

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 6 May 2025

The Speaker (The Hon. Gregory Michael Piper) took the chair at 12:00.

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Members

MEMBER FOR ALBURY

MEMBER FOR HEFFRON

MEMBER FOR FAIRFIELD

MEMBER FOR COFFS HARBOUR

The SPEAKER: I welcome back members after what seemed like a relatively long break. I know members have been working hard in their electorates and I hope the time has been well spent. A number of members have had birthdays during that time. I wish a happy birthday to the member for Albury, the member for Heffron—who is timeless and ageless, by the way—the member for Fairfield and the member for Coffs Harbour, who celebrated their birthdays during the break.

MEMBER FOR DAVIDSON

The SPEAKER: During the break the member for Davidson and his wife, Gessika, welcomed their new baby boy, Beau Cross, into the world. Gessika and baby Beau are doing very well, and we congratulate the parents and wish them all the best.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome to the gallery committee members of Beacon Hill Probus Club, guests of the member for Wakehurst. I welcome Brian Thompson, Gregory Wood, Graham Sweet, Greg and Jenny Leyshon, and Ron and Cheryl Schulz from the Ulladulla Milton Lions Club, guests of the member for South Coast. They will be joining members of the Parliamentary Lions Club, who will be hosting a barbeque to support them in the rooftop garden today from 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. Leftover democracy sausages will be available. I also welcome to the gallery teachers and students from Newcastle High School's Clontarf Boys Academy, guests of the member for Newcastle. I acknowledge guests of the member for Kiama from the Gerroa Combined Probus Club. I acknowledge students from Marist College Eastwood, guests of the member for Ryde.

I welcome to the gallery Zoë Robinson, NSW Advocate for Children and Young People, as well as her guests, Jessica Neale, Sophie Graham and Kylie Josephson. I welcome students and teachers from Rooty Hill High School, guests of the member for Mount Druitt. I acknowledge attendees of the Introduction to the Legislative Assembly public sector seminar, who are watching from the Cooper gallery. I met with and addressed that group this morning. I hope their day is going all right, although I apologise to those who missed out on a parliamentary scone—a highlight of any morning tea hosted by the Legislative Assembly. I also welcome everyone who has not been personally welcomed to Australia's first Parliament.

Announcements

DEATH OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

The SPEAKER (12:07): I acknowledge the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis on Monday 21 April 2025. On behalf of the House, I extend the deep sympathy of the Legislative Assembly.

Members and officers of the House stood as a mark of respect.

*Bills***BAIL AMENDMENT (EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON BAIL IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES)
BILL 2025****AUTOMATIC MUTUAL RECOGNITION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024****WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT (STANDALONE REGULATOR) BILL 2025****CLAIM FARMING PRACTICES PROHIBITION BILL 2025****INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT (TRANSPORT SECTOR GIG WORKERS AND
OTHERS) BILL 2025****ENERGY AMENDMENT (PIPELINES AND GAS SAFETY) BILL 2024****PRODUCT LIFECYCLE RESPONSIBILITY BILL 2025****Assent**

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from the Governor notifying Her Excellency's assent to the bills.

*Governor***ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages regarding the administration of the Government.

*Announcements***DEATH OF TONY ISSA, FORMER MEMBER FOR GRANVILLE**

The SPEAKER (12:08): I advise members of the death on Sunday 30 March 2025 of Tony Issa, a former member for Granville. I extend to the family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained.

Members and officers of the House stood as a mark of respect.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that a member of staff from the Department of the Legislative Assembly will be taking photographs during the swearing in of the member for Port Macquarie.

*Members***ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF PORT MACQUARIE****Return of Writ**

The SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to guests of the member for Port Macquarie, being the member's wife, Mrs Kate Dwyer; his family members Flynn, Jim and Neive Dwyer; the former member for Port Macquarie, the Hon. Leslie Williams; the member's mother-in-law and father-in-law, Lea and Don McKinnon; and the member's sister, Kelly McGinlay, and her husband, John. I acknowledge also Mr Terry Sara, Senior Electorate Officer in Port Macquarie. Terry, you have been there for an awful long time, mate. You have done a great job. Thank you. This is an important day for the member for Port Macquarie and for his family. It is wonderful that you can all be here.

I inform the House that the writ issued on 21 February 2025 in accordance with section 76 of the Electoral Act 2017 for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Port Macquarie in place of Leslie Gladys Williams, resigned, has been returned with a certificate endorsed by the Electoral Commission advising of the election of Robert Daniel Dwyer to serve as member for the electoral district of Port Macquarie.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr Robert Daniel Dwyer took and subscribed the oath of allegiance and signed the Roll of the House.

*Question Time***SYDNEY METRO DRIVERLESS TRAINS**

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (12:13): My question is directed to the Premier. The Rail, Tram and Bus Union wants to retrofit cabins for qualified drivers onto driverless metro trains. Will the Premier rule out wasting public money on adding cabins for drivers onto driverless metro trains?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:14): The Opposition had six weeks to prepare for this question. They have not done anything for the last six weeks. They did not do anything during the Federal campaign. The Exclusive Brethren took care of that on the polling booth. Did you see that?

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Same job, same pay.

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: As the member for Canterbury said, same job, same pay. That is what happened on the booths across the Federal election. We are not going to retrofit anything. Obviously, the metro is driverless. It was procured for precisely that purpose. It is a different mode of transport. For members' edification, we are rolling out right now across Sydney 25 extra metro stations for Sydney—metro west, metro southwest, as well as the airport metro. It is, in fact, the largest public transport—

Mr Dugald Saunders: Did you support them originally?

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Yes, clearly.

[Interruption]

The planning Minister is right. We do not need to listen to their interjections, but I did listen to the Leader of the Opposition's intervention. He took a brave stand the day after Peter Dutton lost the election. He criticised Peter Dutton. He picked his moment.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. It is not a chance for the Premier to freestyle on whatever he wants. He has to be talking about whether he is ruling out—

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr Mark Speakman: With respect, may I finish the point of order?

The SPEAKER: I have heard from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Mark Speakman: I had not finished the point of order.

The SPEAKER: I have heard the point of order and I uphold it. The Premier had drifted quite far from the leave of the question.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: When it comes to elections, the next election and the one after that will be about infrastructure. I am keen to hear what the Leader of the Opposition has to say in relation to the next election campaign. There may be a clue into what he said in relation to the Federal election.

Mr Mark Speakman: You're cutting ribbons.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: I wouldn't be too brave, Mark. You are Gilligan's Island at the moment—very, very quiet. Anyway, the Leader of the Opposition said he did not want his party to be a party for Anglo-Celtic middle-aged men. He won't have anyone left.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The Leader of the Opposition rises on a point of order.

Mr Mark Speakman: It is an affront to you, Mr Speaker, that the Premier continues to flout your ruling. I ask that the Premier be brought back to the leave of the question.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for protecting my honour. However, the Premier did not flout my ruling directly. He did come back to the question but then he lost his way again. The Premier will resume his answer.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Anyway, he is declaring war on middle-aged, Anglo-Celtic men. Next thing you know he will be changing his name to Mark Speakperson, instead of Mark Speakman.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. I think something must have happened on the weekend. You are all very excited.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (12:18): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the policies and initiatives the Government has pursued to overcome opposition to much-needed housing in New South Wales?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:18): The House will be aware of the transport-orientated development being pushed through by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Low- and mid-rise reforms, commonly referred to as the missing middle when it comes to new housing and planning in New South Wales and Sydney. The pattern book design competition is designed to get more designers and architects into the planning system and fast-track those approvals for plans across this city. The House is aware of the \$6.6 billion the Government is allocating for social housing and to bring on more housing across Sydney. That includes the land audit driven by the Minister for Lands and Property to get more housing right in the middle of the city. We have made a decision that we need more density. We are the 800th densest city in the world. We are also one of the most expensive. The truth of the matter is that those two things are related to one another.

I can also report on the Housing Delivery Authority [HDA]. As of 17 April, 362 applications have been made to the HDA, which is meeting once every fortnight. As a result of those meetings, the authority has declared 86 proposals as State significant, totalling more than 34,000 new houses, units and apartments for New South Wales. It is a major change. It is exactly what the industry has been arguing and fighting for over a long period. The Government was pleased to pursue those reforms because we believed the Productivity Commissioner was correct when he said that if we do not get more housing and we do not change the planning system in Sydney, we will be a city without young people. A city without young people is a city without a future.

Parts of the reforms have been difficult to implement. There has been opposition to the reforms. I note and recognise the member for Willoughby, who has criticised the Government on some of its proposals. We need to take that on the chin. Criticism is welcomed. I have been reading the member's Christmas community newsletter. There are lots of photos of Tim—Tim at the gym, Tim in New York and Tim with a Christmas tree. It is like *GQ* but there is only one male model. He has waxed the Government in a stinging editorial in the newsletter. He said, "The Government has fallen short when it comes to housing supply. It has laudably moved some rental reforms but the truth of the matter is that the core issue is supply. Addressing supply should have been the Government's number one priority." [*Extension of time*]

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The member went on, "I will continue to advocate for measures that address the root cause of the rental crisis, ensuring the supply of housing for everyone in Willoughby and New South Wales." They are fine words from the member for Willoughby. I wish another member of Parliament took his advice on board. There was a stinging editorial about the Government's plans for Crows Nest. It states, "The Minns Government's Crows Nest transport oriented development is a significant overdevelopment and is opposed by our community. The high-density proposal lacks sufficient infrastructure and services to support the growth." Who said that? It was the member for Willoughby—the same bloke in the same newsletter. On page 4 he says "not far enough" and on page 5 he says, "Don't do it in Willoughby". I know that members have gone on a bit of a journey when it comes to urban renewal, but it does not normally take place from page 4 to page 5. There is an old-fashioned reason for the change, which is that the member wants development everywhere, other than where he lives. What do we call that? We call it a nimby.

PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (12:23): My question is directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. Two weeks ago, the Minister said there was nothing she could do to reclaim Labor powerbroker Eddie Obeid's corrupt \$30 million. Given what the Premier has said today, does the Minister stand by her statement?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (12:23): We have never seen the shadow Minister so interested in the Police and Counter-terrorism portfolio, have we?

The SPEAKER: It was a rhetorical question. Opposition members will come to order.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: A lot of people were very disappointed in that decision. We understand that. No-one was more disappointed than Government members and me. That is why I spoke to the Premier about the decision. The Premier and I agreed that he would write to the Crime Commission and ask what it needs, legislatively or otherwise, to continue to prosecute the matter. The commission has incredible powers, as we all know.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: If there is any chance those powers can be used to recover that money, that is what the people of New South Wales deserve and, quite frankly, what Mr Obeid deserves. It is unfortunate that we are still dealing with this matter so many years on. Members of the Coalition washed their hands of the problem

when they had the opportunity to fix it. Let us not forget that the Crime Commission investigated the viability of seizing the ill-gotten proceeds of crime from Mr Obeid back in 2015, under the former Government. At the time, the commission concluded that there were no reasonable prospects of success. At a budget estimates hearing on 29 October 2021, David Elliott, a former colleague of Coalition members, said, "I have made it clear that I cannot direct the Commissioner of Police or the Crime Commission. I cannot direct anybody to do anything."

Mr Paul Toole: Point of order: My point of order goes to Standing Order 129 and relevance. My question was does the Minister agree with what the Premier has said today. The Minister said it was appalling. Two weeks ago she said nothing could be done. Now she has had a Damascus moment.

The SPEAKER: As members know, I cannot direct a Minister how to answer. The Minister has been directly relevant to the question.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: The former Government had 12 years to get those assets back.

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

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: The commissioner made the point that it has been a long time. I agree with him. It has been a very long time. While the Government cannot tell the Crime Commission what to investigate or how to investigate, the Government will make sure that it has every resource it needs.

Mr Paul Toole: Flip-flop.

The SPEAKER: Who said that?

Mr Paul Toole: Me.

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

PUBLIC PRESCHOOLS

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (12:26): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Early Learning. Will the Deputy Premier please update the House on the Minns Labor Government's plan to double the number of public preschools across New South Wales?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (12:27): I thank the member for Blacktown for his important question. I note that the Government is building two public preschools in the Blacktown electorate—one at Crawford and one at Blacktown North. That is two more preschools than the former Liberal-Nationals Government ever delivered not just for Blacktown but for New South Wales, full stop. When we came to government, we inherited a situation of only 100 public preschools in New South Wales. None were built under the former Government. We are doubling the number of public preschools in New South Wales. We are building 100 public preschools that will all be up and running by day one, term 1 of 2027. I am so proud that the Government is rolling out this program. We understand the transformative power of access to early education, particularly free access to early education. It is tied to a child's ability to go straight from a public preschool to kindergarten at their local public school.

I am proud to inform the House that in the past month we have awarded contracts for 51 new public preschools. Combined, they will offer places for up to 4,600 children a week. Last week I was delighted to go down to the Illawarra with the member for Shellharbour. We went to Barrack Heights Public School in her electorate. We were joined by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Those two members truly understand the life-changing impacts of public education, particularly early childhood education. On that day at Barrack Heights Public School, we announced contracts for nine new public preschools, including Bomaderry, Greenwell Point, Cringila and Lake Illawarra South. I thank the principal at Barrack Heights, Ms Skye Ramsay, who told me that day that in her interview to become principal of that school, she said it was her dream to have a public preschool on site. We are pretty pleased to be delivering that for her community.

The best part of the press conference, I have to say, was that afterwards the year 4, 5 and 6 students—the leaders at the school—insisted on taking over and giving their own grabs to the local media. In their own words, they spoke about how impactful this would be for local families. One talked about how the transition would be so much easier for young children going from preschool to kindergarten, because it can be scary when they start, when they are four or five. That is from the mouths of babes: primary-school-aged children saying it's going to be easier for mum and dad dropping them off. [*Extension of time*]

The situation in New South Wales, which the year 6 kids of Barrack Heights understand but the Liberals and The Nationals still do not, is that investment in public preschools will be such a game changer for so many communities. We are so proud of where we are delivering these 100 preschools. Last month 40 contracts were awarded across western Sydney, where early childhood education and care [ECEC] has been out of reach for so

many families, with seven more to come. Those locations were chosen by an independent panel of experts, based on where the need was and where the child care deserts were; they were not picked by a government on a political basis. That is a novel idea for Opposition members, who pork-barrelled when deciding where to make government investments. This Government is investing where it is needed: in Liverpool, at Cartwright, Cecil Hills, Heckenberg and Miller; in Cabramatta, at Mount Pritchard, Prairievale and Lansvale East; in Bankstown, Yagoona and Chullora; and in Winston Hills, at Lynwood Park.

When it comes to preschool education in New South Wales, the contrast could not be clearer. On the Government's side of the House, we are doubling the investment in public preschools. On the Opposition's side of the House, not only did they not build any public preschools when in government, but they have no policy when it comes to early childhood education. What have they been doing for two years to come up with policy for this huge area of need in our community? We know that is what the Liberals and Nationals do—the Liberals in particular. They find it hard to do the policy work they need to do to deliver for the people of New South Wales.

In contrast, we are proud to be delivering this investment. We are proud to be working with a re-elected Albanese Labor Government in Canberra on early childhood education and care. I cannot wait to not only announce these contracts, but to open these public preschools for the three- and four-year-olds that will be attending.

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKPLACE PRESENCE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (12:32): My question is directed to the Premier. Given the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission's findings that remote and hybrid working arrangements promote economic output, aid employee retention and improve standards of living, will he amend his department's memorandum cancelling public sector work from home arrangements?

The SPEAKER: The Premier has indicated that he will take the question on notice.

NSW POLICE FORCE

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (12:32): My question is addressed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. Will the Minister please update the House on the Minns Labor Government's work to boost police numbers across the State, increasing community safety?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (12:33): I thank the member for Cabramatta for his question. I have some big news to share. On Friday, 302 new recruits—the biggest class in 11 years—attested at the Goulburn Police Academy. The member for Cabramatta has eight new recruits out in his community, keeping his community safe. I know how much he appreciates that and how hard he works with police. Those 302 new recruits are spread right across the State of New South Wales, boosting the front line, which was left in tatters after that lot opposite left government.

We are building time and again. The December class was the biggest in 10 years, but we topped that last week with our class of more than 300. This year's projections are looking very promising as well. This is a great step forward in rebuilding the NSW Police Force, a force that I am sad to say was gutted, underpaid and pushed to the brink by the Liberals and The Nationals. Honestly, what were they doing for all those years? Here is what they were doing: They were swinging the doors open and letting experienced cops leave, grabbing a cheque on the way worth \$70 million. They did not just stand there and let police leave; they helped them pack their boxes and escorted them out. That is what they did.

Let's talk about the outdated, rigid dinosaur of a system that they left behind, with zero flexibility, zero modern workforce planning and, as we all know, wages that were going backwards. Officers who wanted to train, study, parent or care for an elderly family member were told, "No, too bad. This job isn't for people with lives and families." While members opposite were busy writing farewell cards for departing officers, we were busy building the plans to bring them back. Take the Elite Athlete Recruitment Pilot Program, which we launched just last week—innovative, yes? It is simple: Let top athletes serve their State and chase gold. It is smart, modern and practical—so of course it would never have been thought of by members opposite. A modern, flexible workforce means more people want to join the police force. [*Extension of time*]

Who would have thought that a bit of positive thinking would lead to a bit of a positive outcome? It turns out that being switched on actually pays off. Since the Government began these reforms, including paying the recruits in Goulburn and, of course, the historic pay rise, nearly 4,000 people have signed up to be a cop in New South Wales. Guess how big that jump is? It is 70 per cent. There is more: Thanks to more modern, forward thinking, we have seen a 33 per cent jump in women applying to join the NSW Police Force. We know members opposite would never have thought of that. I am proud to say that putting more boots on the ground is making a real difference. According to the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, the research says that more crimes are

being solved than ever before. That is because we back our police. They know we have got their back, and they are out working hard for us.

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

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: We give them better mental health support and historic wage increases; we have allowed officers to live and work in the communities that they know; and we are paying our recruits to study. We also have our Professional Mobility Program. We are seeing experienced officers from across the country packing up their lives and wanting to come to serve here in New South Wales. Class 365 rolled out across the State this week. Among them was a proud First Nations woman and mother of five, Briana Matthew. Two years ago, that would not have been possible. Without the option of paid study leave and the opportunity to serve in the community that she knows like the back of her hand, she could never have realised her lifelong dream to become a cop in her hometown. There has never been a better time to be a cop in New South Wales. Those opposite had no plan for recruitment or retention, and they set wages back.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SECRETARY

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (12:38): My question is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning. How is it tenable to have as the Minister's education secretary someone who wants to abolish Catholic and other non-government schools?

The SPEAKER: Government members will come to order.

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (12:38): First, I will answer the question directly. That is not what he said. Secondly, let me tell the House about what has happened under the leadership of Mr Dizdar as Secretary of the Department of Education. It was made possible by the fact that, for once, there was a government that had the actual courage—a novel idea—

Mr Jihad Dib: The sensibility.

Ms PRUE CAR: —and the sensibility to appoint a teacher to lead the Department of Education. He is not just a teacher, but a renowned principal. I will tell members what Mr Dizdar, under the direction of this Government, has achieved. We have halved the number of merged and cancelled classes. Under those opposite there were 10,000 merged and cancelled classes every day. Kids in covered outdoor learning areas were being supervised by one teacher because teachers were leaving in droves. Teachers were underpaid and they were not given the respect that they deserved. After giving teachers the biggest pay rise in a generation, we have got vacancies down to record lows. Why does that matter? Because we want—

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Release the data if you're so confident.

Ms PRUE CAR: I talk about the data every second day in this House.

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

Ms PRUE CAR: The data is not good for Opposition members—let me give them a hot tip.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Coffs Harbour to order for the second time.

Ms PRUE CAR: The data shows that if we pay teachers more, more of them will stay. In addition, more young people are enrolling in education degrees—not just across the country, but a record number in New South Wales.

Mrs Tina Ayyad: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume her seat. The member for Holsworthy rises on a point of order. The member for Canterbury will come to order. The member for Kiama will come to order. The member for Swansea will come to order. I need to hear the point of order.

Mrs Tina Ayyad: It is direct relevance.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order.

Ms PRUE CAR: It is an absolutely ridiculous question. Honestly, I would love to see the member for Holsworthy go to her local schools—Holsworthy High School or Wattle Grove Public School—and see what people think about her mentioning Mr Dizdar in this House.

The SPEAKER: The member for Holsworthy will not interject.

Ms PRUE CAR: Opposition members should learn what people think about the fact that they opposed the teachers' pay rise, which is actually working. The truth is that this question comes from an opposition that is struggling for relevance. It is scraping the bottom of the barrel and out of touch with what really matters to people and parents in New South Wales as they send their children to public schools, which this Government is rebuilding.

VICTIMS REGISTERS

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (12:41): My question is addressed to the Minister for Corrections. Will the Minister update the House on the New South Wales Government's work to create a better system for victim-survivors of serious crimes by reforming the State's victims registers?

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) (12:42): I thank the member for Granville for the question. Today, I am proud to advise the House that the Minns Labor Government will introduce legislation to significantly reform the State's victims registers. The Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Register) Bill 2025 will ensure that victim-survivors of serious crimes receive mandatory notification about their right to sign up as a registered victim and receive critical information about an offender. The three New South Wales victims registers are the Corrective Services NSW Victims Register, the Youth Justice Victims Register and the Specialist Victims Register for victims of forensic patients.

Those who opt in to the registers will receive timely, accurate and trauma-informed updates regarding the relevant perpetrator's progress through our custodial system. That may include details about an offender's location, their sentence, their parole eligibility and any changes that may affect a victim's safety and wellbeing. Registered victims will also have the right to make a submission about an offender's parole, where relevant. These reforms will mark another step in the Government's commitment to improving our justice system and supporting victims of crime as we work to create a safer New South Wales. I am proud to remind the House that the first victims register operated by Corrective Services NSW was established by the Carr Labor Government in 1996. The register was designed to provide a supportive service to victims in what is often the most distressing period they may face in their lives.

The Minns Labor Government is continuing that legacy by ensuring that victims registers remain responsive to victims' needs. Corrective Services NSW consulted with victim-survivors, victim advocates and victim support services over several months to ensure that these changes reflect the views of the people the registers serve. Eligible victims of serious offenders will now receive mandatory notification letting them know about the relevant register and their eligibility to opt in for updates. If they do not want to make a decision at that time, victim-survivors will have the option to be contacted at a later date to discuss the benefits of registration and then decide whether they would like to be registered.

In terms of who will be notified, victims of serious offenders will be defined according to existing legislation. Generally, the serious offenders that will cause a mandatory notification about the victims register to be sent to a victim-survivor or a family member will be offenders who have committed murder, an offender serving a sentence of life imprisonment or an offender serving one or more sentences totalling a minimum of 12 years in custody for offences such as attempted murder, serious sexual assault, abduction or aggravated robbery. *[Extension of time]*

Family members of a victim will also be notified if the victim is deceased, incapacitated or under the age of 18. Ensuring that victims will have the choice to register will strike the appropriate balance between ensuring that victims are aware of their right to be on the register while—importantly—maintaining the victim's choice and avoiding re-traumatisation. This morning I was very pleased to hold a press conference with Mr Howard Brown and the Premier. Mr Howard Brown is a longstanding and respected victims advocate who is very supportive of the Government's reforms through the victims register. He said:

The Victims Registers are able to provide the kind of information that victim-survivors may feel that they need to be able to take back control of their lives, sometimes many years after a serious crime has been committed against them.

Maximising free and full access to such a vital resource like the Victims Registers is a major step toward healing for victim-survivors.

I thank Howard for that strong endorsement of the Government's reforms. I also acknowledge the contributions and support of Ms Martha Jabour from the Homicide Victims Support Group and Ms Samantha Barlow, who has been a strong advocate. They were part of the Government's consultation process. No-one chooses to become the victim of a violent crime. That is why the Minns Labor Government is doing everything within its power to support and empower victim-survivors in the aftermath of a crime. Eligible victim-survivors of serious offenders have the choice to be on the victims register and be given the knowledge and agency to engage with the justice system, ensuring no-one is left behind.

DRIVER LICENCES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (12:47): My question is directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government. Will the Minister rule out outsourcing the printing and manufacturing of New South Wales driver licences?

The SPEAKER: The Premier will come to order. There will be no coaching.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (12:47): I think that I thank the member for Manly, the shadow Minister, for the question. I thought what he said about outsourcing was quite interesting. That rumour was well and truly started under the watch of members opposite as part of the previous Government. There was a situation where the printing of cards was outsourced. People in glass houses are throwing stones. They often forget what happened. In fairness to the shadow Minister, and member for Manly, he has asked me a question, so I will give a bit of context. I believe the member is talking about the printing options for licences, so I will speak to that. He has requested information, and I am being straight-up. The printing equipment is out of life, partly because there had been underinvestment over a number of years. It actually is out of life.

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

Mr JIHAD DIB: I am giving context. I think it is important to give context to explain the reasons. The printing is out of life because the machines had not been invested in for quite a long period. That is another problem that we inherited. It seems that the more I discover, the more I realise that we inherited a lot of things where there was some smoke and mirrors but, once we dug deeper, there were some serious issues. At the moment there is a request for information to look at what can happen and whether it can happen better. We have a responsibility to use taxpayers' money in the most effective way possible.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: It is direct relevance. The Minister was asked if he will he rule it out. The Government said it would not privatise things at the last election. Will the Minister rule it out?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Minister will continue his answer. I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time.

Mr JIHAD DIB: I think I heard the point of order but, just to be clear, again—

The SPEAKER: There was no point of order.

Mr JIHAD DIB: I did not think there was, because I have been extremely relevant. I have given the context. I am going to make it really clear. It seems Opposition members have amnesia. They outsourced marine licences and other licences. I beg an extension. The member for Manly wants an extension.

Mr James Griffin: Mr Speaker, I seek additional information. If the Minister is asking for an extension, the least we can do is give it to him.

The SPEAKER: Was it before the time was up?

Mr James Griffin: Yes, five seconds before. The Minister asked for the extension.

The SPEAKER: The answer is no.

FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (12:51): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's work to ensure that the growing community of Fairfield has access to adequate health care?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (12:51): I have my Medicare card.

Mr Paul Scully: Just for cybersecurity, cover your name!

Mr RYAN PARK: It is digital, members will be happy to know. It is one of the only things in my life that is digital. I thank the member for Fairfield for his excellent question but, more importantly, I know he has been doing a lot of doorknocking lately, and the issue of Fairfield Hospital has come up a lot. He is a tireless advocate for a service that many of us have perhaps used or certainly know of, and that is Karitane, in his own community. That is a fine service, run very well, with a hub in his local community. It is important, so I thank the member for his advocacy. Fairfield Hospital will receive its largest ever upgrade since 1988. Under Labor, the State Government is investing \$550 million, and the Federal Government is investing \$80 million. So it is business as usual in terms of who pays what. That investment is absolutely critical. Last year alone, that emergency

department saw 39,000 patients. Across south-western Sydney, the number of patients going to emergency departments is up 10,000 from five years ago. We are seeing sicker, more complex patients, and we are seeing more of them.

In a community like Fairfield, we need to make sure that its local hospital is resourced, staffed and built in a way to deal with that increase and growth. Importantly, this investment from the State and Commonwealth governments will see an expanded emergency department. It will include paediatric emergency and emergency short stay, a critical service that helps the flow of patients through our hospitals. It will include additional mental health services, an expanded intensive care unit, cardiac diagnostic services and a range of other services designed specifically for that community. That community is very multicultural, and we need to make sure that we are providing services through that hospital to meet that need. We are investing not only in bricks and mortar—in this case, a massive investment, the first of its kind since 1988 at Fairfield—but also, importantly, from my perspective, in the staff. [*Extension of time*]

When we came to office in March 2023, the Coalition had decided to not fund 1,100 nurses on a permanent basis. Those nurses would have lost their jobs on 1 July last year. That is a lot of nurses not funded—temporarily funded. The Premier, the Treasurer and I made a decision to fund that investment in our nurses, with well over 100 nurses retained in south-west Sydney. What does that mean? A hospital like Fairfield, in a district that has had a growth of over 10,000 in its emergency departments over the past five years and that is home to the two busiest hospitals in the country, Liverpool and Campbelltown, in a growing community that services a multicultural community with distinct disadvantage in terms of health outcomes at times—which the member for Fairfield has addressed in this House on a number of occasions—actually needs, even more than bricks and mortar, staff. That is why we made the decision to ensure that well over 100 nurses are retained as a part of that investment.

Liverpool Hospital was the first where we rolled out safe staffing, with more than 30 additional nurses in its emergency department alone. When it comes to south-western Sydney, we are not only investing in the bricks and mortar, which is important, particularly for a place like Fairfield, which has not had an upgrade since 1988, but also, importantly, from my perspective, we are investing in the staff—the men and women who make up the New South Wales health system.

COMMUNITY CLUBS GAMING TAXES

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (12:56): My question is directed to the Minister for Gaming and Racing. It has been reported in *The Daily Telegraph* that the Minns Labor Government—

[*Interruption*]

I will start again.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The member for Tamworth will be heard in silence. The member for Canterbury will come to order. The Premier will come to order.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: My question is directed to the Minister for Gaming and Racing. It has been reported in *The Daily Telegraph* that the Minns Labor Government is looking at increasing gaming taxes for community clubs. That will have a devastating impact on local communities across regional New South Wales. Will the Minister rule this and any other tax hike on clubs—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: Something about a glass jaw, but I will go on. Will the Minister rule this or any other tax hike on clubs out of the upcoming State budget?

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

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast) (12:58): I thank the shadow Minister for his question, and he would not be surprised that we on the Government side will not be going through an exercise of ruling things in and out before we actually have the budget in June.

Mr Kevin Anderson: Point of order: It is relevance. He just said he would not rule anything out. The Treasurer promised no new taxes at the last election.

The SPEAKER: If there is one more intervention from the member for Tamworth, he will be directed to leave the Chamber. The Minister has the call.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: That is the most excited I have seen the member for Tamworth for a while. We are not going to go through an exercise of ruling things in and out. I can confirm that this Government is undertaking the biggest reforms in gaming for the past 30 years. In the 12 years under those opposite, they talked a lot but did not do much at all. I remind those opposite: Which Government reduced the cash input limit from \$5,000 to \$500 for all new gaming machines?

Government members: Us.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The Labor Government. Which government continued to reduce the statewide cap on gaming machine entitlements so that every year the number of gaming machines reduces based on forfeiture rates?

Government members: Us.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The Labor Government. This is an important one: Which government banned political donations from clubs with electronic gaming machines?

Government members: Us.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: This Government did. Which government banned external gaming-related signage and internal gaming-related signage that can be seen from outside the venue?

Government members: Us.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The Minns Labor Government did. Which government mandated responsible gaming officers in venues with more than 20 gaming machine entitlements? This Government did.

Mr Kevin Anderson: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. It is a yes or no answer. Is the Government going to increase taxes?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: We have put out discussion papers on facial recognition. The first- and third-party exclusion schemes are big reforms. Those opposite are from the "Island of Gunna Do". They talked about what they were going to do but did not do it. Our side is talking to the industry and making good decisions based on facts. We are making sure that we are doing it properly.

The SPEAKER: The member for North Shore will come to order. I expect more of her now that she is on the front bench.

PREMIER'S FLOOD EMERGENCY CITATION

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (13:01): My question is addressed to the Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast. Will the Minister update the House on how the Minns Labor Government is recognising the extraordinary response efforts during the major New South Wales flood events between 2021 and 2023?

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast) (13:01): I thank the member for Wallsend for her question. Flooding is an unfortunate reality for many people living in New South Wales, including communities in Wallsend, in Lismore—where I live—and across the Northern Rivers. The frequency and intensity of events is increasing. We often see the very best in people during these challenging times. This has been demonstrated time and again, with emergency responders out in force and members of the public lending a hand to those in need. It is incredibly important that we honour the bravery and sense of volunteerism that underpins these efforts.

That is why I am delighted the Minns Government has established the Premier's Flood Emergency Citation to recognise the extraordinary response efforts to floods between 2021 and 2023. During that time several communities across New South Wales were hard-hit by flooding events, with some areas even facing consecutive flooding events. We are facing more cascading events that do not qualify as big events but can have a big impact because of their frequency. The immense response efforts are typically recognised during and immediately after these events, but the Premier's citation enables us to reflect on and formally acknowledge these efforts as time goes on.

The citation will be awarded to members of organisations such as the SES and other emergency combat agencies, Defence Force personnel and community-based organisations. It will include individuals from the famed Tinnie Army, who in many ways came to symbolise the public's altruistic response to the challenging Northern Rivers floods of 2022. Thousands of people came out in the lead-up to 28 February 2022. We have also seen the public step up in other places to be good Samaritans and good neighbours. They assisted with evacuations,

helped people or animals trapped by floodwater and even came out in their own helicopters to conduct rescues. We want to recognise notable emergency responders and local heroes with a citation. The flood events include the southern and western New South Wales floods, which occurred between November 2021 and February 2022; and the northern New South Wales and Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley floods, which occurred between February and April 2022. [*Extension of time*]

They will also include the Greater Sydney and Hunter Valley floods, which occurred between June and July 2022, and the southern and western New South Wales floods, which occurred between August 2022 and March 2023. Recipients of the citation will receive a letter of appreciation signed by the Premier, the Minister for Emergency Services and the NSW SES Commissioner, along with a pin and a commemorative certificate. We are fortunate in New South Wales to have strong emergency response agencies and so many people who volunteer their time to serve selflessly and help those in need. This includes the almost 11,000 SES volunteers across the State and also members of VRA Rescue NSW, Surf Life Saving NSW, Marine Rescue, the Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue, and the police.

There are countless individuals who deserve to be commended for their efforts in times of flooding disasters. Communities also want to support and recognise the spontaneous volunteering efforts of members of the public such as the Tinnie Army. Members of the Tinnie Army in my electorate did not really want to be recognised. I have started a process, with the help of others, to look for and identify them so I can tell them to either self-nominate or get someone to do it for them. I am happy to help any other members from the Northern Rivers and other areas with this process. As well as this citation, the New South Wales Government has established a grants program to support the spontaneous volunteering efforts of community and not-for-profit groups. I thank everyone.

SYDNEY ELECTORATE HOUSING

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (13:06): My question is directed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. In the Sydney electorate, developers are redeveloping buildings with many affordable studio and one-bedroom flats into substantially fewer luxury apartments. How will the Minister protect low-cost housing and net housing in the inner city?

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (13:07): I thank the member for Sydney for his question. He is genuinely concerned about housing. Many members in this place were handing out papers at polling booths last weekend that said they supported housing reform but, as the Premier said earlier, the fact is many members opposite do not. There is change going on in the community represented by the member for Sydney and in many other communities across New South Wales. He understands that the reforms we are undertaking are trying to address the housing challenges faced in all parts of the State. These ongoing reforms will help improve the situation. When cities change and older housing stock and buildings are replaced with new ones, there is sometimes a different mix of housing. This is not a new issue; it has been an ongoing part of urban renewal over many decades.

Some communities are rightly asking questions about what the impact of urban renewal is going to be on people with lower incomes. Making sure there are housing options throughout the city that work for people of all ages and income brackets is something that guides the Minns Government's planning reforms. The City of Sydney has proposed changes to its local environmental plan in an attempt to prevent some of the net loss in homes as new development proposals come through. These plans would see the number of homes lost in the redevelopment of an existing building limited to 15 per cent or one dwelling, whichever is greater. That means that if a block of 100 units is being redeveloped, the new building would need to have at least 85 units, or a block of 10 units would need to be replaced with at least eight units. It would also mean that an existing block of small studio apartments could not be knocked down to build a single home or a building with only two luxury apartments.

I know the member for Sydney has been working closely with residents in his electorate on this matter, including the Potts Point Preservation Group, and has been advocating on their behalf. Those residents do not want to see all the homes in their community, some of which are affordable, become luxury apartments, and I can understand that. The City of Sydney's planning proposal was on public exhibition at the end of last year, and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is working with council to finalise that proposal. In the meantime the Government has put incentives in place to make sure that affordable housing is delivered and introduced in all parts of the State. Our infill affordable housing policy, which provides a bonus in height or floor space in exchange for the provision of affordable housing in new developments, is incredibly popular. [*Extension of time*]

That pathway has been in place for a little over 12 months. Ten applications are already approved, which will see the delivery of more than 2,100 homes, of which more than 550 will be affordable homes. Right now another 38 applications are under assessment. If they are all approved, they could see the delivery of more than

9,100 new homes, including more than 2,600 affordable homes. As the Premier pointed to earlier today, on the recommendation of the Housing Delivery Authority, I have declared 86 housing projects State significant development. Included in those is a proportion of affordable housing.

We have insisted that eligibility include some affordable housing in those programs. Our Transport Oriented Development Program includes a requirement for affordable housing to be part of any new housing proposal in those areas from the start, not as an afterthought. Another Government initiative which I know the member for Sydney is a big fan of is our commitment to invest more than \$6 billion in social housing, in both new social housing and repairs, so that homes can be re-tenanted rather than sold off, as they were under the previous Government. I know the member for Sydney is working with Minister Jackson on a pipeline of new investments for his electorate.

The Minns Government is committed to delivering not only more homes for the people of New South Wales but also more social and affordable homes as part of that, so that people of all ages, from all backgrounds and of all income levels can call New South Wales home. We are reforming the planning system to speed up assessments, we are speeding up the construction approvals so work can get underway more quickly, and we are prioritising areas where there is available enabling infrastructure like water and wastewater so people are connected to transport, jobs, public services and opportunities in those new homes. We will continue to work with members like the member for Sydney, who has sensible approaches to housing, because he recognises that that is the best way to build better communities for everyone in New South Wales.

VETERANS SUPPORT

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:12): My question is addressed to the Minister for Veterans. Will the Minister please update the House on the importance of remembering and honouring the service and sacrifice of New South Wales veterans and their families?

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast) (13:12): I thank the member for Campbelltown. Just before Anzac Day, I acknowledged that members from right across the Chamber would be gathering with their communities to give recognition on that day. I am sure that every member was buoyed by the crowds that turned out. In some places the weather was not great, but many, many people still turned out to commemorate the work of our current and former service men and women. I acknowledge the member for Campbelltown, who spent a very special dawn service on top of the Harbour Bridge, together with other veterans and guests of the New South Wales RSL LifeCare. Having experienced that ceremony myself, it is truly a special thing. I know that he really appreciated that.

This Government is committed to acknowledging, remembering and honouring the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families. I was pleased to join the Premier on 14 April to unveil the plans for a new war memorial to acknowledge the contemporary service of those who have served in the Australian Defence Force from 1990 to the present day. That includes the service and sacrifice of those who served in the Middle East campaigns of Iraq and Afghanistan, and all peacekeeping and peacemaking operations. Families of veterans are included in that acknowledgement for the support they provide and the challenges they experience while their loved ones are away in defence of our country.

The new memorial will be constructed in the Domain, the site of Sydney's first Anzac Day service in 1916. I acknowledge, in particular, Billy Maynard and his team for the concept they came up with. It was unanimously endorsed by an expert selection panel led by veterans and endorsed by the project steering and reference groups representing key veteran community organisations, which was important. One of the briefs was that it has to be a living memorial—this memorial is one that can be physically sat on and walked on—and provide a special place of commemoration for those contemporary veterans. All of the materials will be sourced from, and the work will be done in, New South Wales—for example, the brass work will be done at the foundry in Goulburn. That is a significant thing as well. [*Extension of time*]

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge that on Tuesday 15 April we launched the new *NSW Veterans Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030*. That is the next iteration of the veterans strategy originally launched in 2021. It outlines how New South Wales will focus on supporting veterans and their families over the next five years. That includes new actions that respond directly to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and we are looking forward to working with the Federal Government to develop more cooperative strategies to support veterans. In New South Wales traditionally we have had a role of recognition and commemoration. That was expanded to employment, advocacy and community engagement, and we have a growing role in partnership with the Commonwealth to help deliver services.

The new veterans strategy is framed around four key themes of recognition and commemoration, employment and training, advocacy and community engagement, and support. The strategy will help us to understand where the New South Wales Government needs to invest to improve outcomes for veterans and their families in New South Wales. That includes bolstering existing programs and initiatives and creating new ones, with a key focus on recognising service right across government. Whilst the very small Office for Veterans Affairs has a coordinating role, most of the work will be done across all government departments. Another key initiative we have been involved in with the Federal Government is the rollout of Veterans' and Families' Hubs across New South Wales. The hubs are operated by RSL LifeCare. Five are already open and we are looking forward to announcing new ones in the near future. The role of the New South Wales Government has been to help secure sites, and we are looking forward to exciting new announcements shortly.

KEEP ON TRACK YOUTH DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM

Mr RON HOENIG: By leave: Pursuant to Standing Order 131 (7), I table a written response from the Premier to a question asked by the member for Tamworth during question time on 26 March 2025.

Personal Explanation

PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (13:18): By leave: Today the shadow Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism said in his question that I had said, "There was nothing I could do to reclaim Labor power broker Eddie Obeid," and he asked if I stood by that statement. That statement was never made. I have the transcript of what I did say to the journalist, and I will read it to the House. It says:

The Crime Commissioner has revealed this morning they won't be continuing to prosecute the \$30 million that was misused—or came about by misuse—of Eddie Obeid's involvement when he was the Minister.

It's a matter for them but as we know the 2015 decision was opened up and there hasn't been enough evidence to suggest that decision will be overturned which was not to confiscate those funds.

I'm told by the Crime Commissioner Mr Barnes that's on the back of being such a long period of time and such a complex and complicated train of funds that has been dispersed between time and records being destroyed and the intricacies of the Obeid family's trusts.

I know people will be disappointed; I'm one of them. There was never a worse case of misuse of a public office than Eddie Obeid's.

The member for Bathurst needs to retract what he said because he has misled this Parliament. You're a liar. You just make stuff up.

The SPEAKER: Unfortunately, the Minister's contribution went beyond the remit of a personal explanation.

Ms Yasmin Catley: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I don't like liars.

Mr Alister Henskens: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Does the Manager of Opposition Business have a point of order?

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The behaviour of the Minister was unparliamentary and it was exacerbated by the disrespect that she showed to you as Speaker, all of which should result in censure.

The SPEAKER: I note the advice of the Manager of Opposition Business. I will deal with the matter later.

Documents

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDINARY RETURNS

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Constitution Act 1902, I table the Supplementary Ordinary Returns by members of the Legislative Assembly as at 31 December 2024, together with Primary Returns of the member for Pittwater, the member for Epping and the member for Hornsby. I order that the documents be printed.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: INAUGURAL SPEECH

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That business before the House on Wednesday 7 May 2025 be interrupted at the conclusion of the public interest debate to permit the member for Port Macquarie to give his inaugural speech.

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION****Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I announce receipt of the report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Bail compliance checks in NSW—Final Report*, dated April 2025, received on 17 April 2025. I order that the report be printed.

*Committees***JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NET ZERO FUTURE****Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of report No. 1 of the Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future, entitled *2024 Annual Report of the Net Zero Commission, dated March 2025, received out of session on 28 March 2025 and authorised to be printed.*

*Documents***AUDITOR-GENERAL****Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the following:

- (1) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Local government 2024*, dated 31 March 2025, received out of session that day and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Northern Beaches Hospital*, dated 17 April 2025, received out of session that day and authorised to be printed.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I announce receipt of the report of the Office of the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Surveillance Devices Report for the period ending 31 December 2024 - Section 49(1) of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007*, dated April 2025, received out of session on 22 April 2025 and authorised to be printed.

NSW BUSHFIRE INQUIRY**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with the Rural Fires Act 1997, I announce receipt of the *NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report: Implementation of the NSW Government's response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry: Reporting Period October to December 2024*, received out of session on 24 April 2025 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT****Government Response**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 2/58, of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development, entitled *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024*, dated April 2025, received out of session on 29 April 2025 and authorised to be printed.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**Government Response**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 1/58 of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, entitled *Administration of the 2023 NSW state election and other matters*, dated October 2024, received out of session on 1 May 2025 and authorised to be printed.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**Reports**

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 28/58*, dated 6 May 2025. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS OFFICER****Reports**

Mr ALEX GREENWICH: As Chair: In accordance with clause 7 of the resolution for the establishment of an Independent Complaints Officer agreed to by this House on 29 March 2022, I table the report of the Independent Complaints Officer of the New South Wales Parliament to the Legislative Council Privileges Committee and the Legislative Assembly Parliamentary Privileges and Ethics Committee for the period 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

Regional Train Services

ePetition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to retain all regional train services and retain all existing jobs following the merger of Sydney Trains and NSW Trains, presented by **Mr Dave Layzell**.

Wattle Grove Public School Pedestrian Crossing

ePetition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to urgently construct a designated pedestrian crossing on Australis Avenue, Wattle Grove, behind Wattle Grove Public School, presented by **Mrs Tina Ayyad**.

Yumaro Inclusive Living Project

ePetition requesting the Legislative Assembly support the Yumaro Inclusive Living Project and address the accessible housing crisis in Eurobodalla, presented by **Dr Michael Holland**.

Twigg Road Crossing Upgrade

ePetition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to prioritise the immediate upgrade of Twigg Road level crossing and implement a program to progressively upgrade the remaining 859 rural crossings across New South Wales, presented by **Ms Anna Watson**.

The CLERK: I announce that the following ePetitions signed by 500 or more persons have been lodged for presentation:

Building Legislation

ePetition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to maintain the Architects Act 2003 in its current form, establish separate Acts to independently regulate building designers, interior designers, engineers, certifiers and associated professions, establish a scope of permitted works matrix to outline building classes and complexities each profession is qualified and accredited to undertake and embed the matrix in regulations and codes, presented by **Ms Kobi Shetty**.

Community Justice Centres

ePetition requesting that the Government retain Community Justice Centres, presented by **Mr Gareth Ward**.

Bega - South East Regional Hospital Sub-Acute Mental Health Ward

ePetition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to immediately open the sub-acute mental health ward in Bega-South East Regional Hospital, presented by **Dr Michael Holland**.

Fifteenth Avenue Upgrade

ePetition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to prepare and release a multi-year staging plan to upgrade Fifteenth Avenue to provide reliable and safe access between Cowpasture Road and the aerotropolis, fully fund the plan's implementation and provide frequent and direct Liverpool to Western Sydney International Airport bus services, presented by **Mr Mark Coure**.

Bush Babies Campaign

ePetition requesting that the Government bundle funding across all maternity settings and care providers to promote equity in funding and service delivery; establish an advisory group on rural health; establish an inquiry into the decline of rural and remote maternity services, including a review of how and where data is collected; and evaluate consumer satisfaction with current maternity services, with a focus on mothers' autonomy in decision-making and respect, as outlined in the Women-Centred Care Strategy, to enhance the accessibility, quality, and equity of maternity care across New South Wales, presented by **Mr Gurmesh Singh**.

The CLERK: I announce that the following paper petition signed by 500 or more persons has been lodged for presentation:

Forbes Police Station

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to provide a 24-hour staffed police station in Forbes, presented by **Mr Philip Donato**.

The SPEAKER: I announce that the following ePetition signed by 20,000 or more persons has been lodged for presentation:

Young Offenders Bail Laws

ePetition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to strengthen bail laws to prevent young offenders from re-offending, provide increased resources and support for police officers to effectively apprehend and prosecute offenders, and review the judicial system to prioritise community safety, presented by **Mr Kevin Anderson**.

