ranks since 2019 as part of the Joeys. Her skills have shone brightly in recent years, having been selected to compete in the BNSW U16 State team, in which she won D-League Selection in 2021, 2022, and 2022. She was selected for BNSW DAP in 2021, BNSW TAP in 2022 and BNSW SPP in 2023. Congratulations to all the teams, athletes, and coaches on a fantastic 2024 season.

WESTERN SYDNEY MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION – ONAM CELEBRATION

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to the Western Sydney Malayalee Association on hosting an exciting Thiruvonam (Onam) celebration in Wentworthville on 7 September 2024. Onam is the traditional harvest festival welcoming the mythical King Mahabali. Originating in the Indian state of Kerala, the festival of Malayalees is celebrated by people of all faiths. An occasion for joy, compassion and generosity, Onam embodies India's cultural unity and pluralism. The Western Sydney Malayalee Association is an innovative local organisation, supporting over 600 families from Blacktown to Westmead. Offering Malayalam language classes and welcoming community events, the Association fosters social cohesion and champions our diverse community. Serving delicious Onam Sadhya on banana leaf and featuring artistic performances, the Association's Onam festivities brought a taste of Kerala to Western Sydney. It was a wonderful occasion to bring a sense of home to our community from Southern India. Our Southern India a community that contributes incredible music, food, story and culture, and is integral to Western Sydney's bright future. I thank the treasurer Deepakumar Chithambaranadhan, members of the executive committee and everyone at the Association for your efforts to organise such a welcoming ceremony. Onam Ashamsakal, happy Onam!

POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NSW – 75TH ANNUAL COMMISSIONED OFFICERS DINNER

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Friday 9th August, I was pleased to join members of the NSW Police Force, partners and guests, with my wife Bettina, for the Police Association of NSW's 75th Annual Commissioned Officers Dinner at Doltone House, Hyde Park. The Police Association of NSW, established in 1920, represents the professional and industrial interests of more than 17,000 Full Members, and retired officers who retain Associate Membership, covering all ranks of sworn police officers in New South Wales. It is a not-for-profit organisation and works closely with primary charitable partner, NSW Police Legacy. The Annual Commissioned Officers Dinner is an opportunity to acknowledge the service of the many thousands of NSW Police Force officers, past and present, and thank them for everything they do to help keep our local community safe. The night has changed in recent years, with the introduction of partners, who can be non-commissioned or civilian. My heartfelt thanks go out to Sergeant Kevin Morton, President, and all commissioned officers and officials at the Police Association of NSW for their continued vigilance and dedicated service, in our local Prospect Electorate community, across Western Sydney and throughout New South Wales.

ARCHBISHOP'S AWARDS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE – HELMA HIRMIZ

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Congratulations to Helma Hirmiz on receiving an Archbishop's Award for Student Excellence on 23rd August 2024, presented by the Rev. Archbishop Anthony Fisher, OP, at St Mary's Cathedral. Faith Captain at Mary MacKillop Catholic College Wakeley, Helma leads by example. Donating her time and resources, Helma volunteers with Vinnies, helping people experiencing hardship. As a Catechist, Helma plans engaging lessons and exciting gatherings to inspire young people in her Parish. She encourages her peers to deepen their faith, by leading Youth Group, Bible Study and Lenten Programs. Following in Christ's footsteps, Helma's unwavering faith and compassionate nature is reflected in the dedication she shows her school and church community. The Archbishop of Sydney Awards celebrate all-rounded excellence, acknowledging the empathy, humility, and service students offer schools and their broader community. The awards recognise Catholic Education's legacy to champion every person for the common good. Thank you, Peter Turner, Executive Director Sydney Catholic Schools, Archbishop Anthony Fisher and the Catholic Education community for facilitating this showcase. Thank you to Janine Kenney, College Principal, and the College community for their dedication to developing compassionate students. Congratulations again, Helma, on this prestigious Award.

EMILY FELLOWS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—I acknowledge Warners Bay-based activist Emily Fellows, who has launched a campaign to raise awareness about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or ADHD. Every journey starts with a first step, and for people with ADHD, it can be hard to figure out what that first step is, or where to go if you need to ask for help. That's why Emily is raising money for the ADHD Foundation, which provides a free, national helpline service and community resources for people with ADHD and those who care for them. Emily has committed to running 21km for 21 days, starting 29 September, as part of her awareness and fundraising strategy. She is inviting everyone to join her in committing to any type of movement for 21 days, starting on September 29. Whether running a kilometre each day or attending an exercise class, Emily is asking us to do it for ourselves, a friend or a family member. ADHD is an issue that affects many of my constituents in Charlestown, either through their own experiences living with ADHD or in caring for those who live with it. Thank you, Emily, for this important activism and I wish you all the best.

HUNTER SPORTS HIGH

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—For the first time in a quarter of a century, Hunter Sports High topped the state-wide round robin open boys school soccer tournament—and went on to face off with second-placed Westfields Sports High in the final. Played at Seymour Shaw Park in Miranda on Wednesday, 28 August, the hotly anticipated match turned out to be a stunning victory for Hunter Sports High: they came away from the clash 3-nil over Westfields to claim the NSW Combined High Schools Cup. Westfields are renowned heavy-weights in the sport, but in the end it was over fairly quickly, with all the goals coming in the first twenty minutes of play. Isaac Preston-Poole put the ball away, before Reece McManus scored from the penalty spot and again with a free kick. The victory ended a nine-year title drought for the Hunter Sports High side. Reece was named player of the match, and teammate Max Miller was named player of the tournament. Hunter Sports High lost just one match the entire tournament. My congratulations to the team, coach Scott McCarter and their supporters on a fantastic tournament and a smashing victory in the final.

CHARLESTOWN GOLF CLUB

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—This month, Charlestown Golf Club is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. I wish to acknowledge the club, and all its officials, members and supporters over the last half century and congratulate them on this important milestone. The first efforts to establish a golf course came in July 1966, but it was not until September 1971 that the way was cleared to form a Club and develop an area to play. At the time of the club's foundation, fees were set $20 for full members, $10 dollars for associates, and a very 1970s discount rate for husbands and wives of $25! Today, the Charlestown Golf Club is an important part of our local community, right in the heart of my electorate at Hillsborough, with a state of the art clubhouse—a far cry from the original weatherboard clubhouse. The anniversary was celebrated with a gala dinner earlier this week. I once again offer my congratulations to Charlestown Golf Club on fifty years of golfing—here's to many more anniversary celebrations ahead!

