

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 14 May 2025

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[Notices of motions given.]

Bills

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2025

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Ryan Park, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (10:17): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to bring before the House the Health Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2025. The bill makes amendments to various pieces of legislation across the Health portfolio to ensure they remain fit for purpose and contemporary. I turn first to the amendments to the Health Services Act 1997, which is the piece of legislation that essentially establishes our New South Wales public health system. The bill makes two changes to this Act. First, the bill will require the board of each local health district [LHD] to have at least one member who identifies as an Aboriginal person. Currently, each local health district board must consist of a mix of members with skills, knowledge and expertise. Each board must also have at least one member with expertise in, knowledge of, or experience in Aboriginal health. However, importantly, they do not need to be an Aboriginal person. This change will make clear that that has to be the case going forward.

The Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote New South Wales—an inquiry I initiated while in opposition and that led to some landmark recommendations—examined the make-up of these boards.

Following the inquiry, the committee recommended legislative amendments to require Indigenous community representation on each LHD governing board. To give the previous Coalition Government credit, this recommendation was supported across the board. I recognise and applaud that most local health district boards already have an Aboriginal person as a member, but, in line with the recommendation from the inquiry, it is important that this is made a legislative requirement.

As we know, and as this House has debated and discussed on many occasions, Aboriginal persons and communities have been subject to historic and ongoing disadvantage and trauma, which impacts various aspects of their life, including health care. As the Minister, I recognise that Aboriginal people unfortunately still experience that at times when they interact with the New South Wales health system, which I, the secretary and the Government more broadly are very determined to address. It is imperative that members of the Aboriginal community have a seat at the table at the highest level within local health districts to drive improvements.

Secondly, the bill will allow the health secretary to charge booking and cancellation fees to private providers who use public non-emergency patient transport services. NSW Health delivers a non-emergency patient transport service, which I know members will be familiar with, which is a public service for people who require transport to or from a health facility but do not need a time-critical emergency ambulance. To be eligible for patient transport, a person must be assessed by a medical practitioner or registered nurse as medically unsuitable for community, public or private transport. In the main, this is a public patient transport service, transporting public patients to, from and between hospitals. However, transports to private providers, such as residential aged-care facilities and private hospitals, are also available. Private providers may use NSW Health

transports to transfer patients between private facilities—for example, from one private hospital to another private hospital—or between a private facility and a patient's residence.

NSW Health is not the only non-emergency patient transport service for private providers, but it is currently a service that is being provided to these private providers for free. Last financial year, NSW Health conducted 18,500 non-emergency transports to and from private bodies, costing around \$8.3 million to the taxpayer. To be clear, this was the cost incurred for private-to-private transports that do not involve transporting a patient to or from a public facility. As private providers are not charged for the service, there are inefficiencies in bookings and use of the non-emergency patient transport service, including bookings for people who do not meet the eligibility criteria and very high levels of cancellations. For context, 2.1 per cent of all private bookings are made for patients who do not meet the eligibility criteria, which is 25 per cent higher than for public providers. Further, almost one in every five private transfers booked is cancelled four hours before the confirmed arrival time or on scene. These cancellations are over a third higher in private providers compared with public providers.

To encourage efficient use of the patient transport service and reduce unnecessary costs to the public health system, the bill will allow the health secretary to charge private providers a booking and cancellation fee for non-emergency patient transport. The fees can be charged to the licensee of a private health facility, the operator of a residential care home, or other prescribed providers who book a patient transfer service or cancel a service within four hours of the planned arrival time and end up to one hour after the planned arrival time. Similar to fees for emergency transports, the booking and cancellation fees will be set out in a scale of fees, to be published in the New South Wales *Government Gazette*. The booking fee will be a low, nominal fee, as it is intended to help manage demand and prevent unnecessary or just-in-case bookings. The cancellation fee will be a higher fee, which reflects the average cost of a patient transport service, which was approximately \$450 as of last financial year.

I now turn to amendments to the Private Health Facilities Act, set out in schedule 7 to the bill. The Private Health Facilities Act and regulation set out the requirements to operate a licensed private health facility. The Act and the regulation set out general standards that all private health facilities in our communities must comply with and specific standards that apply to different classes of facilities, such as a facility licensed in the maternity class. Currently, the Act requires every private health facility to be staffed by registered nurses and have a director of nursing. The Act also requires each facility to have a medical advisory committee staffed by doctors and other health practitioners. A medical advisory committee has a number of responsibilities, including advising the licensee on matters concerning patient care and safety. However, these requirements under the Act may not be fit for purpose for all classes of private health facilities. This is particularly the case in respect of maternity class facilities that operate, importantly, on a midwifery-led model.

A midwifery-led model of care is currently recognised under the regulations to the Act, with the establishment in 2023 of a Birthing on Country demonstration class facility—one which the Government and I are extremely proud of—which is taking place on the South Coast. NSW Health is working with the South Coast Women's Health and Wellbeing Aboriginal Corporation, also known as Waminda by members of this House, which intends to apply for a private health facility licence to operate a midwifery-led freestanding birthing centre in Australia—in Nowra—to provide services to Aboriginal women and babies. This is proposed to be established in close collaboration with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District. I thank its CEO, Margot Mains, and her team for working cooperatively on this important and landmark project.

While the regulation was changed to allow for a midwifery-led Birthing on Country demonstration private health facility, there are constraints in the Act that would prevent this model of care. Therefore, the bill amends the Act to allow regulations to be made to substitute the usual nursing requirements, with a requirement to have a midwife on duty at all times and a director of midwifery at prescribed facilities. In relation to the medical advisory committee, again, the bill allows for some flexibility by allowing regulations to be made to allow persons prescribed by the regulations to be appointed to the committee of a private health facility. However, the requirement to have at least five medical practitioners on the committee, and other health practitioners the licensee considers appropriate, will remain in the Act.

Importantly, the bill also makes minor changes to the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act, in relation to who can be appointed as an official visitor, to bring the Act into line with the Mental Health Act 2007. The Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act allows for the involuntary detention and treatment of people with severe drug dependence in select drug and alcohol treatment centres declared under the Act. There are two treatment centres in New South Wales declared under the Act, which contain a total of 12 beds. The Act also builds in protections for people receiving involuntary treatment under the Act, including by establishing an official visitor program to oversee treatment centres.

As members would be aware, official visitors appointed under the Act are independent from NSW Health and, importantly, have the power to enter and inspect treatment centres, advocate for patients about issues arising in the drug or alcohol dependency treatment system and raise matters of concern with me as the Minister or other

appropriate people. The Minister appoints people as official visitors but can only do so if a person is either a medical practitioner or another suitably qualified person. Visits to treatment centres must be conducted by one medical practitioner and one otherwise suitably qualified person. These requirements are different to the rules for appointments and visits under the official visitor program for mental health facilities.

Under the Mental Health Act, the Minister may appoint a person who is a medical practitioner, psychologist, other suitably qualified person or person with qualifications prescribed by the regulations as an official visitor. Further, visits to mental health facilities do not need to be carried out by at least one medical practitioner. They can be conducted by either a medical practitioner, psychologist or person with prescribed qualifications, in addition to one person who is suitably qualified.

Given that official visitors under the Mental Health Act and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act have similar functions, this bill is designed to align the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act with the Mental Health Act. The bill amends the Act to allow medical practitioners, psychologists, persons prescribed by the regulations and other suitably qualified persons to be official visitors. Further, visits to drug and alcohol treatment centres will be able to be carried out by two of these official visitors, so long as one is a suitably qualified person and the other is a medical practitioner, psychologist or other prescribed person.

Schedule 5 to the bill amends the Human Tissue Act to allow a senior available next of kin to delegate functions relating to ante-mortem interventions to another person if appropriate. In March 2024 Parliament passed the Human Tissue Amendment (Ante-mortem Interventions) Bill 2023, which was introduced by the member for Lake Macquarie, our Speaker in this place. That bill amended the Human Tissue Act to allow ante-mortem procedures to take place in limited circumstances. Ante-mortem procedures are medical procedures carried out on a person before death to determine, maintain or improve the viability of tissue for donation after death, rather than for the benefit of the patient. They can only be carried out under the Act if the patient consents or, if the patient does not have capacity, the senior available next of kin of the patient provides consent.

However, the Act does not currently allow a senior available next of kin to delegate their ability to consent to ante-mortem procedures to another person. This differs from the rules relating to organ donation, where the senior available next of kin of a deceased person can delegate their ability to authorise organ donation after death to another person. As ante-mortem interventions are intimately connected to organ donation, and indeed intended to facilitate organ donation after death, it is appropriate that the same rules in relation to this delegation apply. As such, the Health Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2025 amends the Human Tissue Act to allow a senior available next of kin to delegate their functions in relation to ante-mortem interventions. The bill also makes a minor statute law revision change to the Health Practitioner Regulation (Adoption of National Law) Act, and a regulation under that Act, to update the term "professional services room" to "medication storage and preparation room", which better reflects the purpose of these rooms.

Finally, I turn to schedule 6, which makes a minor amendment to the Mental Health Act to clarify a provision relating to the appointment of accredited persons. An accredited person is a person appointed by the health secretary who then has the power to assess and write a certificate authorising the detention of a mentally ill person or mentally disordered person. The secretary can appoint either an individual as an accredited person or a class of persons as an accredited person, though in practice only individuals are appointed after an assessment of their qualifications. The current section 136 allows conditions to be imposed on the appointment of a person; however, there is a lack of clarity as to when conditions can be imposed. The amendments in the bill will clarify that conditions can be imposed on an individual or class appointment.

I thank the team at NSW Health, the Ministry of Health, and all those who have been consulted, whether they be key stakeholders from professional associations, unions or others individuals, advocacy groups and community representatives. I thank my team, Melanie Haskew and Dr Vivienne Moxham-Hall, for their detailed work on this piece of legislation, especially given the amount that is happening in the Health portfolio. I acknowledge that the shadow Minister for Health is in the Chamber and I thank her for her ongoing engagement around key and important health legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

ABORTION LAW REFORM AMENDMENT (HEALTH CARE ACCESS) BILL 2025

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 13 May 2025.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (10:33): In addressing the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025 today, let me say from the very beginning that I do not support it.

This is my conscience speaking, and I speak today on behalf of the thousands of women and men of all ages who need a voice. Under darkened skies last week, I stood on the steps of this Parliament and gave my support to many pro-life followers who had gathered to express their feelings of betrayal by the Minns Labor Government, which, before the 2023 election, had reached out to Christian faiths and said that it would represent their beliefs in Parliament. On that night, I was greeted by Archbishop Anthony Fisher and Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, who reached out and shook my hand. There was an understanding amongst us that went beyond words. It was a look of trust, common values and a belief that what we stood for was right and just. We will not be silenced.

I reflect on the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill, which I voted on in 2019. I proudly did not support that bill, yet I, along with 30 other members of Parliament, was named and shamed by a former member of The Greens. Our faces were plastered on that former member's Facebook page with the heading "Who Voted Against Decriminalising Abortion. The Greens Proudly 100% Pro-Choice!" Whilst the former MP probably thought that was an effective way to discredit me and other conservative-minded members, I wore it as a badge of honour. It spelt out my values and that it is important to take a stance, speak with conviction and never walk away from one's beliefs.

Whilst the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025 has been amended in the upper House, led by my Liberal colleagues—and I am grateful for that—the bill still denies a beating heart, a life within, that is not spared but expired. The amendments in the bill include provisions to extend abortion providers to include health workers other than medical practitioners, including endorsed midwives and nurses. The fact of the matter is that the bill facilitates abortion. Those members of the health profession are already overworked. The additional workload imposes a further burden on the already stretched resources. There is a perceived assumption in the nature of the bill that a woman's first choice is abortion, and it does not address other programs in the healthcare system for women to assess their choices.

The current structure of the bill raises questions about whether we have robust health standards for women's safety and whether we are handing over decision-making about who performs abortions in New South Wales to a Commonwealth-administrated body. Given the careful work done in 2019 to achieve the necessary balance in that area, both of those issues raise concerns. It is not a balanced approach to rush expanding the class of abortionists if it could risk women's health. The largest known study of the abortion pill was recently released, which analysed over 900,000 drug-induced abortions. It looked at the problems after abortion and the impact of those. It is a good read. It reflects a lot of the concern that I have received in my electorate.

The Hawkesbury electorate is quite conservative. I cannot speak without representing my community and the commitment they have asked me to deliver in my speech. I speak on behalf of those who have contacted my office. I thank them for reaching out and having the courage and conviction to express their beliefs and values. I speak on behalf of those who are pro life, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay and all faith-based groups and individuals who have asked for me to be their voice.

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (10:38): I make a brief contribution to debate on the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025. The bill is not about abortion. That issue was examined and dealt with in 2019. I understand the intentions behind the bill, but it is about whether it strikes the right balance.

I acknowledge that the decision to terminate a pregnancy is never an easy one and I do not wish to pass judgement on anyone in that situation. I bring to this debate my own personal perspective and values, which come from being a young woman and a Catholic who believes life is precious.

Although this is a conscience vote, I will always consider the views of my community when making decisions. I have tried to do that with this bill. For my entire life I have lived in the area that I now represent. I feel that I am in a unique position to consult with my electorate on this matter because my community links are genuine and run deep. I have engaged and listened, and many members of my community have told me that faith and family are important to them. From my conversations, it is clear that there is a view that this medication be prescribed by a doctor. I will support the amendments of the member for Wagga Wagga, which bring a layer of safeguard and balance to the bill.

I acknowledge the extensive correspondence I have received on this bill. I thank the many people who have contacted me with their diverse views. I have had atheists, Christians and constituents tell me that they have contacted a politician for the very first time. I emphasise that the view expressed is not about restricting a woman's autonomy or access to health care. I will never judge anyone for the choices they make for their own life. I was raised to give all people the highest respect. We need more empathy, compassion and understanding in our world, not less. As we move forward in this debate, I encourage open and respectful dialogue about the issue. I respect the views of everyone in this Chamber and in the community. I thank the House for allowing me to contribute to debate on the bill.

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (10:40): I contribute to debate on the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025. I remind the House that the bill is a health amendment. Abortion was made legal in 2019, and we are not debating that today. Having family in the United States, I am reminded that we are witnessing democracies around the world rolling back the reproductive rights of women. It is incredibly concerning when we start to hear that sort of ideology coming into this House. I acknowledge and commend my colleague Dr Amanda Cohn in the other place, who introduced the bill. I express my appreciation of her work to ensure that access to abortion care is a fundamental health care right, especially in regional and remote areas of New South Wales.

I also acknowledge the co-sponsors of the bill, the member for Newtown, who is in the Chamber; the Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health; Minister Penny Sharpe in the other place; the member for Sydney; and many others for the work that has been ongoing since abortion was legalised in 2019. As a regional MP, I know that access to reproductive health is incredibly challenging for people in my community, particularly women. Five years ago the Abortion Law Reform Act was passed, decriminalising abortion in New South Wales after many years of advocacy and campaigning. While that legislation was significant and well overdue, abortion is still difficult to access in New South Wales, whether due to cost, stigma or geography, so this bill is very timely.

Schedules 1 and 2 to the bill seek to insert into the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 a duty for the Minister to ensure that abortion services are provided throughout the State within a reasonable distance of residents' homes and that information about access to abortion services is made publicly available. I note that is in line with World Health Organization standards. The change is necessary to address the issue of public hospitals—that have the technical capability and staffing to provide abortion—refusing to provide services. As many members have mentioned in the debate, that was recently reported at Queanbeyan and Orange hospitals. That is an outrage.

Currently the NSW Health policy directive *Framework for Termination of Pregnancy in New South Wales* guides the provision of abortion services in New South Wales. The framework does not require provision of services, only that referral pathways are in place. That is simply inadequate. In some areas, the referral pathway is to a different local health district or to expensive private providers. The provision of abortion services in the public health system should not be up to the Minister of the day. It should be legislated to make clear that abortion is part of comprehensive reproductive health care in the public health system.

This bill authorises nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives—already highly trained professionals—to prescribe medical abortions. It aligns New South Wales law with the Therapeutic Goods Administration changes made in 2023 that permit these highly trained professionals to prescribe this essential health care. The bill responds to the severe geographic disadvantage of those living in regional and remote areas who are in need of abortion care. That could be hours of travel, long wait times and high costs. As my colleagues in this House who represent rural and regional areas know, those barriers can have resounding affects.

I do not want to run out of time, and that is why I am going to cover this now: The member for Wagga Wagga, who I respect very much, has foreshadowed that he will move amendments to the bill. The Greens do not support those amendments. I also note that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists—the peak body for women's health in Australia and Aotearoa, or New Zealand—is responsible for the training, accreditation, certification, standard setting and continuing professional development of obstetricians, gynaecologists and GP obstetricians across both countries.

It has written to The Greens to say that it strongly opposes those proposed amendments because they will create significant barriers to nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives prescribing medical abortions. In its view, they do not require any additional certification or two years of being in practice. I also note a letter from the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association absolutely opposing the amendments and reminding us that nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives in this State are well positioned to provide safe and vital abortion care without the need for further years of experience or training.

A Family Planning NSW 2020 report stated that non-metropolitan local health districts recorded an extremely high demand for abortion services. The demand was almost three times greater than that of their metropolitan counterparts and was above the State and national rates. This bill responds to the fact that only three out of 220 public hospitals in New South Wales consistently offer abortion services. That simply should not be the case. This bill has the support of key medical stakeholders across the region. It maintains the regulatory safeguards of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act, addresses misinformation and confirms the legal boundaries of practice.

For members of the House who need a reminder, the bill does not allow nurse practitioners or midwives to perform surgical abortions. It does not propose any change to the current provisions of the Act relating to gestational limits, requirements for information about counselling, care of a person born after termination, or the right of a registered health practitioner to hold a conscientious objection to performing or assisting in the

performance of a termination. While I have strong feelings about some of those things, I note that none are ruptured by the bill.

To reiterate: The bill expands on access to vital health care. It works to close the gap between government commitments and on-the-ground reality. The Greens will continue to work to ensure that this Government upholds its commitment to fund and support abortion access in the public health system, and we will continue to work to ensure that all people who seek abortion care have safe access. At a time when women's reproductive rights in democratic countries have gone back at least 50 years, this sensible reform will support women across the State to make important decisions about their own reproductive health and to have access to safe medical abortions regardless their age, gender, gender identity or circumstance in life. None of those things should come into play when a person is seeking safe reproductive health care. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (10:48): I contribute to debate on the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025 in its current, amended form. Most speakers have already presented their views in differing forms; however, as representatives, I believe we should not avoid having difficult conversations. To that end, I asked members of my community to comment and guide me on my response to this bill. I acknowledge them all and I feel thankful that they are all confident enough to have that difficult conversation with me. I will start by setting out my personal opinions, which slightly differ from the feedback I received, and my representative duty in this place.

I do not necessarily support abortion as a concept, mainly because I believe in nature and that humans have evolved to cope with everything this planet throws at us. I do not believe ending life at any stage of development should be treated as routine health care. I have held belief for many years, grounded in not only personal ethics but a deeper respect for the natural order of life and a long habit of observing and being out in nature. I must state that this is not a religious nor a medical view; it is purely from natural observation. For those following, I will vote with the majority of my community.

As someone who has worked in health care and has always respected the incredible design and resilience of the human body, I see pregnancy as being fundamentally natural. I do not believe we should interrupt it without emergency or significant cause. I do not support the idea that abortion should be available as a matter of personal preference, and I know that is not what occurs in the majority of cases. At the same time, I believe it is essential that it is a healthcare option for women. That position might be unpopular in some corners of this Chamber and in my community, but I believe it is important to say it openly and honestly.

That being said, I represent a community that includes people of all beliefs and circumstances, some of whom may face these decisions not lightly but as a painful reality. I believe in serious exceptions where a mother's health is at risk, where abuse or assault has occurred, where continuing a pregnancy would result in deep and lasting harm to a woman's wellbeing or where the health of the unborn child is impacted. In those cases I personally support access to safe and legal abortion because it recognises the complexity, and sometimes tragedy, of such circumstances.

I support the bill as amended because the majority of my community requests it, but I could not have supported the original bill. This amended bill reflects the practical reality that abortion is already legal in New South Wales and our responsibility, both legal and moral, is to ensure that access to the service is delivered fairly, especially for women in regional and remote communities. This bill is not about reopening the abortion debate; it is about whether access to that legal service should depend on where a person lives. As I mentioned, I have spent years working as a healthcare professional in the regions. I know how strained our system is. I know the long wait times, the under-resourced hospitals and the critical workforce shortages our regional areas face. The amended bill recognises that reality.

In optimal circumstances, I firmly believe that abortion procedures, whether surgical or medical, should be overseen and administered by medical doctors. They are complex and sensitive interventions and they should remain within the scope of those who have received the most extensive training in diagnosis, prescribing and clinical decision-making. However optimal circumstances is not the reality that we face. In regional and rural areas, access to a GP obstetrician can be difficult. A woman may have to wait weeks for an appointment or travel hundreds of kilometres just to see someone qualified. That is not equitable access.

In those exceptional cases nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives who are already deeply embedded in their communities, and who have done extensive training and are professionally developing all the time, should play the role, within their scope, of assisting women to access important health care. The amendment in this bill that enables those qualified practitioners to prescribe MS-2 Step within their scope and under existing clinical guidelines is a practical, measured step forward. I support this amended bill as it is about filling critical gaps where doctors may not be available. The bill now makes clear that only those with specific qualifications can prescribe this medication, within clearly defined scopes of practice and under clinical oversight. That is the right approach.

When this bill was first introduced, I had serious concerns around the proposed requirement that a clinician with a conscientious objection would be compelled to refer patients directly to another provider that performs a service that contravenes the clinician's beliefs. I support the right of any healthcare professional to conscientiously object to participating in an abortion or any other process. That is a basic principle of medical ethics. No doctor, nurse or pharmacist should be forced to act against their deeply held beliefs, nor should they be forced to refer a patient elsewhere if it contravenes their beliefs. However, it is pertinent that each practitioner that conscientiously objects should provide the patient with access to general information such as a pamphlet in a clinic, a note on a website or some other means to get information to assist them to be informed in their quest for their health care.

We often face a community that has low health literacy. Providing further information regarding healthcare choices strikes a fair balance between professional conscience and patient access. It should be noted at this point that, through their actions, no practitioner should ever prevent nor impede any patient from accessing appropriate information or care. Forcing a referral to a practitioner who will perform certain procedures by law is not informed consent; it is coercion of the clinician. If we have a conscience vote in this place, I could not in any way force the opposite onto a medical professional. I am pleased to note that the Legislative Council rejected that part of the original proposal. The bill before us now strikes a more balanced approach, ensuring that women can still find the information they need without forcing individual practitioners to act against their deeply held ethical beliefs.

That amendment matters and providing accessible health care to women matters. It means we can uphold reproductive rights, women's choices and professional integrity. It is a respectful middle ground, and I strongly support it. Abortion is already legal in New South Wales. The bill is about ensuring timely access to that legal healthcare procedure. For many women, especially in regional towns or remote communities, the bill may be the difference between getting care in days versus waiting weeks, between seeing someone in their own town versus travelling hundreds of kilometres, and between accessing safe care or putting themselves and their fetus at risk.

I have a wife, a mother, three sisters and female extended family members, who I love and respect. If I had a daughter and if she ever found herself facing a crisis pregnancy, I would want her to have choices. I believe women should have the right to decide what is best for them, in consultation with a practitioner they trust. That is why, even though I hold strong personal views about the sanctity of life and nature, and the value of pregnancy, I cannot in good conscience support a system that denies women the ability to make informed decisions when faced with a crisis. My community has asked that of me.

Choice matters, and that choice should rest with the woman and her partner, or the childbearer alone, if she is single. In consultation with her doctor, that woman should be able to boost her autonomy within our system. I believe abortion should be rare. I do not support banning it. I never will and I never have. I would not have been able to go down that path if that was the question today. I support safety, I support high standards of care and, above all, I support choice for women, acknowledging my own beliefs on nature.

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (10:56): I contribute to debate on the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025. I begin by sincerely thanking the many members of my community who took the time to contact my office to share their views. I particularly acknowledge those who did so with great honesty, often drawing from deeply personal experiences. I also acknowledge Pastor Shane Bywater from the Baptist Church in Moorebank and Bishop Tarabay from the Maronite Church for approaching me to discuss this sensitive issue. I have listened carefully to constituents and community groups who have expressed strong concerns about the bill. Many have shared their unease about expanding the provision of abortion services, particularly where they feel that other forms of health care and support for women facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies are lacking.

Those concerns reflect a broader issue that many women, especially in regional and rural areas, do not have access to mental health support, timely medical care or practical assistance when they need it most. We cannot ignore the reality that too often the healthcare system fails women outside metropolitan centres. There are significant workforce shortages, long wait times and limited availability of mental health professionals and general practitioners. The bill expands abortion access without guaranteeing that women will receive the comprehensive care and support they need and deserve. One in 10 women experience adverse complications such as haemorrhage and infection from the MS-2 Step abortion pill. I am concerned that this puts women at grave risk, with a health system already under pressure in rural and regional New South Wales.

I do not support the bill because it prioritises the expansion of one service without addressing the foundational issues in our healthcare system. The bill permits endorsed midwives and nurse practitioners to prescribe abortion medication. While I have the utmost respect for the vital work that those health professionals perform across our State, it must be acknowledged that they are already under immense pressure. I take this opportunity to commend and thank all the dedicated medical practitioners across New South Wales, who work tirelessly in our hospitals, clinics and community health services. Their commitment, especially in under-resourced regions, is nothing short of extraordinary. What they need is not more pressure but more

investment, better staffing and stronger infrastructure to support their ability to deliver comprehensive care. I thank the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): It being 11.00 a.m., debate is interrupted for question time and the routine of business. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to all who are here today. I welcome students and staff of Verona School, guests of the member for Fairfield. As the member says, that is a good school. I also welcome visitors from the Berry Probus Club, guests of the member for Kiama. I welcome school students and teachers from Caroline Chisholm College, Erskine Park High School, Glenmore Park High School, Irfan College, Mamre Anglican School, Oran Park Anglican College, Oran Park High School, St Benedict's Catholic College, and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College, guests of the member for Badgerys Creek. I acknowledge Mihikaa Singal, a guest of the member for Parramatta. I also acknowledge Michael and Jill Hagan, guests of the member for Macquarie Fields. Finally, I welcome my guests, school leaders from St Paul's Catholic College, Booragul.

Announcements

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

The SPEAKER (11:03): On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I remind members that Wednesday 21 May is a national day to thank and recognise State Emergency Service volunteers in Australia.

To celebrate and thank the volunteers for their incredible contribution to our community, the Minister for Emergency Services is hosting an afternoon tea today with volunteers and staff from the New South Wales State Emergency Service in the Fountain Court until 2.00 p.m. I encourage members to attend the afternoon tea and wear something orange on Wednesday 21 May to show our appreciation and to let those volunteers know that their efforts do not go unnoticed. Many members of this House have relied on volunteers from the SES over the past 12 to 24 months. I thank the volunteers.

DEATH OF THE HON. DAVID ABERDEEN HAY, MBE, FORMER MEMBER FOR MANLY AND MINISTER OF THE CROWN

The SPEAKER (11:04): It is with regret that I inform the House of the death on 10 May 2025 of the Hon. David Aberdeen Hay, MBE, a former Minister of the Crown who served as the member for Manly from 24 March 1984 to 3 May 1991. On behalf of the House, I acknowledge that he is survived by his loving wife, Mrs Jean Hay, and his daughter, Mrs Virginia Bennett, and 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.

Members

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS

Mr RON HOENIG: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I inform the House that the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice will answer questions today in the absence of the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism.

Question Time

LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:08): My question is directed to the Premier. The Local Small Commitments Allocation [LSCA] guidelines state, "All projects must have been nominated as an election commitment prior to the March 2023 election." However, Standing Order 52 documents reveal that the Premier's office allowed the member for Sydney to nominate LSCA funding after the 2023 election. Did the Premier or his office allow any other non-Government MP to do that?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:08): Potentially—I could not rule it out. At the end of the day, we were dealing with members of Parliament who wanted to direct funds to men's sheds or the St Vincent de Paul Society or refugee services or community care or the Salvos. We would regard that as reasonable in the circumstances and consistent with the spirit of the reform that we introduced at the election.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (11:09): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the New South Wales Government's ongoing efforts to repair the State child protection system?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:09): I thank the member for East Hills for this question. It is incredibly important. Members would be aware, but many in the gallery may not be aware, that because of decisions that were made over a prolonged period of time about out-of-home care, particularly in relation to the outsourcing of foster parents and carers in the State for troubled youth in difficult circumstances, different iterations of the New South Wales Government—I will not cast blame on anyone individually—put children in what was called out-of-home care. The acronym used was ACA, or alternative care arrangements. Vulnerable young people were placed in hotels, motels and caravan parks with, in some cases, 24/7 supervision from, in many cases, unaccredited individuals by third parties.

Anyone in this House, regardless of their political background and ideology, would regard that as a terrible outcome. That outcome meant that, for an individual child, it was costing the State—and, by the way, this should not be our primary metric, but I think it is important that it is at least talked about—some \$2 million a year per child and, in some instances, \$38,000 a week for alternative care arrangements in hotels, motels and caravan parks around New South Wales. The circumstances for those children were particularly vulnerable and terrible. A report by the Advocate for Children and Young People was released in May 2024. Members may not have had the opportunity to read it. That report details the experience of young people who were part of the alternative care arrangements being put in a hotel or a motel. She describes one young person making the comment that it made them feel like a "dog being moved from cage to cage". It goes on to state for another young person:

It was just me on my own ... full-grown adults on drugs, homeless people, people with mental illnesses ... it was disgusting.

Another described being in emergency care—and this is particularly distressing—from the age of 10:

... just in motels, caravan parks, whatever they can find ... it's pretty bad. I was put in \$99 a night rooms, and I'd be in one room and then the workers would be 10 rooms down.

A fourth said:

After a little while I started to play with my Lego again but that took about ... a month and a half before I started to do anything other than just sit there and cry.

By any measure, that is a terrible outcome for those children in vulnerable and difficult circumstances. [*Extension of time*]

The department and Minister Washington have worked incredibly hard in rebuilding the infrastructure necessary to deal with children in such vulnerable, challenging circumstances. I am talking about specific reform measures that have made a real difference. They have banned the use of unaccredited emergency accommodation. The State has started to again recruit foster carers directly, and 227 have already been recruited. On behalf of everyone in the House, I say to anyone in our State who is a foster carer in New South Wales that you are doing incredible work and we are deeply grateful to you.

The Government has extended paid parental leave to foster carers who work for the New South Wales Government. There is an \$8,000 direct pay increase for those incredible caseworkers who work for the New South Wales Government in those particular departments. We have redeployed our best and brightest caseworkers, those who are committed to this particular problem, which has meant that 600 additional vulnerable children have been seen by caseworkers. We insourced and recruited 300 full-time family workers, whose job it is to ensure that children can stay connected to foster parents as well as other parents that may be in difficult personal circumstances.

Anyway, it goes on and on. A lot of reforms have been part of this package. In March 2023, when the Government took office, 131 kids were living in alternative care arrangements. I can report to the House that tonight, no children will be.

LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (11:14): My question is directed to the Premier. On 21 October 2023 the Local Small Commitments Allocation office told the Premier's office that the LSCA conflict of interest process would "need to include Alex Greenwich". Did the Premier or his office intervene to exclude the member for Sydney from the conflict of interest process?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:15): I am not necessarily aware of that. So that members are fully in the loop, I do not know the specifics that the member for Sydney would have identified, but we are

talking particularly about moving government funds from one not-for-profit community organisation to another. I do not know the specifics for the Sydney electorate off the top of my head, but I know that these programs were for men's sheds, the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul—

Mr Dugald Saunders: Councils.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Councils as well—that is true. They are good works in the community. So that members understand, the reason that the Local Small Commitments Allocation program was put in place was because of what the Government regarded—as I think any objective observer would also believe—as the systemic, top-down approach to pork-barrelling in New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. The question is about the process involving the Premier's office and the conflict of interest process. It is not about any other slush fund that he may have.