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

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The CLERK: I announce that the following Ministers have lodged responses to ePetitions signed by 500 or more persons:

The Hon. Michael Daley—Illawarra and South Coast Drug Court—lodged 18 March 2025 (Ms Anna Watson)

The Hon. Stephen Kamper—Bathurst Regional Council Cemeteries—lodged 18 March 2025 (Mr Paul Toole)

The CLERK: I announce that the following Ministers have lodged responses to paper petitions signed by 500 or more persons:

The Hon. Stephen Kamper—Nullica Lodge—lodged 25 March 2025 (Dr Michael Holland)

The Hon. Jenny Aitchison—Wagga Wagga Inland Rail Line Route—lodged 20 March 2025 (Dr Joe McGirr)

The Hon. Penny Sharpe—Kosciuszko National Park Wildlife Management—28 March 2025 (Dr Joe McGirr)

The CLERK: I announce that the following Ministers have lodged responses to paper petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons:

The Hon. Stephen Kamper—Bathurst Regional Council Cemeteries—lodged 19 March 2025 (Mr Paul Toole)

The Hon. Ryan Park—Wee Waa Hospital—lodged 19 March 2025 (Mr Roy Butler)

*Business of the House***BUSINESS LAPSED**

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 general business order of the day (for bills) for the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment (Offences Repeal) Bill 2024 has lapsed.

[Notices of motions given.]

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

*Bills***VICTIMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VICTIMS REGISTERS) BILL 2025****First Reading**

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Anoulack Chanthivong, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

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) (14:30): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The New South Wales Government is pleased to introduce the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Register) Bill 2025. This bill marks another critical step in the New South Wales Government's commitment to improving our justice system and supporting victims of crime as we work to create a safer New South Wales. What these reforms show is that the Minns Government is open to improving our laws and services when genuine concerns are raised. We are delivering on what we see as our fundamental responsibility to ensure that the services we provide reflect the needs of those they are designed to serve. We know that a crucial part of this work is listening to victims and ensuring that our laws are operating effectively to meet their needs in a meaningful, trauma-informed way.

One crucial way that the Government offers support to victims is through the provision of victims registers. I am proud to note that the first victims register in New South Wales, operated by Corrective Services NSW, was established by the Carr Labor Government in 1996. The register was established in recognition of the need to provide a supportive service to victims in what is often the most distressing period they may face in their lives. Victims registers play a crucial role in supporting victims of crime. They are designed to provide victims with specific information about an offender, such as details about their sentence, release dates or changes in their legal status. This information helps victims understand the custodial framework in which the offender is supervised, enabling them to make informed decisions for their safety and planning if necessary. Beyond safety, being kept informed can also reduce anxiety, giving victims peace of mind and a sense of control. Additionally, registered victims are able to make submissions related to key events, such as an inmate's parole or unsupervised leave.

These submissions allow victims to express their views and request conditions they feel should be imposed on the offender if leave or parole is granted. Furthermore, victims can be referred to support services through the registers, enhancing advocacy and connection to necessary support. There are three victims registers in New South Wales: the Correctives Services NSW Victims Register for victims of adult offenders; the Youth Justice Victims Register for victims of young offenders; and the Specialist Victims Register for victims of forensic patients in cases such as where there has been a finding of act proven but not criminally responsible. The three New South Wales victims registers are based on an opt-in model whereby a victim chooses whether to register. The opt-in model was implemented in 1996 in accordance with the preferences of victim advocates at the time, who were of the view that victims should be able to choose whether to register. However, a challenge of this model is that it relies on a victim being aware of the existence of the register and their eligibility to register.

In late 2024 the Premier publicly committed to consulting with victims and their representatives about ways to improve the operation of victims registers. This followed advocacy by Samantha Barlow, a former New South Wales police officer, who only became aware of the existence of the Corrective Services victims register just prior to the perpetrator of the horrific offence committed against her being considered for parole. This bill will legislate a new requirement for agencies who administer the victims registers to proactively notify victims of certain serious offenders of their right to be on the register and access the benefits it has to offer. It will ensure that in the future victims who would like to be kept informed, will be. The model for this new notification process was developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including victims and victims' advocacy and support

services. Stakeholders were invited to participate in roundtable discussions, held between December 2024 and February 2025, and additionally to provide written submissions to a consultation paper.

Feedback from the consultation was that there was a lack of awareness of victim registers and their functions. Stakeholders were invited to consider whether an opt-out model was preferable to the existing opt-in model. Under an opt-out model, all eligible victims would be registered automatically and then given an opportunity to opt out. The majority of victims provided feedback that they do not want to be registered with a victims register without their consent, and that they want to retain their autonomy over whether to register. What we know is that there will be many victims who do not wish to register because they do not want to receive regular updates or be further reminded about the often traumatic events they have been through and would prefer to put the past behind them. This aligns with feedback from victims' groups who were consulted when the Corrective Services NSW victims register was originally established.

Stakeholders indicated that within an opt-in model there could be value in directly contacting victims to inform them of their eligibility to register. However, this should be targeted to balance risks around re-traumatisation from unexpected contact and re-exposure to painful topics. The reforms in this bill respond to this feedback by introducing a positive obligation on the agencies responsible for victims registers to notify victims of serious offenders of their eligibility to register as soon as practicable after becoming aware that a victim is eligible to register. Legislating a positive obligation on agencies to notify victims of serious offenders that they are eligible to register is seen to strike the appropriate balance between making sure that victims know about and can access their right to be on the register, while maintaining victims' agency and choice about whether to opt in.

Limiting the notification obligation to victims of serious offenders in line with stakeholder feedback will ensure that those victims most likely to be seriously impacted by crime and to have an interest in the offender's progress through the system are made aware of their right to register. Responsible agencies will not be required to notify a victim about the register if the agency does not have the sufficient information to inform the person, despite having taken reasonable steps to ascertain that information from prosecuting authorities. This ensures that an agency will not breach their obligation in situations where victims are unable to be identified or unable to be contacted due to inaccurate contact details, for example. Agencies will also not be required to notify an eligible victim if they are aware that the victim does not wish to be recorded in the register or does not wish to be contacted in relation to the relevant offender. This is an important safeguard to ensure that victims' wishes are respected.

I now turn to the specifics of the bill. Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the bill will introduce a legislative obligation on agencies responsible for administering the three victims registers in New South Wales to notify victims of certain serious offenders of the existence of the register and the victims' eligibility to register. Schedule 1 to the bill relates to the victims register for victims of young offenders established under the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987, which is administered by Youth Justice NSW. Schedule 2 to the bill relates to the victims register for victims of adult offenders established under the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, which is administered by Corrective Services NSW. Schedule 3 relates to the victims register for victims of certain forensic patients established under the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020, which is administered by the Commissioner of Victims Rights.

Each of these schedules amends the relevant legislation to provide that the agency administering the relevant register must notify eligible victims about the existence of the register and their eligibility to register, as soon as practicable after becoming aware that a person is an eligible victim. For the Youth Justice NSW and Corrective Services NSW registers under schedules 1 and 2 to the bill, the notification obligation only applies in relation to victims of certain serious offenders, which are defined in the respective legislation for each register, as reflected within the bill. To be clear, the cohort targeted through this bill is a smaller subset of all victims who are eligible to register to be on a victims register.

For the Corrective Services register, victims who are eligible to be registered include a victim of an offender serving a sentence of imprisonment by full-time detention, a victim of an offender serving an intensive correction order for a personal violence offence, a victim of a high-risk offender and a victim of a terrorism offender. For the Youth Justice NSW register, eligible victims are victims of an offence for which the offender has been sentenced to a control order or a sentence of imprisonment where the offender was under the age of 18 at the time of the offence. Limiting the notification obligation to victims of serious offenders responds to stakeholder feedback that direct contact with victims to inform them about the register should be limited to victims of particularly serious offences. This balances the risks around re-traumatisation from unexpected contact and re-exposure to very painful topics.

The focus on victims of serious offenders is, further, taken on the basis that victims of serious crimes may be more likely to want to access the benefits of the victims register, such as making a submission about an offender's parole, due to the significant impact that serious crimes may have. Stakeholders also indicated that victims of serious crimes are most likely to be overwhelmed in the immediate aftermath of the legal process,

requiring support to ensure that their rights are upheld. For the Youth Justice NSW register, the notification obligation is limited to victims of serious young offenders as defined in section 37N of the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987—namely, "a detainee who has been convicted of a serious children's indictable offence within the meaning of the Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987".

For the Corrective Services NSW register, "serious offender" will include an offender under subsections (a), (b), (c) and (e) of the definition of "serious offender" in section 3 of the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999. That includes an offender who is serving a sentence for life; an offender who is serving a sentence for which a non-parole period has been set in accordance with schedule 1 to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999—that is, an offender who was serving a life sentence prior to the enactment of truth in sentencing legislation—an offender who is serving a sentence of imprisonment, or one of a series of sentences of imprisonment, where the term of the sentence or the combined terms of all of the sentences in the series is such that the offender will not become eligible for release from custody, including release on parole, until the offender has spent at least 12 years in custody; and an offender who has been convicted of murder and who is subject to a sentence in respect of the conviction.

Offenders falling under subsections (d), (e1), (e2) and (f) of the definition of "serious offender" in the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, including offenders subject to a continued detention order under the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006 or the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Act 2017, will not be included because these categories relate to orders made after the offender has already been sentenced and spent time in custody for the original offence. The reasons for becoming subject to a continued detention order may not relate to the victim or victims of the original offence, who may be re-traumatised by being contacted years later. Where the original offending also falls within the definition of serious offending—as would often be the case—including these categories would also involve a second mandatory contact, including for victims who chose not to register on the first occasion and may not welcome further correspondence.

For the Specialist Victims Register under schedule 3 to the bill, all eligible victims of forensic patients will be required to be notified. Eligible victims for the Specialist Victims Register are victims of forensic patients who have received a special verdict of act proven but not criminally responsible for the offence against the victim, as well as victims of forensic patients who have received a limiting term following a special hearing. Given the particular needs of victims of forensic patients, it is appropriate that all of these victims be notified about the Specialist Victims Register rather than that a separate cohort be prescribed based on the seriousness of the offending. Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the bill provide that, in relation to each of the registers, notifiable family members who are known to prosecuting authorities be notified instead of the primary victim in situations where the victim is deceased, is under incapacity or is under the age of 18. This reflects existing legislated provisions across the registers which provide for family member representatives to be recorded on the register instead of the primary victim.

Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the bill also provide that the relevant responsible agency is not required to notify a victim about the register if the agency does not have the sufficient information to inform the person, despite having taken reasonable steps to ascertain that information from prosecuting authorities. This ensures that an agency will not breach their obligation in situations where victims are unable to be identified or unable to be contacted—for example, due to inaccurate contact details. Similarly, schedules 1, 2 and 3 provide with respect to each agency that the requirement to notify an eligible victim does not apply if the agency is aware that that the victim does not wish to be recorded in the register or does not wish to be contacted in relation to the relevant offender. This would include, for example, where the victim has already indicated to New South Wales police or the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions that they do not wish to engage with the register.

Schedule 4 to the bill contains amendments to facilitate the sharing of information between agencies to enable victims to be notified about victims registers. As agencies responsible for administering the registers do not hold victim contact information prior to registration, this information will need to be obtained from relevant prosecuting authorities, including the NSW Police Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Schedule 4 [2] to the bill amends section 7 of the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 to ensure that a victim's contact information can be shared for the purpose of informing victims about services, support or assistance available to them, including advising victims of their eligibility to be registered on a victims register.

The bill does this by providing that section 6.8 of the Charter of Victims Rights, which provides that a victim's residential address and telephone number will not be disclosed unless a court otherwise directs, does not apply when an agency is disclosing, to the extent reasonably necessary, a victim's contact information to allow another agency to inform the victim about services, support or assistance available to them, including advising victims of their eligibility to be recorded on a victims register. This amendment is needed so that prosecuting authorities can share a victim's phone number and address with the agency administering the register so that the agency can contact the victim by letter or by phone. Schedule 4 to the bill also amends the Victims Rights and

Support Act 2013 to clarify that the sharing of victim information between agencies responsible for administering the registers and other agencies is permissible under privacy legislation.

Schedule 4 to the bill does this by inserting a new subsection into the existing information-sharing provision under section 112A of the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013, which exempts agencies from specific sections of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 when victim information is disclosed for specific purposes. Schedule 4 [4] inserts new section 112A (1) (c), which provides that victims rights agencies are not required to comply with privacy legislation where that would prevent them from the disclosure of personal information that is reasonably necessary to enable an agency to comply with an obligation to notify victims about victims registers. Schedule 4 [5] also provides that the disclosure of health information is similarly permissible. This is relevant to the sharing of information for the Specialist Victims Register, given that the fact that a person is a forensic patient is health information under the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002.

To conclude on the specifics, I make clear that the key legislative change delivered through this bill is a positive obligation on agencies responsible for notifying victims of serious offenders in the circumstances, and subject to the exceptions I have outlined above. Subsequent amendments are proposed to additional Acts to enable this positive obligation to operate. The bill does not amend the existing frameworks for the operation of the victims registers in New South Wales, including the eligibility of victims or the notifications that they receive once they choose to register. The Government is committed to supporting a victim-centric approach to administering the victims registers that is both accessible and sensitive to the needs of diverse victim groups and addresses identified relating to registration.

I thank all of the individual victims who contributed to this reform for their contributions and brave advocacy, including Samantha Barlow, Laurence Barlow, Martha Jabour and Howard Brown. I thank also the many victims support and advocacy groups that were consulted, including Homicide Victims' Support Group; Victims of Terrorism Australia; Women's Legal Service NSW; Wirringa Baiya; Domestic Violence NSW; Full Stop Australia; No to Violence; Victims of Crime Assistance League; Knowmore; Fighters Against Child Abuse Australia; Survivors & Mates Support Network; Victims Advisory Board; Enough is Enough; People with Disability Australia; Intellectual Disability Rights Service and ACON.

These reforms show that the NSW Government takes seriously its responsibility to protect community safety and support victims of crime. This includes responding to calls for improvements to the systems in place to support those affected by the heinous and deplorable offences that have unfortunately taken place in our State. By legislating a mandatory notification for victims of serious offenders, these reforms give those victims who wish to seek it, the greater peace of mind and support for safety planning that they deserve. I am proud to deliver a bill that achieves a careful balance between improving the current registration process for victims registers while responding to victims' feedback about the importance of maintaining victims' agency and consent. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

IDENTITY PROTECTION AND RECOVERY BILL 2025

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Jihad Dib, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (14:51): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Identity Protection and Recovery Bill 2025. This bill will create a new Act to establish a core government provider of identity protection and recovery services and certain fraud control services within New South Wales. The bill will also provide necessary statutory exemptions from New South Wales laws that limit disclosure of information. The identity protection and recovery and fraud control functions under the bill are conferred on the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service, which I will call DCS. The secretary's functions are proposed to be delegated to the ID Support NSW business unit in DCS.

While this legislation is new, ID Support has been operating successfully since late 2021 in response to the increasing data compromises affecting people in New South Wales. ID Support has been operating under the ID Support NSW Privacy Code of Practice - identity remediation services, since July 2022. The privacy code provides limited exemptions to some of the restrictions in the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, which I will call the PPIP Act. The privacy code exemptions currently allow ID Support to provide identity protection and recovery services, for the most part, to public sector agencies. The privacy code was only intended

to be an interim measure until legislation could be enacted, and there are some limitations on what ID Support can do under the privacy code.

Data compromises pose risks to individuals, government and organisations and are increasing. Unfortunately, large-scale data compromises have become the new normal. Data compromises pose a huge risk to individuals. If a person's identity documents fall into the hands of malicious actors, they can be used to apply for bank loans, to open telephone accounts and to cause all sorts of financial harm. The Australian Institute of Criminology estimates that identity crime costs Australia \$3.1 billion per year. Those costs are incurred by individual victims, businesses and government agencies. Even if it is just a person's contact details that are lost in a breach, malicious actors can then use that information to try to scam them or to attempt to trick them into giving away more information, such as identity and banking details. In 2024, according to ScamWatch, New South Wales residents reportedly lost over \$115 million through more than 67,000 reported scams. Scams are big business and the more we can do to keep personal information out of scammers' hands, the better.

ID Support plays a critical role in preventing, responding to and mitigating the risks related to data compromise and identity fraud. There is a clear need for this service. Over more than three years of operation, ID Support has clearly demonstrated its value to the people of New South Wales. ID Support delivers critical responses to data compromises, along with identity protection and recovery services to impacted individuals, public sector agencies and private sector entities. ID Support has played a critical role in significant data compromises across both the public and private sectors. Those have included data compromises affecting major companies like Optus, ClubsNSW and Outabox, Medibank Private, Latitude Financial, HWL Ebsworth and, more recently, Genea.

Since its inception, ID Support has facilitated nearly 200,000 notifications to affected individuals and has handled approximately 50,000 calls with individuals impacted by data breaches or identity misuse. In 2023-2024 alone, ID Support assisted more than 40,000 customers impacted by identity misuse and data compromises and delivered nearly 200 interactive events, educating more than 51,000 individuals across New South Wales on identity, privacy and cyber security resilience. Partnering with the NSW Police Force and Cyber Security NSW, ID Support has also proactively notified more than 7,000 New South Wales residents who have had their stolen personal information posted on the internet or identified during police investigations. ID Support works closely with the NSW Police Force and Service NSW to deliver help to the community. Importantly, ID Support also cooperates with Transport for NSW, which issues what is likely the most-used identity document in the country: the New South Wales driver licence. Working in partnership with other New South Wales public sector agencies has been a key element in ID Support's approach.

ID Support has also provided community outreach and education in a strategic and targeted way to ensure that the most vulnerable people are supported to protect their identities and know who to go to when their information is compromised. This included attending the 2025 NSW Seniors Festival Expo in March and holding a morning identi-TEA webinar to answer our senior citizens' important questions about how best to protect themselves online. It also included developing the Keeping Your Identity Safe e-learning module to empower young people to protect their information and identity from the age of 15 and beyond, when they start receiving more critical identity documents and transacting online, as well as preparing a multilingual cyber security awareness campaign and cyber safety online program as part of the New South Wales Digital Inclusion Strategy. That campaign will help to ensure accessible educational materials for culturally and linguistically diverse members of the community.

Recently I visited one of our local senior citizens who I have come to know through the RSL. In the course of our conversation she told me that she was nearly the victim of a scam. However, she had done the training that was facilitated by ID Support on scam awareness and was able to avoid the traps. That is a real-life example of some of the outreach, the impact it can have on vulnerable people and the difference it can make. I thank ID Support and the New South Wales public sector agencies that play such a vital role in protecting people, government and organisations from data compromises. ID Support is leading by example, nationally and internationally, on how the Government can support its citizens to build their digital resilience and safety, as well as mitigate identity fraud in the economy.

ID Support and this bill are key parts of the NSW Digital Strategy, which I was proud to announce the launch of in October 2024. The strategy sets the direction for how we will deliver world-class digital services that strengthen our communities and support the State's economic growth. It includes 58 commitments, two of which relate directly to ID Support and the contents of this bill. Commitment 10 is to establish a compromised credential register to prevent fraud and better support people who have had their data breached. Today we are delivering on that commitment by establishing the Compromised ID Register through the bill. Commitment 11 is to implement legislation to improve safety and recovery services for victims of identity theft. The Identity Protection and

Recovery Bill 2025 is one piece of legislation that will contribute to that commitment. I am proud to be introducing this bill today.

The bill has been developed in consultation with stakeholders. The Government consulted on the bill with New South Wales government agencies, relevant Commonwealth agencies and subject matter experts in the fields of privacy, cybersecurity and digital inclusion. The consultation was tremendously valuable, and every submission received on the bill was carefully considered to help inform the bill. There was a clear theme from the submissions that ID Support is an important service that provides significant value to the people of New South Wales. The bill will consolidate ID Support's functions and expand its role. The bill will consolidate and expand on ID Support's current operations, ensuring that it remains a critical identity protection and fraud prevention resource in New South Wales.

I move now to the key features of the bill. Proposed section 5 defines compromised personal information as personal information that is known or suspected to have been used, accessed, disclosed or lost unlawfully or without authorisation, or lost or disclosed unintentionally. Proposed section 7 provides that a personal data compromise means a known or suspected unauthorised or unlawful use, access, disclosure or loss of personal information, or an unintentional disclosure or loss of personal information. The ways that personal information can be compromised have been captured in proposed sections 5 and 7 to ensure that ID Support can support individuals and organisations regardless of the source of a compromise.

The definition covers many situations, including when ID Support locates a cache of unsecured identity information on the dark web or clear web and cannot definitively determine whether the information was intentionally or maliciously released; when a public sector agency or private sector entity advises ID Support that it suspects its systems have been penetrated by malicious actors; when a financial institution suspects that an application or transaction has been attempted by an individual using identity documents that do not belong to them; and when an individual contacts ID Support and advises that they suspect their identity has been compromised—for example, they have been notified of activity on their bank accounts that they do not recognise.

Proposed section 9 confers the identity protection functions on the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service. Proposed section 17 of the bill gives the secretary the power to delegate those functions, for example, to staff in the ID Support business unit within the department. The identity protection and recovery functions in proposed section 10 largely establish and expand in New South Wales law the existing services provided by ID Support under the privacy code. They allow ID Support to do two overarching things. The first is to advise and make recommendations to mitigate the risk of harm to individuals when a personal data compromise occurs, and to increase resilience and protection against personal data compromises. The second is to respond to personal data compromises, including by advising on and recommending actions to replace or reissue identity documents and protect and recover personal information; by advising on the risk of harm to impacted individuals; and by notifying impacted individuals and providing information to government agencies or private sector entities to help them to notify impacted individuals quickly.

To demonstrate how the identity protection and recovery functions will work in the real world, I will give an example. Imagine there has been a data compromise where a malicious actor—in other words, a bad person—has obtained information from a New South Wales government agency or a business. The agency or business quickly determines that it is likely that personal information has been compromised in the data compromise. Under proposed section 10, that agency or business can seek assistance from ID Support, including advice on how to respond and protect information from further compromise and how to notify impacted individuals. ID Support can give tailored advice to the agency or business based on what information has been compromised and the level of risk posed to impacted individuals. ID Support can then also seek up-to-date contact information for the impacted individuals from other New South Wales government agencies, such as Transport for NSW or Service NSW, and notify the individuals that their information may have been compromised. If it is more appropriate, ID Support can provide those contact details to the entity that experienced the compromise so that it can directly notify impacted individuals. That way, notification can be tailored to ensure people are being notified in a timely and sensitive manner.

The identity protection and recovery functions are also about supporting individuals whose information is accessed via a data compromise. Proposed section 10 (a) and (b) give ID Support express education and advice functions before a data compromise has even occurred. As I mentioned before, ID Support will continue undertaking proactive community education to support individuals to mitigate the likelihood of their information being compromised, mitigate their risks when information is compromised, and increase protections from data compromise. This means that a person who is impacted by a data compromise may have already attended an ID Support presentation or accessed information on ID Support's website about how to protect their identity. The story I provided about my local constituent is a perfect example of that. Thanks to ID Support, that person may already know to not click on suspicious links or give out personal information over the telephone and may already

be protecting themselves from some of the immediate and significant risks posed to them when their information is compromised.

Following the data compromise, proposed section 10 (c) allows either the impacted entity or ID Support to notify the individual that their information has been compromised. When providing this notification, ID Support or the impacted entity can include information about how they can get more support to protect their information, including by contacting ID Support or seeking to have any compromised identity documents, like a driver licence, suspended, cancelled or replaced. ID Support can then advise the individual or make recommendations about whether they need to replace their identity documents and how they should go about doing that.

Proposed section 11 sets out the identity fraud control functions. While ID Support currently carries out some limited fraud control functions, the bill creates an expansion of that role. The fraud control functions include advising and making recommendations regarding actions to take to detect, prevent and mitigate the likelihood of identity fraud. The functions also include establishing the Compromised ID Register; adding identity documents that ID Support knows or suspects to be compromised to the register; and notifying the identity document holder and issuing authority that an identity document has been added. The functions also include facilitating checks of the Compromised ID Register and/or a person's life status for fraud check users, including approving public sector agencies and private entities as fraud check users. Once approved, a fraud check user can then request information about an identity document including whether that identity document has been registered on the Compromised ID Register, and the identity document holder's life status, which means whether that person is known to have died.

I will speak more on these important fraud control measures shortly when I turn to proposed part 3 of the bill. The bill recognises the need for ID Support to be able to work closely with a number of other agencies that play an important role in the management of data compromises and the protection of identity. This is introduced via the term "partner authority" in proposed section 13, which sets up a process to enable ID Support to lawfully share information with those key agencies to ensure that agencies experiencing a data compromise are supported to respond quickly and appropriately.

Proposed section 13 establishes the NSW Privacy Commissioner as a partner authority, along with similar authorities of other Australian jurisdictions. It also provides for an authority of the Commonwealth with functions under an Act of the Commonwealth to manage cybersecurity incidents to be prescribed by the regulations as a partner authority. Proposed section 15 enables the secretary to exercise identity protection functions for residents of other States and Territories, as well as public sector agencies of the Commonwealth, or other States and Territories. The national and global nature of online transactions means that governments and other organisations collect information about people who do not reside in their State or Territory, so a data compromise of another jurisdiction's public sector agency is quite likely to affect some New South Wales residents or New South Wales identity document holders.

As I said before, ID Support is unique in Australia—no other States or Territories have a service like it. Proposed section 15 allows for ID Support to provide its services when government agencies outside New South Wales experience a data compromise, particularly where they may not have the resources needed in house. Proposed section 16 enables the prescription of fees for ID Support's services in regulations. Stakeholders will be consulted on the fee and charging framework to be set out in the regulations. It is important to note that the use of ID Support services is voluntary—there will be no compulsion for any government agency or private sector entity to use ID Support.

I now turn to proposed part 3 of the bill. To demonstrate how the Compromised ID Register and fraud checks will work to improve the State's fraud mitigation tools, let us return to the example I used earlier of an individual whose information was exposed in a data compromise. Let us imagine that the compromised information includes that person's New South Wales driver licence number and card number. Proposed section 19 allows ID Support to record information relating to a compromised identity document, such as the New South Wales driver licence number and card number, on the Compromised ID Register if it is of the opinion that the identity document has or may have been compromised.

What constitutes an identity document is provided for under proposed section 6 and proposed schedule 1—that is, all documents currently accepted under the Commonwealth Identity Verification Services Act 2023 for identity proofing and verification. This ensures that any document—like a driver licence—that could be used to prove a person's identity can be protected by being placed on the Compromised ID Register if it has, or may have, been compromised. Adding an identity document to the Compromised ID Register provides swift protection to that identity document and its holder.

Under proposed section 20 the secretary must remove records about an individual from the Compromised ID Register if requested by the individual in an approved way, and if the secretary is satisfied the request is for a purpose prescribed by the regulations. This ensures individuals are empowered to protect their identity and can

contact ID Support if the identity document needs to be removed from the Compromised ID Register. Proposed section 20 also makes it clear that the secretary may remove an identity document from the Compromised ID Register at the request of the issuer of the identity document or the NSW Police Force, if the request is for a purpose prescribed by the regulations.

Enabling issuing authorities and the NSW Police Force to request that identity documents be removed from the Compromised ID Register acknowledges the important role they play in protecting identity and the community. However, identity documents can only be removed at request for certain reasons, which will be prescribed in the regulations. The reasons for removing an identity document from the Compromised ID Register will be about balancing the safety and privacy of individuals against the need to protect individuals, government and organisations from identity fraud.

Proposed section 22 (1) requires the secretary to notify impacted individuals "as soon as reasonably practicable" when an identity document is recorded on the Compromised ID Register. To use the example I have given, the bill gives effect to notifying an individual in two ways. One, it allows ID Support to notify the individual that their identity document may have been compromised in a data compromise impacting an entity. Two, proposed section 22 then actually requires ID Support to notify that person, as soon as reasonably practicable, if their identity document is placed on the Compromised ID Register.

In practice, there may be just one notification that informs the individual that their information has been compromised and that their identity document has been placed on the Compromised ID Register. The notification requirement ultimately upholds the individual's right to privacy and minimises the privacy impacts of the Compromised ID Register. In the example I have given, once notified that their identity document is known or suspected to be compromised and will be placed on the Compromised ID Register, the individual is empowered to take action to protect themselves, for example, by seeking to suspend, cancel or replace their identity document. I am advised that, when notifying individuals that their identity document has been placed on the Compromised ID Register, ID Support will include information about how to protect their identity document, including to suspend, cancel or replace it. The bill allows ID Support to do this.

Proposed section 23 (1) also requires the secretary to notify the issuing authority of an identity document when the document is recorded on the Compromised ID Register "as soon as reasonably practicable". Proposed section 23 (3) allows the secretary to also give relevant information to the issuing authority and recommend they take certain steps in response to the compromised identity document being recorded on the Compromised ID Register. These might include, for example, steps to protect the identity document, including to suspend, cancel or replace it. Again, in the example given, this means that ID Support can act as a conduit between the individual whose identity document has been compromised and the issuing authority. This ultimately supports the two parties that can take action on the identity document—the holder and the issuer—to act swiftly to reduce the risk of identity misuse.

A key concept under the bill is the creation of the role of fraud check user. Proposed section 25 provides for organisations to apply to become one. The persons or classes of persons that may be eligible to be fraud check users will be set out in the regulations. I anticipate that organisations that typically undertake identity proofing as part of their business could be able to apply to become a fraud check user. Fraud check users may include New South Wales government agencies, housing providers, education providers, telecommunication companies, insurers, banks and credit card companies.

Turning to the example I have given, imagine that whoever was responsible for the original data compromise obtained the individual's driver licence details and placed them on the dark web. Another malicious actor has then downloaded those driver licence details from the dark web and used them to apply for a credit card in the individual's name. The credit card provider has been approved as a fraud check user under proposed section 25, so when verifying that person's identity through the Commonwealth's Document Verification Service, the credit card provider also requests a check through ID Support regarding whether that licence is on the Compromised ID Register.

Proposed section 26 (4) (a) requires that the identity document holder must have consented to the fraud check user undertaking a check of the Compromised ID Register. This is to ensure that fraud check users only check the Compromised ID Register with the full knowledge and consent of the identity document holder. Proposed section 26 (4) (b) provides that a fraud check user may only request information about whether an identity document is on the Compromised ID Register to reduce the risk of fraudulent use of the individual's identity, or for another purpose prescribed by the regulations. This is important, as it ensures an entity cannot just request information about a person's identity document as they please.

There needs to be a clear connection to ensuring that the identity document is not being used fraudulently. Under proposed section 26, ID Support can provide to the credit card company a "yes" response, meaning that the

licence is on the compromised ID register because it has, or may have been, compromised. The Compromised ID Register does not block identity documents from being used to verify a person's identity. It is up to the fraud check user as to how to proceed with a transaction, in line with their own policies, procedures and legal requirements.

In this example, the credit card provider may choose to pause the application and ask for more identity documents, or for the applicant to attend the company's premises in person to confirm their identity. In circumstances where the applicant cannot or will not do so, the credit card provider may choose not to proceed with the transaction. ID Support will issue guidance to support fraud check users, identity document holders and issuing authorities to understand what steps to take to reduce the risk of fraud if an identity document is on the Compromised ID Register. For example, the fraud check user might request other documents for identity proofing purposes, ask the person to attend in person to prove their identity or conduct a video call so that they can check that the person matches the photograph on the identity document.

The Compromised ID Register will help stop fraud, protecting the individual, the organisation and ultimately the broader economy. Another new service that will be provided by ID Support is undertaking life status checks for fraud mitigation purposes. Proposed section 27 provides that fraud check users may only request these checks—that is, information about whether or not a person is known to have died—for relevant purposes. These are, firstly, assessing the risk of harm to that individual and notifying them following a data compromise; and, secondly, reducing the risk of fraudulent use of the individual's identity in the event the individual is deceased. These purposes are about ensuring the life status checks, firstly, help entities that have experienced a data compromise to ensure they are contacting the right people and to ensure ID Support or the compromised entity does not attempt to contact a deceased person, which may cause distress to bereaved families; and, secondly, protect the fraud check user from potentially fraudulent activity, along with the assets and estates of deceased people, making sure their families are not left vulnerable to fraud.

Proposed section 4 of the bill provides relevant exemptions from New South Wales privacy laws to make sure ID Support is not prevented from undertaking its important identity protection and recovery and fraud control functions. Proposed section 31 provides the secretary with authority to collect, hold, use and disclose personal information when exercising a function under the bill, and allows New South Wales public sector agencies to do the same for the purpose of an ID Support identity protection and recovery or fraud control function. This covers two main scenarios: where ID Support is helping a New South Wales public sector agency that has experienced a data compromise; and where a New South Wales public sector agency is assisting ID Support to respond to a data compromise, for example, by providing it with up-to-date contact details so it can notify an individual that their identity document is being listed on the Compromised ID Register.

The PPIP Act and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 provide important privacy protections which restrict the handling of personal and health information. However, they can limit the assistance that ID Support can provide following a data compromise when it needs to be able to assist its customers to assess compromised personal information and notify impacted individuals. It is important that ID Support can respond quickly to a data compromise, as individuals may be at risk of identity theft and financial harm until identity protection and recovery and fraud control measures can be adopted, including steps to prevent the identity document being used in unauthorised transactions. Proposed section 33 provides other protections from civil, criminal or disciplinary liability that might otherwise arise from disclosures between ID Support, its customers or law enforcement.

Proposed section 38 provides for the making of regulations required or permitted under the bill, or necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to the bill. It also requires the Minister to consult the NSW Privacy Commissioner on any regulations proposed to be made under sections of the bill that could impact on people's privacy. Proposed section 39 of the bill requires the Minister to review the operation of the Act as soon as practicable after the period of two years from the Act's commencement. The review is for the purpose of determining two things: whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid, and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing the policy objectives. Reviewing the Act from the second anniversary of the Act's commencement will provide a timely opportunity for the Government to consider, along with stakeholders, how the legislation and ID Support are working to provide important protections for identity and fraud mitigation across New South Wales.

Proposed section 3 of the bill amends the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, the GIPA Act. The amendment provides a conclusive presumption that there is an overriding public interest against the disclosure of information contained in a document prepared for advising on, or the assessment of, a personal data compromise under the bill if the information could worsen a person's cybersecurity or lead to further personal data compromises. For the exemption to apply to information or a document, there are two threshold questions, and both must be met. One, was the information or document prepared for the purpose of either advising on a personal data compromise or assessing the personal data compromise? If yes, two, could release of the information

worsen a person's cybersecurity or lead to further data compromise? Threshold question one includes information prepared for advising on or assessing a personal data compromise to ensure any information prepared for ID Support to carry out its functions under the Act is potentially covered.

Threshold question two covers any legal person, including a public sector agency, private entity or an individual. It covers information that could pose risks to that person if released under the GIPA Act, especially if it fell into the hands of a malicious actor—for example, information that might expose entities' cyber vulnerabilities, give insight into their cybersecurity practices or indicate advice that ID Support has given about how to improve cybersecurity following a data compromise. This information could be used to inform further attacks on a relevant entity, or other entities that have similar cybersecurity practices. Documents or information that might expose an individual to further personal data compromise include personal information and identity documents, but could cover any information or advice that could risk further personal data compromise. The conclusive presumption for disclosures made under this bill will ensure that sensitive personal or cybersecurity information disclosed to ID Support in the exercise of its functions cannot be released and fall into the wrong hands.

The Identity Protection and Recovery Bill 2025 is a key part of delivering on the NSW Digital Strategy and improving trust, resilience and skills for the people of New South Wales. It consolidates ID Support as a vital service within the New South Wales Government, protecting individuals from the risks of identity compromise, as well as providing new fraud prevention functions. I take the opportunity to thank some key people who have worked closely with the Government in developing this legislation. I thank the stakeholders that took the time to make submissions and contribute to this bill. In particular, I thank the NSW Council for Civil Liberties and the Law Society of New South Wales for their contributions to the development of the bill. I thank all government agencies who involved themselves with the bill by providing advice and suggestions as part of the consultation phase. That is how we get a good bill that works for everyone.

I thank the teams in Digital NSW in the Department of Customer Service [DCS] for their work delivering this bill. In particular, I call out Kim Hunter, Alex Cassar, Heather Wallace, Jacki Muir and Connor Dilleen. I also thank the ID Support team in DCS for its outstanding work in helping the New South Wales community, agencies and businesses to respond to the growing number of personal data compromises impacting the people of New South Wales, and supporting its customers to take steps to prevent and mitigate further harm. I also thank my department liaison officers, who have been running back and forth over this. I acknowledge and thank the shadow Minister and member for Manly, and I look forward to the discussions we will have over the bill and the debate that will ensue. To all people who are involved in making this work, I genuinely thank them for it.

It is a very serious topic. I have spent a long time explaining all elements of the bill, but, at the end of the day, it has become really clear that the likelihood of falling victim to identity fraud is growing exponentially. This bill makes sure that we can provide an opportunity for people to learn how we can mitigate that, what skills they have, and how quickly we respond to that, so that people who may be the victims of this do not suffer too much. ID Support is a vital service in helping New South Wales to lead the way for identity protection and fraud control services in government. I am pleased that we are the first jurisdiction to be able to do this across the country. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (PPP PROHIBITION) BILL 2025

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 27 March 2025.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (15:30): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025, otherwise known as Joe's law. The Opposition supports this legislation in full. At the outset, I acknowledge the Massa family and thank them for their resilience, courage and determination. They have been driven to get answers about why their little boy, Joe, died and also to fight for solutions to improve our health system across New South Wales so that no parent has to live through what they did. They have turned unimaginable grief into incredible good. When I met with Elouise and Danny Massa in February, they gave me one of Joe's shoes: a little green and white shoe. They gave the Premier one of these shoes as well. That shoe represents so much. It represents all the steps that a little boy should have taken: the potential of a life cut short. It is a reminder of what is important when we make decisions in this place. It is people that are important. People are and should be at the heart of all of the decisions we make.

I gave a commitment to Elouise and Danny that I and the Opposition would do what we could to help them find the right answers and to support solutions to prevent this occurring again. The Opposition has supported the parliamentary inquiry into the Northern Beaches Hospital, a coronial inquest, an independent review of the

emergency department, and the creation of Joe's rule, which is a simplification and, hopefully, expansion of the REACH protocol. Today we continue that work by supporting Joe's law. There is no question that the Massa family was let down by the Northern Beaches Hospital. There were multiple failures that should never happen again. Healthscope has also let down the northern beaches community. In April the Auditor-General released his independent report into the hospital. It was confronting and it was clear. It stated that Healthscope "is not effectively delivering the best quality integrated health service and clinical outcomes to the northern beaches community and the State". It had not met all performance expectations set out in the project deed.

While on many metrics Northern Beaches Hospital does match or outperform its peer hospitals, it is plain to see that it is not meeting the expectations the public rightly has for their local hospital in other critical areas. People should have trust and confidence in their local hospital. Unfortunately, Healthscope in many instances has eroded that trust and confidence. Healthscope and the Government are now in discussions about how and if the hospital can be returned to public hands. I share the view of the health Minister and the Treasurer that Healthscope should not be receiving a windfall gain for failing to deliver on the contract it signed up to. Again, my commitment is to work constructively with the Government, and I would welcome a briefing on the taskforce's progress.

The Opposition also wants to ensure there is transparency around what previous discussions the Government had with Healthscope around taking the hospital back into public hands. The Auditor-General's report highlighted the fact that, in late 2023, Healthscope had twice offered the Government to return the hospital into public hands, but those offers were rejected. This was not something the Opposition or the public knew about until the Auditor-General released his report. The Opposition has put in a freedom of information request to access this correspondence and any related documentation about those offers. In the spirit of transparency, I encourage the Government to release all of that correspondence so the public can be made aware of what discussions took place, what the Government knew, when the Government knew, and why it did not act on Healthscope's offer.

The Coalition built Northern Beaches Hospital because the northern beaches deserved a modern, integrated health facility. That was something which had first been floated in the late '90s and was promised by Labor Premier Morris Iemma in 2006. The truth is that Northern Beaches Hospital was delivered with the best of intentions but, in key ways, it has not lived up to expectations. It has not delivered what the community rightly expects of its local hospital. I will say here what I have said to the Massa family in person: I am truly sorry. To people like Leah Pitman and Dustin Atkinson, who lost their baby, Harper, at Northern Beaches Hospital, and to the many other patients who have told their stories of not receiving the quality care they should have expected at their local hospital, I am sorry. They deserved better. The job now is for all of us to ensure that we restore faith and trust in Northern Beaches Hospital for the local community.

Turning to the content of the bill, the object of this bill is to amend the Health Services Act 1997 through a new section 133E to prohibit new public-private partnership [PPP] arrangements that provide for the construction of acute hospitals and the provision of acute hospital services at those hospitals. This is a narrow bill that only seeks to deal with future Northern Beaches Hospital-type arrangements. As the Minister has said, this bill is not about stopping private hospitals in New South Wales. We have incredible private hospitals staffed with an amazing healthcare workforce in this State. Private hospitals benefit our health system, and many patients choose to go private. We also often see the benefit of private hospitals through their work in assisting NSW Health to reduce overdue elective surgeries.

The bill will also not prevent other forms of PPPs such as the most common model, where the hospital is constructed through a PPP but the clinical services are delivered by the State. It will not prevent a faith organisation such as the Catholic Church building its own private hospital with an emergency department. We see that at St Vincent's, which falls under the definition of "public health organisation" and so will not be impacted by something like this. It will not impact the delivery of services such as radiology by a private operator within a public hospital or the outsourcing of surgery waitlists to private hospitals. The bill is limited to the definition of an "acute" hospital as set out in section 133E (6), where it defines these services as:

- (a) emergency services, and
- (b) surgical services, and
- (c) in-patient services.

The bill also includes a Henry VIII clause which allows the Minister to change the effect of section 133E via regulation. This caveat is included to account for any unintended consequences. As I said, the bill is very narrow in its scope, but it is important to note that there are currently no PPP hospitals being built or in the pipeline in New South Wales. That was also the case when the Coalition left government in 2023. However, I understand the importance of this bill in providing certainty in law to the community about the model of care they should expect when any future hospital is built in New South Wales.

In ending, I acknowledge the health Minister and his work on this issue, and I thank his office for providing me with a briefing. I also acknowledge the many incredible health staff at Northern Beaches Hospital, and I thank them for their work. Our frontline healthcare staff do incredible work under some of the most challenging of circumstances, and we should never forget that. Again I thank Elouise and Danny Massa. They have brought about lasting good, and Joe's legacy will live on. Every parent should be heard when there is something seriously wrong with their child. Elouise was not heard, and she should have been. There is still work to do to through the parliamentary inquiry and the work of the taskforce. I remain committed to working constructively with the Government to find the right solutions. That is what I promised at the start, that is what the public expects, and that is what they will get from the Opposition.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport) (15:39): I speak in support of the important Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025, which amends the Health Services Act 1997 to ensure that public acute hospital services remain within the purview of our public health system. I pass on my condolences to the parents of Joe Massa, who requested legislative action to prevent any future public-private partnerships [PPP] like the one at the Northern Beaches Hospital. I am so terribly sorry for what they and other families have been through. I have always been against PPPs for hospital services in the public health system. My community was first promised a new hospital in 2011. This became my first fight before I was even elected, and the campaign took seven long years.

I pay tribute to former Minister Hazzard, who listened to us on this matter. From memory, five hospitals were slated for creation under the PPP model in Wyong, Shellharbour, Goulburn, Bowral and Maitland. Maitland was always a problem because it was the only greenfield site in that tranche of five; the other sites were all additional. The previous speaker commented on private buildings and private owners of health infrastructure. Those issues have their own challenges that are not within the purview of this bill. It is also an issue in education. In my electorate, a privately owned school building was operated by the Department of Education, which complicates managing the growth of a facility. We said all along that this hospital would be a failure. I take no pleasure or pride in that; I am just really devastated.

I feel for former Minister Hazzard. He inherited this model and had to continue with it. He took me on a tour of the facility before it opened while he was still considering what would happen in Maitland. I remember going through the hospital on that day and seeing the green side and the blue side—one public and one private. As we went around the hospital site, which was still under construction, I questioned him and people from Healthscope about what that would mean. I asked them if mental health patients could get into the private part of the hospital if there was no capacity in the public system, and they said yes. Would they be bumped back into the public system if there was space there? I explained to Brad that this was not like getting an upgrade on a flight from Singapore to London and then getting downgraded on the next leg. People with mental health conditions need continuity of care. We even went into detail on fixtures and fittings. There is a reason why strong, good-quality fittings are needed in mental health units. Whether a patient gets something that meets their safety needs should not depend on how much money they are paying. I will not get into the specifics on why that is.

When we went into the intensive care section, they said, "We were thinking about having a public and a private intensive care, but then we thought we would actually need paediatric intensive care and geriatric intensive care." That said to me that even the private operator understood that care should not depend on a patient's capacity to pay, but rather on their needs and what experts say on the issues they are presenting with. They were not going to have spas or water facilities for mothers in labour in the maternity section. This spoke to me of everything wrong with this idea. I have spent more than my fair share of time in hospitals in the past 10 years with different health issues. I have been to St Vincent's Private Hospital, which is a great facility. I have also spent 101 hours in its emergency department waiting to be seen, back when it was still under the former Government. I get that it is hard, but the PPP model should never have been a thing. We told them this regarding the hospital in Port Macquarie, which was built as a PPP and which we had to pay to get back again. It was always fraught.

I acknowledge that the member for Vacluse was not a member at the time. I campaigned for seven years because this was not a good model to use. I thank all of the members of the union movement who came on board for this fight, including those from the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation, the Nurses and Midwives' Association and the Health Services Union. We brought three 10,000-signature petitions to this place. There was an argument that my community needed a public-private hospital. We had a private hospital with coverage of 17 per cent of private health insurance customers in my community—less than one in five people—but they would have a section in the new hospital. There was a falsehood going around that the hospital would be the same as the Mater hospital, but it was not the same thing at all. The Mater hospital was operating as a privately owned, faith-based facility totally run within the NSW Health network.

There are big challenges facing the Hunter New England Local Health District, which covers the area where I live. A brand-new hospital that would not even be in the network—meaning that patients would not be

able to be moved to get the very best specialist care—was so out of touch with the needs of the health community. I felt sorry for Brad Hazzard, who had to deal with this throughout the State and could not reverse it. He is a very dear friend of mine, and I thank him for revising that decision. Although it had proposed five, the former Government did not have any on the table when it left office. A lot of new members who have come to this place since 2023 do not understand because they did not prosecute this fight. They did not have to consider a scenario where people in their community would be denied access to healthcare facilities.

Under the former Government, putting PPPs everywhere was business as usual. It was a failure to invest in public health. When it opened the new Maitland Hospital as a fully public facility, there was no funding for staffing. We have invested in a staffing increase of more than 10 per cent across the hospital. We have put in a short stay unit and other things to try to bring it back up to the level it should have been. I am passionate about this because for seven years members opposite attacked me and told me I was getting in the way of having a health facility built for my community. They said I was the reason it would not be as big as they wanted it to be. The abuse, vitriol and attacks were unrelenting. Members like the member for Wyong, the member for Cessnock and the Minister for Health stood shoulder to shoulder with me and said, "No. We will not let this happen." It is devastating that this has happened. There are issues and incidents in any health system.

I commend the bill to the House. Any member who votes against it needs to take a really hard look at themselves and ask what they are doing in public life and what they are doing to represent their communities. When people are sick, it is the lowest point in their life. If you need a hospital, you want someone to care about you. Our nurses, doctors and other medical staff do an amazing job. They have been used as political footballs by the Coalition for so long, and they are still being used now. It is not right. I strongly support the bill. We should never have a PPP hospital like the Northern Beaches Hospital again. I urge every member in both Houses to do the right thing and vote for this bill with no amendments. Shame on members who sat on these benches and did not support former Minister Hazzard when he changed things, but did support former Minister Skinner when she implemented this model.

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (15:48): I contribute to debate on the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. Since 2018 the people of the northern beaches have been the subjects of an experiment in public health. In 2018 the Northern Beaches Hospital opened in Frenchs Forest in my electorate of Wakehurst, replacing the two former public hospitals servicing the area, Mona Vale and Manly. The Northern Beaches Hospital is a public-private partnership [PPP], where public health services are delivered by private operator, Healthscope, and paid for by the New South Wales Government.