WAYNE SAXBY

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—Around nine Australians take their own lives every day. Local resident Wayne Saxby has been working hard to raise community awareness, to shine a light on what he calls the "disease" of mental health issues. Following a successful Mental Health Walk for World Suicide Prevention Day in 2023, Wayne organised another successful event this year to remember loved ones, especially his mate Kyle Jackson, to whom this special day was dedicated. On the morning of Sunday 8 September, I met a group gathered for an excellent cause, and saw them off on their walk for mental health. Mobilised by Wayne, they raised $4300 for Lifeline, money to enable the reception of 110 calls from those reaching out. Participants met at around 8:30am at the Racecourse Hotel, starting their 9km walk about 9:15, to Hotel Jesmond, then to the Colliery Inn. Upon return to the Racecourse at around midday, there was a lunch provided and a raffle. Everyone had a chance for an informal chat about mental health and to reiterate the simplicity of asking "Are you OK?" Thank you, Wayne, for your dedication to raising awareness of this important issue.

ED TONKS, OAM

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—On Sunday 7 July, part of Wallsend's sesquicentenary celebrations, author, railway and hotel historian Ed Tonks gave an informative talk on "Collieries and Railways of Wallsend" at Wallsend Library. Ed, a retired secondary social sciences teacher, has over 40 years of active involvement in researching, publishing, and promoting aspects of the European History of the Lower Hunter. In 2003, Ed was awarded a Centenary Medal for "documenting and disseminating local history" and in 2019, an OAM for "Contributions to Community History and to Education." Ed presented 112 digital images - historical photos of current scenes, street signs, aerial views, signage, maps, headstones and memorials, illustrating the history of the Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company's [NWCC] railway and its collieries, the New Tunnel and development of Pelton Colliery, the Cooperative Colliery at Plattsburg, Wallsend Street names bearing the names of NWCC officials and NSW Railways officials, remembering the first two miners fatally burnt in the Wallsend Mines, and the Lily Rose Colliery inrush of 1924. Emphasis was placed on the key roles played by John Young Neilson in the establishment of Wallsend. Thank you, Ed, for your wonderful presentation.

CALLAGHAN COLLEGE WALLSEND CAMPUS – COMPETITION WINNERS

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—Earlier in the year, Callaghan College Wallsend Campus launched a Writing and Art Competition to celebrate Wallsend's sesquicentenary. Students were asked to create a piece of writing (poem, short story, script) or an artwork (painting, drawing, digital art) inspired by the history and community of Wallsend. In 1st place was Savarnah B. (Year 10) whose entry included an artwork, written piece and photographs detailing the story of her fourth great-grandparents John and Mary Porter who settled in Wallsend in 1873. In 2nd place was Melissa D. (Year 8) whose creative writing entry - a 1950s era whodunnit, "The Maestro Mystery", involving the murder of an orchestra conductor - was original and engaging. 3rd place saw a tie! Sasha B. of Year 9, whose pencil sketch reproduced a photograph from the Wallsend 150 Years booklet of Czechoslovakian glass worker Henry Vecera working at the Leonora Glass Works on Douglas Street Wallsend and also Heidi D. (Year 10), who created a pencil sketch of some of Wallsend's most recognisable landmarks, cleverly reproduced side-by-side. Congratulations and well done to the winners and everyone who participated.

CATALINA RESTAURANT

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I'd like to wish a very happy 30th birthday to a Sydney icon - Catalina Restaurant at Rose Bay. The restaurant is known for its fine food and wine, its sparkling harbour views and its celebrity guests. Catalinas is a place where memories are made, whether it's celebrating anniversaries, weddings, or simply long lunches with good friends. Established by Judy McMahon and her late husband Michael McMahon, Catalina's has stayed in the family with children Kate and James also involved in running the restaurant. At a time when our hospitality industry is under pressure, it's wonderful to celebrate the success of an establishment that has endured and thrived. Judy, Kate and James, I wish you all the very best success for the future. May there be many more meals, more memories and more milestones!

EASTERN SUBURBS 2024 SHUTE SHIELD CHAMPIONS

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate Easts Rugby Club (Beasties) for taking out the 2024 Shute Shield Grand Final. I was thrilled to be at Leichardt Oval on Saturday 31st August, when the Beasties prevailed over Northern Suburbs (Norths) with a heart stopping 36-35 win. Easts came out firing in the first half and led 29-13 at the break. A late rally from Norths meant the game was decided in the final minutes. It was the goal line defence of the Beasties that proved the difference and led them to their first Shute Shield in 55 years. Special mention needs to go to coach Ben Batger and captain Joshua Bokser on leading the club to this incredible result. Easts also took out the Club Championship with success throughout all grades and colts. It is a

testament to the club's professionalism and persistence that they were able to reclaim this title. Congratulations Beasties.

VALE BOB HORSELL, OAM

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to pass on my condolences to the family and friends of Bob Horsell. A Life Member of Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club, Bob stood as the club's President for 19 years, beloved by his local community and regarded as one of the best executives in the game. Bob's name is etched into our community with the stand at Waverley Oval named after him. First joining the Cricket NSW Board in 1995, Bob was elected Chairman two years later in 1997, serving in the role until 2008, with his 11-year tenure remaining the second-longest in the history of the Association. Bob also served on the Board of Cricket Australia and as Chairman for the Bradman Foundation. He was awarded an OAM for his services to cricket in 2012. Bob was a very enthusiastic support of the Easts Rugby, and was a former player and member. I pass on my condolences to his friends and family.

ELITE SUPPLEMENTS- WINNERS IN THE LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to congratulate Elite Supplements in my electorate of Bankstown on winning the 2024 Specialised Retail Business award in the Bankstown Local Business Awards. This is a well-deserved award as it shows the outstanding dedication, innovation, and service that Elite Supplements consistently brings to our community. Elite Supplements has many stores nationally and continues to grow. They have been providing Australians with an extensive range of alternative health support and the best customer service since 2008. When investing in your health, fitness and well-being, Elite is the holy grail of nutritional supplements. By stocking the biggest and amazing range of supplements, including the most popular Australian and international brands - they cater to every lifestyle, goal and health need no matter the fitness level or profession of their customers. Elite Supplements has over 30 sites across Australia and is family-run and owned. They understand the value of great customer service, and this is evident in their thriving business. Once again thank you and congratulations to Elite Supplement on your Local Business Award. It is a much-deserved recognition of the way your business is valued in the community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR HOUSE OF SADAQA

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to acknowledge the House of Sadaqa for their ongoing work in supporting our local community. The House of Sadaqa is a charity organisation committed to providing a range of essential services including homelessness and emergency relief, support programs for vulnerable families impacted by family breakdown, domestic violence, and financial hardship. These programs help to provide immediate relief to those in crisis, ensuring families have access to necessities during challenging times and guiding people to regain stability and to make a long-term recovery. I would also like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the Chief Executive Officer, Robert Laidlaw alongside Operations Manager, Mohammad Kandil, for their dedication and leadership in driving the mission of House of Sadaqa. Their commitment to charity ensures that no one in our community is left behind by providing guidance and support for their long-term recovery. The House of Sadaqa does a crucial job in improving the lives of those doing it tough and it is a privilege to have this service available in our community. On behalf of my electorate, I offer my thanks to them and wish them continued success.