The SPEAKER: The Premier has been directly relevant.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: It feels like Opposition members think they are on the tip of a Watergate. In any event, I was talking about the reason for the Local Small Commitments Allocation, which was that there was a decade of pork-barrelling. It was not graft behind the scenes; it was publicly stated and identified government policy. The then Labor Opposition made the decision that rather than channel money towards a particular electorate, as we saw—and I do not know if anyone would disagree with this—quite shamefully under the former National Party leader, John Barilaro—

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Mark Speakman: My point of order is under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. The Premier is now two minutes into his answer and he has not addressed the conflict of interest issue at all.

The SPEAKER: I appreciate that. However, I have already ruled that the Premier is being directly relevant.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Those in the gallery may not remember John Barilaro, but he has left a long impression in Parliament. He gave himself the moniker John "Pork" Barilaro and said, "You should call me 'Pork' Barilaro."

Mr Dugald Saunders: I am wondering what this has to do with the question.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Interesting! "What does this have to do with the question?", he asks. Is he serious?

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat. The member for Coffs Harbour rises on a point of order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: I cannot get two words in.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: The question is about whether the Premier or the Premier's office personally intervened to exclude the member for—

The SPEAKER: I do not need to hear the question again.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: The standing order is No. 129, direct relevance.

The SPEAKER: The member for Coffs Harbour will resume his seat.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The Government made a decision to distribute the funds to 93 electorates. The last time I checked, the member for Sydney was not a member of the Labor Party. The suggestion is that this is somehow pork-barrelling, but how could it be? This, in fact, is not pork-barrelling. Maybe that is what Opposition members are upset about.

WESTERN SYDNEY SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (11:18): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the Minns Labor Government's work to ensure that families in New South Wales's fastest growing communities have access to world-class permanent schools?

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (11:19): I thank the wonderful member for Riverstone for the question. Friday was a great day, because together we turned the sod on the much long-awaited upgrade at Schofields Public School. The member for Riverstone proudly gave us a good history lesson on his alma mater. The beautiful school has the old buildings and will now have a brand-new three-storey building with 24 permanent classrooms. In the growing part of Western Sydney, the north-west and the south-west, we inherited a system that just did not have enough school infrastructure to meet the demands of the growing population. To its credit, the previous Government did undertake an upgrade of Schofields Public School, which finished in 2020. But the school was immediately full the next day, and the next year it had 20 demountables on site. Clearly those opposite did a great job of figuring out how many students would be going to that school.

At Nirimba Fields, which is also in the electorate of Riverstone, construction is underway on a brand-new public school. Built for 1,000 students with 44 classrooms, it will include a 60-place public preschool in a critical area where young families, who are building homes and having babies, can access a free public preschool and a brand-new public primary school. Last year we opened a temporary school at Nirimba Fields as a stop-gap measure, like we have done at Box Hill Public School and will be doing at Box Hill High School, because of the rapid population growth and the lack of school infrastructure investment over the past decade. The Liberal mayor of the Hills does not seem to quite understand the concept of temporary schools or why we build schools in areas like Box Hill, which the Liberals neglected for more than a decade.

On this side of the House, we are well aware of just how many schools the Liberal-Nationals Government built in Box Hill over a decade—a big fat zero. We are making up for that lack of commitment to the people of Western Sydney, well and truly, by investing in the critical growing parts of north-west and south-western Sydney. In fact, earlier this week the Premier informed this House that this Government is proudly delivering 600 new permanent classrooms across north-west Sydney alone. They are brand-new schools. We are also replacing demountables that have been in place for decades, which should have never been a permanent solution in areas that we knew would explode with population growth. We knew that. [*Extension of time*]

Across Western Sydney, we are delivering for communities that need schools: Marsden Park, Gledswood Hills, Gregory Hills, Leppington, Edmondson Park, Castle Hill, Baulkham Hills, Gables, Tallawong, Austral, Jordan Springs and Rouse Hill. It should be remembered that the previous Government said that some of those communities did not even need schools. The enrolment growth audit that we did immediately upon coming into government highlighted that in the last five years of the former Government, the top 10 highest growth areas were all in Western Sydney. What would a government do when the data is so clear? Last week the member for Willoughby proudly said in this House that the Coalition's record was clear, "We upgraded every school in Willoughby." When Western Sydney was exploding with growth, those opposite invested in every single school on the North Shore, which of course makes complete sense. I have to be careful about what I say on the matter, and I will have more to say when the ICAC completes its investigation into this issue.

This Government is proudly investing in public school infrastructure where it is needed—a novel idea. We will build and open those public preschools, primary schools and high schools for young people. Members opposite consistently told communities they were not needed while they looked around their own suburbs and said, "Where are we going to go to school?" We are proudly delivering the schools that Western Sydney needs, which those opposite refused to deliver for more than a decade.

GAMBLING ADVERTISING

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (11:24): My question is directed to the Premier. Australia has the highest per capita gambling losses in the world. We lose tens of billions of dollars on legal forms of gambling each year in New South Wales. The Federal Government has so far failed to ban gambling advertising. Will the Premier's Government take further action and ban gambling ads, including on television, in New South Wales?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:24): Members would, I think, accept that communications policy, particularly for broadcast communications, is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, not the New South Wales Government. But I take at face value what the member for Balmain has said about losses particularly incurred in New South Wales. We have taken that on board. In fact, the previous Minister for Transport took on board the criticism relating to gambling advertising on New South Wales government assets, particularly public transport, that it was not consistent with harm minimisation or thinking about patrons in New South Wales. So the Government made a decision to move to ban gambling advertising on public transport in the State. The prohibition applies to assets owned and controlled by Transport for NSW, including internal and external advertising on trains, metros, buses, light rail and at train stations and ferry terminals.

Members would also be aware that the Government has made a decision, as part of a raft of changes relating to gambling and advertising pushed through by Minister Harris last year—or maybe even in 2023—to ban external

gaming-related signage outside pubs and clubs. We have also banned placement of any signing or advertising relating to gaming machines that are visible from an ATM or EFTPOS cash terminal in New South Wales. We are open to looking at stakeholder engagement and working out if there are better ways of keeping people safe while they gamble, which is a legal activity, but obviously we recognise that it is over the odds to see it in your face as you get the train to work.

TRANSPORT BUDGET

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (11:26): My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Transport in her capacity representing the Minister for Transport. Will the Minister update the House on any pressures facing the Transport budget?

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport) (11:26): I thank the Parliamentary Secretary. She is a great Parliamentary Secretary. It is really a simple answer. The biggest pressure facing the New South Wales Government Transport budget would have to be the exorbitant debt left by those opposite and the fact that they could not build one transport project in this State on time and on budget.

The SPEAKER: The member for Oatley has been so good until now. I call the member for Oatley to order for the first time. I call the member for Wahroonga to order for the first time. I call the member for Terrigal to order for the first time.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: It was just blow-out city under those opposite. They handed us the largest budget debt from any government, one to another. That was \$187.5 billion, handed from them to us—the largest ever—and they had completely lost control of the infrastructure program. It was blow out after blow out. When they were faced with the reality of that, they just pretended that everything was okay.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Within weeks of us coming to government, the true costs of the Liberal-Nationals Coalition failures started to be understood. That was no more the case than with the Sydney Metro. Members opposite had hidden the cost increases for the City and Southwest line, leading the public to believe it was \$18½ billion, when they knew the real cost was \$20.5 billion.

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

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: What was the estimate originally? It was \$12.5 billion. What is \$8 billion between friends? That is a project that we have had to rescue. They wanted to cancel it. How did they go with Sydney Metro Southwest? It was going to be more than \$12 billion and is now estimated to be more than \$25 billion—over double. So the best we can say about those opposite is that at least they took a multimodal approach to these blow outs. It was not just tunnels and driverless trains; they also botched the delivery of the new Regional Rail fleet.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Well, you put drivers on the metro.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: The member for Dubbo wants to talk about everything. We have seen so many problems with that project. Originally contracted for \$1.2 billion, the actual cost will be \$2.5 billion and five years late. They promised that project to the people of regional New South Wales in 2015.

How many trains did they deliver in the next 12 years? None. They could not deliver a train. They could not deliver a thing. That is another mess of a project that we inherited. The Parramatta Light Rail had an almost half a billion dollar blowout. Who could forget the CBD light rail project from 2012. It originally cost \$1.6 billion, and then suddenly it was \$2.1 billion in 2014. The final cost was \$3.1 billion. It was like an auction with that lot opposite.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: I seek further information.

The SPEAKER: An additional two minutes is granted. Members will come to order. I am struggling to hear the Minister's contribution.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I am going to be a bit hoarse today. Members opposite blame floods. They blame COVID. They blame everyone except for themselves. We know it is them. We do not have to go back too far. I have documents that we took to the election last year that look at the former Government's budget blowouts from before 2019. That was before the floods, the bushfires and COVID. How was the former Government tracking then? WestConnex had an \$8.6 billion blowout. The Pacific Highway upgrade between Woolgoolga and Ballina was \$1.2 billion. The Newcastle Light Rail had a \$35 million blowout. The B-Line had a \$207 million

blowout. The new intercity fleet, the Mariyung trains, had a blowout of \$1.1 billion. Those opposite cannot build a train to save themselves.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for North Shore will come to order.

Mr Alister Henskens: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the wording of the question. It relates to an update on the pressures facing the Transport budget. A budget is a future matter. It has nothing to do with what happened 10 years ago.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga will resume his seat.

Mr Alister Henskens: It is a future matter. It is entirely irrelevant.

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

Mr Alister Henskens: I cannot hear you, Mr Speaker. There is so much noise coming from the other side of the Chamber.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga could not hear. I call the member for Wahroonga to order for the third time.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I would like to explore the idea of the member for Wahroonga that budgets do not matter. That is the answer. That is the Opposition's approach. There was the Tibby Cotter bridge.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume her seat. The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Dubbo rises on a point of order.

Mr Dugald Saunders: It goes to direct relevance. The question is about the budgetary scenario, not about the Minister pointing out what the former Government built.

The SPEAKER: The member for Dubbo will resume his seat. The Minister is in order and will complete her answer.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: That is the problem. Members opposite say that budgets do not matter. That lot opposite have fewer economic credentials than my 23-year-old. They have no idea about how to spend money to build infrastructure in this State. This Government is having to deal with it.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. That answer was obviously well received. I call the member for Dubbo to order for the first time.

LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (11:32): My question is directed to the Premier. In February 2024 why did the Premier's office direct the Local Small Commitments Allocation program office to withdraw \$30,000 in funding offered to St John's Rough Edges service and reduce proposed funding to Wayside Chapel by \$50,000 and St Canice's Kitchen by \$25,000?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:33): I do not know the circumstances relating to it, but the Government has sat with Wayside Chapel and charitable groups across New South Wales, particularly for the Local Small Commitments Allocation grants.

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The Government has worked closely with the heads of many charitable organisations, local MPs and others, who have said, "We think this is important for our community."

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Sometimes it has been with local councils; sometimes it has been with others. I reiterate the point, because it is important: The reason the Government decided to allocate the grants equally across 93 electorates is that during election campaigns, the winning party pork-barrels money into marginal seats or its own electorates. Safe seats, whether they are safe Labor seats, safe Coalition seats or safe Independent seats, often do not get anything.

So rather than rolling into that business-as-usual Nationals and Liberal Party plan, Labor made a decision to allocate it equally across electorates.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

Mr CHRIS MINNS: That does not seem to me to be an outrageous thing to say.

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat. The member for Dubbo rises on a point of order. I am sure we are all interested to hear it.

Mr Dugald Saunders: It is under Standing Order 129. It was a very direct question.

The SPEAKER: The member for Dubbo will resume his seat. There has been no breach of Standing Order 129.

[Interruption]

I heard the question and I have listened to the answer. The Premier was directly relevant at the start of his response. The member for Dubbo just does not like the way the question is being answered.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: This is important. For bushfire recovery grants, 26 out of 27 electorates were Coalition-held electorates. The member for Blue Mountains missed out on any funds. That was for bushfire recovery grants.

Ms Kellie Sloane: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat. The member for Vacluse rises on a point of order. The Clerk will stop the clock.

[Interruption]

The member for Swansea will come to order.

Ms Kellie Sloane: That was a very offensive interjection by the member for Swansea.

The SPEAKER: I am not asking the member for Vacluse for additional commentary.

Ms Kellie Sloane: She called me a disgrace and she should withdraw that.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time. I called the member for Vacluse to take a point of order, not give a commentary on any other matter that takes her interest. What is the point of order?

Ms Kellie Sloane: It is taken under Standing Order 129, relevance. The Premier has gone nowhere near directly answering the question.

The SPEAKER: I made it very clear that the Premier has been directly relevant from the start of his answer.

Ms Kellie Sloane: The Premier has not answered any of our questions today.

The SPEAKER: The member for Vacluse does not like the way the question is being answered, but the Premier is being directly relevant. The Premier will continue.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The member for Drummoyne has the hide to come into this Chamber and say, "I don't like the Local Small Commitments Allocation. We don't believe it has been adequately distributed." They are alleging some kind of nefarious activity.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat. The Clerk will stop the clock. This is the last point of order I will hear during this answer. The Leader of the Opposition rises on a point of order.

Mr Mark Speakman: Mr Speaker, you have ruled on Standing Order 129, direct relevance. I respectfully request that you explain your reasoning to the House.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. I am not going to explain myself. I interpret the standing orders on the fly. I do not know what will happen going forward, but I listened closely to the Premier at the beginning of his answer and he was directly relevant. The Leader of the Opposition was disrespectful to the Chair. The Premier has the call.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The proposition being put forward by the member for Drummoyne is that there is some kind of nefarious activity taking place with the Local Small Commitments Allocation. That is the allegation. How does she explain on 21 July 2024 handing over a \$300,000 cheque to her own community via the Local Small Commitments Allocation? That was so outrageous she put up a Facebook post. Here it is. She has a giant cheque. It says "Local Small Commitment Grant". Out in the electorate, \$300,000 for her local community is a great idea. Inside Parliament, it is a scandal.

Mr Gurmesh Singh: Point of order—

Mr CHRIS MINNS: That tells us everything we need to know about the hypocrisy of the modern Liberal Party. Its members will take what they can get, and if they do not get it, they will allege it is a conspiracy.

FRESH START PROGRAM

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (11:38): My question is addressed to the Minister for Local Government. It is on my favourite topic. Will the Minister please update the House on what action the Minns Labor Government is taking to create more trainee and apprenticeship positions in local government?

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (11:38): I thank the member for Blacktown for his question. I know how he scrutinises so carefully the decisions of local government, particularly one. There are times in government when we can be proud of Government decisions, but there is one particular Government decision that I am incredibly proud of, and that is the Fresh Start Program where the Government has allocated \$252.2 million to employ 1,300 apprentices, trainees and cadets in local government.

Over more than a decade and a half, local government has, for a variety of reasons, been outsourcing much of its work. That has left the sector unskilled as people have retired, and it currently has an ageing workforce. I remember, even before I was elected to Parliament, talking with Graeme Kelly, the general secretary of the United Services Union, about how government could reskill the local government sector.

I report to the House that the first round of the program from November employed 642 apprentices, trainees and cadets in councils around the State. In February, round two employed another 366, making a total of 1,008. Round three of the program will be rolled out in July to take that to 1,300 apprentices employed, and 62 per cent of them will be in rural and regional New South Wales. When I talk about apprentices, trainees and cadets, they are operating across a variety of disciplines. They are not just the traditional apprentices in electrical, plumbing, civil construction or mechanics but are also trainees in business administration, wastewater and child care, or cadets in engineering, urban and regional planning, finance and environmental services. As one travels around the State and sees the impact of the program, one develops pride not only in the program but in the local government sector. This morning the Premier, skills Minister and I, together with the mayor and deputy mayor of the Inner West, were at the inner west depot to meet some of the new apprentices and talk to them about their aspirations and the careers that they seek. [*Extension of time*]

But it is usually as I move into rural and regional New South Wales that I really get to understand and see the benefits of the program. I went to Broken Hill City Council and met with its apprentices across a variety of disciplines, but there was one who particularly stood out: It was a young lady training in asset management and local government procurement. That young lady explained to me, as did the council, that she will not have to leave her home town—we all know Broken Hill is relatively isolated—to pursue employment. It is available to her locally, where she can train and develop. That young lady will remain in the local government sector because her chosen career path is uniquely suited to local government, and she will be a director or general manager of the council.

I also met a young lady trainee motor mechanic who was changing the disc brakes on a street sweeper at Cessnock City Council. She explained how to do it, how she is learning on the job, and how she is committed to local government. That all stems from things that I have seen. The town of Brewarrina is 60 per cent Indigenous, and it has a year 10 mentoring program that develops the town through employment and training with the council. Through the program, the general manager of Brewarrina Shire Council is Indigenous. He is one of the finest general managers in the State, and guess what? Brewarrina's Aboriginal youth crime is probably less than most other regional areas. I am very proud of the Minns Government for achieving and announcing the Fresh Start Program.

LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill) (11:43): My question is directed to the Premier. Did the Premier approve \$105,000 from the Premier's Discretionary Fund for the electorate of the member for Sydney so that it ended up receiving, overall, more than the \$400,000 available to other electorates under the Local Small Commitments Allocation Program?

The SPEAKER: All members will come to order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:44): I am going to decode this because it is important. Members will notice that the questions have slightly changed. Now they are asking, "Did the Government give \$100,000 from the discretionary fund?" The questions are not related to local small commitments, but to the discretionary fund grants given to perhaps the Wayside Chapel or another worthy organisation. It is likely that that is the case. We should hold the front page, "Government gives a hundred grand to the Wayside Chapel."

Members will notice that the charge that was put forward by the Opposition that there is something nefarious about the local small commitment grants is unwinding, because it has not been able to demonstrate why the Government is wrong to allocate those funds equally among 93 electorates.

Is it unfair that Opposition members would go to an election saying, "We don't really have a chance of winning the Barwon electorate. We don't really have a chance of winning the Oxley electorate. But it is necessary and appropriate that hypothetical funds be spent in those electorates regardless of who the local MP is." I ask Government members if they remember being consulted about where the previous Government—

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order: It is relevance. The question is specifically "so the electorate ended up receiving more than \$400,000, which was not available".

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order. The Premier is being directly relevant. The member for Dubbo will resume his seat.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: We are now in a situation where 75 per cent of the previous Government's ClubGRANTS went to Coalition seats. Sixty-eight per cent of Refresh and Renew Fund grants went to?

Government members: Coalition seats!

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Ninety-six per cent of Stronger Country Communities Fund grants went to?

Government members: Coalition seats!

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Ninety-two per cent of Schools Renewable Energy Infrastructure Pilot Project grants went to?

Government members: Coalition seats!

Mr CHRIS MINNS: And \$9.3 million of the Regional Cultural Fund—because apparently only National Party seats have culture—went to?

Government members: Coalition seats!

Mr CHRIS MINNS: So the Government made a concerted effort to spread funding across all 93 electorates. I also want to confirm to the House that in relation to the previous question about the Wayside Chapel, the Government made a \$100,000 commitment to that organisation following the election. Members will have noticed that was not disclosed in the question.

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

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The Opposition member asked, "Why did the Government take 50 grand out?" They did not disclose that \$100,000 was put back into the Wayside Chapel. That is the level of cynicism and hypocrisy members can expect from the Liberals and The Nationals.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The member for Cessnock will come to order.

STATE DEBT

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (11:47): My question is addressed to the Attorney General in his capacity representing the Minister for Finance. Will the Attorney General update the House on the financial legacy of the former Liberal-Nationals Coalition Government?

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra—Attorney General) (11:47): I thank the good member for Fairfield for his question. Before I give my answer, I congratulate the Coalition members' question time strategy today. Their blistering attack on the Premier has been remarkably successful. I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition. He does well looking down at his phone; it has been embarrassing. Eleven days ago the people of Australia re-elected the Albanese Government writ large.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Hear, hear, indeed. Part of the reason they did—in small part, perhaps—was because they remembered the wayward behaviour of the Morrison Coalition Government. As delivery of the New South Wales budget approaches, we intend to remind voters in this State—not that they need any reminding—of the mismanagement and profligacy of the 12 years of members opposite when they were in government. We all remember the sackings, the wages cap, the rabid sell-offs, the waste—

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Dubbo that he is on three calls to order.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: —the projects that went awry with ferries that could not go under bridges and the trains that could not go through tunnels.

There was all that craziness, but their biggest failure was their budget mismanagement. I watched the budget deteriorate for 12 years and it was quite sad. When we came to government, we inherited a budget that was out of control due to a decade of mismanagement. In contrast, when the Coalition came to government, it inherited a budget that was in surplus to the tune of \$700 million, with very little debt. In time, they converted that \$700 million surplus into the two biggest deficits in our State's history: more than \$15 billion in 2020-21 and \$12 billion in 2022-23.

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

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: By the time the Coalition left office, it had racked up \$129 billion of debt. That is a whopping \$16,000 for every person in New South Wales. And it did that while it was absolutely awash with the proceeds from the sale of public assets all over the State. That was the largest debt ever handed from one government to another in New South Wales history. Remarkably, its own budget figures forecast that the \$129 billion was, in the next financial year, going to increase to \$187.5 billion. That is \$22,000 for every person in the State. If that irresponsible, debt-filled legacy was not enough, we also inherited \$7 billion in unfunded promises from the worst Treasurer in the history of New South Wales, Matt "the spending machine" Kean.

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

Dr David Saliba: I seek further information.

The SPEAKER: An additional two minutes is granted. Opposition members will come to order.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: For the past two years this Government has done much to fix our State's essential services and get rid of the Coalition's wages cap. The former Government ripped off essential workers, leaving the State with a recruitment and retention crisis. Members can ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism about that. We have worked hard to undo that damage and rebuild our frontline workforce. We have made better and more pragmatic choices that are consistent with Labor values, particularly when it comes to our most valuable resource—the people who work for this Government.

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

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: The former Government sold off at least \$72 billion in public assets.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Shame!

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: It is a shame. It was a disgrace, and the former Government left New South Wales poorer for it. Once those assets are gone, they are gone forever. That is on members opposite. We warned them what would happen. Everything that we said would come true has come true. I remind members that in October 2018 the Treasurer, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, said:

Toll roads, rail services, Service NSW, the forestry corporations, Hunter Water, Essential Water, icare, public housing and public lands could all be auctioned off if the Liberal Party refuses to rule out further privatisation ahead of next March's election.

The former Government did not sell everything on that list, but it came pretty close. And if it had been re-elected, make no mistake about it, all those public assets would have been flogged off. The member for Dubbo can sit in the Chamber and gob off, but he was part of that disgrace. We have been up-front in saying that it will take many years to fix it, but fix it we will.

LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (11:53): My question is directed to the Premier. Given the member—

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Cessnock to order for the first time. I am disappointed in him.

Mr TIM JAMES: I will start again. Given the member for Sydney's electorate received more than \$100,000—

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The member for Willoughby will be heard in silence.

Mr TIM JAMES: Given the electorate of the member for Sydney received more than \$100,000 in top-ups to its Local Small Commitments Allocation funding from the Premier's personal discretionary fund, was the LSCA program nothing more than a politically motivated slush fund?

The SPEAKER: Before I call the Premier, I advise him that, as the member for Sydney is a committee chair, the question may be referred to him.

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:55): The Local Small Commitments Allocation grants are important. I have found another example. I wish I had noted this in answer to a question from the member for

Castle Hill, because he is at it too. He wrote, "This morning I had the pleasure to visit the Hills Offroad remote car club." He noted that the club received \$80,000 to install lighting, which was courtesy of the Local Small Commitments Allocation. He loved it. In the Chamber it is a scandal, but out there in his electorate it is fantastic! I have been asked a very specific question about the member for Sydney's advocacy and the Premier's Discretionary Fund. The member for Sydney asked whether there was money available from the Premier's Discretionary Fund for the Wayside Chapel, which is a worthy cause. That has been presented by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Castle Hill and the member for Willoughby as some kind of scandal.

I can reveal to the House that I recently received a similar piece of correspondence from a member of Parliament who wrote in support of the Cronulla Chamber of Commerce Jazz and Blues Festival, which has become a much-anticipated part of the shire's annual calendar. The member writes that the festival needs to be supported and asks for money from the Premier's Discretionary Fund. Which member am I referring to? It was the Leader of the Opposition. When the member for Sydney asks for funding, it is a scandal like Watergate. When the member for Cronulla asks for funding, he says it is because the community needs it. Opposition members are an absolute joke. I have seen question time strategies before, but this is the worst. Opposition members do not even know which letters they have sent.

Mr Tim James: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat. The member for Willoughby rises on a point of order. The member for Canterbury and the member for Bankstown—

Ms Sophie Cotsis: We're helping him.

The SPEAKER: You are not helping at all. Members will come to order.

Mr Tim James: The answer shall be directly relevant to the question.

The SPEAKER: The member for Willoughby will resume his seat. There is no point of order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: Unfortunately for you, son, it is directly relevant. It is about the Premier's Discretionary Fund. Opposition members are a joke. We are trying to help, for God's sake.

HOUSING DELIVERY AUTHORITY

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (11:58): My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Will the Minister update the House on the work of the Minns Labor Government's Housing Delivery Authority pathway?

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (11:58): Members opposite have been struggling today, so they might look forward to a bit of good news on the housing front. It is a topic they love. I thank the member for Cabramatta for the question. The Fairfield local government area ranked in the top 10 in the State for construction approvals in the past month. There are more houses coming his way, and there will be more people to welcome to that community. I know that the member for Cabramatta will be out there to welcome them.

The Minns Government has made significant reforms to the planning system. The Government wants to build more communities where young people can live and families, downsizers and key workers can call home.

We believe in the diversity of housing choice, that there is something to meet the needs of people through all stages of life and at all income levels. While average council development application [DA] assessment times have decreased—they are down 14 per cent since we came to office—there is still more to do. There is also strong interest in putting larger and more complex residential proposals through the Housing Delivery Authority. Given the situation we have inherited, there is a recognition that, when it comes to planning, we got so far behind that the State Government has to play a bigger role in the assessment of housing proposals.

Members would be pleased to know that I signed another ministerial order yesterday, adding a further 16 projects to the State significant development pathway on the recommendation of the Housing Delivery Authority. If those projects are approved, that is an additional 5,400 homes, including affordable housing. Speaking of plans to deliver more homes, this morning I was pleased to see that the Inner West Council has put out plans to update its local environment plan to deliver more than 30,000 additional homes across the local government area. That is on public exhibition. It is good to see another council taking a leadership role in welcoming more people to its community.

The latest 16 proposals declared State significant residential developments through the Housing Delivery Authority pathway bring the total to 102. Between those proposals, that is more than 40,000 homes, including affordable housing. That will make a real difference to communities. I am pleased to report to the House that just

this week our first State significant development application has been lodged through the Housing Delivery Authority process. Just over 100 days after the Government opened the doors of the Housing Delivery Authority for business, the first DA has been lodged. It will go on public exhibition very soon. *[Extension of time]*

Mr Kevin Anderson: It will take four years to approve.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: The member for Tamworth said it would take four years to approve. I will let him know that there is a commitment to approve those applications in an average of 275 days, spending only 90 days in government hands. My message to the people in charge of those 102 proposals is to make sure they are good. The better the proposal, the quicker it will go through. I am sure everyone is wondering where that first DA has come from.

Mr Kevin Anderson: The Premier's Discretionary Fund?

The SPEAKER: As good as the interjection was, I call the member for Tamworth to order for the first time.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: The member for Davidson and the member for Wahroonga will be happy to see it come through, because it is in Gordon. It is for 106 new homes in a seven- to eight-storey development in Gordon close to the train station. It will provide real opportunities for young people to live in the area. Maybe those members' kids or their niece or nephew might take up the opportunity. There has been a pattern of proposals. Recently Ku-ring-gai has seen 1,282 DAs lodged for new homes. Of those, 359 will be affordable homes. That is a good outcome. What does it tell us? It tells us that areas previously closed off to people and closed off to development will now provide the homes that are needed for people into the future. That is great news. I can see the member for Wahroonga smiling from ear to ear to hear that more people will be coming his way.

The Lord Mayor of Sydney described the Housing Delivery Authority as a "step backwards", but it is nothing of the sort. Just this week she supported a motion from Greens councillors saying that the authority was slowing down delivery. It is doing anything but; it is doing the exact opposite. Only Labor wants to make sure that there is a diversity of housing. Only Labor wants to make sure that there are homes for people to buy or rent. Only Labor is making sure that affordable housing is being integrated in the planning system. Because the Minns Government is getting on with the job of building a better New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Wakehurst, I welcome to the gallery a number of guests from the NSW SES, for whom WOW Day is every day of their life. I am sure members are looking forward to meeting them in the Fountain Court after question time. I thank them for the work they do.

PATYEGARANG REZONING PROPOSAL

Mr MICHAEL REGAN (Wakehurst) (12:04): I was going to ask the member for Sydney a question, but he has had too much attention and he loves it. My question is directed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Given that a gateway determination for the Patyegarang rezoning proposal—formerly Lizard Rock—expired on 31 March, when can the northern beaches community expect a decision on that planning proposal?

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (12:04): I appreciate the diligence of the member for Wakehurst in following up on that matter for his community. There has been a lot of interest from members of this place and community members expressing both strong support and opposition for the proposal. As the member knows, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council is the proponent for the planning proposal, which seeks to rezone a site known as Patyegarang in Belrose, within the Northern Beaches local government area.

On 9 December last year the Sydney North Planning Panel resolved to support the proposal with a reduced dwelling yield of 370 homes. That was subject to the resolution of some outstanding matters relating to bushfire and traffic management, as well as the identification of an appropriate zone for the residential portion of the site. The panel determined that further advice was required. That advice from agencies, including the Rural Fire Service, was submitted before the 31 March deadline. Over the past few weeks, since that advice was received, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has been consulting with the RFS and other State agencies on the proposal in order to provide advice to the panel. The department is considering the advice provided by government agencies and will make further recommendations in due course.

I hope that the community of the member for Wakehurst and other people interested in the matter can appreciate that all due diligence is being undertaken. It is fair to say that the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, which put forward the proposal—along with other supporters and opponents—would like to see the matter finalised. It was not helped by what could only be described as a deliberate attempt by the former Government in the weeks leading up to the last election to mislead the proponent and the community for its own political gain. But a fair, rigorous and merit-based assessment, with engagement from the community, is how

planning proposals should be considered in this State. At the moment I cannot provide the member for Wakehurst with a specific date for a decision on the proposal. However, I will provide him with an update once I have further information.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (12:06): My question is addressed to the Minister for Emergency Services. Will the Minister update the House on the Minns Labor Government's work to support communities as they rebuild following natural disasters?

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (12:07): I thank the member for Blue Mountains for her question. She is an exceptional member of this House who has a very close association with volunteers. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for reminding members about the Wear Orange Wednesday [WOW] event. G'day to all the WOW people in the gallery behind me. They cannot see me and I cannot rubberneck any more than I am, but I thank them for being here and for everything that they do. Obviously, we put the word out to wear orange. The member for South Coast is watching remotely. Her word to me to wear something moderately orange did not quite come through, but I hope she feels better soon. I went for the second option, which was a very bright tie—almost as bright as the one worn by the member for Terrigal. But I did not go for the third option, which was a fake tan. I will save that for when I need to wear orange next year.

It is National Volunteer Week and next Wednesday is WOW Day. It is a great opportunity to thank our SES and stand in solidarity with them. Every single one of us has seen the exceptional work of the SES in our communities over a number of years, and this year they have been especially hard at it. As you said, Mr Speaker, something will be happening in the Fountain Court outside. I remind members to join us to meet and thank some of the volunteers. I also ask that members take a photo with them and post it on their social media next week. The Government is helping our communities by investing in our emergency services, making large investments towards preparation, support during incidents and recovery afterwards.

We are still dealing with the aftermath of Cyclone Alfred. A couple of weeks ago I visited the SES headquarters in Dubbo—I can see the guys and girls in the gallery and will catch up with them soon—not only to announce the \$3.5 million investment from the Minns Labor Government to build a new headquarters, but also to thank them. Because—and it might be hard to believe—right now they are still hard at work, leading the work on the floods coming down to western New South Wales from Queensland that are still having an impact on Barwon and other electorates. We want to make sure that we have a new, state-of-the-art facility that acts as an incident control centre and a launch pad when it comes to natural disasters and emergencies in the remote areas of the Far West of New South Wales. *[Extension of time]*

On the same day, I also had the great pleasure of visiting a crash rescue workshop and an incident control exercise that involved the RFS, SES and Fire and Rescue. I saw the interoperability that I talk about: all of our volunteer and emergency service agencies working together when there is a crash rescue. We do not have the luxury of being able to rely on just one service across all parts of the State. We all work together. It should make us all very proud that everybody works together for the betterment of our community. To that end, National Volunteer Week this year is an opportunity to recognise volunteers, so we are looking for a Volunteer of the Year across the emergency services. They do not have to be only someone who is in the emergency services; it could be somebody who helps during a time of crisis, either in the preparations, during the incident or in the aftermath. We saw that from community.