It is the only hospital operating under this model in the State. This delivery model is underpinned by the project deed, a 350-page contract between the Ministry of Health, Northern Sydney Local Health District and the private operator, Healthscope. The deed expires in 2038. With the new Northern Beaches Hospital, the people of the northern beaches were promised the best quality health care. In fact, Healthscope committed to perform in the top quartile of hospitals on many measures: The State would get those superior services at a discount. If that sounds too good to be true, it turns out that it was.

This PPP experiment for acute hospital services for public patients has not worked. I do not want this for other communities around New South Wales. That is what the bill is about, and that is why I will support it. The PPP for the Northern Beaches Hospital has been controversial from the start, but it has come under increasing pressure and scrutiny since the retirement of the former member for Wakehurst and Minister for Health. It should not have taken high-profile tragedies to get proper scrutiny of the hospital and the PPP model of public health care, but the reality is that it has. The Massa family in particular has brought this issue to public attention. I have huge admiration for their courage and conviction in sharing their story so publicly, and I thank them on behalf of the northern beaches community.

Since the Massas came forward with their story earlier this year, the Audit Office of New South Wales has published its performance audit of the hospital. That was a major milestone in the push for greater transparency and accountability of this facility. The report concludes that the public-private partnership "is not effectively delivering the best quality integrated health services and clinical outcomes to the northern beaches community and the State—the standard required under the arrangement and the key objective of the project deed". It states unequivocally that the "partnership is at risk of failure", with Healthscope having come to the Government twice at the end of 2023 requesting to return the public portion of the hospital 14 years ahead of schedule.

Sadly, Healthscope wanting to hand the hospital back was news to me. Having engaged with the Government on this issue consistently since becoming the member for Wakehurst, including numerous meetings with senior staff managing the contract with Healthscope, I was dismayed that no-one had mentioned that key detail to me or the public. Like many, Healthscope has described the contractual arrangements underpinning the operation of the hospital as "severely challenged". We know that Healthscope is under massive financial pressure and that the Northern Beaches Hospital is barely profitable. The Auditor-General found that NSW Health

effectively manages the contract with Healthscope but "the public-private partnership structure creates tension between commercial imperatives and clinical outcomes".

The report highlights the importance of trust in the relationship between the Government and the private operator, and the antagonism that has often existed in the partnership. When we are dealing with a distressed commercial company, with lenders breathing down their necks, it is pretty clear what is motivating them and easy to see how the relationship could deteriorate. The seven legal disputes between the parties in 2019 and 2021 would have only added further strain. The Auditor-General's report identifies high rates of hospital-acquired complications including elevated levels of falls, third- and fourth-degree perineal lacerations and birth trauma. Cost cutting can be identified as a driving factor behind all of those.

The project deed was found not to support the hospital's integration into the local health district and broader health network. As the Government rolls out new initiatives, including safe staffing levels, the only public hospital for the 270,000 people on the northern beaches will miss out. Some other concerning findings in the report, which highlight the risks under the PPP model, were the status of the electronic medical record system used by Healthscope, which was found to be a contributing factor to Joe Massa's death, and the gaps in how minor harm or near-miss incidents at the hospital are reported and analysed, creating a real risk that emerging trends are not identified and addressed.

It is important to note that the Auditor-General's report finds that, on many high-level performance metrics, the hospital is doing relatively well, including in comparison to peer public hospitals. It has also maintained all necessary accreditation and licensing. I believe these positive outcomes arise from the incredible effort and dedication of the staff to ensure that the patients come first, in spite of the limitations of the PPP. This model is clearly not sustainable and, as the Auditor-General reported, some of the key performance indicators that have been met need further investigation, which is a concern.

The formal reporting of an Auditor-General's report does not, and cannot be expected to, capture the true human cost of how the PPP model is operating at the Northern Beaches Hospital. Front of mind for me are the people I have met and their stories: nurses, midwives, doctors, security guards and cleaners who are burnt out and under-resourced, and families who are traumatised by their treatment at the Northern Beaches Hospital. I recently received a copy of the submission to the Auditor-General by the staff medical council, representing over 300 fellowed doctors, and it is shocking reading. I am glad that a parliamentary inquiry is underway so the voices of experienced and dedicated medical specialists, who have been working at the hospital since it opened, can be heard. I quote from their submission:

The Medical Staff Council (MSC) is strongly of the opinion that having entered into a PPP with Healthscope, NSW Health and the North Sydney Local Health District abrogated their subsequent responsibility for the provision of health care to the Northern Beaches community.

They also say:

Based on observations on the ground by Medical Staff Council representatives it is difficult for the majority of staff working at Northern Beaches Hospital (NBH) to believe with any credibility that the hospital meets its contract requirements for performance, planning and reporting when benchmarked against the stated intentions of the Government and its bureaucracy.

They also say:

The staffing levels, patient data, and outpatient services in particular, are absolutely not comparable with equivalent public health facilities in NSW.

The favourable performance and outcomes are due to the professionalism, dedication, conscientiousness and commitment of senior clinicians and junior medical officers.

It is the opinion of the MSC that the current resources provided by Healthscope make clinical practice at NBH unsafe to both patients and clinicians, compromises patient care, is unsustainable and is a recipe for wholesale burnout. This is reflected by the attrition rate of doctors, nurses, and allied health staff since 2018. It is a statement of fact that innumerable doctors, nurses and allied health staff, who are members of the Northern Beaches Community, at great inconvenience to themselves, drive past Northern Beaches Hospital every day on their way to work in other hospitals located much further away due to their previous experience at NBH.

The quality of care that the Northern Beaches Hospital continues to receive is only because of the dedication and professionalism of the staff working at the hospital. That has come at immense personal cost to them, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. I also quote a career nurse who has been at the Northern Beaches Hospital since day one:

Healthscope has continued to cull staff just chipping away at what is left of our nursing workforce. This started with Emergency Department back a couple of years ago - when they just removed four nurses off the ED roster with no consultation. Since then we have lost positions in Mental Health, Maternity, Day Oncology, surgical and then as recently as last week, our medical wards have lost yet more nursing hours. Our skill mix is not appropriate and on some days plain dangerous. Our junior nurses need to be nurtured, mentored by seniors, but there's no longer enough of us to support them.

We leave a shift worrying that we haven't been able to give our best - because there's just not enough on the floor. We have minimal support staff, dysfunctional IT systems and nobody performs at their best inside a pressure cooker.

The reality is that, at the Northern Beaches Hospital, we are getting cut-cost health care and it is not sustainable. Staff are being squeezed and patients are being put at risk. This is all by design because of the arrangements in the project deed sitting behind the PPP. As outlined in the Auditor-General's report:

The public-private partnership anticipates that models of care and workforce composition at the Northern Beaches Hospital will differ from those deployed at public hospitals in NSW. This is because the public-private partnership model assumes that Healthscope will be motivated to establish efficiencies in operations to deliver value to investors, while accreditation and similar frameworks provide a safety net. This allocation of risk is described as one of the key advantages of the project deed that permits the State to achieve financial benefits from the arrangement overall. That is, by allowing Healthscope to find efficient modes of service delivery, including with respect to workforce, Healthscope is more willing to accept a discounted price for the services it delivers.

Is it any wonder our healthcare professionals at the Northern Beaches Hospital are under-resourced and stressed to breaking point? This was always the deed's intention, and it is a core reason I disagree with the PPP model in this context. Clearly, PPPs have been, and will continue to be, crucial in delivering some public infrastructure. But the bill recognises that acute hospital services sit in a different category. Public acute hospital services are about life and death. The bill unequivocally acknowledges that those settings are fundamentally inappropriate to be run with the profit motivation of a private entity. [*Extension of time*]

As a medical specialist explained to me, private hospital care works when people are not really that sick: "When you have simple, high-turnover cases that's where you can achieve efficiencies. But emergency departments are for accidents and emergencies. By definition, those are things that cannot be planned. They are often messy and defined by uncertainty. People can be very sick, and get sicker very quickly." As a local nurse described it, "Our patients don't all arrive with a neatly packed overnight bag and a pair of slippers. They are not all tied up in a bow with completed medical histories and a list of their medications. They can arrive acutely unwell, frail and aged, with complex conditions, unstable, actively bleeding, in cardiac arrest, in handcuffs, in active labour. They are scared and we are struggling. Gone are the days where we gave holistic care—we now barely have time to perform task after task. Holistic care is a faint memory. We do our absolute best, but Healthscope has created a system that giving our best to every patient on every shift is no longer an option and it's not good enough."

More so than any other public service provided by the State, hospitals are where people go when they are at their most vulnerable and they are often most connected to what really matters in life—their own health and mortality, the grief of death and the joy of new life. It is a true test of a civilised society how we resource and service our citizens at those points. The Northern Beaches Hospital experiment has shown us that acute hospital services, including emergency departments, should not be run as for-profit operations under PPP arrangements. I am pleased our State has learnt that lesson. I support the bill.

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) (16:00): I support the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. As others have, I acknowledge that the bill will amend the Health Services Act 1997 to prohibit the State, a local health district or a statutory health corporation from entering into a public-private partnership for the purpose of constructing an acute hospital and providing acute hospital services to public patients. The bill is about legislating to provide that acute hospital services, such as emergency departments, belong in the hands of the public health system. I acknowledge the Massa family, who have fought to ensure that what happened at Northern Beaches Hospital to their son, Joe, can never happen again. What occurred to the Massa family is deeply tragic. I thank Elouise and Danny for their unwavering commitment to change—as I thank my community for the fight they undertook to stop it happening at our local hospital in Wyong.

I acknowledge the passion of the member for Maitland and Minister, who described the fight and feeling in her community about what the former Government proposed after the 2015 election. During the 2015 election campaign both sides committed to an upgrade of the Wyong Hospital costing approximately \$230 million. After the election it was revealed that, in order to get the upgrade at Wyong, there had to be a commitment to a public-private partnership [PPP]. Whoever bid successfully for the PPP would construct the upgrades and then operate the whole hospital. As a community, the Wyong electorate strongly opposed the proposal. Along with five other communities, the Wyong community launched a very strong campaign to oppose that model because, from speaking to health professionals, we knew it was the wrong model to implement. It was an attempt by the former Government to deliver upgrades on the cheap by offering the private sector the opportunity to operate a public hospital and make a profit.

As the member for Wakehurst said, when it comes to acute care, and emergency department services, in particular, that is the wrong model. Organisations cannot make money from operating those services because at all times hospitals are about the standard of care, not the cost of care. People should always have the right to

receive the best care available. I was a very strong supporter of the community campaign. I joined other Labor members in supporting Unions NSW, the Nurses and Midwives' Association and the Health Services Union, which took a very staunch stand on this issue, together with the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation of NSW [ASMOF], which represented the doctors. We formed a committee and tried to work out how we could effectively oppose what was being put forward, which was almost a bribe—accept this model or you will not receive a hospital upgrade. That is totally outrageous. It was outrageous then and it remains outrageous today.

I distinctly remember we convened a rally at the Morry Breen oval in Kanwal and, just before the rally was due to begin, we were worried about whether people from the community would turn up. Over 2,000 people attended—mums and dads, grandparents, young families, nurses and doctors—and they filled the grandstand at the oval. Earlier I looked at some photographs and reminisced about the size of the crowd, and recalled people's level of anger and commitment to fighting the proposal as hard as we possibly could. I acknowledge Brad Hazzard. As the member for Maitland said, before his involvement, we were derided, attacked and treated very unfairly in this House because we were standing up for our communities. Brad listened and changed the decision-making. It did not happen for Northern Beaches Hospital, and we have seen the unfortunate consequences of that.

I distinctly remember that the campaign started in 2016 and ran for nine months. I attended the Wyong rally and the Maitland rally. I also went to Shellharbour to support communities there because it was not just about saving Wyong hospital; it was about saving all five hospitals that the proposal was slated for. After Minister Hazzard changed the policy, I said:

After nine long and uncertain months of a hard-fought community campaign, the ... Government has ... abandoned their unfair and unjustified plan to privatise our Wyong Hospital. Wyong Hospital is held in high regard in our community and there is a deep sense of local ownership, given the historical fundraising to secure the original hospital by the community.

That was the case for many regional communities in New South Wales, but the Wyong miners and power station workers gave money from their wages for the first Wyong Hospital. The Wyong community literally owned the buildings, but they were never consulted in relation to the proposal. They were told, "This is the model that is being put forward. Accept it, or you don't get your upgrade."

In my entire life, I have never seen an issue that galvanised our community as strongly as that. This was a win by our community, for our community. Although it all seems a long time ago, now when I talk to my community, they still remember and talk about the fight to save their hospital. I commend those communities for standing together to fight that proposition. The good news is that Minister Hazzard was true to his word. He committed to the \$200 million upgrade, which is now complete, and my community is seeing the benefits of it. Originally, the funding was \$230 million but unfortunately it was reduced to \$200 million. However, an additional \$10 million has been allocated to the project and work is underway. The services at Wyong hospital are increasing in response to a growing community.

I remind all members of this Parliament that part of our job, as members of Parliament, is to scrutinise legislation and expenditure. If a proposal is wrong, we should oppose it loudly and strongly. The community response was a very memorable time in my career. In 2011 I lost the seat of Wyong but was re-elected in 2015 after the previous member for Wyong, together with members representing a range of electorates on the Central Coast and in the Hunter, fell foul of ICAC. Our community had a very low opinion of government in general but, when it came to saving and protecting our hospital, they, like the member for Maitland, stood up and were counted.

I really appreciate that Minister Hazzard listened to the community and changed the policy. I know he had a lot of opposition to that from some of his colleagues. I will always be grateful to him. I know from my dealings with him, particularly through COVID, that he is really a very decent human being. Any time I hear someone say a bad word about him, I am the first to stand up and defend him because he listened. Unfortunately we were right in the end. I again express my commiserations and my deep sympathy for the Massa family and others who have suffered through the model. This is the right policy and I commend Minister Ryan Park for bringing it forward on behalf of that family. I am glad that it is a Labor government that is standing up, putting its foot down and saying, "We won't do this again."

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (16:10): I speak in support of the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. Firstly, my condolences go to the Massa family for the loss of their son Joe. It is a great shame when any life is lost, especially that of a child. Their strength has led to this change in the law. I am very supportive of the regulation and change of law that will stop the proposal for linking private and public hospitals in what was clearly a poorly thought-out policy that looked to save funds through public-private partnerships [PPPs]. During the same period as the discussion about those partnerships, the community in my area came together through a number of groups, including Public Health First, which was led by Edna and Peter. They fought to prevent Bowral Hospital being brought in line with the same plan. Bowral was due for an upgrade, and it was a potential candidate for a public-private partnership.

I remember the protests outside the hospital, with people on the back of trucks with loudspeakers. They protested against the PPP, saying it was not going to offer the best outcome—and how right they were. We were offered glossy new paint and new buildings, but the community held strong together. The Government not only caved in but also offered new buildings and more services. It is still a matter of contention for my community because we did not actually get the continuation of funding we were promised. We wanted a larger hospital with more services, not fewer. While the PPP was defeated, with a private hospital being built on a neighbouring block, the funding for the promises was cut, and we are now getting retrofits. We are in discussions with NSW Health to ensure that the clinical services plan will be written to take on board the growth that my area faces today.

The desire of the Government to provide services but avoid costs and responsibilities is what led to the PPP at the Northern Beaches Hospital. The bureaucrats recommended a cheaper option, but the cost of the lack of oversight has had dire consequences, as we now know. Public health should be seen as a matter of pride. Why both major parties in Australia do not compete to provide services like those in the United Kingdom is totally beyond me. I will always fight for health services like specialist workers and extra services for the region. Our hospital staff do so much. I fight as an Independent member, not only for my own area but for all others in New South Wales too. While no services are perfect, the terrible outcome for the Massa family should warn us all that saving money is not the major consideration when it comes to health. I thank the Government for working with the crossbench on the bill. With its support, we will not risk another PPP in the hospital system in the future.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (16:13): I am pleased to support the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. The Minns Labor Government has made clear all along that it opposes the public-private partnership [PPP] model. Labor members opposed it in 2018 when the hospital was opened, and we oppose it now. It is regrettable that it takes a remorseful tragedy like baby Joe's death to be the catalyst in ensuring that public-private partnership agreements to provide acute public health services are not entered into again. I commend the courage of Elouise and Danny Massa for fighting to ensure that what has happened at Northern Beaches Hospital can never happen again. Acute hospital services belong in the hands of the public hospital system.

PPPs not only increase costs to the public but also raise significant risks, including differences between private entities and NSW Health in relation to models of care and staffing profiles; potentially inadequate interoperability of health systems; and potential complexities and costs when the hospital is handed back to New South Wales at the end of contract, including issues related to medical records, system interoperability, transfer of staff, and updates to the hospital to ensure the hospital and ancillary services meet contemporary standards of care. That is not to take away from the immensely important role that our private health system plays. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, private health facilities provided elective surgery to public patients to reduce public waiting lists. The bill will allow those arrangements to continue, and will not impact the important partnerships currently in place with a range of providers to accelerate elective surgeries or deliver other specialised services.

The bill will keep acute hospital services for public patients in the public health system. That means that the models of care for public hospitals will be consistent for all public patients across the State. Within New South Wales, each public hospital is part of a local health district, specialty health network or affiliated health organisation, and has clinical and staffing links to other hospitals in the local health district or specialty health network. Each local health district or specialty health network then also has clinical and staffing links and networks with other local health districts and specialty health networks. Patients will often have serious or multiple issues that require a transition of care between hospitals. The ability of each public hospital to work collaboratively and integrate with the wider public health system is one of our health system's greatest assets.

I note the regulation-making power in the bill. It is an important exclusion to ensure that the bill does not have any unintended consequences. For example, we do not want it to impact on the ability of NSW Health to enter into arrangements with other governments for the construction and operation of acute hospitals in border areas. The regulation-making power has been included to ensure that, if there are any unintended consequences down the track, regulations could be made to ensure that appropriate arrangements can proceed. I remind the House that any regulation is obviously subject to a disallowance by either House of Parliament. I reiterate my admiration of the bravery of both Elouise and Danny Massa for continuing to fight for improved health services in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (16:17): I speak in support of the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. I am sure every member in this place would acknowledge that there are moments in the job that stop them in their tracks. The circumstance of the Massa family has been one of those moments for many of us. I vividly recall attending the opening of Northern Beaches Hospital. It came about as both Manly Hospital and Mona Vale Hospital ceased their service provision. The intent of the hospital and the people who work in it was good, but that does not set aside the deep tragedies that have happened to many people and constituents who

have been through the doors of the Northern Beaches Hospital. It is a difficult matter to deal with. Both my children were born there. There have been many happy and good circumstances for people who have used the hospital. But, equally, and for good reason as to why we are all standing here and, as I understand it, thus far all supporting this piece of legislation, these changes do need to come into effect.

I acknowledge the commentary about the former Minister, Brad Hazzard, my former neighbour, a good man and a good Minister. His important contribution to public health care and the operation of the system is to be recognised. But we are here because of the effort and the tenacity, albeit in tragic circumstances, of the Massa family. Many of us on both sides of this Chamber acknowledge their effort in working as hard as possible so that the tragedy they experienced does not happen to anybody else in New South Wales. We hope, through the good work of many members in this place, that no-one will ever have to experience that again. For those reasons, I support the bill.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (16:20): I speak in support of the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. This legislation will shape the future of our healthcare system for the better. This bill reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring that public hospitals remain under public control, operating solely for the benefit of our communities, rather than corporate interests. This bill is born of necessity and, most importantly, from the advocacy of those who have experienced firsthand the consequences of ill-conceived public-private partnerships [PPP] in health care. We recognise the strong advocacy of the two extraordinary individuals, Elouise and Danny Massa, who lost their son Joe in the most tragic circumstances. Joe's passing has shed light on the urgent need for systemic change. The Minns Labor Government has seen the challenges and failures associated with the Northern Beaches Hospital model, a PPP that was intended to enhance healthcare delivery but has instead revealed the pitfalls of privatisation in acute public health care.

This bill will amend the Health Services Act 1997 to prohibit the State local health districts and statutory health corporations from entering public-private partnerships where a private entity constructs an acute hospital and provides acute hospital services to public patients. This means that no future hospital will operate under the flawed Northern Beaches model and ensures that public hospitals remain under the control of NSW Health. It is important to note that this bill does not seek to eliminate all forms of collaboration between the public and private sectors. It allows for private entities to provide ancillary services such as radiotherapy, medical imaging and pharmacy services, where appropriate. It also permits partnerships that assist in addressing backlogs, such as elective surgeries outsourced to private hospitals. However, the core function of acute hospital care—emergency services, surgical procedures and in-patient care—must remain within the public system.

The experience of Northern Beaches Hospital has demonstrated the complexities and risks associated with PPPs in acute health care. A hospital is not just a building; it is a network of professionals and services that must be seamlessly integrated within the broader public health system. The public hospital system is structured to facilitate efficient transfers, shared staffing resources and a standardised model of care across all facilities. When an acute hospital is privately operated, these mechanisms are weakened, creating gaps in oversight, accountability and service delivery. Furthermore, when a hospital is handed back to the public system at the end of a PPP contract, significant challenges arise. Issues such as the transfer of medical records, system interoperability and staffing integration create unnecessary complications, placing additional strain on public health resources. This bill prevents these avoidable disruptions by ensuring that new acute hospitals remain fully within the public domain from the outset.

Some may argue that public-private partnerships in health care bring efficiency and innovation. Seeing the failures of the Northern Beaches Hospital, we can conclude that acute hospital care is not an area where privatisation should dictate operations. Public hospitals must be run for public benefit, not corporate profit. The priorities of private companies—profit margins, shareholder returns and contractual obligations—should never take precedence over patient care. This bill does not signal opposition to the private sector's role in health care; rather, it delineates appropriate boundaries to ensure that critical hospital services remain fully accountable to the people they serve.

The bill is a safeguard against repeating past mistakes and a commitment to strengthening our public health system. It will ensure that no future hospital is subject to the governance gaps and administrative challenges that have plagued Northern Beaches Hospital. We reaffirm our belief that health care is a public right, not a commercial enterprise. Most importantly, acute public hospitals must remain within the public system. The bill is necessary to protect the integrity of our healthcare system. It is about accountability, patient safety and the future of health care in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater) (16:26): I speak in strong support of the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025, also known as Joe's law. The bill will prohibit any new public-private partnership arrangements for the construction and operation of public hospitals in New South Wales. It is a necessary and direct response to a deeply flawed model. As other members have mentioned, the bill before us today has

responded to the tragedies faced by many families, but particularly the Massa family. It has had devastating consequences for my community, and mostly for those who have trusted the healthcare system but have been let down. As we have seen with Northern Beaches Hospital, the public-private partnership model is inherently flawed, with the conflict inherent in the risk of putting profit above patients. It is an example of the complexity of the problems that occur when a private enterprise delivers public acute services, and it has failed the people of Pittwater. I acknowledge that, as the member for Manly mentioned, people have had good experiences at the hospital, but many have had tragic ones.

Public-private partnerships may have their place in infrastructure delivery. They can work for toll roads or for stadiums, but not for public hospitals and acute care. Health care is not a commodity. It is not a service that should be rationed or optimised for shareholder returns. It is an area where a "good deal"—or a "very good deal"—results in chronic underfunding and compromised care. When profit and commercial key performance indicators become motives in the delivery of acute healthcare services, it ultimately puts lives at risk. The Northern Beaches Hospital privatisation was sold to our community as an efficient and fiscally responsible model that would deliver better health care for my community and constituents, but many in my community have not experienced that.

When we lost Mona Vale Hospital, and then Manly Hospital, we had a strong community movement standing up to fight to save Mona Vale Hospital. There were always concerns in our community about the public-private model. People in my community fought hard to resist it. They have been disappointed in the new location of the hospital, which for some in Palm Beach is an even longer commute and so puts lives at risk when travelling by ambulance. They have also been disappointed by fewer beds, a broader catchment area and a lack of services such as stroke, cardiothoracic surgery and neurosurgery. It is a hospital that continues to be mired in controversy, often underperforming where it matters most: patient outcomes, access and transparency in the agreements.

In theory, public-private partnerships can do well. In theory, private businesses can do more with less, and that efficiency delivers value for the taxpayer. But there is a hidden cost when it comes to health care. In the case of Northern Beaches Hospital and in other public-private partnerships, that hidden cost is counted in lives. The Massa family lost their son, Joe, and I acknowledge their courage and bravery in drawing attention to those tragedies in the media. Since then, the Atkinson family have come forward about the loss of their baby, Harper. Before that, the Gill family lost their son, Joshua, and the Wilcock and Hogg families had their beloved Sophie suffer a traumatic brain injury. The other day I helped a lady cross the road who had suffered a stroke that Northern Beaches Hospital did not diagnose for many days.

Constituents have written to me and to the Auditor-General, and have made submissions to the current parliamentary inquiry, with story after story about how the hospital has failed them. Local media have also drawn attention to the lack of transparency around the hospital. There was a parliamentary inquiry many years ago and a change in ownership, enabled by the Federal Government under Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg, with Brookfield taking over. Being based in the Cayman Islands, Brookfield brought even more opacity. I acknowledge all the people who have stood up to share their stories, and I encourage more people to share their stories with the current parliamentary inquiry.

I also acknowledge the member for Wakehurst and Federal members Dr Sophie Scamps and Zali Stegall for standing up and calling for greater transparency, and particularly for calling for the recent inquiry by the New South Wales Audit Office, which released its report a couple of weeks ago. The member for Wakehurst and I also called for the public inquiry that is now underway. However, as the report reveals, the more that is uncovered, the more questions are raised. The inherent complexities of a public-private partnership and the delivery of health care through that model have been brought to the fore.

Questions raised include the level of the deal. Was it a good deal or a bad deal? As I mentioned before, a good deal for the taxpayer can lead to underfunding and to a poor deal for patients in the hospital. There are questions around who bears responsibility for filling the gap if there is underfunding, whether it is the corporation, Healthscope—which negotiated the agreement and has the ability to raise capital, being owned by private equity—or whether the Government should bail the operator out time and again. The audit report notes that \$73 million has already been given in addition to the negotiated agreement, as well as \$70 million in reduced liability.

The member for Wakehurst referred to the submission of the Medical Staff Council of the Northern Beaches Hospital, which highlighted that the lack of funding resulted in some of the discrepancies against the benchmarks for public hospitals. I note again the inconsistency with the audit report, which found that the hospital is clearly failing the people of the northern beaches and is not performing against the deed, although it is outperforming on some benchmarks compared with other public hospitals. However, the report highlights that some of the key performance indicators and data management are somewhat lacking and there is inconsistency in the data, which is currently under further investigation. The Medical Staff Council also brings that up.

The Medical Staff Council submission notes discrepancies in staffing numbers, which impact on emergency department waiting times, quality of care and burnout amongst staff; discrepancies in the services offered compared with other public hospitals, such as cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery and stroke; discrepancies between medications and doses of medications available to hospital patients at Northern Beaches Hospital compared with other hospitals in the local health district; and huge deficiencies in oncology and nephrology staff. Even the choice of consumable equipment in Northern Beaches Hospital is limited compared with the public sector.

The list goes on and on, and the council feels that the staff are left to pick up the slack. There are huge complaints around staffing and the risk of burnout. The staff continue trying to provide quality service while they are restricted by the funding and management of Healthscope. All of those things perfectly illustrate the complexities that arise from a public-private partnership. There have also been legal battles. Those complexities, the lack of transparency and the inherent conflicts about efficiency—with profits put ahead of patients—illustrate why we can no longer have public-private partnerships in health care.

I support the bill and my community supports the bill. It is a remedy not only for our hospital but for all hospitals going forward. At least now there is a line in the sand. We cannot bring back the lives lost, but the families that have stepped forward have created change in New South Wales. I, my community and many members in this place thank them for that. One of the telling comments in the submission that I mentioned earlier noted that, from the outset, doctors felt that they were not listened to and their concerns were systematically ignored by Healthscope in the years preceding the opening of the Northern Beaches Hospital. If there is any lesson to be learned, it is that we must listen to medical professionals. As we transition out of Northern Beaches Hospital—if that happens—we must continue to listen to medical professionals. I commend the bill to the House and call for an end to public-private partnerships in health care.

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (16:36): I support the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025, which was born from the grief of Elouise and Danny Massa and in honour of their son, Joe. Joe's story reminds us that health policy is never abstract; it is about people, families and trust. When that trust breaks, when care fragments and when responsibility blurs, the consequences can be devastating. The bill draws a line in the sand. It says that when we build a public hospital for the people of New South Wales, especially for the most vulnerable, it must be fully public: governed by public oversight, staffed by public healthcare workers and embedded in the coordinated, interconnected network of NSW Health.

A hospital is not just bricks and beds; it is a lifeline. When something goes wrong and seconds matter, there must be no ambiguity about who is responsible, who is accountable or how the system must respond. Through the heartbreaking story of Joe, we have seen how cracks in that responsibility can lead to tragedy, and it must not happen again. It is not hypothetical, and the Audit Office's recent performance audit of the Northern Beaches Hospital made that really clear. It found a fundamental tension between commercial imperatives and clinical outcomes. In other words, the logic of profit and the logic of care do not always align. As the chair of the Public Accounts Committee, I will help lead the parliamentary inquiry into the Northern Beaches Hospital. The inquiry is a crucial opportunity to examine questions and nuances that may not have been covered by the Audit Office.

Whilst the parameters of the inquiry have not been confirmed, we may look at questions such as these: What was the lived experience of patients and families, not just the outcomes recorded but also the care received and the communication along the way? What insights can frontline clinicians and staff offer about safety culture, integration challenges and decision-making on the ground? What policy, political and financial assumptions underpinned the original decision to adopt the public-private partnership model for acute care? What governance frameworks are needed if public-private partnerships are to be used in any context in the future—certainly not in acute care for public health services, but in other realms? What guardrails and arrangements can be put in place to make sure that they serve the public first, last and always?

Our hope is that we can deliver something different: a more human, more systemic understanding of what went wrong and how we prevent it from happening again. The Northern Beaches Hospital blurred the line between public and private, it compromised continuity of care, it complicated clinical oversight, it placed corporate contracts above community connection, and it introduced the drivers and pressures into a system where the primary—indeed the only—consideration should have been patient care.

In my electorate of Strathfield, our hospitals serve one of the most diverse communities in Australia. Families in Strathfield speak dozens of languages, live many faiths and come from all walks of life, but they all share one thing: an expectation that if their child is sick, their parent collapses or they themselves are in need, the care they receive will be timely, coordinated and underpinned by a system that puts people, not profits, first. They expect that if something goes wrong, the system will work and there will be no confusion about who is in charge, no fragmentation in care and no delay in acting. That is what this legislation provides. Let us make it really clear:

When it comes to acute public care, the public has to come first, not just in principle but in structure, in funding and in operations. It is about ensuring that when the worst happens, the system does not hide behind contracts, corporate silos or competing priorities.

To Elouise and Danny Massa, thank you. Your strength, your courage and your love have led to real change. Your son will not be forgotten. His name will stand as a commitment to better care, stronger systems and a safer future for every family in New South Wales. I thank the member for Wakehurst for his consistent and passionate advocacy on this issue. I also thank the health Minister and his team for this important bill. Getting to this point cannot have been easy for anybody. It should never have happened. Now, with this bill, it will not happen again in public health. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (16:41): Today I speak on behalf of the people of Heathcote and from right across New South Wales about an important piece of legislation: the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. The bill, informally known as Joe's law, aims to amend the Health Services Act 1997 to prohibit new public-private partnership [PPP] arrangements for the construction and operation of acute public hospitals. This includes facilities providing emergency, surgical and inpatient services. The legislation ensures that future governments cannot enter partnerships that limit public control over essential hospital services. I acknowledge the immense courage of Joe's parents, Elouise and Danny Massa. During unthinkable grief, they have chosen advocacy. They have turned their heartbreak into a force for change. As a mother of two, I cannot begin to imagine what they are going through. I express my deepest condolences to them for the loss of their son. We in government will take every action to prevent this being repeated.

This legislation is not only a necessary reform of our healthcare system but also a solemn commitment to the people of New South Wales that their public hospitals will remain in public hands, accountable to the communities they serve. Minister Jenny Aitchison and Minister David Harris spoke previously about the former Government's plan to privatise five hospitals, and the ensuing community outrage. We on this side of the House opposed it then, and we oppose it now. I thank the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, the Health Services Union and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation for the campaign they ran at that time, because it stopped other hospitals being privatised.

This legislation is a statement of the Minns Labor Government's values. It is a promise that we will learn from tragedy and choose accountability, compassion and community over corporate interest. At its core, the bill reaffirms a simple yet profound belief that public health should be in public hands. Public-private partnerships create unnecessary and complex risks and challenges that are not present in the New South Wales public health system. This is due to the differences between the private administrator and NSW Health in relation to models of care and staffing profiles, and potential costs and complexities when the hospital is handed back to New South Wales. These include issues in relation to medical records, transfer of staff, and updates to the hospital to ensure the hospital and ancillary services meet contemporary standards of care. When private entities run public hospitals we dilute any accountability. Complication is introduced instead of clarity and, in the process, lives are put at risk. Those on this side of the Chamber have never supported injecting that sort of risk into our healthcare systems.

The bill does not unfairly target private hospitals or collaborations in other clinical areas and the important role they do play in our health system. Private health facilities provide fantastic care, assisting the State and the nation in progressing elective surgery waitlists, and providing a range of rehabilitative care and other services. What it does is close the door on public-private partnerships in acute hospitals, which have shown us the risks of handing over control of critical services to private operators. The Minister for Health, Ryan Park, said it well: This legislation draws a line in the sand. It says to future governments that the people of New South Wales will not accept privatisation by stealth. It says our hospitals are not commodities to be traded. They are public institutions built on decades of shared investment and they must remain in public hands.

We owe it to Joe, and to every parent and to every patient who has ever sat in a hospital waiting room, to ensure that the events which occurred at the Northern Beaches Hospital never happen again. Public health belongs to the people. It must be built on care, not commerce; on trust, not transactions. That is what this bill does: It puts people before profit. It says loud and clear that in New South Wales, public health should be in public hands. In his contribution, the member for Strathfield spoke about the parliamentary inquiry that he chairs. I ask members of the public, particularly hospital staff and medical professionals, to make a submission to that inquiry before the closing date of 20 May. It is possible to ask that a submission remain confidential. I invite and request submissions so that the inquiry receives the information it needs to make the best recommendations for the Minns Labor Government.

I thank the member for Wakehurst for bringing this issue before the House. I thank the health Minister for his action and all his staff and team, some of whom are sitting in the Chamber today, for their work. This has been a very emotional issue, as expected. For staff and members who are parents—including the Minister himself—it has been hard to not to put ourselves in the Massas' position. The work of the Minister, his team and NSW Health

has ensured that this bill will support the best possible decision-making going forward. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (16:48): I speak in support of the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. The bill proposes to amend the Health Services Act to prevent the Government from entering a public-private partnership [PPP] with a private entity to provide acute hospital services to public patients. I thank the Massa family for having the courage to speak up after experiencing such tragedy and for being so incredibly strong that they were able to advocate for changes to improve health services for the benefit of others right across New South Wales.

Public-private partnership arrangements are proven to come with significant governance and oversight issues, whilst also increasing costs through public and administrative complexities. Labor has always opposed PPP models where a private entity builds and operates an acute hospital to provide acute clinical services to public patients. The Minns Labor Government firmly believes that our local community hospitals should be run by the public system. That is not to say that the private sector does not have an important role to play in the public health system, and I do not mean to diminish the important role that the private sector plays. However, the model does not provide public hospitals that are integrated into NSW Health.

The ability of the different NSW Health organisations to work together collaboratively is one of the great strengths of the New South Wales health system and is essential to keep our State health system running. Private-public partnership [PPP] hospitals have different models of care and staffing requirements. Levels of connectivity with other facilities and staff are made more difficult due to fact that a PPP hospital is a standalone facility. Further, for the purposes of both the construction of an acute hospital and the provision of acute hospital services to public patients, PPPs raise significant and complex challenges and risks, including differences between private entities and NSW Health for models of care and staffing profiles.

The Labor Party and Labor Party MPs have long opposed public-private partnerships. Indeed, a trip down memory lane demonstrates just that. Public-private partnerships have been investigated, criticised and scrutinised for many years, yet the previous Liberal-Nationals Government refused to act. On 6 June 2019 a parliamentary inquiry into the operation and management of the Northern Beaches Hospital was referred to the Legislative Council. On 27 February 2020 its final report was released. In 2020 the ABC reported that the parliamentary inquiry into the public-private partnership criticised the model and recommended that "the model of a Public- Private Partnership isn't entered into again by the Government." The ABC also reported that former New South Wales health Minister Brad Hazzard said, "he does not agree with the findings of the inquiry and that the Northern Beaches Hospital was doing an 'extraordinarily good job'."

An article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* dated 27 February 2020 reported that doctors had called on the then Liberal-Nationals Government to abandon public-private partnerships. The doctors' union, the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation [ASMOF], accused Healthscope of "acting as if it were running a purely private hospital by failing to integrate NBH with the public health system." In its submission to the parliamentary inquiry into the hospital's operations, the union urged the then Liberal-Nationals Government to exercise greater oversight of the Northern Beach Hospital operations. The then Leader of the Opposition, Jodi McKay, urged the former Liberal-Nationals Government to rule out further privatisations.

That is exactly what this legislation outlines. The Minns Labor Government has put into action the recommendations from the parliamentary inquiry—something the former Liberal-Nationals Government failed to do. The bill will amend the Health Services Act 1997 to prohibit the State, a local health district or a statutory health corporation from entering into a public-private partnership with a private person for the purpose of the private person constructing an acute hospital or providing acute hospital services to public patients, as such arrangements have raised complex issues. Other types of PPPs will still be able to occur, such as using private persons to provide facility management services at a hospital. The bill will not prevent the provision of some clinical services being provided by a private person to public patients, including radiotherapy, medical imaging and pharmacy. The bill also allows regulations to be made to exclude certain types of agreements from the prohibition to safeguard against any unintended consequences of the bill.

I commend the Minns Labor Government on the steps it has taken so far, including the establishment of a parliamentary inquiry into Northern Beaches Hospital by the Public Accounts Committee; a review of the systems and processes surrounding paediatric care at Northern Beaches Hospital, led by the Clinical Excellence Commission; a round table to improve the accessibility of the Recognise, Engage, Act, Call, Help protocol; requesting a coronial inquest; and the commitment to ensure Healthscope implements all recommendations of the serious adverse event review into Joe Massa's death.

I acknowledge the work of the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Health, who have made this bill a reality. I acknowledge the member for Wakehurst and the staff who have worked tirelessly on this bill. I thank

those in the community who have raised their voices and concerns about what has been happening in the Northern Beaches Hospital. I again pass on my sincere condolences to Danny and Elouise Massa. I thank them for their incredible courage and for fighting for improved health services for everyone in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (16:55): I speak in support of the Health Services Amendment (PPP Prohibition) Bill 2025. I wish I could do so under better circumstances, but it is impossible to speak to this bill without acknowledging the awful tragedy that brought us to this point and made this course of action so necessary. In September last year, Joe Massa, a two-year-old boy, died following care in the emergency department of the privately run Northern Beaches Hospital. His tragic passing followed a long wait in the emergency department, despite presenting with a dangerously high heart rate and severe loss of fluid. After going into cardiac arrest, Joe was transferred to the Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick, but it was too late. An internal investigation found that the Northern Beaches Hospital wrongly triaged Joe as a less-serious category of patient and refused intravenous fluids, failing in the care of Joe. I acknowledge the tremendous work of Joe's parents, Danny and Elouise, who have taken what I can only imagine is their incredible grief and used it to make sure that Joe's passing spurs action and changes the circumstances of care for others. This bill is a result of their advocacy; it is only fitting that it be known as "Joe's law." It will honour the memory and legacy of a toddler who was taken from his family and our community far too soon.

The issue has also resulted in a parliamentary inquiry into Northern Beaches Hospital by the Public Accounts Committee; a review of the systems and processes surrounding paediatric care by the Clinical Excellence Commission; and a round table to improve the accessibility of the Recognise, Engage, Act, Call and Help protocol, which is also in the pipeline. I acknowledge the work of the health Minister and the Premier in this space. There were only five weeks between the Massa family going public with Joe's story and the introduction of this bill. That is a remarkable turnaround and reflects the urgency of this reform. I know that more broadly, the community is extremely assured by the Minister's guarantee that health service privatisation is not a model of health care that he or this Labor Government will ever implement. Stopping privatisation models is yet another way the Government is delivering on the mandate the people of New South Wales delivered to us in the 2023 election, where they clearly said that the rampant privatisation of the State's services needed to end.

The bill amends the Health Services Act 1997 to prohibit private-public partnerships [PPPs] from being entered into for the purpose of a private entity either constructing an acute hospital or providing acute hospital services to public patients, including emergency services, surgical services and in-patient services. Currently, Northern Beaches Hospital is the only hospital under that arrangement in New South Wales. The Labor Party has never supported the PPP model. It is rife with issues of governance, oversight and administrative complexities, whilst also being unfathomably expensive for the taxpayer. The Labor Party opposed PPPs when the former Government sought to implement the model at Maitland, Wyong, Goulburn and Shellharbour hospitals, and put them all out to tender in 2016.

The former Government did that because it had an ideological fervour for privatisation. The fallacy that private always equals more efficient is not one that applies in this case. There was evidence at the time that those models did not work. It does not work in acute health care. It has been tried before. The former Government paired its privatisation model with shiny new buildings, but those buildings mean nothing if the standard of care is not up to scratch and if the service itself is not connected with our broader health system. Labor opposed that process for many reasons, including those I have already outlined, but it was chiefly a matter of principle. That principle is simple: Local community hospitals, especially those providing acute care, should be run by the public system, not for private profit.

There are many private facilities that complement our public system, providing excellent care, but they are not public hospitals. The public system is incredibly important, especially given that many patients require complex care that sees them transition between hospitals and local health districts or specialty networks depending on need and depending on the status of their health. That is why the statewide model of care that applies within New South Wales is fundamentally important. Even when a PPP hospital is required to integrate into the system as much as possible, in practice it still falls far short of the integration that every public hospital experiences. That is due to different models of care, different staffing requirements, connectivity levels with other facilities and staff and the fact that a PPP hospital—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): It being 5.00 p.m., pursuant to standing and sessional orders, debate is interrupted for the public interest debate. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

*Bills***SCREEN AND DIGITAL GAMES INDUSTRIES BILL 2025****Messages**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council agreeing to the Legislative Assembly's amendment.

*Public Interest Debate***NSW POLICE FORCE**

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (17:01): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Supports the New South Wales Labor Government's initiatives to address the chronic shortage of police officers presided over by the former Liberal-Nationals Government, including through:
 - (a) abolishing the wages cap;
 - (b) providing a historic wages increase funded through mutual gains bargaining;
 - (c) setting up a historic new scheme to pay students to study to become an officer, which has already seen applications surge by 70 per cent over the previous year; and
 - (d) programs specifically aimed at attracting both experienced officers and regional recruits.
- (2) Notes that on Friday 2 May the largest class of NSW Police Force recruits in 11 years attested at the Goulburn police academy, with 302 new probationary constables starting work in communities across New South Wales this week.
- (3) Opposes the reintroduction of the wages cap.

In moving the motion, I state for the record that Government members offer our full support to the men and women of the NSW Police Force, the officers who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. I also make one thing absolutely clear: The situation we inherited from the previous Liberal-Nationals Government was nothing short of a crisis. When we came to office, we found a police force that had been neglected for more than a decade. The former Government did not lift a finger to recruit or retain police officers. It left us thousands of officers short.

Not only did the former Government fail to plan for the future, but it also actively sent wages backwards, driving experienced officers out the door in droves. There was no plan for recruitment or retention, just a 12-year record of wages caps, workforce attrition and a complete absence of leadership. In just 18 months, the Minns Labor Government has started turning that crisis around. We have attracted nearly 4,000 applicants to the NSW Police Force in just the past year and a half. That is a 70 per cent increase compared with the same period under the previous Government. That did not happen by accident; it happened because we are finally doing what should have been done a long time ago. We are paying our recruits to study, investing in health and wellbeing, and giving our officers the respect and rewards they deserve.

The Government introduced paid study for police recruits, which is a game changer in making a policing career accessible to more people across the State, including in regional and remote communities. That is a practical, life-changing reform that makes policing a viable career, not just a dream. But we did not stop at recruitment. We have also delivered the biggest police pay rise in more than a decade. After 12 long years of the 2.5 per cent wages cap under the Liberal-Nationals Government, police officers will now receive up to 19 per cent more over four years. We have collapsed outdated pay scales. What it once took 16 years to achieve will now take 10 years. That gives officers a reason to stay, to grow and to lead.

The results speak for themselves. The December attestation class was full. Class 365, which attested on Friday, had more than 300 new recruits. It is the biggest class in 11 years. We are well on our way to rebuilding a force that can meet the growing needs of our communities. But recruitment is only half the story—retention is just as vital. That is why we have stood up a new health, safety and wellbeing command led by a dedicated assistant commissioner. For too long, the mental and physical health of police officers was treated as an afterthought. Through the PULSE—Prevention, Understanding, Life and Safety, Employee wellbeing—program, we are investing \$79 million in early intervention, mental health support, fitness and recovery.

We have embedded mental health clinicians in the field, expanded psychological services and introduced an early access treatment initiative to ensure timely and affordable care. We are not just talking about officer wellbeing; we are delivering it. We have also brought the police insurance scheme back into public hands, restoring confidence in the support system that officers depend on in their toughest moments. Every single one of those reforms represents a deliberate step towards rebuilding the NSW Police Force, not only as an employer of

choice but as a career of purpose, stability and pride. Let me be clear: The hard work is not over. Rebuilding a police force after a decade of damage takes time, effort and resolve. However, this Government is committed. We are delivering the support that our officers deserve, and the results prove we are on the right track.

Members opposite have had their chance. For 12 years they ignored the warnings. They watched the numbers fall. They made no plan. Worse, they left the people of New South Wales with a diminished police force and rising community safety concerns. I thank the officers who stayed and those who are joining now. Their service, courage and resilience are the reason I have moved this motion, and the Government will support them in every way it can. The future of the NSW Police Force is finally looking brighter. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (17:08): I acknowledge and extend my congratulations to the 302 new probationary constables who completed their training at the Goulburn police academy last Friday and began their careers as police officers in metropolitan, regional and rural communities across the State. Given the current and growing police shortage that has been crippling New South Wales under the Labor Government, it is a welcome boost to have more boots on the ground. These fresh, new faces are ready to serve our communities after eight months of training. For these recruits, it is about becoming frontline defenders of our communities, with more boots on the ground and more eyes on the street.

Police shortages across New South Wales have worsened under the Minns Labor Government, with the number of police officers working in this State continuing to drop. We have seen police numbers go backwards under Labor over the past two years. In New South Wales we have an authorised Police Force of 18,374 officers. In June 2023 the actual strength of our Police Force was 17,062 officers. In February this year, in budget estimates, we learned that it was 16,028. Yet we have the New South Wales Labor Government telling us that it is fixing the problem. The problem is continuing to worsen under Labor. In the past 18 months, under the current police Minister and the current Labor Government, we have seen 1,300 police officers walk out the door. Under this Minister, we have 2,400 vacancies. On top of that, as of February this year, we have 2,344 officers on leave. So we have a workforce with 4,690 less pairs of boots on the ground. That is about 26 per cent of our Police Force. Thank goodness we have more recruits coming out of the Police Academy. Thank goodness we can start to fill some of those gaps.