CELEBRATING THE STEPS FOR SAFE HOMES INITIATIVE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary efforts of the 'Steps For Safe Homes' initiative, organised by Mission Australia's Canterbury Bankstown Youth Service. This program, running from August 6-13 during National Homelessness Week, challenges Australians to walk 122,000 steps, representing the 122,000 individuals who face homelessness each night across our nation. Last year, Lucy successfully raised $300, and this year, they are committed to reach their ambitious goal to raise $70,000 to support their programs. Their commitment is deeply appreciated, especially given the enormous increase in homelessness released through the statistics in the 2021 Census. The 2021 Census also showed Canterbury Bankstown as one of the areas most affected by homelessness in NSW. Lucy and her team work tirelessly providing essential support, including emergency accommodation, food, clothing, and dignity packs. Their dedicated efforts, especially in the face of increasing need, are truly commendable and serve as a message of hope for many. A big thank you to Lucy Klianev and everyone involved for their inspiring work and dedication to making a difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness.

OATLEY WEST COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to thank the Oatley West Parents and Citizens (P&C) association for organising an amazing day of fun and entertainment at their annual Community Festival. I recently had the opportunity to attend the community festival with my kids and I must say, we thoroughly enjoyed our time. James and Sammy had an absolute blast. With plenty of delicious food vendors, market stalls and entertainment for the kids, there was truly something for everyone. The event was also a fantastic showcase of young talent, with many different performances from various dance groups. I am proud to have worked closely with the Oatley West P&C association over the years. I know firsthand how hard they work to ensure that the students at Oatley West Public School get the best possible education. I would like to thank Amelia Starkey, President of the P&C and the executive members for their kind invitation and hard work in organising the events of the day! I would also like to acknowledge all the sponsors for their generous support of this community event, as well as all attendees for making the day a huge success.

RIVERWOOD FIRE STATION VISIT

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I recently had the wonderful opportunity to visit Riverwood Fire Station, where I had a great time catching up with the team. Fire Stations are an integral part of every community. They provide critical services that help to keep our neighbourhoods safe and secure. In addition to emergency services, fire stations also promote a range of services from fire prevention education to community outreach. During my time with the team in Riverwood, I saw first-hand the meaningful work that they do to support our local community. It was a pleasure to meet the team, including a number of new recruits. I am pleased that there is a growing level of female participation at the Riverwood Fire Station and as such, I have been pushing for urgent upgrades to the facilities. An upgrade will allow for the team to better support the female firies by providing them with their own separate amenities and spaces, encouraging more local women to get involved. I would like to thank Greg Nolan and his amazing team for the hard work that they do for our community, and I look forward to working alongside them well into the future.

ROTARY CLUB OF HURSTVILLE – 85TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to recognise the Rotary Club of Hurstville, a fantastic community group within my local area. They recently hosted their 85th anniversary dinner, which I was privileged to attend. Rotary Clubs are an integral part of any local community, however I truly believe that we are so fortunate to have one of the best operating in my local community. Hurstville Rotary was first chartered all the way back in 1939 and the organisation has continued to grow since then. The dinner was a fantastic opportunity to look back on the past, including all the wonderful things that Hurstville Rotary has done over the years. Last financial year, they donated just over $17,000 to a number of local groups and charitable organisations, continuing their trend of donating hundreds of thousands of dollars since their inception. I would like to thank the hosts for the evening, including President Russell Lee, Vice President David Fan, Jan Gartrell, Jan Hall, Ivis Young, Susan Leahy and finally, Marian and Kevin Smith. I look forward to working with the Rotary Club of Hurstville well into the future.

OBERON EARTHMOVING

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement recognises the outstanding community and business contributions Oberon Earthmoving has made to the people of Oberon. Oberon Earthmoving is a local, family-owned and operated business specialising in material supply, detail-oriented earthworks, environmental rehabilitation, and expert project management. This is a well-known business across the region not only for their small to large scale work but their involvement in the local community sponsoring sporting teams and events as well as focusing on employing as many locals as possible. It is this type of business leadership that drives economic stability and growth within the Oberon region. Oberon Earthmoving takes great pride in their work and their community, it is no wonder they stand out for their dedication to excellence and customer satisfaction. I was pleased to present Oberon Earthmoving with the Excellence in Large Business award at the 2024 Oberon Business Awards. Congratulations to all team members of the business for this well-deserved accolade.

OBERON RODEO ASSOCIATION

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement recognises the outstanding community contributions the Oberon Rodeo Association has made to the people of Oberon. The Oberon Rodeo Association has run the annual Oberon Rodeo for the past ten years growing competitor entries and crowd numbers significantly. The Oberon Bull Futurity, held at the local Showground has also become a must attend event for locals and visitors. These events are cherished by the community, attracting participants and spectators from near and far. Beyond the excitement of competition, they foster a sense of community spirit and tradition. With each passing year, the association's commitment ensures these gatherings remain a highlight on the local calendar, offering a chance for

everyone to come together, enjoy thrilling rodeo action, and create lasting memories. I was pleased to present Oberon Rodeo Association with the Outstanding Community Organisation award at the 2024 Oberon Business Awards. Congratulations to all members of the association for this well-deserved accolade.