Nominations are open at volunteering.com.au. I urge volunteers who have been involved to get on the website to nominate a team or a person. Our community spirit is defined by standing up to do more because we believe in something bigger than ourselves. That is the spirit we see in our emergency services. That is the spirit that we see in the SES. That is the spirit that we see right across the State. On behalf of the Government, I thank all of our volunteers right across the board for all that they do. We thank all those who will be nominated and those who are too humble to accept a nomination. I remind members to go out to the Fountain Court at the end of question time to take a photo and post it on their Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn. We might even get it on "Rontent" this year. I thank all of our volunteers. We love you all.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

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

Illawarra M1 Motorway

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to upgrade the M1 Motorway by adding an extra lane in both directions between Yallah and West Wollongong, received from **Mr Gareth Ward**.

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 2745 to 2776 have lapsed.

Bills

ABORTION LAW REFORM AMENDMENT (HEALTH CARE ACCESS) BILL 2025

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (12:13): I speak in support of the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025. For the entirety of my political career, I have been an open and very strong supporter of a woman's right to choose, and for the availability of abortion services for those women who choose to avail themselves of them.

This legislation, as modified by the upper House, is fairly narrow in scope. We already have the right to abortion across New South Wales. Whether or not a person can take advantage of this when they make the decision to terminate a pregnancy should not be determined on the basis of location.

Like many members, I have also received correspondence and emails from members of the community. I respect that people have different views, but if an email tells me that I am a liar because I said at the start of debate that this was a crossbench bill or that my position is somehow dishonest when I have been on record with my support for a woman's right to make this choice for my entire political career, then I am not going to be particularly respectful of their view when it is put to me. I respect the views of people who sent me well-considered correspondence which raised ethical issues with the original legislation. I note that a number of those issues were dealt with by the upper House.

It is important that we are able to make decisions on these kinds of issues in this place on the basis of conscience. I have done so on this occasion, as I have on similar issues on which people hold deep views. It is really important. The fundamental principle that I adopt is that it is not up to me to tell people what their view should be on an issue like this. They should be able to make their own decisions. I have been in politics for over a quarter of a century. If I had a dollar for everyone that has said, "You'll lose your seat because I'll campaign against you," or "I'll vote against you because you don't agree with my view on this," then I would be a very wealthy man and probably would not need to be in politics. I fundamentally respect and have always believed in a woman's right to choose in these matters.

This bill extends the availability of a drug which is already legally available in New South Wales. Enabling nurse practitioners and qualified midwives to prescribe it is eminently sensible. It will help people in regional areas who are unable to access these services. I support the bill. This has partially come about because of issues at Queanbeyan Hospital in my electorate. Some time ago, a doctor drew my attention to the fact that abortion services had been restricted. This was the first I had heard of it, and I immediately raised the issue with the Minister for Health. To his great credit, he took immediate action to make sure that those services were available in our hospital. I am pleased to say that there are additional services now available in Queanbeyan Hospital to provide assistance for women who want to go through the process or talk to somebody about it, or for women who want to access reproductive health services. I am pleased with this outcome, and I thank the Minister for Health for taking immediate action to address the issue.

It is really important that we ensure that services are available. It is not always easy in border communities like mine. People used to frequently access services in the Australian Capital Territory, so there was not as much demand across New South Wales. Those services can sometimes start being wound up by the providers or access for New South Wales residents becomes more difficult. I am pleased these services are available. I recognise that people are entitled to have a different view from mine. Women are entitled to make a choice about whether or not a termination is something that they need to avail themselves of at a particular moment in their life. I respect the right to choose, and I support this legislation.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (12:18): For the sake of my community, I want to clearly put on record that I support the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025. I am mindful of a couple of things when women seek abortions, whether it is legal or not. Firstly, when it was historically unlawful

and women could be pursued by police, abortions were sometimes performed in the most unsafe and unhealthy way. That has been fatal for women.

That is not a good option. Respectfully, I put that to people in my community who might not be comfortable with my decision today. Abortions will be sought by people.

The other thing is that I have had the great pleasure of being a member of the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health. I inform the House with enormous certainty that accessing a doctor for the necessary prescription for an abortion of the type we speak about today is nigh on impossible for a lot of people across New South Wales, particularly in rural and remote communities—but not just in those communities. We heard from communities with populations as big as 5,000 who are losing their last GP. That is incredibly difficult. Other communities are serviced only by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which attends some of them on only a monthly basis. If, on those occasions, the person from the flying doctor service happens to have a conscientious objection—which I respect—the reality is that the woman in that instance will not be able to access the service she needs, wants or chooses. I absolutely support the bill and the ability of nurse practitioners and midwives who reside in those communities to support the choice of women.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (12:20): I put on record my support for the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025 in its current form. I would not have supported the elements of the original bill that have since been removed through amendments passed in the other place. But I support the bill as presented to this House on the basis that it ensures greater equity of access to medical abortions, which are already legal in the State of New South Wales. Many people have contacted my electorate office and spoken to my staff. I respect that there are different views on this issue, as we experienced when we debated the decriminalisation of abortion. My position on that was clear at the time. My position remains the same: Women ought to have the choice—and it is a choice—as to whether they seek to terminate a child safely and effectively. The bill before us today ensures that there is greater equity of access to that service for women, particularly those in rural and regional New South Wales.

There has been respectful contact from constituents; there has also been some that was not respectful. I do not respect contact that not only misrepresents my position but also is entirely offensive to my electorate office staff. I do not respect it when I am in community and it is suggested, for example, that I support full-term abortions. Complete mistruths and ugly commentary are not okay in this space. The reality is that abortions are legal in New South Wales. Women across the State ought to be able to access that service. The ability to access nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives appropriately will improve equity of access, and I support that in this place.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:23): In reply: I thank all members who contributed respectfully and professionally to debate: members representing the electorates of Charlestown, Wallsend, Badgerys Creek, Prospect, Balmain, Bega, Lane Cove, Blue Mountains, Lake Macquarie, Granville, Sydney, Newcastle, Pittwater, Maitland, Ryde, Wollongong, Kellyville, Hornsby, Wagga Wagga, Barwon, North Shore, Upper Hunter, Cronulla, Kiama, Epping, Castle Hill, Wahroonga, Albury, Terrigal, Hawkesbury, Drummoyne, Ballina, Oxley, Holsworthy, Monaro, Cessnock and Port Stephens.

It has been incredibly refreshing to hear the careful and considered nature of contributions to this debate. It is amazing to see the quality of debate we can have when members are empowered to share their thoughts and the reasoning behind them.

Members have heard the various views, both positive and negative, of people from their local communities, which have helped to inform their positions on the bill. That is a welcome change from what usually happens in this place. It is also a strong demonstration of the healthy strength of our democracy. If only the gallery were filled with people for debates like this, rather than the faux debates of question time, when Dorothy Dixers, focus group crafted talking points, political spin and gotcha grabs rule the Chamber. It is possible for a Parliament with a minority government to have more of that. I hope this is not the last time we see that kind of debate take place in this term of Parliament.

I thank, in particular, the Minister for Health and the shadow Minister for Health. In their contributions to debate, they addressed in significant detail how the bill will operate and, indeed, the elements that are no longer included in it. Judging from the Minister's contribution, we are clearly in agreement that there is more work to be done to ensure adequate funding of our health services and to ensure they are staffed appropriately by our health professionals. I have no doubt that Dr Amanda Cohn, who is in the advisers area and has been there for the whole debate, will continue to work closely with and advocate to the Government to make sure that more of that work is progressed.

I echo the comments made by the Minister, acknowledging the work of his team and the department in assisting and advising throughout the development of the bill. I put on record my great appreciation for that work, as well as the work of the Newtown electorate team and Dr Amanda Cohn and her team. They stepped up to ensure that all members had the information and details they needed to make considered contributions to debate. Significant contributions were made by other members relating to matters that, sadly, the bill does not address, either through reference to provisions in the first print of the bill that were removed by amendment in the Legislative Council, or through the continued and deliberate repetition of misinformation about the bill. But it is important to articulate clearly what the bill will do before members vote on it.

The bill will empower nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to prescribe medical abortion within their existing highly regulated scope of practice, recognising their extensive training and experience. In his contribution to debate, the Minister noted the 2024 statutory review of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 that was conducted by NSW Health, which recommended the implementation of regulatory changes made by the Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA] that enabled other healthcare practitioners, beyond medical practitioners, to prescribe medical abortions. The Minister for Women used her contribution to express gratitude to those who participated in the statutory review, explaining that it makes sense for us to revisit the bill to ensure it is working as intended. The Greens' bill does that. It delivers on the recommendation pertaining to the TGA change. That will improve access to abortion and, most importantly, equity of access to abortion in rural, regional and remote communities, where it can be very hard to see a GP.

In her contribution, the shadow Minister for Health spoke powerfully about the significance of people being able to have face-to-face, in-person consultations with a nurse practitioner if they are considering having a termination. She highlighted how too many young women in regional and rural locations are prevented from accessing reproductive health care because they are concerned about the connections that their local doctor—indeed, if there is one—might have in the same town. Importantly, the shadow Minister also emphasised how deeply unfair it is that, while people in electorates like hers and mine may access essential reproductive care, others in regional areas or parts of Western Sydney sadly do not have the same level of access. It is notable that this bill has reached this stage, given that it was introduced by a regional Greens MP with deep connections to her community, having spent years as a GP and abortion provider.

There has also been support from many regional MPs across the political divide in this place and, indeed, in the other place. From the member for Upper Hunter to the member for Oxley, regional members have spoken powerfully in this Chamber about how healthcare inequality is impacting their communities. I thank them for bringing their voices and stories of their communities to this House. The member for Lake Macquarie perhaps put it best when he said that the bill is simply a question about equity. The member for Bega, who has spent many decades providing women's health care in rural areas, spoke particularly compellingly of the complex and life-threatening situations that he has witnessed when distance and a lack of local services may have prohibited women from accessing the reproductive health care that they required. As the member for Pittwater aptly put it, these are not abstract issues; they are lived realities.

Indeed, these are the lived realities many members chose to highlight in their contributions to debate on this bill, particularly those members who represent communities outside metropolitan areas. The member for Upper Hunter spoke of how, in the community he represents, it cannot be overstated how bad the regional healthcare situation is. Many people now travel to metropolitan areas just to see a doctor more easily. The member for Blue Mountains, who is a member of the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health, emphasised that pregnant women still face too many barriers to accessing abortion and reproductive health care, particularly in regional and rural areas. She went on to say that a woman is best placed to know what is right for her, and The Greens could not agree more. The member for Terrigal also underscored the geographical inequity of health care access that makes this bill a necessity, saying it is a very different situation outside metropolitan Sydney when it comes to the availability of health care.

The ability to travel the huge distances required to access services in regional New South Wales can be a challenge. My Greens colleague the member for Ballina—the first-ever regional Greens lower House MP in the country—similarly shared that, as a regional MP, she knows that access to reproductive health is incredibly challenging for women and men in her community. She emphasised that the bill responds to the severe geographic disadvantage of those living in regional and remote areas in need of abortion care, who face hours of travel, long wait times and high costs. Those barriers can have resounding effects. Similarly, the member for Oxley shared that, for many women, especially in regional towns or remote communities, this bill may be the difference between getting care in days versus waiting for weeks, between seeing someone in their own town versus travelling hundreds of kilometres, between accessing safe health care or putting themselves at risk.

Those representing regional communities across the political divide spoke of the critical nature of this bill when it comes to ensuring access, particularly for those in regional, rural and remote communities. Given this,

I must put on record that it was deeply disappointing to hear the member for Wagga Wagga, for whom I know many in this place, including myself, have a great deal of respect, deny that there are any actual access problems in his community. To deny this when there is no access to surgical abortion across the Murrumbidgee Local Health District and when the public medical abortion clinic in Wagga Wagga has a GP prescriber present only one day a week is to deny the lived experience of the many people in his community who cannot access the abortion services that they need.

The reality is that those working on the ground in those communities have advised us that this area is a known black spot for abortion services and this kind of critical health care. As one health practitioner in Wodonga told us just recently, in listening to the response and the contribution of the member for Wagga Wagga, large numbers of women still travel from rural New South Wales across the border to access both surgical and medical abortions. Some travel six hours one way because there are no public providers within 1,000 kilometres of where they live. Another said:

We have seen patients not able to access surgical abortion at Wagga Wagga Regional Referral Hospital even for non-viable pregnancies. These women weren't able to be seen at Albury Wodonga Health because they live outside the catchment area so they have had to travel extensively and pay to access the private system. We average at least one call a week from the Riverina needing access to surgical abortion that we have no option but to direct to the private sector.

I absolutely respect that the member for Wagga Wagga has a strongly held personal position in relation to a woman's right to choose an abortion. But saying on record that there is a lack of evidence that people struggle to access abortion services cannot go unaddressed when this is the testimony of healthcare providers working on the ground in his area.

In a submission to the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health, of which the member for Wagga Wagga is the Chair, an Orange City councillor outlined how those seeking an abortion in Orange are forced to either wait for a very limited number of appointments at general practices or travel significant distances to urban centres, something that is far from feasible or affordable for many. The member said that the state of rural maternity care and obstetrics are more pressing issues. I gently remind him that it is possible to care about multiple things at once and, indeed, that expanding access to essential healthcare services for everyone is not a zero-sum game.

Nothing in the bill is at odds with expanding services and supports for pregnancy, birthing or fertility. To suggest, as the member for Badgerys Creek has done, that the bill focuses on "abortion as the primary form of health care" as a substitute for all other appropriate reproductive health is patently false. The Greens absolutely support the expansion of other maternity and obstetric services and access to counselling and ongoing health care. That work must be continued on another day and into the future. Dr Amanda Cohn has been working on this particular issue and is very passionate about this as Chair of the birth trauma inquiry. In addition to this, I acknowledge that my Greens colleague has done extensive work in a professional career capacity as a country GP and also as a member of this place on these very issues.

As the member for Balmain made clear, the bill will hopefully reduce the number of heartbreaking experiences of people who cannot access the support and care they need. Moving this bill is not, as the member for Prospect shamefully and cynically called it, a political stunt. It seems the member did not get the memo that rest of us chose to leave the tedious political talking points at the door when it comes to having a considered debate on this critical issue. I also acknowledge another recurrent theme throughout this debate, which is affirmation of how well equipped, through their extensive, rigorous training and education and their experience, nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives are to prescribe medical abortions.

In his contribution, the Minister for Health stressed that nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives are "highly respected, highly qualified and highly trained" and emphasised their tough, long and arduous training. Other members echoed those sentiments, including the member for Ryde, who said that, if anything, nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives are "overqualified to prescribe an oral medication". He said that allowing them to prescribe medical abortions is consistent with the multidisciplinary, team-based model of care, which already involves nurses and midwives.

The Greens know, both in the context of this bill and beyond, the essential role that nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives play in our healthcare system. We know that they are well equipped to do what this bill will allow. It would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to say that it has been fantastic to hear Government members acknowledge how crucial and highly skilled these practitioners are. It would be even better if it were paired with the 15 per cent pay rise they are asking for. In its correspondence to all members of this House, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists [RANZCOG] shared:

The College unequivocally supports the inclusion of nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives in the provision of early medical abortion. Enabling appropriately qualified health professionals to deliver this care is a safe, evidence-based reform—and a necessary step toward ensuring timely, equitable, and patient-centred access to abortion services for women across New South Wales.

In relation to the amendment foreshadowed by the member for Wagga Wagga, which challenges the existing level of expertise and qualification of these health practitioners, RANZCOG further stated:

RANZCOG is strongly opposed to the proposed amendment number one as it will create significant barriers to nurse practitioner and endorsed midwives prescribing medical abortion. Medical practitioners and pharmacists are not required to complete an additional certification as medical abortion is regarded as any other medication. Requiring additional training for nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives does not align with their prescription of other medications and nor does it align with legislation in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Additional certification will be potentially costly for individuals and NSW Health. As previously communicated, there is evidence that provision of medical abortion by nurse-practitioners is both safe, and effective. Improving access to early medical abortion can reduce later presentations.

Before I turn to some of the other misinformation that, sadly, we heard in relation to the bill, I read onto the record correspondence that was received from the Nurses and Midwives' Association earlier today:

The NSWNMA asserts that Nurse Practitioners and Endorsed Midwives are well positioned to provide safe and vital abortion care without the need for further years of experience or training.

We identify that there are notably few Nurse Practitioners and Endorsed Midwives who currently have the scope of practice to prescribe MS-2 Step.

In order to prescribe currently Nurse Practitioners and Endorsed Midwives must complete an additional 10 Continuing Professional Development hours relating to prescribing and additional research, on top of the following requirements which demonstrate adequate preparation for safe prescribing:

- Completed an approved postgraduate master level program
- Hold current general registration as a midwife in Australia with no conditions or undertakings relating to unsatisfactory professional performance or unprofessional conduct
- Have undertaken the equivalent of three years full-time clinical practice (5,000 hours) in the past six years.

Medical practitioners have had the prerequisite MS Health PTY LTD training removed, so we are of the position that it is an unnecessary step for appropriately skilled Nurse Practitioners and Endorsed Midwives to undertake such training. Nursing and midwifery are regulated professions that must adhere to strict standards of practice, and codes of conduct and ethics.

I understand that this letter has been provided to members. If any member would like to see a copy to enable them to engage in discussion around amendments to the bill, I would be more than happy to share it with them.

I now turn to some of the unfortunate misinformation that, sadly, has been spread in the community and further amplified in this Chamber. From the time the bill was introduced, anti-choice and bad-faith opportunists seized the chance to circulate harmful misinformation and elicit fear throughout our communities. I echo the sentiments of the Australian Medical Association that there is indeed no place for misinformation in health care and that, in fact, these targeted campaigns are damaging to public confidence in vital health services. I raise particular concerns about the reference that has been continually made by those who oppose the bill to a paper published by the Ethics and Public Policy Center [EPCC], a name that sounds innocuous enough.

That so-called research, which members for the electorates of Epping, Castle Hill, Lane Cove, Wagga Wagga, Kellyville, Badgerys Creek and Hawkesbury all cited in their contributions, is questionable, to say the least. The Ethics and Public Policy Center is a United States-based think tank and advocacy group whose findings have been widely and enthusiastically supported by anti-choice groups. The paper cited by those opposing the bill was published in April 2025 and spread like wildfire across anti-choice platforms and in the conservative media. It alleged that in a sample of almost 900,000 women who access medical abortions in the United States of America, more than 10 per cent experienced an "adverse event" such as sepsis, infection or haemorrhaging. All of those members whom I mentioned earlier cited that research paper as if it was a credible source.

However, shortly after the paper was published the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, together with other women's health experts, disavowed it as a flawed report and one based on faulty methodology. The president of the college told AFP Fact Check that the paper:

... manipulates data to drive a myth that medication abortion isn't safe.

She reiterated:

Decades of reputable, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence and use data prove that medication abortion is safe and effective ...

Yesterday a piece in *The Guardian* similarly noted that the study:

... contradicts all previous tests of the drug and the resounding consensus of the medical field ...

To be honest, there are some members who referred to that research paper that I would have expected more of; others, not so much. The member for Bega, in his contribution, cited three studies that compared the provision of early medical terminations by doctors and mid-level providers and found that there were no safety concerns with provision by the latter. In those peer-reviewed studies, there were no serious adverse events recorded. Broader commentary can be made of the cultural moment we are in, in which bad faith actors love to cherry-pick data from

sources purporting to be scientific or rigorous when they are anything but. However, that is a debate for another day. For now, I acknowledge the considerable community distress being caused by these campaigns and by the harmful and divisive misinformation, particularly in purporting that these kinds of medical abortions are unsafe when that is not founded in medical reality or in people's lived experience.

The members representing the electorates of Granville, Port Macquarie, Newcastle, Cronulla, Pittwater and Wollongong have all acknowledged how extraordinarily rife—and, in some cases, openly malicious—the misinformation campaign in relation to the bill has been. Members from all sides of politics have expressed discomfort with campaign tactics. The member for Granville aptly described tactics that are not lobbying campaigns, but rather amount to bullying and spreading misinformation and disinformation. Some have resulted in unacceptable threats and abuse directed at members from across this Parliament and, particularly—shamefully and sadly—at the mover of the bill in the other place, Dr Amanda Cohn.

There is no place for misinformation in health care, and the intentional erosion of public trust in vital healthcare services is deeply harmful to our communities. Indeed, it can harm our democracy. I echo concerns raised by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Cronulla—a rare statement from me in this place, I recognise—that such behaviour by some of the people who have positioned themselves as leading advocates against the bill is brazen bullying and reflects efforts to bring about the Americanisation of New South Wales politics. We do not want that to infect our democracy here.

One such leading advocate against the bill—praised by a member of this place who is opposed to the bill—has been banned from parts of the South Australian Parliament as a result of their allegedly threatening and intimidating behaviour of MPs ahead of a vote that occurred in that place. I specifically address the hypocrisy of the member for Badgerys Creek in saying there is a great risk for those who speak out against this bill, while thanking by name this anti-choice influencer who has personally organised and encouraged threatening behaviour towards a number of MPs.

The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Granville, and indeed the member for Lake Macquarie, the Speaker, were right to call out this behaviour and I thank them. I know that feeling of gratitude is also felt by my Greens colleague Dr Amanda Cohn. I particularly acknowledge the member for Lake Macquarie, who spoke out about the impact of the unfortunate misinformation campaign targeting Dr Amanda Cohn. I agree with him that the bill is simply a question of equity. As the member for Granville has said, it is unacceptable for any electorate office staff member to be filmed without consent, as happened in her electorate office. That is truly disgraceful behaviour. I also acknowledge the effect that this campaign had generally on electorate office staff and MPs throughout the course of debate on the bill.

My electorate office and many others have received significant correspondence from members of the community voicing their views on this bill. I spent many years working for Amnesty International, targeting MPs by encouraging people to email their local MPs. I am certainly not saying that bulk email campaigns should be discouraged; they should be welcomed. That said, email campaigns that spread misinformation, threaten, bully or make concerning claims about what will happen to individual MPs if they speak out or vote in a certain way are unacceptable.

It is important that members of the community feel welcome to engage with their MPs. I think all members would be sad if their inboxes were empty, even though it might be challenging to deal with the flood of emails and comments that come in. We welcome them. We want to hear the voices of people in our communities so that we can reflect them in this workplace, but threats and abuse towards MPs and their staff are unacceptable. In particular, the bullying vitriol on social media by anti-choice opportunists seeking to build their social media platforms has been shocking and distressing. Those anti-choice figures have sought to create and amplify division and misinformation throughout the community purely for their own self-promotion and to increase their followers on social media platforms so that they can benefit from their influencer status.

In one of the most extreme examples heard during the debate, the member for Granville shared that a member of her staff who was on her last day of work before maternity leave was filmed and the footage was posted online without her knowledge or consent. When asked directly by the staff member to remove the video, it was not taken down. The open harassment and public shaming of a member of staff who comes to work every day to do their job is wholly unacceptable and points to the increasingly dirty tactics used by those bad-faith actors. It also raises genuine questions about their supposed commitment to and interest in women's rights, given the bullying and harassment that these actors have targeted towards the many female members of this place and staff who have engaged with this bill. I would not consider that to be feminism or women's rights.

Other concerns raised by those who oppose this bill are less about misinformation and more about misreading the substance of the bill. I particularly address assertions made by the member for Prospect that this bill will allow nurses and endorsed midwives to perform a surgical termination on a woman who is up to 22 weeks

pregnant. That is simply not true. The Minister for Health dealt with that point in great detail. I urge members who are still uncertain about that to revisit his contribution if they are feeling nervous about supporting a Greens bill. For completeness, I reiterate that nothing in this bill permits a prescribed health practitioner to act outside their existing scope of practice.

Amendments made in the other place ensure that if this bill is passed, it is crystal clear that nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives will not suddenly be able to act outside the operation of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966, the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2022 or any other law governing their practice. They will not suddenly be able to perform surgical abortions, because that remains outside their scope of practice. They will simply be empowered to prescribe a medical abortion up to nine weeks gestation, in line with the TGA guidelines.

I acknowledge and thank all members who have engaged in the debate professionally and respectfully and who have focused their contributions on the substance of the bill and their experiences in their communities. I am sure that I am not alone in saying that it has been powerful to hear and see laid bare the way that members read and listen to the views of their community and weigh those up with their own personal views in choosing how to vote on a bill. It has been particularly telling to hear what kinds of tactics work or do not work to cause people to change their mind in relation to a bill. I acknowledge the incredible number of healthcare workers that have been part of the ongoing and regular conversations that have occurred over many months and have shared their experiences of what it is like to work as a health practitioner in a regional or remote community.

Because I think this often goes unspoken, I also acknowledge the incredible, powerful contributions of individuals telling their stories about the trauma they have been through, the complex choices they have made and the really challenging issues that have arisen for them. Making a decision on whether or not to terminate a pregnancy is a truly personal issue. While I respect and appreciate that the reality of the bill is that members will vote on their conscience, it is important to remember that the bill will increase access and equity and, in doing that, will empower the woman who needs to make that choice to look and reflect on her conscience and what is right for her. In making the bill a reality, we will ensure that more women across the State have access to make that choice for themselves, empowering those women to do that.

In that respect, I particularly acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Wallsend, who is currently in the Speaker's chair, and thank her for sharing her experience of seeing the particular challenges for young women in Walgett many years ago. She told the House about the privilege of having access to a car, which comes with freedom in that community. That is very simple but empowers a woman to make the choice that she did not want to see one of the conservative older men doctors in that town and preferred to have the freedom to go somewhere else where doctors may be more amenable to the health care that she would want. I acknowledge that that same level of privilege is not available to all young women in New South Wales, and this bill will increase access, empowerment and choice for them.

Making the choice to terminate a pregnancy is already a difficult choice. The member for Bega, who has extensive experience as a medical professional, put it bluntly when he said that no doctor enjoys performing abortions. I add that no woman enjoys having an abortion. The entire process is already challenging. It is already difficult and already hard, and as the member for Wallsend put it so simply, "We must pass this bill because we don't want to make it any more difficult." The bill builds upon the hard-won reforms of 2019 which decriminalised abortion care in New South Wales and sought to ensure that our community had safe access to vital reproductive healthcare services when and where they need it. When the debate on the 2019 bill was taking place, Dr Amanda Cohn was not a member of Parliament but a practising doctor in Albury, a border community. I had the pleasure during that debate of having messages, emails, enthusiastic encouragement and various frustrations sent to me by Dr Cohn.

With this bill and also the contribution from the member for Bega, it is clear that people with vastly different and varied experiences becoming members of Parliament makes for better laws. Having people in Parliament who have worked as professionals in regional and rural areas in health care is helpful. That helps us make better laws and helps us pass laws that are better for our communities. It is my hope that in the future our parliaments have much more diversity to reflect the variety of professions and the needs of the community. When we listen to that expertise and there is the potential to debate it seriously, we get so much change for the better.

I also acknowledge the recently re-elected Senator Mehreen Faruqi from The Greens, who, let us be frank, annoyed a whole lot of people from the left and the right when she made the call to take a stand and give notice of a bill to decriminalise abortion in New South Wales. Something needed to tip and push people into action, and Mehreen is known for her absolute determination and steadfast skill in pushing boundaries.

She pushed the boundaries such that that nobody could ignore the fact that abortion was still criminalised in New South Wales. People were outraged at the time. People who were pro-choice were outraged, and people who

were anti-choice were outraged. Mehreen is no stranger to outrage. However, she played a critical role that I would like to see The Greens play regularly: Open up a debate, push open a door or window—even the Overton window—and create a space that is wider than it was before for people to walk into and make change. The Greens are good at that.

But, to be honest, this bill is not that. This bill is actually one of the most basic, conservative things I have ever proposed in this Chamber. It simply takes a recommendation from NSW Health to expand access to a service that is already legal in New South Wales and ensures that qualified practitioners are able to provide it. Finally, in the broader global context in which we see hard-fought-for rights being eroded by organised right-wing groups spreading misinformation, today, in New South Wales Parliament, The Greens say that we can make a difference and go in the opposite direction to that. I commend the bill to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): It being 1.00 p.m., pursuant to standing and sessional orders, debate is interrupted for the committees take-note debate. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

Committees

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NET ZERO FUTURE

Reports

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (13:01): As a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future, I take note of the *2024 Annual Report of the Net Zero Commission* on behalf of the deputy chair and member for South Coast. On behalf of the Parliament, I wish her a speedy recovery. I thank the members of the committee for their engagement on the inquiry into the Net Zero Commission's annual report. It was fantastic to have multipartisan representation on the committee, and it is important to maintain multipartisan support for action on climate change in this place.

The inquiry into the *2024 Annual Report* of the Net Zero Commission is significant for several reasons. The 2024 report is the first annual report delivered by the commission since its establishment, and this was the first inquiry conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future since its establishment in June 2024. This is clearly a topic of interest, as the committee received 88 submissions, three supplementary submissions and 15 pro forma submissions. I thank all groups that put in a submission to inform and shape the final report. I further thank groups that appeared before the committee's public hearing at Parliament House in Sydney on 14 March. I commend the committee for facilitating consultation and engagement with stakeholders from research, community and business groups as well as individuals. Stakeholders provided a wide range of ideas, recommendations and solutions to help New South Wales meet its net zero targets.

Over the course of the inquiry, it was clear that the Net Zero Commission has community support. Stakeholders noted the observations of the commission on the State's progress towards net zero and expressed concerns about the sectors not tracking towards the targets. Stakeholders provided a wide range of ideas, recommendations and solutions to help New South Wales meet the net zero targets. There are so many people who are passionate about this topic and who have much to share. It is important that there is an opportunity for that to be fed into the Government's work.

The final report included three findings and four recommendations. I will focus on the recommendations today. Recommendation 1 states that the Government ensures the commission is well resourced and supported by other departments and agencies in order to deliver its legislated objectives for the State of New South Wales, and that it responds with careful consideration to the observations and advice of the commission.

Recommendation 2 states that the Government supports the commission to use its legislated functions to provide a further report on the resources sector, including methane abatement technology and fugitive emissions, as a matter of urgency. Recommendation 3 states that the Government considers implementing regulatory changes to encourage the earlier adoption of low-emissions technologies. Recommendation 4 states that the Government implements changes in regard to energy ratings for existing homes that could be disclosed at point of sale or lease to provide buyers or renters with information on energy efficiency before making the decision to buy or lease the property.

The Government is currently considering the recommendations together with the commission's annual report and will provide a consolidated Government response to both reports. Again, I thank all committee members for their engagement and I look forward to working with the Net Zero Commission in future years to assist our State in reaching our emission reduction goals.

Report noted.**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS****Reports**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (13:06): As Chair: I speak on report No. 6/58—we have been busy—of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics, entitled *Review of the Independent Complaints Officer System (2023)*. The report reviews the system of the Independent Complaints Officer [ICO], which was established by the Parliament of New South Wales in 2022. The resolution establishing the ICO sets out its functions, including to receive and investigate complaints confidentially in relation to alleged breaches of the members' code of conduct not related to conduct in proceedings of the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly or their committees. Breaches include misusing allowances and entitlements, other less serious misconduct issues that fall short of corrupt conduct and minor breaches of pecuniary interests disclosure system.

The ICO also has the function of receiving and investigating complaints confidentially in relation to bullying, harassment and inappropriate behaviour by members not related to conduct in proceedings of the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly or their committees. The committee's report is made in response to clause 9 of the resolution establishing the ICO, which required the committee to conduct a review of the ICO system within 12 months of its establishment. The resolution stipulates the committee must examine how the system is operating in practice and whether any changes are needed, particularly around the confidentiality provisions applied in respect of complaints and investigations under the system, the timeliness of complaints, assessment and investigations conducted under the system, and the provisions applied with respect to standing for complainants and retrospectivity under the system.