But the shortage has grown over the past two years, and it continues to grow. Government members can slap themselves on the back, but they should tell us the facts. The facts are in the police annual report, which shows that police numbers are declining under Labor. It is no wonder our police feel burnt out. It is no wonder they feel they are not supported. It is no wonder they are leaving in droves under the current police Minister. It is great to see more recruits—there are 302 of them—but Government members have failed to mention one thing: They cut one of the attestation classes. We used to have five every year. Now they have been jammed them into four attestation classes. It is no wonder the numbers are bigger; there are less classes now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Penrith will come to order. The member for Blacktown will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Do not be fooled by Labor's media release. It should not fool anybody. At the end of the day, the Government has squished the classes together, and we are getting hundreds less police graduating per annum. Unfortunately, the current officers who are picking up the slack for the staffing gaps and seeing police commands at 50 per cent or 60 per cent capacity—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Blacktown will be placed on a call to order if he continues to interject.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The Opposition thanks our police for the work they do when their stations are at 50 per cent or 60 per cent capacity and when 24-hour police stations are closed and unmanned. The Opposition supports the police and is calling for a regional crime inquiry to back in our police. Where was the Minister on that? She said it was a talkfest. She did not want to back in our police. Youth crime is still out of control. Just this month we have seen more break-ins, knife possessions and car thefts. Highway patrol numbers are down, the number of drug- and drink-driving tests has decreased, 24-hour police stations are closed and our police are left to do everything. They are picking up the slack from all the other agencies. Thank God these new recruits are coming online, because we certainly need them. That is why the Opposition is not only supporting those who have come out of the academy but also calling for our police to have resources to fix those stations that need to be done up so they can do their job effectively across New South Wales.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I call the member for East Hills.

Mr Paul Toole: Read the facts. It's true.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The member for Bathurst will cease interjecting.

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (17:13): I welcome the newest members of the NSW Police Force, the 302 probationary constables from Class 365, and acknowledge the historic investment that the Minns Labor Government has made in public safety across our State. Last Friday, Class 365 graduated at the Goulburn police academy. They now begin their duties at stations across the State, including nine recruits who have joined the Bankstown Police Area Command. I know that visible policing plays a vital role in community safety and crime prevention, so I welcome these new recruits to my electorate. This is the largest cohort of graduates in over a decade, and they arrive well prepared, having completed the rigorous eight-month Constable Education Program, with a further year of on-the-job training ahead of them.

They have benefited from the Minns Labor Government's landmark decision to pay recruits to train—a policy that has seen applications surge by 70 per cent and female participation increase by a third. That is what happens when governments invest in people and remove barriers to service. The Government has delivered the biggest pay rise in over a decade, with non-commissioned officers receiving a 19 per cent increase over four years and major reforms to the pay structure itself. It used to take 16 years for a constable to reach the top level of senior constable. Now it will take only 10 years. That means officers will be recognised and rewarded sooner for their experience and dedication. From these new recruits, eight will return to their home towns through the new Be a Cop in Your Hometown program—another practical reform that boosts regional retention.

The previous Liberal-Nationals Government sent wages backwards. It had no plan for recruitment and no plan for retention. As a result, thousands of experienced officers left the force. I am proud to say that the Minns Labor Government is rebuilding essential services after years of neglect. We have abolished the unfair wages cap that held back recruitment and retention, and we have introduced a landmark four-year pay agreement that provides officers with a clear path to career progression, accelerated pay scales and real flexibility, including job-sharing arrangements. This is what good governance looks like: not just applauding our frontline workers but backing them through better pay, proper training and a pathway to stay and grow in the job.

The graduation of Class 365 is a milestone in our broader commitment to restore the capacity and morale of the NSW Police Force. We are on track to deliver on our promise to rebuild public services and keep communities safe. I congratulate the men and women of Class 365 and thank them for stepping up. They are now part of something bigger than any one of us: the shared task of keeping the people of New South Wales safe, secure and supported. I thank Bankstown Police Area Command Superintendent Rod Hart, former Superintendent Adam Johnson, and all of the current serving police officers in my community and in New South Wales more broadly. In my community of East Hills and Bankstown, domestic violence remains a significant issue that demands a great deal of our police officers' time and resources.

I thank the officers who work tirelessly to address this devastating problem that impacts so many families in my electorate and across our State. I do not underestimate the challenges involved, and I am deeply grateful for their dedication and compassion in this space. The Minns Labor Government will continue to ensure that our Police Force is supported in every way possible to keep us safe. We are making it easier to become a police officer, and we are supporting police to have long and fulfilling careers with the NSW Police Force. The hard work is not over. Repairing years of damage will take time, but we are committed to getting it done. Again, I thank all our hardworking police officers for the difficult work they do each day in keeping our community safe.

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (17:18): It is a great joy to speak in this debate. The NSW Police Academy, as members will be aware, is in my electorate of Goulburn, and it is the foundation of policing in New South Wales. It is where new recruits prepare to serve communities across the State. Its presence is important to my electorate—and it is a presence felt beyond the Police Force. The academy provides local jobs and economic benefits, and it is a source of pride for the Goulburn region. But what Labor members failed to mention while patting themselves on the back is that maintaining and improving the infrastructure and equipment that police need is absolutely critical for those recruits and the future of policing and public safety in New South Wales.

The Goulburn police academy is not just a training facility; it is a vital contributor to the professional development of our current Police Force, an invaluable asset in the Goulburn electorate and in New South Wales. With its state-of-the-art facilities and expert instructors, the academy prepares our future police officers to face the challenges of law enforcement. The training they receive directly impacts the efficacy and responsiveness of our officers on our streets. The benefits of the Goulburn police academy extend far beyond simply increasing the number of officers on patrol. It is also a significant contributor to the ongoing upskilling of our police personnel.

The former Liberal-Nationals Government recognised how important it was to support and grow this institution, and invested \$60 million in 2020. That included new student accommodation towers and a new armed offender training facility—in addition to a record investment of \$583 million, which had already been allocated

towards policing during that period. I do not know whether anyone has been to the facility, but the new student accommodation towers are state-of-the-art, beautiful pieces that are certainly welcome. I do not know where members opposite got their information that we did not invest, because that investment certainly is there. The police Minister was quite happy to come and cut the ribbon on those important towers.

My electorate particularly benefited from our investment in the Police Force. Whether it was the Southern Highlands Police Station, rescue vehicles in Goulburn, or the expansion of local police commands, we backed our officers with the equipment and support they need to do their jobs. However, Goulburn Police Station, which was announced under our Government, has been delayed unnecessarily for approximately two years under the Labor Government, despite being fully funded and ready to proceed. This inaction leaves our local officers working in outdated and inadequate facilities. The failure of the Labor Government to prioritise and deliver on this essential policing infrastructure is a significant disappointment for our local community, but more so for our local police officers. But I guess that, after a delay of two years, we should be grateful we have now finally seen a shovel in the ground in the past couple of weeks.

Police need modern, safe and fully-equipped facilities to do their jobs effectively, and outdated infrastructure both limits operational capacity and undermines morale. The Labor Government has shown a disappointing lack of urgency in this regard. In February this year, we heard the NSW Police Force has approximately 16,252 police officers—contrary to Labor's claims that it has significantly increased that number. It is actually lower than the 17,062 that were employed in 2022-23 under the former Coalition Government. Members opposite boast about commitments, but fall short on delivery. Our police officers—the very people we rely on to respond to emergencies, domestic violence incidents, road traffic accidents and natural disasters—have been let down by this Government that drags its feet when it comes to frontline services. When Labor fails to act, our communities feel the consequences.

The Goulburn police academy is a critical component of the NSW Police Force and the work that it does. It is the starting point of every officer's journey, and that journey should be backed by confidence in government support, not undermined by bureaucratic delays and political neglect. I pay tribute to the officers serving across our region, both the experienced hands and the new recruits stepping out of the academy for the first time—officers who deserve the facilities, the respect and the resources to match what they bring to the job every single day. The Coalition backs our officers, and we always will.

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (17:23): I speak in support of the public interest debate motion moved by the member for Mount Druitt. I also congratulate those newly-appointed constables for the work they do. I am a former Federal police officer, and when I graduated it was one of the most memorable days of my life. I was so proud. I started work two or three days later, and I got lugged with a drug importation matter. It was just before Christmas, and it was a steep learning curve. I congratulate all those officers who will go on to do great things in protecting our community and helping so many people.

I have previously spoken in this House about my experience with police, firstly, as a kid growing up in Cabramatta. The police helped transform Cabramatta, which was really struggling with drug and gang crime, into the thriving community it is today. I am very appreciative of those police efforts. As a newly-appointed MP, I deal with the Fairfield and Bankstown police area commands, and I have seen some amazing work in those spaces—in particular, police responding to a fire in Carramar and saving people, and the Wakeley riots. I saw firsthand how police from all over Sydney came to protect each other and the community, despite the very dangerous situation. I have experienced police professionalism when they protected me—I have had two incidents—as well as other MPs, support staff and people who work within the Parliament apparatus. They support events such as the Syrian New Year and Vietnamese New Year. Their presence ensures that our community can function, and they are so important.

It is clear that government, irrespective of political persuasion, needs to support our police. They are paramount to our society. Governments cannot function without the protection of our society, and the police play a critical part in that. We need a "raise, train and sustain" model for our Police Force that is fit for purpose. Kids love watching superhero movies; they idolise police officers. Police are our modern-day heroes, so we need to recruit the best and brightest. In addition, we need to train them with the best possible resources. We need to set them up with the best skills and competencies so that they can protect themselves and others. Retention is also critical. Some members have made points about police numbers, but that is a structural issue; it does not operate in a vacuum. It happens over a protracted period. We came to government faced with this problem and we need to fix it. We are on that very task. When I go through—time permitting—some of the measures that we have taken, it will be clear that they are fit for purpose, and they do work.

One of the first things is our recruitment efforts. We have instituted various policies, including a massive pay rise that is commensurate with what police deserve. I understand that over the past 18 months since that announcement in late 2023, recruitment is up over 70 per cent. When I wanted to join the police force, pay in

order to study was a critical factor, and the Federal police were paying and the New South Wales police were not. Now, recruitment rates are obviously responding to our policy, which is important. The Professional Mobility Program—being able to recruit police officers from across different jurisdictions in order to retain talent and experience—is so important.

Regional policing is critical. We need to ensure that regional police numbers are bolstered, and the You Should Be a Cop in Your Hometown initiative enables us to do that, and it must be commended. The final point—clearly I can talk about this for hours and time has escaped me—is about the health and well-being command. Supporting the mental and physical health of police is so important. Police deal with some of the most traumatic scenarios in our society, so it is important that we support them through that. Clearly, all our different initiatives are bearing fruit. It is a structural issue that we are seeking to fix, and we are going in the right direction. I support the motion.

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (17:28): I contribute to debate on the motion moved by the member for Mount Druitt. I note that it seems to be a recycled public interest debate from last year. We had a very similar debate in this House on 12 November. Firstly, I congratulate the 302 new recruits who graduated last week from the academy in Class 365. Like some former members of this House, I graduated as a member of the NSW Police Force many years ago. I graduated from the Redfern police academy in 1980 as part of class 167. I remember my first day serving as a member of the NSW Police Force. I was very proud, as were my parents. My father and brother were both serving police officers when I graduated. I served for 10 wonderful years as a member of the NSW Police Force, ending up with the rank of senior sergeant.

This debate is about policing numbers. It is far too simplistic to say that policing numbers are in direct correlation to the wages that police are paid. There are many reasons why members of the public join the Police Force, and there are many reasons why members of the Police Force leave it. It is not just about wages. When I joined the Police Force, there was a defined benefits superannuation scheme for police officers who joined prior to 1988. This meant that officers remained in the Police Force. In the years after the defined benefits scheme ended, there was less reason for police officers to remain as serving members of the Police Force. This situation made it easier for police to make the decision to leave. It is certainly not just correlated to wages.

Another reason why officers leave the Police Force has a lot to do with their workload. The Minns Government has failed the ambulance services. In electorates throughout New South Wales, police are called out to double up and take members of the public to hospitals. I receive complaints all the time from local police officers who are required to ferry people to mental health facilities and remain there for many hours. They are tired of the fact that they are doing work which is no longer police service work. It is the direct fault of the Minns Government, and it needs to fix this. It needs to ensure that police are able to do the policing work that they joined the Police Force to do rather than this other work. They are not a taxi driver for ambulance services. The Government needs to fix this.

Another reason that members of the Police Force leave is the culture in the NSW Police Force. Culture starts at the top. We need strong leadership. We do not need the police Minister telling protesters in Newcastle that it is okay to protest. In a similar debate on 12 November 2024, the shadow Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism said:

The police said it was irresponsible that our police Minister was supporting protesters in those communities.

We need strong leadership supporting our police officers. We need a government that actually supports bail laws. There will be bail laws coming before this Parliament which would ensure that when the police make arrests, the people who continue to commit crimes will not be released back onto the street. The Government's bail laws allow members of the public who continue to commit crimes to be released back into the public to commit more crimes. The police are sick of it. The police are tired of not being supported with appropriate laws by this Government. If the Government supported the Police Force, it would support the laws that the police want and ensure that those people who continue to commit crimes are no longer allowed back on the street. The reality is that there are many reasons why police officers leave. It is not only related to the wage cap.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (17:33): In reply: I thank all of the members who contributed to the debate on this motion: the member for Bathurst, the member for East Hills, the member for Goulburn, the member for Fairfield and the member for Castle Hill. I reiterate the Government's unwavering support for members of the NSW Police Force. I will now respond to some of the Opposition's claims. The member for Bathurst wants us to believe that police numbers suddenly started getting worse when the Minns Government came to power in 2023. He failed to tell the House that we inherited a massive shortfall in police numbers when we came to office.

We started with a deficit of 1,500 police officers. The member for Bathurst is a former Minister for Police and is the current shadow Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. He could not stand at the podium and tell us

a single initiative he made to assist recruitment and retention. He was happy to attend events and give out awards, but he did not do anything as a Minister to retain or recruit police officers. The member for Goulburn spoke about capital investments the Opposition made during its time in government, but this motion is about recruitment and retention. The member for Goulburn did not mention a single thing that the former Government did to retain police officers.

The truth is that we inherited a full-blown crisis from the former Liberal-Nationals Government—a crisis defined by over a decade of neglect and wage suppression and a total absence of planning for recruitment or retention. Its failure left the Police Force short of thousands of officers and pushed experienced officers out the door. In just 18 months, the Minns Labor Government has begun reversing this damage. We have attracted nearly 4,000 new applicants, which is a 70 per cent increase compared to the previous Government's record. The Government makes no apology for these deliberate and bold reforms, including paid study for recruits—

[Time for debate expired.]

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

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

MEMBER FOR BEGA FORTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (17:37): I rise today to congratulate my wife, Lyn, on our 40 years of marriage. In 1981 on ward 5 at St George Hospital a young intern met a beautiful, young, titian-haired nurse and fell in love. Four years later, we were married on 5 May 1985. Our partnership has taken us from Sydney, to London, to Newcastle and, finally, to the far South Coast of New South Wales. We have shared love, laughter and losses and, as in any 40-year journey, there have been some difficult times which have reinforced our commitment. Despite my 30 years of nocturnal absences helping other families grow, Lyn became a mother and role model to our five beautiful daughters. After decades of patience, Lyn has graciously and wholeheartedly supported my transition to New South Wales Parliament. Lyn is loved by her daughters, their partners, our five grandchildren and many others. But no-one loves her more than me. Lyn, I have always loved you and I will always love you. Happy anniversary.

ALBURY WAR MEMORIAL

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (17:38): I commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Albury War Memorial, which is proudly perched at the top of Monument Hill. I take a moment to reflect on its profound significance. This Anzac Day marks the centenary of remembrance, unity and the enduring spirit of our community. It was designed by architect Louis Harrison and built by T H Bartleson and Son. I note that Thomas Bartleson lost his son at Fromelles. The memorial was built in 1924 and unveiled on Anzac Day in 1925. It honours the bravery and sacrifice of men and women who served during both World Wars. Its striking white ferroconcrete tower is crowned by the torch of liberty and represents hope, freedom and the unbreakable connection between past and present generations. The Albury War Memorial is a powerful symbol of remembrance and community. It is a focal point for Anzac Day services and other gatherings. It stands as an educational landmark for future generations and is a lasting tribute to those who sacrificed for our freedom. I extend my gratitude to Albury City Council, Graham Docksey and the Albury RSL Sub Branch team for their continued dedication to preserving the legacy of the Albury War Memorial.

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL PARK

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (17:39): A significant milestone was marked on 7 April with the official opening of Macarthur Memorial Park in Varroville—Sydney's first new Crown cemetery in 80 years. The event was attended by Premier Chris Minns, Minister Stephen Kamper, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, OP, Bishop Brian Mascord and leaders from 25 faith groups, highlighting a united effort to create a space that honours all cultures and religions. Spread across 113 hectares, Macarthur Memorial Park features 136,000 burial plots, three chapels, native gardens, a cafe, and walking and cycling paths. At the heart of the park is the Waragal Function Centre, an architecturally thoughtful space overlooking a beautiful, peaceful lake. Designed to blend in with the natural surroundings, it provides a serene setting for memorial services, community events and quiet reflection. The opening ceremony was a wonderful demonstration of solidarity in building an inclusive space. I look forward to Macarthur Memorial Park being a space that honours life and continues to support our growing community.

TAMWORTH RUGBY LEAGUE

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (17:40): I congratulate the Tamworth and District Minor League President Justin Fox and his committee on their work to revitalise junior rugby league in the Tamworth region. Tamworth is rugby league country, and our region has a proud history of producing NRL stars like Alan Tongue, Monty Porter, Phil Graham, Matt Parsons and many more. NRL dreams all begin on the junior field, and Tamworth has always had strength in our junior competition. Justin and his committee are looking to boost participation in the sport and get more kids into the game. On 18 May the Tamworth and District Minor League will hold a free academy for juniors, giving them an opportunity to hone their skills for the 2025 season. I thank the NRL, ClubsNSW and sponsors for their generous support, and I encourage local kids and parents to take advantage of this opportunity. They should get involved and get into rugby league.

GEORGES RIVER FISH STOCKS

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (17:41): I express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated local Fishcare volunteers and the experts at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for their hard work and commitment to our local waterways. On 3 April I was honoured to take part in the release of approximately 12,000 80-day-old mullocky fish into the Georges River. The dedicated efforts of all involved in releasing native mullocky into the Georges River were welcomed by local fishermen as an important contribution to our environment. They play a vital role in maintaining healthy fish stocks, supporting the ecological balance and biodiversity of the river. Recreational fishing is a beloved pastime for many locals, including me. This initiative supports the local fishing community by providing sustainable fish stocks. Ensuring our waterways remain well stocked with native species promotes responsible fishing practices and long-term sustainability. I thank all involved in this important initiative for their dedication, care and hard work in preserving our local environment for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO RFS DEPUTY CAPTAIN JENNI FARRELL

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:42): It is with great sadness that I acknowledge the recent passing of Deputy Captain Jenni Farrell of the Matcham-Holgate RFS brigade. I take this opportunity to remember Jenni's incredible service and commitment to our community through her work with the RFS. Jenni's remarkable five-decade commitment to bushfire management began with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service back in 1973 and continued with the NSW RFS from 2012. Her service as a highly qualified firefighter, incident planner and mentor took her across New South Wales, interstate and internationally, protecting communities and guiding others with professionalism and compassion. Jenni was a recipient of the Australian Fire Service Medal in the 2025 Australia Day Honours and many other distinguished awards, and her leadership, knowledge and dedication were widely respected. As chair of the Central Coast Bush Fire Management Committee and a planning officer for numerous significant campaigns, Jenni's legacy will continue. Jenni leaves behind a profound impact on all who had the privilege of working with her. From a grateful community, our heartfelt condolences go to Peter and Jenni's family. Vale Jenni.

UNCLE GERALD BROWN

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (17:43): I congratulate Uncle Gerald Brown for being awarded the 2025 Outstanding Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion at the Shellharbour Community and Australia Day Awards ceremony in January. Uncle Gerald Brown has excelled in establishing valuable community services which support and empower the Aboriginal community. Uncle Gerald created the Illawarra Koori Men's Support Group two decades ago, which has grown into the Gawura Aboriginal Corporation, offering programs to women and youth. Uncle Gerald is a remarkable Elder. Even in his retirement he works tirelessly to ensure that the local Aboriginal community has access to programs and support services. On behalf of the entire Shellharbour electorate, I congratulate Uncle Gerald on his amazing achievement.

CASSANDRA "CASSIE" BUSH

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (17:44): I congratulate Cassandra—or Cassie—Bush, who has been awarded the Young Woman award for 2025 by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. Cassie has extensive experience in the agricultural show movement, whether it be cattle ring parading, serving on her local committee or performing one of the many other roles she has served in. In 2024 Cassie completed her double degree in agriculture and law. In October of that year she started her journey that saw her win at the Cootamundra Show, enabling her to represent Zone 7 at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. She never envisaged winning the event but mentioned how wonderful it was to spend time with like-minded women from across New South Wales throughout the overall selection process. She described her experience as surreal but, now that she is doing the job, she is looking forward to the year ahead. I congratulate Cassie on her success and wish her the best of luck.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I welcome to the public gallery students, parents and staff of Roselea Public School, including principal Kylie Bryant, Chloe Hill and Hugo Griffith. We are dealing with community recognition statements, which are nice things to say about the community. They go for one minute, so they are great timing practice.

DIGGERS REMEMBERED

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (17:46): Scattered throughout Nowra General Cemetery are the graves of 150 World War I heroes. Thanks to the dedication of local historian Robyn Florance, OAM, their stories are now captured in a new book, *Diggers Remembered*, which documents each soldier's life, service and final resting place. Robyn's journey began in 2015 when working on the Centenary of Anzac exhibition at the Nowra Museum. Robyn discovered that the men and women she had researched were buried in Nowra General Cemetery. *Diggers Remembered* is the culmination of nearly a decade of meticulous research, reading through archives, consulting the community and walking the cemetery rows. With help from the Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group, 12 ex-service personnel were given the honour they deserved, as their graves were rededicated with proper headstones and ceremony. Through *Diggers Remembered*, Robyn Florance, OAM, has given our community a lasting gift that will ensure the lives and legacies of all 150 veterans are remembered for generations to come.

JOHN MCAULEY

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (17:47): I extend my sincere recognition and admiration to John McAuley, a World War II veteran and treasured member of the Castle Hill community. John's life is one of tireless service. Born in 1924, John enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on his eighteenth birthday and trained as a radar operator at RAAF Richmond. He served in Merauke, Dutch New Guinea, during a critical period of the war, working under incredibly harsh conditions and standing ready to defend Australia from potential invasion. His vivid memories and reflections are a rare and invaluable link to our nation's wartime history. Following the war, John contributed to society as an economist and author. He served with distinction in the Commonwealth and State banks and later as Treasurer of the United Nations Association of Australia. For more than two decades he maintained a newsletter for former RAAF radar operators, helping to preserve their legacy and camaraderie. At 100 years of age, John remains active, marching on Anzac Day and sharing his story with future generations. I am deeply honoured to acknowledge his extraordinary service and ongoing efforts to honour the Anzac spirit.

MIRACLE BABIES TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (17:48): This year Miracle Babies celebrates 20 years of supporting the neonatal community. Miracle Babies was born in south-west Sydney from a group of mothers who all had their own experience with a premature or sick baby. Their passion, dedication and courage in sharing their own personal stories has shaped Miracle Babies into what it is today. Twenty years on, Miracle Babies is Australia's leading charity committed to improving, supporting and enhancing all lives impacted by a premature or sick birth. Its work has continued to expand and evolve to reach more families across Australia from all backgrounds and cultures. It is respected and valued by healthcare professionals nationally and internationally, and continues to make a positive impact on families. I could not attend its 20-year anniversary gala dinner, but I commend this fantastic organisation for all they do and I look forward to supporting them in the future.

CHLOE HILL AND HUGO GRIFFITH

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping) (17:49): I acknowledge two outstanding young individuals from the Epping electorate, Chloe Hill and Hugo Griffith of Roselea Public School, who have been elected as school captains for 2025—the school's highest student privilege. This achievement reflects the trust placed in them by their school community and highlights the importance of youth leadership in education. In their new roles, Chloe and Hugo are entrusted to uphold the school's values of excellence, collaboration and opportunity while also representing their peers and setting a positive example within the school. Positions like these are a crucial part in developing students who understand responsibility and the value of service. I have every confidence that they will approach their duties with integrity and enthusiasm. I commend them for their dedication to Roselea Public School. I also recognise Principal Kylie Bryant for her commitment to cultivating leadership.

PETER MCLENAGHAN

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (17:50): It takes a very special person to serve our community for over 50 years—often in incredibly significant circumstances—so I congratulate Peter McLenaghan of Bonnyrigg Heights who marks this milestone as a Justice of the Peace [JP]. Peter became a JP as a requirement for his job—a common motivation. Peter enjoyed an almost five-decades long career as a public servant at the Department of Defence, beginning at Garden Island in 1969. Even though Peter is now retired, he continues to

serve as a Justice of the Peace. I thank Peter for his service to our community, both in his professional life and as a volunteer. Justices of the Peace are important, but often overlooked, providing an important service in witnessing statutory declarations, verifying affidavits and certifying copies. His efforts have helped many to step closer to buying a home, resolving legal difficulties and becoming citizens of our country. We could always do with more good JPs. I wish Peter the very best as he celebrates this exciting milestone.

CAROL MUDFORD

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (17:51): Carol Mudford, who was originally from Gilgandra but is now residing in Dubbo, is a mental health advocate and founder for the non-for-profit organisation sHedway. Carol was announced the State winner of the 2025 NSW/ACT AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. That organisation, sHedway, started as a small community-led initiative in Dubbo in 2023 to look after the neglected area of mental health in the shearing industry. It has now expanded nationally with Carol promoting mental health awareness by blending health care, advocacy and shearing industry expertise in regional communities in New South Wales and around Australia. Carol and her family are involved in all aspects of the wool and sheep industry, and are known leaders in their communities. I congratulate Carol on this well-deserved award. Her determination to make a positive impact in regional communities is encouraging others to start the conversation around mental health.

AUDREY GRIFFIN

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (17:52): I acknowledge a local young girl with a passion for social justice and community advocacy, Audrey Griffin. Audrey's enthusiasm for politics led her to reach out to me earlier this year when she expressed her admiration for Julia Gillard, particularly Ms Gillard's misogyny speech and the impact it has had on shaping her values and beliefs. I met with Audrey and was moved by her passion and care for her peers. She told me how she had given a speech on gender equality in her classroom where she was inspired to promote values of respect and fairness among her classmates. Audrey is a wonder example of a kind, caring and intelligent young individual who has already had such a positive impact on her community. I commend Audrey for her compassion and intelligence and wish her the best in her bright future.

STEVEN CURTIS

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (17:53): I congratulate Steven Curtis, the 2025 KALOF People's Choice Award winner of the Out Front art exhibition. This exhibition featured 25 selected artworks from 21 schools in the community. Steven is currently completing his HSC at Oxford Falls Grammar, where he has channelled his incredible artistic talent into exploring themes and issues that resonate deeply with both him and his generation. His standout piece, *Artistic Innovation or Invasion?*, thoughtfully examined the growing impact of artificial intelligence on the art world—a timely and relevant topic that continues to spark debate, especially among young creatives. Through this work, Steven captured the hearts and minds of the community, winning the majority of votes from over 1,200 attendees. Steven's passion, creativity and courage in confronting challenging questions through his art are clear indicators of a young person destined for success. I am truly excited to follow his journey and see the many accomplishments in the years to come. Well done, mate!

CHRIS MERLO

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (17:54): I acknowledge the quick thinking and bravery of Novocastrian Chris Merlo, who saved the lives of two drowning tourists on 2 April this year. Mr Merlo was just enjoying a trip to Fingal Bay to visit his parents when he spotted two people struggling to stay afloat amidst the massive waves near the rocks at Kiddies Corner. Without hesitation, he grabbed a paddleboard and hit the water to rescue the two swimmers. Despite not having formal surf lifesaving training, a life by the beach has made him a great swimmer and surfer. He was able to rescue the two women. Mr Merlo's courage and decisiveness saved two lives that day. I admire his heroism and compassion. On behalf of all of the people of Newcastle, I thank him.

BOWRAL COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION CENTENARY

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (17:55): The Bowral Country Women's Association [CWA] centenary celebration, held at the picturesque Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa, was nothing short of spectacular. April in the Southern Highlands brings a vibrant transformation as the leaves turn rich shades of gold and crimson. On that beautiful April day, the grounds were immaculate and the trees magnificent. On arrival it felt like stepping into a celebration of nature and history. The Bowral branch of the Country Women's Association marks 100 years of unwavering service, resilience, and community spirit. Early meetings took place in cherished local spaces like St Jude's Church rooms in Bowral, the Wingecarribee Shire Council and even members' homes, rooted in the heart of the community. Since then, the Bowral branch—and the CWA more broadly—has stood as a pillar of support for women and families, particularly through challenging times. From supporting the Flying Doctor Service and the military to responding to drought, fires, floods and war, the CWA has always rallied

together to meet community needs. It is a powerful voice for change, a hub for fundraising and a force for advocacy.

PROJECT BUCEPHALUS

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (17:56): I recognise the recent success of the Project Bucephalus robotics team in the 2025 FIRST Robotics Competition held in the United States. Over a few weeks in their December and January school holidays, the team designed and built a robot to compete against approximately 600 teams from around the world. Their efforts were guided by a group of volunteers led by Andrew and Lyndell Clark. The team was also required to prepare other materials, such as essays, presentations and videos to outline their work. This year the team took out the Championship FIRST Impact Award—the single highest award in the global FIRST program—recognising the team that best embodies the mission of FIRST through education, innovation and lasting impact. The team also joined the FIRST Hall of Fame. It was only the fourth time a team from outside the United States has been recognised with that award. What an impressive result for a group of self-funded teenagers from Wollongong who have been competing for years in this field and who have set a new standard in this global competition. I congratulate them on their success.

BRAD BAXTER

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (17:57): I recognise Brad Baxter for his extraordinary determination and compassion in undertaking a 220 kilometre run in support of those living with cystic fibrosis. Brad's journey began at 1.00 a.m. on Friday 28 March 2025 from the Victoria Park rose garden—where plaques honour his late cousins, Stacey and Megan, who tragically lost their lives to cystic fibrosis. The run was both a tribute and a call to action, driven by deep personal loss and a powerful desire to help others. Supported by his wife, Rohini, parents, friends and an incredible community, Brad completed the run at Wollongong Lighthouse at 10.25 a.m. the next day. He was warmly welcomed by Stacey and Megan's mother, Isabelle Baxter, and Sylvana Aliffi, the president of Cystic Fibrosis Goulburn & District. Brad's run raised over \$32,000, which is a remarkable contribution that will support those living with cystic fibrosis and honour the memory of his cousins.

DEPUTY CAPTAIN PHIL BEATH

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (17:58): I congratulate Deputy Captain Phil Beath of the Schofields Rural Fire Brigade on receiving the Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery—one of the highest honours awarded in the NSW Rural Fire Service. This prestigious recognition was presented to Deputy Captain Beath at the 2025 St Florian's Day Award Ceremony, which celebrates outstanding courage and commitment among firefighters. Phil's commendation honours his heroic actions in 2023 when he encountered a devastating truck accident on the M7 motorway while off duty. Without hesitation, he attempted to rescue the trapped driver from a burning vehicle following a collision with a concrete barrier. Despite the rapidly spreading fire and extreme danger, Phil put his own safety at risk in a courageous effort to save another life. While the driver could not be saved, Phil's bravery in the face of overwhelming danger reflects the highest values of the Rural Fire Service—selflessness, service and humanity. On behalf of the Riverstone and Schofields communities, we thank and honour Deputy Captain Phil Beath for his extraordinary bravery and continued service. He is a credit to his brigade and a true local hero.

LINCOLN KELLETT

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (17:59): In an extraordinary achievement for a young local sportsman, year 12 graduate and 2024 school captain of Dorrigo High School Lincoln Kellett is set to jet off to the United Kingdom [UK] to pursue his cricketing dream. Lincoln has signed a six-month contract with Droitwich Spa Cricket Club in Worcestershire, an area rich in cricketing history. The journey is the beginning of what promises to be an exciting chapter in his cricketing career, as he represents the strength of local talent on an international level. It is no small feat for a young man from a small town to travel halfway across the world to compete at that level, and it is a proud moment for his family, community and all who have supported him along the way. His determination, natural talent and leadership both on and off the field have made him a role model for younger players. I wish him all the best in the UK and look forward to seeing where his talent takes him next. Go strong, young man.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY ARTHUR BRADSHAW

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:00): Barry Arthur Bradshaw was born on 25 August 1935. He died on Anzac Day at lunch after celebrating Anzac Day services with his comrades. His family told me it was fitting that he died as he lived: an active participant in the community that he loved. His funeral was held on 5 May. I represented the community to pay my respects, but also to thank Barry Bradshaw's family for their collective contribution to our community, and to acknowledge the particular contribution that Barry made to the life of the Central Coast. Barry grew up in Sydney. After service in the infantry corps as a national serviceman,

he moved to the Central Coast and, with his bride, raised Mark, Jodie and Debbie. He was a founding member of the Tuggerah Lakes showband and the Mingara club. Barry's legacy is the community services that he nurtured and the family he raised on the Central Coast. Vale, Barry Bradshaw.

RYDE EASTER PETS AND TEDDIES PHOTO COMPETITION

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (18:01): I ask the House to acknowledge the participants of the 2025 Ryde Easter Pets and Teddies Photo Competition. The light-hearted community contest brought out the best of our local creativity and Easter spirit, with residents sharing delightful photos of their pets and beloved soft toys dressed in their Easter best. I extend particular congratulations to this year's winner, Ellie Yu, whose submission captured our community's heart. Ellie's photo featured her rescue cat, Mao Mao, wearing an incredible homemade Easter hat with towering bunny ears and festive accessories. Ellie's clever craftsmanship and affection for her pet stood out among the many wonderful entries. I thank her for participating and bringing joy to so many in our electorate. Events like this celebrate our shared traditions, and bring people together in fun and creative ways. I again thank everyone who entered, and congratulate Ellie and Mao Mao on the well-deserved win.

LAZYBONES LOUNGE RESTAURANT AND BAR

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (18:02): Marrickville's very own Lazybones Lounge Restaurant and Bar has taken out the coveted title of Licensee of the Year Award at the 2025 Australasian Performing Rights Association—APRA—Music Awards. Located within the new special entertainment precinct coming to Marrickville, Lazybones has been vital in supporting local artists and growing our local live music and entertainment economy. The award recognises the value that Lazybones has contributed to our local community and creative culture at large and to business sustainability. Lazybones hosts live music nearly every day of the week and has become an instantly recognisable icon of Sydney's music scene. Renowned for its commitment to artists, Lazybones consistently strives to keep Marrickville's music scene active and vibrant. I congratulate owner Craig Pietersen, Alexandra Heffernan and their whole team on the well-deserved recognition of their incredible efforts to keep the inner west music scene absolutely pumping.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): I have seen many acts at Lazybones. It is a great local venue.

HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (18:03): On Anzac Day this year I had the honour of attending the dawn service at Bigge Park in Liverpool, as well as the Anzac Day display in Wattle Grove, run by Kelli Hill. This year marks 110 years since those first steps at Gallipoli. Across New South Wales, thousands gathered at dawn services and marches to remember not just the fallen but every man and woman who has worn our nation's uniform with pride. In Holsworthy, our connection to that legacy runs deep. We are proud to be home to Holsworthy Barracks, where so many serve with quiet dedication and strength. Their presence reminds us daily of the sacrifices made not just on distant battlefields but here at home by families who love and support them. Today and every day we say thank you to those who laid down their lives, to those who continue to serve and to their families, who sacrifice so much alongside them. We honour their memory, we cherish their legacy and we promise we will never forget. Lest we forget.

INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (18:04): I was delighted to join the International Gita Mahotsav on Sunday 4 May, which featured a breathtakingly beautiful aarti ceremony on the banks of the Parramatta River, with the lights of the lamps reflected on the water. It was led by the visionary behind the International Gita Mahotsav, Swami Shri Gyananand Ji Maharaj, who travelled from India for the event. International Gita Mahotsav celebrates the universal and timeless values of the *Bhagavad Gita*: service to humanity, service to God and forgiveness. Held over the weekend, it included discussions about the *Gita* in daily life, held at the Western Sydney University auditorium; Gita Yagya held at Sri Mandir, Australia's first Hindu temple; and then the Gita aarti and cultural program on the banks of the Parramatta River. I congratulate Sewa Singh and all the volunteers who made International Gita Mahotsav such a success. I also make mention of the dozens of Hindu organisations and temples that supported and sponsored the event, including the Hindu Council, International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Bocharanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha, Council of Indian Australians, Sri Mandir and many others. I say well done.

BEN JOHNS, BRENTON WILLIAMS AND SIMON MAHON

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater) (18:05): I recognise the outstanding community service and life-saving activities of three men who worked together to save the life of a northern beaches resident. In January Ben Johns, Brenton Williams and Simon Mahon were at the gym at Avalon Beach before normal patrol hours

when they heard calls for help. A woman in her 70s was found face down in the ocean pool. Running to the scene, they pulled the woman from the pool. She had been face down for over two minutes and was unconscious, not breathing and did not have a detectable pulse. They moved her to a safe location, performed CPR and called for a defibrillator machine. The men are from different clubs across Pittwater—Ben from Palm Beach patrol, Brenton from Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Simon from Newport Surf Life Saving Club. Despite not having patrolled together before, they displayed great teamwork and outstanding application of their lifesaving skills under extreme pressure, which ultimately saved the life of a much-loved local resident. Their efforts were heroic, and Pittwater is grateful for their service.

CEREBRAL PALSY ALLIANCE ROSELANDS CENTRE FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (18:06): I was proud to join my community at the opening of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Roselands Centre for Disability Support, funded by the New South Wales Government. We marked a significant milestone in disability support services for Western Sydney, with a world-class service hub in the heart of Canterbury-Bankstown. The facility is more than just a building; it is an inspiring space filled with opportunity, care and hope. Featuring nine multidisciplinary therapy rooms, a multi-functional space for equipment trials and group programs, and fully accessible amenities including bathrooms, change rooms and parking, the facility is a representation of our commitment to empower people with disabilities through access to expert therapy, cutting-edge equipment and compassionate, client-centred care. I could never properly explain the inspirational day or the wonderful individual stories that I heard, but I can say that the New South Wales Government will remain committed to enhancing our community and supporting it with infrastructure that shows that inclusion is more than just a word. I commend the Cerebral Palsy Alliance chair, Andrew Buchanan; its CEO, Rob White; and the team at Roselands and in other parts of the State for their commitment to delivering evidence-based therapies, innovative technologies and comprehensive support programs tailored to the needs of clients of all ages, and their communities and families.

KIM PATRICK, JP

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (18:07): I ask the House to join me in congratulating Kim Patrick on an extraordinary milestone: his fiftieth anniversary of service as a justice of the peace [JP]. The achievement reflects a profound commitment to public service, civic duty and community integrity. For half a century, Kim has upheld the law with impartiality, honesty and unwavering dedication, quietly enabling the justice system to function more efficiently for everyday citizens. JPs like Kim play an essential and often under-recognised role in our legal framework. Their voluntary contributions ensure that key processes, such as witnessing statutory declarations and certifying important documents, can be carried out reliably in local communities. Fifty years is not just a long time; it is a lifetime of service. It speaks volumes about Kim's character and his deep sense of responsibility to those around him. I extend our heartfelt thanks and admiration on behalf of the Ryde electorate and this House. Once again, I congratulate Kim, whose contribution has not gone unnoticed.

Private Members' Statements

CITY OF NEWCASTLE SWIMMING POOLS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (18:09): BlueFit's Wallsend pool had an inauspicious final day of season. A number of us swimmers were standing outside the pool at 6.00 a.m. We waited for a little time. We had a little chat. Then we knocked on the garage door of the pool. We waited a few more minutes. Then we called the pool. Then we waited a few more minutes. We looked on BlueFit's Facebook page but there was nothing about the pool closure, so we left. A couple of hours later I found out that the pool had been broken into. I feel for the young staff person because the private provider, BlueFit, employs only one staffer at Wallsend pool, Beresfield pool, Mayfield pool and Stockton pool. There was one staffer on their own, in the dark, dealing with whatever the consequences were. In this case it was a break-in. I am concerned, because that staffer, a young backpacker—BlueFit mostly employs backpackers—was working on their own in those sorts of circumstances. I hope BlueFit considers, with council, to installing CCTV cameras to help provide some safety at the pool.

Twelve years ago the City of Newcastle moved to privatise the management and operations of all five inland pools. Even worse, the council planned to close Beresfield pool. So we rallied. I organised a large public meeting at Beresfield. We protested and we were able to keep at least Beresfield pool in public hands but the pool became run down because of privatisation. In 2015, once the new council had settled in, I wrote to the City of Newcastle's Labor councillors and the Lord Mayor to invite them to a meeting in my office. I wanted to talk to them about the consequences of privatisation. Being a regular swimmer since the last century, I have a basic understanding of what is happening at the pools. In addition to that, everybody in the community know that I swim and those that I swim with tell me about the problems at the pool.

There were no answers or replies to my entreaties and invitations. Once I followed up, I was invited into town to meet the councillors. I went into town and met two of the councillors and talked about the problems with the pool. I was assured that there would be some major improvements to the pool, because I said that I wanted the council to take the pools back into public hands. One promise that they made was to pay attention to the servicing of the pool, but that has never really happened. Then 12 qualified and experienced lifeguards were sacked. This occurred just prior to the lead-up to the council meeting in 2023, where council determined to enter into a 21-year contract with BlueFit. In addition to that, it put Beresfield pool on the chopping block and privatised it.

In the one minute I have left, I would like to talk about the consequences of what has happened with the privatisation of the pools. There have been job losses. The pools have not been serviced nor maintained since they were privatised. I call on the councillors to seriously look at the implications of that. The pool cleaning standards have lowered and the water quality is questionable. There are no learn-to-swim classes anymore at Beresfield or Wallsend pools. There is no disability access to any of the council pools and there is a lot of buck-passing happening between council and BlueFit. I urge and entreat the councillors to take the five council pools back into public hands. That is the right thing to do. It is party policy to keep public utilities in public hands and it is the right thing to do for the community. Let's improve the pools for our community.

GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN 110TH ANNIVERSARY

NORTH SHORE ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:14): This year, 2025, marks the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign. As we all know, it is one of the most defining moments in Australia's history. On 25 April 1915, when the Anzacs landed on the shores of Gallipoli, they forged a legacy of courage, sacrifice and mateship that continues to shape our national identity. Although the campaign itself did not achieve its military objectives, the bravery and determination of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers left an indelible mark on all of us. On Anzac Day this year—and every year—we paused to honour those who served, those who died and those who returned home forever changed. We remember not only the Anzacs of Gallipoli but all Australians who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping and peacemaking missions across the many generations.

Once again, this Anzac Day I was able to join my own local community. I joined more than 4,000 locals and 12 schools at the North Sydney dawn service at the North Sydney War Memorial, hosted by the North Sydney RSL Sub-Branch of which I am very proud to be a patron. It was deeply moving to see so many from our community standing in silent tribute as the sun rose over the harbour and the cenotaph. Every year I have the privilege of being asked by the sub-branch to contribute to the service. This year, noting that I had recently been appointed shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, it asked me to deliver the Acknowledgement of Country, which is even more meaningful when we think about the longstanding contribution that our First Nations people have made in conflicts and peacekeeping missions throughout our history, including before they were acknowledged as Australians.

I sincerely thank the North Sydney RSL Sub-Branch president, Alex Wilson; honorary secretary, Chris Greatrex; treasurer, Andrew Goodsall, and my fellow patrons. I thank Commander Lucy Frauenfelder, RAN, the commanding officer at HMAS Waterhen; and the HMAS Waterhen team, which served as the catafalque party, Captain Warren Bairstow, who gave a wonderful address; bugler Jordan O'Brien; and Captain Andrew Lipczynski. I also thank the Wenona School choir and their leader, Mr Cameron Harker, and the clan pipe band of Sydney for delivering the lament, and all others involved in organising the incredibly solemn and dignified service.

I particularly acknowledge the participation from the many students from across my community representing schools, including Anzac Park Public School, Neutral Bay Public School, Cammeraygal High School, Loreto Kirribilli, Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, Wenona School, North Sydney Boys High School, North Sydney Girls High School, Marist Catholic College North Sydney, Shore School and those from the 1st North Sydney Scout Group, as well as North Sydney Demonstration School. Our young people play such a vital role in preserving the spirit of Anzac and carrying it into the future. Their presence each year is incredibly humbling and hopeful for all of us.

Later in the day, at 11.00 a.m., I joined the Neutral Bay club for its annual service. It was a moving service, as always, and it was heartwarming to witness everybody gathered to pay their respects and experience that palpable sense of community togetherness. There were plenty of activities for kids and families to enjoy and it was memorable and meaningful, yet again. I acknowledge all those who played a part in the service from the emcee, Paul Maybury; bugler Ian Cox—an actual bugle performance, which was phenomenal; Charlie Cole, who not only works at the club but also studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, sang the national anthem for us; and general manager Peter Lewis.

Because of the timing, I obviously could not be at both dawn services. I was not able to attend the Mosman RSL dawn service, and I thank Jaimee Rogers for representing me and laying a wreath on my behalf. I commend the Mosman RSL Sub-Branch president, Alan Toner; vice presidents Steven Wilson and James Malcolm; secretary Geoffrey Rickards; and treasurer Steven Ryan. I also thank The Harbour Trust; guest speaker, retired colonel Gerald McCormack; HMAS Penguin's commanding officer, Commander Browning; Chaplain Hastie; Redlands Symphony Orchestra and Hugo Bair; Mosman Anzac Memorial Hall Trust; Mosman prep; Mosman SES and Frenchy's Cafe for making it all happen.

Each of these events reflects the deep respect and enduring gratitude our community holds for our veterans and service personnel. In my community we have many sites that were part of wars, from the Crimean War onwards to modern day conflicts, and two naval bases—Waterhen and Penguin—are still operational. I extend my heartfelt thanks to every RSL sub-branch, veteran, school, volunteer, musician and member of the public who made these services possible. Their time, care and dedication keeps the Anzac legacy alive for the next generation. Lest we forget the sacrifices of those who gave everything for our freedom so that we may live in peace and opportunity. Particularly to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice, lest we forget.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (18:19): I feel deep pride and renewed optimism for the future of public education in our State—a future we are rebuilding with integrity, equality and ambition. For over a decade our public schools carried the load of decaying infrastructure and dwindling support from a government that had stopped listening. Teachers suffered under the wages cap and went without the recognition that they deserved. Classrooms fell into disrepair and school communities were left to fundraise and fend for themselves. The Minns Labor Government was elected to turn a page in public education, and that is exactly what we are doing. We are restoring the promise of public education and delivering the respect, the resources and the reform that our schools desperately need.

Earlier this year our Government signed a historic agreement with the Albanese Labor Government that puts public schools on the path to being fully funded to 100 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard. That is not just a financial milestone; it is a transformational shift. It means that schools will now be fully and fairly funded, and it will see an estimated \$4.8 billion in additional Commonwealth funding flowing to New South Wales schools over the next 10 years. Full funding means smaller class sizes, more specialist teachers and more support staff in every school. It means more time and resources for teachers to focus on what they do best: teaching in the classroom. It means real outcomes for kids who need extra help and it gives every student the chance to thrive, no matter their background.

In my electorate of Summer Hill, the Minns Labor Government recently purchased 2,000 square metres of land adjacent to Ashbury Public School. That is a game changer for our community. The much-loved and outstanding Ashbury Public School is limited by its current space and there is a growing need for more facilities for public education in the inner west, particularly as we build more homes and as density increases. The incredible space will now be dedicated for public education, and I am proud to be a member of a government that has secured the site to remain in public hands in perpetuity. I am excited to work with Principal Karen Morris and the rest of the school community to make the best use of the land.