ESSINGTON PARK HOMESTEAD

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—This statement recognises the outstanding community and business contributions Essington Park Homestead has made to the people of Oberon and the visitor economy. Opening in October 2023, Essington Park Homestead has become a must-see destination for visitors of the Oberon region showing the very best of country living and the beautiful landscapes that surround this part of the world. Essington Park Homestead, built in 1860 by Henry Humphries, was owned by the King Brothers, sons of NSW's third governor. In 1997, sisters Joanna and Simmone Logue bought the property as a retreat. Joanna, a landscape painter, and Simmone, a foodie entrepreneur, drew inspiration from the land around them and they restored the shearers' quarters to create a country escape, cooking school, and creative workshop space throughout 2022. Since opening, the space has offered workshops in cooking, sourdough, basket weaving, fabric printing, photography, and landscape painting. I was pleased to present Essington Park Homestead with the Outstanding Visitor Experience award at the 2024 Oberon Business Awards. Congratulations to Joanna, Simmone and all team members of the business for this well-deserved accolade.

PAYCE FOUNDATION

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the PAYCE Foundation for another impactful and generous year supporting our most vulnerable members of society. Distributing $3.45 million to more than 31 charities addressing areas such as addiction, domestic violence, youth at risk and community services. I'm proud to support such a fantastic charity and look forward to seeing their contributions well into the future.

STEVE KREIG

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Steve Kreig having been re-elected as Mayor of Lismore. Steve has been a fantastic and tireless advocate for the region throughout the floods and during the re-construction. His re-election is well deserved and a direct reflection of all he has been able to achieve.

DAVID BROOKS-HORN

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to David Brooks-Horn. David has served his local community tirelessly for the last 16 years as a Lane Cove Councillor, including a 2-year term as Mayor, before retiring at the 2024 elections. David leaves behind a fantastic legacy having fought to deliver the Canopy, the Marketplace redevelopment, and countless other projects. His wisdom, levelheadedness and dedication to his role will be sorely missed for years to come.

RONDELLE RYAN

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today, I would like to acknowledge the important role of Ms Rondelle Ryan at Glebe Public School. Ms Ryan is a proud Wiradjuri/Ngiyampaa woman who has worked at Glebe Public School since 2022. I have been lucky enough to get to know Rondelle through her work at the school. Most recently Rondelle was a key organiser of the school's at NAIDOC day celebrations, and facilitated all the stage events, student Jarjum dancers and guest speakers on the day. Rondelle's role was far from limited to NAIDOC Day, however. Her role as a Deputy Principal, Instructional Leader, Aboriginal Education has provided an authentic cultural link between Glebe Public School and the community, facilitating a level of educational understanding and cultural safety that was admired and recognised beyond the school gates. The significance of a role like this to our local First Nations community cannot be understated. Rondelle Ryan's last day at Glebe Public School is today, where I know she will be deeply missed. I'd like to congratulate Rondelle on her phenomenal work at the school, and for our community, and wish her all the best for her new role.

SYDNEY BUS MUSEUM

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today, I would like to draw your attention to the tireless work of a not-for-profit organisation based in Leichhardt, the Sydney Bus Museum. Established in 1986 in Tempe, and now permanently based in Leichhardt, 250 volunteers work at the Museum preserving its rare collection of historic buses from the 1920's to 2000's. The Museum provides a space for visitors to view the collection, works with the film and television industry to display props, conducts restoration projects, and maintains an archive of items from old bus tickets to driver uniforms. I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Museum for the launch of the newest addition to their collection – the beautifully restored 1948 Dion's Leyland Double Decker bus. Of the 21 buses built post-World War Two for private bus companies in NSW, this is the only one remaining. The 6057 is a rare

piece of transport history from the Wollongong region and forms a tangible tribute to the Dion family's contribution to Wollongong's public transport and the craftsmanship of preservationist Brian Mantle. I congratulate Sydney Bus Museum manager Bob Gioia and their team of volunteers on their newest acquisition, and for their contribution to the preservation of transport history in NSW.

JOHN STAMOLIS

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today, I would like to thank my hard-working former colleague, John Stamolis. John has served the Balmain community as an Independent Councillor since 2008, first on the former Leichhardt Council and from 2017 to 2024 as an Inner West Councillor. John is a tireless advocate for his community who cares deeply about genuine grassroots democracy and has long pushed for respectful leadership and culture on Council. With almost 27 years of service to our community John has worked hard on community campaigns alongside Residents for Deamalgamation, Friends of Callan Park, and Friends of White Bay – just to name a few. His commitment to supporting and restoring community and volunteer participation in Council matters is admirable. I want to congratulate John for his hard work on Council and his long-standing contribution to our community.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF COBAR

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—The Rotary Club of Cobar have celebrated entry into the new Rotary year at their annual Changeover Dinner in August where they donated a large sum of their raised funds. Club Secretary Gordan Hill mentioned the club has struggled to maintain members to keep the club functioning but has secured three young members recently. During the past year, the Cobar club has worked tremendously hard to raise funds, particularly through their Return and Earn project. Mr Hill reported that Return and Earn had netted the club almost $14,000 for the year. Some of those earnings were donated to local community groups during the Changeover Dinner. $1500 was donated to the Cobar High School for the Science and Engineering Challenge and $1000 each to the Macquarie Home Stay, Royal Flying Doctor Dubbo support group, ROAR, Cobar Youth and Community Centre, The Cobar Weekly, Cobar Girl Guides and Catholic Care Cobar. I would like to congratulate The Rotary Club of Cobar on all of their hard work and efforts for raising funds for important community groups and I welcome the three new members to the Rotary Club of Cobar.

BROKEN HILL HERITAGE WALK TOUR VOLUNTEERS

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—The Broken Hill Heritage Walk Tour is a two-hour, guided street tour to visit some of Broken Hill's most significant buildings and works of art. Known as Australia's first heritage listed city, the tour showcases some of Broken Hill's most historic buildings, such as the 1905 Trades Hall, the red-brick Post Office, and the iconic Palace Hotel. The tour guides are all volunteers that dedicate their time to tell the history of their unique town. The tour often stops in front of my Broken Hill Electorate Office to showcase the Afghan Cameleers Mural across the road. I have seen firsthand the large number of tourists that take advantage of these tours listening to the volunteers who are passionate about sharing their local history knowledge. I have had the chance to listen in on the tour myself and am inspired by these incredible historians and story tellers. They certainly add to the tourist experience in Broken Hill.