As part of its review, the committee received submissions from 21 August to 29 October 2023. It also examined the ICO's quarterly report that provides general, de-identified information about the 23 matters the ICO has dealt with to date. Chapter 1 of the committee's report discusses five key things that the committee identified in the course of reviewing the ICO report: the low volume of matters and complaints received and investigated by the ICO; the lack of understanding about how to bring complaints to the ICO and the lack of jurisdiction for the ICO to investigate complaints; the high proportion of matters brought to the ICO that alleged bullying, harassment or inappropriate behaviour; the low number of findings and recommendations by the ICO; and the number of people not proceeding with their complaints.

The committee acknowledges the important role that the ICO has in helping ensure that Parliament is a safe and respectful workplace for all. While it has not recommended substantial reforms to the ICO system in its report, the committee believes the following six recommendations will improve the experience and outcomes for people using the system. First, the committee recommended that the ICO and the parliamentary administration keep identifying areas where information about the ICO can be integrated into and promoted through training and information initiatives for staff.

The committee hopes that raising awareness about the ICO's role and functions will prevent complainants from being unaware of the limitations of the ICO system, which can lead to disappointing outcomes. Second, the committee recommends extending the 21-day limit to 90 days for former staff to bring complaints after leaving Parliament. The committee received a submission from the ICAC noting that recently departed staff may be on holidays, in a new job or looking for a new job. Therefore, a 21-day limit may restrict access to the ICO system.

Third, the committee recommended that the ICO focuses on referring bullying and sexual harassment complainants to appropriate agencies or persons who can achieve meaningful outcomes for complainants. The committee considers that informal and at times unclear outcomes can cause disappointment for the parties involved. Fourth, the committee has also suggested that the Clerk provides the ICO with a list of former Clerks who can offer expert advice on parliamentary law and practice to the ICO. That is in line with the Legislative Council Privileges Committee report that noted that the most suitable source of advice to the ICO would be a former Clerk or Clerks to maintain the integrity of the current Clerk and their role as an independent adviser to the House and all members.

Fifth, the committee recommended that the ICO not be considered a relevant authority under part 5 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, as was put forward by the ICAC. The committee is of the view that it would be inappropriate for the ICAC, an inquisitorial investigatory body, to refer matters to the ICO, which investigates complaints on a voluntary basis. The committee noted in its report that a referral arrangement could increase the workload of the ICO, require additional resources and require a different skill set. In addition, acting as both the ICO and an ICAC investigator risks compromising trust in the ICO's independence. Finally, the committee recommended that the ICO not be designated as a disclosure officer under the Public Interest

Disclosures Act 2022, as suggested by the NSW Ombudsman. The committee considers that involving the ICO in a statutory scheme for complaints about maladministration and corruption could create uncertainty about the ICO's status and legal obligations.

In closing, I thank my fellow committee members for their contributions to the report. On behalf of the committee, I express our appreciation to the ICO and the other officers who contributed to the conduct of the inquiry, including the Auditor-General, Anti-Discrimination NSW, ICAC and the NSW Ombudsman. As always, I thank the amazing committee secretariat for its support, hard work and valuable contributions. I also put on record my thanks to two former members of the committee: the former member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams, and the member for Lismore and now Minister. All of our committee reports have been unanimous. We work well as the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics. I commend the report to the House.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (13:12): I make some observations about report 6/58 of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics, entitled *Review of the Independent Complaints Officer System (2023)*. I thank the committee for its work. As a former member of the committee, I understand how important it is on behalf of the House. It is thorough and effective, and operates in a bipartisan way to maintain the integrity of not only the House but also the members of the House. I am pleased with recommendation 4 and the ability of former Clerks to provide advice to the Independent Complaints Officer [ICO]. That is an important step. The committee had to deal with the matter of parliamentary privilege and the view that somehow the ICO can exceed or override parliamentary privilege.

Nothing can interfere with the freedom of speech of a member of Parliament, nor the right of a member of Parliament to discharge their duties where privilege applies. There should be no statement, document or matter that causes a member to be fearful of exercising that right. Westminster traditions go back hundreds of years and can somehow disappear under the exigencies of debate in the House or other political issues, but our fundamental democratic principles are dependent upon those freedoms.

There is nothing more democratic than the people's Parliament, and nothing should interfere with it.

I was pleased by recommendation 3. The privileges committee recognises that the ICO does not have the expertise to deal with every conceivable issue that crops up. Matters might crop up that require the expertise of other people to resolve. Fortunately, there are not many such issues. In my view, whenever an issue or problem occurs, the committee should be able to ensure that those matters can be resolved by people with the appropriate expertise. The final request by the integrity agency is wise, otherwise an entire industry would be set up within the Legislative Assembly, which is not the role of this House. It goes without saying that the House is in charge of its members, its processes and its procedures. The House should always insist on maintaining those controls, which have existed for hundreds of years. The Executive Government of various times has disliked that idea; fortunately, the courts in this State have always upheld it. We should be conscious of those principles.

Report noted.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (13:16): As Chair: Yesterday the Legislation Review Committee tabled its twenty-ninth Legislation Review Digest of the Fifty-Eighth Parliament. In the digest, the committee examined seven bills. It also reviewed eight regulations and statutory instruments, two of which it reported on with comment. The additional six regulations examined and found not to reach the reporting threshold under the Legislation Review Act are at part 3 of the digest. I will not explain the role of the committee again, as I think I have done on every sitting week. I hope all members are now across that. However, I draw the attention of members to some of the key issues raised in the digest.

The committee reported on the Bail Amendment (Ban on Private Electronic Monitoring) Bill 2025, which is a Government bill. The bill aims to amend the Bail Act 2023 to clarify that electronic monitoring conditions may be imposed only for certain domestic violence show cause offences and would ban the use of private electronic monitoring services as a bail condition. In its report, the committee found that the bill could impact on a person's right to liberty and freedom from arbitrary detention under article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That is because the bill would require a person on remand for a serious domestic violence offence to stay in custody until Corrective Services can fit them with an electronic monitoring device. The committee acknowledged that the courts still have discretion to impose monitoring where there are sufficient reasons and may impose other conditions to address bail concerns. However, it also noted that holding an accused person in remand should not be the general rule, and referred the matter to Parliament for further consideration.

The committee also reported on the Northern Beaches Hospital (Voluntary Contract Termination) Bill 2025, which is a private member's bill. The bill proposes to remove a requirement for the New South Wales Government to pay compensation if it chooses to end the Northern Beaches Hospital contract or any part of it. That would apply regardless of any other laws, including those involving Healthscope. The committee noted that the bill would give the Government a wide power to make regulations, including savings and transitional regulations that could apply retrospectively. While the committee acknowledged that such powers are not uncommon and can offer administrative flexibility, it noted the retrospective effect and wide scope of the powers and referred the matter to Parliament for its consideration.

The committee also commented on the issue of excluding compensation entitlements.

While the committee acknowledged that the provision could support the return of the hospital to public ownership, it noted that removing compensation rights could affect a person's property rights and legal certainty. Because people impacted by the termination may have no right to compensation, the committee also referred that matter to Parliament for consideration. Finally, the committee reported on the Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Amendment (Demerit Points Reduction Trial) Regulation 2025. The regulation amends the Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Regulation 2017 to retrospectively extend the demerit points reduction trial period by 12 months from 17 January 2025 to 31 January 2026, and to change the expiry date of sections 31 (5) (b) and 32A of the Road Transport Act 2013.

The committee noted that, by changing the operation of section 32A of the Road Transport Act and extending its sunset period, the regulation may amount to a Henry VIII clause, which I note my friend from the other side of the Chamber the member for Upper Hunter will be keen to talk about. While the committee acknowledged that using regulations to extend trial periods can be more administratively efficient, it raised concerns about amending primary legislation through subordinate legislation. The committee had previously commented on that issue in *Legislation Review Digest No. 26/58* when reviewing the 2023 amending bill. Consistent with those comments, the committee commented that primary legislation should not be amended by subordinate legislation as it reduces parliamentary scrutiny.

The committee also commented that the regulation was published on 21 February 2025 but retrospectively extends the operation of the demerit points reduction trial from 16 January 2024. The committee generally comments on provisions that are drafted to have retrospective effect because they impact on the rule of law principle that a person is entitled to have knowledge of the law that applies to them at any given time. For those reasons, it referred the regulation to Parliament for consideration. That concludes my remarks on *Legislation Review Digest No. 29/58*. I encourage everyone to read the digest, which is available on the committee's webpage. I thank my fellow committee members for their contributions to the digest and the secretariat for its support. I commend the digest to the House.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (13:21): I update the House on the ongoing work of the Legislation Review Committee and make a contribution to debate on its latest report, *Legislation Review Digest No. 29/58*. First, I thank the chair for her leadership and for allowing me the chance to indulge in my love of the Henry VIII clause. I find it fascinating that we can even mention that name in the House. I also thank the secretariat for its wonderful work and its ability to pull the information together in such a timely manner and in a way that we can all understand.

There were seven bills for consideration in this period of review. Six bills were identified with issues as set out in sections 8A or 9 of the Legislative Review Act. The first bill was the Bail Amendment (Ban on Private Electronic Monitoring) Bill 2025. It was found to have issues with regard to the right to liberty and the freedom from arbitrary detention. For that reason, the committee referred it to the House. The second bill was the Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2025, which was found to have issues with regard to retrospective termination of laws by proclamation in the gazette, wide regulation-making powers with retrospective effect and commencement by proclamation. Of those, the first two issues were referred to the House. The committee had no further comment on the last issue.

The third bill we looked at was the Identity Protection and Recovery Bill 2025, which was found to have issues regarding the right to privacy and protection of personal information on a compromised ID register, extraterritorial application of laws, broad exemptions from privacy laws and their impact on procedural fairness and access to justice, and wide regulation-making powers, including retrospective enactment. All those issues were referred to the House for its judgement. The fourth bill was the Northern Beaches Hospital (Voluntary Contract Termination) Bill 2025, which was found to have issues with regard to wide regulation-making powers with retrospective effect and the exclusion of compensation entitlements.

Both those items were referred to the House.

The fifth bill was the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2025, which was found to have the issue that the statutory rule is expressed to commence before its publication on the NSW legislation website. It was referred to the House. The sixth bill was the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025, which was found to have the issue of commencement by proclamation. The committee made no further comment on that bill. The only bill without issues raised was the Electoral Funding Amendment (Major Political Donors) Bill 2025. I conclude my comments there and commend the report to the House.

Report noted.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

Bills

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA AMENDMENT BILL 2025

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Edmond Atalla, on behalf of Mr Stephen Kamper, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (14:31): On behalf of Mr Stephen Kamper: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I introduce the Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment Bill 2025. The bill demonstrates this Government's continuing commitment to addressing years of neglect of the interment industry, and to ensuring that every person in New South Wales has access to affordable and sustainable burial and cremation services. From day one we have acted to strengthen consumer protections and address the burial supply crisis. On 1 October last year we commenced full implementation of the Interment Industry Scheme. For the first time, standards ensure clear contracts, transparent pricing and cemetery maintenance so that customers know what they are getting. This Government also took action to ensure that the regulator, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW [CCNSW], will be properly resourced to be the strong advocate that customers and communities need.

Last month, with the Premier, Minister Kamper was delighted to attend the opening of the first new Crown cemetery in 85 years, Macarthur Memorial Park in Sydney's south-west, which adds 130,000 new burial plots and 300,000 ash interment places. I introduce the bill to continue the Minns Labor Government's strong track record on cemeteries and crematoria. In the bill, we are strengthening the powers of the regulator to be a strong advocate for customers and communities. Most cemetery operators are great people working with care for families. But there are some bad actors and some bad practices. CCNSW will now be empowered to share information about its ongoing and completed regulatory activities, ensuring prospective customers have access to the information that they might need when choosing an operator.

CCNSW's role in complaints management will also be recognised in the Act. Customers who feel an operator has breached the Act or a licence condition can go to the regulator seeking assistance to have their complaint resolved by the operator.

The bill also strengthens respect for religious and cultural requirements. Every person in New South Wales deserves access to interment services in keeping with their religious and cultural beliefs. This Government has already introduced strong protections through the new licensing scheme that guarantees consideration of a person's religious and cultural needs. In sections of cemeteries where specific cultural and religious practices apply, the bill strengthens existing protections and requires operators to take all reasonable steps to ensure interments are carried out in accordance with these practices. People of all faiths, backgrounds and cultures can be confident that interment services that meet their needs are available.

We are making it easier to repair the grave of a loved one. Cemeteries are an important part of our personal and social histories. For too long, complex and archaic rules have prevented families and communities from playing an active role in maintaining these special places. Too often, the connection between graves and interment right holders is lost over generations and monuments are left unattended to. At present, cemetery operators are legally powerless to stop this decline unless there is a safety issue. Worse still, operators are currently obliged to prevent family or community members from maintaining the monuments unless they can produce documents dating back several generations. Clearly this is undesirable. Communities should be able to honour their loved ones without facing burdensome administrative barriers.

The bill creates a mechanism by which operators can give consent to members of the community to repair and remediate monuments that have meaning for them without having the interment right transferred to them. At

the same time, we are fixing the outdated and convoluted process by which people can apply to be recognised as the holder of rights over the graves of their predecessors. Sadly, it is common for people to die without making arrangements to pass on their interment rights. In the difficult time following a family member's death, updating a cemetery register is often not front of mind. It can be generations before a descendant tries to have the interment right registered in their name and used.

While the Act provides a framework for this, the application process is expensive and incredibly burdensome for operators and applicants alike. The applicant may be obliged to seek documents from decades or centuries ago, while the operator can be cast as detective and inheritance lawyer trying to assess the validity of the claim. This is costly and can be distressing. The bill makes it easier and more streamlined for people to update interment rights. For the first time, it gives operators clear guidance on when an application should be approved. The new process gets paperwork out of the way and aims to cut the associated costs. It lets people re-establish connections with the sites that matter to their family and it allows operators to focus on the great work that they do to serve their communities.

The bill cuts the cost of unnecessary red tape in other ways too.

In many provisions, a cemetery operator is required to attempt to contact a right holder before taking an action. The steps in the Act are often expensive, inflexible and ineffective at reaching the intended audience. It is unlikely the community is reading the *Government Gazette* on the off-chance their interment site is mentioned. No operator should have to send registered mail on three separate occasions to a person they already know has passed. But this is what the Act currently requires. The prescriptive requirements will be replaced across the board by reasonable notification guidelines. CCNSW will publish these commonsense steps, which operators need to follow when contacting right holders. The guidelines are risk based and take into account different circumstances.

Minister Kamper previously mentioned at the recent opening of Macarthur Memorial Park that this is one step towards tackling the State's burial supply shortage, but it is not sufficient to meet future demand. In the context of a housing shortage and the ongoing need to reduce our impact on the natural environment, there is a limit to how much new land can be committed to cemeteries instead of schools, parks, hospitals and homes. We need to find ways to make better use of the cemeteries we already have. The Act already provides for old council-owned cemeteries to be converted into parkland but does not allow them to be reused as cemeteries.

The bill creates a process by which any cemetery operator can apply to carry out works to increase the capacity of existing cemetery land in parts of a cemetery with existing interments. This could involve landscaping work or moving monuments and replacing them with alternative memorialisation. These sorts of works must be undertaken respectfully and sensitively, and the bill provides for consultation and safeguards to ensure this. Specifically, the bill provides religious and cultural groups the opportunity to make submissions and for those works to be refused where they are inconsistent with the practices of those religious and cultural groups. Importantly, interred bodies will not be touched. Disturbance of remains already interred will continue to be prohibited under the bill.

Finally, existing heritage and other laws will be respected. It is essential that we protect our natural environment and built heritage and have a robust planning system. Cemetery renewal projects will need to comply with existing planning, environment and heritage laws to proceed. That is a provision that our communities and Crown operators have needed for many years now, as custodians of some of the largest cemeteries in the State. Those measures, which will be available for all operators, ensure that our existing cemeteries remain important spaces of ongoing memorialisation for the community for the decades and centuries to come.

The bill also modernises elements of the Act relating to Rookwood Cemetery. Provisions referring to the now dissolved Rookwood Necropolis Trust will be repealed, and the land will be resumed to form a single parcel of Crown land. The Government will consolidate and then subdivide the land in a manner that reflects the Crown operator arrangements at the site. CCNSW has made great strides in recent years and improved its regulatory presence across the interment industry. CCNSW is currently governed by a board that, in the early years of the agency, provided essential oversight of the regulator's operations.

Given its rapid modernisation in recent years, CCNSW has matured to a point where that level of oversight is no longer required.

CCNSW now has over a decade of experience. There is an opportunity to streamline its operations and create a leaner, more effective regulator. The bill provides for the dissolution of the board of CCNSW and the transfer of its powers to a new statutory officer role of chief executive officer of CCNSW. The statutory appointment will continue to maintain the independence of the regulator in the same way that the board has. I thank current and former members of the board for the outstanding contributions they made to the people of

New South Wales. Their work over the past 12 years enabled CCNSW to stand on its own two feet as an effective, modern regulator today.

To ensure CCNSW's continuing accountability to its key stakeholders following the dissolution of the board, two existing advisory groups—variously representing industry groups and community and cultural groups—will be recognised in the Act. The bill also includes a host of smaller changes aimed at improving customer experiences. It improves measures aimed at preventing secondary markets in interment rights by introducing a distinction between vacant and occupied sites. This will make it easier for people to be buried alongside their families. The bill makes a series of record-keeping changes aimed at making sure customers always have an accurate record of their entitlements and minimising the risk of administrative hiccups souring a family's last goodbye.

These simple, commonsense provisions are aimed at ensuring that every person in New South Wales has the best possible experience and the strongest possible protections in their time of need. Landowners will be able to list cemeteries on their land title, ensuring that all future purchasers are aware of the cemetery and the obligations they will have in its ongoing management. Rounding out the improvements to the Act, the ability to incorporate mandatory codes of practice into the Interment Industry Scheme will be restored after previously having expired five years after the Act commenced. This provides an additional, lighter touch regulatory option that could be used as an alternative to full licensing for certain classes of operator in future. This reflects our Government's commitment to continual improvement in regulation.

It is the view of this Government that every person in New South Wales should have access to affordable and sustainable interment services. This bill is the next step in achieving that goal, not just for today, but for every generation to come. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

ABORTION LAW REFORM AMENDMENT (HEALTH CARE ACCESS) BILL 2025

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (14:48): In reply: I have almost concluded my speech in reply on the Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025, and then we will consider the amendments to the bill that have been foreshadowed by the member for Wagga Wagga and the member for Wahroonga. Before the lunchbreak I thanked members who engaged in debate professionally and respectfully by focusing on the substance of the bill and the experiences of their communities. Many members shared in this debate their own very personal reflections and experiences, as well as those of their communities, to explain clearly how that shaped their positions.

I acknowledge that this bill builds on the hard-won reforms of 2019. While I recognise that members may have very strong personal or faith-based views or represented their community's views in relation to that debate, today the bill before the House is simply about equity and access. I acknowledge the presence in the House of the member for Sydney and the member for Vacluse and recognise that it is much easier for people in inner-city electorates to access health care than it is for people in regional and remote communities. In inner-city electorates young women can potentially jump on a train or a bus and fairly anonymously try to obtain the health care they require, but that is not the reality for young women in regional, remote and rural communities.

The bill will seek to provide equity in reproductive health care and access to abortion services by increasing access for women across New South Wales. That is what members will vote on today. Despite members having a personal opinion of people having the right to choose, I urge members to consider whether they are okay with the idea of people in the city having access to more and better legal health services associated with rights to reproductive health care than people in regional and rural communities. I conclude by observing that a lot of people have been involved in this debate. I acknowledge and thank those who have done an incredible job in providing support as this bill has proceeded through both Chambers. I also acknowledge the pressure and impact that has unfortunately been applied to MPs by really negative and problematic tactics. I am pleased to note that none of that toxic behaviour or those threats have been part of the debate in this House.

Finally, I acknowledge the Government for allowing this debate to proceed during time allocated for Government business in the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. Particularly with the current national dynamics between The Greens and the Labor Party, I acknowledge that that is not always an easy decision. Given the pressure, the types of tactics and the threats that members of Parliament receive, it was sensible to allow time and space to debate the bill fully rather than debating it piecemeal from week to week. In the broader global context in which hard-fought rights are being eroded by organised groups that spread misinformation and

disinformation and erode public trust in health care, it is important that the New South Wales Parliament comes together to reject that type of rhetoric. For the New South Wales Parliament not only to uphold reproductive rights but also to strengthen access to those rights to deal with inequity is historic.

Today this Parliament sends a clear message to communities across the State that we do not want to go backwards or cave in to an American-style of campaigning that undermines our democracy and our healthcare system. Instead, we want to go forward in a manner that allows for respectful debate and ensures that all people in our State have equal access to the essential health care they require. As the member for Bega said, reproductive health choices are a health right for women. I commend the bill to the House.

The SPEAKER: The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

The House divided.

Ayes64
Noes20
Majority.....44

AYES

Aitchison, J	Hoenig, R	Saliba, D
Anderson, K	Holland, M	Saunders, D
Barr, C	Hornery, S	Scruby, J
Butler, R	Kaliyanda, C	Scully, P
Car, P	Kemp, M	Shetty, K
Catley, Y	Kirby, W	Singh, G
Chanthivong, A	Lane, J	Sloane, K
Crakanthorp, T	Layzell, D	Smith, T
Crouch, A	Leong, J (teller)	Speakman, M
Daley, M	Li, J	Stuart, M
Dalton, H	McKeown, K	Tuckerman, W
Davis, D	Mehan, D	Voltz, L
Donato, P	Minns, C	Wallace, J
Doyle, T	Moylan, B	Ward, G
Dwyer, R	O'Neill, M	Warren, G
Greenwich, A (teller)	Park, R	Washington, K
Griffin, J	Petinos, E	Watson, A
Hagarty, N	Provest, G	Whan, S
Harris, D	Quinnell, S	Wilkinson, K
Harrison, J	Regan, M	Williamson, R
Haylen, J	Saffin, J	Wilson, F
Henskens, A		

NOES

Atalla, E	Di Pasqua, S	Preston, R
Ayyad, T	Finn, J	Roberts, A
Bali, S	Hannan, J	Taylor, M
Clancy, J	Hodges, M	Thompson, T
Cotsis, S	James, T	Toole, P
Coure, M	McDermott, H	Tudehope, M
Davies, T (teller)	McGirr, J (teller)	

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Dr Joe McGirr and Mr Alister Henskens.

Consideration in Detail

The SPEAKER: By leave: I shall deal with the bill in groups of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 and 2, and schedules 1 and 2 be agreed to.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:03): I move my amendment No. 1 on sheet c2025-096D:

No. 1 **Qualified endorsed midwives and nurse practitioners—requirement for at least 2 years experience**

Page 3, Schedule 1[3], proposed section 5(4), lines 16 and 17. Omit all words on the lines. Insert instead—

- (b) a qualified endorsed midwife,
- (c) a qualified nurse practitioner.
- (4A) For this section, an endorsed midwife or nurse practitioner is a *qualified endorsed midwife* or a *qualified nurse practitioner* if the person has at least 2 years experience as an endorsed midwife or nurse practitioner.

This amendment seeks to adjust the requirement of a nurse practitioner or endorsed midwife who is able to do the prescribing as required by the Act to someone who has had two years experience.

The arguments for and against have already been made in the debate. I make a couple of comments. The first is I have a great deal of respect for nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives. In fact, in the late 1990s I led one of the first projects to put on nurse practitioners in this State in the emergency department of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital. I have published on it, and that publication is well regarded. I did that at a time when nurse practitioners were not welcomed by the profession. I have a great deal of respect for their role.

I acknowledge the issue of misinformation in this debate. Without any qualification I reject the use of misinformation. It is true that scientific information varies and can be subject to interpretation. When I referred to the paper by the Ethics and Public Policy Centre during debate, I was careful to note that it applied in the American context and, quite rightly, it would be subject to robust debate. I only referred to it to point out that its data was not inconsistent with other studies I have read that show a complication rate. We need to be careful about information and about people being bullied; I share the concerns of the member for Newtown regarding both of those.

I put to the House that we are dealing with a change of prescription in a particular circumstance. People say it is no different to this or to the other. But the extent of debate shows there is concern in the community about the different aspects to it. It is also true that the experiences of nurse practitioners are different to the experiences of nurses. They are connected, but the training of a nurse practitioner is a separate period of training, a separate nature of practice. Given community concern around the known rates of complication, requiring that someone needs to have been a nurse practitioner in practice for two years is not an unreasonable request. That is the reason I move this amendment. I ask the House to endorse that amendment.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (15:06): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for moving his amendment and for his contribution. I think all members respect his qualifications and the contributions he makes to this place. To be clear, I do not support the changes indicated in the amendment. The Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA] also removed the need for additional training for prescribers of MS-2 Step. The TGA guidelines mean that prescribing it is now within a nurse practitioner's or endorsed midwife's scope of practice. To further the understanding of members, nurse practitioners undertake further university studies at a master's level as well extensive clinical practice in their area of expertise. Endorsed midwives have foundational education in pregnancy, with further postgraduate study in areas such as diagnostics and pharmacology. They work both autonomously and collaboratively across the system and with other healthcare professionals. They are able to prescribe medicines and request relevant diagnostic investigations.

Importantly, before a midwife can become registered as an endorsed midwife or before a registered nurse can become a nurse practitioner, they must have completed 5,000 hours of clinical practice in the past six years. It is within a nurse practitioner's or endorsed midwife's scope of practice to order diagnostic tests, prescribe medication, assess whether a patient requires counselling and plan follow-up care. The TGA and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme amended restrictions on the prescribing of the drug MS-2 Step. Those changes mean that this drug could now be prescribed by any healthcare practitioner with appropriate qualifications and training, including nurse practitioners and midwives. The proposed amendments of the member for Wagga Wagga are not in line with that TGA guidance. It makes no sense for us to introduce legislation that overrides those guidelines.

I also point out that the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists [RANZCOG] support the bill in its current form.

This morning the RANZCOG wrote to me—and, no doubt, other members of this place—to express its significant concern with the amendment. It wrote:

RANZCOG is strongly opposed to the proposed amendment number one as it will create significant barriers to nurse practitioner and endorsed midwives prescribing medical abortion. Medical practitioners and pharmacists are not required to complete an additional certification as medical abortion is regarded as any other medication.

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association also contacted me this morning to express its concern and lack of support for the amendment, which would unnecessarily limit access to services in rural and regional areas—the areas that need those services the most. Members know the respect that I have for the member for Wagga Wagga, but the amendment would achieve nothing more than inserting another set of barriers to health care in regional, rural and remote New South Wales. That care for women is desperately needed by regional communities. Those barriers have already been deemed unnecessary by professional bodies that regulate the conduct of health professionals, including the TGA. I am not in the business of adding barriers to health care, particularly for women in regional, rural and remote communities.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (15:10): I too do not support the amendment. In the context of the amendment, nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives are only described as qualified if they have an additional two years experience after receiving their qualification. Only then would they be able to prescribe the medication MS-2 Step. Today I spoke to nurses who are offended by that. We begin to understand why when we understand how rigorous and extensive their training is. After first working as a registered nurse, they need 5,000 hours of advanced clinical practice in their area of specialty to be a nurse practitioner. That is on top of postgraduate study at a master's level. As with other crafts, they are required to have ongoing professional development of 10 hours a year. When they receive that qualification, they have prescribing rights, can conduct ultrasounds and can work autonomously within clinical teams. They are highly specialised.

People may not realise that the bill requires nurse practitioners to work within their scope of practice, which means that they have to pick their specialty, and those 5,000 hours must be within that specialty. So they are already working within the area of women's reproductive health. If you are going to see anyone, they are the people you want to see. The problem with the amendment is that it makes access to services more difficult and less equitable in regional areas. Nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives are already incredibly rare. We need more of them. We should not have to wait for them. I also remind members that the peak governing health bodies support the bill in its current form without amendment. That includes the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Those organisations generally protect their turf. We see that over and over again when people are looking to work within an extended scope of practice. Pharmacists are very protective, and rightly so. In this case, they are all behind expanding prescribing rights for MS-2 Step to nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives.

In its current form, without amendment, the bill would mean that New South Wales legislation aligns with existing legislation in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Amending the bill would bring the State out of step. The amendment is also inconsistent with advice from the Therapeutic Goods Administration and NSW Health. In summary, the amendment is unnecessary. It is inconsistent with health data, ignores the expertise of nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives and makes it harder for regional and remote communities to access important health care. I do not support the amendment.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (15:13): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for his contribution to the debate and his proposed amendments, but I oppose amendment No. 1 and his foreshadowed amendment No. 2. They are unnecessary and impractically restrictive.

They are contrary to the intent of the bill to improve access to termination of pregnancy for the women of New South Wales. The Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA] already specifies that the combination of mifepristone and misoprostol can be prescribed by nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives without any further qualification. It specifically states that these persons, by the fact of their training and accreditation, have the appropriate qualifications and training to prescribe these specific drugs.

When the restrictions on MS-2 Step were lifted in August 2023, it was no longer a requirement for a medical practitioner to undertake mandatory training, registration or re-registration. It also removed the requirement for pharmacists to be registered. Within the approval, it advises that training is recommended, which is supported by the TGA and professional bodies related to women's reproductive health. It does not need to be legislated. The Australian Public Assessment Report that evaluated the submission for registration of MS-2 Step clearly describes the therapeutic indications, contraindications, specific warnings and precautions for use, as well as adverse effects and the requirement for provision of verbal and written information and follow-up. It is those criteria which nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives must follow. We do not legislate scope of practice for other medications or procedures, as they are governed by existing standards and scope of practice.

Yesterday we heard many times in this place the acknowledgement of the high level of training of nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives as health professionals. I spoke at length on the accepted scope of practice

and professional standards to which they must adhere. I refer to the correspondence from the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association indicating the qualifications, which states:

In order to prescribe currently Nurse Practitioners and Endorsed Midwives must complete an additional 10 Continuing Professional Development hours relating to prescribing and additional research—

as well as completing—

... an approved postgraduate master level program

Hold current registration as a midwife—

or nurse, and—

Have undertaken the equivalent of three years' full-time clinical practice (5,000 hours) in the past six years.

I believe that my parliamentary and medical colleague the member for Wagga Wagga has proposed the amendments in good faith, but from my experience of working with professional women's health nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives, they are excessively cautious and unworkable. I also refer to the correspondence from Dr Gillian Gibson, the president of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, which I am a member of. I do not have a conflict of interest on this issue. The college is the peak body for accreditation, certification and professional standards in our field.

The college opposes amendment No. 1 of the member for Wagga Wagga as it will create significant barriers to nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives prescribing medical abortion. It believes that the amendment does not align with the prescription of other medications and nor does it align with legislation. It says the amendment is inconsistent with other jurisdictions and potentially costly for individuals and NSW Health. The standards of the college indicate that medical termination of pregnancy is safe and effective. The college is the peak body that controlled the professional standards I adhered to, and I have been a member since 1991. I ask members to consider that authority when making their decision about amendments Nos 1 and 2 of the member for Wagga Wagga. I encourage members to oppose the amendments.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:18): The Greens do not support the amendment from the member for Wagga Wagga. The reasons for that have been clearly put forward by the health Minister, the member for Bega and the shadow health Minister. The member for Wagga Wagga has a strong reputation for being collaborative and engaging with The Greens, particularly on issues around rural and regional health. In normal circumstances, we would be willing to listen to his advocacy and advice on issues.

But in the case of this amendment, as has been indicated by other members—although I am happy for the member for Wagga Wagga to clarify—it appears there has not been wide consultation with the professional groups that represent the health practitioners who will be undertaking the changes to service.

The proposed amendment impacts members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association directly and, as has been articulated, the association has written to members of this place raising serious concerns about the amendment of the member for Wagga Wagga. In addition to that, as we have heard, both the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are supportive of the bill as it stands, and they have concerns about the changes proposed by the amendment. In our discussions with regional GPs and regional medical practitioners, Dr Amanda Cohn asked me to put on record her concerns with this amendment. She said, "This amendment fundamentally undermines the intent of the bill that was originally introduced, which is improving access and equity of access to abortion by allowing nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to prescribe medical abortion in line with the 2023 Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA] changes.