The Government's commitment is not just about bricks and mortar. We know that the beating heart of every school is its teachers and its staff. After more than a decade of teachers being underpaid and undervalued, this Government has delivered the largest pay increase in a generation, and it is working. The two years since we came to government have seen a 40 per cent drop in teacher vacancies across New South Wales public schools, while cancelled classes have halved. More people are choosing to enter the profession and more teachers are staying in it, because we are finally showing them the respect and giving them the pay that they deserve. We understand that great teaching is the most important factor in student achievement. I take a moment to thank the extraordinary educators in my community, from Marrickville to Dulwich Hill, Ashbury to Ashfield, and Summer Hill to Haberfield. Those incredible people turn up every day with creativity, compassion and commitment. They see the potential in every child. They are mentors, advocates and change makers, and the Minns Labor Government stands with them every day.

We are also making schools more inclusive and more reflective of the communities that they serve. For too long families in many parts of New South Wales had no access to co-educational public high schools, but that is changing. The Government has introduced reforms that give families a real choice. If a co-ed high school is right for someone's child, then they should be able to access it without leaving the public system or their local community. From next year, students and parents across the inner west will have access to the option of a co-educational high school. It is about equality, dignity and modernising our system so it works for everyone. We are rebuilding trust in public education, not with slogans but with action, not with bandaids but with practical and lasting reform. That is what Labor governments do—we invest in people, we level the playing field and we do

not leave people behind. We believe in the transformative power of investing in public education, which benefits not just students but our whole community and our State.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (18:24): I thank the member for Summer Hill, who has an incredible passion for education. She spoke about a lot of things and every member of this House, regardless of their political persuasion, knows the transformative power of education and the opportunities it provides. The education Minister and the Government are so committed to making a difference. I touch on the point of needs-based funding. I know what it is like to work in a school without enough funding—where, because of the postcode, the kids do not get the same opportunity. It is not only a transformation; it is the difference that allows a young person to stay at school, to succeed, to get all the support that they need and to best project themselves in life. The best society is one that gives people every opportunity. We do that with a properly and equitably funded education system, which Labor governments are incredibly proud of.

REGIONAL TOURISM

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (18:25): Tourism is so important for the health and vibrancy of regional New South Wales. When mums and dads across our country are packing up the car, strapping the kids into the back seat and embarking on a holiday, we want their first thought to be to travel to our regions. Regional New South Wales is home to some of the most incredible experiences the world has to offer, including four UNESCO World Heritage sites, iconic coastlines, world-renowned wine regions, historic towns and villages, and amazing national parks and State forests. Tourism is a multibillion-dollar industry that value-adds to our regions. Agriculture, mining and manufacturing will continue to be critical for our regions, but tourism is the value-adding that keeps the tills ticking over throughout the year, along with festivals and events.

That is why I am a strong supporter of tourism in our regions and why I will continue to fight for investment in projects that will boost tourism in my electorate. The Tamworth electorate is in the middle of a tourism transformation thanks to funding from the former Government. Some of the projects from the former Liberal-Nationals Government include \$14.3 million for the Tamworth Regional Skywalk; \$20 million for the Gunnedah koala park; \$2 million for facilities in Lake Keepit, including the recently opened Wilderluxe glamping tents; \$1.8 million for the Tamworth astronomy centre; \$1.3 million for the Viaduct Park, including the skate park; \$577,000 for the Lake Keepit Soaring Club; and \$200,000 for the Quirindi Silo art project. Those major, game-changing projects will continue to drive tourists inland to our region. They were funded by a Coalition government that had the vision to drive new economic opportunities for our region.

All the funding I have mentioned does not include the major injection of funding for the major tourism industry in Tamworth—sports tourism. We have received \$7 million for our Olympic-level hockey fields, \$15 million for a new aquatic centre in Tamworth, \$4.25 million for the Tamworth Sports Dome facility, \$600,000 for the east Tamworth tennis courts, and the list goes on. The Nationals' investment in sporting facilities in the Tamworth electorate has brought thousands upon thousands of visitors to the city, and every one of those visitors spends money at our hotels, motels, pubs, clubs, cafes and businesses, keeping our local economy thriving. Tourism enables people to come to our region to see what we have to offer. That investment has transformed the local economy, building resilience in the community and preparing us for the quieter times and the dry times.

What really concerns me, though, is the complete absence of investment from the current Labor Government. Two years on from its election, the Government is yet to invest a single dollar into projects that would boost tourism in our region. All of the projects previously mentioned were funded by the former Coalition Government. There is no new money for new projects in my region. Government members may attempt to claim credit for Coalition-funded projects by hijacking media releases, but there is nothing new—nothing exciting—from the Minns Labor Government. Instead, our regions are getting crumbs while billions are being poured into Sydney and major city events are the focus.

Our community has the right to feel that this Labor Government has forgotten us. That is why I continue to call on the Government and will continue to work hard and ask it to come up with a plan for our region. We need commitment from Labor, not rhetoric. Labor is falling short of our community's expectations. That needs to change. I look forward to working with a proactive Labor government to look over the horizon, past the sandstone curtain and invest in our regions as we expect, as we deserve and as it should be.

AUNTY LINDY LAWLER

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:29): I acknowledge an extraordinary individual whose life and work has touched countless lives and continues to inspire us all. Aunty Lindy Lawler—a proud Yuin woman and Elder—is a person of resilience, determination and cultural strength. Her story is one of transformation. It is a journey from being denied an education as a child to becoming an advocate, mentor and educator. She is

someone who champions the value of knowledge and culture for future generations. As a young girl in the 1960s, Aunty Lindy Lawler faced a reality that would break many.

Growing up in an orphanage Aunty Lindy and her twin sister, Mandy, were not allowed to attend school because they were Aboriginal. While other children sat in classrooms, Aunty Lindy and Mandy could only watch through the windows. Instead of learning, they were sent to shell peas for the sisters who ran the orphanage. But that did not define her. Those early injustices became the fire that fuelled her lifelong dedication to ensuring that no other child would experience what she did. Education became not only a personal goal but a mission to uplift her community.

Today Aunty Lindy's contributions to Aboriginal education have been rightly recognised through the prestigious Nanga Mai Awards. She has profoundly impacted schools like Balarang Public School and Oak Flats High School. Her weaving program at Oak Flats High School has not only taught students an invaluable cultural skill but also connected them to the stories and traditions of the Wodi Wodi people. Aunty Lindy has even extended her teaching to staff, ensuring that teachers deeply understand and respect Aboriginal culture. At Balarang Public School, Aunty Lindy leads Aboriginal art lessons and works with students to design artwork for school initiatives, such as sports shirts.

Aunty Lindy's dedication goes far beyond the classroom. She is deeply involved in planning, goal setting and building relationships with families. She is seen not just as an educator but as a member of the school family and a trusted mentor and role model who tirelessly connects students to their culture. Aunty Lindy's impact extends well beyond the school gates. Across the Illawarra region, she is a cornerstone of her community. From her work with the Illawarra Women's Health Centre, Shellharbour City Council and the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation to her support of the Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee, she has dedicated her life to standing with and for her people.

One of the most powerful examples of Aunty Lindy's commitment is her work with young people in the justice system. Aunty Lindy's role as a support person ensures that vulnerable teenagers, many facing their darkest moments, are not alone. She is their advocate, their listener and their protector. As someone who has lived through the systemic injustices of the Stolen Generation, Aunty Lindy understands their fears and confusion. Her presence provides guidance and is also a reminder of resilience and hope. Aunty Lindy's story is not only a reminder of the struggles faced by Aboriginal people in the past and the present but also a testament to the strength of culture, community and education. She has used her lived experience, her pain and her triumphs to create a legacy of empowerment.

As we celebrate Aunty Lindy today, let us reflect on what her journey teaches us. It reminds us of the importance of standing up for justice, of the power of education to transform lives, and of the strength we draw from embracing and honouring our cultural heritage. On behalf of everyone in our community, I thank Aunty Lindy for her tireless dedication, for the light she brings to her community and for the lives she has changed. She reminds us that no matter where we start, we have the power to shape a better future not just for ourselves but for everyone we touch.

VIRTUAL STOCK FENCING

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (18:34): Last week the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales stood side by side with me at the Orange Department of Primary Industries [DPI] research station to announce that regulations will be introduced in the next few months to legalise the use of virtual fencing on cattle in New South Wales. I thank both Minister Moriarty and the Government for their support for legalising virtual fencing. This announcement is music to the ears of our State's cattle farmers. However, it has been a long process to finally reach this point and this successful outcome.

It all started about four years ago when I had a casual chat with a New South Wales based cattle farmer about virtual fencing and discovered that outdated New South Wales laws prevented our State's farmers from using this innovative stock management tool. This prompted me to act, and I have lobbied the Government ever since. I spent countless hours consulting with experts and representatives from university research teams, the CSIRO, NSW DPI, the NSW Farmers Association, the NSW Police Force, veterinarians, livestock farmers and virtual fencing manufacturers. I travelled north to Queensland and south to Tasmania—where this ag-technology is already legal—to see virtual fencing in action on beef and dairy cattle farms.

It is somewhat bewildering that the very industry we all rely on for the food on our plates and the clothes on our backs is so overlooked. I guess that, for many, farming is predominantly conducted beyond the Great Divide and is out of sight and out of mind of metro-based legislators. A number of political entities purport to represent the interests of farmers. I even hand-delivered this opportunity to a Minister in the former Government, but he took no step to legislate this innovative farming tool. Therefore, I personally sought legislative reform on

virtual fencing and introduced the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2023.

My bill was referred to the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development, which was chaired by my colleague and fellow champion of farmers, the member for Barwon. I sincerely thank the member for Barwon and his fellow committee members along with those who made submissions to the inquiry into virtual fencing. It overwhelmingly supported my initiative to legalise this farming technology. The committee's report recommendations have now been adopted by the Government, culminating in last week's announcement from the Minister.

Support for virtual fencing is a no-brainer. The benefits extend to our farmers, our economy and our environment. It offers our livestock farmers a tremendous boost in efficiency and productivity. Traditional fencing is not only costly to install and maintain but also limits the flexibility of grazing areas. Floods and bushfires exacerbate the impact and costs associated with traditional fencing. With virtual fencing, farmers can adjust internal boundaries and move their livestock with ease, reducing labour and time requirements. In light of the number of on-farm accidents to farmers and farm workers engaged in traditionally moving stock, such as quad bike and side-by-side vehicle rollovers, this technology has the benefit of reducing injuries and death.

Environmental benefits are another critical aspect of the technology. The reduction in physical fencing allows for more efficient land use, which minimises overgrazing and soil degradation, protects riparian zones and has the potential to increase carbon sequestration. A valuable fringe benefit of this fencing technology is the reduction in obstruction to the movements of native fauna and the entanglement of animals in fences. Additionally, the potential for innovation in livestock management is immense. With data generated by the system's updatable algorithm, which recognises animal behaviour, farmers can gain deeper insights into and monitor the behaviour and health of their animals. This data-driven approach can lead to more informed decision-making and improve animal husbandry and breeding programs. It is a leap forward in modernising our agricultural sector. Being able to track stock will help farmers sleep better at night knowing that this technology acts as a deterrent to stock theft.

The benefits of virtual fencing cannot be overstated. A multi-generational Tasmanian dairy farmer recently told me that virtual fencing has been life altering for him and his family and that if virtual fencing had not been made available to the business he manages he would have walked away from the industry years ago, completely burnt out. The mental health benefits are substantial, and his work-life balance now allows him to attend school events and other activities with his children. Legalising virtual fencing is not just a matter of economic and environmental progress. It is also about empowering our farmers to compete on a global scale. With this regulation, our agriculture sector enters a new era of efficiency, productivity and sustainability.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (18:39): This weekend Australia spoke emphatically about the kind of country we want to live in and the approach we want from our political leaders and parties. Around the nation, Australians pushed back against the politics of division and disavowed the politics of aggression and grievance by re-electing a Federal Labor government with the largest majority since World War II. In Werriwa our community members reacted appropriately to being presented with a choice between a recycled opportunist and a well-established local who has lived and breathed our community for decades. They returned our Labor member, Anne Stanley, with an increased margin. It was a repudiation of seeking political power for oneself rather than what one can do for one's community.

The electorate of Werriwa is particularly meaningful to us Labor faithful, having been held by former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam for 27 years. I congratulate my friend Anne Stanley on retaining the electorate in the face of substantial resources poured into the campaign by the Liberal Party. I believe the only thing missing from the Liberal candidate was a blimp with his name and face on it. The tactics employed by the Liberal campaign reeked of desperation. People tore down Labor signs; plastered public property with signage, to the great irritation of our community; and even attempted to stand over residents who refused to have Liberal signage on their property.

Most egregiously, when Anne stood at the Cecil Hills High School booth on election day, a quite large and very loud gentleman was standing next to her, shouting at her, talking over her and being as obnoxious as he could for six hours. He denied he was there for the Liberal candidate. He was, however, handing out material that was authorised by "C. Stone, Liberal Party". At the end of the six-hour shift he went to his car, took off his "Put Labor Last" T-shirt, came back to Anne and said that he had been paid to do that and his job was to try to make her cry. He congratulated her on withstanding the abuse, acknowledging he had been unsuccessful in his mission. Anne pointed out she had put up with a lot worse from far more objectionable people.

This highlights a concerning trend in the behaviour of Liberal candidates and supporters during several election campaigns in our area, including the 2023 New South Wales State election. Election campaigns can often become highly charged as candidates and parties do battle in a contest of ideas; however, threatening volunteers of a party or candidate is just not on. After the 2023 election, I was advised by several community leaders that complaints by "anonymous sources" had been weaponised to punish those who supported Labor. Council rangers even attended one home on Christmas Eve, causing maximum distress and embarrassment.

Our democracy is founded on principles of fairness, transparency and peace. In fact, Australia contributed secret ballots to the rest of the world—an innovation that a strong democracy could not exist without. Many people in Liverpool compare our privileges to the lack of political freedom in their home countries. That is often a factor in why they have forged a new life for themselves in our country. Australia is something of a black sheep when it comes to compulsory voting. Many other Western nations turn their noses up at the suggestion. However, it has ensured that political parties, local candidates and the Electoral Commission prioritise voter education and develop policies for the majority of Australians rather than speaking to the fringe. In the words of Christopher Pyne, of all people:

... democracy thrives when people are allowed to express themselves, respectfully, in whatever way they choose.

Our expectation of peace and harmony during transitions of government is clear in the fact that, usually, the most contentious debate on voting booths is which local P&C produces the best democracy sausage. It contributes to the usual carnival-like atmosphere that election day brings—but not this time. This election was marked by an escalation of the bullying tactics and intimidatory behaviour that we have seen creeping into our local politics, and by numerous incidents at early voting booths across the country where police had to be called. In speaking with voters at the pre-poll booths and community members more broadly, it is clear that Australians do not appreciate such tactics. They do not appreciate the lie told every election that Labor takes south-west Sydney for granted. We do not. It is why I am a proud member of the Labor Party.

From Gough Whitlam bringing indoor plumbing to our suburbs and declaring that kids from Western Sydney deserve to aspire to greatness and making it so through numerous reforms, to the investment over decades in Liverpool Hospital, to our most recent investment in public preschools and the restoration of fire services in the 2168 at the new Busby Fire Station, we know that resources for south-west Sydney are only delivered under Labor governments. I do not, and we will never, take Liverpool for granted. Our community deserves better than lies and propaganda that only serve the political ambitions of opportunists.

WILLOUGHBY ELECTORATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (18:44): I rise to speak of a terrible betrayal of Willoughby's families, children and community by the Minns Labor Government. In secret and with zero consultation with our community, it has quietly cancelled the two new public schools that were to be built at Chatswood and St Leonards. The two schools were announced and planned by the previous Liberal Government to meet growing demand and to cater for future population growth. The two schools have been in State budgets and had almost \$60 million allocated to them. I, among many others, would like to know where that money has gone.

Stunningly, the Government has justified the cuts by claiming the schools are not needed because there is not the demand. Yet there is no question that many of our local public schools are at capacity. Cammeraygal High is full and turning away local students. Local school catchments are being hastily redrawn to cope with the high demand. Some schools are having to introduce demountables. The Government's excuses are simply not credible. It is nothing but a big cut to public education in Willoughby thanks to Labor. It comes as the Minns Labor Government has imposed increased density and population across the area, particularly in Chatswood, St Leonards and Crows Nest. This will result in tens of thousands of additional local residents. Those people will need essential infrastructure in their community, including local schools.

It is clear that this Government expects us to accommodate tens of thousands of extra homes without the infrastructure needed to support them. My community still has not had the courtesy or decency of the Government explaining its decision. The education Minister has met my constructive requests to meet with her to explain the reasoning with complete and utter silence. I have not even been given a briefing, as I have requested, from Schools Infrastructure NSW, such is the contempt the Minister has for my community and those in it that want their kids to have a public education. The almost 15,000 square metre site in Chatswood that was formerly a Sydney Metro dive site was, and still should be, a 1,000-place public primary school. The Coalition had been waiting for the site to become available after the metro build was complete. It is now available, and what does Chris Minns do? He cancels a much-needed public school and flogs the site off for housing.

The cancellation of the new Chatswood school is such a lost opportunity. The proponent of the mixed-use development at the former dive site would have been required to build the public school. The prominent and large government-owned site represented a once-in-a-generation chance to provide a lasting public benefit. Instead, the

Government has handed the site over to Landcom, no doubt to become another high-rise apartment building, residents of which will, in fact, need a school. The St Leonards education precinct was to include a public preschool, primary school and high school. It is now confirmed that the Minns Labor Government has no plan nor intent to progress the new school at or around St Leonards.

Crows Nest and surrounds is an accelerated precinct under the Government's transport oriented development [TOD] plans. The existing Cammeraygal High School is at capacity—indeed, beyond it. It is insanity to be pursuing the TOD without progressing the school that will clearly be required to support it. With tens of thousands of people coming, the time to build the new school is now. At budget estimates, education officials were asked: "You are saying there's enough space in existing schools around St Leonards that you don't at this stage need a primary school or high school?" The response was "That's exactly right." This is truly extraordinary. At the same time the Government was claiming that the demand for schools did not justify a new school in the area, it was scrambling madly in a last-minute fashion to make changes to school catchments to cater for demand that pushed Cammeraygal High over its capacity. Local high school students in parts of Castlecrag, Northbridge, Cammeray and Naremburn are no longer to be guaranteed a place at their local high school.

Instead of getting on with building a new school, the Government's solution has been to permanently entrench deep uncertainty for local families. These are not just lines on a map. From extended commutes to friends torn apart, these decisions have real impact on our kids. The Government's decision is impossible to understand. It is incredibly short-sighted and sets our public schools up for failure. *The Sydney Morning Herald* even described it as planning madness that repeats the mistakes of the late 1990s, when the previous Labor Government closed a raft of schools and flogged off government-owned land to developers.

The Coalition's record is clear. We upgraded every school in Willoughby, with some being largely rebuilt, and built two new schools: ANZAC Park Public School and Cammeraygal High School. The Minns Labor Government decision is a shocking, short-sighted decision that I condemn. I will fight every day until we have a State government that delivers the schools we need. It is clear that we need a new public school. The Minns Government must reverse its shockingly short-sighted cuts and build the schools. Unfortunately Labor has proven it has no intention to deliver for this community. Labor has never invested in the northern suburbs of Sydney and it is only going to get worse under the Minns Labor Government. I will keep fighting every day for the investment in infrastructure and services that the people of Willoughby need.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (18:49): I must respond to that one. Let me just remind the member for Willoughby that under the Minns Labor Government there has been a record investment in infrastructure, and we are still continuing to clean up the mess left to us, including a \$187 billion deficit.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): I remind the member for Willoughby that this is not a debate.

Mr JIHAD DIB: The member for Willoughby made a reference to Chatswood Public School.

Mr Tim James: Point of order—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr JIHAD DIB: The member for Willoughby should learn the rules. If he wants to throw some mud, he should get ready to hear the truth. The fact of the matter is that Chatswood Public School had demountables for a long time. The opportunity was there under the previous Government. We have made investments in education that have never been made before.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): Order! I call the member for Willoughby to order for the second time.

Mr JIHAD DIB: The education Minister made those investments. The member talked about opportunities for public schools but he should think about the recent agreement we signed with the Commonwealth Government, to make sure that every single kid will get there. The Coalition left us an infrastructure backlog, a maintenance backlog and demountables where young kids were crammed in like sardines. Just look at some of the schools around the State. The investment made by this Government is the largest infrastructure investment ever made in the school system in New South Wales.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): I call the member for Willoughby to order for the third time. I thank him for leaving the Chamber.

GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN 110TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:50): On 25 April 1915 Australian troops landed in Gallipoli, at what is now known as Anzac Cove, to assist the British forces in World War I. On 25 April 2025, 110 years later, I was afforded the opportunity to live out a lifelong dream and attended the Anzac Day service at Anzac Cove, remembering the sacrifices those Australian troops and all our defence force members made from that day onwards. Anzac Day is the most respected day in the Australian calendar. Unlike many national days throughout the world, Anzac Day is not a celebration. We do not celebrate a victory. We do not celebrate war. It is a commemorative day to remember the horrors of war, to remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made by our troops. That day was not a win for the Anzacs but rather their first battle; they were on the offensive. Young men who had never known war were sent to the other side of the world to wage war. World War I was unlike any war before. Modern weaponry such as machine guns, tanks and aeroplanes made battles far deadlier and more gruesome. While the trenches provided protection from barrages, but they were dank and insanitary. The battle of Gallipoli is famously a loss for the Allies, who retreated after nine months.

As part of a delegation from New South Wales and Victoria, my colleagues and I attended five remembrance events: the Turkish memorial, the Gallipoli memorial, the French memorial, the British memorial and the Lone Pine memorial. It was a great honour to attend those memorials with two particular colleagues, the member for Auburn and the member for Oxley, sitting opposite, who served in the army and air force, respectively. I thank them for their service. Being physically at Anzac Cove and standing under the steep cliffs made me realise what a strategic blunder the attack was. It was impossible for the Anzacs to advance far in those circumstances. This trip also opened my eyes to the Turkish perspective of the battle. One thing I was most struck by was that more than 56,000 Turkish soldiers lost their lives. For comparison, the Allies lost about 53,000, around 10,000 of whom were Anzacs. There are no victors of war.

The atmosphere at the Gallipoli memorial dawn service was peaceful but also eerie. We could hear the water lapping on the shore and the birds waking up and see the sun rising over the horizon. It was a stark contrast to the chaos and carnage of war that our forebears faced when they landed on the shores of Gallipoli 110 years ago. The most moving moment was walking through the Lone Pine memorial, reading the headstones of fallen soldiers. Only a small fraction of headstones exists. Many names have been lost to history. I was particularly moved by the ages of the young men. Boys as young as 16—younger than both of my sons and the same age as my daughter—thought they were off on an adventure and given a chance to see the world. As the horrors of war dawned on them, they were cut down in their prime and paid the ultimate price.

The generosity of the Turkish Government was not lost on me. What other nation allows people from a foreign country that attacked Türkiye to come onto its sovereign land and hold a memorial service for those who died in the attack. Many other nations have tried to negotiate this sort of arrangement without success. I thank the people of Türkiye for welcoming me and my colleagues into their country. I thank and acknowledge all the RSL sub-branches in my electorate: City of Newcastle, Merewether-Hamilton-Adamstown, Stockton and Waratah-Mayfield. They are such a great support for the current and former service men and women in Newcastle.

I extend my gratitude to everyone who represented me at local Anzac ceremonies this year: Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz, Councillor Paige Johnson, John Mayo, Luke Austin and Daniel Seidel. It was also a privilege to represent my grandfather, who enlisted and trained to fight in World War I, although he never made it to the battleground. I conclude with a statement attributed to Atatürk, the Turkish commander at the battle of Gallipoli and later the first President of the Republic of Türkiye:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives, you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.

GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN 110TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (18:55): I thank the member for Newcastle for his well-spoken speech as well as for the feeling and the commemoration that we all enjoyed together. My statement is also about our trip to Gallipoli. Standing before dawn on the shores of Gallipoli, shoulder to shoulder with thousands of fellow Australians and New Zealanders who had camped out overnight, was a moment of quiet reflection, immense national pride and gratitude. To have the opportunity to represent the people of Oxley at Anzac Cove at the break of day, 110 years after our diggers first came ashore, was a privilege beyond words and such a bucket list experience. As a returned serviceman, with nearly 10 years of service across the Army Reserve and the Royal Australian Air Force, I carry a deep personal understanding of the price that has been paid for peace and for our security.

We are so incredibly lucky to live in a country where we can speak our minds and vote without fear. But those freedoms did not come easily. They were fought for and earned because of the unimaginable courage and sacrifice made by the young Aussies who landed in Gallipoli 110 years ago, and they have been carried on by generations of Australians. Our democracy, our freedoms and our way of life are built upon the principles upheld by those who served before us. Anzac Day is a time to honour that sacrifice, to reflect, to show respect, to care for our veterans and to protect the integrity of our memorials and our national days of remembrance. While in Türkiye, I stood at Lone Pine, the French National Cemetery at Morto Bay and the British Helles Memorial. I laid wreaths, paid my respects and reflected not just on the Australian experience of war but also on the pain and sacrifice shared by soldiers of all nations.

The Turkish commemorations were as moving as those at Anzac Cove. The deep respect shown by the Turkish people to our veterans and to all Australians who journeyed to Gallipoli was extraordinary. I met with Turkish MPs, and together we spoke of the enduring friendship between our countries, once enemies but now united by a legacy of remembrance. That spirit of reconciliation and mutual honour is one of the most powerful parts of the Anzac legacy. I commend Atatürk for his stance. A spirit that continues to shape us as Australians, who we are and what we stand for is the enduring legacy of Gallipoli. It speaks to the values at the heart of our democracy: courage, mateship, endurance and a strong sense of duty. Those values underpin our freedoms and we see them in our emergency services workers, nurses, farmers, teachers and in the countless volunteers who so generously give to our communities.

I thank the people of Oxley for the honour of allowing me to stand at Gallipoli on their behalf. It was an experience that reminded me again that I am so proud to represent our region. I was immensely proud to see the growing Anzac Day turnout across the Oxley electorate. The services are getting bigger and better every year. Our families, veterans, schoolchildren and volunteers were all united in remembrance. The Anzac spirit is alive and well, as it should be. It is shown in the respect for our past, in the way we care for our veterans, and in how we teach our young people the importance of honouring those who gave us the freedoms we enjoy today.

To my fellow parliamentarians, it is up to the State and Federal Parliaments to uphold the promises made to our veterans and their families. That means ensuring timely access to health care, including mental health support tailored to the unique pressures of military life. It means providing job opportunities, education pathways and housing solutions that recognise the challenges of transitioning from service to civilian life. Let our policies reflect our gratitude. Let our children learn the history of our Anzacs. Let our teachers provide them with that knowledge, unabridged by politics. Let our community embrace our veterans. Let our soldiers be at peace. Above all, let our veterans be without self-harm. This mighty country was forged by courageous men and women—humans who could not be moved, humans who never gave up, humans who showed respect and dignity. Let us never face those same decisions. But we must learn. We must remember. Lest we forget.

GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN 110TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:00): The landing by soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps alongside British, French and other Allied forces on the shores of the Turkish nation at a place we now call Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915 is hugely important to our nation's idea of itself and our place in the world. It was a great honour to participate in the 110th anniversary of those landings, as a guest of the Turkish Government, as part of an initiative by the Friends of Turkey associations in this country and in the Turkish national Parliament, together with some of my parliamentary colleagues who have made contributions this evening. We attended five services over two days. Most important for the Turkish people was the memorial service held at the Martyrs' Memorial on 24 April.

That service was followed by services at the British memorial, the French memorial and the dawn service, which was important for the Allied contingent, held on 25 April, followed by an Australian service at Lone Pine later that day. I arranged with my local RSL sub-branches, the Ourimbah sub-branch and the Entrance Long Jetty sub-branch, to lay a wreath on behalf of them and my community. The wreath was provided by L&A Flowerland at Ourimbah. I carried it on my journey to Turkey in my baggage. I was able to lay that wreath at the Lone Pine Memorial in Turkey, making a great connection between my electorate and the place of remembrance on the shores of Gallipoli. The events that took place in 1915 are as important to the Turkish people as they are to us. The President of the Gallipoli Historic Society said:

The Turkish Nation, which was thought to be in the process of extinction, stood up in Gallipoli and, so to speak, was reborn from its ashes. Dawn broke on the darkening horizons of our country, the flares of our national struggle were thrown into the air, and the foundations of our Republic were laid.

The Turkish people are very proud of the republic they built in the years following the First World War. As part of our delegation's journey to Turkey, we also participated in the celebration of the establishment of the Turkish Republic on 23 April. We attended the Turkish national Parliament, where we talked with representatives and witnessed the Parliament in session on that special day for the Turkish people. I was honoured to be part of that

event. I appreciate the logistical support provided by the Turkish Government, which made our journey all the more easy. My colleagues and I paid for our travel and accommodation, but the Turkish Government provided logistical support. I acknowledge and thank my community for the honour of making me their local representative and for enabling me to represent them on the shores of Gallipoli—a place that forms an important part of Australia's idea of itself. Lest we forget.

REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (19:05): As Australians, we rejoice when our athletes stand on the podium. We punch so much above our weight in sport that it is tempting to think we will always produce a stream of outstanding athletes. But the journey to the top is long and challenging, and our young sportspeople can only make it with the right training, mentoring and guidance. This is especially true for young people from the regions. However, our pipeline of talent is under threat because of the Government's decision to cut funding to the Regional Academies of Sport. This will mean fewer medals for Australian athletes and a trail of broken dreams for young people. To illustrate that, I share two stories of two athletes at different stages of their sporting journeys.

Many members would recall Alicia Quirk, now Alicia Lucas, the Wagga Wagga sporting star whose long list of successes includes a gold medal with the Australian women's rugby sevens team at the 2016 Olympics, a silver at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and a bronze at the Rugby Sevens World Cup, to name just a few of her outstanding achievements. Alicia has enormous talent, but to stand on the podium she needed years of hard work and training, including the nurturing she received at the Wagga-based Southern Sports Academy, which she described as a bridge between the regions and capital cities. While the academy honed her skills as a basketball player and rugby player, it was also the platform that built the personal and organisational skills she needed to transition from being a very good athlete to an elite one. Without it, Alicia said her road to the top would have been longer and harder.

We do not want cuts to regional sports nurseries. That will close doors for the stars of the future. I speak of an Indigenous Wagga Wagga teenager, Luke Anderson. At just 16, he is on a scholarship at the Southern Sports Academy's rugby program. He has represented the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales in rugby and softball, and he was talent identified for Rugby Australia's Indigenous pathway. Outside sport, Luke led his school's Reconciliation Day activities, was awarded for Christian leadership, volunteers at the RSL sub-branch with two friends, and even saved a man from a river accident. Underpinning much of his success is the support he receives from the academy which, according to his mother, Kylie, has given him opportunities to learn and grow. It has introduced him to other athletes and decision-makers and, at the same time, eased the costly burden that families face when nurturing young sporting stars.

Alicia and Luke are just two of the many great successes of the Regional Academies of Sport, and their stories are emblematic of the life-changing results that properly funded academies can deliver. The numbers speak for themselves. Athletes from the 11 Regional Academies of Sport in New South Wales have won 45 medals in the past three Olympics. That is about 30 per cent of Australia's total medal tally. Those are amazing results, and these are amazing organisations, but it does not come for free. Last year the Regional Academies of Sport launched Bound for Brisbane, an ambitious plan to develop young regional athletes for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics. The academies prepared a business case asking the New South Wales Government to increase funding from \$5.2 million to \$6.5 million a year, which is a modest request in the context of what it could deliver, and it was one I was proud to support.

Imagine their dismay when they learned that, instead of receiving extra funding, the Government would cut its annual funding to just \$3.7 million. What a blow to the aspiring sports stars of regional New South Wales. We might ask not only what a gold medal is worth, but also what is price of a young person's dreams? I understand that the Government is under pressure to reduce expenditure. But I urge it to consider the regional kids of today and help them shine on the world stage of tomorrow by funding the full Bound for Brisbane package. Alicia Lucas reminds me that some of Australia's greatest athletes came up through the regions. She warns that if support is lost "we may never see a Mark Taylor or a Don Bradman or an Alicia Lucas at the highest levels". Luke Anderson's mum, Kylie, agrees, appealing to the Government to "give all kids the opportunity they need to grow in their sport" by funding the academies appropriately. I can only agree.

If we fail to make this investment, our hopes for Brisbane will take a battering and hundreds of regional boys and girls and young men and women may never realise their potentials. But if this investment is made today, we will be repaid with huge dividends in sporting and social success. When that time comes, we can all take pride in having helped the young stars of today achieve their dreams of tomorrow. I urge the Government to find the money to underwrite the sporting future of regional New South Wales and Australia.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (19:10): What a wonderful victory for the Albanese Labor Government on Saturday! Today I congratulate the Federal members who represent parts of my electorate. I congratulate the Federal member for Parramatta, Andrew Charlton, who was re-elected with a huge swing. He now holds the Federal electorate of Parramatta by the largest margin in the 30-odd years that I have lived in the area. I congratulate the Federal member for Blaxland, Jason Clare, and the Federal member for McMahon, Chris Bowen, who represents a very small part of my electorate. Over the past three years, Chris Bowen has been an absolutely outstanding Minister, delivering the transition to renewables despite daily vilification from sections of the right-wing media and climate change deniers.

Andrew Charlton ran a great campaign in the Parramatta electorate, but I was overwhelmed by the sheer number of Liberal Party volunteers at the pre-poll. They were actually members of the Exclusive Brethren, and were incredibly hostile and rude on a daily basis. There was even a day when one of the volunteers followed Andrew around, calling him a pedophile. On that day, they had 60 volunteers at pre-poll. It was overwhelming and off-putting for voters. Unsurprisingly, the vote for the Liberal Party at the Parramatta pre-poll was worse than for the rest of the electorate. The Liberal Party suffered a 10 per cent swing against it at the pre-poll. I attribute that solely to the obnoxious behaviour of the volunteers.

They contrasted with the volunteers supporting Ahmed Ouf, the Independent running to represent the Federal electorate of Blaxland. His volunteers were very nice people most of the time. Certainly, on election day at the polling booth at Hilltop Road Public School that I was at they were very friendly and nice. But I do take issue with some of the points made during Ahmed Ouf's campaign. I recognise that 20 per cent of people living in the Blaxland electorate voted for Ahmed Ouf, which is more than those who voted for the Liberal Party. The final tally is still being calculated as postal votes come in. It may deliver a better result for the Liberal Party when the preferred party count is calculated. At the moment, there are just over 1,000 more votes for Ahmed Ouf than for the Liberal Party.

However, I thoroughly reject the suggestion that Australia has done nothing to support the Palestinian people in Gaza. The Federal Labor Government has done a lot in the past 18 months. Often it has not been as much as I would personally like to see, but it has moved so far in support of Palestine. The Federal Government deserves recognition for that. In only 2012, for the first time, Australia, under the Gillard Government, broke with the United States to abstain from a motion allowing Palestinian representation in the United Nations. Under the conservative governments that followed, the Coalition broke with international law to stop referring to the occupied Palestinian territories as occupied. It also moved Australia's embassy to Jerusalem. Of course, the Albanese Government reversed those two decisions.

Since 7 October 2023, the Albanese Government has voted in support of Palestine and the people of Gaza on a number of occasions. On 13 December 2023 Australia voted for a ceasefire for the first time. In May 2024 we joined 143 countries to enable greater participation of Palestine at the United Nations. In November 2024 Australia backed a resolution to recognise the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people. On 3 December 2024 Australia voted with 154 other countries to demand the end of the unlawful occupation of the Palestinian territories. On 9 December Australia again voted for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire and the release of all hostages on both sides. People in my electorate are very, very upset about what has happened in Gaza. It is a genocide. But over the past 18 months the diplomatic moves have been enormous. Australia cannot move from being an unconditional supporter of a country to the absolute opposite overnight. These things take time. We need time for demands to be listened to or ignored. We have done a lot. We can do more, but we have done a lot.

REGIONAL PARAMEDICS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (19:15): I speak on the New South Wales Government's rollout of 500 regional paramedics, and I speak on behalf of my constituents in Goulburn, Moss Vale, Crookwell, Yass and every village in between. In fact, I speak on behalf of constituents across regional New South Wales, who deserve to know that if they call an ambulance, it will arrive and it will arrive on time. We have heard a lot from the Premier and Government members, who have been spruiking the rollout of 500 additional paramedics across regional New South Wales. They will not hear any criticism about the choice to fund more paramedics. However, my criticism lies with what is being sacrificed to ensure that the Labor Government gets its headline. The more we dig into the details, the more it becomes clear that the Government is not being transparent with communities, paramedics or anyone who is trying to hold the Government to account. Goulburn electorate constituents do not care about headlines. They care about knowing that when they call 000, someone will come.

I have asked the Government for details on what the program means for my constituents and how it was decided where the extra paramedics will go. I asked whether Goulburn, Moss Vale, Yass and Crookwell will actually see meaningful improvements in ambulance response times. Minister Park said that a clinical capability

assessment is being used. That assessment remains shrouded in mystery. The Minister said that staffing decisions are based on demand patterns, rosters may vary and planned rosters will replace minimum operating levels. The Minister said that consultation processes were underway. But in his answers the Minister provided no clarity, certainty or commitment that additional staff will result in greater coverage or improved outcomes for the people of New South Wales who call for help. The Government will not even commit to putting the new paramedics on rosters in a way that guarantees better services to our communities.

The Government said there is no longer a concept of minimum operating levels, but any paramedic on the ground knows that when they are short staffed, response times decline and the risk to patient outcomes increases. My community has already experienced the cost of this decision with the price of a life. I concede that it does not appear to be a decision of the Minister for Health or the Premier. Instead, it appears to be a decision of the NSW Ambulance Commissioner, who has kept to the hard line that the change will be good, with an even better \$100 million saving. That enormous budget saving is undoubtedly music to the Government's ears and acceptable to the Minister. The reality is that New South Wales has rolled out the policy behind closed doors, with vague references to modelling and software. There have been no transparent criteria for the public to see. Specifically, the roster changes that have come with the regional 500 program is a day-day, night-night [DDNN] roster across every ambulance zone. A one-size-fits-all roster is fundamentally flawed.

Can the Government tell me how one regional zone with a predominantly ageing population and a farming economy is the same as another regional zone with a younger population and a tourism economy? What about one that is 10 times the size of the other, or one that has nightclubs and one with surf clubs? How could they possibly have the exact same needs at the same time? The answer is that they cannot because they do not. For Goulburn, the Government has not shown any modelling to compare this day-day-night-night roster with other options like the day-day-afternoon-night model, which is the roster preferred by my electorate's paramedics. Where is the transparency? Where is the evidence that the decisions are based on improving patient care, and not just cost or convenience for the bureaucrats? Let me be clear: I welcome investment in more paramedics, but throwing numbers around without understanding where they are going, what they will do and how they will improve outcomes is not a plan; it is a press release, and a pathetic one at that.

Regional communities are tired of being treated as afterthoughts by the Labor Government. They deserve consideration, and that means they deserve an explanation. Our paramedics deserve rosters that are safe, evidence-based and focused on delivering better care for patients, not just a government that will jam ambos out in the bush and say, "Do your best." If this Government is serious about fixing ambulance services, it needs to start by being honest and then it needs to listen. It should listen to the paramedics on the ground, who understand the communities they serve and the data that has been ignored. Worst of all, this has happened despite a crystal-clear report from the Audit Office of New South Wales. The Premier and the Minister are not delivering better patient outcomes for regional New South Wales. They need to hold the NSW Ambulance Commissioner to account.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:20): The constituents of the member for Goulburn can be assured that when the 500 extra paramedics are fully implemented across regional New South Wales, all people in regional New South Wales will have better access to ambulance services than they did under the former Government, when that number of extra paramedics was nowhere on the agenda. I encourage the member to keep engaging with the Minister's office. I am sure that paramedics on the ground will negotiate the rosters with their management to reach a successful outcome.

VESAK

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (19:21): I recognise Vesak, the most sacred day in the Buddhist calendar—a day that marks the birth, enlightenment and passing of Gautama Buddha. Vesak is not just an observance; it is a profound reminder of the timeless values of wisdom, compassion and peace. Those principles resonate deeply with all of us, regardless of faith, background or belief. It is a day that brings people together in reflection and celebration across countries and cultures. Buddhism teaches us that true happiness is not found in wealth, power or status, but in understanding, through kindness and in the pursuit of truth. The Noble Eightfold Path—right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration—guides individuals toward a life of ethical conduct, mental discipline and wisdom. Those are not merely spiritual ideals; they are principles that speak to the very heart of good governance and responsible leadership.

Last year I had the opportunity to visit Dhamek Stupa in Varanasi, the place where Buddha delivered his first teaching. While massive in size, it is reflective of the principles at the core of Buddhist belief: that knowledge and personal development are where true wealth lies. In a world where material pursuits often dominate, Buddhism offers a quiet yet powerful counter-narrative that uplifts inner peace, ethical living and compassion for

all beings. Those values are not exclusive to Buddhists; they are universal aspirations that transcend religion and speak to our shared humanity.

Here in Australia, we are proud of our diversity. This is a nation built by people from many different lands and enriched by the knowledge of people from many walks of life, including those who follow the Buddhist faith. The Vesak celebrations that take place across our country in temples, community centres, parks and family homes are testament to the strength, resilience and generosity of Buddhist communities. From acts of charity, such as blood donation drives and food banks, to candlelight processions and meditative reflection, Vesak encourages all Australians to strive for a better, more compassionate society. At a time when the world faces deep uncertainty and increasing division, the teachings of the Buddha are especially relevant. They remind us that peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is something that must be cultivated and sustained through our words, our choices and our actions. As community leaders, we must continue to embody these principles: to serve with integrity, to work for justice and to ensure that all people we represent—no matter how small—feel seen, heard and valued.

My own community is deeply fortunate to be home to the Lankarama Buddhist temple in Schofields. Since its establishment in 1992, the temple has served as a spiritual and cultural hub for over 10,000 devotees across four generations. Its community is wonderfully diverse, with roots in Sri Lankan, Indian, Bangladeshi, Nepalese and Burmese traditions. Under the wise guidance of the Bhante, Venerable Pundit Dhammagavesi Thero, the temple has grown into a sanctuary of faith, learning and belonging. The temple's Sunday school, in particular, plays a vital role in nurturing strong moral values in children and young people from kindergarten age through to young adulthood. It instils not only religious teachings but also a deep sense of community, responsibility and empathy. In doing so, it helps to raise young Australians who are not only spiritually grounded but also active, engaged and compassionate members of society.

Having visited the Lankarama Temple on many occasions, both for formal events and for personal reflection, I have experienced firsthand the peace and clarity that such a place can bring. Being there reminds me that in stillness, we often find the deepest wisdom. In closing, I leave the House with this thought: At the heart of Vesak is compassion. Compassion in action is the essence of Buddhism. It is seen in a helping hand, a kind word and a quiet but determined effort to uplift others. Vesak is not just a celebration; it is a call to live as the Buddha did, with kindness, humility and service to others, especially those who are forgotten or suffering. May we all take that message to heart, not only on this day but every day.

SINGLETON POLICE STATION

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (19:26): Law and order is a very important issue for the people of the Upper Hunter. We cannot have enough respect for our hardworking police and the role they play in society in keeping us safe. They truly deserve the best of facilities. That is why I worked long and hard to make sure that Singleton Police Station was a focus for a facility upgrade. I update the House on the recent delivery of money—which was long overdue—from the New South Wales Government for Singleton Police Station. It is almost four years since the former Liberal-Nationals Government made a commitment to upgrade one of Singleton's most important buildings. A police presence has been maintained in Singleton since 1867, and the existing station is heritage listed.

I am pleased to report to the House that I was recently advised that work is about start, and that plans are in place to ensure the policing of Singleton continues while the job is done. I thank and acknowledge the Hunter Valley Police District Commander, Superintendent Steve Laksa, for his stewardship of the project over the past 18 months. As the work commences, the Hunter Valley has been allocated six of the 302 new probationary constables from class 365, which attested from Goulburn police academy last week. I welcome the Hunter Valley's newest personnel and the three new recruits to the Port Stephens-Hunter Police District on the eastern side of my electorate. They have all started work this week. It can only be hoped that the delivery of the Singleton Police Station upgrade during the probationary constables' first year in the NSW Police Force will provide an incentive to consider staying in the Upper Hunter electorate.

As I noted, there is a plan for policing Singleton during work on the upgrade. I am sure Branxton residents will be happy that their local station will play a role in accommodating local officers. However, as senior police told a recent community forum held at Greta Public School, they want their officers to be out on the streets, visible to the community and doing their job. I thank the member for Cessnock, the police Minister and the NSW Police Force for their efforts in organising the forum. I support every effort to ensure our community has a good working relationship with its Police Force. The community is the eyes and the ears of the police, and the officers who serve and protect the people of this State need all the support we can give them so they can do their job safely. I return to the words of my inaugural speech in this place on 9 June 2021, when I said, "We need to remember that we need police stations to make communities feel safe, not just to fight crime."

While Singleton Police Station is about to be upgraded, I am the first to admit that it is not exactly as it was originally proposed. The plan in May 2021 was for a \$12 million brand new police station, "a fit-for-purpose station to meet the needs of the growing Hunter Valley Police District". At that time the existing premises was being used by around 50 staff. According to the 2024-25 State budget papers, \$530,000 was estimated to be spent on the Singleton Police Station. The Minns Labor Government then allocated almost \$5.3 million for the current financial year with a forecast completion date for the work being 2026. I hope to see that job done by next year and certainly before the next general election.

What I and the Singleton community would like to see most of all is an upgraded police station that keeps its doors open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I hear the police argument that officers should be out in the community upholding the law, but I also hear my constituents of Singleton and Branxton who want peace of mind that when they attend or call their local police station there is an officer available to take their complaint or offer some advice. I assure my constituents of Upper Hunter that I have heard what they expect, and I will continue to prosecute the case for police customer service to be delivered at our local stations.

CAMDEN HOSPITAL RENAL DIALYSIS UNIT

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (19:31): Last week I had the absolute pleasure of announcing that Camden Hospital will soon welcome a new renal dialysis unit that will service the local and broader Macarthur community. That upgrade comes as a result of a \$5.2 million dollar investment from the Minns Labor Government, a much-needed injection to our health services in Macarthur, which had been neglected for 12 years by the Liberal-Nationals Government prior to 2023. This funding will purchase the specialist equipment needed to provide the services and capital works to repurpose existing space at Camden Hospital into state-of-the-art services. The service is expected to be operational by 2026.

Renal dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment for people who have end stage kidney failure. The treatment filters blood when a patient is experiencing kidney failure, removing excess fluid and waste products. Patients requiring dialysis usually attend treatment several times a week, often for hours at a time. For patients and their families in my electorate of Camden, that often means hours or potentially whole days lost while travelling to access that treatment. That is simply not good enough. Accessible health care is a human right, and everyone should be able to access timely treatment close to home. The funding boost from the Minns Labor Government to our local Camden Hospital does exactly that, ensuring our community has access to quality health care like that service.

Anyone who lives in the Camden area knows how important Camden Hospital is for our community. It is a treasured institution that has been diligently servicing the people of Camden throughout my living memory and some of the oldest members of my community's living memory too. Previous campaigns have been run in my area to ensure the continuation of services at Camden Hospital. This announcement of a funding injection comes as great news to the families of Camden. It is a sign that Camden Hospital has not been forgotten and is tailoring its services to more accurately meet the needs of those who use it.