LESLY RYAN

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—Local Nyngan resident and employee Lesly Ryan, of the Aboriginal Community Housing Industry Association (ACHIA NSW), has received an award for Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Community Housing. Lesly attended the Aboriginal Community Housing Awards in Tamworth where she celebrated her achievements. For over 34 years Lesly has volunteered and worked for the Bogan Aboriginal Corporation and has been involved in various boards and organisations such as the Nyngan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Nyngan Community Health Board. Lesly is well known for her strong leadership skills and her involvement in ensuring safe and affordable housing for Aboriginal individuals and families in her community and surrounds. I congratulate Lesly for achieving this magnificent award and for her hard work and dedication in helping improve housing, health and living conditions for those in need. I wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

CLONTARF FOUNDATION

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Congratulations to Clontarf Foundation of 10 years bringing young men together through the love of Rugby League. This year the Ross Kelly Cup Rugby League Carnival was a hit during the week with 56 different NSW schools competing at Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex. The event has been hosted twice at Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex out of the 10 years. The fields at Tuggerah saw over 700 boys across NSW in year 9 and 10 Clontarf students who participate in the program. Earlier this year the

foundation has partnered with Central Coast Schools Berkeley Vale and Tumbi Umbi Campuses, Wadalba Community School, and Wyong High School. The event brought our local schools together sharing a day of fun and commitment whether it was playing football or helping on the day. The Mount Austin academy from Wagga Wagga came out victorious over Dubbo South from Dubbo in the grand final. The Clontarf program supports young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to improve their self-esteem and confidence which assists them to participate in education, employment, excursions, camps, and a wide variety of activities relating to wellbeing, leadership and personal development and sports skills.

MATILDA TAYLOR

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Matilda Taylor from Noraville has been appointed Deputy Captain at Toukley Fire Station. The 21-year-old is one of the youngest people to achieve the rank of Deputy Captain at Fire and Rescue NSW and the youngest to do so at Toukley Fire Station. Beginning her firefighter career in 2021 as an 18-year-old taking on major roles and opportunities, in a short time Ms Taylor has grown into a capable firefighter and now station leader. The Toukley crew and Captain Ben Williams are supportive of Ms Taylor and her positive attitude and willingness to take on new opportunities. Ms Taylor is fast becoming a mentor to those around her and is already seen by her peers as a capable incident controller. I congratulate Taylor on her promotion and the opportunity to grow into the leadership role to support our area in keeping the community safe.

MEXICOAST CANTINA

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Mexicoast Cantina in Toukley has been announced a finalist in the Restaurant & Catering Hostplus Awards for Excellence 2024. The restaurant owner Michael Cross and team were recognised last year for their hard work, exceptional food, and outstanding service in this vibrant industry winning the Family Dining category. The awards announce metropolitan and regional restaurants, cafes, and caterers across the country well deserved recognition for their hard work, exceptional food, and outstanding service. The Awards gala dinners will be held in each state providing an opportunity for the restaurant and catering industry to come together, celebrate and network with your peers. I wish Mr Cross and the team all the best in the upcoming Restaurant & Catering Hostplus Awards for Excellence.

GLENIS BEAUMONT - WENTWORTH

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I recognise Glenis Beaumont of Wentworth who has brought a wealth of medical knowledge into the small grateful community. Glenis has extensive corporate experience in rural health services complemented by past roles in the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Glenis' career-long focus has been service development, systems improvement, clinical governance, risk management and quality outcomes within a health setting. Wentworth was without a full-time doctor, medical services were diminishing, and Glenis formed the Wentworth District Community Medical Centre, a not-for-profit organisation with a group of locals. The team set about the process of creating a suitable 'fit for purpose' medical centre with room for other clinical providers. Their priority being attracting and engagement of a full-time doctor. Currently there are two doctors taking patients three days a week, in the new medical clinic, in the heart of Wentworth. I congratulate Glenis on her focus, drive and recognition of community medical needs and creating this medical clinic.

ROLY ZAPPACOSTA - LEETON

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I recognise..... Roly Zappacosta has been actively involved in organizing fund raisers for a cause that has been close to his heart. Roly was involved in co-ordinating the event for the Black Dog Ride to complete a one-day ride for the Leeton participants which was an enjoyable and meaningful way to help the organisation achieve its mission of starting conversations about depression and suicide prevention. The Black Dog Ride is a short, one day motorcycle ride held in more than 40 communities across Australia, the Leeton ride being a 249 km journey through several rural towns. There were 6000 participants across the nation in 2023 of a one-day event, but organisers wanted to encourage more community members to become involved in 2024, to make it the biggest event yet. Roly has also been active in organising the inaugural Lap It Up Leeton. This event included market stalls and vehicle displays of all types. The well supported event helped raise funds for local people doing it tough as well as valuable local charities like Can Assist.

FINLEY SHOW - FINLEY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I would like to commend the organisers, participants, and supporters of the 106th Finley Show, held on a beautiful spring Sunday. The day was filled with wonderful displays and entertainment, with visitors arriving continuously throughout the event., despite some windy conditions. A highlight of the show was Lachie Cosser, the Outback Stockman, who wowed the crowd with his impressive stockman skills. Special recognition goes to Closeup Poll Dorset Stud, the recipient of the prestigious Wynne Hawkins Memorial 'Champion of Champions' award for the third consecutive year, and to Kitty Lawton, who took home the Joyce Yeo Memorial Pavilion Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit. The dedication of the Finley Show Society, volunteers, and generous sponsors ensured a day of family fun that showcased the best of the Finley community. Congratulations again to all involved for their tremendous efforts.

PARALYMPIC LEGEND TAYLOR GOSENS

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Parramatta has an abundance of sporting talent with a number of local sportsmen and sportswomen competing in the Paris Paralympics. On behalf of my community, I express my pride in the level of sportsmanship and competitiveness displayed by these incredibly talented and driven individuals, showcased repeatedly at home and abroad. Taylor Gosens is a Wentworth Point local who proudly represented Australia at the Paris Paralympics in para-judo. Her father was an Olympian, competing at the 2000 Paralympics. Taylor was diagnosed with the same eye condition as her father when she was young, and initially aspired to be a musician in Sydney. She soon realized that judo was her true calling and took up para-judo in the J2 70kg+ category. She competed in the 2022 Australian Nationals and won gold and silver. She also competed in the 2023 IBSA World Games in Birmingham. We're all so proud of you, Taylor. Thank you for your contributions to world para-judo and thank you for representing Australia on the world stage.

PARALYMPIC POWERHOUSE JESSY CHEN

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Congratulations to home-grown heroes from Parramatta that are competing in the Paris Paralympics. I am so proud of the sporting talent in Parramatta, displayed time and time again in international competitions where these sportsmen and sportswomen proudly represent their country. We are all in awe of the sheer athleticism they display. Jessy Chen is an Ermington local, who was diagnosed a quadriplegic after being attacked while living in the Solomon Islands in 2006. Since that time, Jessy has found a way to stay active by playing table tennis. Para-table tennis helped in Jessy's rehabilitation, helping him showcase his razor-sharp reflexes and excellent table tennis skills. Jessy won two gold medals at the 2017 Oceania Championships, representing Australia in para-table tennis. Jessy also represented Australia at the 2019 Oceania Para Championships, winning gold there as well. He won four Australian Para National Championships and played at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Jessy is a para-table tennis powerhouse, thank you for your contributions to para-table tennis and thank you for representing Australia at the Paris Paralympics on the world stage.