This amendment adds an extra layer of training and accreditation requirement on practitioners that is unnecessary, unworkable and not in keeping with any other Australian jurisdiction. Nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives are highly qualified and experienced practitioners. For the Parliament to impose its own arbitrary requirements in addition to the extensive requirements of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the TGA is an insult to their capabilities and their practice." She continued, "This amendment, if passed, would both delay and impede these practitioners from becoming medical abortion prescribers. Its impact would be felt hardest in cross-border communities like mine in Albury-Wodonga, where practitioners will just continue not to work in New South Wales because of this additional burden. If passed, it is not clear at all who would bear responsibility for vetting appropriate additional training or certifying who has completed it.

The intent of the bill is to improve access and equity for rural communities, not to invent additional barriers for health workers. Since the amendment was shared and floated yesterday, the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Family

Planning Australia have spoken strongly against it." It is absolutely important that we do not support this amendment, and I acknowledge the members who have raised their concerns about it.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (15:22): I understand that we are debating the first two of the three amendments proposed by the member for Wagga Wagga, and I contribute quickly to that debate. In all of my dealings with the member for Wagga Wagga, I have always thought that he comes from a sincere place, and I believe that the motivation behind his amendments is to ensure that properly qualified people can deliver the medical services that the bill is authorising them to deliver. I think there is genuine intent behind the amendments. I have always thought that seven economists placed in a room will come up with seven different answers, but I did not realise that also applied to medical professionals. The member for Wagga Wagga and the member for Bega, clearly highly qualified medical practitioners, have different views on these amendments.

Something that struck me about one aspect of the amendments proposed by the member for Wagga Wagga is that they seem to be particularly directed towards an amendment to the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019, which I proposed and which went into the bill. That amendment related to clause 7, which dealt with the issue of information about counselling having to be provided in conjunction with medical services in regard to terminations. It concerns me a little, because that is a legislative requirement.

It is outside of the requirements in other jurisdictions and it is not necessarily part of the training and the medical scope of practice that perhaps nurses and midwives have. Indeed, for the first time nurses and midwives of a certain level of training will be able to prescribe these drugs, which they have not previously been lawfully able to do in New South Wales, so there is a genuine issue about whether they will be sufficiently professionally trained in advance of getting the new responsibility. I believe that is what has motivated the member for Wagga Wagga to bring these amendments.

There are a number of different issues raised in the amendments that go beyond the counselling matter, but I point out that under section 14 of the 2019 Act, there is the provision for the Secretary of the Ministry of Health to issue guidelines about the performance of terminations. If the amendment of the member for Wagga Wagga is unsuccessful, I expect that the secretary would look at the training required for nurses and midwives, including requirements of section 7 of the Act, and would direct attention to whether the guidelines must be promulgated with regard to initial training or continuous professional training in that regard.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:25): For clarity, I believe the Manager of Opposition Business was speaking to the wrong amendment. We are currently only debating amendment No. 1, which is about the two years of extra experience.

Mr Alister Henskens: Sorry.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH: That is okay. We will save ourselves for another speech from the member. To provide clarity to those watching this important debate, this amendment is not only unnecessary, as we have heard, but it is also dangerous. Those are not my words; those are the words of the nurses and midwives that I have met and consulted today. They also expressed a concern that they had not been consulted on the development of this amendment, which essentially seeks to add two years of experience to the extensive training nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives have already undertaken. Nurses must have already practised 5,000 hours in the relevant speciality before they are eligible to even apply to study to become a nurse practitioner or endorsed midwife. Their training is specific to their area of care and includes education on prescribing medication.

Once practising, nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives must do an extra 10 hours of professional development and over 20 hours as a nurse and, of course, follow Therapeutic Goods Administration guidelines. Nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives work in a highly regulated profession that is governed by laws, codes of conduct and key performance indicators. They are already prescribing a range of medications as part of providing patient-centred, wraparound care, which includes diagnosing and treating conditions and referring patients to specialists. They care for patients with complex conditions. In rural and regional areas, nurse practitioners can be a primary health practitioner for many. While I agree with my colleague the member for Wagga Wagga on a number of issues, as I said, when it comes to reproductive health care, he and I have opposite views.

For those supporting this important bill of Dr Amanda Cohn, it is vital that we respect nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives. They are well trained and experienced in understanding whether their patients would benefit and how to provide care to them. This bill is about increasing access, particularly in rural and regional areas, but this amendment would limit that. Members who are supportive of improving access to reproductive health care through this bill should oppose this amendment. Members who have a great deal of respect, like I do, for the work of endorsed midwives and nurse practitioners should also oppose this amendment.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:29): I thank the members who contributed to debate on the amendment, including the Minister for Health, the shadow Minister, the member for Bega, the member for Newtown, the member for Sydney and the member for Wamboona. I am aware of the opinions of the professional colleges. It is not the intention of the amendment to fundamentally undermine the bill in any way. It is an overly cautious approach. I accept that. We are asking nurse practitioners to take on a new duty and it is clearly an area of concern to the community. The amendment is not dangerous, but it is overcautious. It is within the remit of the House to be overcautious.

The SPEAKER: The question is that amendment No. 1 on sheet c2025-096D of the member for Wagga Wagga be agreed to.

Amendment negatived.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:30): I move my amendment No. 2 on sheet c2025-096D:

No. 2 Qualified endorsed midwives and nurse practitioners—requirement for certain training

Page 3, Schedule 1[3]. Insert before line 18—

- (4B) A qualified endorsed midwife or qualified nurse practitioner may perform a termination under subsection (1) only if the midwife or nurse practitioner has completed training conducted by MS Health Pty Ltd, or another person or body prescribed by the regulations, in the following matters—
- (a) the conduct of assessments about whether it would be beneficial to discuss with a person seeking a termination about accessing counselling about the proposed termination,
 - (b) the prescription of termination drugs,
 - (c) the delivery of follow-up treatment after a termination using termination drugs.

The amendment seeks to introduce a training requirement for endorsed midwives or qualified nurse practitioners who will be performing terminations under subsection (1) of the Act. The arguments for the amendment have been covered in the debate. I will not revisit those arguments, except to say that this is an area of concern to the community. In the current Act there is a requirement for practitioners to be skilled in these areas, as the member for Wamboona just spoke about. Despite their training, nurses and midwives are commencing on a new period of practice. It is perfectly within the remit of the House to require some training in this area. This is not onerous training. Additional training prior to commencing practice, particularly at the stage of this new regime, is not an unreasonable approach, even if it is cautious. That is the reason for submitting the amendment. It is not, in any way, to undermine the wonderful work of endorsed midwives and nurse practitioners. If anything, it is to protect them and make sure that the bill does not lead to any adverse outcomes. I commend the amendment to the House.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (15:31): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for his contribution and for raising this issue. I outline to the House that I do not support the proposed change. In fact, as the Minister for Health, I have serious concerns about the workability of this amendment and I have a range of issues with it. In 2023 the Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA] and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme amended restrictions on prescribing the drug MS-2 Step. Those changes meant that the drug could be prescribed by any health practitioner with appropriate qualifications and training, including nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives. Importantly, the TGA also removed the need for additional training for prescribers of MS-2 Step. The TGA guidelines mean that this prescribing is within the scope of practice of nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives.

The amendment is not in line with the TGA guidance. It makes no sense to me, as a member of this place and as the Minister for Health, to introduce legislation that overrides those TGA guidelines. MS-2 Step is a schedule 4 medication, which means it is highly regulated by scheduling bodies—many of which are known by members of the House—that decide who can administer the medication. Implementing this change would mean that New South Wales is inconsistent with the rest of the country and with national guidelines. It is not appropriate to stipulate specific training requirements via legislation. We do not set out specific training requirements in the legislation for any other health service or health practitioner. Legislation is not the place to set clinical practice requirements. Those are set by professional bodies and councils and are led by national law. The amendment would be highly inconsistent with our current regulatory framework.

As I mentioned earlier, on top of that, nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives have already undergone extensive additional training in order to obtain their qualifications.

I note the member for Wagga Wagga has referred to that level of training. Under section 14 of the Abortion Law Reform Act, the Secretary of the Ministry of Health can issue guidelines about the performance of terminations. Those guidelines will be updated after the passage of this bill to set out the training and experience requirements for nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to reflect the changes made by the bill. It is highly unusual for a

specific company—in this case, MS Health Pty Ltd—to be called out and named in legislation. It is inconsistent with other legislation across our statute book. We should not set training requirements by naming a specific provider. There is a range of legal issues associated with that.

The key medical industry bodies and stakeholders that represent doctors support the bill in its current form. As I mentioned earlier, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists wrote to me this morning to express significant concerns. It wrote:

Medical practitioners and pharmacists are not required to complete an additional certification as medical abortion is regarded as any other medication. Requiring additional training for nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives does not align with their prescription of other medications and nor does it align with legislation in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Additional certification will be potentially costly for individuals and NSW Health. As previously communicated, there is evidence that provision of medical abortion by nurse practitioners is both safe, and effective. Improving access to early medical abortion can reduce later presentations.

The New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association also raised its concerns about this amendment with me this morning. The association does not support additional restrictions being imposed on this already highly trained and highly specialised workforce. As I mentioned earlier, I am very concerned that this amendment will unnecessarily limit access to these services in rural and regional areas. It undermines the very purpose of the bill.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (15:36): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga. I understand that many members of this place want to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of women in health care, but that will not be compromised by supporting the existing bill. I oppose the amendment for many of the same reasons I detailed in my contribution addressing the previous amendment, which I did not support. The amendment is inconsistent with the Therapeutic Goods Administration guidelines. It is inconsistent with the advice of the peak medical bodies. We should not ask legislators in this place to direct professional development, which is usually guided by the colleges and the peak professional bodies.

As the Minister for Health and the member for Wahroonga pointed out, under section 14 of the Abortion Law Reform Act, the Secretary of the Ministry of Health already has within her purview the ability to provide guidelines about the performance of terminations. Those guidelines may include information about matters relevant to the role of multi-disciplinary teams and hospital advisory committees in relation to the performance of terminations. It goes on. There is that opportunity, and the professional bodies will continue to carry out this kind of professional development.

I am concerned about the wording of paragraph (4B) (c) in the amendment. Nurse practitioners have raised concerns with me about "the delivery of follow-up treatment after a termination". The word "treatment" is key. There should be training for that. Treatment after a failed abortion through MS-2 Step most often requires a dilation and curettage surgical intervention, which cannot, under scope of practice, be performed by most GPs and nurse practitioners. I am concerned about that. I am also concerned that the amendment highlights a commercial organisation as the body to provide the training. We should not set that precedent in this place. I am satisfied by the advice of the professional bodies that the bill is sufficient as it stands. That is what should guide us as legislators in this place. I do not support the amendment.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:38): I also strongly oppose the amendment. Nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives are well trained already. They are experienced and understand their patients and their patients' needs. As the Minister has said, the Therapeutic Goods Administration removed the training requirement for prescribing MS-2 Step. Other States and Territories have authorised nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to issue prescriptions without any additional training or experience. NSW Health, Family Planning Australia and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists assert that allowing nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to perform medical abortions is safe and evidence based. They strongly oppose the amendment.

The provisions in the amendment are unworkable and will be costly to implement at a time when we need increased funding for the delivery of services. The two-year previous experience requirement is not only arbitrary but also difficult to implement. The training in addition to that will require the establishment of an accreditation system, which will take time. That will delay the commencement of reforms and reduce the number of health practitioners who can support people in need. The impact will, of course, be felt most in rural and regional areas—the areas identified in the statutory review of the 2019 bill as those with the largest gaps. Access to medical abortions close to home, family and supports provides the safest and least distressing way to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

Women in rural and regional areas deserve no less than women in city and urban areas. The bill is trying to address that and, unfortunately, the amendment will further enhance that divide. I oppose the amendment. It will delay important reform and create an unworkable accreditation system. It has not been consulted on at all.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:41): The Greens also do not support this second amendment of the member for Wagga Wagga. Members heard me read out a statement from Dr Amanda Cohn in relation to both the amendments of the member for Wagga Wagga when we were debated the first one. It is important for us to recognise the basic principle that—as the Minister has already outlined—this amendment is not in line with Therapeutic Goods Administration guidance. It is also important for us to remember that notice of the bill was given in November last year. It was tabled in February this year. There have been multiple days of debate on it over multiple sitting weeks in the Legislative Council. There has been a lot of engagement and advocacy, and there have been many strong opinions put forward by professional bodies, organisations and groups representing nurses, doctors, medical practitioners and health practitioners. I also acknowledge that there has also been an incredible amount of engagement by community members, who have raised their views either in support of or against the bill and its elements.

As far as I am aware, the amendment moved by the member for Wagga Wagga has not been subject to any of those considerations or conversations. The first that anyone saw of it was yesterday. It is unclear from the member for Wagga Wagga where the amendment has come from in terms of what groups in our community are calling for this change, and what professional bodies or practitioners believe this is the way to approach it. Given that, The Greens are not in a position to support it—in addition to all the reasons and concerns that have already been outlined and raised by both the health Minister and the shadow health Minister. In particular, the shadow health Minister made a pertinent point in relation to paragraph (c) of the amendment around potential treatment and follow-up.

In case members are not aware, the amendment also seeks to insert a reference to a specific private company, MS Health Pty Ltd, in the legislation. That demonstrates the health Minister's point about the reasons things are done based on the guidelines of experts in such areas. In relation to the point raised by the member for Wahroonga, we are not in a situation where it is the opinion of one regional medical practitioner versus the opinion of another—recognising that there is a third in the advisers area, who is no doubt very frustrated that she is unable to contribute to debate.

None of the key peak bodies and organisations that represent all of the medical professionals in the State that have expertise in this area support the amendment, and we need to recognise that in how we proceed. The Greens do not support the amendment of the member for Wagga Wagga.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (15:44): As the member for Sydney correctly pointed out, my previous remarks were directed to this amendment as well. The point was validly raised in debate and accepted by the member for Wagga Wagga that the name of a company should not form part of the amendment. Therefore, with the concurrence of the House, I move:

That the amendment be amended by omitting the words "MS Health Pty Ltd, or another" in subclause (4B) and inserting instead "a".

The amended passage will read "training conducted by a person or body prescribed by the regulations". Members can therefore vote on matters of substance rather than a matter of form.

The SPEAKER: With the concurrence of the House, the member for Wahroonga has amended amendment No. 2 on sheet c2025-096D of the member for Wagga Wagga by omitting reference to a particular company, MS Health Pty Ltd.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:47): I make one further contribution. The same concerns addressed by the Minister for Health, the shadow Minister for Health and the member for Newtown still exist after this change. The amendment will still be strongly opposed.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga and the member for Wagga Wagga have agreed that the reference to MS Health Pty Ltd was not an appropriate measure. If the amendment proceeds with concurrence, the contest will not have changed.

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:48): I thank the member for Wahroonga for moving that amendment, which I accept. I thank the House for its concurrence so the amendment can be debated on its substance. I have stated my arguments before on this matter. I respect the views that have been expressed in this House. I still think it is within the remit of this House to be very cautious in an area that is clearly very controversial in the public sphere. My concern is about public safety and the safety of patients and of our professions. I commend the amendment to the House.

The SPEAKER: The question is that amendment No. 2 on sheet c2025-096D of the member for Wagga Wagga as amended by the member for Wahroonga be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes 15

Noes66
Majority.....51

AYES

Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Coure, M
Davies, T
Di Pasqua, S

Hannan, J
Hodges, M (teller)
James, T
McGirr, J (teller)
Petinos, E

Roberts, A
Taylor, M
Toole, P
Tudehope, M
Ward, G

NOES

Aitchison, J
Anderson, K
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, R
Car, P
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Crouch, A
Daley, M
Dalton, H
Davis, D
Donato, P
Doyle, T
Dwyer, R
Finn, J
Greenwich, A (teller)
Griffin, J
Hagarty, N
Harris, D

Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Henskens, A
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Hornery, S
Kaliyanda, C
Kemp, M
Kirby, W
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Leong, J (teller)
Li, J
McDermott, H
McKeown, K
Mehan, D
Minns, C
Moylan, B
O'Neill, M
Park, R
Provest, G
Quinnell, S

Regan, M
Saffin, J
Saliba, D
Saunders, D
Scruby, J
Scully, P
Shetty, K
Singh, G
Sloane, K
Smith, T
Stuart, M
Thompson, T
Tuckerman, W
Voltz, L
Wallace, J
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A
Whan, S
Wilkinson, K
Williamson, R
Wilson, F

Amendment negatived.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (15:59): I move my amendment No.1 on sheet c2025-097:

No. 1 **Practitioners to provide information about terminations**

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 35—

[7A] Section 15, heading

Omit "Medical practitioners".

Insert instead "Registered health practitioners".

[7B] Section 15(1) and (3)

Omit "medical practitioner" wherever occurring.

Insert instead "registered health practitioner".

Unfortunately, there is a typographical error in the bill that has come from the upper House. It is regrettable that again we have to clean up the mess of the other place. I have already informed at least one member of the upper House that we are not their house of review. The matter is of some importance. The words "medical practitioners" should be replaced with "registered health practitioners" in section 15 of the 2019 Act. That means data collected on terminations will cover any terminations by midwives and nurses as well as by doctors and legally qualified medical practitioners. That will also feed into new section 15A, which was an amendment moved in the upper House and deals with the annual report to Parliament. So this is a change of some substance. I understand that it is generally accepted and supported, and I do not need to say anything more about it.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (16:00): I accept and support the amendment and thank the member for highlighting it to me yesterday. I agree that, given its nature, it is a very minor amendment but an important one in the context of the bill.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:01): The Greens regrettably recognise that there is a need to support the amendment. It would be preferable if we were not dealing with this change. The first print of The Greens bill replaced the term "medical practitioner" with prescribed or registered health practitioner throughout the Act so that all provisions would appropriately apply to all providers of abortion, including nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives. The original bill also proposed the removal of section 15 of the Act. The amendment to reinstate section 15, which was moved by the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party in the other place, was agreed to but it neglected to update the term medical practitioner to registered health practitioner. That consequential amendment is now required and should be supported as such. It is unfortunate that that is the case, but that is where we are.

I also take this opportunity to thank the members who supported the bill in the second reading stage. It is wonderful to think that very soon there will be better access to abortion care for people across the State of New South Wales as a result of the decision we are making today. Sometimes in this place it feels like we will never get good outcomes for people in their communities. But sometimes we do really good work, and I feel this debate has shown what we can do when we work together in the genuine interests of the community we serve. I thank all members for the debate.

The SPEAKER: The question is that amendment No. 1 on sheet c2025-097 of the member for Wahroonga be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

The SPEAKER: The question is that clauses 1 and 2 and schedules 1 and 2 as amended be agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 and schedules 1 and 2 as amended agreed to.

Third Reading

Ms JENNY LEONG: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

The House divided.

Ayes65
Noes20
Majority.....45

AYES

Aitchison, J
Anderson, K
Barr, C
Butler, R
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cooke, S
Crakanthorp, T
Crouch, A
Daley, M
Dalton, H
Davis, D
Donato, P
Doyle, T
Dwyer, R
Greenwich, A (teller)
Griffin, J
Hagarty, N
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J

Henskens, A
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Hornery, S
Kaliyanda, C
Kemp, M
Kirby, W
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Leong, J (teller)
Li, J
McKeown, K
Mehan, D
Minns, C
Moylan, B
O'Neill, M
Park, R
Petinos, E
Provest, G
Quinnell, S
Regan, M
Saffin, J

Saliba, D
Saunders, D
Scrubby, J
Scully, P
Shetty, K
Singh, G
Sloane, K
Smith, T
Speakman, M
Stuart, M
Tuckerman, W
Voltz, L
Wallace, J
Ward, G
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A
Whan, S
Wilkinson, K
Williamson, R
Wilson, F

NOES

Atalla, E

Di Pasqua, S

Preston, R

NOES

Ayyad, T
Bali, S
Clancy, J
Cotsis, S
Coure, M
Davies, T

Finn, J
Hannan, J
Hodges, M (teller)
James, T
McDermott, H
McGirr, J (teller)

Roberts, A
Taylor, M
Thompson, T
Toole, P
Tudehope, M

Motion agreed to.

VICTIMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VICTIMS REGISTERS) BILL 2025

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 6 May 2025.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:12): On behalf of the Opposition, I make a contribution to debate on the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025. At the outset, I state the Opposition will support the bill. This bill deals with something we in this place should never lose sight of—supporting victims of crime and ensuring that they are informed and respected throughout the criminal justice process. The bill seeks to improve the way our system notifies eligible victims of their right to register with one of the three existing victims registers in New South Wales. The Opposition supports this small but very important change. The three registers—the Corrective Services NSW Victims Register, the Youth Justice Victims Register, and the Specialist Victims—play a crucial role in keeping victims informed about the offender who harmed them. The information provided might include parole eligibility, sentence progression, or other significant updates. For many victims, particularly of serious and violent crimes, this information can be vital for planning, safety and, of course, peace of mind.

It can also provide an opportunity to make a submission when decisions are being made about things like parole or supervised leave.

Currently, all three registers operate using an opt-in model, which means that victims must take active steps to register. While this approach was originally adopted out of respect for victims so that no-one is included without consent, it does present a key challenge. Simply put, many victims are unaware that the register exists, let alone that they are eligible to be included. The bill responds to that issue by introducing a new obligation for the agencies that administer these registers. Where a victim is eligible and where the offender is classified as a serious offender under the relevant legislation, the agency will be required to take reasonable steps to notify the victim and their family of their right to register. This obligation must be carried out as soon as practicable once the agency becomes aware that the person is eligible.

Importantly, the model put forward still respects victims' autonomy by not moving to an automatic opt-out system. In fact, feedback from stakeholders, including many victims and support organisations, was extremely clear. While many would welcome more information, they do not want to be registered without their knowledge or consent. For some, being contacted unexpectedly can be a re-traumatising experience. For others, engaging with the register at all may be too painful. These voices must be heard, and I am pleased that the bill has sought to strike the right balance between proactive engagement and personal choice.

The Opposition also notes the sensible limitations and safeguards included in the bill. For example, agencies are not required to notify a victim if they are unable to obtain accurate contact information, despite making all reasonable efforts. Similarly, no notification is required if the victim has already expressed that they do not wish to be contacted about the relevant offender or do not wish to be included on the register. The bill also includes specific provisions relating to family members. Where the primary victim is deceased, under the age of 18 or under incapacity, a family member may be notified in their place. This is a compassionate and appropriate recognition of the need to continue supporting those who are closest to the victim.

The reforms proposed in the bill were developed through a process of consultation with victims, stakeholders and, of course, advocacy groups. I acknowledge the brave contributions of individuals like Samantha Barlow, whose case brought national attention to the shortfalls of the current system. Her experience of only learning of the register when the offender in her case was about to be considered for parole demonstrates exactly why these changes are needed. Victims should not have to find these services by accident or at the last minute. It is important that we take all the necessary steps to ensure we deliver a system that engages proactively with victims and gives them the choice to be informed and involved in a way that is sensitive and, of course, respectful.

The bill also includes amendments to the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 to allow for limited, purpose-specific sharing of victim contact information between prosecuting agencies like the New South Wales

police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the agencies that manage the victims registers. This is a necessary step to enable the notifications to occur without breaching privacy legislation. Importantly, the disclosure must be reasonably necessary and safeguards must remain in place to protect sensitive information, including health information in cases involving forensic patients.

The Opposition acknowledges that these reforms do not change the eligibility requirements for the registers, nor do they alter the types of updates a victim receives once registered. They improve the gateway, ensuring that victims of serious offenders are given the opportunity to make that choice at the right time and, of course, with the right information. The work of supporting victims of crime is never complete. We must keep moving forward and listen to those with lived experience, respond to their calls for change and, of course, improve the way systems work. This is a living formula that must continue. I congratulate the Minister and his team, including Constance Piperides, who has kept me fully informed. I also acknowledge Jack Robinson from my office for his support putting together this response on behalf of the Opposition. The Opposition will support the bill, and I thank the individuals and organisations that have contributed to its development. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:19): I speak in support of the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025. In 2009 former New South Wales police sergeant Samantha Barlow was on her way to work when she was brutally attacked. The attacker fractured her skull, broke her nose, injured her neck with a brick and then left her for dead. The perpetrator was eventually arrested and charged for that horrific crime, and in 2010, after pleading guilty, he was sentenced to 21 years in jail. In 2024 Samantha's assailant was deemed fit for release on parole, and Samantha was not notified. She was not aware of a victims register and only came to know about her assailant's parole from a friend who became aware that he would be released. Despite Samantha being a police officer, she was not formally notified about her assailant's parole hearing until four days before the hearing. As a victim-survivor of a serious crime, Samantha was eligible to be included on the victims registers. Like Samantha Barlow, many victims are not aware that they can be informed of such matters.

I thank the Minister for Corrections for his extensive collaboration to develop the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025. I also acknowledge the fierce advocacy of victim-survivor groups and families of victim-survivors and victims of crime. Throughout recent months, as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, I have been privileged to meet with the families of victims of crime to hear their stories. I have been moved by heartbreaking stories of loss and perseverance. Their courageous advocacy has led to meaningful changes for their loved ones and for future victims.

In particular, I acknowledge Samantha and Lawrence Barlow, and my friend Martha Jabour from the Homicide Victims Support Group, for their conviction. I also thank the Homicide Victims Support Group, Survivors and Mates Support Network, Victims of Terrorism Australia, Women's Legal Service NSW, Domestic Violence NSW, Full Stop Australia, Victims of Crime Assistance League, Knowmore, Fighters Against Child Abuse Australia, Enough is Enough, People with Disability Australia, Intellectual Disability Rights Service and ACON for their submissions on this important piece of legislation. The submissions helped shape the legislation into effective, fit-for-purpose reform. The bill will amend the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987, the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020, and the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013. I refer to those Acts as the CDC Act, CAS Act, the forensic provisions Act, and the VRS Act, respectively.

The bill sets a requirement for relevant agencies responsible for administering victims registers to notify victims of the existence of the registers and their eligibility to be registered for updates. The bills will also have a practical effect in amending the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 to allow particular personal and health information to be shared between government agencies, to help keep victims informed of updates regarding the offender. In New South Wales, there are three victims registers: the Corrective Services NSW Victims Register, the Youth Justice Victims Register and the Specialist Victims Register for victims of forensic patients. Those registers are established mechanisms in New South Wales for notifying victims of specific information relating to an offender, such as details of their sentence, release dates or any changes in their legal status.

Victims registers recognise the need to provide a support service to victims of crime in some of the darkest and most distressing moments of their lives. By having access to and understanding of the custodial framework under which a related offender is being supervised, victims registers enable victims to make informed choices and plan for their safety, and provide support for complex feelings of anxiety.

The first victims register in New South Wales was established by the Carr Labor Government in 1996. Since then, Labor has made efforts to increase awareness and improve the efficiency of those instruments. Many in our community are not aware of their application in New South Wales.

The bill seeks to keep victims informed of updates regarding their offender and the offence, ensure victims are aware of the register's existence, and assist victims with referral to support services. In effect, the bill will enable eligible victim-survivors to opt in to the register. Eligible victims will receive a mandatory notification letter advising of the relevant register and their eligibility to opt in. Victim-survivors who choose to opt in will receive timely, accurate and trauma-informed updates about their perpetrator's progression through the custodial system. That could include information about the offender's location, their sentence, eligibility for parole and any developments that may impact the victim's safety or wellbeing. It will also give an opportunity for eligible victim-survivors to make a submission about the offender's parole application.

I now turn to the specific provisions of the bill. Proposed section 100AA of the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987 seeks to impose an obligation on agencies responsible for maintaining the victims register to inform victims about the register and the victim's eligibility to be recorded in it. Where a direct victim is under 18 years of age, incapacitated or deceased, the agency will be required to notify a family member of the victim. Eligibility for registration on the CDC register applies to victims when an offender is a "serious young offender". Serious young offenders are defined in section 37N of the CDC Act as having been convicted of a serious children's indictable offence.

Similarly, the bill proposes to insert section 282A into the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 to impose an obligation on the agency to notify victims of the register and their eligibility to be recorded in that register. Eligibility for inclusion on that register applies to victims of all "serious offenders" as per its definition in section 3 (a), 3 (b), 3 (c) and 3 (e) of that Act. The bill proposes to insert section 156A into the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 to impose an obligation on the Commissioner of Victims Rights to notify all eligible victims of forensic patients of the existence of that register and victims' eligibility to be included on that register. Victims eligible for inclusion on the Specialist Victims Register include victims of forensic patients who have received a special verdict of "act proven but not criminally responsible" and victims of forensic patients who have received a limited term following a special hearing.

The bill also amends section 7 of the Victims Rights and Support Act to provide an exemption to the current prohibition against disclosing a victim's personal details. The amendment would allow sharing a victim's residential address and phone number to the appropriate agencies responsible for administering matters relating to victims and victims support. I note that sharing of this information is between only the responsible agencies and only where reasonably necessary to inform the victim about services, support or assistance. It is also worth noting that the bill will not affect any changes to the existing framework for how the victims register operates. *[Extension of time]*

Following extensive stakeholder consultation, the Government determined that victims registers will be based on an opt-in model. This model strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring that victim-survivors are aware of their right to be on the register while upholding their right to have a choice.

With the opt-in model, we have listened to the voices of victim-survivors and are responding to their call to improve the system while balancing the critical need to avoid re-traumatising those victim-survivors who do not wish to be re-exposed to the heinous crimes of their offenders. Our judicial system has evolved. It has become victim-centric and developed greater recognition of the enduring trauma that sits with victims of crime, their families and their loved ones. The measures introduced by the bill aim to meet victim-survivors where they are.

The bill aims to support those victims, who constantly look over their shoulder, who triple-check that their doors and windows are locked before going to bed and who have had to quit their jobs. It aims to return a sense of control to those brave individuals by giving them knowledge and agency in safety planning and decision-making. It aims to provide the reassurance that comes with information. The reform ensures that every eligible victim-survivor and their family is given the opportunity to make their voice heard during deliberations about an offender's release. The reform ensures that no-one is left behind or forgotten. As noted by victims advocate Howard Brown, OAM:

The victims registers are able to provide the kind of information that victim-survivors may feel they need to be able to take back control of their lives.

In my discussions with victim advocacy groups, I was shattered to hear from parents who had lost their beloved daughter to a horrific act. The offender who cut their daughter's life far too short was placed in a corrective mental health facility under 24-hour supervision. The family was registered under the relevant victims register. Because of that, they were informed when their daughter's killer escaped the corrective centre and went AWOL. Experiencing unimaginable terror, the family gathered and sought protection from the NSW Police Force. Overnight, they walked on eggshells, flinching at each and every sound. In the morning, they were relieved after receiving an update that the offender was returned to custody. Whilst awareness of the event created true terror for the family, it also gave them the knowledge and agency to bring the family together and seek safety.

As a government, we recognise the severe and far-reaching impacts for people directly or indirectly exposed to crime. The battle can be long lasting and trauma heavy and can cause constant unease about safety and security. We understand the plight they are navigating. We are here to listen to and work with them to implement solutions. Through the reforms, the Government is taking important steps to bolster support for victim-survivors of serious crimes. As such, I commend the bill to the House.

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (16:32): From the outset, I indicate that I support the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025. Anything that assists in strengthening support measures for victims of crime, especially victims of the most serious crimes, like homicide, should be supported by the Parliament. The bill essentially seeks to place a mandatory obligation under three Acts—the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987, the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 and the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020—for the way that victims of serious crime are dealt with and for their entitlement to be included on the victims register.

The bill does that by amending the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 to ensure that victims' contact details are shared between government agencies to notify victims about available support services and assistance, amongst other things. That is important, and I commend the Minister for Corrections for bringing the bill to the House and addressing those issues. It would be remiss of me to not raise some of the concerns that I frequently hear about problems that families of victims of homicide experience. I bring those concerns to the attention of the House, the Minister and the New South Wales Government. Those problems are not directly connected to the bill but are important, related issues that centre around dealings that many victims have had with the Mental Health Review Tribunal [MHRT].

Since I tabled the ePetition about Biddy Porter, the beautiful young girl who lived in my electorate of Orange and who was brutally murdered by a young girl known to the family, my office and I have been contacted by many victims and victim support groups of homicide from around the State. Each of them shared with me their personal experiences and often the problems they have encountered when dealing with the MHRT. Common complaints include simple things such as connectivity or being able to see, hear and participate in MHRT hearings. The Government needs to do more in that space to improve the technology.