I will take a minute to acknowledge the history Camden Hospital. It was after scarlet fever arrived in Australia that the idea of Camden Cottage Hospital came to local dairy farmers. On 24 May 1902 the hospital moved from the two-storey house called Edithville to its current location at Menangle Road, formerly known as Windmill Hill. Camden Hospital has been extended or upgraded many times, but not one upgrade or extension has been done since 2010, which was, ironically and quite coincidentally, the last time Labor was in government in New South Wales. Camden Hospital had been slowly wound back during 12 years of a Liberal-Nationals Government, and we are very proud to have Camden Hospital shining once again. I am incredibly proud to be part of a government that is bringing Camden's health care back to the forefront of planning, and I look forward to delivering this service and more to our community.

CENTRIST POLITICAL VALUES

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (19:34): For most Australians of my generation, the devastation of war is familiar only in textbooks. Today young people walk through life largely untouched by the horrors of military conflict. We can love who we want to love, believe in what we want to believe, and pursue even our most ambitious dreams. Other than some of our newest Australians who have fled conflict or persecution, few among us have ever known a different world order. We have grown up in a nation defined by freedom, democracy and the rich diversity those values engender. But, just for a moment, dwell on the extraordinary anxiety that must have infected our world when entire nations did not just proclaim these values through rhetoric but unified around them to fight, bleed and die for our right to live peacefully and free from conflict. Then dwell for a moment on the unimaginable horror that, less than a century on from the Second World War, there are those who question not only the merits of fighting for these freedoms but the very merits of freedom itself.

Today, as in the past, war is being waged far from our shores. While our geography shelters Australia from battles of arms, the struggle over values transcends borders. It means that, whether we like it or not, we must still participate in a fight, but of a different kind. This is a fight for the centre, where reason, compassion and enlightenment flourish; where there is purpose to raising families, educating children and building community; and where, like in Ryde, safety, harmony and opportunity are in abundance. The centre demands of us personal responsibility and a constructive dialogue. In exchange, it offers a society that is free, trusting and tolerant within sensible limits. Those limits do not suppress freedom; they preserve it by guarding against the unreasonable, unchecked and unhinged masquerading as freedom. That is what our Anzacs fought for. All of us can help honour their sacrifice by fighting for that centre and distinguishing between those we disagree with but who nevertheless love Australia, and those who reject our fundamental way of life.

For communities like Ryde, that can be a challenge. For people who have only ever known peace, the centre I speak of feels rather unremarkable. It is extraordinarily ordinary. It does not provoke, and it is not trendy. That is why it needs us: because the centre only survives if the centre is where the change makers gather. That is my message for everyone in Ryde. Be a change maker in your schools, sports clubs, places of worship and homes. Speak up, volunteer and show kindness. Stand up for what is right because it is right, not because it earns applause or reactions online.

One hundred years ago what we now consider normal was revolutionary. Centrist societies were never meant to sit idle. They must keep evolving to repel the forces of evil, welcome those who share our values, and empower every Australian, no matter where they come from or how long they have been here, to contribute to and get the most from our shared future. We owe it to our Anzacs and to each other to win this fight so that a hundred years from now Anzac Day still honours those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the 1940s and not the young Australians of the 2040s. As members of Parliament, we are change makers for them. Our role is to ensure that our history remains intact, and the fairest, most sensible and centred values in the world are proclaimed loudly outwards. May the rest of the world learn from us. May we never forget the sacrifices made for the privilege to gather here together as diverse, free and elected members of Australia's oldest Parliament. Lest we forget.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCO BALDI

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (19:39): It is with a heavy heart that I honour the life of a friend—the cultural warrior and relentless advocate for truth, Franco Baldi. To have known Franco was a privilege. He was a lovable rogue. To witness his work, particularly during his time as director of the Italian newspaper *Allora!*, was to understand what it means to serve a community. He did not just run a newspaper; he gave his community a firm, passionate and critical voice. Under his direction of more than a decade, *Allora!* grew to become one of the biggest weekly Italian publications in Sydney.

Franco and members of CNA Multicultural Services visited me about 10 years ago to tell me they had an idea for a newspaper. Given the loss of local media and the decline of local newspapers, something for the local Italian community would be fantastic. It grew very quickly and began to be distributed right across Sydney, Melbourne and Australia. This growth was driven by Franco's passion for journalism, his community and the truth. It has become a beacon for the Italian Australian community. I feature quite regularly in *Allora!* because I send my media releases to it at every opportunity.

Franco would sit down with me a couple of times a year to have a chat, especially during elections. It was not really an interview in the modern sense of the word. It was a genuine conversation. You would always wonder where he was going with his probing questions, as it was all very conversational. The latest copy of *Allora!* would arrive in your email inbox on Wednesday morning and he would have penned a remarkable piece of journalism that captured the spirit of his subject and story. With a pen and a camera always to hand, Franco reminded us that the best journalism is a form of love.

He lived a remarkable life. He was born in Imola, Italy, in 1944. His early life was marked by the tragic death of his father, who was killed while de-mining fields so that children could play safely. He spent the next 10 years in an orphanage after being in the care of his grandmother. Franco's life was shaped by sacrifice, resilience and a deep sense of service. He travelled the world from the printing houses of Bologna, where he initially plied his trade, to the theatres of Sydney and everywhere in between. He went to the earthquake-struck towns of Sicily and worked in Papua New Guinea.

Franco always had his camera in his hand, and not far behind it was his conscience and compassion. When he arrived in Australia in 1968, he joined the thriving migrant Italian community which has done so much for this State and for the country. He captured its struggles and triumphs, and documented many special events in the community's history. Throughout the decades he worked for *La Fiamma*, *Il Globo* and *Settegiorni*. He was later the editor of *La Gazzetta* and was the founding director of *Allora!*. If you were to capture his many decades in

journalism, you would find that it is not only a history of Franco but also a history of the last 50 to 60 years of the Italian Australian community, particularly in Sydney.

As I mentioned, he loved his camera and knew the power of the image. He put together a number of works for Europhoto and Prima Linea Cinematografica. His documentaries and short films won recognition around the world, not because they were flashy but because they were real. He knew how to really get to his subject. He also contributed to CNA Multicultural Services which does some amazing work, especially in my community. He published books, including a story about Marco Polo and a collection of short stories. He was awarded a very deserved lifetime membership of CNA Multicultural Services in 2021. On Saturday night we were at an election party, and it was very sad that he was not there. I know that he would have been looking down and making sure that the writers of *Allora!* captured it well. Rest in peace, Franco.

REGIONAL GRANTS FUNDING

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (19:44): People west of the Great Dividing Range are rightly asking what they are getting for their hard earned tax dollars. The New South Wales Government's Community Building Partnership program received a record 3,659 applications this year, which is a clear indication of the desperate need for funding across New South Wales. From rural villages to bustling city suburbs, local councils, charities and not-for-profits are being forced to compete against one another for small pots of funds. It is simply not good enough. Under the previous Coalition Government, programs like the Stronger Country Communities Fund gave rural and regional New South Wales a real shot at securing the infrastructure and support it needs to survive and thrive.

From 2017 to 2022, over \$660 million was delivered to more than 2,500 projects without rural communities having to compete against metropolitan areas for every dollar. That program was scrapped in 2023, and it was not alone. The Regional Job Creation Fund, Regional Events Acceleration Fund, Regional Sport Facility Fund and Regional Seniors Travel Card are gone too. They were all dismantled under the Minns Labor Government. Those programs were not just budget lines. They were lifelines to sport, tourism, health and basic services. They made it possible for seniors to visit doctors, for kids to play sport and for struggling families to send their children to swimming lessons under the First Lap program.

We have instead seen shifting goalposts and new guidelines that ignore the unique challenges of rural and regional areas. For example, the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund once supported essential maintenance for regional assets like showgrounds, caravan parks and local reserves. Preference is now given to reserves with higher annual visitation, which is a clear disadvantage for smaller remote communities that do not see the same foot traffic as coastal or urban parks. It is a skewed system that rewards city numbers over country needs. I stood in this very Chamber 18 months ago and spoke about Narrandera, a town of 6,000 people in the western corner of my electorate. Residents were living without confidence in their drinking water and were awaiting a long overdue filtration system and pipeline upgrade under the Safe and Secure Water program. It is mid-2025 and they are still waiting. Three consecutive years without investment in this critical program has left towns like Narrandera behind. Clean and safe drinking water is a basic right, not a luxury.

The people I represent are being denied that right. The Government calls it a "reprioritisation of funding" as if regional infrastructure is somehow less essential. Why must regional communities be the ones asked to pay the price? We produce the food on your plate, wine in your glass and cotton in your shirt, and yet our needs are all too often sidelined. Over the past two years, the people of my electorate have had to fight tooth and nail just to keep their schools and health facilities open. The future of maternity and surgical services in Cootamundra is in question. NSW Health Pathology is seeking to shut down a fully staffed pathology laboratory. This vital facility supports not only births and surgeries but also emergency services. The community of Grenfell has waited years for new hospital. Nine bed licences have been granted, but without a new facility they sit dormant despite being on the capital priority list for years. The Government has failed to act. How long must we wait?

We have also seen Labor's disregard for mining communities. By scrapping the Resources for Regions program and hiking mining royalties, billions of dollars from regional production have been siphoned into consolidated revenue with little to no return for the communities that earned them. It is unjust, shortsighted and unsustainable for these communities. Regional New South Wales deserves more than lip service. We deserve meaningful investment, equitable funding and a government that recognises our vital role in the success of the State. As we approach the next State budget, I call on the New South Wales Labor Government to look beyond Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. It must look to the hundreds of towns and villages like those right across the Cootamundra electorate. They form the beating heart of New South Wales, particularly regional New South Wales. We are not looking for charity; we have never looked for charity. All we are asking for is our fair share.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (19:49): Tonight I speak on the scourge of violence against women, and domestic and family violence, which have rocked my community. The tragic and senseless death of 19-year-old Audrey Griffin has shaken our Central Coast community to its core. She was a vibrant young woman with her whole life ahead of her as a talented athlete and community member, with a plan to join the Australian navy. What happened to Audrey should never have happened. It was a senseless and violent act that has left not only a family but also the entire Central Coast grieving. Audrey's death is not just a tragedy; it is part of a much bigger problem facing our country—the ongoing crisis of violence against women, and domestic and family violence. I will say it clearly and everyone in this Chamber will agree with me: Violence against women in our society is a disgrace. It is gutless; it is cowardly. It is completely unacceptable, and it must be stamped out. Whether it happens in a home, on the street or in a relationship, it has no place in our community. Unfortunately, it continues to happen.

The statistics speak for themselves. In Australia, every nine days a woman is killed by a man, usually someone known to her. Behind every one of those numbers is a family and a life that is cut short. I have spent time with the incredible officers from Brisbane Water Police District Command and seen the sheer volume of violence calls they respond to on a daily basis. I have sat in rooms with offenders who show no remorse and believe that they are entitled to behave the way they do. It shakes you to the core and you ask yourself, "How is it possible that this exists in our society, and why?" Violence against women, particularly in the home, is not just physical; it includes coercion, threats, psychological abuse, stalking, harassment and control. It is often slow and hidden but just as damaging, and sometimes even more so. Many women live in fear every day, even in their own homes, with people they once trusted.

There is no excuse for this behaviour—none at all. It is not about losing control; it is about choosing to control. It is about power, domination and abuse of trust. As a society we must call it out at every level—from inappropriate jokes to controlling behaviour and physical violence. I was humbled to join our community and come together to stand for Audrey, with thousands of people gathering at Terrigal Beach to support her family. Traffic was at a standstill and we all dressed in white. Our community committed to do better and ensure that Audrey Griffin's life does not become just another statistic.

While the Coalition was in government, we undertook a range of investments to work towards preventing violence against women and domestic violence, of which I am very proud. One of those fantastic programs was the Core and Cluster Program, which started with a historic investment of \$484.3 million to support 2,900 women and children escaping domestic and family violence. That program established a new way of delivering refuges. Instead of shared room facilities, women and children were given private, self-contained accommodation with professional support onsite. It was the largest investment in domestic violence infrastructure in New South Wales history, and it is saving lives. I am pleased that additional funding for the program has been committed by the New South Wales Government for another refuge in Gosford, set to be opened by 2026. We also supported services like Legal Aid, trauma counselling and intervention programs. We helped to fund local organisations that work on the front line, helping those in dire need.

We must also acknowledge the progress our communities have made with regard to the change in attitude. Years ago, when I was growing up—and many members would have seen this—people did not want to get involved in what they saw as "private matters". They might hear somebody arguing next door, but they would not get involved. That attitude is changing. The thousands of people who took part in the Stand for Audrey gathering at Terrigal and subsequent march in Gosford on that Sunday are absolute proof of that. More people are speaking up; more are calling police. More are saying, "We will not let this continue."

We cannot afford to take our foot off the pedal on this issue. We must be there to support women, believe them and ensure that they are safe. Audrey's family should not have to go through this. Their grief is shared by this entire community and every member of this Parliament. I want them to know this: Audrey's death will not be forgotten. Audrey's name will be part of the push for lasting change. I assure every woman across the Central Coast and New South Wales that we see them, we hear them and we will ensure that there is change. Ending violence against women in our community is not just the job of police or government; it is the responsibility of all of us, whether we be a parent, neighbour, friend or just somebody. If we hear, see or suspect something, we should speak up. Men have to acknowledge their role as well. More of us need to take a stand and speak out against violence. We all have a role to play. If we do not act together, the statistics will continue to climb and nothing will change. Audrey Griffin's death should remind us that we must eradicate the scourge of violence against women.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:54): I commend the member for Terrigal for his heartfelt words. They represent a bipartisan commitment, both on the Central Coast and in this House, to do more to reduce violence against women and stamp out the scourge of domestic violence in this State.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 19:55 until
Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 10:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

MARTIN'S TRAVEL GROUP IN ALBURY - 94 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge the legacy of Martins Travel Group in Albury, a business that has served our community for the past 94 years. From just one bus founded by Richard Martin, to now operating a fleet of 70, including 10 luxury buses, this growth is nothing short of remarkable. Over those nine decades the company has facilitated over 1.4 million journeys! Many in our Albury community have fond memories of Martin's buses—whether it was the ride to school, the trips to concerts, or the bus services home after footy tours, often with some sore heads along the way! Martins Travel Group remains a family-owned business, with Rosalie and David Martin continuing the legacy. Together with their dedicated team of 90 staff, including 60 drivers and 5 mechanics, they carry forward the company's proud tradition of excellence. I thank Rosalie, David and their loyal staff members, whose hard work and commitment have been the driving force behind the success of this long-running family business, and I look forward to seeing how they continue to evolve in the future.

TWO BORDER BOXING BROTHERS – ALBURY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Angus and Conor Friswell, two talented young amateur boxers from Albury High School, who were selected to compete for a national title and state selection in Sydney. Angus, a seasonal competitor, currently holds three titles, showcasing his skills and dedication to the sport. He has also had the unique opportunity to train with the legendary Jeff Fenech. Conor, Angus's younger brother, is following closely in his footsteps, demonstrating a similar passion and aptitude for boxing. Their selection for national competition is a proud moment for Albury High School and our entire community. Congratulations Angus and Conor, as you represent our community on the national stage.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—It was a true honour to attend the Illawarra's International Women's Day Lunch at the WIN Entertainment Centre, alongside over 970 passionate supporters. This year marked the 20th anniversary of this inspiring event—a testament to the region's dedication to celebrating women's achievements and advancing equality. The event featured the remarkable Rosie Batty AM, 2015 Australian of the Year, whose powerful speech highlighted the resilience and strength of women and her continued advocacy for victims of family violence. Her story left a lasting impact on all in attendance. The scholarship recipients were truly inspiring, representing the talent and potential of women in our community. Events like this help shape the future of the Illawarra by fostering connection, recognising achievement, and driving change. While we've made progress, challenges persist, and I remain committed to supporting women and advocating for equality. Thank you to the organisers and generous sponsors for making this extraordinary event possible. It was a privilege to be surrounded by so many incredible women and to be part of such a meaningful celebration.

AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the Australian Celtic Festival held at Glen Innes, an annual event honouring Celtic heritage, with this year celebrations highlighting the rich cultures of Brittany, Cornwall and Wales. The festival is held around the Australian Standing Stones National Celtic Monument and festivities include official ceremonies, street parade, music, dance, market stalls, competitions, performances and entertainment, for the enjoyment of all. I congratulate all involved in hosting and staging this event, both past and present. Thank you to Glen Innes Severn Council Mayor Margot Davis and council staff for managing the festivities. Special thanks also to the Glen Innes Highland Hub and the to the many volunteers for their support, as events such as this in regional towns cannot function without the wonderful support these volunteers give. I commend all involved in the festival, who have generously given their time and effort to ensure its success and longevity, with this year's festival celebrating its 33rd year, since its origins in 1992. I attended this year's festival and thoroughly enjoyed sharing in the rich cultural experience.

LISZTOMANIA – NORTHERN TABLELANDS FAVOURITE

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of Walcha racehorse breeders and owners Mark and Cath Taylor, and Inverell trainer Todd Payne, on the success of thoroughbred gelding Lisztomania. Saturday the 5th of April at Royal Randwick, Lisztomania was one of 16 top gallopers from

Country NSW to race in the \$1million Evergreen Turf Country Championship Final. Lisztomania, under a brilliant ride from jockey Tim Clark, hit the front in the final 200 metres but the finish line was about two bounds too far, Lisztomania was beaten by 0.04 of a length. After his 13 starts for a coastal trainer where he recorded 2 wins, Mark approached Inverell trainer Todd Payne to take over the training. Todd has done an enormous job with Lisztomania. In 7 starts since July last year, Lisztomania has raced 6 times at Rosehill and Randwick winning 1 and finishing with two 2nds, two 3rds and a 4th. A phenomenal performance when you consider the distance he must travel from Inverell each time. Whilst Lisztomania has battled injury, with the patience of owner and trainer, has risen to defy the odds, Lisztomania is a Northern Tablelands success story and is congratulated on this achievement.

QUILTERS AND PATCHWORKERS OF NEW ENGLAND INC

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of the Quilters and Patchworkers of New England Inc [QPNE] on their annual exhibition held recently at Armidale, hosting over 300 visitors to view the handmade crafts of patchwork and quilting. I congratulate the group on this accomplishment and on their 41 years of operating together, sharing their common interest and using their skills and talent to fundraise and support local charities and organisations. The group do so by producing and raffling their handcrafted quilts, with an impressive \$47,000 raised over the past 14 years. Special thanks to each member and current committee members driving this initiative, including: President Jennifer Richards; Vice President and Convenor Robyn Wood; Secretary Judy Docksey, Treasurer Conny Kinghorn and Night Vice President Rhonda Di Luzio. I commend both past and present members of QPNE, on taking the opportunity to share their craft and importantly, for tangibly contributing to local charities and organisations to improve the lives of others.

DAVE NEIL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, the value of kids' sport cannot be underestimated and the volunteers who support and nurture these little athletes and their endeavours deserve our gratitude. In this instance I speak of Dave Neil, a member of Orange's CYMS Cricket Club. Dave does more than his share of the heavy lifting when it comes to getting kids involved in one of Australia's national pastimes. From administration to setting up training sessions, guiding kids through the basic skills and organising other coaches and players, Dave, who was also one of Orange's leading batsman, has done it all. So much so, Cricket NSW has named him Community Cricket Coach of the Year for the 2024/25 season, an acknowledgement of the high regard his work for the sport is held in by the state governing body. During Dave's tenure with CYMS, its Cricket Blast participation has grown five-fold in two years while the number of girls taking part has doubled. Juniors are the future of every sport and people like Dave, who give back through coaching and admin, are the keepers of that future. I congratulate Dave on the recognition he has received and thank him for his work.

MUSIC MARATHON

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to congratulate Orange Regional Conservatorium on its innovative 24-hour Music Marathon, held at the Con's home in Hill Street, Orange. Described as a non-stop musical journey, the Music Marathon encompassed Orange's musical community, including students, staff, community, alumni and ensembles, to raise funds for the Conservatorium's Music Within campaign. Music Within was established to support the purchase of equipment and facilitate new programs which will begin when the Con moves into its new home in the Civic Square. With construction on the state-of-the-art building well underway, it's great to see the organisation being proactive and doing its bit to help with the future fit out. The marathon was also a great way of getting the community ready for the big move. Staged during March, the music marathon was the Con's first attempt at such a gruelling schedule but it went off beautifully. The vibe was casual with food trucks and barbecues, theatre performance and other activities setting the tone for the new building. Congratulations on a wonderful event and I look forward to attending more great performances when the music community moves into its new home.

ANDREW REGAN

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr Speaker, about this time in 2024 I submitted a community recognition statement recognising Orange's Emus Rugby Club for taking an active stance to support seriously injured players by establishing the Emus Foundation. One of the club members instrumental in getting the ball rolling was forward Andrew Regan, who was declared an incomplete quadriplegic after a tackle went badly wrong three years ago. The Emus Foundation is about supporting players like Andrew, but it appears 'Reegs' as he is fondly referred to by clubmates, is also about reciprocating that support. In one of the most memorable moments at Endeavour Oval, and almost three years after his accident to the day, Andrew rose from his chair to walk 100m, with the assistance of his amazing support crew. I've seen some of the footage and the determination was tangible - and nothing short of inspirational. Along the way, Andrew has raised more than \$40,000 for the Emus Foundation coffers, meaning other players will have that little bit extra support should something go

catastrophically wrong on field. I am in awe of this man's determination to recover mobility and I salute his amazing support team and the Emus Foundation.

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - EMMA D'HEUREUX

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Emma D'Heureux a joyous 17th birthday! Emma's mum, Michelle, asked me to share these words in the Parliament: "Happy birthday Emma!" It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Emma's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday Emma!

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - DR LARA BEREZA-MALCOLM

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Dr Lara Bereza-Malcolm a joyous 36th birthday! Lara's partner, Yagiz, asked me to share these heartfelt words in Parliament: "Today, it is with great pleasure that we celebrate the 36th birthday of Dr. Lara Bereza-Malcolm, a microbiologist and a budding writer, cherished deeply by the Marsfield community. Alongside her academic and literary pursuits, Lara's love for gardening and her rabbit, Gabby Gabby, enriches her life and those around her with beauty and joy. As we recognise Lara on this special day, we commend her for her contributions to both science and literature, and for the vibrant spirit she brings to Marsfield. May this year bring her continued inspiration, joy, and success in all her passions. Happy Birthday, Dr. Lara Bereza-Malcolm!" It is a wonderful thing to celebrate with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Lara's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity. Happy birthday Lara!

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - AYLANA SAUER

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in wishing Aylana Sauer a joyous 26th birthday! Aylana's husband, Lachlan, asked me to share these heartfelt words in the Parliament: "Happy birthday my love! I thought you might like your birthday being brought up in parliament!." It truly is a wonderful thing to celebrate a birthday with the love and support of those closest to you, and I am humbled to be able to play a small role in making Aylana's day a little extra special. May this birthday be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments that can be taken forward on life's journey. Wishing you continued happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Happy birthday Aylana!

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES, ANZAC DAY SERVICE

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—On 23 April 2025 I attended Wiggles and Giggles Childcare, Dural for the children's Anzac Service. The children heard about the spirit of those who have served to protect country, our values, and our way of life. The children heard from Deputy Mayor Frank De Masi about the importance of Anzac Day, from Robin McConkey who is also the grandfather of one of the Wiggles and Giggles children who spoke about his father's WWII medals and the importance of remembering the legacy of those who have served and finally from Kenthurst Rotary President Kathy Bray who spoke about the war service of Ray Hancock, known to the community as Biggles. Ray who was wearing his WWII medals and his wife Jenny were in attendance. Biggles joined the Royal Navy as an apprentice aircraft mechanic until he passed pilot selection. He mastered several types of planes and at the end of the War he was a pilot of a Corsair Bomber and held the rank of Sub-Lieutenant. Thank you to the staff at Wiggles and Giggles and in particular Melissa Rauber, Terese Wilson, and Talitha Thurston for arranging a thoughtful Anzac Service for the children.

MEG THOMAS - PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I wish to extend my congratulations to Meg Thomas, who was recognised with a Pride of Workmanship Award at the Castle Hill Rotary Club's ceremony on 9 April 2025. Meg has made outstanding contributions to social justice and environmental sustainability, and I am pleased to acknowledge her dedication and leadership. In her role as Coordinator of the Sew a Smile initiative, she has led efforts that produced and distributed over 10,000 garments for children across the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean. Through her work with the CRISP Program, she has also supported the resettlement and integration of refugees, bringing hope and stability to many families. What truly distinguishes Meg is her ability to lead with both compassion and vision. She mentors others generously, fosters community connection, and leads by example through her work in bushfire recovery, environmental sustainability, and social justice advocacy. Meg's integrity, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to making a difference have earned her the admiration of her peers and the gratitude of our broader community. I am proud to recognise her achievements and congratulate her on this well-deserved honour.

LYNNE SUTCLIFFE - PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I wish to extend my congratulations to Lynne Sutcliffe, who was recognised with a Pride of Workmanship Award at the Castle Hill Rotary Club's ceremony on 9 April 2025. Lynne has made outstanding contributions to the Hills Musical Theatre Company, where she has been a dedicated leader and volunteer for more than 50 years. She has served in many roles, Treasurer, Public Officer, Ticket Secretary and Front of House, and has recently earned the honour of life membership. Lynne's commitment to local theatre has played a major role in shaping the cultural fabric of our community. Her passion for the arts and tireless work behind the scenes have allowed the company to stage more than 100 productions, bringing joy and creativity to audiences across our community. Her life membership is a reflection of the deep respect and gratitude she has earned from colleagues and audiences alike. Through her mentorship and unwavering dedication, Lynne has not only preserved a treasured institution but also inspired the next generation of performers and volunteers. I am proud to recognise her accomplishments and thank her for her immense contribution to our community.

HARRY KANE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate talented Cronulla musician Harry Kane on his success at the 2025 National Band Championships held over the Easter weekend in Melbourne. Representing several bands over the competition, Harry came away with a swag of titles won playing two different brass instruments. Representing the Sutherland PCYC Concert Band, he won gold playing the trumpet in both the open and junior divisions. He also represented the St George Concert Band playing the flugel horn and was the winner in the junior section and third in the open competition. To cap off an outstanding performance Harry was named junior brass champion of champions, making him the first such champion in the St George Brass Band's 25-year history. With musicians and bands from over Australia competing at the championships, to come away with multiple titles across several instruments is an impressive achievement and recognition of Harry's hard work and dedication. I wish Harry success as he finishes his year 12 studies this year and follows his dreams in music.

SHIRE RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREES YELLOW SOCKS INITIATIVE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate local Shire rugby league referee officials for their 'Yellow and Bright, Treat them Right' campaign to encourage spectators to respect and value emerging referees. The campaign involves under 18 referees in the Cronulla-Sutherland Junior Rugby League competition wearing yellow socks while refereeing to drive awareness of the age and their level of experience as a match official. Almost three quarters of local league referees are under the age of 18 and the initiative is seen as a powerful step in protecting and supporting the game's youngest match officials. Chair of the Association Brendan Lucas said "The Cronulla JRL have already made great strides in reducing referee abuse, and we believe this initiative will build on that progress creating an environment where young people feel valued, respected, and inspired to stay involved in Rugby League for years to come". This campaign is a positive initiative for the game in the Shire and I recognise the Referees Association executive for their vision: Brendan Lucas, Drew Blackman, John Sweeting, Mitchell Currie and Andrew Gilchrist. I wish the Shire's league referees well as they officiate this 2025 season.

MARCEL FREEMAN

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate Cronulla's Marcel Freeman on his remarkable fundraising to support children overseas who are facing poverty. After learning of the plight of children living in poverty overseas, Marcel ran a stall at preschool to raise money for Project Compassion, which is the annual national fundraiser of international aid agency Caritas. He sold jelly cups and play dough at Miranda Kindergarten and his enthusiasm for the cause saw educators running lessons to teach the kids about others less fortunate than themselves, while a guest speaker from Caritas visited the preschool to help the children learn about poverty and the spirit of charity. Marcel's heart to help others inspired his peers at preschool and together they raised an amazing \$450 and Miranda Kindergarten became the first preschool to formally raise funds for Project Compassion in its 60 year history in Australia. The simple wish of one five-year-old to help poor kids overseas be able to drink clean water and go to school has and will touch many people locally and around the world and I recognise Marcel for his kindness and efforts to serve others.

KAI RENNIE

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—Kai Rennie is a talented athlete, musician and a 2024 Alumni of Bulli High School. Kai was recently awarded a \$28000 scholarship at Seattle Pacific University, Washington in the United States. Kai received this scholarship thanks to his strength playing basketball and performing as musician in Bulli High School productions or gigging at the local pub. The school noted his strong stage presence, vocals and willingness to lead productions key criteria for securing his scholarship. It is fantastic to witness a young artist who grew up in the Heathcote electorate be recognised and rewarded for his talents. On behalf of the

Heathcote electorate, I congratulate Kai on receiving this awesome scholarship opportunity and wish him luck in pursuing basketball and music in the United States.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the University of Wollongong and its indelible impact on education and innovation throughout the Illawarra. From its humble beginnings in 1975 - providing tertiary education to the steel industry - it has expanded into nine Australian and four international campuses. UOW's 50th anniversary program includes a diversity of celebrations, including 50 Artists: 50 years, showcasing works by 50 nationally and internationally recognized artists. The 50th Anniversary will offer a chance to honor and acknowledge UOW's impact on teaching, education, research, and innovation over the past five decades. On behalf of the Heathcote electorate, I am proud to commemorate the University of Wollongong's 50 years of achievements in education.

BRIAN COOPER

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—Brian Cooper is a local man dedicated to serving his community over the last 50 years and into the future. Mr. Cooper is celebrating 50 years of service as Justice of the Peace as a member of the class of 1974. I know that the Attorney General Michael Daley truly values the work that yourself and other Justice's of the Peace in the Heathcote electorate do. Over the last half century Mr. Cooper has witnessed the changes in the work of a Justice of the Peace and has maintained his commitment to serving the community. He has continued to be the eyes and ears to ensure authenticity and correct procedures when locals are applying for passports, needing a witness for a statutory declaration or affidavit or when they are buying and selling property. On behalf of the Heathcote electorate, I congratulate Mr. Cooper for his 50 years of service to his community as a Justice of the Peace.

ASHA GEARSIDE

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Asha Gearside, Captain of Redhead Public School for her outstanding submission in the ANZAC writing competition. Asha's essay beautifully captured the spirit of ANZAC Day and its profound impact on Australian identity. Through her thoughtful words and reflections, she demonstrated a deep understanding of the core values of courage, mateship and sacrifice that lie at the heart of our national story. Asha had the honour of presenting her essay at the school's ANZAC Day service, where her heartfelt message resonated deeply with all in attendance. I was personally moved by her ability to articulate the importance of remembrance and the legacy of those who have served. Congratulations Asha on your incredible achievement. Your writing is a powerful reminder that the next generation carries the spirit of the ANZAC forward with pride and purpose.

HARRY HALL

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Harry Hall for their remarkable performance at the 2025 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships. This year, the Northern Beaches hosted the State's premier Surf Life Saving Competition, where thousands of dedicated competitors, spectators and volunteers gathered to take part in a wide range of surf lifesaving activities. It was a true celebration of skill, teamwork, and community, showcasing the incredible talent and commitment of all involved. Harry placed 2nd in the U17 2km Beach Run and was awarded State Champion in the U17 Mixed 2x1km alongside Emi Leadbeater. This remarkable achievement demonstrates is a testament to their exceptional skill, determination, and relentless commitment to excellence in surf lifesaving. It reflects not only the high level of performance but also the value of discipline and perseverance that are so integral to the surf lifesaving community. Congratulations Harry on your exceptional effort, you are asset to the surf lifesaving community, and your dedication and hard work are inspiration to us all. I look forward to your continued contributions to and excellence in the surf lifesaving.

INDI HOETZER

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Indi Hoetzer for their remarkable performance at the 2025 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships. This year, the Northern Beaches hosted the State's premier Surf Life Saving Competition, where thousands of dedicated competitors, spectators and volunteers gathered to take part in a wide range of surf lifesaving activities. It was a true celebration of skill, teamwork, and community, showcasing the incredible talent and commitment of all involved. Indi received 1st in the U11 Female Board Race and 3rd in the U11 Female Ironperson with Swansea-Belmont Surf Life Saving Club. This remarkable achievement demonstrates is a testament to their exceptional skill, determination, and relentless commitment to excellence in surf lifesaving. It reflects not only the high level of performance but also the value of discipline and perseverance that are so integral to the surf lifesaving community. Congratulations Indi on your exceptional effort, you are asset

to the surf lifesaving community, and your dedication and hard work are inspiration to us all. I look forward to your continued contributions to and excellence in the surf lifesaving.

AIDAN JOHNSON - MURRAY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Aidan Johnson, a former student of Murray High School, on his outstanding achievement in making the Australian Football League [AFL] debut with the Melbourne Demons. Aidan's remarkable journey reached a new milestone on March 16, 2025, when he took to the field against the GWS Giants at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Grounds [MCG]. This was a significant moment in Aidan's career. His selection as a mature-age recruit by the Melbourne Demons reflects the years of hard work and perseverance he has shown in his AFL journey. Originally from the Lavington Panthers in the Ovens and Murray Football League, Aidan's story is one of resilience and commitment. It serves as a powerful example for all young athletes in our community, showing them that with focus and hard work, dreams can be achieved, no matter how hard the challenges. Aidan, I wish you all the best as you continue to pursue your career in the AFL.

ANZAC SUNDAY 2025 AT FORESTVILLE

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Sunday 20 April, I was honoured to attend the Anzac Sunday March and Commemoration Service with Forestville RSL sub-Branch. It was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of our community. Each year, this service brings together local veterans, families, schools and residents to honour the men and women who served our nation and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I recognise members of the Forestville RSL sub-Branch committee, President Bob Lunnon, Vice President Sandy Howard, Secretary Vincent Williams CSC, John Scifleet, John Balfour OAM, Stuart Hablethwaite, Peter F McAskill and Kevin Leary. Thank you for your ongoing leadership in our local community. I recognise World War II veteran Roy Taylor, who joined as there in spirit. I also commend the Manly Warringah Pipe Band, led by Drum Major Chloe van de Velde and Pipe Major Nick Roelvink, for leading the march. We Will Remember Them. Lest We Forget.

KYDS 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On 2 April 2025, I celebrated the 20th anniversary of KYDS at the St Ives Club. I was honoured to share positive words about the life saving and life changing work KYDS provides our local community with mental health support for our youth. We also heard from Seppi about how KYDS assisted her. Seppi's story is one of hope and connection. We need to do everything we can to prevent suicide and destigmatise mental health. In 2003, Lindfield Rotary Club and Ku-ring-gai Council established Ku-ring-gai Youth Development Service [now KYDS] as an accessible, confidential and free counselling service for young people. They opened on 31 March 2005 with a single counsellor and supported 36 young people in its first year. Today, they support several communities across NSW, providing over 10,000 counselling sessions. I recognise all the dedicated counsellors and staff led by CEO Carol Simpson. I recognise the Management Committee led by Chair Andrew Price along with David Jordan, Helen Jarvis, Mark Eyton-Jones, Justin Clarke, Jane Ketelbey, Tim Warren, Cr. Alec Taylor, Dr Stephanie Brookman and Lauren Brincat. Thank you, KYDS, for 20 years of service. I look forward to your next 20 years and beyond!

REOPENING OF COLES LINDFIELD

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Wednesday 9 April, I joined our local community to mark the reopening of Coles on the Pacific Highway at Lindfield. The new store was built over three years from the ground up. It creates greater choice for local shoppers and allows the creation of local jobs and economic growth within our local community. I recognise Coles for supporting our local community at the reopening by celebrating and donating funds to St Lucy's School, Secondbite, the Salvation Army, Lindfield Football Club and Guide Dogs. I recognise the chair of Coles Group, James Graham who was in attendance along with General Manager Ivan Slunjski, Regional Manager Sam Ilot, and Store Manager Isobel Bradley and Ashlee Revell. They lead a team of hundreds of employees. Welcome back to Lindfield, Coles.

MR PAUL HEWITT

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Mr Paul Hewitt, a dedicated community member and advocate for sustainable agriculture. Mr Hewitt was recently named the 2025 Crookwell Citizen of the Year in the Upper Lachlan Shire Australia Day Awards. A resident of Grabben Gullen, he was recognised for his outstanding contribution to the Upper Lachlan Landcare grazing group. Over the years, Mr Hewitt has played a pivotal role in advocating for the group, expanding its membership, and supporting local graziers to improve and grow their enterprises. His leadership has strengthened both the Committee and the wider agricultural community through knowledge-sharing and collaboration. Mr Hewitt's efforts have not only advanced sustainable land management practices but have also inspired greater participation in the Landcare movement - an essential pillar of regional resilience. I thank Mr Hewitt for his tireless work in supporting local graziers and congratulate

him on this well-deserved award. His commitment to education, sustainability, and community is both commendable and deeply appreciated.

ROHAN GAMBLE

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Rohan Gamble. Rohan was nominated for the 2025 Australia Day Award, Young Citizen of the Year in the Upper Lachlan Shire – a well earned recognition of his leadership and character. As College Leader and Vice-Captain at Trinity Catholic College, Rohan is known for his mentoring, peer support, and strong commitment to the values of his school. He actively demonstrates respect, kindness, integrity, honesty, and compassion - qualities that make him a role model to his peers. Beyond his leadership responsibilities, Rohan is a dedicated and diligent student who also participates enthusiastically in rugby and drama. His ability to balance academic achievement, extracurricular interests, and meaningful leadership shows maturity well beyond his years. It is inspiring to see young people like Rohan create a supportive and values-led environment for others. His example contributes to a positive school culture and sets a high standard for future leaders. I warmly congratulate Rohan on his nomination and thank him for the significant contribution he continues to make to his school and community.

MR TREVOR HOWARD

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Mr Trevor Howard, fondly known in Crookwell as "Jacko." Mr Howard was named the winner of the Mayoral Discretion Award in the 2025 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards for the Upper Lachlan Shire. This honour reflects his strong community spirit and the high regard in which he is held. A long-time resident of Crookwell, Mr Howard is known for his positive demeanour and quiet acts of service. One of his most visible contributions is regularly collecting rubbish along the main street - an act that improves the appearance of the town and lifts the spirits of those who live and visit there. Mr Howard is a reminder that community service doesn't always come with titles or headlines. His actions, though simple, reflect a deep pride in his town and a generous commitment to others. I sincerely thank Mr Howard for his ongoing dedication to Crookwell and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition. Our communities thrive because of people like him - those who serve not for praise, but out of genuine care.

MRS ANH THU THI TRAN

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Mrs Anh Thu Thi Tran is a high achiever who embodies humility and wisdom. She is driven by a genuine desire to help others and deliver meaningful outcomes quietly and wholeheartedly. Arriving in Australia as a refugee from Vietnam in 1980, Mrs Tran embraced her new beginning with resilience and grace. Guided by her belief in the power of education, she pursued university and postgraduate studies in community services, laying the foundation for over four decades of service. Since 1982, Mrs Tran has supported countless individuals across our community through her work in social welfare, domestic violence, child protection, gambling harm prevention, mental health, and counselling. Mrs Tran continues to drive positive change in her role at Cabra-Vale Diggers Club, where she leads community seminars to strengthen families and promote wellbeing. Her impact extends to her decades-long advocacy for women's empowerment as a founding member of the NSW and Federal Vietnamese Women's Associations and a key advisor to the Vietnamese-Australian Women's Forum. We recognise and celebrate Mrs Tran's quiet yet profound contributions. Her selfless efforts to uplift others, prioritising impact over recognition, are a powerful inspiration, deserving of our deepest appreciation.

IFTAR DINNER AT THE BONNYRIGG MOSQUE 2025

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Iftar dinner at the Bonnyrigg Mosque, and it was truly a heartwarming and memorable experience. As the sun set and the call to prayer echoed through the mosque, a deep sense of peace and unity settled over the gathering. People from all walks of life came together to break fast, share stories, and strengthen community bonds. The hospitality was remarkable, volunteers worked tirelessly to prepare and serve a generous spread of traditional dishes, from dates and lentil soup to biryani and sweets like baklava. Beyond the delicious food, what stood out most was the atmosphere of warmth and inclusion. Strangers sat side by side, engaging in thoughtful conversations and learning more about each other's cultures and beliefs. One of the highlights was hearing from community leaders who spoke about the values of compassion, charity, and reflection that define Ramadan. It was a powerful reminder of how faith can bring people together and inspire kindness. Attending the Iftar at Bonnyrigg Mosque not only deepened my appreciation for Islamic traditions but also reinforced the importance of community, understanding, and shared humanity.

MRS TON NU LY

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I recognise Mrs Ton Nu Ly, an inspirational figure in my Cabramatta electorate, admired for her exceptional talents, enduring virtues, and decades of service to the community. Born in Hue, the imperial city of Vietnam, Mrs Ly is a living symbol of the traditional Vietnamese woman, embodying

the core values of family, sacrifice, and loyalty. After her husband's passing due to brutal imprisonment following the fall of Saigon, she sacrificed everything to raise her eight children into successful individuals. In late 1990, Mrs Ly arrived in Australia and has since devoted over 30 years to serving the Vietnamese community. She volunteered as an English teacher for the NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association [VEFA] and the NSW Vietnamese Women's Association, taught Vietnamese at NSW Vietnamese Language Schools, served as treasurer and advisor for VEFA, and editor for the Vietnamese Australian Women's Forum. Mrs Ly is also renowned for her gifted poetry, filled with patriotism and deep ties to her heritage. In 2002, she received the Australia Day Achievement Medallion for her contributions. I commend Mrs Ly on her accomplishments and thank her for her lifelong contributions to enriching the vibrant, multicultural community especially in Cabramatta.

TRACEY FREEMAN

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Tracey Freeman, who holds the position of Public Officer for the Shellharbour Surf Lifesaving club. Tracey is a Life Member and holds the position of Public Officer and is a member of the Club's Management Committee and Executive Committee. Tracey has held many roles in the Club over the past 20 years and has a wealth of knowledge about the mechanics of their club and surf lifesaving. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Tracey for her dedication to Surf Lifesaving.

KIKI DOS SANTOS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of 15-year-old Kiki Dos Santos, from Shell Cove, for being selected to be a part of the inaugural Western Sydney Wanderers' NPLW Academy. This program is designed to advance the skills of players aged 10-15, this program is open to girls wanting to develop their football skills under the guidance of experienced Western Sydney Wanderers coaches. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Kiki on this wonderful achievement.

CHELSEA FLOOD

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Chelsea Flood, who holds the position of Workplace Health & Safety Officer and is a Patrol Captain of the Shellharbour Surf Lifesaving club. Chelsea spends time ensuring that their club is a safe and welcoming environment for their members, and she also enjoys the personal challenge of maintaining a 'rescue-ready' level of fitness, including competing in Senior Club Championships. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Chelsea for her dedication to Surf Lifesaving.

99 FOR ALEXIA SMITH

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—As a Year 10 student at St John Paul College in Coffs Harbour, Alexia Smith is already leaving her mark on the community through her exceptional musical talent and strong character. Known across the Nambucca Valley and Coffs Coast for her regular performances at school concerts, Christmas carol events, and local venues, Alexia has become a familiar and much-loved voice in our region. Now she has achieved an incredible 99 percent in her Certificate of Music (C-Mus) in Contemporary Vocal through the Australian Guild of Music. With six years of vocal training under her belt and the guidance of her Macksville-based teacher Carmel Gutteridge, Alexia is proof that when young people are supported and encouraged, they shine. What stands out even more than her musical ability is her gratitude and grounded nature. She's quick to credit her mum and her teacher for their support, and it's that humility, alongside her ambition, that truly makes her a role model for other young people in our region. Congratulations Alexia, this is an incredible achievement, and your community is proud.

41ST WAUCHOPE LASIANDRA FESTIVAL

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—It's a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Wauchope Lasiandra Festival. For over four decades, this beloved tradition has brought colour, joy, and energy to the streets of Wauchope, drawing in visitors, and shining a spotlight on our incredible local businesses, community groups, and the passionate people who make this town such a unique place to live. Each year, the festival grows stronger, and this year was no exception. From pickleball and bowls to golf, line dancing, art exhibitions, karaoke, and the much-loved family fun day. There truly was something for everyone. And of course, we can't forget the iconic purple dress-up day. It's a fantastic tradition that turns the town into a sea of colour and pride, showcasing Wauchope at its most joyful and united. Congratulations to all the participants and especially to the winners of this year's competitions, including Lifeline, Wauchope Barber Shop, Harcourts, Bugden & Partners, and Paul Murphey. Your contributions help keep the festival spirit alive. Well done to all the volunteers who made the festival a success!

100TH ANNIVERSARY FOR COMBOYNE MUSEUM

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—The Comboyne Museum marked its centenary with a day of celebration that brought the past vividly to life and united the community in shared pride. Despite a few showers, spirits were high as locals and visitors gathered to honour the stories, artifacts, and people who shaped the region. From stalls brimming with handmade goods to vintage cars displayed by the Hastings Auto Restorers Club, the day was a vibrant reminder of how history and community intertwine. The legacy of local builder Herbert "Bert" Amos was also celebrated, with his craftsmanship on display in the Comboyne house and old milk factory, buildings that have become treasured local landmarks. Visitors enjoyed live music, home baking, and garden gems, all showcasing the beauty of community-led efforts. Visitors were also transported back in time, as they saw locals dressed in period costumes, with elegant dresses, hats and accessories, it brought history back to life with some flair. As the museum enters its next century, it remains a testament to the power of preserving our past—and the joy of coming together to celebrate it.

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF NSW

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to inform the House of the outstanding work of the Multicultural Communities Council of New South Wales [MCC NSW]. I recently had the opportunity to meet with President Mark Franklin to discuss their recent achievements. Founded in 2012 by the late Dr Tony Pun OAM, MCC NSW has played an important role in supporting and advocating for culturally diverse communities. At the centre of this work is an understanding that multiculturalism is a social and economic asset, rather than a challenge. Whilst the MCC is an independent organisation, they have made great contributions to Government policy in recent years, including presenting evidence in the Multicultural Framework Review by the Department of Home Affairs. They are also a major promoter of the 'STOP THE HATE' campaign, which was designed to support social cohesion and jointly launched last November by the Government and the Opposition. Once again, I would like to thank President, Mark Franklin, as well as the entire board of directors for the fantastic work they are doing in this space. I look forward to working alongside the Multicultural Communities Council of NSW into the future.

OATLEY RSL ANZAC DAWN SERVICE AND FAMILY DAY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to commend the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch, who recently commemorated Anzac Day by hosting a Dawn Service and family day, which was very well attended. Anzac Day is one of the most important dates in our calendar year, commemorating the sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand forces, who landed in Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915. For many of these soldiers, it was their first experience of combat. It is also a time to remember the service men and women who have served and continue to serve our country in times of conflict, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. The community came out in droves to support the occasion, with hundreds of locals coming out to the Dawn Service and many more staying for the family day which followed. This included military demonstrations and two special flyovers by heritage aircraft. I would like to thank Clay Marks, President of the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch, Secretary Major Justine Denton, and the rest of the executive committee who ensured the day was a roaring success.