MAITLAND STARS OF ASPIRE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to students from across Maitland who starred in the recent ASPIRE production of Disconnected. Blake Skafte-Grieve, who is in year nine at St Bede's Catholic College, Chisholm, played Daniel the lead character, who lives in a town where no one cares that the town crier has been fired and everyone is obsessed with their phones - until the internet is mysteriously cut off. Other students from across Maitland proved that talent really does run in the family in Maitland. Congratulations to siblings Leo and Lily Dyre and Ava and Emma Whiting from All Saints College Maitland on their roles in the production. Ensemble members spent the past school holidays with more than 150 students from across the Hunter Catholic diocese, rehearsing ahead of the week long production. The students ran lines, perfected their positions and performed costume checks in their respective dance, vocal, design, acting and instrumental ensembles ahead of the final performances. ASPIRE is an audition-based drama, dance, music and creative performing arts program that provides quality training for students from Years 5 to 11. It is an initiative of the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Congratulations to all involved in the production.

DES CROSS OAM – 95 YEARS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Happy 95th birthday to a special member of the Maitland community, Des Cross OAM. Des is an active member of the East Maitland RSL branch, and at their regular meeting this month Des was given a surprise 95th birthday party by his fellow members. Des was presented congratulatory 95th Birthday Certificates from The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP Prime Minister, The Hon Chris Minns MP Premier of New South Wales, The Hon. Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of New South Wales, The Hon. Greg Piper MP Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly and myself.

Des is still extremely active within the community. He is involved in the RSL, Red Cross, Scouts and the Men's Shed. He is also still doing 3 days a fortnight as the local school lolly pop man, an absolute champion. Des Cross was awarded an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) on Australian Day 2013 for service to the local community of Maitland as a volunteer with various groups and organisations. Happy 95th Birthday, Des and many happy returns.

MAITLAND JUNIOR NETBALL STATE TITLES

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Maitland's junior netballers have shone in their first year in the elite Champions Division at the NSW State Junior Netball titles. Maitland Under-12 and Under-13 teams both recorded 11 wins and eight loss records to finish top 10. The Under-14s had six wins, three draws and 10 losses in a great debut season. In their first state titles, the Under-12s had wins against Charlestown (23-12), Northern Suburbs (13-12), Lakeside (20-17), Penrith (14-12), St George (18-5), Campden & District (11-10), Eastwood Ryde (17-15), Liverpool City (17-13), Inner West (12-11), Illawarra (16-12) and Randwick (13-9). In the first year in the elite division, Maitland Under-13s defeated Lakeside (13-12), Manly Warringah (13-12), Wyong (19-16), Penrith (18-9), Ku-ring-gai (18-14), St George (22-18), Gosford (18-14), Campden & District (18-16), Eastwood Ryde (17-13), Campbelltown (20-11) and Inner West (11-10). The Under-14s had a tough day one with just one win, but a 19-10 result against Newcastle certainly lifted spirits. The team also had wins against Bankstown (21-11), Charlestown (21-20), Campbelltown (20-11), Liverpool (21-15) and Wagga Wagga (18-16) and draws with Illawarra (14-14), Baulkham Hills (17-17) and Campden & District (18-18). Congratulations to all the teams on their success.

ELOUERA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the wonderful members from Elouera Surf Life Saving Club who have been a familiar presence on our beaches for over 50 years. Beginning from a humble tent on the beach in 1966, Elouera has a proud tradition of keeping our beach safe – having again lost no lives during this season. In support of this aim, the Club has developed the successful annual Surf Awareness Clinic which this year saw 265 children participate in surf awareness training, covering topics ranging from identifying wave types to basic first aid. Of course, none of this is possible without hard work and tireless commitment of each individual who contributes. In particular, I recognise the newly appointed 2024/2025 Board of Management and Office Bearers including Alyson Scott, Danielle Polson, Darren Tasker, Andrew Watson, Ron Hegarty, Dean Morris, Isaac Byrne, Mark Taylor, Andrew McKeller, Patrick Hughes, Nathalie Tarabori, Joshua Nicholson, Tennille Jago, Michelle Byrne, Kay Hutchison and Nicole Burns as well as outgoing President Cameron Simpson for their continued efforts. I thank all Elouera Surf Life Saving Club members for their continued dedication to protecting local beachgoers and extend my best wishes for the upcoming season.

GEORGES RIVER FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—It was all about 'girl power' at Georges River Football Club's Female Football Gala on 30 August, an incredible event funded by $8,149.20 from the 2023/24 Local Sport Grant Program. The Female Football Gala was a fantastic celebration of women and girls in football, featuring a series of friendly six-a-side matches. This year, there were over 100 participants ranging from young girls playing in matching team tutus and colourful socks to adult women. No matter the age of the players, it was clear that everyone was having fun. The evening was designed to encourage more females to play and coach football, supporting the Club's aim of increasing female participation at Georges River Football. Our volunteers are certainly the heartbeat of football and make community events like this Female Football Gala possible. I acknowledge Georges River Football Club Executive Committee members Aaron Jenkins, Dan Johnstone, Debbie Kearns and Laura Croxson, along with event organisers Tracy Pollard, Sheri Johnson and Jody Gardner for their efforts. With more young girls taking up football after the success of the Matildas, the Female Football Gala shows that the future is female at Georges River Football Club.

NORTH CRONULLA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I pay tribute to the hard-working volunteers from North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club for keeping our community safe in trying circumstances. North Cronulla's incredible team of life savers have faced a challenging year, marked by delays in opening their new clubhouse after construction was unexpectedly halted. Despite these setbacks, club members have remained dedicated to their lifesaving duties, continuing operations out of a temporary shipping container. Most importantly, the club continued it's remarkable safety record, with zero lives lost and 47 rescues successfully performed throughout the season. On the competitive front North Cronulla also had a standout year, delivering an exceptional performance at the State Championships. Our volunteer surf life savers are an essential part of the fabric and culture of our local community. I recognise the 2024-25 Executive Committee, namely Craig McKinniery, David Waugh, Donna Hargreaves, Ben Smollett, Daniel Lawson, Chad Springall, Anita Pryke, Geoff Streater, Barbara Maythers, Jeff

Loy, Kevin Macnamara, Barry Schuetrumpf and Warren Rennie, as well as outgoing President Geoff Budd. I once again thank all members from North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club for their continued efforts and extend my best wishes for the season ahead.

FREEMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE SPORTING TEAMS

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Freeman Catholic College in Bonnyrigg Heights has celebrated a great run of sporting success in recent weeks. Congratulations to the Inter Boys Futsal Squad for becoming the State Champions at the 2024 Football NSW Futsal Schools Competition! It was a superb run for the boys at Freeman, who blitzed through the entire competition undefeated. They beat Edmund Rice Wollongong in the Semi-Finals 4-0 and took out All Saints Grammar Belmore 6-2 in the final to become the undisputed champions. Special thanks to Mr Bolognesi who has ably coached the boys this season. Also enjoying success was Freeman's Inter Boys Soccer Team, who took out the 2024 Catholic Schools NSW Football Cup, officially doing the double and becoming the best Catholic School team in NSW. Freeman is renowned throughout South West Sydney for its sporting prowess, and I look forward for their continued success across multiple sports in the years to come.

JOANNA ALQASTOMA

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Joanna Alqastoma's story is like so many others in Liverpool. Arriving in Australia seeking a better and more peaceful life in 2021, she did not speak a word of English when she arrived. Furthermore, Joanna lost four years of education back in Iraq due to conflict. Fast forward to today, where Joanna is not only fluent in English, she ranks first at her school in history, geography, science and PDHPE. She has her sights set firmly on a university degree, and I have no doubt she will thrive in an environment where her curiosity, resilience and determination will serve her well. It was fantastic to see Joanna be recognised for her efforts, winning the Senior Academic Achievement award at the Liverpool Young Champions Awards earlier this month. Joanna has been elected to take part in several programs including the ABCN Future Thinkers Program, and the Fast Forward Program at Western Sydney University. Congratulations to Joanna on your amazing achievements, and I look forward to welcoming you to the inaugural Liverpool Youth Action Group later this month!

LIVERPOOL CITY LIBRARY

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Liverpool Council's new Yellamundie Library has made waves locally, and now globally. Despite self-serving opposition from some, it now proudly sits as a gem on Scott Street as part of Council's Civic Place Precinct. It has received world renown as one of four finalists in an international competition to name the best new library in the world by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions [IFLA]. Yellamundie, Darug for 'storyteller', is designed to create community connections, celebrate diversity, and promote inclusion and equality. As a truly public space, it is home to an extensive and diverse catalogue of works. Up against Yellamundie are the Public Body Kaunas County Public Library in Lithuania, and two libraries in China: in Shenzhen, and Beijing. Having had a look at the competition I can safely say that Yellamundie is in with a great shot, although I may be biased. I congratulate architects fjcstudio for their innovative approach, and also want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the library staff across Liverpool Council for their vitally important work and dedication to learning and literature.

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL BILL TURNER CUP

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Each year, over 400 schools across Australia compete for the prestigious football Bill Turner Cup. It is therefore an honour to congratulate Newcastle High School's football team for placing third in this year's national tournament. Beating Illawarra Sports High 2-0 in the third-place play-off, the team not only walked away with a clean sheet, but also defeated the highest placing sports high school in New South Wales. Further, I'd like to recognise team member Levi Segal who was awarded the prestigious Bill Turner Spirit of Football Award. Honouring a player's participation, sportsmanship and commitment to their team, the award exemplifies values that Bill Turner prized himself. This is a wonderful achievement, and I'd like to thank coaches Michael Kondov and Andrew Doherty for their hard work and dedication to the team.

DASCHA HARRISON

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to Newcastle student Dascha Harrison for her success at the 2024 New South Wales Training Awards. Each year, the awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of eight people within the vocational education and training sector. A current Year 12 student at Newcastle High School, Dashca was awarded the 2024 School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year. Inspired by her own stint in hospital, she aims to create positive change in other children's lives by undertaking a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance at John Hunter Hospital. Looking to the future, Dascha is eager to become a

specialist in child and adolescent psychiatry with a focus on treating and researching eating disorders. Dascha's success is a testament to her hard work and resilience, and I wish her all the best for her upcoming Higher School Certificate exams.

LACHLAN CAREY

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—This year, I have the greatest pleasure in congratulating Novocastrian Lachlan Carey for his success at the 2024 New South Wales Training Awards. Lachlan's story is truly inspirational. After suffering two strokes in Year 10 and undergoing multiple surgeries, he had to give up playing rugby league and was not able to return to school to complete his Higher School Certificate. Despite the health set-back, Lachlan achieved his dream of becoming an early childhood educator, and as such, was awarded 2024 Trainee of the Year for his resilience and tenacity. Lachlan's success shows real Novocastrian spirit and I wish him all best for his future endeavours.

SALLY FITZGIBBONS – SECOND WIN AT US OPEN OF SURFING

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the achievements of Sally Fitzgibbons of Gerroa, who has secured her second victory at the prestigious US Open of Surfing. Sally has once again demonstrated her exceptional skills in surfing, delivering a remarkable performance that resulted in back-to-back Final appearances. Her latest triumph has solidified her position at the top of the Challenger Series' rankings. The women's Final was fierce, and Sally showcased her incredible talent, ultimately securing a lead with just minutes left on the clock. Sally's win is a testament to her dedication, expertise, and enduring passion for surfing. Her success not only brings pride to Australia, but our local community. We extend our congratulations to Sally, her success exemplifies the heights that can be reached with hard work. Congratulations once again to Sally Fitzgibbons on her well-deserved victory. We look forward to following her continued success and celebrating her future achievements on the world stage.

VIVIENNE MARRIS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Vivienne Marris of Jamberoo, who was awarded a NSW Volunteer of the Year Award. Vivienne's dedication to the Jamberoo Country Women's Association [CWA] has been nothing short of transformative, and her leadership has ensured that the association remains a steadfast pillar of support within the community. Under Vivienne's steady hand, Jamberoo CWA has driven numerous local initiatives and raised funds to the benefit of our community. Vivienne's commitment to her philanthropic work and her tireless effort in organising events to support local causes has an incredible impact not only in Jamberoo, but other communities in our region. Congratulations, Vivienne! Your work with the Jamberoo CWA and right across our community has not only strengthened the association but has benefitted our entire community. I also acknowledge the members of the Jamberoo CWA who have supported Vivienne in these endeavours and continue to contribute to the community. Thank you, Vivienne Marris, for your remarkable service and congratulations on this well-deserved award.