Only last week I experienced that firsthand, when I attempted to dial into and observe an MHRT hearing involving the murderer of young Biddy. My office did all of the right things. We sought advance written permission from the president of the Mental Health Review Tribunal to dial in and observe the tribunal proceedings. We were provided a link to remotely dial in. The link did not work, and after several attempts to connect, I dialled into the hearing via telephone, joining five minutes after it had commenced. I could hear but not see the proceedings. I did not know who I was hearing from, what their position was and who they were representing. The tribunal then deliberated and handed down its decision.

In relation to MHRT matters, the victims or their family members need to go through that experience every six months where they must relive the matter, and the ongoing trauma that that invokes in victims has been raised with me many times. I have also received information that victims are not getting their submissions or questions addressed by the MHRT during those hearings. That needs to change for the ongoing welfare of victims. Six months is too short a period and it should be extended to at least 12 months. Victims also need to provide several weeks written advance notice before the hearings of any questions or submissions they wish to make or raise during a hearing. Written transcripts of MHRT proceedings should be made available to victims. The other aspect is around the definition of victim under the Specialist Victims Register. It is too narrow and limited and needs to be extended to better reflect modern relationships. For example, it does not include grandchildren, aunts, uncles or in-laws. I note that the Specialist Victims Register registration form indicates the eligibility on page 2. It states:

A victim of an act of violence (primary victim), or a victim is who is a **family member** of a primary victim who died as a result of the act of violence (family victim).

Family member includes:

- The victim's spouse
- The victim's de-facto spouse, or same sex partner who has lived with the victim for at least two years
- A parent, step-parent or guardian of the victim
- A child or step-child of the victim, or other child of whom the victim was the guardian
- A brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, step-brother or step-sister of the victim

That is a limited list of family members that are able to register as a victim using the current Specialist Victims Register registration form offered by the Specialist Victim Support Service. I heard one particular complaint from an aunt of a woman who was murdered. She essentially helped raise her niece, and it took a lot of significant work to get her recognised as a victim. Initially she was not recognised as a victim because she did not fit that strict

interpretation of victims under the register. The definition needs to be reconsidered and should reflect modern day relationships. There needs to be greater flexibility in that regard.

If the Government is genuinely committed to supporting a victim-centric approach, which the Minister, whom I respect, stated in his contribution, much more needs to be done, especially regarding issues with how victims are dealt with in Mental Health Review Tribunal proceedings. I have spoken with the Minister and his staff, and I very much appreciate the opportunity to be briefed by the Minister. A victim is in that position through no fault of their own. No-one wants to be a victim of serious crime. It could impact any of us at any time. I firmly believe victims must be afforded the protection, support and mechanisms to assist them as long as they need it.

They need to be treated with genuine respect, dignity and compassion. It is critical that certain government agencies need to prioritise victims' interests and concerns over those of offenders. Based on what I have heard, that sometimes does not happen. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (16:39): I commend Minister Chanthivong for leading on the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025 and for the work he and his agency did putting together this important bill. The Minns Labor Government is leading the reform of the State's victims registers by introducing legislation to the New South Wales Parliament. The key reform in the bill will enhance the registers by ensuring victim-survivors of serious crimes receive mandatory notification about their right to sign up and receive information about an offender. As the Minister for Youth Justice, I acknowledge the severe impacts on people directly or indirectly exposed to crime. To bolster support for victims of serious crime, the Minns Labor Government has introduced these important reforms for the three victims registers.

The bill legislates a positive obligation on the agencies administering the registers to notify victims of serious offenders about their relevant register and their eligibility to sign up. Youth Justice NSW administers one of the three registers in New South Wales as directed under the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987 and has been working alongside colleagues in Corrective Services and other stakeholders who have led the review. The review has also relied on consultation with victim-survivors' advocates and support services to ensure the changes reflect the views of the people the registers are designed to support. The reforms aim to balance a victim's desire for more information and need for awareness of the registers with concerns about privacy and consent. The legislative obligation is framed in a way that accounts for situations where victims are unable to be identified or where victims are unable to be contacted—for example, due to inaccurate contact details. That will ensure that those situations do not result in agencies breaching the obligation.

It is proposed that eligible victims of serious offenders will receive mandatory notifications as soon as practicable, letting them know about the relevant register and their eligibility to opt in. 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 decide whether they would like to be registered. If they have already declined to be part of the register, that will prevent them from being contacted through the new scheme. In the context of the Youth Justice Victims Register, victim-survivors of serious young offenders will be eligible to register. Ensuring victim-survivors continue to have the choice to register strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring that a victim is aware of their right to register while, importantly, maintaining choice and avoiding re-traumatisation. Work will also be done to make the sign-up process simpler, with fewer technological or communication barriers for those who need that. Youth Justice will continue to ensure all information about victim-survivors is stored securely and will continue to provide personalised, trauma-informed contact points for victims on the register and eligible notifiable family members acting as representatives of victims.

There is a strong case to be made about the commonsense approach of the register and its importance, obviously, to survivors of crime. It becomes important in ensuring that those who wish to be on the register will be notified because, of course, it does have some impact; it can reintroduce trauma. This comes about by ensuring we do not have a situation where a victim-survivor is not aware that the person convicted of a crime against them is released. In the operation of the register, we see a close working relationship between different agencies within the Department of Communities and Justice. Whilst a large part will be played by Corrective Services, Youth Justice will also have its own element. The commitment is to continue working as best we can across agencies to ensure that, if they have chosen to be on the register, victim-survivors receive notification and, if they have chosen not to be on the register, that choice is protected and respected.

Again, I commend all members who contributed to debate on this important bill. The changes that it will make will have a significant impact on people who have been through trauma. I also commend Minister Chanthivong and his team, who are sitting in the advisors' area, and thank everybody who works on good legislation that betters the State of New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith) (16:44): I am proud to speak in support of the Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025. I thank the Minister and his staff for crafting this very commonsense bill and bringing it to the House. Victims registers play a crucial role in supporting victims of crime by providing access to specific information about the offender, including release dates and changes in their legal status, and allowing some victims to make submissions for consideration during key events, such as an inmate's release on parole. I am proud to acknowledge that the first victims register in New South Wales, operated by Corrective Services NSW [CSNSW], was established by the Carr Labor Government in 1996. The CSNSW Victims Register is for victims of adult offenders and is constituted under the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999. Victims who are eligible to be registered include victims of offenders serving sentences of imprisonment by full-time detention, victims of offenders serving intensive correction orders for personal violence offences, victims of high-risk offenders and victims of terrorism offenders.

Interested persons may also apply to be registered on the CSNSW Victims Register. The legislation provides a non-exhaustive list of persons that may be considered interested persons, including anyone the commissioner is satisfied is reasonably expected to have his or her life or safety endangered because of his or her connection with an offender. This may include persons who have a connection to an offender due to prior harm or violence, a domestic relationship or being a witness to or a victim of a previous serious offence or offence of a sexual nature committed by the offender. Family representatives of a victim must be recorded instead of the victim if the victim is deceased, under incapacity or less than 18 years old. The Corrective Services commissioner may direct that a 16- or 17-year-old be placed on a victims register instead of their family representative after considering the victim's circumstances. Victims and interested persons may also nominate representatives to act on their behalf and receive information from the register.

A victim includes a person who, as a direct result of an act committed or apparently committed by an offender or high-risk offender in the course of an offence, suffers actual bodily harm, mental illness or nervous shock, or has property deliberately taken, destroyed or damaged. Once a victim is registered on the register, they receive notices about the offender, including information about the offender's sentence, release dates or changes in legal status. For example, a registered victim may receive notices about a proposal for the Serious Offenders Review Council to recommend a low-security classification for that offender or about the intention of the State Parole Authority to grant parole to an offender if that offender is due for consideration as to whether they should be released to reintegration home detention or on parole, or is eligible for or has applied for release on parole.

Registered victims and interested persons will receive notices if certain orders are made in respect of the offender, such as a reintegration home detention order releasing the offender or a parole order releasing the offender on parole. Information will be provided about the date of the release and any additional conditions placed on the reintegration— *[Quorum called for.]*

[The bells having been rung and a quorum having formed, business resumed.]

Registered victims and interested persons will receive notices if certain orders are made for the offender, such as a reintegration home detention order releasing the offender or a parole order releasing the offender on parole. Information will be provided about the date of the release and any additional conditions placed on the reintegration home detention or parole order. Notice will also be provided if the conditions of the reintegration home detention or parole order are changed, or if the order is revoked.

The Corrective Services Commissioner may also provide other information to registered victims and interested persons as is relevant, including any change to the offender's earliest possible release date; if the offender dies while serving a sentence or released on parole; the name of the correctional centre in which the offender is serving a sentence; if the offender escapes while serving a sentence; the offender's security classification, and any changes; a decision by the commissioner to issue a local leave permit for the offender; the exercise by the Governor of the prerogative of mercy in relation to the offender; if the offender is transferred into the custody of another State, Territory or the Commonwealth; for victims of high-risk offenders, if the offender is subject to an extended supervision order or continuing detention order under the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006 or the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Act 2017; and if the offender is taken into custody while on an intensive correction order where the intensive correction order is in relation to a personal violence offence.

That information helps victims and interested persons to understand the custodial framework under which the offender is supervised. *[Extension of time]*

That knowledge is vital as it gives the victims knowledge about the processes and timelines involved in an offender's sentence. By having that information, victims can better navigate the justice system and feel more in control of their particular situation. By being informed about an offender's status, victims can take necessary steps to plan for their safety and wellbeing. That proactive approach is essential in helping victims feel secure and

supported. Knowing when an offender is due for release or if there are changes in their legal status allows victims to make informed decisions about their own safety measures.

The notices also advise victims of their ability to make submissions for consideration during key events. For example, registered victims are notified that they can make submissions for consideration by the Serious Offenders Review Council if a low security classification for a serious offender is recommended or the State Parole Authority in deciding if the offender should be released to reintegration home detention or on parole. Those submissions allow victims to express their views and request conditions they feel should be imposed on the offender if leave or parole is granted. That supports the principles of therapeutic jurisprudence by allowing a victim's voice to be heard when relevant decisions are made. I believe that the bill takes a commonsense approach that will go to a considerable way to giving reassurance to victims in their particular situations. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:56): Today I address a matter that strikes at the heart of our justice system: the treatment and support of victims. The Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Bill 2025 is a step towards ensuring that victims are not left in the dark but are informed, supported and empowered within our justice system. The primary objective of the bill is to enhance communication between victims and the justice system. It mandates that government agencies proactively notify victims and their families about their rights and eligibility to be included in the victims registers. That ensures that victims are informed about available services, support and the status of offenders.

Key provisions include empowering victims through information by amending key legislation to ensure victims are promptly notified when they are eligible to be listed in a victims register. That timely information is essential for victims to access relevant support services and to monitor the status of offenders. Another key provision is support for families. Recognising that some victims may be minors or incapacitated, the bill allows family representatives to receive notifications on their behalf. That provision ensures that families are adequately informed and can act in the best interests of their loved ones.

I reflect on the impact of domestic violence on victims in this State. I want to mention a story in the newspaper today about a shocking case that highlights the urgent need for this bill. In 2009, former New South Wales police sergeant Samantha Barlow was brutally attacked by Roderick Holohan, who struck her with a brick. That left her with a fractured skull, a broken nose and neck injuries. Despite the severity of the assault, Barlow was not informed about Holohan's impending parole until just days before his release, and that notification came indirectly through a friend. She has said that the lack of timely and direct communication left her feeling vulnerable and unprepared. Following his release, Holohan was charged with allegedly threatening and intimidating a woman known to him, which highlights the critical gap in our system: the absence of timely and coordinated information-sharing between agencies.

Barlow expressed her profound sense of betrayal, stating:

There are no words that can accurately describe the sense of betrayal that comes from something like this.

The incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of ensuring that the changes in the victims registers bill reflect the needs and interests of victims. By ensuring that victims and their families are promptly notified and supported, we can prevent such tragedies and hold offenders accountable. Last night I noted in my private member's statement—and I will not go over all of it again—the increase in domestic violence related assaults and domestic violence related deaths across our State this year. We need to ensure that we are addressing all of the levels of the justice system that interact with women, men and children who are victims of domestic and family violence.

I note that, when we were in government, the Coalition, with the support of Labor in opposition, invested a record \$787 million—the largest funding commitment ever made—in a range of programs in the domestic violence sector. We facilitated the immediate termination of a tenancy to escape violence. In the 2021-22 budget, we invested in ensuring that there were specialist domestic and family violence services. We expanded Staying Home Leaving Violence and we had joint investment in the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement with the Commonwealth Government. I also note that the Federal Coalition has been pursuing support for a national domestic violence register. That would further enhance the work of this legislation by making information available across State and Federal jurisdictions, creating a seamless process for victims. Ultimately, the Liberals and The Nationals are dedicated to strengthening the rights of victims across Australia. The bill reflects that commitment at the State level, ensuring that laws and procedures are implemented and replicated across the nation.

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.

*Public Interest Debate***HEALTH SERVICES**

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (17:01): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes that, after adjusting for health inflation, the Minns Labor Government has cut health funding for two consecutive years.
- (2) Notes that under the Minns Labor Government:
 - (a) the number of patients who waited longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery in December 2024 was more than triple the number in December 2023;
 - (b) in the December 2024 quarter, 43.4 per cent of patients spent more than four hours in the emergency department while one in 10 patients spent more than 10 hours and 47 minutes in the emergency department; and
 - (c) in the December 2024 quarter, 67,902 patients left the emergency department without completing treatment—a 5.9 per cent increase compared with the same quarter a year earlier.
- (3) Notes that the Minns Labor Government's 2024-25 budget foreshadows a cut of 36 per cent to health infrastructure spending by 2027-28.

When the Minns Labor Government was elected in 2023, it inherited a strong public health system that remained remarkably resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to the dedication of our frontline health professionals and years of record investment by the former Coalition Government. Unfortunately, members opposite have taken a wrecking ball to it, having wilfully chosen to cut funding in real terms from our public health system. Now, the sick and vulnerable are suffering. In the 2023-24 budget, the Minns Labor Government allocated a paltry 0.87 per cent increase to the State's health system. That, in real terms, is a budget cut. The Australian Medical Association NSW president, Dr Kathryn Austin, made an unequivocal assessment. She said:

The NSW health system is straining under the weight of increased demand and complexity at a time when budgets are being slashed.

What does that mean? It means that patients are waiting longer for elective surgery, in emergency departments and for an ambulance. Figures from the Bureau of Health Information paint a grim picture. It is not poor management of our public health system; it is outright neglect. The system is no longer under strain; it is in decline, and the cracks are widening under the Minns Labor Government. It is not only those on this side of the House who can see that the New South Wales health system is in decline; doctors are sounding the alarm by taking unprecedented action. They are talking with their feet. Over 200 public hospital psychiatrists have walked off the job, submitting their resignations amid a pay and condition dispute with the Minns Labor Government.

They were driven to breaking point because of those cuts, leading to chronic understaffing, low pay and unsustainable workloads.

In early April 6,000 doctors walked off the job for three days—the first doctors strike of its kind in the history of our great State. Those doctors are not radical activists; they are hardworking professionals, some of whom are working up to 80 hours a week, and are the lowest paid doctors in Australia. How can we expect to attract and retain the best healthcare workers when New South Wales pays them the least and asks them to do the most? The cause and effect is quite simple: The Minns Labor Government has cut funding, meaning frontline workers are overstretched, meaning members of the general public are worse off. When they have nowhere else to go, they are left waiting.

That is particularly being felt in Western Sydney, where funding per capita is a staggering \$1,134 less than in the eastern suburbs. The situation is dire. Campbelltown, Blacktown and Westmead hospitals are the worst performing by percentage of patients receiving treatment on time. They are in a crisis. Like the now Premier did in opposition, people are going to those emergency rooms and then leaving. Unlike the Premier, who spent only a couple of minutes hovering around the emergency room for a political stunt, those people are waiting hours upon hours to be treated and to receive the care that they need and deserve.

The Premier visited the emergency department [ED] at midnight, and now he cannot even be bothered to meet with doctors to negotiate an outcome. Some 67,902 patients left the ED without completing treatment in the December 2024 quarter. They sought help but walked away anxious and scared for their own personal health and wellbeing because the Government continues to underfund critical health care in our State. We owe it to every patient, nurse, doctor and paramedic to do better. The Minns Labor Government has chosen to underfund health care, delay investment in health infrastructure and ignore the voices of those who hold our system together. Those opposite are the do-nothing Government. They do not do leadership, they do not reform, they do not perform and they do not deliver. They certainly do not do anything to help fix the crisis gripping our State. It is time for accountability and it is time to put patients first again. I commend the motion to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): All members will come to order.

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (17:07): I thank the member for Holsworthy for bringing this motion to the House. I am sure her community will be pleased to see her here today, especially given how much time she has had to spend away from the Chamber this year under Standing Order 249A. It is really good to have her back—better late than never. However, she seems to have forgotten the absolutely pathetic record of her own party when it comes to our health system. Let us not forget that Opposition members created ghost hospitals. They upgraded hospitals and then left them without the necessary staff. Let us not forget that during the pandemic those opposite froze the wages of our public health workers, whom they now claim to be the champions for. Let us also not forget, as the new shadow assistant Minister for South-Western Sydney seems to have done, that those opposite systematically neglected south-western and Western Sydney for 12 long years.

I am so thankful that the Minns Labor Government is focusing on those long-ignored hospitals in south-western and Western Sydney. We are investing \$1.3 billion for the new Bankstown hospital, \$630 million for the Fairfield Hospital redevelopment, \$120 million for additional treatment spaces for Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospital, \$830 million for the Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct, \$619 million for the stage two redevelopment of the Children's Hospital at Westmead, \$350 million for the Canterbury Hospital redevelopment, \$15 million for the planning of a new public hospital in the aerotropolis, \$134.5 million to establish a viral vector manufacturing facility in Westmead and \$910 million for Rouse Hill Hospital.

Thank goodness for the Labor Government and thank goodness that we are focusing on our emergency departments.

Our State, and especially my electorate of Liverpool, is home to some of the busiest hospitals in our country. We know that they are under pressure. We also know that the pressure is a direct result of the neglect of members opposite. We are working to improve access to care and reduce wait times through our emergency department relief package, which will invest \$171.4 million to introduce three additional virtual care services, helping 180,000 people avoid a trip to the emergency department [ED]. We have already rolled out that service across Sydney and we are beginning to roll out virtual health care across regional New South Wales. We will also roll out virtual specialist and virtual mental health services. We are also investing \$100 million to make urgent care clinics a permanent fixture, providing alternatives to hospital for 114,000 patients. We are also investing \$70 million to expand emergency department short-stay units to improve patient flow and reduce ED wait times by nearly 80,000 hours.

As a reflection of how seriously this Government takes carriage of our healthcare system, I remember that the day after the 2023 election the Premier and the health Minister stood next to me at Liverpool Hospital to announce vital investment in improving surgical access times. That is a reflection of our Government's approach, and it is a reflection of how not seriously members opposite took our health system. They did not care. They did not acknowledge that there was a problem. They thought nurses, doctors and paramedics deserved to have their wages frozen with a wage cap during a pandemic. We have introduced a series of initiatives and made investments to make our healthcare system better for the residents of our great State and to acknowledge the pressures that our healthcare system is under. The results are in. In the last financial year, despite having more than three million emergency department presentations—the highest number nationally—New South Wales also had the highest proportion of patients seen on time. That result was significantly above the national average of 67 per cent.

Also in the last financial year, New South Wales was well above the national average and was the best performing jurisdiction for each of the most critical triage categories. The people of New South Wales know that, when it comes to health, it is only Labor they can trust. Indeed, the people of Holsworthy know it too. We only have to look at the most recent Federal election to see that: a 10 per cent swing at Nuwarra Public School, a 10 per cent swing at Wattle Grove Public School, a 10.8 per cent swing at Moorebank Community Centre, a 13.4 per cent swing at Holsworthy Public School and a 14.5 per cent swing at Holsworthy High School. The good people of Holsworthy, Moorebank and Wattle Grove delivered those swings to David Moncrieff because they know that the Liberals are ideologically committed to neglecting our healthcare system, whether it is slashing Medicare or starving public hospitals of support. When I think of the 400 votes it will take to make Holsworthy red in 2027, I feel very good about our chances—especially if this is the calibre of motions we can expect from members opposite.

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (17:12): I am delighted to support the motion moved by the member for Holsworthy. Before I start, I acknowledge and congratulate the member on her appointment as the shadow Assistant Minister for Health, which is a well-deserved appointment. It is very appropriate that the first motion she moves in that role is about health. There can be few more vivid examples of a government's capacity to deliver for a community than the way it treats its most vulnerable, sick and needy. That is what the health system is about. That is why we build hospitals and look after and invest in a workforce. That is why we always make sure that we are looking to the future.

Politics is about the future, so I will make a prediction: For the remainder of the debate, members opposite will look in the rear-view mirror. That is all they have ever done. Ever since I was elected to Parliament, all I have heard from members opposite is reflection—looking back and talking about what happened 15 or 16 years ago. What they have not done once is talk about a vision for the future. We are now more than halfway through this term of government, and they are still looking backwards.

Ms Donna Davis: The vision is to win Ryde.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The Clerk will stop the clock. Members to my right will cease interjecting. A number of them are close to being called to order.

Mr JORDAN LANE: I happily acknowledge the member's interjection. Those opposite were so arrogant that their candidate for Ryde turned up at a caucus meeting believing that Labor had won the seat. They were so arrogant that they put it in the bag before the count had even concluded, but I am here and their candidate is not. I tell those opposite to bring it on. I relish the opportunity to take them on because they have not got a hope. They had a chance, but they blew it. I am even more confident in my position. Since I have been a member, I have been waiting and thinking that the time is going to come, but those opposite are still looking backwards. Not once have they talked about health in Ryde, improving education or transport.

This motion is about health and it is important that I stay relevant. Ryde Hospital is a very important health facility in my electorate. It is the place where I was born, and it is precious. It is one of the most beloved institutions in Ryde. Thanks to investment by the former Government, it is undergoing an extraordinary redevelopment. The funding of \$479 million has now been extended by a further \$47.8 million, taking the total investment to \$526.8 million. This will be revolutionary for Ryde. It will make sure that we can accommodate the growth in our community and ensure that we get the services we need. This very old facility will be brought into the twenty-first century. Those opposite failed to futureproof this hospital.

The second part of this motion is about health inflation. I acknowledge and am grateful for the additional minor funds of \$47.8 million that have been tipped in to keep up with inflation. What those opposite did not want to tell the community of Ryde was that they were not proceeding with the maternity services that I understand were previously going to be restored to the hospital. They are taking credit for the additional funding. No-one criticises that because it was always going to be needed. What they are not being honest about is that the maternity service is being stripped away. This is forcing people to travel to Royal North Shore Hospital, which in peak hour can take in excess of 45 minutes. That is not good enough.

Ryde is undergoing extraordinary transformation. It is one of the fastest growing communities in the city. The suggestion that women need to travel to give birth when they live in a community which in and of itself is worthy of its own maternity hospital is a disgrace. The Government should apologise to my community. Elective and emergency service numbers are not heading in the right direction. For all their talk about how they have revolutionised the health system, it is going backwards. As of the last reporting period, there were 423 people on the elective surgery waitlist. Is that a decline from when they took office? Absolutely not. In fact, it is a 31.8 per cent increase in the number of people waiting for elective surgery.

What about emergency surgery? The Government crows about it. When I asked a question in question time about this, the Premier took credit for fixing the system. As of today, the percentage of people being seen in under four hours has declined by 2.6 per cent. The numbers are going in reverse. Those opposite are a complete and utter joke. They need to get their eyes off the rear-view mirror and look to the future.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (17:17): The member for Holsworthy has had to bring this motion before the House today because any of her colleagues who were here prior to the last election are too embarrassed to do it themselves. We know what a dismal state the health system was in when we were elected. There was a wage freeze, services were stripped back and our health system was in crisis. Nowhere was this more apparent than in my patch of south-west Sydney, which is also the patch of the member for Holsworthy. Our health system was systematically neglected. Neither the member for Holsworthy nor the member for Ryde were around at the time, and given the results in the Federal divisions of Bennelong and Hughes they probably will not be around for much longer. I know that time is of the essence, so I am going to give those opposite a quick history lesson.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Ryde to order for the first time. His interjection was out of order. There is too much audible conversation on both sides of the Chamber. I remind the member for Terrigal that he is on three calls to order. I do not want to hear from him again.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: Here is a quick history lesson: For 12 long years—

Government members: Twelve long years.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: —under O'Farrell, Baird, Berejiklian and Perrottet the health system in my part of Sydney was neglected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Leppington will cease the call and response. I again remind the member for Terrigal that he is on three calls to order. This is his final warning.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: Health workers were overworked and underpaid, and patients suffered as a result. Investment in the health system was funnelled east while population growth exploded in the west. The result was the largest elective surgery list in the State and the second highest number of patients leaving the emergency department [ED] without being treated. In the motion, the member for Holsworthy quotes some statistics. Here is one: In January 2023 those same Bureau of Health Information statistics reported a 132.9 per cent increase in patients walking out of EDs in the South Western Sydney Local Health District before receiving or completing care. I repeat that: 132.9 per cent.

Before those opposite use statistics, they should make sure they do a bit of historical research. I will bring up some other statistics later. So this is not just a history lesson; it is also a maths lesson. They also left behind the ghost hospitals, which the member for Liverpool referred to. They upgraded buildings without providing the staff to run them. They thought they were scriptwriters for a reboot of *Yes Minister* when in fact they were supposed to be governing. In contrast, this Government is investing \$274 million to build a supported health workforce with more staff, better pay and secure jobs.

Continuing with my little history lesson, in 2020 our friends in the Legislative Council held an inquiry into health services in south-west Sydney. It found—surprise, surprise—years of historic underfunding under those opposite. That inquiry made a number of important recommendations. Recommendations 1 and 2 were that we needed urgent increases to health service funding in south-west Sydney. Unfortunately, the former Government's response failed to support that. Recommendation 13 was that NSW Health fast-track the site selection for the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. The former Government's response did not support that recommendation either.

But this Government is doing something about that. We are getting on with building new hospitals in Bankstown and right across Western Sydney. People in Western Sydney will be very happy with what we are doing. I know of one Western Sydney resident who will be very excited at the news. In a recent opinion piece in the Telegraph, no doubt with the help of ChatGPT, he wrote, "Sydney is such a unique and beautiful place. One of the best places to see this is at any one of the thousands of building sites scattered around the town." There will be many more building sites across Western Sydney: Fairfield Hospital, Canterbury, Westmead, Rouse Hill. The author of the article, one Ned Mannoun, will be happy to see all those building sites. I know he has a keen interest in building and property development, so that is great news.

It is no surprise that the member for Holsworthy has suddenly found her voice on these issues. There was not just a 6.3 per cent swing in Hughes, as the member for Liverpool spoke about; there was in fact a swing of 9.8 per cent at Bangor Public School. What is the reason for that? I was scrolling through my Facebook, and it turns out the member for Holsworthy was at that booth. There was a 6 per cent swing in Hughes and an additional 4 per cent swing when the member for Holsworthy was there.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The member for Leppington will resume his seat.

Mr Adam Crouch: The member for Leppington is nowhere near the substance of the motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): I do not uphold the point of order.

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY: I finish by saying, "You cannot stop the march of Moncrieff. All hail King Moncrieff."

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The use of props in the Chamber is not appropriate. The member for Leppington will put it out of sight.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (17:23): I thank the member for Holsworthy for bringing this public interest debate to the House. It is incredibly concerning to think about the people across our State and our cities and regions who rely on our healthcare system every day. When we compare our healthcare system to those across the world, we are actually pretty lucky.

It is one of the biggest challenges for any government to consider for the future. The rising, inflationary costs of health care, the ageing population and the increasing demands on healthcare services will result in an increasing

proportion of funding for them in the State's budget. It will also require some incredibly significant reform and decision-making. The question before the House is whether the Minns Labor Government is up for it. If we look at Labor's two-year record, we can see it is not. Chris Minns has taken our health system backwards in just two years. There are budget cuts, patients are waiting longer, nurses are picketing Parliament House, psychiatrists are resigning en masse and doctors are striking for the first time this century. We know people in New South Wales feel far from healthy after two years under Labor.

The member for Holsworthy spoke about facts in her contribution to debate. We know that elective wait times have blown out. There were more than 100,000 patients on the elective surgery waiting list at the end of December. That is a 13.1 per cent increase on the same quarter a year earlier. I want members to know that the only time in the history of our State that elective wait times were ever higher—and by only a few hundred individuals—was at the peak of COVID-19. After the global pandemic that this State and nation faced, the Minns Labor Government has said, "Hold my beer—I can do worse." The Minns Labor Government has shown that, under its management, the healthcare system is only slightly better than it was during a global pandemic. When members opposite talk about the number of ribbons they are cutting across the State, they take a self-congratulatory approach, and in debate they want to give a history lesson. Government members should reflect on the 130—

Mr Nathan Hagarty: Point of order: In regard to the member's comment, "Hold my beer," the fact is the Premier does not drink alcohol.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): There is no point of order. The member for Leppington will resume his seat. The member for North Shore will continue.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: That was an inappropriate point of order. The member for Leppington should respect the gravity of the motion before the House. We are talking about life or death. Our health system is about life or death. It is not about the jokes that Labor members make about our healthcare system. I would like them to take this matter more seriously. If Government members want the incredibly important responsibility of running this State, they should show some respect for the patients who have been turned away from emergency departments, the individuals who are unable to access a psychiatrist, and the nurses who continue to protest and strike because they have not been heard by this Government. Labor members need to be more serious and respectful towards our health system, its workers and the patients who need to access the system.

That is not what Labor members do. Let us look at the record they have compared with the Liberal record: One hundred and thirty separate major hospital and health upgrades were already underway before the Minns Labor Government took office. Opposition members are perfectly happy for Government members to cut the ribbons, because the outcome for the people of New South Wales is more important than the credit. Our concern is whether Labor will do anything for the next generation of people who need health care across New South Wales. Government members can keep cutting ribbons and turning up to emergency departments saying that they are doing a great job, but the statistics and facts do not lie: A total of 6,482 patients on the waiting list are waiting longer than recommended. That is up 220 per cent compared with a year before.

Labor cut palliative care funding for our most vulnerable as well as IVF subsidies. The Government has refused to proceed with its commitment to provide birthing services at Ryde and Milton Ulladulla hospitals, and it has not allowed any birthing services at Wyong Hospital. The Labor Government is failing. Chris Minns has cut the health budget in real terms for two years running. Before the last election, as members know, he spent a lot of time saying that health was a priority for him. Chris Minns filmed himself wherever he went, but now he will not front up to a healthcare worker or healthcare asset today because he knows he has failed.

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (17:28): I move:

That the motion be amended by deleting all words after "House" and inserting instead:

- (1) Notes the Minns Labor Government has delivered a record health budget two years in a row.
- (2) Condemns the former Coalition Government for failing to permanently fund 1,112 nurses.
- (3) Condemns the Coalition for opposing the implementation of nursing rations in emergency departments.
- (4) Condemns the former Coalition Government for failing to address record numbers of people waiting for essential surgery beyond clinically recommended times.
- (5) Notes the Minns Labor Government is committed to investing in the provision of essential health services and continues to deliver one of the largest expenditures in health infrastructure for the people of New South Wales.

I have been a member of this House for a long time. It has been a while since I have heard the drivel from the one-per-centers opposite, such as their claim that, under a Minns Labor Government, somehow the people of New South Wales are worse off health-wise. I correct the record for the uninformed members opposite. I thank

the member for Holsworthy for initiating this public interest debate. My first question is who put the member for Holsworthy up to it? Who talked her into moving it, knowing very well that she was part of a party room that was responsible for—

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order: The member for Shellharbour rightly said she has been a member of this House longer than almost any other member. I ask that the member be drawn back to the substance of the debate, rather than asking why the member for Holsworthy has been put up to moving the motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Shellharbour will return to the substance of the motion. Members will be civil to each other.