SSMRF 2025 ANNUAL DINNER

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I recently attended the St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation Annual Dinner for 2025. It was a privilege to see the research that is being conducted by this fantastic organisation. I have been passionate about St George Hospital for many years now and thanks to over \$740 million worth of investment, it is now a world-class medical institution. It was fantastic to celebrate all that the SSMRF have achieved over the last year, including funding announcements to both start and continue great programs. This includes using AI to speed up precision radiation therapy for brain cancer patients. I would like to thank CEO Pam Brown for her efforts, as well as the board of directors, Jill Deering, Professor Greg Davis, Bill Petrovski, Professor Emad El-Omar, Dean Gillespie, Professor Michael Grimm, Professor Peter Gonski, Professor Georgina Hold, Janelle Kemp, Professor Kate Moore and Madeline Tynan. Of course, this would not be possible without all the fantastic researchers who are truly making a difference in the medical field, putting our local area on the map. I look forward to attending next year.

80 YEARS OF CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to recognise the Clarence Regional Library's remarkable 80-year milestone anniversary. First opening the doors in 1945, the library has provided a great community space for the public over the years. In addition to books, the library offers many features, including an interactive floor, a local oral history sound dome, state of the art printers, study rooms and access to gaming, eBooks and the internet, to name a few. Celebrations in recognition of the 80 years took place at the library and offered the chance to relive many stories that have defined the community. Entertainment, including performances

by members of the Clarence Valley Conservatorium and delicious snacks were enjoyed on the day. Behind the scenes tours, special birthday themed story times and a series of spirited speeches were memorable parts of the day. Achievements and highlights from the past 80 years were discussed by Regional Librarian Kathryn Breward, while the State Librarian, Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon spoke about libraries in general in NSW. Clarence Valley Councillor Karen Toms and Mayor Ray Smith shared insights from their committee days and involvement with the service. Congratulations on 80 great years, Clarence Regional Library!

CONGRATULATIONS ALLAN AND JOAN WORLAND

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—My recognition and congratulations go to Allan and Joan Worland, who are embarking on their retirement after 15 years of owning Grafton Mall News. In 2010, Allan and Joan bought the business with a five-year plan to help get their daughter through university. After ten great years in business, they listed the newsagent on the market for sale in 2020 and have now secured a buyer in 2025. Located in a single level shopping mall, Grafton Mall News has been a popular hive of activity for those needing easy pedestrian and vehicle access. In addition to forming many valued friendships over the last 15 years, Allan and Joan have experienced the highlights of being able to deliver the exciting news of lucky lotto ticket winnings, including figures in the millions. I'm sure all the regular customers will greatly miss Allan and Joan's friendly greetings in the shop, and I wish the new owners all the best for their new venture. Congratulations Allan and Joan, I hope you very much enjoy your long-awaited and well-deserved retirement.

CASINO TRUCK SHOW DONATIONS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Recognition must go to the North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show, for their donations of a remarkable \$24,000 to various organisations across the region. For the first time in 2024, the Casino Truck Show held a live charity auction in the CBD. Bidders were vying for a 2.4 metre x 2.4 metre steel bar resembling the rear end of a trailer, courtesy of Moore Trailers of Pittsworth, a 95-litre upright Engel Australia fridge and a 24-volt kid's four-wheeler, donated by Big Wheels Truck Alignment. The principal 2024 charity partner was Movember, receiving \$10,000 to help address men's health issues. Additionally, Steering the Future and Westpac Helicopter collected \$5000 each, with Casino Show Society receiving \$2000 and both the Rappville Hall Committee and the Platypus Day Club presented with \$1000 each. The successful bidder of the first ever charity auction was Jon Kelly of Heavy Haulage Assets, who was also the inaugural Rig of the Show winner. With over 30,000 attendees, the 2024 Casino Truck Show is estimated to have generated \$3.9 million, a significant boost to local businesses. Congratulations to all involved in the organisation of such a thriving event.

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—The 24th April 2025 marked the 110th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Armenian-Australian community and Armenians around the world as we reflect on the lives lost and families displaced in the atrocity. In particular, I send my regards to the Armenian-Australian community in my electorate of Badgerys Creek. They are a hardworking, important and thriving part of the fabric of our local community. It is important to reflect on the tragedies of our history to ensure they are never again repeated. I commend the Armenian National Committee of Australia for bringing this anniversary to the attention of the wider community.

LUKE KUHNER

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend St Clair High School student Luke Kuhner on being crowned the National All Schools Triathlon Champion. Luke finished in first place in his age group and class at the School Sport Australia National All Schools Triathlon held in Perth in March 2025. This is an extraordinary achievement and I thank Luke for doing our community so proud. I wish Luke continued success in his schooling and sporting journey and look forward to his many more accomplishments ahead.

NEW PROBATIONARY CONSTABLES

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate the new probationary constables of Class 365 who attested at the Goulburn Police Academy on 5 May 2025. I thank all new probationary constables allocated to the Police Area Commands which cover my electorate of Badgerys Creek for commencing their service to my community and putting their lives and safety on the front line to ensure the safety of our citizens. The graduating class included 6 new probationary constables allocated to serve through the Nepean Police Area Command, 6 allocated to the Blacktown Police Area Command, 5 allocated to the Camden Police Area Command, 8 allocated to the Fairfield City Police Area Command and 5 allocated to the Liverpool City Police Area Command. I wish all new probationary constables the very best and congratulate and commend them on this important milestone and achievement in their careers.

SLEAPY'S FOUNDATION GALA BALL

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Novocastrians gathered at NEX for Sleepy's Foundation's second annual Gala Ball—an unforgettable evening of singing, dancing, and raising funds to support individuals with cancer and their families. This year, the Foundation was raising money for the John Hunter Hospital's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit courtyard project – to build an outdoor space within the PICU's newly built department so critically ill children and their families can enjoy some fresh air and outdoor play time. The evening was a great success, raising \$121,000 for the project and raising the spirits of all attendees. Congratulations to Robynn and Peter Sleep for putting on another fantastic event and for all the work that you do to support local families in need.

NEWCASTLE WRITERS FESTIVAL

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Each year the Newcastle Writers Festival gets bigger and better, growing into one of the biggest literary festivals in the country. In 2025, we opened our city to a stack of huge names, from new guests like Geraldine Brooks, John Safran, and Markus Zusak, to returning authors like the one and only Jimmy Barnes. Newcastle Writers Festival also opens its arms to upcoming and local authors, including University of Newcastle students and professors. I was thrilled to attend the opening night, where I got to meet and catch up with some of the authors, like Thomas Mayo, Gina Chick, and former Newcastle Local Woman of the Year, Oceane Campbell, who was talking on her new book 'Labour of Love'. Congratulations to Director Rosemarie Milsom and her team that put together this great event. I'm looking forward to next year.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—I commend City of Newcastle, the Councillors, and the Lord Mayor on flying the Transgender Pride flag above Newcastle City Hall on the 31st of March to mark International Transgender Day of Visibility. Newcastle is an incredibly inclusive and welcoming community that I am proud to represent every day. Flying the transgender flag at City Hall sends a clear message to everyone, that Newcastle is a place where transgender and gender diverse individuals are seen, valued, and welcomed. This gesture comes after the election of Councillor Paige Johnson, the first openly trans woman to be elected to public office in our state. She is a dedicated advocate for LGBTIQ+ rights not only in Newcastle but everywhere. Thank you to the City of Newcastle for embracing trans visibility and leading the way across Australia and beyond.

KATE CHENEY

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to acknowledge Kate Cheney, a fourth-generation dancer and teacher whose dance lessons have touched many lives in the Manning Great Lakes. Kate's family legacy in dance dates back to the 1890s, when her great-grandmother, Annie Rose, established a studio in Melbourne. That tradition continued, with Kate's mother, Beverley Williamson, bringing the Annie Rose Academy of Dance to our region in the 1970s. Kate has trained in New York, danced with the Sydney Dance Company, and taught students of all ages. After a career in the legal profession, she returned to Taree, where she now shares her love of dance with the community, including adults and students with disabilities. Despite personal challenges, including the loss of her mother and her own battle with breast cancer, Kate continues to inspire others through movement and music. I thank Kate for her contributions and wish her every success in expanding her programs to reach even more students.

SIMON FRANCE

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise local businessman and former Forster Tuncurry Business Chamber president, Simon France, for launching a new podcast series titled Down the Road. The series explores the personal and professional journeys of well-known business operators from our region. Simon's interviews offer listeners a glimpse into the decisions and stories that have shaped local business identities, with the aim of encouraging others through relatable experiences. The first episode, featuring Forster business owner John Mansour, drew over 600 listeners within 24 hours from around the world, including the US, Australia, and Nigeria. Simon's background is broad – from education and ministry to government and digital transformation. He's worked across a wide range of sectors and brings a thoughtful approach to business strategy. Now based in Forster with his family, Simon's podcast is another way he contributes to our community, connecting people through storytelling. I commend Simon for using this platform to share stories that matter, and I look forward to hearing more episodes as the series grows.

TERRY TOURNOFF

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to acknowledge the passing of Terry Tournoff, a long-standing volunteer at the Manning Valley Historical Society and Wingham Museum. Terry dedicated over 20 years to the museum, starting at the front desk before stepping into the role of curator, where his creative vision

transformed the museum's displays. His work attracted praise from visitors across the country, including recognition from the Sydney Powerhouse Museum, which named Wingham Museum among the top ten rural museums in NSW. Terry took on leadership roles, serving as President, Vice President, and a management committee member. He was always willing to lend a hand with museum projects and fundraising efforts. Terry was a volunteer, he was a friend and a mentor to many. His loss will be deeply felt by the museum, its volunteers, and the wider community. I extend my condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. Vale, Terry Tournoff.

BOOROWA'S HARRY DYMCK

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to commend the outstanding achievements of Harry Dymock, a talented rower from Boorowa, who recently competed at the National Rowing Championships in Tasmania, representing Kinross Wolaroi School in Orange. The week-long event, hosted at Lake Barrington, saw 2,118 athletes compete across 134 events, including heats, semi-finals, repechages, and finals. Harry competed in five events, showcasing his versatility and dedication to the sport. His first race, the Under 21 Lightweight Men's Single Scull, saw him narrowly finish second, just 0.8 seconds behind the leader. He then followed up with another strong performance in the final of the single scull, once again securing second place. In addition, Harry competed in the Under 23 Lightweight Men's Double Scull, the Under 19 Men's Quad Scull Fours, and the 500m Sprint, demonstrating his range and commitment across various disciplines. Harry's consistent high-level performances in such a competitive environment are a testament to his skill, work ethic, and passion for rowing. I congratulate Harry on his remarkable success and look forward to following his continued journey in the sport. His achievements bring great pride to the Boorowa community.

JUNEE HIGH SCHOOL CHARITY EVENT

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to commend the Year 12 students at Junee High School on their successful annual Trivia Charity Event, hosted at the Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club. This year's event was a resounding success, attracting over 130 attendees and raising more than \$2,300 for the Newborn & Paediatric Emergency Transport Service [NETS]. This substantial contribution will go a long way in supporting the vital work that NETS does for newborns and children in need of emergency transport. The evening was expertly organised and run by the Year 12 Work Studies class, who ensured everything ran seamlessly. Their efforts are truly commendable, and it is wonderful to see young people involved in such important community initiatives. Thank you to all involved especially to the community members who attended and supported this fantastic cause. Your generosity and enthusiasm have made a significant impact on the lives of those in need.

BARELLAN MASTERS GAMES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—You're never too old to be active and join in the Barellan Masters Games, held recently. Sports available to the competitors included Golf, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Walking, Netball, and Triathlon. Scores for the 2025 Master Blaster were close with only one point separating the Winner, Lachlan Date, from second, Louise Hornery and Karla Jamieson came in three points behind the winner for third place. Over 165 people from the district took part in the many sports available. The event was organised by Volunteers who were led by President/Sports Co-ordinator, Jodie Landy who was assisted by Louise Hornery, Jo Flagg, Laura Curran-Flagg, Sarah Diggelmann, Lou Green and Carl Chirgwin. This group were assisted by sports co-ordinators, Jeannette Overs, Jodie Landy, Greg Lawton, Alan Hesketh, Neil McDonald, Adam Evans, Peter and Sheryl Conland and Louise Hornery. I am always in awe of how much Volunteers do for our community and I congratulate all those who played a part in the Barellan Masters Games on a job well done.

HANDMADE IN THE BUSH

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge local craft group Handmade in the Bush who are local collective of creators who come together to sell and promote their work while also giving back to the local community. Each year, the talented crafters open a pop-up shop in Dubbo which trades for a few months in the lead up to Christmas. This initiative not only keeps the art of crafting alive but also provides a platform to showcase and sell handmade creations. In return, a portion of the profits are donated to a local charity. Following a successful season, the Handmade in the Bush committee proudly donated \$6,500 to Macquarie Homestay, a vital facility offering accommodation for families from Western NSW who must stay in Dubbo for medical appointments. This season marked the fourth successful year for the crafters, and over this time they have contributed more than \$17,500 back into the local community. I congratulate the group for not only offering a beautiful selection of handmade gifts to be purchased during the festive season, but also their generosity. Their dedication to both creativity and community is commendable.

CAMILLA WARD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Dubbo's extremely talented Camilla Ward, who received a nomination for Best Actress at the Couch Film Festival in the five-to-

twenty-minute category for her role in the Studio 138 short film "Nobody's Business". The Couch Film Festival is an IMDb recognised festival committed to highlighting and showcasing the very best short and feature films from around the world. Set in the 1920's, Nobody's Business follows underworld queen Evelyn as she faces a heart wrenching choice between love and reputation. Against the backdrop of a glamorous speakeasy, Camilla delivers a captivating performance, immersing herself in the intrigue and danger of the gangster era. Dubbo's hidden gem and premier speakeasy bar, The Establishment, provided the perfect backdrop for filming. Renowned in the community for her dedication to the creative arts, Camilla is a talented teacher, performer, and theatre professional. This nomination is well-deserved recognition of her passion and contributions to the local arts scene. Although she didn't win the category, being a finalist alongside actresses from around the world, including Canada and the USA is an incredible achievement and something to be immensely proud of. Congratulations Camilla!

KATJA WILLIAMS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Katja Williams who recently organised and hosted a two-day farmer wives' empowerment and skills conference at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. Katja, who grew up on a small sheep farm near Orange, moved to the Dubbo region to live on the land with her husband. Having experienced firsthand the overwhelming expectations placed on a farmer's wife, skills that are often assumed but rarely taught in traditional training programs, Katja was inspired to create a conference designed to bridge this gap and allow women in agriculture to thrive. The conference not only featured inspirational and educational speakers, but also included a networking cocktail party, creating a space over the two days where attendees could be empowered, connect with like-minded individuals, and build their resilience. Katja thoughtfully considered every detail when planning the conference, ensuring the women could take advantage of the opportunity to invest in themselves. This included a dedicated children's room and a carefully curated gift bag for each guest to take home. Congratulations Katja on all your efforts in bringing your vision to fruition and providing this opportunity for women in agriculture to gain invaluable skills.

AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS AWARD FINALISTS

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Congratulations to the finalists from Parramatta who have truly excelled in the Australian Small Business Awards 2025. These businesses have demonstrated outstanding dedication, creativity and perseverance in their industries and their achievements deserve to be recognised. The finalists from the Parramatta Electorate include Brishna Accountancy and The Tax Factor in the Accounting category; Steps2Life for Allied Health; Catherine Vicki and Mahan Art Centre in Arts, Crafts and Gifts; Art of Aesthetics in Beauty and Skincare Services; Rise to Greatness for Business Coaching; Flawless Aesthetics as Cosmetic Specialists; All Homes Staging for Interior Design; CL Compensation Lawyers in Legal Services; IME Advisors and Success Visa in Migration Services; Mind Health and Exclusive Wellbeing for Psychology; and Volcanos Steakhouse for Business Growth and the Restaurant category. Each of these businesses has demonstrated dedication in providing high-quality services to our local community. A special thank you to the Australian Small Business Awards team for making these awards possible and for bringing well-deserved recognition to the small businesses. Once again congratulations to all the finalists on their remarkable accomplishments!

AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—It is important to celebrate the success of our local businesses that have been recognised at the Australian Small Business Awards. These awards are an invaluable initiative that highlight the tireless efforts of small businesses on a national stage, ensuring their hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed. I'd like to extend my congratulations to CPA Partners for winning in the Accounting and Bookkeeping Services category. Their expertise and commitment to excellence are truly commendable. A big congratulations as well to Five Star Builders and Granny Flats for their success in the Home Builder category, their dedication to quality craftsmanship is evident in everything they do. Parramatta Web Design also deserves a special mention for winning the Web Development category. Their innovative approach to technology has made a lasting impact on the industry. All these businesses have not only set high standards in their respective fields, they have also made our community of Parramatta incredibly proud. I commend each of them for their hard work and remarkable achievements, you all inspire us to aim higher and do better.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS NSW

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Congratulations to the Association of Independent Schools NSW on their fresh new publication on Vocational Education and Training [VET] in Independent Schools! VET is such a game-changer, providing students the opportunity to develop the skills they need to thrive in the workforce. AIS NSW is a powerhouse in supporting independent education. As a registered training organisation for 140 schools, they provide top-notch training and expert guidance. With over 500 independent schools under their wing, they are helping to educate over 200,000 students, each one ready to take on the world with the skills they have learnt.

It's especially exciting to see schools like GOAL College in Sydney Olympic Park leading the way with VET. GOAL College is the only school in NSW authorised by NESA to deliver a Certificate III in Sports, Aquatics and Recreation, and their success speaks for itself. Huge shout-out to Principal Bradley Chitty for championing this fantastic opportunity for students! Lastly, a big thank you to Margery Evans, Chief Executive of AIS NSW, for spearheading this initiative. With nearly 20% of NSW students now in independent schools, this sector is growing. I cannot wait to see where it goes next!

BRIAN HAMER

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, today I recognise Brian Hamer for his outstanding contribution to the Manly community, and congratulate him on an extraordinary 55 years of legal practice in the area. Since founding his Balgowlah-based firm in 1974, Brian has served thousands of locals with professionalism, care and dedication - particularly in estate planning, elder law and commercial leasing. A graduate of Sydney University with a Master of Laws, Brian's commitment to community service is just as impressive, having served as a Manly councillor and Mayor, and volunteered for over 30 years at the Manly Legal Advice Service. His involvement with the Balgowlah Lions and Rotary further reflects a life dedicated to service. Brian, thank you for your decades of legal expertise, civic leadership, and deep commitment to the people of the Northern Beaches. You've made a lasting difference to our community.

MANLY DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB 2024/25 ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I congratulate the Manly Warringah District Cricket Club on a fantastic 2024/25 season, capped off by a successful Presentation Night on 13 April which saw more than 200 current and former players, partners and family members come together to celebrate at the Manly Pacific. The Waratahs continue to go from strength to strength, with growing participation, strong community spirit, and a culture that reflects the very best of local sport. This season's success was driven not just by strong results on the field, but by the tireless efforts of volunteers, coaches, families, and supporters who make the club what it is. A special congratulations to this year's Senior Female Player of the Year, Ella McCaughan, and Ahillen Beadle who took home the Michael "Juice" Sheppard Senior Male Player of the Year award. Their performances are a reflection of the depth of talent boasted by the club, and the positive example they lead both on and off the field. Manly Cricket is a shining example of all that a local cricket club can achieve. Well done to all those involved on another outstanding season.

QUEENSLIFF SLSC STATE CHAMPS SUCCESS

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club for its exceptional delivery of the 2025 NSW State Surf Lifesaving Championships. This milestone reflects four years of incredible dedication by 'Queensie' members, who volunteered countless hours well beyond regular surf club duties. Their commitment not only ensured a first-class event but also strengthened club unity and financial sustainability, enabling major investment in services and equipment. In addition to its organisational success, 'Queensie' achieved its strongest competitive performance in over a decade, finishing 11th overall out of nearly 150 participating clubs across New South Wales. More than 90 junior members proudly represented the club, securing an outstanding total of eight gold and three bronze medals. Highlights included gold in the U9 Mixed Relay, several distance run events, and impressive team and board performances. Congratulations to all the athletes, volunteers, and families whose efforts made this possible. You've done Queenscliff and the Manly area proud.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM STUDENT CENTRE OPENING

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to extend my congratulations to Dr Ian Lambert and The Scots College on the grand opening of the John Cunningham Student Centre held on 10 April 2025. This significant milestone was marked with a spectacular Scots Tattoo, showcasing the rich traditions of the College and featuring performances by the College and Old Boys Union Pipes & Drums, Highland and Indigenous dancers, and a stunning fireworks display. I was honoured in 2023 to join the College and His Royal Highness, The Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh KG GCVO at the unveiling of the Foundation Stone. This beautiful new building employs architecture that displays both the heritage and purpose of the College. Students will be able to enjoy further access to learning support, student counselling, academic research, and professional learning. Congratulations Dr Lambert and all involved.

ROYAL SYDNEY GOLF CLUB OPENING

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate Royal Sydney Golf Club on the opening its new championship golf course, the Bay Course. Designed by world-leading course Architect Gil Hanse, the course reflects an exceptional commitment to preserving and enhancing green space as a sanctuary for native flora and fauna. More than 17 hectares of mown golfing turf has been regenerated as native heathland, increasing the

total number of trees to 4,883, adding 500,000 understory plants, and quadrupling the number of floral species. Special recognition must go to the Board and the Executive Team including the last three presidents, Lucy Regan, Chris Chapman, and Graeme Bailey. I also want to pay tribute to the club's project team, Course Superintendent Adam Marchant, CFO Ian Finlayson, Adam Cornell, Stephen Donnelley, Michael O'Brien and Chair of Greens Committee, Nicola Barrett Lennard. Congratulations to all involved.

VALE PETER LAWRENCE POLAND

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—Mr Speaker, I pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Peter Lawrence Poland. A distinguished former Commander in the Australian Navy, Peter has spent much of his life serving our country. Peter was an active member of our community and made a tangible impact through the Woollahra History and Heritage Society. As the patron and former president, Peter was a strong voice for the future of Strickland House and the revival of the Jacaranda Walks and Talks. Peter's contributions were formally recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2015, where he received the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to heritage preservation, and to the community of Woollahra. It is with great sadness that I mark his passing, and I send my condolences to his family, and his fellow members of the Woollahra History and Heritage Society.

NEW MURWILLUMBAH PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—I WISH to commend and thank Dovida's Community Liaison Manager Northern Rivers Leigh Matthews for facilitating the Murwillumbah Parkinson's Support Group. This group held its first meeting at the Murwillumbah Services Club last October and now has about 45 members, 30 of whom are regulars each month. Dovida is a national provider of high-quality person-centred home care for older people and supports Leigh's facilitator role. Murwillumbah Services Club generously provides a room each month, at no cost. The group is also supported by Balance Mobility and AGILE Exercise Physiology. Leigh tells me support group members can be newly diagnosed, or many years into their Parkinson's journey – everyone is different. She says guest speakers from local businesses have attended meetings, providing information that is Parkinson's-specific to help those living with Parkinson's and their carers learn to live better with the disease. These include exercise physiologists, mobility equipment suppliers, speech pathologists, podiatrists, Carers NSW and occupational therapists. The Murwillumbah Parkinson's Support Group meets at Murwillumbah Services Club on the first Friday of each month. I attended their May meeting last Friday. April was Parkinson's Awareness Month with Parkinson's NSW promoting the theme of 'being in this together'.

BUNDJALUNG TRIBAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS HALF-CENTURY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—THE Bundjalung Tribal Society last Saturday night at the Lismore Workers Sports Club celebrated 50 years of service, cultural leadership and community strength. The Society, founded in 1975, has been a beacon of advocacy and self-determination for Aboriginal people across the Northern Rivers region. While I could not attend, I relayed the following congratulatory message: I acknowledge the Custodians of the Widjabul/Wiabal Clan of the Bundjalung Nation and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. I send my warm wishes and congratulations to the Bundjalung Tribal Society on half a century of leadership in providing wraparound support services to your mob and to keeping Aboriginal culture alive. The Society's impressive track record of achievements continues to inspire me as your local State Member for Lismore, and more recently, as New South Wales Minister for Recovery, Small Business and the North Coast. I'm very much looking forward to visiting Namabunda Farm in Alstonville in the near future and to the 50th National NAIDOC Week celebrations in July. To Chairperson Tracey King, Manager Melissa Bolt and everyone whose lives are improved by this great organisation, the Bundjalung Tribal Society can stand very proud tonight.

LISMORE LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR – ELIDE GAVA

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—LAST month, I had the pleasure of naming Elide (Ellie) Gava, 90, as the Lismore Electorate Woman of the Year, praising her for her community leadership and volunteering over many years. Ellie is known for her years of work supporting the local Italian community, particularly older Italians – and her efforts have enriched the wider community. She is someone who would see community need, think of a solution and work to make it happen. Back in 1984 Ellie had the idea for a support group for older Italians – somewhere they could speak Italian, play cards, eat an Italian lunch. When she organised the first meeting thinking a handful of people might turn up it turned out to be closer to 100 people. After decades this group continues, now being run by St Carthage's Community Care. Ellie has thrown her energies into the The New Italy Museum, the Continental Music and Sports club and Bocce courts that were on Uralba Street, The Lismore Friendship Festival (now

LisAmore!) Casa Serena accommodation for older Italians, the Italo Club (now the Marconi Club), getting the mosaic in Spinks Park to commemorate the early Italian settlers and more.

CAROL CATTELL

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Congratulations to clinical nurse specialist Carol Cattell at the end of a 48-year career, most of which was dedicated to caring for children. Ms Cattell, who retired last month, began her nursing career at 17 and in the years since has changed the lives of countless children, and their families, for the better. As a teenager, she "just wanted to help people" and help she did. After a stint on adult wards at Wagga Base Hospital, Ms Cattell joined the paediatric unit where she worked for the next 45 years. At the toughest times for families, she found great reward in helping children to go on to live healthy, productive lives. The paediatric unit was like a second home to her and while retirement came with mixed feelings, she has left with the deepest affection of her colleagues and the eternal gratitude of her patients and their families. Ms Cattell thanks her partner David Loneragan and sons Michael and Jonathon Cattell for their support. She is now looking forward to spending time with her granddaughters and enjoying some well-deserved travel. On behalf of the community and grateful families, thank you to Carol Cattell for a lifetime of service.

DEFENCE SHED

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—It was my great honour last December to attend the opening of the Defence Shed at Wagga Wagga's Pro Patria centre. Welcoming both women and men, the shed is a place for veterans and first responders to meet, learn and share experiences. It is an important step towards improving the way we support those who have made sacrifices for their community, and I congratulate all involved, including Colin Taggart, Alan Lean, Gary Morrison, Jason Frost and Steve Wordsworth for their support of this important development. The Department of Veterans' Affairs provided funding, and the community stepped up, with local trades, services and support groups rallying to make the shed a reality. With a theme of "Everyone is equal under one roof", the shed is a place for veterans, emergency workers, friends and supporters to learn new skills for employment or leisure, enjoy social activities or get invaluable peer support to help them grow or heal. As a major Defence city, Wagga Wagga is fortunate to have Pro Patria to help past and present Defence personnel and their families – and I am very proud to be a supporter of this amazing service. Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved.

FRIENDS WITH DIGNITY APRIL PYJAMA DRIVE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—My thanks to all those in the Charlestown electorate who donated to the Friends with Dignity April Pyjama Drive! I am always blown away by the generosity of the Charlestown electorate community, and these donations will go to children in homeless and domestic violence shelters to help them stay warm over the winter months. My particular thanks to the Tutton family. Dad Nathan and two of his children, Imogen and Isla, dropped off a bag full of children's pyjamas for the drive. Included with each of the pyjamas were hand drawn cards from Imogen, Isla and their sister Thea—each card sent warm wishes to the child who would end up receiving the pyjamas. It was a beautiful thing to see, and when I called Nathan to share my appreciation he said it was all due to the organising abilities of his wife, Tracey. So once again, a big thank you to Tracey, Nathan, Imogen, Isla and Thea. Thank you again to all those who donated.

LAKE MAC AWARDS WINNERS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—The Lake Mac Awards celebrate the best and brightest of Lake Macquarie, and I was so pleased to see that many of the 2025 winners and runners-up are Charlestown residents. Shaun Swadling, an athlete who has competed in trampoline sports at the state, national and international level, was named Lake Mac Sports Star, while sprint star Jemma Pollard was highly commended in the category. The 2024 Orange Ride 4 Child Protection Awareness, an initiative of Hearts and Hands in the fight against child abuse, was runner-up for the Lake Mac Community Event of the Year. The Groundswell Collective, an organisation dedicated to building a connected, thriving and sustainable Lake Macquarie, led a program to plant Tiny Forests, including one at St Paul's Primary School, Gateshead, was named Lake Mac Environmental Leader. The Lake Mac Artist Creator Award was won by Luca Romeo, a fifteen-year-old drumming prodigy known as LUCA B DRUMS on social media. My congratulations to all the winners and nominees from the Charlestown electorate and across Lake Macquarie, and my thanks for all the work they do for our local community. It was such a joy to get to celebrate your achievements with you!

ANZAC DAY SERVICES IN CHARLESTOWN

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—It was my honour to join many Charlestown

residents at ANZAC Day memorial services around the electorate on Friday 25 April. For generations, this date has held a special place in the hearts of Australians and New Zealanders, as we pause to honour the courage, sacrifice, and service of the ANZACs who landed at Gallipoli, and of all Australian servicemen and -women who have served our country in conflicts and peacekeeping operations since. My thanks to all those who organised and took in part in the Dawn Services at the Cardiff RSL and the Dudley War Memorial, the morning service at the First World War Memorial in Adamstown; and the service at Lions Park in Charlestown. It is always inspiring to see local students take part in the services. It is heartening to know that, 110 years after the landings in Gallipoli, that the light of ANZAC is being kept in memory by new generations of Australians. I also want to acknowledge the returned servicemen and -women who attended for their service to our country. Lest We Forget.

LYMPHOEDEMA AWARENESS WEEK

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Lymphoedema Awareness Week, held from 6 to 12 March 2025, raises awareness of lymphoedema and the impact it has on many Australians. Lymphoedema is a chronic condition that can cause significant physical and emotional challenges, yet it often remains under-diagnosed. Lymphoedema Awareness Week shines a light on the importance of early diagnosis, access to treatment and the need for ongoing support. Last year I was fortunate to work on this with Cremorne GP Dr Debbie Geyer, Vice President of the Lymphoedema Association of Australia, who shared with me the real and lasting impact of this condition. Her passion for raising awareness and improving support services was inspiring and left a strong impression on me. I commend the many health professionals, advocates and community organisations who work tirelessly to support individuals living with lymphoedema. I particularly acknowledge the work of the Lymphoedema Association of Australia and the Australasian Lymphology Association whose advocacy is crucial in improving access to care. I encourage everyone to learn more, support those affected and help drive greater community understanding.

LIFESOURCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHATSWOOD - 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I acknowledge the 40th anniversary of LifeSource Christian Church in Chatswood and was honoured to be invited to celebrate this milestone with the congregation on 29 March. It was a joy to join hundreds of people to mark this special occasion and reflect on the impact LifeSource has had on our community. I thank Pastors John and Anne Iuliano for warmly including me in the celebrations and for their leadership and service over many years. From humble beginnings, LifeSource has grown into a strong, inspiring and enduring presence in Willoughby, offering support, connection and faith to so many. Our local churches do so much wonderful work beyond their congregations, providing practical assistance and building community spirit. LifeSource is a shining example of this. Speaking with congregation members on the day, it was clear how deeply the church is woven into the lives of many local families. I congratulate everyone at LifeSource Christian Church on this remarkable milestone and thank them for their continued dedication to fostering hope, compassion and community in Chatswood and beyond.

PROFESSOR NICK PAVLAKIS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I acknowledge Professor Nick Pavlakis who was a guest speaker at the Chatswood Rotary International Dinner held on 6 February. It was wonderful to hear from such a distinguished leader in the field of oncology, whose work is making a real difference in the lives of many Australians affected by cancer. Professor Pavlakis is a Senior Staff Specialist at Royal North Shore Hospital with almost 20 years' experience in the treatment and research of thoracic and gastrointestinal cancers. He currently chairs the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia and has contributed to national and international research, clinical trials and the development of clinical practice guidelines. Hearing Professor Pavlakis on the night, I was struck by his deep commitment to advancing life saving research and improving outcomes for patients and families. His leadership and dedication to the fight against lung cancer and other cancers is truly inspiring. I thank Professor Pavlakis for his contributions to cancer research, treatment, education, and for sharing his insights with our local community.

VANESSA MARSDEN

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to congratulate Vanessa Marsden for her appointment as Principal of St George Hospital School and for her continued support for children's education. As one of the 10 hospital schools in NSW, St George Hospital School at Kogarah is a well-established school within the community celebrating over 100 years of Hospital schooling. Vanessa has worked with the NSW Department of Education for an impressive 38 years before joining the St George Hospital school, and has been developing a strong dedication towards public education and support of students. The Hospital School provides sick or disabled children with an equal amount of hours as regular schooling, and regular support for kindergarten to year 12. Vanessa has also worked closely with the community regularly to support the wellbeing of students within the hospital. Once again, I congratulate Vanessa Marsden for her appointment as Principal of St George Hospital School.

SEAN WILLETT

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to take the time to acknowledge and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Sean Willett, President of the Penshurst RSL Kookaburras Rugby League Club. A devoted father of seven and a successful local businessman, Sean has been a steadfast sponsor of the Kookaburras for 14 years. His commitment to the club began on day one, signing up as a coach, then taking on various executive committee roles before becoming President in 2020. Under his leadership, the club has flourished, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and excellence. Sean's dedication extends far beyond his presidency. He assists with coaching three afternoons a week to ensure the development of young players, including his three children who currently play for the club. Every Friday night, Sean runs the meat raffles at Penshurst RSL, raising vital funds for the club. On weekends, he tirelessly manages the grounds, often being the first to arrive and the last to leave. Sean Willett exemplifies the spirit of community service. His unwavering dedication has left an indelible mark on the Penshurst RSL Kookaburras and the broader community. His contributions have been truly remarkable, and I thank him for them.

RAMSGATE RSL

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to commend Ramsgate RSL for their continued support of the community through local charities, sporting and community groups. Ramsgate RSL hosts a number of events throughout the year for families in the community to enjoy, with all proceeds being donated to a nominated charity. The RSL focuses on sharing the values of trust, friendliness and respect throughout the community in their events. Furthermore, RSL events, entertainment and activities are designed to be enjoyed by people and their families at a minimal price. Leo Smith Reserve, across the street from the RSL, hosts the annual family fun days in May, Carols in the Park in December and more recently the Big Bounce for Easter Saturday. Proceeds of The Big Bounce will go to the Be Unstoppable Foundation which cultivates positive mental health in adults and kids. The event has a \$5 entry fee making it an inexpensive event in what is normally an expensive long weekend. The staff and management of Ramsgate RSL deserve commendation for their continued support of the community.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On Sunday, 2nd March, I joined a group of local volunteers at Schoeffel Park in Horningsea Park, to take part in Clean Up Australia Day. Led by Vinod Scindia and Friends of India, we collected everything from food wrappers and abandoned bikes – to car bumpers and even half a couch – some surprising finds no doubt. For 35 years, Clean Up Australia has inspired and urged communities to protect and preserve our environment, tackling waste and promoting sustainability. While this annual event is a powerful initiative, real change happens when we all take responsibility every day, properly disposing of waste and keeping our shared spaces clean. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making Schoeffel Park a cleaner, more enjoyable space. Every small effort counts, and together, we can build a more sustainable future. Let's continue this commitment beyond a single day—our environment depends on it.

CBCC INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—It was an honour to have attended the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce's 2025 International Women's Day Celebration on the 7th of March. We came together not just to celebrate the remarkable contributions of women in our community but to reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of future generations. The theme for 2025, Accelerate Action, reflects the urgency of fostering inclusion, leadership, and progress across New South Wales. This event brings together leaders from business, community, and youth sectors, highlighting the collective power of diverse voices driving change. Through the events keynote speech and panel discussion, we honour the resilience, vision, and impact of extraordinary women who continue to break barriers and shape a more equitable future. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible—your dedication strengthens our community and ensures the momentum for progress continues. Let's keep pushing forward, accelerating action for lasting change.

ANNUAL RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER - ICPA

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—It was a privilege to attend the 31st Annual Ramadan Iftar Dinner hosted by the Islamic Charity Projects Association [ICPA] at Salamah College in Chester Hill on the 8th of March. Events like this remind us of the strength found in unity and the shared values that bring us together. Australia is a nation built on multiculturalism—where respect, acceptance, and harmony form the foundation of our society. We stand together in the belief that every community has a place, every faith deserves respect, and every culture enriches our shared identity. The ICPA plays a vital role in fostering education, social support, and civic engagement across New South Wales. The evening brought together leaders from government, business, education, and faith—demonstrating our collective commitment to dialogue and inclusion. Thank you for

allowing me to be part of this meaningful occasion. May we continue working together to strengthen understanding and fellowship.

TOONGABBIE DEMONS JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB – SEASON LAUNCH

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Saturday 29th March, I was delighted to address hundreds of players, officials, parents and volunteers at the inaugural Season Launch for Toongabbie Demons Junior Soccer Club at Girraween Park, Toongabbie. Established in 1953, Toongabbie & Districts Soccer Club is an historic sporting club in our local Prospect Electorate. With 300 players and around 75% of Toongabbie players from a non-English speaking background, the Demons are a wonderful example of football as key to promoting community harmony, involvement and participation. This year, Toongabbie has proudly partnered with Harry's Return and Earn as Major Sponsor. Local business owner, Harry Gupta has run a remarkable Return and Earn collection service in Wetherill Park since November 2023, with Return and Earn collection services for individuals, charities, sporting groups, schools, and local businesses. This depot has seen more than of 20 million containers returned since opening, caring for the environment and supporting our local community. My warmest congratulations go to Brian Herc, President, Dermot McCoy, Vice President, and all players, officials, parents and volunteers at Toongabbie Demons, as well as Harry Gupta and all the team at Harry's Return and Earn for a fantastic launch. Go Demons!

NSW FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Saturday 26th April, I was pleased to address hundreds of community language teachers and represent the Minns Labor Government for the official opening of the 2025 Annual Community Language Teachers Conference at the University of Sydney. Established in 1978, the NSWFLCS represents more than 3,624 teachers, who teach 72 community languages to 36,000 students at 500 locations across the State. In Prospect Electorate, our community language schools are a pillar of our diverse and multicultural Prospect Electorate, teaching Tamil, Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian, Greek, Dinka, Maltese and Malayalee, among a host of other languages. Teaching community languages helps promote connection and harmony across Western Sydney and throughout New South Wales. With the theme of 'Stronger Together and Making A Difference For Community Languages', this year's Teachers Conference saw a capacity turnout of 1,000 educators and community stakeholders. The Teachers Conference featured opportunities for language educators and school management committees to connect with expert presenters, and to explore the latest trends and innovations in language teaching and learning. My heartfelt congratulations go out to Lucia Johns, President, Michael Christodoulou AM, CEO, and all the staff, volunteers and teachers across NSWFLCS on a fantastic Teachers Conference.

ROTARY CLUB OF HOLROYD – POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 10 March 2025, I was pleased to honour our serving police officers at the Rotary Club of Holroyd's Police Officer of the Year Awards Ceremony. Police Officer of the Year Awards proudly continue the Rotary tradition of recognising exceptional members of the NSW Police Force, volunteers, and civilian employees on behalf of our community. Thank you to John Heslop, Club President, for organising this ceremony. Congratulations and thank you to our brave officers and personnel in blue for their courage and service. I extend special congratulations to Leading Senior Constable Dean Tonkin, who was named 2025 Police Officer of the Year. I also congratulate Plainclothes Senior Constable Paul Fenley, Senior Constable Mikaela Fitton, Sergeant Glen Dawson and Constable Diana Moshey - winners of the Criminal Investigator Award, Customer Service Award, Leadership Award and New Officer Award respectively. Congratulations as well to Senior Constable Ryan Pezzimenti, Plainclothes Senior Constable Michael Abi-Risk, Unsworn officer Bosa Jerkovic and Sergeant Emily Bonnici who were all Highly Commended for their work. Thank you to Superintendent Simon Glasser, Commander, and the Cumberland Police Area Command for your dedicated service, keeping our Western Sydney community safe.

2025 CHEERLEADING WORLDS SUCCESS FOR EVOLUTION OF DANCE, RUTHERFORD

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Congratulations to the Evolution of Dance Pink Panthers, the under-18 Small Coed team from Evolution of Dance studio in Rutherford. The group placed second in the International U18 Small Coed category at the 2025 Cheerleading Worlds held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando. Under the expert guidance of their dedicated coaching team, the Pink Panthers delivered a great semi-final performance earning a raw score of 136.95 with two deductions for an event score of 134.95, qualifying first. Building on this momentum, they advanced to the finals and captivated judges with an electrifying routine that garnered a raw and final score of 140.70 with zero deductions, securing a silver medal and marking the highest Worlds placement ever achieved by a Maitland-based cheer team. This remarkable success reflects the talent, teamwork and perseverance cultivated

at the Evolution of Dance academy. I commend every athlete, the coach and all the family members for their commitment and for flying the Maitland flag on the international stage.

MITCHELL LIGHTFOOT

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Congratulations to former Maitland High School student, Mitchell Lightfoot, on his historic victory in the Men's 110 m hurdles at the 2025 Australian Athletics Championships in Perth recently. Mitchell, a member of the Maitland Senior Athletics Club, won gold in 13.65 seconds in a thrilling final. This triumph reaffirms Mitchell's place among Australia's elite hurdlers and underscores the strong athlete development within our Hunter community. The win follows a standout performance at the NSW Country Championships in Maitland at the start of the year, where he posted a 13.52-second run—making him the fourth fastest Australian junior in history. In addition to his national open title, Mitchell's achievements include a fourth-place finish in the 110m hurdles at the 2022 World Under-20 Championships in Cali, Colombia, showcasing his international potential. I commend Mitchell on his win and wish him well at his next meet.

MONIQUE KRAKE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Congratulation to Monique Krake from Thornton, whose incredible summer of cricket has seen her shine on the national stage. Monique was a late call-up to represent Country NSW at the Under-16 Girls National Cricket Championships in Tasmania, and she made the most of her opportunity—taking eight wickets at an impressive average of 14.74, including standout figures of 4-17 against Queensland. Her performance helped Country NSW to a strong third-place finish behind NSW Metro and Victoria. This milestone caps off a breakout season for Monique, who has represented the Hunter Combined High Schools, the Greater Hunter Coast in the Under-18 Brewer Shield, and will now line up for the Combined High Schools 2nd XI at the NSW All-School Championships in Maitland. Monique is a pace bowler with composure beyond her years—adjusting her bowling to outthink opposition batters and showing she belongs among the state's best young talent. Off the field, Monique is humble and a role model to younger players in the region. With her father and sister as teammates at Thornton, Monique's story is a testament to talent, hard work, and family support. Well done Monique.

TAKE 3 CEO CLEAN-UP EVENT AT TERRIGAL HAVEN

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—On Friday, 28 March, my office staff proudly joined Take 3 for the Sea for their annual CEO Clean-Up at Terrigal Haven. This inspiring event brought together over 40 business leaders and CEOs who swapped suits for gloves in a powerful display of community and environmental leadership. Participants collected an incredible 45 kg of litter—totalling 2,009 individual items—proving that even pristine-looking coastlines can hide significant pollution. Among the waste were 454 cigarette butts, 258 pieces of plastic food packaging, and unusual finds like a crab trap, dentures, and a headless angel statue. Thanks to thorough sorting, recyclable materials were processed responsibly. This initiative, the first of its kind, exemplifies how business leaders can drive change, showing that collective action makes a real difference. I commend the dedication of all involved and the leadership of LEP Digital, whose Director, Laura Prael, continues to champion the cause. Through their combined efforts, the event raised an outstanding \$8,337.88—helping advance Take 3's vital mission to reduce plastic pollution. Events such as these, demonstrate that positive change starts with small actions and that together, we can protect our marine environments for future generations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELECTRIFY BOUDDI

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Congratulations to Electrify Bouddi on receiving the Smart Energy Council's National Award for Excellence in First Nations Engagement. This well-deserved honour recognises their inspiring collaboration with the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts in launching the inaugural eBouddi Environmental Arts Award. Nestled alongside Bouddi National Park, this unique initiative blends art, culture, and climate action—celebrating the power of creativity to foster environmental awareness and community resilience. The award highlights emerging artists whose work explores our connection to country and the environment, with a strong emphasis on First Nations voices. Congratulations also to Courtney Garstang, a gifted Barkindji woman and the inaugural recipient, whose compelling visual storytelling reflects deep cultural knowledge and a passion for sustainability. Her work embodies the spirit of Bouddi—the heart—and offers a powerful message of hope and connection. This award not only supports young artists but also strengthens our community's commitment to climate action through cultural expression. Congratulations once again to Electrify Bouddi for leading with vision, purpose, and heart.

JDRF ONE WALK

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I was delighted to join the Central Coast community in supporting children living with Type 1 Diabetes at the recent JDRF One Walk along the scenic Davistown Waterfront in

April 2025. This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation [JDRF] and plays a vital role in helping accelerate breakthroughs to cure, treat and prevent Type 1 Diabetes and its complications. The day was filled with family-friendly fun, including food stalls, market vendors, face painting, outdoor games, a magician, live local radio broadcasts, and an exciting raffle, with prizes generously donated by local businesses. Special thanks to the KDR Group of Erina for printing and donating promotional materials. A heartfelt congratulations to event organiser Margaret Sheridan—herself living with T1D—for her tireless work and dedication. Thanks to everyone's efforts, an incredible \$15,064 was raised toward the \$25,000 goal. Events like this bring our community together and shine a light on the strength and spirit of those impacted by Type 1 Diabetes. Thank you to all who participated, donated, and helped make this year's One Walk such a success. Together, we're one step closer to a cure.

FRANK PANTANO

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Small business is at the heart and soul of the Lithgow economy and one person who really does deserve recognition as a quiet achiever in this field is Frank Pantano. Frank runs Frankie's Restaurant and Bar in the Zig Zag Hotel and his reputation is second to none which has been confirmed once again with his gold medal first place in the Outstanding Employee category at the recent Energy Australia Black Rose Excellence In Business Awards at Lithgow Workies. Frank came to Frankie's as head chef eight years ago and he, along with Jenna, are passionate about cooking and are key members of the team at Zig Zag. Born in Lithgow with a background as a qualified butcher, Frank did his training at various establishments in Sydney and the Gold Coast before moving to Bathurst where he opened Pantano's Restaurant, which he ran for nine years. Frank was also a finalist in the Outstanding New Business category after opening Frankie's Catering which has built on the success of Frankie's Restaurant and his attention to every detail reflects the same commitment to quality and flavour that has made the restaurant a local favourite. Congratulations Frank Pantano.

LITHGOW COMMUNITY PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Taking first place in the Outstanding Community Organisation category at the 2025 Energy Australia Black Rose Excellence in Business Awards is testimony to the vitally important role played by the Lithgow Community Private Hospital. The well-deserved accolade was announced at the recent gala awards night held at Lithgow Workies Club. The Lithgow Community Private Hospital is a not for profit, specialised medical centre and day surgery unit that has been providing crucial care to the wider Lithgow community since its inception in 1999. It is community focused, and last year alone, provided more than 10,000 specialist appointments and 750-day surgery and ambulatory care services. As the Member for Bathurst, I know how incredibly grateful the Lithgow community is for the hospital's amazing team of nurse, administration staff, and housekeepers who work tirelessly to create a safe and caring environment at the hospital. And to the volunteer board and doctors on their medical advisory committee, your dedication goes above and beyond the call of duty which ensures an exemplary level of governance. Congratulations to everyone has played their role in helping win this prestigious award. The Lithgow community thanks you for all you do.