JACK DINNIE – BUMPY ROAD CATERING AND EVENTS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Jack Dinnie, founder of Bumpy Road Catering Events, who was recently named Outstanding Young Business Leader at the Illawarra Business Awards. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Jack's passion, vision, and dedication to the local hospitality industry. Seven years ago, Bumpy Road Catering Events began as a simple food truck, but Jack had a dream to take it further. Through hard work and determination, the business has now grown into one of the largest catering companies on the South Coast, employing a diverse team of 30 staff. Jack's commitment to improving local hospitality goes beyond his business. He has actively worked to address staff shortages by promoting hospitality as a fulfilling career path in schools and on industry panels. His efforts to help employees with immigration issues and secure housing have also shown his dedication to the people who make this industry thrive. Congratulations, Jack! This award is well-deserved, and your journey is an inspiration to young business leaders across the region. Thank you for your contributions to the Shoalhaven and Illawarra.

SPEAKING FOR THE PLANET

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate Climate Action Burwood Canada Bay on their 'Speaking4thePlanet' event held at Domremy College as part of the World Environment Day in June this year. S4P is an opportunity for high school students from our local community to come together and discuss ideas about this year's theme 'Journey to a Greener Future'. Students were ask to develop a creative piece relating to the theme in one of five categories - speaking, drama, writing, art, or digital art. The writing section ask students to submit powerful statements of 30 words. I would like to highlight Domremy student Penelope Foundoukakis who wrote, "With eight billion people, our collective power is immense. Each of us has a role in maintaining a clean, sustainable environment. Can we unite for a greener future?" A powerful statement and vision from our

next generation. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of volunteers including President Ken Enderby, Youth Coordinator Robin Smith, and all members of Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay for their passion and dedication that made this event possible. Congratulations to all students involved in this years Speaking4thePlanet event, it is wonderful to see active citizenship in our community.

DRUMMOYNE BUSINESS CHAMBER

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge the newly elected executive of the Drummoyne Business Chamber, following their AGM on Monday 19 August 2024. The Drummoyne Business Chamber is a not-for-profit local community organisation providing support to small business owners in Drummoyne through networking events, community engagement, and business insights. The Chamber has built a strong connection with our community, supporting not only local businesses but also schools, sporting clubs and community organisations. I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to President Patrick Kayrooz, Secretary Gladys Mallqui, and Marketing/Member Communications Meha Raina on their recent election to the executive. This newly elected team brings with them a wealth of knowledge, energy and experience. I recently met with Patrick, Gladys and Meha and their vision for Drummoyne is inspiring and I look forward to working closely with them for the benefit of our community. I sincerely thank the Drummoyne Business Chamber Executive team and members for their continued service in our community. I wish Patrick, Gladys and Meha all the very best.

SERGE DERKATCH

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I acknowledge outgoing President of the Drummoyne Business Chamber, Mr Serge Derkatch. Serge has now officially stepped down from his role as President after five years of outstanding service to our community. The Drummoyne Business Chamber provides support to local small businesses in the Drummoyne area. In his role as President, Serge revived the operations and vision of the Chamber, helping facilitate community events, business seminars, work experience opportunities for local students and networking events. He has always advocated strongly for Drummoyne, including by appearing as a witness to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impact of the Rozelle Interchange held earlier this year. The success of the Drummoyne Business Chamber is a testament to Serge's selfless service and dedication to our community at a time where small businesses have faced unprecedented challenges. Over the years, I have gotten to know Serge and admire his vision and passion for Drummoyne. He has given of his time for many years and I thank him for his leadership. On behalf our community, I congratulate Serge on an outstanding Presidency and for his service to local business. I wish Serge all the very best.

QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Congratulations to the 27 students of the Quakers Hill High School class of 2024 on completing high school. These students have worked incredibly hard over the last 13 years, especially in the past few months as they complete their trials and, in the lead up to the HSC exams. I really do believe the students of the Riverstone electorate are the best New South Wales has to offer. I look forward to hearing of their successes as they start the next journey of their life. Whether pursuing tertiary education or entering the workforce - I know that these young people will do incredible things. This is only possible thanks to the remarkable teachers at Quakers Hill High and I thank every one of them for their dedication to encouraging the growth of all their students. I also acknowledge the outgoing school captains Grace Sammons and Hayden Snashall and of course the vice-captains Ashnin Tenneti and Tahira Armeda. They have done an incredible job representing their cohort and have left big shoes to fill. I'm sure this is just the start of their time in leadership positions and wish them the very best.

WYNDHAM COLLEGE CLASS OF 2024

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Congratulations to the 246 students of the Wyndham College class of 2024 on completing high school. These students have worked incredibly hard over the last 13 years, especially in the past few months as they complete their trials and, in the lead up to the HSC exams. I really do believe the students of the Riverstone electorate are the best New South Wales has to offer and I look forward to hearing of their successes as they start the next journey of their life, whether it be pursuing tertiary education or entering the workforce - I am certain that these young people will do incredible things. This is only possible thanks to the remarkable teachers at Wyndham College and I thank each and every one of them for their dedication to encouraging the growth of all their students. I also acknowledge the outgoing school captains Kiara Fleming and Walid Geda and of course the vice-captains Christine Douglas and Atharv Javajal. They have done an incredible job representing their cohort and have left big shoes to fill. I'm sure this is just the start of their time in leadership positions and wish them the very best.

SAINT JOHN XXIII CLASS OF 2024

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Congratulations to the 183 students of the Saint John the Twenty Third College class of 2024 on completing high school. These students have worked incredibly hard over the last 13 years, especially in the past few months as they complete their trials and, in the lead up to the HSC exams. I strongly believe the students of the Riverstone electorate are the best New South Wales has to offer. I look forward to hearing of their successes as they start the next journey of their life, whether it be pursuing tertiary education or entering the workforce. I know that these young people will do incredible things. This is only possible thanks to the remarkable teachers at Saint John XXIII. I thank every one of them for their dedication to encouraging the growth of all their students. I also acknowledge the outgoing school captains Jyotsna Kannapat Joseph and Lucas Smith and of course the vice-captains Sena Odago and Harper Szot. They have done an incredible job representing their cohort and have left big shoes to fill. I'm sure this is just the start of their time in leadership positions and wish them the very best.