Ms ANNA WATSON: I am just being factual. I state for the record that this debate is a party room get-square. I draw to the attention of the House that the member for Holsworthy is the very member who stitched up and got rid of the former member for Holsworthy, Melanie Gibbons, who was a very good member. She knifed poor Melanie Gibbons. She just knifed her and stabbed her in the heart. She sent her out the door.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Order! The member for Shellharbour will resume her seat. I call the member for Ryde to order for the second time. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Adam Crouch: Madam Deputy Speaker, I again ask you to draw the member for Shellharbour back to the substance of the motion. The debate has nothing to do with Federal politics or preselections. It has nothing to do with what the member for Shellharbour has referred to. If the member for Shellharbour wants to have a debate about the member for Holsworthy, she should do so by way of substantive motion under Standing Order 73. The member for Shellharbour has been a member of this House long enough to know that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Shellharbour will return to the substance of the motion.

Ms ANNA WATSON: Members opposite were in government for 12 years, and it is no fault of the Labor Party that the health system the Minns Labor Government inherited was an absolute mess. Members opposite also should not forget all the privatisations. The former Government wanted to privatise five public hospitals. Time after time, members opposite voted in this House to privatise hospitals, cap wages and sack nurses. Members of the former Government could not care less about any health workers in this State. The Liberal Party is known, particularly in New South Wales, for really disliking universal health care. Peter Dutton lost the election over it. In New South Wales, people voted in their thousands because Medicare and public health are so important to them. Yet, as one-per-centers, members opposite have the hide to come into this place and tell Labor Government members about our record on health.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I remind the member for Terrigal that he is on three calls to order.

Ms ANNA WATSON: We are lucky to have a fantastic Minister for Health. He works tirelessly day and night to fix the mess that former Government members left our Government. Members opposite should be thanking the Minister for Health and the Labor Party for the hospitals that the Minns Labor Government is rebuilding and the maintenance backlog the Government is dealing with. Members of the former Government did nothing. Members opposite would not even fix the maintenance problem or address that issue.

We are getting on with the job of restoring faith in our health system, because health and education are Labor's bread and butter. We have always done it well and we have always done it better than the Liberals, who we know do not care about Medicare or universal health care. They are the kings of privatisation. They privatised everything they could get their hands on when in government. We have not forgotten that, either.

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (17:34): In reply: I have read all the amendments thoroughly, and all members on this side of the House reject them. I thank members for their contributions to the public interest debate: the member for Liverpool, the member for Ryde, the member for Leppington, the member for North Shore and the member for Shellharbour. Government members like to paint a picture of a health system that was left in disarray when they came to government. However, the former Liberal-Nationals Government delivered record investments in health infrastructure, workforce expansion and service delivery. The 2022-23 New South Wales budget included an historic \$33 billion commitment to health, including \$4.5 billion to recruit over 10,000 full-time equivalent health workers; \$1.76 billion for NSW Ambulance, including 2,128 new paramedics and 30 new ambulance stations.

The member for Terrigal will correct me if I am wrong, but I believe that four ghost stations have not been delivered by the Minns Labor Government. Our commitment to health also included \$408 million to accelerate

elective surgery recovery post-COVID and over \$11.9 billion in health capital works over four years. On my home turf, the former Coalition Government funded and started construction on the \$790 million redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital, expanding emergency and critical care capacity, constructing new clinical buildings and health education facilities as well as a \$50 million multistorey car park to support access for patients and staff.

The truth is that the Minns Labor Government found the New South Wales health system in a strong state. But two years after its election to government patients are waiting longer for elective surgery, waiting longer in emergency departments and waiting longer for an ambulance. More than ever, they are leaving the emergency room before they are treated.

Ms Donna Davis: Just because you say it doesn't mean it's true.

Mrs TINA AYYAD: While the former Coalition Government made major investments in health care—Deputy Speaker, can I be heard in silence?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Interjections are disorderly at all times. The member for Holsworthy will be heard in silence.

Mrs TINA AYYAD: While the former Coalition Government made major investments in health care in west and south-west Sydney— [*Time expired.*]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Holsworthy has moved a motion, to which the member for Shellharbour has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes45

Noes33

Majority..... 12

AYES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E (teller)
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, R
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Daley, M
Davis, D
Dib, J
Donato, P
Doyle, T

Finn, J
Hagarty, N (teller)
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Kaliyanda, C
Kirby, W
Li, J
McDermott, H
McGirr, J
McKeown, K
Mehan, D
Minns, C

O'Neill, M
Park, R
Piper, G
Quinnell, S
Saffin, J
Saliba, D
Scully, P
Stuart, M
Vo, T
Voltz, L
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A
Whan, S
Wilkinson, K

NOES

Anderson, K
Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Cooke, S
Coure, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Davies, T
Di Pasqua, S
Dwyer, R
Griffin, J
Henskens, A

Hodges, M
James, T
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Moylan, B
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

Singh, G
Sloane, K
Speakman, M
Taylor, M
Thompson, T
Toole, P
Tuckerman, W
Tudehope, M
Ward, G
Williamson, R (teller)
Wilson, F

PAIRS

Butler, L

Williams, R

PAIRS

Kamper, S
Tesch, L

Wallace, J
Cross, M

Amendment agreed to.

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

The House divided.

Ayes45
Noes33
Majority..... 12

AYES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E (teller)
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, R
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Daley, M
Davis, D
Dib, J
Donato, P
Doyle, T

Finn, J
Hagarty, N (teller)
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Kaliyanda, C
Kirby, W
Li, J
McDermott, H
McGirr, J
McKeown, K
Mehan, D
Minns, C

O'Neill, M
Park, R
Piper, G
Quinnell, S
Saffin, J
Saliba, D
Scully, P
Stuart, M
Vo, T
Voltz, L
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A
Whan, S
Wilkinson, K

NOES

Anderson, K
Ayyad, T
Clancy, J
Cooke, S
Coure, M
Crouch, A (teller)
Davies, T
Di Pasqua, S
Dwyer, R
Griffin, J
Henskens, A

Hodges, M
James, T
Kemp, M
Lane, J
Layzell, D
Moylan, B
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saunders, D

Singh, G
Sloane, K
Speakman, M
Taylor, M
Thompson, T
Toole, P
Tuckerman, W
Tudehope, M
Ward, G
Williamson, R (teller)
Wilson, F

PAIRS

Butler, L
Kamper, S
Tesch, L

Williams, R
Wallace, J
Cross, M

Motion as amended agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

AUSTRALIAN SIKH GAMES

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington) (17:50): It was an honour to take part in the opening ceremony of the 2025 Australian Sikh Games at the Crest Sporting Complex in Bass Hill on 19 April alongside my colleague the member for Riverstone. The extraordinary event was more than just a showcase of athletic talent; it was a powerful celebration of community, culture and connection. Over three days, more than 150,000 athletes from

across Australia and around the world came together to participate in and cheer on a wide range of sports, united by the spirit of teamwork and mutual respect. The Australian Sikh Games offer a unique space in which cultural heritage and healthy competition thrive side by side, bringing together families, athletes and community leaders in a shared experience that strengthens social bonds. Events like that are vital to the fabric of our society. They promote inclusion, wellbeing and pride in our diversity. The games are a shining example of how sport can bridge communities and celebrate all that unites us. I congratulate everyone involved in the games.

TERRIGAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:51): I congratulate Marianne Hamilton and the entire Terrigal Community Garden committee for their vision, dedication and tireless work in bringing an inspiring project to life. I was honoured to attend the official sod turning and have proudly supported the initiative from its inception. After three years of planning and strong community backing, it was a joy to celebrate the official opening of the Terrigal Community Garden on Saturday 10 May 2025. Located at the corner of Duffys Road and Terrigal Drive, behind the Terrigal 50+ Leisure and Learning Centre, the garden is a fantastic new asset for our community. The project received \$5,000 in funding from the New South Wales Government's Community Building Partnership program in 2022, and it has grown with generous support from local businesses, including Trojans, Bunnings, the 24/7 gym, the Good Guys and Brand Property Terrigal. The garden will bring people of all ages together to grow food, share knowledge and nurture both physical and mental wellbeing. It is a shining example of how community spirit and sustainable living can flourish hand in hand. Well done to everyone involved in making the Terrigal Community Garden a reality.

CABRA-VALE DIGGERS CLUB ANZAC DAY EVENT

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (17:52): On 25 April 2025 I had the honour of attending the dawn commemorative service and wreath-laying ceremony organised by the Cabra-Vale Diggers Club. In the quiet stillness of the early morning, the ceremony brought together veterans, families, community members and dignitaries to pay their respects and reflect on the enduring legacy of the Anzac spirit. The wreath-laying ceremony had individuals and organisations placing floral tributes at the memorial, each symbolising remembrance and gratitude. The service was marked by heartfelt speeches, the haunting sound of the bugle playing the last post and a moment of silence that allowed us to contemplate the bravery and resilience of those who fought in wars past and present. The event served as a powerful reminder of the importance of remembering history, honouring courage and supporting those who continue to serve today. I thank Mr Walter Robinson, OAM, and the Cabra-Vale Diggers Club for the invitation and for organising the commemoration.

JAMES GAULT

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (17:53): I recognise the outstanding bravery and service of Temora SES volunteer James Gault, who was recently awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for Service. Mr Gault was honoured for his courageous efforts during the November 2022 flood emergency in Euabalong, where a levee bank breach on 19 November placed the entire community at risk. Working under extremely difficult conditions in the early hours of the morning, Mr Gault and his fellow SES members acted swiftly to coordinate the evacuation of vulnerable residents and protect as many properties as possible. Their actions exemplified the spirit of service and the critical role that our emergency services play in safeguarding rural communities. The awards are not just recognitions; they are reminders of the bravery, resilience and quiet heroism displayed by volunteers who put the needs of others before their own. I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to James Gault and all SES personnel who responded during the flood crisis.

ROBERT "BOB" TURNER

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (17:54): I congratulate Robert "Bob" Turner on his successful tenure as Chair of the Blacktown City Football Club. He transformed it from a privately owned club to a community board. Bob Turner is one of the best sports administrators in Australia. Most people would recall his achievements with the Sydney Kings basketball team. His overnight success there can be attributed to the previous 15 years of hard work as a player, coach and administrator. Bob was inducted into the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000. Bob was previously Chair of the Blue Sox baseball team and a director of the Greater Blacktown Business Chamber. More recently he has focused on ice hockey and being an Australia Day ambassador. Bob has become a great friend of and advocate for the Blacktown area. I count Bob as a great friend and a person whom I can have a robust discussion of ideas with. I congratulate Bob and look forward to his future endeavours.

TRIBUTE TO DR JUDY BEGENT

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (17:55): I pay tribute to Dr Judy Begent, a remarkable contributor to the physical, mental and spiritual health of our community, following her passing this year at the age of 91. Remembered for a journey that took her from medical doctor to Anglican deacon, Tasmanian-born Dr Begent

helped to blaze a trail for women when she graduated as a doctor in 1957. After stints in Melbourne and London, Dr Begent and her husband, Varney Childs, moved to Wagga Wagga where she worked at the city's military bases, Wagga Base Hospital and the Catholic Adoption Agency. During her long career, she served as a ward doctor at the hospital's psychiatric unit for 26 years. Faith and family were central to her life, and in 1998 she was ordained as a deacon, conducting communions, baptisms and funerals among other spiritual services. A volunteer for many good causes, Dr Begent was a devoted mother to Melanie, Lucinda and Campbell and a devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Caring was Dr Begent's calling, and I recall her contribution to our community with fondness and gratitude. Vale, Judy Begent.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ELECTORATE TINY HOMES MANUFACTURERS

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (17:56): I recognise the outstanding small businesses in the Blue Mountains that are at the forefront of manufacturing tiny homes. Those businesses, including Tall Tiny homes and Unplgd, are not only contributing to our local economy but also providing innovative solutions to the housing crisis facing New South Wales. I recently had the privilege of visiting the factories of Tall Tiny homes and Unplgd where I was deeply impressed by the exceptional craft, skill and commitment to quality in every tiny home they create. In particular, I acknowledge the remarkable work being done by Tall Tiny homes with its safe nest solution, a truly bespoke initiative that offers affordable, sustainable housing for those who need it most. I extend my sincere thanks to Minister Jackson for dedicating her time to visit Tall Tiny homes and facilitating such a constructive and meaningful conversation with the team. It is clear that the work being done has the potential to make a real difference. I look forward to seeing Tall Tiny homes and Unplgd continuing to grow and succeed.

CHAMPION CHAROLAIS BULL

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (17:57): I have good news because the Upper Hunter has all the bulls one needs—big, burly and beautiful ones. The Sydney Royal Easter Show has confirmed that. I congratulate Leigha and Luke Gardner of Singleton on receiving the award for this year's champion Charolais bull. Tallimba Ussain went to Homebush last year as a baby bull and won his class. Fast forward to today and the 1,100-kilo giant has impressed everyone. He was crowned senior and grand champion bull, and then topped it off with the Supreme Charolais Exhibit award. Leigha, Luke and their boys, William and Lachlan, have worked so hard to achieve their success. It is fantastic to see a family-owned cattle stud recognised in one of the country's highest levels of competition. I hope Leigha and Luke and their family enjoy what they have achieved. Let us not forget, when it comes to bulls, size matters.

MEDOWIE GIRL GUIDES

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (17:58): On the day before Mother's Day at Williamtown Hall, around 100 Medowie mums, grandmas, friends and families gathered for an annual high tea. But it was more than just tea and cake; it was Medowie Girl Guides' twelfth Mother's Day High Tea, which gives the Girl Guides the chance to step up, run an event and build leadership, hospitality and event skills. I give a huge shout-out to the incredible Medowie Girl Guides team, Elizabeth and Abby Keeley; Rachael and Evie Bass; Ella Oldham; Brooke, Maddy and Joanne Ellicott; Joanne Brooks; Amy Barry; Raquel Groton; Jena Mainey; Stephanie and Caroline Ellis; Tahnee Gee; Julie and Stephanie Hallom; Davina Hough; and Liarn Lockwood. I thank the many hardworking parents behind the scenes who made it all work as well. Courtesy of the generosity of our community and the talented Girl Guides, this year's event was awesome and raised over \$6,000, which will help cover the Guides' operational costs for the year, allowing them to keep learning, striving and achieving their goals as they grow into responsible, thoughtful members of our community.

REDFERN SHANTY CLUB

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:59): On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I recognise the members of the Redfern Shanty Club for their brilliant performance at the National Folk Fest in Canberra last month and congratulate them on the club's tenth anniversary. For a decade, the Redfern Shanty Club has set sail every Monday night from a bar in Redfern, singing a rousing selection of energetic sea shanties and other workers' songs. The crowd is taught the words to each chorus so that everyone can sing along, and anyone who joins the spirited affair may find themselves heaving and hauling away with members of the well-known and much-loved Parliament of New South Wales Hansard team. I particularly acknowledge bartender extraordinaire Toby Quast. Along with pouring ales and shaking cocktails in time with the music, he has written a number of catchy shants, such as the climate change anthem *Rise (The Oceans, They Rise)*, the romantic Redfern ode *Dock, Not On Water*, and the raucous *Kill the Shantyman Dead*. Congratulations, and ahoy! Here's to another 10 years.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta) (18:00): The voice of Parramatta and its surrounding communities has been heard loud and clear. I am thrilled to congratulate our outstanding Federal Labor representatives on their resounding re-election. The dedication and hard work of Jason Clare, member for Blaxland; Dr Andrew Charlton, member for Parramatta; and Sally Sitou, the member for Reid, has paid off in a truly significant way. The Parramatta State electorate shares boundaries with those three Federal divisions, creating a strong interconnectedness between both levels of government. The fact that voters have once again placed their faith in our Labor MPs underscores the calibre of the candidates, the strength of our party's vision and the effectiveness of those individuals in advocating for their communities. This is more than just a political victory; it is a reaffirmation of the values of hard work and community spirit along with a commitment to a better future. I am so proud and happy for Sally, Jason and Andrew. Their continued service in the Federal Parliament will be invaluable as we work together to harness opportunities and address the challenges facing Parramatta.

MORTDALE FIRE STATION COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (18:01): I recently had the opportunity to attend the Mortdale Fire Station community open day. It was wonderful to see so many locals out and about, supporting their local firefighters. I took my two young boys, James and Sammy, along on the day, and there really was so much to do and see. The boys got to see the equipment and trucks up close and to watch live demonstrations that showed the importance of being fire safe. Day after day, local firefighters keep our community safe. Our local first responders do a terrific job, and we should always make the effort to thank them for their hard work. I thank Craig Koschel, captain of the Mortdale Fire Station, as well as each and every firefighter who helped out on the day. I also thank the Rotary Club of Hurstville, which supported the event by putting on a sausage sizzle and fundraising event. I look forward to attending again next year.

AUBURN DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (18:02): At the Auburn District Cricket Club's annual awards night this weekend former player Ian Johnson was rightfully inducted as a life member. Ian's exploits on the field alone qualify him for both life membership and legend status. Across 171 matches, Ian scored 2,575 runs—including seven half-centuries—took an impressive 398 wickets and claimed 91 catches. He has taken home nearly every award the club has to offer. Alongside his brother Ron, also an outstanding bowler, Ian was held in such high esteem that it was believed, as long as they got 120 runs, the Johnson brothers would see off any team with the ball. From 1977 to 1989, he served in a variety of club roles, from the management committee to club vice-president, along with his 17 continuous years as a player. Ian is a true all-rounder, both on and off the pitch. I congratulate Ian and thank him for his dedication to cricket in our community.

BINGARA COMMUNITY OP SHOP

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands) (18:03): I recognise the Bingara Community Op Shop for the valuable services it provides to members of the community. This not-for-profit organisation is operated solely by local volunteers and I congratulate all involved in the op shop, both past and present, including the current committee presidents, Will Schonewille and Denise McLachlan; vice presidents, Lynn Clarke and Bev Matthews; secretary Cherrisse Amer; and treasurer Dr Chris Matthews; along with patron Nancy MacInnes. Community organisations such as this in country towns simply cannot function without the wonderful support and commitment our volunteers give. I commend all involved in the success of the Bingara Community Op Shop for giving their time over many years to ensure the longevity of this wonderful enterprise. Since its inception, the group has raised in excess of \$160,000, which has been returned directly to the local Bingara community to benefit others.

LISMORE GEM AND LAPIDARY CLUB

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast) (18:04): I warmly congratulate the Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club on its sixtieth anniversary to be celebrated at the thirty-third Lismore Gemfest this weekend at the Lismore Showgrounds. I will be there on Friday night. *The Lismore App* reported that the Lismore Gem and Lapidary Club was established in May 1964. It was founded as the Lismore Gem and Mineral Society by Dick Reeve, and Dick's wife, Val Reeve, served as the first publicity officer. The club has since evolved into one of the longest established lapidary clubs in country New South Wales, offering gemology and regular fossicking trips. Heather Bolton, who is the only serving foundation member, told *The Lismore App* that belonging to the club had been wonderful. She said:

I've made lots of friends, and we've been to lots of places, and I've learned lots of activities. I'm more interested in ... geomorphology and things like that, rather than cutting and polishing stones. So, the thing about this club is you can have all sorts of different interests.

I extend my congratulations to all club members.

PORT MACQUARIE MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie) (18:05): Today I recognise the Mother's Day Classic event held in Port Macquarie last weekend. The annual event, now in its eleventh year, has become an important fixture in the local event calendar. It consists of a five-kilometre run and walk, which travels along the Hastings riverfront and foreshore to Town Beach and back. The event seeks to raise awareness of breast and ovarian cancer, whilst also encouraging fundraising for research. Sadly, 12 Australian women die from breast and ovarian cancer every day and events like this highlight the need to continue with research into prevention, early detection and better treatment options. I had the pleasure of participating in this weekend's event with my wife, Kate, and my mother, Pat, and, apart from some rain showers, we had an enjoyable day. We joined almost 750 participants, and organisers Carmen Abi-Saab and Kylie Bulmer were extremely happy with how this year's event went. I applaud the efforts of both Carmen and Kylie and all their amazing volunteers in the organisation of this year's Mother's Day Classic.

FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (18:06): Tonight I acknowledge the upcoming celebration of Festa della Repubblica—Italian Republic Day—that marks the moment in 1946 when the Italian people chose to become a republic. It is a day that symbolises democracy, renewal and national unity. Italian migration to Liverpool largely occurred from the 1950s onwards, significantly contributing to the area's agricultural sector. Many Italians found work as market gardeners and established family businesses like greengrocers, delis and restaurants. In Liverpool, and south-west Sydney more broadly, our Italian Australian community continues to make an enormous contribution to local life. Their values of hard work, family and community spirit have helped shape our community and, of course, our area has also benefited from the influence of Italian food, wine and approach to life. Next week many will gather at Club Marconi for a commemorative mass to acknowledge the important day. I extend my best wishes to all attending and thank the community for keeping these traditions strong. Buona Festa della Repubblica.

AUSTRALIAN AGE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (18:07): I congratulate Mitchell Skipworth and Addison Barnes, who recently competed at the Australian Age Championships. Both swimmers train at the Wollondilly Community Leisure Centre, where Mitchell also works as a lifeguard. He has been a member of Picton Swim Club for 10 years, and at the championship competed in five huge events: 200 metres freestyle, 400 metres freestyle, 800 metres freestyle, 1,500 metres freestyle and 400 metres individual medley. Addison's family have been involved in Picton Swim Club for over 40 years and Addison has had formal swimming lessons at Wollondilly Community Leisure Centre since the age of three. Swimming is important to Addison because it is her passion and fuels her drive for success. The milestone of qualifying and attending nationals is the result of 18 months of focus and discipline. Addison competed impressively in the 50 metres breaststroke, 100 metres breaststroke, 200 metres breaststroke and 200 metres individual medley. Mitchell and Addison have done themselves proud, and the Wollondilly community is proud of them as well.

YUM IN A BOX

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (18:08): When local mum of four and teacher Erin Matts found her homemade lunches were the envy of kids across the playground, she decided that healthy and convenient nutrition should be a right of every child, not a privileged exception. This led her, in partnership with Millers' Local Bakehouse, to establish Yum in a Box—a lunch-by-order service designed to make health and convenience a priority for busy parents, kids and school staff. Erin's innovation allows participants to order a healthy five-section bento box via an app that is then made to order and delivered to schools. Based on the *Eat for Health - Australian Dietary Guidelines*, the service models nutritional eating habits while supporting the health and wellbeing of children. While the service is still in its formative stages, I foresee great potential in Erin's wholesome initiative. On behalf of the Heathcote electorate, I congratulate Erin on her impressive work in the community.

BENNETT TESARA

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (18:09): I congratulate engineer Bennett Tesara on his appointment as president of the Cebu Institute of Technology [CIT] - University Alumni Association. I had the honour of attending his oath-taking ceremony on 5 April, hosted at the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club. President Tesara brings to this role not only the deep respect of his peers but also a distinguished record of leadership in engineering and in the Filipino-Australian community. His appointment signals an exciting chapter for the association, which continues to unite graduates of one of the Philippines' most prestigious institutions, CIT - University, known for producing industry leaders across the globe. The Ryde electorate is proud to be home to a vibrant Filipino-Australian population. This event was another powerful reminder of the enduring cultural and

professional ties that bind our communities. I commend the efforts of the alumni association for fostering lifelong connections and advancing professional excellence among its members in Australia and abroad. I congratulate President Tesara on his well-earned appointment. I look forward to the outstanding work he will do in strengthening engagement and continuing the legacy of the university.

PENRITH HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith) (18:10): I extend my heartfelt gratitude and admiration to the dedicated volunteers of the Penrith Hospital Auxiliary, whose tireless efforts have resulted in an incredible \$30,000 donation to Nepean Hospital. Through countless hours of sewing, knitting, cooking and selling raffle tickets, those remarkable individuals have shown what community spirit and compassion can achieve. Their contribution is not just financial; it is a powerful reminder of the difference that generosity and teamwork can make. The significant donation will be used to purchase essential medical equipment to directly support the care and wellbeing of patients at Nepean Hospital. I thank Trish Faint and every volunteer involved for their commitment, creativity and unwavering support. Their work touches lives and strengthens our Penrith community.

KARIMBLA RESTAURANT

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (18:11): As the doors get ready to close for the final time, I recognise the amazing team at Karimbla Restaurant for their exceptional service for seniors for over 30 years. Located in the Miranda Community Centre, this not-for-profit restaurant has been a haven for our seniors, offering more than just affordable and nutritious meals. Karimbla Restaurant has provided an important place for social connection in a warm and friendly environment, making every patron feel seen, valued and at home. This beloved community restaurant has been serving lunch from Tuesday to Friday for three decades and bringing joy to many through regular gatherings and special events such as Christmas in July and Melbourne Cup. None of that would have been possible without the dedicated team at Karimbla Restaurant. I recognise Deb Broom, Helen Lycakis, Hannah Portiers, Gaye Wilson and Amy Cook, along with volunteers Joe Mifsud, Jens Sturmann and Robert Rose, for the care they show our community. I thank the team at Karimbla Restaurant for supporting our seniors and I extend my best wishes for the future.

MONARO FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (18:12): For nearly 50 years the Monaro Family Support Service has been providing services in a range of areas to the people of Cooma and the region. It has supported adolescents, children and families who are encountering difficulties. I was pleased to hear Minister Harrison announce that as part of the \$25 million expansion of the Staying Home Leaving Violence program, the Monaro Family Support Service will facilitate the program in the Snowy Monaro Regional Council area. The service started in Bega Valley and is all about ensuring that victims of domestic violence stay in their homes, with security upgrades, so they can continue to have links to their community, while the perpetrators leave, with the assistance of police. This is an important program, and I am thrilled that it will roll out in the Snowy Monaro through our local provider the Monaro Family Support Service.

VIVIAN HUDSON, JP

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping) (18:13): I recognise Mr Vivian Hudson for reaching the remarkable milestone of 50 years of service as a justice of the peace in New South Wales. Vivian has been a trusted and consistent presence in the community. His service exemplifies commitment and civic responsibility delivered for over half a century. I was pleased to see this outstanding commitment formally acknowledged at a recent ceremony where his 50 years of service was publicly celebrated. That is five decades of unwavering commitment. We should all aspire to such enduring dedication. This well-deserved recognition reflects his longstanding dedication to this vital voluntary role that has positively impacted countless individuals and families, including those in the Epping electorate. I congratulate Vivian on this remarkable achievement. His contributions over 50 years are greatly appreciated by the community.

ZHI SOON, MEMBER FOR BANKS

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (18:14): I congratulate Zhi Soon, the newly elected Federal member for Banks. It was wonderful to be part of Team Zhi. He worked incredibly hard over many months to ensure the seat of Banks returned to Labor after 12 long years. In fact, Zhi knocked on more doors across the electorate than any other Labor candidate across New South Wales, and that effort certainly paid off. Zhi is a local through and through. He grew up in Revesby and now lives in Padstow Heights with his loving partner Bridget and beautiful six-month-old daughter Dorothy. I cannot think of a better person to represent our community. Zhi is compassionate, intelligent and deeply committed to service. With a background in public policy and education, he brings a wealth of knowledge and a genuine passion for making a difference. I look forward to celebrating

Zhi's well-deserved win with his supporters this Saturday and to working closely with him in the years ahead to deliver for East Hills and the seat of Banks. Well done to Zhi.

DEBRA HARGREAVES

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (18:15): Debra Hargreaves was presented with the Health Services Award at the Rotary Club of Wahroonga awards night. The award recognises excellence in vocational service in the field of health services and is given to individuals who display pride of workmanship and personal commitment in their vocation. Debra Hargreaves is a registered nurse with over 30 years experience in anaesthetics, recovery, scrub and scout. She also has proven expertise in perioperative care, team leadership and clinical education. Debra is a strong decision-maker. She has experience as an in-charge nurse and has been an acting nursing unit manager since 2017. Debra has worked at the Sydney Adventist Hospital—also known as the SAN—Day Surgery at Wahroonga since 2001. She also volunteered in Nepal in 2023 on an Open Heart International women's health program. I congratulate Debra on the Health Services Award.

SIENNA COMPTON

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport) (18:16): I congratulate Sienna Compton, school captain of St Aloysius Catholic Primary School in Chisholm, on her outstanding results in two recent swimming meets. Scheduling meant that the two major swimming meets were held in two different States last month, but that did not stop Sienna competing in both Sydney and Brisbane. At the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association Championships, Sienna shattered four multi-class records, claimed five gold medals and was honoured as multi-class swimmer of the meet with the Gregson Shield. Straight off the plane to Brisbane, Sienna then produced two personal bests in the 200-metre individual medley, secured a spot in the finals and proudly brought home bronze, ranking third nationally in her age and classification at the Swimming Australia Age and Multi-Class Age Championships. A dedicated NUSwim athlete who also competes in gymnastics, Sienna's resilience, focus and sheer talent are an inspiration to us all. We eagerly anticipate Sienna's results at the School Sport Australia nationals in October. Go Sienna!

NORTH SHORE ELECTORATE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:17): I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated local volunteers of Marine Rescue Middle Harbour, Surf Life Saving NSW and our emergency services for their unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of our communities during the recent Easter holidays. Despite challenging conditions, including hazardous surf and large crowds, their vigilance and professionalism were paramount in preventing further tragedies. In the North Shore electorate, the presence of trained lifesavers and Marine Rescue volunteers provided a critical safety net. Their proactive measures and rapid response times were instrumental in managing the increased risks. One tragic incident occurred on Friday 18 April 2025, when emergency services were called to Middle Head point to check on the welfare of a man in the water. Officers from the North Shore Police Area Command, with assistance from Surf Life Saving NSW, Marine Rescue, NSW Ambulance paramedics and Marine Area Command, commenced an operation to locate the man, who was sadly located nearby in the water. The man was on the rocks when he fell into the water. I commend all the organisations and volunteers involved and offer special thanks for their dedication and service during difficult times while performing a difficult service for the community.

STRATHFIELD ELECTORATE TAMIL COMMUNITY

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (18:18): I recognise the remarkable contribution of the Tamil community to our multicultural society. Last month I attended the loud, wonderful and colourful annual chariot festival at the Sydney Murugan Temple. It was a celebration of faith and tradition, with over 5,000 worshippers gathering to honour Lord Murugan through music, prayer and the ceremonial pulling of the chariot. The Tamil community is one of the largest in the Strathfield electorate and plays a vital role in the cultural and civic life of our area. Its commitment to family, faith and community service enriches us all. I thank the organisers, volunteers and community leaders for sharing that profound celebration with the wider community. It is a living symbol of multicultural Australia at its best.

LOGAN DOOLAN

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (18:19): After a long day of delays, diverted flights and relentless wet weather, I found myself stranded at Port Macquarie Airport with a flat tyre. Standing roadside in the rain, dressed in a suit and fumbling with a jack, I must have been quite the sight. That is when Logan Doolan appeared by chance, just at the right time. Logan, a 19-year-old second-year fabrication apprentice from the Mid North Coast, was giving his parents a lift home from the airport. He spotted me struggling and, without hesitation, pulled over and offered to lend a hand: no fuss, no questions, just a genuine offer to help. Logan may not hold formal mechanical qualifications, but he had something better: practical know-how gained from growing up on farms

and working on the land. That kind of experience builds resilience, initiative and a great down-to-earth attitude to boot. You cannot teach that in a classroom. Thanks to Logan, I was back on the road in no time. He is a shining example of the kind of young people we want to have in our regions: selfless, respectful, capable and willing to step up when someone is in need.

Private Members' Statements

PALLIATIVE CARE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport) (18:20): This week is National Palliative Care Week. First, I wish to promote the Friends of Palliative Care group in Maitland. Montana Duggan, the president, has recently written to me to let me know that the group is working hard behind the scenes to create a community awareness event. The event is in the final planning stages and will happen in Maitland on Thursday 19 June. It will provide insightful presentations on palliative care services that are available in our community, opportunities to meet local service providers, information stalls with valuable resources and guidance, a welcoming and safe space to ask questions and learn more, and refreshments throughout the day. It is a great initiative. That event has been funded by the New South Wales Government as part of the Local Small Commitments Allocation program. We are very proud to support that group getting that event up and running. It is just one of the events that the New South Wales Government is supporting to recognise National Palliative Care Week this week.

We thank the many volunteers and staff who provide essential care and support to patients and families during their most challenging time in life. The Government is committed to further enhancing palliative care services across the State and has introduced a range of measures to help support that. That includes a \$93 million investment in capital works as part of the World Class End of Life Care program, which will deliver new or redeveloped palliative care facilities at five health facilities across the State, including at hospitals in Wyong—which is down the road from Maitland—Westmead, Tamworth, Nepean and Orange. It is great to see the Government really making that investment in regional New South Wales, where it is so desperately needed.