CAN ASSIST LITHGOW BRANCH

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Lithgow's Can Assist Branch marked their 10th anniversary this month. With 23 active members, including founding members, of the group who have all be touched by cancer either themselves or their close loved ones and they agreed it is a very worthy cause that has struck a lot of people's hearts because so many people in Lithgow have impacted by cancer. The group has worked incredibly hard fundraising whatever way they can to be able to assist as many locals as possible. Not only is cancer a draining emotional and physical experience but can also cause an incredible financial strain. After years of tireless work fundraising and forming partnerships with local businesses, Can Assist is now proudly supplying a \$3000 donation for medical costs plus travel and food allowances to ease the stress of cancer and allowing each individual the best fighting chance. This milestone is a moment to pause and reflect on the achievements this mighty group has made and the profound impact their support has had on locals. Congratulations to every past and present volunteer of the branch for their selfless commitment to assisting those in the Lithgow community battling cancer.

WALLSEND TOUCH ALL ABILITIES PROGRAM

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Linley Kenny works with disabled students at Wallsend High School and is Coordinator of the All-Abilities Program at Wallsend Touch Association. Under Linley's guidance, the program has become very popular and successful. Wallsend Touch, offering social and competitive touch football for everyone, has about 3,000 players. Running in Autumn and Spring, the All Abilities Touch Football program, started in February 2023, offers an inclusive, adaptive approach for individuals with physical and/or intellectual disabilities to learn fundamental touch skills. Each player can participate with their family and friends, often seeing improvement in their personal lives, confidence and social skills. Linley initially got advice from experienced organisers and after hours of work, hundreds of emails and detailed discussions with disability

agencies and schools, she began with four players and some enthusiastic coaches. The numbers have increased since and there are now 35 participants, some even competing at representative level. Linley's hopes include more teams in the NSW State Cup, community recognition, more females playing and sponsorship from bigger companies. Congratulations, Linley, on the success of the program and thank you for your service to our community.

A SPLASH OF COLOUR SWIMMING

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Ennia Jones, a Novocastrian of Zimbabwean Australian, founded "A Splash of Colour", located at the Forum at the University of Newcastle, helping women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds learn how to swim. The program recently received \$1 million from the Federal Government's Play Our Way program. In 2022, Ennia was awarded a \$1000 no obligation cash grant in from Awesome Newcastle, part of Awesome Foundation, for grassroots ventures. It changed her life. The free 12-week program aims to address the fear of water, teach crucial swimming skills, improve water safety and promote better health outcomes, building confidence and community. Some of the women who take part - from Colombia, Mexico, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe and India – are usually parents and carers, often the first in their family to learn how to swim, taking on a seemingly impossible task and accomplishing it with small, steady efforts, celebrating every little milestone. These women show that it is never too late to learn. Thank you, Ennia, for your impactful contributions to our community.

BRIAN DEE, JP

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Brian Dee, a JP from Waratah, marked a huge milestone of sixty years of service as a Justice of the Peace on 7 April, 2025. Brian's ongoing commitment to the community, and what he does for others, is remarkable. At 81 years of age, he is still actively volunteering for the community as a JP. This, other than his family, is his greatest passion in life. In the past couple of years, Brian has had cancer, also losing his best friend of some 65 years. Brian isn't a mobile JP anymore, as he is getting on in years. Now, clients come to his home office at his house. He still wears his monogrammed polo shirts, has signage on his fence so his clients can easily find him, and has self funded business cards and pens printed to hand out to customers. Brian has 187 five-star ratings on Google – including comments like friendly, helpful, knowledgeable, careful, patient, professional, efficient a sense of humour. Thank you, Brian, so much for your dedication, genuine love and compassion for our community – and congratulations on sixty years!

WILLIAM SLEE - WENTWORTH

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today, I would like to recognise William (Bill) Slee of Wentworth for his exceptional dedication and service to the Wentworth Sporting Complex Golf Club. Bill holds dual roles as both Club Captain and Greenkeeper, showing great commitment. Following the significant flooding in 2022/23, Bill was one of the first to begin the extensive and challenging task of restoring the golf course. Most days will find him involved in mowing, irrigation, sprinkler replacement, and volunteer coordination. On competition days, Bill is the first to arrive and the last to leave, managing players, fee collection, score recording, handicap updates, and prize presentations with professionalism and precision. Bill's unwavering dedication has been instrumental in sustaining the club's operations. His efforts in succession planning and volunteer training are ensuring the club's continued growth and stability. Bill is to be commended for his invaluable contributions in the small community of Wentworth.

RICK SHIRES

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater)—I would like to thank Rick Shires for his commitment to our community through his volunteer work at Elanora Scout Hall. Rick began his training as a scout leader in 1982 at Narrabeen Scout Hall at age 18. He then quickly became involved in running weekly sessions, camps, and adventure activities. Rick has contributed to Scout programs across Pittwater, not only at Elanora and Narrabeen. An example of this is his development of an environmental education program at Ingleside Scout Hall. He ran this program to encourage environmental advocacy and to improve the local environment through volunteer activities. Beyond Pittwater, Rick has been involved in seven Jamborees. During these Jamborees, he was responsible for the wellbeing of his group who would not have been able to attend Rick's dedication and his ability Be Prepared. Today Rick volunteers with Venturer Scouts where he supports them to engage in challenging activities such as hikes or mountaineering. I would like to thank Rick for his tireless dedication to our community and for his work delivering exciting activities for the youth of Pittwater.

ELOISE GOODMAN

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater)—Eloise Goodman is a high school student from the Pittwater area who has recently dedicated her time to volunteering. Eloise began volunteering at Avalon House as part of completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. While Eloise originally set out to complete three months of voluntary

service, she has enjoyed her time so much at Avalon House that she has decided to stay. Eloise has built connections with the residents at Avalon House and enjoys hearing their life stories. On an afternoon, Eloise often serves non-alcoholic drinks, cheese and crackers with her friend Charli while having a chat with the residents. Both girls have really enjoyed this experience and have found that the residents give as much to them as they do to the residents. Eloise is thankful for the opportunity and the support she has been given by the staff at Avalon House, where she has formed fast connections and has learnt a lot in a short time. Outside of volunteering, Eloise is a passionate dancer at Katapult Performing Arts where she practises ballet extensively. I would like to thank Eloise for her commitment to our Pittwater community and for the care she has shown our elderly residents.

MAJOR HARRY HARRIS

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater)—Major Harry Harris was a member of the Defence Force for over 32 years and is a resident of Elanora Heights. Major Harris was called up for National Service in 1967 and after two years of National Service, decided to remain in the Army. He was deployed to South Vietnam in 1970 for twelve months and rose up the ranks to be commissioned to the rank of Captain in 1983. In 1995, Harry received a Conspicuous Service Medal at the Australia Day Awards for his work as a Community Service Officer. His work ensured the welfare of soldiers and their families in the Liverpool and Moorebank areas. Major Harris was instrumental in developing effective operational procedures within the rapidly changing welfare environment. In 1997, Major Harris was recognised for his work as Team Leader for the Black Hawk Accident Inquiry Next of Kin Support Team. During this time, he worked to support the families during this challenging period and ensure that their wellbeing was cared for. Major Harris' commitment and compassion for others highly is commendable, I would like to sincerely thank him for his service.

INNER WEST CHAVURAH

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I'd like to acknowledge the advocacy of the Inner West Chavurah, a collective of local Jewish community members who have been doing great work to advance the cause of peace in our community. I have been honoured to meet with the members of the Chavurah and discuss with them the importance of ensuring that the rights and dignity of all peoples are respected. The strength of this group, and the Jewish community more broadly, has inspired me deeply and I have been very grateful to meet with the Chavurah to discuss how we can help to foster positive relationships between many different groups within our local community. I thank all of the members of the Inner West Chavurah for their efforts in the pursuit of a just peace in Gaza and in the promotion of cohesiveness in the inner West. Few goals could more important than these in our times, and I commend them on their commitment to social justice.

PETER DE WAAL

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I would like to acknowledge the lifelong advocacy and activism of local community member Peter de Waal and congratulate him on the publication of his memoir 'It Wasn't Dutch Courage.' I was honoured to attend the recent launch of Peter's memoir and commend him on his decades of advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQIA+ community. Peter's contribution to his community include his efforts as a 78er, a founding member of the Campaign Against Moral Persecution [CAMP], Australia's first gay rights advocacy group, and as an advocate for campaign for Marriage Equality. This event was a fantastic occasion to celebrate his inspiring and heartwarming story that is so much a part of the story of our local community and city. Peter, and the many others who helped bring his vision of equality into reality have made our society a fairer and better place for all. I thank Peter for his many decades of service and reiterate my sincere congratulations to him for this milestone achievement. I further commit myself to promise of full equality for all LGBTQIA+ people.

GLOVER'S GARDEN 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I would like to acknowledge the fortieth anniversary of the opening of Glover's Garden, Sydney's oldest community garden, which is right in the heart of my electorate in Callan Park. I was so grateful to join the many volunteers and supporters of the Garden at their recent community open day. It was excellent to see so much support from the wider community, who came by to buy delicious baked treats and jams, listen to talks and visit the chickens and worm farms. Spaces like these have only become more important to our cities since Glover's Garden was established, and Glover's stands as a great example of how to achieve sustainable and community focused spaces in urban areas. I hope to be able to continue to support this fantastic community initiative over many more years to come. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fantastic garden over the last forty years. This anniversary is a wonderful achievement and a testament to the garden's dedicated team of volunteers and supporters.

BUNDJALUNG TRIBAL SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today, I would like to take a moment to commend the remarkable Bundjalung Tribal Society who are celebrating 50 years of outstanding advocacy. Over the past five decades,

Bundjalung Tribal Society has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives and advancing the rights of the Bundjalung people they serve. Their efforts have been nothing short of extraordinary, tackling a wide range of critical issues that impact the Aboriginal people in our communities. From providing access to secure housing to promoting the preservation of culture, Bundjalung Tribal Society has been at the forefront of championing the rights and needs of the Bundjalung people, ensuring that they are not only heard but empowered. Additionally, their staunch advocacy for the self-determination, well-being and safety of the Bundjalung people shows in Bundjalung Tribal Society's tireless work to create opportunities for their communities to take control of their own futures. By standing alongside the community and offering steadfast support, Bundjalung Tribal Society is laying the groundwork for a brighter, more equitable future where the Bundjalung nation can thrive.

MULLUMBIMBY DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (MDNC)

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the invaluable contribution of the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre, which has operated as a pillar of support in our community for nearly four decades. Over the years the centre has provided a wide range of vital services that address the complex and diverse needs of individuals and families. These services include community and parenting support, emergency relief, specialist domestic violence services, housing support, financial counselling, food recovery programs, community meals, and social inclusion activities that bring people together and foster a sense of belonging. The dedication and resilience shown by the Centre's team was particularly evident during ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. In a high-stakes and uncertain environment, the Centre rose to the occasion with compassion and determination. When it became clear that evacuation centres lacked the necessary food supplies to support those seeking refuge, MDNC stepped in. They quickly organised, sourced, and delivered food ensuring that our community was supported. The quick response and unwavering commitment truly speak to the heart of community service, and the work of current HR manger Julie Williams and the whole team at Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre deserve our deepest recognition and gratitude.

LUNA PARK'S ICONIC WILD MOUSE RESTORED

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recognise the remarkable achievement of restoring the Wild Mouse roller coaster at Luna Park Sydney, a piece of history on the lower north shore that has captivated both locals and visitors for decades. Since its opening in 1963, the Wild Mouse has been a source of joy for visitors, quickly becoming an emblem of nostalgia and pride for the local community. The Wild Mouse has become an integral piece of North Sydney's visage, seen from across the harbour. Luna Park is one of my community's most famous attractions, and it's great to see it restored to its former glory. I want to thank those involved in the restoration project, including the engineers, heritage experts, and craftsmen. Their work has ensured that this historic ride meets the highest standards of safety while staying true to its original design. Finally, I congratulate the Luna Park team, and everyone involved in this project, and I am excited for the locals and visitors to experience the excitement this legendary ride brings to our community. Thank you to all involved.

NORTH SYDNEY POST SHOP

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to recognise and celebrate the successful reopening of the North Sydney Post Shop, which has moved up the road from its original location on Miller Street. It was sad to say goodbye to the iconic old post shop and I am working with Australia Post to find a new use for this historic building in the heart of North Sydney. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Australia Post location. This modern and vibrant post office is a fantastic addition to our community. I thank the team at Australia Post for their hard work in ensuring such a successful reopening. A special mention to the hard-working ladies who have worked at the North Sydney Post Office for 35 years. Their dedication and service to the community over the years have been exceptional and I know my community is grateful for their ongoing commitment to providing outstanding service, day in and day out. I commend the team for their ongoing efforts. Thank you for everything you do behind the scenes year-round, and for making this reopening a memorable and positive experience for everyone in North Sydney.

TALDUMANDE HOUSE

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to recognise the vital work of Taldumande Youth Services in the lower north shore and the greater Sydney community. Established in 1976, Taldumande has been a beacon of hope and support for vulnerable and homeless children and young people aged 12 to 24 and their families. Their services range from homelessness and family support to justice services and outreach programs. Taldumande is also home to the Phoenix Youth Hub, a dedicated community centre that provides a safe and nurturing environment for young people in the North Shore community. Phoenix Youth Hub offers a diverse range of programs, including case management, life skills development, employment readiness, and educational support. At the opening of their new hub, I had the privilege of speaking with a participant who shared how supportive the program has been. She expressed that it inspired her to become a social worker herself when she finishes.

I commend the entire team at Taldumande Youth Services, including their passionate staff and volunteers, for their ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable youth. Their work is essential in ensuring that every young person in our community has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Thank you Taldumande.

MAI KANHUKAMWE

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to acknowledge Mai Kanhukamwe for curating and producing an incredible Lunar New Year Celebration with the Worship Queer Collective. Founded by Dyan Tai, the Worship Queer Collective is a queer cabaret spotlighting the incredible talents of queer Asian performers and producers. Mai has been producing events with the Worship Queer Collective for three years, but stepped up for the 2025 Lunar Year Performance, to curate and produce an incredible event at the Red Rattler solo. Combining a vibrant lion dance troupe with a skin-peeling burlesque performance, Mai's Slither Queer Lunar New Year event invited our Inner West community to shed old skins and welcome the year of the snake with a series of slinky and sexy shows. With a packed line up of outstanding Asian artists and performers, the Worship Queer Collective is a powerful symbol of the depth of talent in the Inner West.

JORDAN HUYNH

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)—Congratulations Jordan Huynh of Macquarie Fields High School on receiving a NSW State Representative Award for his efforts in competitive swimming. Thirteen-year-old Jordan suffers from a hereditary condition known as bi-lateral hand/foot malformation, which creates challenges to performing everyday physical activities. Despite these challenges, Jordan is an accomplished multi-class swimmer who has represented Glenfield Public School, Macquarie Fields High School and Campbelltown Swimming Club at State and National level. Jordan has travelled all over Australia to compete and has ambitions to one day represent Australia at the Paralympics. Competing at this level requires dedication, commitment and stamina. Jordan trains four days a week, with an early start from 4.30am. I had the honour of meeting Jordan and his carers at my Electorate Office in Ingleburn and was impressed by this inspirational young man. Our community is immensely proud of Jordan's extraordinary efforts and achievements. I look forward to following Jordan's journey and wish him every success in his endeavours.

DULWICH HILL WOMEN IN BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I was honoured to attend the recent Dulwich Hill Women in Business International Women's Day event held at the beautiful Catherine Colubriale Couture premises. Hosted by dynamic mother daughter duo Lyndal Gowland and Amy Anthony from Gowland Family Law it was an uplifting evening recognising the contribution of so many women to the growing Dulwich Hill business community. Lyndal and Amy brought together a diverse group of local businesses – everyone from yoga studios to environmental engineering consultants, from artist studios, the local butcher, accountancy practices to beauty therapists. We reflected on the challenges faced by women working in small business and acknowledged the successes; recognising and celebrating the thriving local hub that Dulwich Hill has become. Business owners pinned purple flags on a map of Dulwich Hill, creating a powerful representation of the diversity and strength of the business local community. Thank you, Lyndal and Amy, for inviting me to be part of such an uplifting and memorable evening. And thank you to all the women running businesses in Dulwich Hill for your hard work, passion and dedication to your local community.

BIKE MARRICKVILLE'S CHOCOLATE AND FINE FOOD RIDE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Congratulations Bike Marrickville on the 20th anniversary of the famous Chocolate and Fine Food Ride held this year on 5 April under brilliant blue skies. Initially conceived to demonstrate that people shopping by bike could benefit local businesses, this annual event is held around Easter each year and attracts riders, young and old, and even a few dogs! Whilst not promising a calorie neutral ride, organisers ensure a tour of many delicious inner west businesses including chocolatiers, gelato manufacturers, patisseries and more. I have been lucky enough to join a Chocolate and Fine Food Ride in previous years and can attest to how much fun can be had with great company and great food. The route uses the safest possible infrastructure to encourage return visits, and this is a fun and accessible way to try out local cycling routes if you are keen, but new to cycling. Thank you to Fiona Campbell, the driving force behind this fantastic event. Congratulations Bike Marrickville and Fiona on achieving 20 years of the Chocolate and Fine Food Ride.

INGLEBURN KNITTING GROUP SENIORS AWARD

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)—I acknowledge the community contributions of the Ingleburn Knitting

Group and was honoured to present them with a 2025 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award. The Ingleburn Knitting Group has been going strong for more than 10 years – a remarkable milestone. The group has created items for premature babies, our local hospitals, women's refuge centres and dementia patients. Not only do they love to knit, but they enjoy sharing their passion with others. Over the years, the group has grown from around 10 people to more than 50 members. I commend all the members on their contributions to our community, big and small. I would like to particularly thank Jenny Watt for overseeing the group and helping it continue to thrive. The Ingleburn Knitting Group brings people together to connect, create and collaborate. I have visited the group on several occasions at the Greg Percival Community Centre in Ingleburn, and always enjoy their companionship. I congratulate Ingleburn Knitting Group on its well-deserved recognition. I wish the group every success for its future endeavours, and more knitted creations bestowing goodwill in our community.

BONDI WAVE YOUTH SONGWRITING PROGRAM 2025

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—We would like to acknowledge Waverley Council and their creation of Bondi WAVE 2025, a mentorship program that gives young musicians in upper primary and high school the opportunity to write, arrange, and perform original music. Taking place at the Bondi Pavilion, this program allows participants to record tracks and perform live, all while being guided by industry professionals such as Jim Elliot, Lily Richardson, and more. Bondi WAVE provides an inclusive space for young artists to collaborate, grow, and share their sound. More than just music, this initiative builds confidence, connection, and creativity in the next generation. Thank you to everyone involved for helping our youth find their voice and shape the soundtrack of our community.

ANZAC DAY 2025

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—We would like to acknowledge Randwick City Council and its sub-branches in Coogee, Clovelly, Randwick, Malabar, Maroubra, and Matraville for their continued dedication to honouring one of our nation's most significant days - Anzac Day. Marking the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in 1915, Anzac Day is a time for Australians to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and service of our veterans and current service members. Across the Eastern Suburbs local branches hosted several Anzac Day commemorations, including dawn services on April 25th at Coogee, Bondi, Maroubra, Little Bay, and Matraville, as well as marches on April 13th in Malabar and Maroubra. These events bring the community together in remembrance and gratitude. We thank everyone involved for their efforts in preserving this important tradition and ensuring the legacy of the Anzacs lives on through meaningful community participation.

YOUTH WEEK BY AVA LOWERY

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—Written by Ava Lowery, School Captain of Coogee Public School: "The Youth Week theme for 2025 is "I am.. we are the future and the future is now!" To me, this theme emphasises that young people are here today, and therefore need to take part in activities that will shape the future. I have been very lucky with opportunities in the last couple of weeks. I have recently joined high school, the ultimate chance for young people, like me, to take part in something that shapes our future. Opportunities to participate in activities were thrown my way and I have now participated in a school production, a public speaking competition and a learn to surf program. For me, the community that I am a part of provides me with chances to shape mine and other young people's futures. I love that today, young people are recognised for their unique strengths and their abilities as future leaders, influencers and decision makers. The opportunities that young people are given today, shape ours and many other futures in the long run.

MR AND MRS NICK AND ARIANE KIPRIOTIS

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—I congratulate Mr and Mrs Nick and Ariane Kipriotis on their recent wedding. Ariane is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Jim and Angela Demetriou of Hunters Hill, and she married Nick at St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church in Gladesville on the 3rd of May 2025, amongst a congregation that included Nick's parent's Mr and Mrs George and Anna Kipriotis. I know many in our Hunters Hill community will wish them a blessed marriage and a long life together.

LANE COVE RSL SUB-BRANCH

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—I acknowledge the work of Lane Cove RSL Sub-Branch who in conjunction with Lane Cove Council continue to pay tribute to our Veterans with a solemn and well attended service on ANZAC Day. I pay tribute to the RSL Sub-Branch Members and particularly Rod Cooke and Graeme Davis for the work they do in ensuring such a well-attended and successful service.

NORTH RYDE RSL SUB-BRANCH

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—I acknowledge the North Ryde RSL Sub-Branch and thank them for their tireless work in honouring the memory of our ANZACs, particularly their solemn ANZAC Day

Service. I would like to thank their President, Peter Colthorpe, for his efforts and all those that worked alongside him to make the day so memorable.

RECOGNISING RIVERSTONE NETBALL CLUB

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Congratulations to the Riverstone Netball Club on an outstanding season filled with talent, determination, and team spirit. A special shoutout goes to the Under 15s girls team, who proudly represented the Hawkesbury City Netball Association in Gosford, winning 4 out of 5 games and bringing home the trophy — an exceptional achievement that reflects both skill and heart. We also celebrate the achievements of the Junior 3 and Junior 6 teams, whose dedication and consistent performance earned them well-deserved places in the 2024 finals. Their hard work is matched by the success of the Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 3 teams, who also made it to the finals — showcasing the depth of talent across all levels of the club. These successes don't happen without the tireless efforts of the players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters, whose commitment behind the scenes is the backbone of the club's continued growth and impact. Riverstone Netball Club has once again demonstrated resilience, sportsmanship, and a strong sense of community, setting a high standard for junior sport in our region. We look forward to watching the club go from strength to strength in the seasons ahead.

RECOGNISING THE RIVERSTONE RANGERS CRICKET CLUB

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Mr Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Riverstone Rangers Cricket Club on a remarkable season filled with dedication, talent, and team spirit. The Club's 2nd and 3rd Grade teams demonstrated exceptional skill and commitment, reaching the semi-finals — a testament to their consistent effort throughout the season. A special mention goes to the 3rd Grade Gold team for their strong performance in the Grand Final, and to the Under 10s Gold team, who not only topped the ladder but secured a 30-run victory over the Brumbies, showcasing incredible promise and sportsmanship at a young age. One of the standout highlights was the stellar performance by Akshaj Sharma, who was awarded the Bradman Medal for his match-winning 4/43 in the 3rd Grade Grand Final — an extraordinary achievement that deserves celebration. I'd also like to acknowledge the coaches, volunteers, and supporters who work tirelessly behind the scenes to nurture talent and foster a positive sporting environment. Your support has been vital to the success and development of these players. The Riverstone Rangers continue to inspire the local community through their teamwork, determination, and love for the game. Well done on an outstanding season!

RECOGNISING THE PONDS CRICKET CLUB

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone)—Mr Speaker, today I rise to extend my heartfelt congratulations to The Ponds Cricket Club on an exceptional season of cricket and a series of outstanding achievements across all age groups. A special celebration goes to the U17 Blue, U12 Division 1, and U10 Division 1 teams, which each claimed Grand Final victories—a testament to their skill, teamwork, and determination. These wins result from the players' tireless effort and the unwavering support and expertise of their dedicated coaches. We also proudly acknowledge the incredible efforts of the U10 Div 1 Aqua, U10 Div 1 Orange, U11 Div 1 Green, U12 Div 1 Orange, U12 Div 1 Blue, U12 Div 2 Gold, U12 Div 3 Green, U15 Div 1 Aqua, U15 Div 2 Gold, and U15 Div 3 Green teams — all of whom made it to the semi-finals. Your performances reflect the remarkable depth of talent and strong club culture that defines Ponds Cricket. This level of success across so many divisions shows that cricket's future in our community is not only bright but thriving. Congratulations to all players, coaches, volunteers, and families involved!

EPHING FUTURE LEADERS - MOUNT ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—I proudly acknowledge future leaders in the Epping electorate, especially Simran Pandaram, Mia Burdack and Maya Kelly of Mount St. Benedict College who were most recently elected to serve as their school captains in 2025 – the highest student privilege in their school. Being a great school captain will require confidence, dedication, integrity and responsibility. It is through their words and actions where these representatives are expected to reflect the core values of Mount St. Benedict College – Pax (Peace), Hospitality, and Stewardship. As elected leaders of their school, Simran, Mia and Maya represent a school that values academic excellence, facilitates personal growth, and upholds a strong sense of community and service. Through their leadership, they embody the values and spirit that define this leading school. I praise Simran Pandaram, Mia Burdack and Maya Kelly of Mount St. Benedict College for their determination to their school community and wish them the best in their future endeavours. I would also like to congratulate Mount St. Benedict College and Principal Michael Hanratty for fostering this opportunity.

EPHING FUTURE LEADERS - TELOPEA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—I would like to recognise future leaders within the Epping electorate, particularly Ellie Kim and Tracey Chow from Telopea Public School, who were elected as School

Captains for 2025 – one their school's highest accolades. Being a School Captain requires responsibility and leadership. As representatives of Telopea Public School, both Ellie and Tracie through their words and actions are responsible in reflecting the values of their school – respect, responsibility, excellence and to be an active learner. Ellie and Tracey now represent a school that is as vibrant and as it is diverse. I highly commend Telopea Public School's Captains Ellie Kim and Tracey Chow for their commitment to their school community and wish them every success in their academic endeavours. I also acknowledge the entire Telopea Public School and Principal Ellie Dooley for facilitating such opportunities for students.

EPHING FUTURE LEADERS: CARLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—I would like to acknowledge future leaders in the Epping electorate, particularly the most recently elected prefects from Carlingford Public School for 2025: Tiffany Chen, Laura Choi, Abeer Godbole, Ayati Madhu, Christian Mah, Matei Paraschiv, Ryan Son and Ivy Yan. Leadership in school will require confidence, integrity and determination. All eight prefects now carry the responsibility of upholding the school values: co-operation, achievement, respect, learning and ownership. As elected representatives of Carlingford Public School, all prefects will work co-operatively to advocate for their peers and encourage school spirit. Through their leadership, they embody the values that define leading this school. I praise all eight prefects of Carlingford Public School for their dedication to their school community and wish them the very best in their future academic pursuits. I would also wish to recognise Carlingford Public School's Principal Neil Hilton for his encouraging leadership, unwavering support for both students and staff, and his dedication to fostering a positive and inclusive environment.

MARIAROSA BONANNO

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to sincerely acknowledge Mariarosa Bonanno for her outstanding contributions to charitable organisations in our community. Mariarosa is a local constituent of Chiswick who has been recognised as a recipient of the 2025 Drummoyne Electorate Local Seniors Award. Since 2018, Mariarosa has led the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem Craft Group. The SHOSJ meet regularly to knit beanies, scarves and blankets which are donated to local domestic violence organisations and homeless shelters bringing warmth and comfort to those in need. Mariarosa's work with the SHOSJ has had a real impact on the lives of so many in our community and her resilience, leadership and example is to be commended. Her passion for giving back and making a difference in our community is inspiring. The SHOSJ partnered with the Canada Bay Club in 2024 to deliver the Inaugural President's Ball Charitable Fundraiser. The event successfully raised over \$100,000 for Open Support, providing essential support services to family and domestic violence survivors. I sincerely thank Mariarosa for the countless hours she has dedicated to this important cause. I am delighted to recognise Mariarosa and wish her all the very best always. Congratulations.

ST JOSEPH'S MOOREBANK

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy)—On 9 April 2025 I had the pleasure of attending the 50th anniversary of the establishment of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Moorebank. It was a wonderful occasion, where students proudly showcased each decade of the school's history through song, dance, and performance. A highlight of the day was the school museum—a touching display of archives and memorabilia chronicling St Joseph's rich legacy in Moorebank. Guided by its enduring motto, "Charity and Love", the school continues to instil in its students a strong sense of social justice and environmental stewardship. I commend Principal Christine Bitar-Claxton and the entire school community for fostering such a positive, inclusive, and compassionate environment. Congratulations to everyone at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Here's to 50 years of educational excellence and many more to come.

EMPOWERING ARABIC WOMEN CCSP PROGRAM – AUSTRALIAN ARAB CULTURAL FORUM & STARTTS

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy)—I acknowledge the Empowering Arabic Women program, a Community and Cohesion Support Program [CCSP] delivered by the Australian Arab Cultural Forum in partnership with STARTTS. This 10-month initiative supported Palestinian and Arab, women in Southwest Sydney, through a series of inclusive, skills-based workshops, covering hairdressing, English language, nutrition, yoga, art, embroidery, and healthy living. These sessions were designed not only to develop practical skills but to foster social inclusion, emotional wellbeing, and self-care in a safe and supportive environment. I would like to recognise Dr Amira Issa Hassan, Founder and President of the Australian Arab Cultural Forum, for her leadership and dedication to empowering women and strengthening our multicultural community. This program is a testament to the power of grassroots collaboration in fostering inclusion, resilience, and opportunity for all.

JOY HOOD

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to sincerely acknowledge Ms Joy Hood for her outstanding contributions to environmental sustainability in our community. Joy has been recognised as a recipient of the 2025 Drummoyne Electorate Local Seniors Award. Over the past six years, Joy has led a dedicated group of volunteers known as Love Your Place who meet weekly to clean the foreshores of the Parramatta River. Each week they collect more than 30kg of rubbish and debris from the river and beaches, creating a better environment for all to enjoy and appreciate. Joy's dedication to improving the amenity and sustainability of the local environment and foreshore reflects her commitment to our community. The spirit she has shown through her volunteer work is a testament to her leadership and the passion she inspires in all who work with her. Her drive to create a positive change in our community is truly commendable. I sincerely thank Joy and all volunteers of Love Your Place for the countless hours dedicated to this cause. We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers in our community. I am delighted to recognise Joy and wish her all the very best in the future.

LYNETTE CHALK

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to sincerely acknowledge Lynette Chalk for her outstanding charitable contributions in our community. Lynette is a local constituent of Russell Lea who has been recognised as a recipient of the 2025 Drummoyne Electorate Local Seniors Award. Each week, Lyn dedicates her time to giving back to our community, creating food hampers for local charitable organisations. She then assists in delivering these packages around our community, supporting vulnerable people and those in need. Beyond her work locally, Lyn has volunteered for international causes, packing boxes for women in developing countries. Her passion for change is truly inspiring, and her leadership and example is to be commended. I sincerely thank Lyn for the countless hours she has dedicated to her volunteer work. We are fortunate to have such people making a difference in our community. I am delighted to recognise Lynette and wish her all the very best always. Congratulations Lynette!

GABRIELA WAECHTER

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the exceptionally skilled Gabriela Waechter of Sylvania on playing her 100th AFL game. By way of background, Gabriela joined the Miranda Bombers AFL Club as part of the under 10's and is the first female junior Bomber to mark this incredible milestone. Throughout her time with the Bombers Gabriela has left an indelible mark on the club, which is evident through her service as a role model to up and coming female players and in her recognition as 2025 joint club captain. Fittingly, Gabriela's teammates in the Under 17 Bombers helped her to mark the occasion by winning the match against the North Sydney Swans 67 to 7 at Waratah Oval. Whilst Gabriela is still at school, her football prowess is undoubted. Gabriela is part of the AFL Targeted Sports Program at Endeavour Sports High School and is also a top Under 18 Sydney Swans Academy player, through which the Swans provide professional, age-appropriate development program training up to 700 players each year. I congratulate Gabriela on reaching this important milestone and look forward to seeing her shine in the AFLW in the future.

MIRANDA MAGPIES FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the Miranda Magpies Football Club's incredible efforts in celebrating Female Football Week. Established in 1952, the Magpies are the oldest football club in the Sutherland Shire, with a proud history of fostering inclusivity and female football talent. Kicking off Female Football Week on 2 May, the Club celebrated its female players on Friday night in the clubhouse with food, drink, trivia and prizes. Throughout the weekend, players were encouraged to write the names of inspirational women on wall and spray their hair or paint their face pink at a colour station to show their support for women in football. This week, the Magpies are showcasing the stories of their female footballers who started as juniors and now play in senior teams on social media. I acknowledge the hardworking Magpies Committee members for paying tribute to women in football. I recognise Adam Webb, Michael PJ Whawell, John Summers, Harry Grigoras, Darren Smith, Jon Voegt, Rebecca Edgell, and Kaz Webb for their efforts. I commend the team at the Miranda Magpies Football Club for fostering a love of football amongst women and creating an environment where female footballers thrive.

TREVOR PARRISH – DAIRY INNOVATION

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Mr Trevor John Parrish, fourth-generation farmers and self-described Chief teat puller at Barrengarry, for his innovation and readiness to embrace technology in the dairy industry. Mr Parrish was recently reported by Brooke Chandler and Landline as one of the first farmers in New South Wales to trial new science that uses statistical analysis to determine heat tolerance. Known as the Heat Tolerance Australian Breeding Value [ABV], I acknowledge Melbourne-based scientist, Dr Thuy Nguyen, the creator of the Heat Tolerance ABV, and the team at independent

and owned organisation, DataGene. I acknowledge industry peak body Dairy Australia and the biennial "Herd" conference that advances herd improvement, genetics and animal performance industry and champions innovations like this. This genetic tool is a world first and is gaining international interest and acclaim. Back in the valley, where its unique landscape results in warmer than average daytime temperatures, Mr Parrish estimates approximately 20 per cent of his herd are now genetically better at handling hot and sticky weather. I wish Mr Parrish and all dairy farmers in the region continued success through innovation and curiosity. Your hard work and dedication is acknowledged.

KIAMA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today, the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the outstanding dedication and service of the Kiama Surf Life Saving Club throughout the 2024–25 summer season. The season wrapped up on Monday 28 April, and I acknowledge the incredible efforts of the Club's members who have gone above and beyond to keep our coastline safe. Over the summer, the Club saw its patrolling numbers grow from 84 to 102 active volunteers, a reflection of the strong community spirit that runs through the Kiama region. Across the season, the Club recorded 46 rescues and carried out around 770 preventions — a huge effort that has no doubt saved lives and prevented countless incidents. On Anzac Day, this dedication was on full display rescuing a fisherman who had been swept off the rocks at Blowhole Point. Thanks to the quick thinking and skill of members Ben George and Dave Gorman, he was safely returned to Kiama Harbour. To every member of the Kiama Surf Life Saving Club — thank you. Your efforts make a real difference, and the entire community is grateful for your commitment to keeping our beaches safe.

GREENACRES DISABILITY SERVICES

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Greenacres Disability Services for the launch of their new social enterprise café and kitchen at Shellharbour Airport. This exciting new cafe providing "Food with Purpose" opened in March and is already making a difference — not just by serving great coffee and food, but by providing meaningful employment and training opportunities for people with disability in the Illawarra region. Greenacres has a long and proud history of creating inclusive workplaces and empowering people of all abilities to thrive. This new venture is no exception. The café and kitchen will be staffed by supported employees, giving them real-world experience and skills in hospitality, customer service, and food preparation. I recently spent a wonderful morning supporting the incredible team at Greenacres, a thriving social enterprise that proudly employs people of all abilities. I had the pleasure of visiting with the Deputy Mayor of Shellharbour, Kellie Marsh, CEO, Karen Burnett and Chief Commercial Officer, Audra Tuckwood where we saw firsthand the fantastic work being done to create inclusive employment opportunities. Congratulations on this incredible milestone, and thank you for everything you do to create a more inclusive and supportive region.

ANZAC DAY - TAMIL CONSORTIUM

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I commend the Consortium of Tamil Associations NSW for organising their ANZAC Day event at Ringrose Park, Wentworthville, held on 25 April 2025. This year's commemoration held particular significance. The 110th anniversary of Anzac Day is important as it marks the commemoration of the Gallipoli landings and the service of all Australians in times of peace and war. It's a time for reflection on the sacrifices of those who served, ensuring their legacy endures. The Anzac Spirit, embodying courage, mateship, and selflessness, remains relevant today and inspires unity and a commitment to a better future. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organisers for their dedication in ensuring that the legacy of the ANZACs are remembered and cherished within the Tamil community and beyond. To all the participants, volunteers, and attendees, I express my deepest appreciation. Your presence and involvement demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving the memory of our ANZACs and upholding the values for which they fought. In conclusion, I thank the Consortium of Tamil Associations NSW for their efforts in organising this important event and for their unwavering support in honouring our heroes, especially on this significant centenary. Lest we forget.

ANZAC DAY - MERRYLANDS RSL SUB BRANCH

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I commend the Merrylands RSL sub branch for organising their ANZAC Day dawn service at Charles Mance Reserve in Merrylands on 25 April 2025. By the time of his passing in 2001 Charles Mance was one of only 25 survivors of World War One, including two survivors of the Gallipoli campaign, out of the 330,000 Australians who enlisted to fight overseas. In April 1999 Mr Mance received the 80th Anniversary Armistice Remembrance Medal, the first commemorative medal in the Australian system of honours and awards. This year's commemoration held particular significance. The 110th anniversary of Anzac Day is important as it marks the commemoration of the Gallipoli landings and the service of all Australians in times of peace and war. It's a time for reflection on the sacrifices of those who served, ensuring their legacy endures. The Anzac Spirit, embodying courage, mateship, and selflessness, remains relevant today and inspires

unity and a commitment to a better future. I thank the Merrylands RSL sub branch for their efforts in organising this important event and for their unwavering support in honouring our heroes, especially on this significant centenary. Lest we forget.

ANZAC DAY - CUMBERLAND RSL SUB BRANCH

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I commend the Cumberland RSL sub branch for organising their ANZAC Day dawn service at Granville War Memorial Park on 25 April 2025. This year's commemoration held particular significance. The 110th anniversary of Anzac Day is important as it marks the commemoration of the Gallipoli landings and the service of all Australians in times of peace and war. It's a time for reflection on the sacrifices of those who served, ensuring their legacy endures. The Anzac Spirit, embodying courage, mateship, and selflessness, remains relevant today and inspires unity and a commitment to a better future. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organisers for their dedication in ensuring that the legacy of the ANZACs are remembered and cherished within the Granville community and beyond. To all the participants, volunteers, and attendees, I express my deepest appreciation. Your presence and involvement demonstrate our collective commitment to preserving the memory of our ANZACs and upholding the values for which they fought. In conclusion, I thank the Cumberland RSL sub branch for their efforts in organising this important event and for their unwavering support in honouring our heroes, especially on this significant centenary. Lest we forget.

WOLLONDILLY ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—It was the morning of 25 April 1915 when Australians and New Zealanders landed in Gallipoli in darkness. It was through these battles that the ANZAC tradition was formed, and every year we pay tribute to all those who have served our nations. Even in times of peace, we remember with pride the bravery of our soldiers and we honour those who have sacrificed their lives or their health, leaving us and future generations with the invaluable gift of freedom. May all of us prove worthy of that sacrifice. I was honoured to attend the ANZAC day ceremonies here in my electorate of Wollondilly including the Dawn Service by Bowral RSL sub-Branch, services at Colo Vale and Bargo, and Oakdale Workers Club. Earlier in the week Taara Gardens held their ANZAC service, commemorating 110 years since the Gallipoli Campaign. I would also like to recognise the moving service held by Mittagong RSL sub-Branch including vintage planes flying the Missing Man formation, and ceremonies held by Thirlmere Wollondilly RSL sub-Branch, the Dawn Service at Hill Top War Memorial Hall, Picton Anzac Day Committee at Picton Memorial Park and Warragamba ANZAC Committee. Lest We Forget.

SWSAS ATHLETES RECEPTION

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—In April I had the pleasure of attending the South West Sydney Academy of Sport Athletes Reception at the Performing Arts Centre in Picton. It was wonderful to see so many incredible young athletes striving for their ultimate goals along with their dedicated coaches and training staff. SWSAS outcompetes other sports academies across the state with a much higher percentage of its athletes reaching Olympic and Commonwealth Games eligibility. The sustained efforts of the organisation is seeing young athletes achieving their reporting goals, and enabling greater participation in organised sports. I look forward to seeing many of these young athletes in Brisbane at the 2032 Olympics, as they continue their journey to sporting achievement.

APPIN MASSACRE MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—The 17th April saw a powerful Memorial Ceremony marking the 209th anniversary of the Appin Massacre, honouring the Dharawal People who were massacred in 1816. It was a privilege to stand alongside Aboriginal Elders, families, friends, community members, and representatives from all levels of government to honour the Dharawal people. This annual memorial serves as a solemn and powerful reminder of our shared history—and a call to continue the journey toward truth, understanding, and lasting respect. Let's continue to grow as a united, compassionate community. With the sound of the cascading Cataract Dam behind us, we were reminded of the enduring flow of life and the good things it brings. Nature, community, and connection: these are the gifts we must cherish together. We must always value the customs and traditions of the First Nations people who have cared for this land for tens of thousands of years. Our shared future must be built on foundations of understanding, respect, and reconciliation. We are deeply sorry. We will remember them.

LMA OPEN AIR RAMADAN IFTAR

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 an extraordinary event hosted by the Lebanese Muslim Association [LMA] during the final week of Ramadan: Australia's largest-ever open-air Iftar, held outside the iconic Lakemba Mosque. I was honoured to attend this remarkable evening, during which over 3,000 people gathered on Wangee Road to break their fast side by side in the spirit of unity, faith, and

breaking bread. The call to break the fast at sunset was recited from the mosque's minaret, filling the air with a powerful sense of spirituality. The success of this open-door Iftar speaks volumes about the Lebanese Muslim Association's commitment to serving our diverse community, welcoming people of all backgrounds and faiths to come together and share in the spirit of Ramadan. Events like this showcase the deep traditions of our Muslim community and reflect the broader values of respect, compassion, and connection that make Bankstown such a vibrant and inclusive place to live. I commend the Lebanese Muslim Association, its leadership, and volunteers for their efforts in creating such a beautiful and inclusive event. This is the Bankstown community at its best: diverse, united, and proud.

ST CHARBEL'S GOOD FRIDAY MASS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—Faith is a significant part of our community, and this Good Friday, 18th April, I had the honour of joining thousands of my Christian brothers and sisters at St Charbel's Monastery in Punchbowl for their deeply moving Good Friday service. Thousands of parishioners gather each year for a service showcasing our community's powerful expression of shared faith and spiritual reflection. Led by His Excellency Bishop Antoine Tarabay, alongside Fr. Superior Assaad Lahhoud and the dedicated monks of St Charbel's, the liturgy was both solemn and inspiring. Their leadership and spiritual guidance created an inspiring atmosphere for reflection and prayer. One of the most powerful moments of the day was the Stations of the Cross procession, which began at Roberts Park in Greenacre. Walking as a community through the streets served as a poignant reminder of sacrifice, compassion, and hope—core values that bind us together not only in faith but also in our shared humanity. I sincerely thank St Charbel's Monastery for organising such a meaningful and inclusive event. This Easter season may these blessed days bring peace, hope, compassion and goodness to all in our community and beyond.

PUNCHBOWL BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL IFTAR

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I had the pleasure of attending the Punchbowl Boys' High School 2025 Community Iftar Dinner on 14 March 2025. This special evening, held in partnership with the Western Sydney Wanderers, brought together students, families, staff, and community members to celebrate unity, diversity, and the spirit of Ramadan. It was a privilege to join The Hon. Jason Clare MP, Mayor Bilal El Hayek, Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary Department of Education NSW, Mr Andrew Fielding, Ms Zena Dabaja, Director Educational Leadership Department of Education NSW, and the Sydney Wanderers Team for an evening of reflection and connection. Families and friends gathered to share Iftar, the evening meal that breaks the daily fast during Ramadan, while enjoying warm hospitality and rich cultural exchange. The night reflected the inclusive and welcoming spirit that defines Punchbowl Boys' High School and our Bankstown community. Events like this build stronger school and community ties and promote mutual respect, understanding and shared values. I extend my congratulations to Punchbowl Boys, the Sydney Wanderers and everyone involved for creating such a memorable and meaningful evening. Ramadan Mubarak!

FLAMIN' DRAGONS IN NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—Today, it gives me great pleasure to recognise our own Flamin' Dragons Dragonboat Club who recently attended the NSW State Championships held over the 29-30 March. I congratulate team members; Brunt Harris, Allan Norman, Peter Friend, David Pees, Phil Higgins, Tony Harrison, Nigel Seller, Todd Hardie, Rowena Bennett, Head Coach Jenny Higgins, Kylie Everett, Steph McKinnon, Louisa Wellings, Nicole James, Annette Newton, Di Sloan, Ella Baker, Liz Harrison, Jo Letchford, Deb Broome, Jo Stavely, Beth Madgwick, Jane Camozzato, Stephany Upton, Fran Hannon, Elaine Hendriks, Lark Whittingham, Janette Anderson, Alison Cash, Merche Benson, Yvonne Couper, Debbie Stockton, Tania Williams, Fiona Witts and Lyn Elliott for their hard-earned efforts. This weekend, the Flamin Dragon's took home gold in the Senior C mixed, bronze in the Senior B Opens and fourth placing in the Senior B Women's category, an outstanding result for our regionally based side. I also acknowledge the Taree Manning River Dragons who joined forces with Port Macquarie to compete and challenge the best in the State. A well-trained unit, I applaud our Flamin' Dragons for their teamwork, mateship and professionalism which is often seen on display, and is clearly the secret to their success. We're all proud of your achievements!

ELSA DIXON ABORIGINAL YOUTH TRAINEE PROGRAM

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—I rise to recognise a collaborative and inspiring 2-year program which provides a school-based traineeship opportunity for 12 local Aboriginal students. Chloe-Jade McKinnon, Hayley Moran, Ariana Bartlett, Ava Phillips, Tegan Evans, Kimberley Heuston, Haylee Oliver, Zoe Kennedy, Arteia Yekrop, Shaylah Thompson, Inala Gibbs and Milla Swain have embarked on their learning journey, working with nursing teams across all health sites. The Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant

combines multiple strategies to develop and support Aboriginal people through training and employment opportunities. Elsa Dixon was an extraordinary Aboriginal woman, one of the original founders of several critical Aboriginal services over the 70's and 80's. The program named in her honour, is an initiative of the NSW Government, is funded by the Department of Education and includes formal TAFE studies to complete Certificate III level courses. It encourages job opportunities and career advancement for Aboriginal people. The Mid North Coast Local Health District welcomes and supports the new trainees to excel and contribute to the future of healthcare in the region, carrying forward Elsa Dixon's legacy of compassion, service and dedication to community wellbeing. I congratulate these students for their foresight and success in their future careers.

BARAYAL BILA (RIVER SONG) EXHIBITION AT THE PORT MACQUARIE MUSEUM

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—I rise to recognise a unique local exhibition, 'Barayal Bila,' which tells the story of 'Dungang' Hastings River, through poetry and other visual representations. It's a story that celebrates the importance of our spectacular waterways that wind gently from the mountains to the sea. Creator Aunty Rhonda Radley, Birpai Elder and proud Birpai Dunghutti woman, has collaborated with the Powerhouse Museum and Debbie Sommers, curator of the local museum, as part of the 'Extending Storyplace' project. Growing up at Blackman's Point, Aunty Rhonda recognised and upheld that 'water is life.' The river was fundamental to life; it provided food, a livelihood, recreation and transport – above all, it provided an emotional and spiritual connection that Aunty Rhonda says can be described as 'wakulda,' meaning 'as one.' This exhibition explores Birrbay people living in balance with Ngaya Barray 'Mother Earth.' It examines how historically the river has been utilised both commercially for fishing and recreationally. Importantly, it highlights the need to protect and preserve our environment for future generations. The exhibition explores the negative impact of recent flood and fire events. I am proud to recognise and acknowledge this significant local exhibition.