The Government is also committed to growing the State's specialist palliative care workforce. It is employing extra nurses, doctors and support staff, and estimates that there will be more than 570 additional full-time equivalent positions by 2026-27. Last month the Minns Labor Government also announced an additional \$2.8 million in funding to support a range of initiatives to enhance paediatric palliative respite and end-of-life care across the State. In my community there have been some very strong advocates for that who have gone through the loss of a very young baby or even a newborn. That is just such a terrible time. I am proud and pleased to be part of a government that is delivering those services.

We have made a commitment to increase paediatric palliative care funding to approximately \$80 million over four years through to 2026-27, and 12 local health districts and specialty health networks have received additional funding to strengthen specialist paediatric palliative care and improve the physical spaces where palliative and end-of-life care is provided. I thank the Government and the Minister for Health for that and for the commitment of \$3 million in funding for the End of Life and Palliative Care Research Grant Program, which aims to improve health outcomes for patients, carers and families in New South Wales with end-of-life and palliative care needs.

I once again give a shout-out to Friends of Palliative Care, which recently held its walkathon in Maitland. That great event brings the community together and gives people a chance to remember loved ones that they have lost. The group does so much fundraising, working in conjunction with Volunteers for Palliative Care in Maitland. They do a lot of respite care, taking people to appointments and getting them through their last days, weeks and sometimes months. It is an important part of our health commitment, and it is great to have such a strong volunteer base. I encourage everyone in Maitland to come along to Club Maitland City in Rutherford on 19 June. The fundraiser will really help people who are struggling with palliative care. It is also an opportunity for those who want to become a volunteer, help with fundraising or support any of the group's other activities to find out more about it, while enjoying one of our local community clubs at the same time.

WAHROONGA ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (18:25): The Wahroonga electorate continues to grow, and that comes as no surprise given that it has a fantastic community and is a great place to live, work and raise a family. With its strong sense of community, excellent schools and beautiful natural environment, surrounded by several national parks, our community continues to grow. With more people calling the Wahroonga electorate home, investing in our local infrastructure is more important now than ever before. Our growing community needs well-maintained roads, schools, hospitals and public spaces to maintain its quality of life. But no new local

infrastructure investments are being made in our area, despite the changes to planning laws that will bring many more people. That is in strong contrast to the Liberal investments in our area under the previous State Government.

For example, NorthConnex was a major local Coalition infrastructure investment and a \$3 billion project. NorthConnex has taken traffic, especially trucks, off Pennant Hills Road and returned that road to our community. Whilst there were concerns about air quality impacts before NorthConnex was built, mandatory independent air quality monitoring has shown much improved air quality at all monitoring stations, including nearest to the outlet at Wahroonga. Pollution has reduced rather than increased with NorthConnex, which is consistent with the prediction of the panel of international experts engaged by the independent NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer.

The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital was substantially upgraded under the former Coalition Government. Improvements exceeding \$400 million were made to the hospital, a car park was added, and over 200 additional doctors, nurses and allied professionals were added to the hospital staff. I am happy to say that Waitara Public School, which was incredibly crowded and cramped when I was first elected to Parliament, was almost completely rebuilt as a four-storey virtual school, following my advocacy, so that the expanded school population would have as much playground space as possible. All of the schools in my electorate have had their leaking roofs replaced and most of their toilets upgraded, science labs at Turrumurra High School were improved and the wi-fi at Pennant Hills High School was upgraded, all under the former Government. More may have been upgraded at Pennant Hills High than I am aware of, because for most of that time it was in the electorate of Hornsby.

During my time in Parliament, every railway station in my electorate that did not have disability accessibility has been upgraded with lifts and the like. They received them under the former Coalition Government.

That includes Thornleigh, Normanhurst, Waitara, Wahroonga, Warrawee and Killara railway stations. Those upgrades are so important to people with disabilities, seniors and young families. In addition to the accessibility upgrades at Waitara station, it received platform weather protection and new car parking—all by the Liberal transport Minister, after I made the case for their inclusion in the costs of works as both necessary and cost effective. I also advocated strongly for the other lift upgrades and school improvements. The Pacific Highway was upgraded under the former Coalition Government, with the intersections of Finley Avenue, Fox Valley Road and Redleaf Avenue all being included. Again, I worked closely with the Liberal transport Minister to achieve those upgrades.

That impressive record has not been matched during the past two years. The talent of the Minns Government seems to be to cut ribbons on former Coalition Government projects like the metro, but not to make infrastructure investments within our State. Without improving my community with much-needed investments in transport, education and health, how is the Minns Labor Government expecting that we take on a significant increase in population, which is already underway? Investing in infrastructure is not just about meeting our current needs; it is about planning responsibly for the future. Our population is growing, and we will have more demand on our public services than ever before. I urge the Minns Labor Government to meet any increase in population in my electorate with significant investments in our roads, schools and hospitals. The State Government has a duty to the people of our State to ensure that infrastructure investments continue during this Government.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (18:30): The month of May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, a time to reflect on the devastating impact of violence in our homes and communities and to renew our commitment to prevention, support and healing. This month provides a crucial opportunity to listen to survivors, raise awareness and challenge the attitudes and structures that allow abuse to persist. Domestic and family violence does not discriminate. It affects people of all ages, genders and backgrounds, but disproportionately impacts women and children. Prevention month is not only about highlighting the problem. It is also about supporting the people and organisations on the front lines. In my electorate of East Hills, and in the wider Canterbury-Bankstown local government area, domestic violence is a serious issue affecting so many women and families.

In the 12 months to March 2024, New South Wales saw an increase in domestic, family and sexual violence, and the trend echoed in my community. According to the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, there were 1,710 domestic-violence-related assaults recorded in Canterbury-Bankstown between April 2023 and March 2024. That is a troubling 17 per cent rise from the previous year. The five-year trend shows an increase of 8.9 per cent, placing my community among the top 60 local government areas in the State for domestic violence incidents. Even more concerning is that Canterbury-Bankstown had the highest number of incidents in the Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network area, with 1,807 reported cases between July 2023 and June 2024. Those figures are not just numbers; they represent real people, real trauma and an urgent need for greater support, intervention and investment in prevention.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is an opportunity to acknowledge those who are working to prevent domestic violence in our communities and support victim-survivors of domestic violence. Muslim Women Australia is supporting women and children escaping domestic and family violence through the Core and Cluster housing model in Canterbury-Bankstown. The initiative, backed by the New South Wales Government's Core and Cluster program, has enabled Muslim Women Australia to expand its crisis accommodation service substantially. From May 2025 two new crisis accommodation sites will be operational in the Canterbury- Bankstown local government area, increasing capacity by 48 beds. Those facilities are designed to provide safe, culturally responsive and trauma-informed support for women and families experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence.

The Core and Cluster model offers self-contained private units alongside shared communal spaces and onsite support services. That approach ensures women and children have both the privacy they need and immediate access to essential support, fostering an environment conducive to healing and empowerment. The efforts by Muslim Women Australia, in collaboration with the New South Wales Government, highlight the importance of tailored, community-based solutions in addressing domestic and family violence.

Expanding safe and supportive housing options will make a tangible difference to the lives of many women and children in our community. This initiative builds on the important work of Biyani House, which has been offering safe shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence since January 2022. Importantly, women accessing Biyani House get to stay in the shelter for up to three months while receiving vital wraparound services like counselling, financial support, education and training to help empower them to independently move on with their lives.

I acknowledge others in my community taking action against domestic violence, such as Bankstown Women's Health Centre and Georges River Life Care. Even our young people have stepped up to raise awareness and advocate for change. The students at Sir Joseph Banks High School participated in the Walk the Talk program last year. The program equips students with knowledge about healthy relationships and consent and helps them recognise relationship abuse. I am proud to be part of a New South Wales Labor Government that is investing in a \$245.6 million emergency package to support victim-survivors and strengthen prevention efforts. These projects demonstrate what is possible when governments, communities and frontline organisations work together to provide real, local solutions to domestic and family violence. We must all work together to rid our society of this scourge for future generations.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (18:35): Whether it is a nurse staying back after a double shift, a midwife making themselves available at all hours or a doctor choosing to serve in a rural clinic rather than a metropolitan hospital, our healthcare professionals go above and beyond for us. There was an amazing announcement earlier this year that 100 new nursing and midwifery graduates would join the Mid North Coast Local Health District, which services hospitals across Kempsey, Macksville, Bellingen, Wauchope, Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour. I was obviously thrilled by the announcement as both a community representative and someone who pushes for these numbers at a State level.

I was especially proud to hear the story of a new healthcare professional arriving at Bellinger River District Hospital for her first shift and experiencing the true heart of regional communities when she was welcomed with open arms. I will tell the House a bit about this story. Floodwaters were rising fast thanks to the weather following Tropical Cyclone Alfred, and it was expected that her road home would be cut-off. Dr Genevieve had come prepared for her first shift. She was packed for the weekend and had brought along her two-year-old and her husband. Sure enough, the floods came and Genevieve and her family were left without a place to stay for the night. A local volunteer from the Bellingen valley opened up their home and offered food, shelter and comfort.

While we celebrate the much-needed influx of skilled healthcare professionals across our region, we must also face the ongoing challenges that threaten their ability to continue to live and work in our communities. One of the most pressing issues is the shortage of affordable housing. It is making it harder than ever to recruit and, crucially, to retain nurses, midwives and other healthcare workers in rural and regional areas like ours. Sixteen hospital beds are currently closed due to staff shortages in Bellingen and Dorrigo alone. That means there are 16 fewer beds for families, patients and emergencies. This is exactly why the Homes for Health initiative is so important.

The initiative was developed from within. It is a solution that was called for, designed and actioned by the people of Bellingen for the people of Bellingen. It is a community-driven partnership between Bellingen Shire Council, the Housing Matters Action Group, the Bellinger Health Action Group and the Bellingen community. I commend these groups for coming together rather than waiting for outside intervention. They have created practical, locally based solutions which include homestays, partnerships with real estate agents, and engagement

with developers and people from the community who have spare accommodation. Mayor Steve Allan of Bellingen Shire Council was instrumental in getting this initiative off the ground. He spoke on the Homes for Health model to the Country Mayors Association at New South Wales Parliament last week. This was great representation for the valley.

Alongside housing shortages is the ongoing strain on maternity services in our regional hospitals. When services are downgraded or unavailable, women are forced to travel long distances. They are often in the late stages of pregnancy, and this places unnecessary stress on both the mother and her baby. This is the reality facing families in Kempsey, where maternity care is reduced on weekends and public holidays.

I thank Mayor Kinne Ring for raising that issue directly with the Minister for Health, calling attention to the downgrade of the Kempsey District Hospital maternity service from level 3 to level 2 on the weekend and during times of holiday and staff leave.

In one of the most disadvantaged local government areas in New South Wales, and in a town with the highest proportion of Aboriginal residents of any population over 10,000 in the State, that is simply not good enough. Every woman in our region deserves to birth safely, on country, with confidence, and not to be burdened by difficult decisions or journeys at such a vulnerable time. The Minister gave a commitment to follow up on this issue, and I will be holding him to that. With this week being Palliative Care Week and Monday being International Nurses Day, we are again reminded of just how much we owe to our healthcare workers. To every nurse, every midwife, even every physiotherapist and every medical professional who shows up with skill, care and compassion, I say thank you. I also thank the people of our region for the way they support and welcome them. Let's keep building communities where healthcare workers have a place to live, a reason to stay and a community that has their back.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (18:40): I talk about the impacts and positivity of the Federal election in the Blacktown area. The State electorate of Blacktown is fortunate enough—although I suppose I could use other words—to encompass three Federal electorates after the recent redistribution, including Greenway, Chifley and McMahon. Andrew Charlton's electorate of Parramatta is also not far from the area. Many people have their various interpretations of Labor's great win and how the opinion polls got it so wrong. Given such a thumping victory, from my perspective, seeing the campaigns at a local level in the local electorates was a real eye-opener. There were great wins in Greenway, Parramatta and Bennelong, with Jerome Laxale under sustained and spiteful attacks by the Liberals.

It was particularly bad in the Greenway area, where I went to see Michelle Rowland campaigning at The Ponds. It is fine for candidates to think they can potentially win, with opinion polls supporting them. But Liberal candidates totally outnumbered Labor—with five or six blue shirts per red shirt—and aggressively tried to intimidate every voter who came through. Liberal signs were plastered all over the place, not leaving any room whatsoever for anyone else to put stuff up. The police were called out several times to calm down the Liberal volunteers. I think all of that had a real impact on the locals. They saw Michelle and a couple of Labor volunteers trying to do the right thing and chat to the voters, and then they saw the other side.

That happened in Parramatta and something also happened in McMahon, where an Independent also had candidates' fever. I do not know whether he commissioned his own survey but, as shown on *Media Watch*, he put out an allegedly independent survey to constituents that was pre-filled. So people voting for Matt Camenzuli had to actually change the survey to record their results rather than just pressing submit. Then *The Australian Financial Review*, the Herald and 2GB all ran the story that Chris Bowen was gone, because someone put out a pre-filled survey.

I think a lot of people reacted to that negativity. The candidate, Matt, ended up coming fourth. He spent most of his time in Blacktown. It was great to entertain him there, with his blimp and trucks. A hot tip for candidates is that they should not hire a gigantic truck in an area where there is not much parking, forcing voters another kilometre down the road from where they just saw the candidate's blimp, truck and scooters. But the advantage was the positivity that came through from the Labor sitting members.

They talked about Medicare rebates and the urgent care clinic, because obviously health is extremely important.

Michelle Rowland has announced a north-west urgent care clinic, Chris Bowen talked about the urgent care clinic that opened in Fairfield, and there is another clinic in Rooty Hill in the electorate of Ed Husic. The Federal Government announced it will provide \$120 million for the birthing unit at Rouse Hill Hospital, and on Tuesday the State Government announced it would provide a further \$90 million. That takes investment for the Rouse Hill Hospital to \$910 million, which is a far cry from the \$300 million in funding promised by the former Liberal Government in 2014.

The Federal Government has invested at least \$1 billion in roads. The member for Riverstone has worked hard with the Government to fund upgrades to Richmond Road, Townsend Road in my electorate, Bandon Road, Garfield Road, Burdekin Road and Windsor Road. Michelle Rowland has delivered 13 new or upgraded parks. Local people have reacted positively to Labor, including on national issues. In the end, local people saw the value of their local members.

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (18:45): Our respect and affection for public health professionals is immense. We admire their skills, compassion and sacrifice, and we are always grateful for what they do. As a community, we like to talk about those things. I address things we do not like to talk about, like overwork and understaffing, stress and—tragically—the personal risks to caregivers battling ferocious pressure. Recently I met with nurses and midwives from Wagga Wagga and surrounding towns. They generously shared their stories with me. In order to show that we must pay them more and treat them better, I share some of their stories with the House.

Nurses and midwives told me about their passion for their work, the satisfaction they get from brightening the days of patients in dark times, following in the footsteps of family members to become nurses, and their affection for their colleagues. Those are the matters we do like to talk about. But nurses and midwives also told me about the things we do not like to talk about. One story was about an elderly patient who was lost on the streets of a local town on a freezing winter's night. There were not enough staff to look for her. There were no police on call and there was no suitable response from health's security team. That night, the nurses on duty did the only thing they could: They phoned and woke a colleague who was at home and asked them to find and return the wandering patient.

That story had a happy ending, but it could have been tragic—and all because the hospital did not have enough on-duty staff to attend to the crisis, without having to call in a colleague, unpaid, on her night off. Nurses from another town told me about being intimidated on a night shift by an aggressive dementia patient. They were left to fend for themselves without support. Others told me about nursing professionals who were required to clean toilets, stack linen skips, prepare food or make delivery runs when they should be caring for patients. They performed those tasks because there was nobody else to do them. All the while, they said farewell as many of their friends and colleagues left for better paying and safer jobs in hospitals with positive cultures in other States.

But the inequity in the public health system is not confined to nursing staff. Doctors also have pressing concerns. One doctor from whom I borrowed the theme for this private member's statement—"the things we do not like to talk about"—reflected on her intern year working for NSW Health in a tertiary hospital. She posted a disturbing account about why she and her colleagues chose to strike in April. She said the matters that we do not talk about include long shifts with no meal breaks for as little as \$38 an hour, and the ever-present risk of making a fatal mistake because of overwork and physical and emotional exhaustion. An early and distressing sign of what lay ahead appeared in her first year on the job. She said:

When I got home on time for the first time in weeks in this first year, I felt relieved. Not because I was home, but because I finally realised – 'THIS is why doctors kill themselves'. Though fleeting, it was a sickening and jarring thought because it made sense. Prior to that, it never made sense. I looked up to so many doctors with their many years of study and experience ... and sacrifice ... I attended all the tick box wellbeing lectures, but I just didn't get it - how could an entire occupation have a higher risk of dying by suicide if they are living the dream?

She wrote, "We still don't talk about it." Now is the time to not only talk about it but also appropriately acknowledge doctors, nurses and allied health professionals so they can continue their life-saving work. Those professionals can hardly be blamed if they too decide to leave the New South Wales health system to earn more elsewhere.

That is why the Government must find the money needed to support our doctors, nurses and midwives. More than money, we need to find the safe hours and a positive workplace culture. NSW Health must be a place where staff thrive personally and in their careers. The Government likes to focus attention on how unaffordable current wages claims are. I acknowledge that finances are tight, but no price can be put on public health care and, of course, no value can be ascribed to a life saved. Doctors, nurses and midwives need more than our appreciation. They need rewards to match their skills and sacrifice. They need safe hours and a positive workplace culture. The time to act is now. Failure to do so could be catastrophic. That is something we absolutely should talk about.

As this is National Palliative Care Week, I congratulate the palliative care team in Wagga Wagga. The Calvary palliative care unit, combined with our community palliative care team, have a unique partnership that brings palliative care services to clients of the Wagga Wagga community. It is a service that I think should be extended throughout the region and a model that usefully could be used throughout New South Wales. It is a good coordination of public and private services. We need to continue it. As this is National Palliative Care Week,

I thank all the people who have worked in it. I thank them for their service to the community and their service to private and public patients. I support the continuation of that very valuable partnership.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (18:50): It is with great pride and inspiration that I reflect on a piece written by Ruby Woods, a young woman who joined my Blue Mountains team for work experience during the March parliamentary sittings. Ruby is an exceptional young woman who is full of passion, intelligence, and drive to make a difference in the world. In her words, she eloquently expressed the challenges young women face when considering a career in politics—challenges rooted in misogyny, prejudice, and harmful stereotypes. Ruby wrote:

As a young woman I often think why would I? Why would I involve myself in the realm of parliament when I have witnessed the misogyny and mistreatment of women in politics? I have grown up watching the nation care more about the skirt Julie Bishop was wearing, or whether Julia Gillard had children, rather than their policies and their promises for this country.

Ruby's words encapsulate the deeply troubling reality that women in politics continue to face—an environment where their worth is often judged not by their policies or their capacity to lead, but by their appearance, their relationships, and their gender. Ruby's reflection on the treatment of female politicians, ranging from unfair slander to outright abuse, highlights the very real concerns that many young women have when they consider entering political life. That sort of environment discourages many intelligent, capable, and passionate young women from stepping forward to make a change. It is the reality that leaves young women questioning: Why would I?

But Ruby's story does not end with fear or doubt. During her time in the New South Wales Parliament, Ruby had the opportunity to see the remarkable women who shape our political landscape. She met women in positions of power and influence—members, Ministers, Speakers, Clerks, and the many women working behind the scenes. Ruby was inspired by these women, and their stories gave her the answer to her own question, "Why would I?" Because they did. She learned that despite the barriers and the obstacles, women continue to rise above them. They continue to break new ground, challenge the status quo, and lead with integrity, compassion, and conviction.

Ruby's words are a call to action for all young women. Hear Ruby's message loud and clear: You belong here. Your voice matters. You are the future of this place. I hope that one day, we will all be able to look back and say with pride that we were part of a time when the doors of the New South Wales Parliament were opened wide and young women, like Ruby, walked through them with confidence and courage. Here is *Ruby's Statement to the NSW Parliament*:

As a young woman, I watched protests labelling our female Prime Minister 'barren' a 'witch' and a 'menopausal monster.' I watched a female senator told to 'stop shagging men' when expressing her concern on the prevalence of sexual violence against women ... I watched women slandered for their character, their appearances and their personal lives. I watched them attacked, ridiculed and objectified on the basis of their gender.

I would be dishonest if I said that this didn't scare me. That I wasn't concerned for my own sake, that I didn't fear this treatment being directed at me - A young woman with a burning passion for change and a voice. I am not alone in this. Young women across the country are concerned for their mental and physical wellbeing if they pursue a career in parliament. They are afraid of threats; they are afraid of hateful speech, and they are afraid for their safety. These are women and girls my age. They are women and girls who are dedicated, who are intelligent and who this country needs in decision making positions. Parliamentary spaces are creating disconnection from female youth because of fear.

For the March NSW Parliament sitting week, I was invited to attend work experience with Trish Doyle, Member for Blue Mountains. I met her at a public speaking competition held in this very building last year and was honoured when she asked me to join her in Sydney. This experience was truly enlightening. I met inspirational people, learned the operations of Parliament, and came to the realisation that women truly are the foundation of this place. They're our members who dedicate themselves to fighting for change in their community. They're our ministers who are passionate in their fields and better us all. They're our speakers, our clerks, our chefs and staff in the kitchen, our Hansard reporters, our admin, our speechwriters, our reception staff - the people behind the scenes who make things happen.

As a young woman I often ask myself why would I? The ... women I met during my time in parliament are exactly why. ...

I learned from the most amazing women that I too, a young girl with a dream, can make meaningful change and fight, just like they do every day of their careers, for equality and fair treatment.

When I ask myself 'why would I?' I think of this experience, of the hardworking women I met. It is because of them I think differently now, I feel inspired, and I too, fight for change. We've come a long way and I owe it to them, but we still have a long way to go. Young, passionate female leaders are the future. I am part of that future.

Why would I? Because they did.

I thank Ruby Woods.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (18:55): Today I address an issue that continues to plague the Goulburn electorate: the balance between renewable energy initiatives and the preservation of the region's spirit and productivity. Recently, the Yass community welcomed ENGIE's decision to withdraw its proposal for a large-scale solar factory that was encroaching on the township. I have spoken continually about my community's concerns, and I reiterate that this is not a general opposition to renewable energy. The Goulburn electorate, by and large, recognises that, as a State, the decision has been made to transition to sustainable energy sources. However, it is crucial to understand that people are asking for such projects to be strategically planned, developed in genuine consultation with the communities they impact, and located in places where they provide tangible benefits without compromising the liveability or productivity of our regions or urban growth.

The Yass Solar Action Group, which was formed in direct response to the ENGIE proposal, has advocated tirelessly for the community over the past two years. Its efforts have included raising awareness, engaging with politicians and meeting with government officials, sharing its concerns regarding the scale of the project, its proximity to the town and the potential fire risks. The group, much like me, recognises that stringent guidelines must govern the placement of any large-scale industrial projects. Renewable energy should be no different. The group is asking that the Government prioritises locations that are appropriate, avoiding causing unnecessary stress and anxiety to the community. I thank Yass Solar Action Group for its steadfast advocacy and loyalty to the community.

ENGIE has now chosen to withdraw the solar component of its proposal, instead committing to conducting a feasibility study for a large-scale battery installation at the site. I assure members that I will continue to monitor this closely to ensure that community concerns, including fire safety, contamination risks and environmental impacts, are also duly considered in this proposal. We must search for renewable energy solutions that enrich communities, protect agricultural lands and uphold the quality of life that all regional New South Wales residents are entitled to, not just their city counterparts. ENGIE's proposed site for its solar factory was not only outside the New South Wales Government's designated renewable energy zones, but also in contradiction to the local strategic plans for the growth and character of the Yass township.

The Yass proposal, much like the Gundary and Merino proposals in Goulburn that are before the New South Wales planning department, would have imposed a significant burden on the community with little corresponding benefit. It baffles me that regional communities are continually expected to bear the weight of urban energy demands. Why are vast expanses of black solar panels surrounded by three-metre high security fences being approved, erected on the doorstep of homes, farms and future housing developments, especially when the cities that these projects are powering remain untouched? This trend must be scrutinised. Renewable energy developers should not be targeting prime agricultural land in our regions merely to meet government targets and secure subsidies. These projects should not come at the expense of essential resources, such as agricultural land, housing growth and the overall amenity of our towns.

I take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the House a study conducted by the Australian National University.

Using OpenStreetMap data and ArcGIS tools, researchers mapped over 40,000 outdoor car parks across Australia. They came to the conclusion that if 60 per cent of those spaces were fitted with solar panels, it could generate around 13 per cent of Australia's total electricity. This kind of innovative thinking must lead our discussions on renewable energy solutions, to share the burden that our country communities are currently experiencing.

PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE PUBLIC SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (18:59): Over a decade ago, I was driven to put up my hand to represent my community of Port Stephens to improve access to public education. I was frustrated by the fact that children in Medowie did not have a public high school. Whilst the former Liberal-Nationals Government refused to listen to our community and even said that Medowie's kids did not need a public high school, the Minns Labor Government has very different priorities. Public education is a priority for us because we know that investing in our kids and their education is the best investment we can make as a State.

It is why we are investing \$8.9 billion in new and improved school infrastructure across the State, including a historic \$1.4 billion for regional New South Wales, and Port Stephens is a big beneficiary. After 12 years of little love from the former Government for our public schools in Port Stephens, the Minns Labor Government is investing a whole lot of love. Since we formed government, we have got on with the job of delivering significant upgrades to our two high schools in Raymond Terrace. Just over a year ago, we were on site with shovels, turning the first sods to kick off the construction at the schools, and just last week I got to see the progress. What I saw

can only be described as a transformation and one that will have lasting impacts on students for generations to come.

Irrawang High School's multimillion-dollar massive upgrades are already in use, with students enjoying their new classrooms. I spoke with students in their stunning, state-of-the-art new learning hub, which has 14 modern classrooms, including six dedicated support learning spaces. The kids are loving the new spaces, and it is little wonder why. They are stunning and definitely much more than bricks and mortar; they are inclusive spaces where every student, regardless of their needs, feels supported, welcomed and set up to thrive. The upgrades are not only to classrooms. There are new kitchens and accessible bathrooms, and the school's library has been refurbished to the point that I no longer recognise it. The school also got an eye-catching new entrance, and a favourite with families already is the safer, accessible drop-off zone for support students, alongside an expanded car park for staff. With the works now complete, 12 old demountables have been removed from the site, and students got back precious open space. It is a win for learning and wellbeing.

Some additional benefits from the \$29 million upgrades include real-world opportunities created for students like Luke Johnson, which I think is pretty special. Luke, who is in year 12, is a proud member of Irrawang High School's Clontarf Academy. He is doing construction for his HSC, so he got to learn construction skills whilst working on his own school's upgrade. Luke enjoyed the experience, so much so that he is now going to help finish off the upgrades at Hunter River High School. It was great to meet Luke and hear his ambition for gaining a trade when he leaves school, with the foundations for a trade having been laid at school by building his own school. That is pretty cool.

On the other side of Raymond Terrace, at Hunter River High School the transformation is well underway, and while the works are not yet complete, I could already see what a game changer they will be. The school is eagerly anticipating the completion of the \$39 million upgrades later this year, which include an amazing new gymnasium, incredible support classes and a brand-new administration building. I am looking forward to returning to Hunter River High School to celebrate with students, staff, families and our community when the upgrades are complete. I thank the dedicated staff, teachers, principals, students and the school communities at Irrawang and Hunter River high schools. I thank them for their resilience during the construction periods, their passion for public education and their belief in what we can achieve together.

These two major school upgrades, alongside the new Medowie High School, represent the biggest investment in public education in Port Stephens in much more than two decades. Many thanks go to Deputy Premier, and Minister for Education and Early Learning, who has been a relentless advocate for our students, our teachers and our schools. The Deputy Premier's commitment to delivering for regional communities, like Port Stephens, is unwavering. I thank her for always backing our kids.

These projects are not just buildings. They are about creating opportunities, nurturing ambition and ensuring that every young person in Port Stephens has the very best start in life. That is what drove me to be in this place, delivering better futures for children, and that is exactly what we are doing.

MUSIC AND ART THERAPY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (19:04): "Music is the universal language of mankind," as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said. It has been an important communication tool for us since time immemorial. We use music to express ourselves, to celebrate and to mourn. However, there are so many more benefits that can be gained from music. Playing and listening to music are complex cognitive tasks that boost brain health; activate neurological structures; facilitate memory; increase attention, motivation and organisation; improve mood and cognitive function; and support emotional and behavioural regulation. Music therapy has proven benefits for people who may be impacted by psychological, neurological or physical issues. Music removes barriers for people with disabilities, developmental issues and dementia. It improves psychological health and wellbeing.

Recently I spent time at Music Garden with music therapist Simone Reeder while she conducted a therapy session with Alfie Mountain and his mum, Linda. Alfie is four years old and has severe developmental issues. He regularly takes music therapy. Simone told me how much Alfie lights up when engaging with music, which helps his brain develop. Each music therapy session is specifically targeted to needs, to reach the greatest outcome in maximising potential. Music therapists are more than just musicians; they are highly educated individuals who know how to gain the best possible outcomes for participants through the medium of music. Simone said to me:

We learn about the brain, the effects of music, how to support people across the lifespan with disabilities, we work on NDIS goals to support people achieve what they want with a therapy that they choose. We have the evidence, we have the research, we have the skills, and the knowledge.

Music therapy is not just for children. Adults suffering brain injuries or long-term disabilities have made notable improvements in their motor functions. People experiencing early dementia, multiple sclerosis or Hodgkin's disease, as well as people with brain tumours have also noted the benefits. Strong evidence shows how this form

of therapy assists in restoring motor functions, as it aids with timing, sequencing and spatial organisation of movement. Julianne Whyte from the Amaranth Foundation describes the benefits she has witnessed firsthand as extraordinary:

Non-verbal people were able to access memories and became verbal immediately after each program. This was transient but increased when they were able to access this more frequently. Music allows people to get to a state where they can access other brain regions if speech is affected.

Similar to music therapy, art therapy is designed for the individual's needs and objectives while empowering individuals to express themselves creatively, to process emotions and to develop coping mechanisms. It promotes healing and recovery in people who have disabilities or mental health conditions or who have experienced trauma. Young people are facing increasing rates of mental illness, which often manifest as disruptive behaviour. Music therapy in schools can provide early intervention for mental illness, moderate challenging behaviour and increase social engagement while improving mood and help in managing stress and anxiety.

Schools in both Victoria and Queensland have integrated music therapy programs. Why is New South Wales not implementing similar programs? I acknowledge that the Minister for Disability Inclusion has just left the Chamber. In November last year I raised with her the status of music and art therapy under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. In April I received a letter from the National Disability Insurance Agency, which read:

The NDIA commissioned an independent review, led by Dr Stephen Duckett, to assess the evidence on the effectiveness of art and music therapy for people with disability, the qualifications and registration requirements for art and music practitioner and pricing of NDIS art and music therapy supports.

After receiving the report, the NDIA will review its findings and finalise operational guidance later this year. Additionally, any proposed changes will not take effect until the review is complete and the findings have been thoroughly considered.

I urge the Commonwealth disability and NDIS Minister to support the continuation of these therapies within the scheme. I also urge the New South Wales Government to support music and art therapists in our regions, to make them more accessible and to advance school programs.

I end by quoting Elton John, who provided the great insight that "music has healing power. It has the ability to take people out of themselves for a few hours." May Alfie continue to benefit from the healing power of music, and may his mum, Linda, continue to see her little man light up through the efforts of therapists like Simone.

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL AND BIRRONG BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (19:09): It is an absolute privilege to celebrate a milestone moment in education in our local community: the completion of upgraded facilities at Birrong Girls High School and Birrong Boys High School. After more than 60 years of service to our community, those two great schools are finally receiving the transformation they have long deserved. I am thrilled to say that it is not just a face lift; it is a full-scale, multimillion-dollar investment in the future of our children, our educators and our community. The upgrades represent far more than bricks and mortar; they are a powerful symbol of Labor values and that every student deserves the tools, spaces and opportunities to thrive. They are a statement that we believe in public education and that we back our teachers and students 100 per cent.

As someone who once walked the halls of Birrong Girls High School, I feel deep personal pride about this moment. My time at Birrong shaped me. It gave me the confidence to aim high and a foundation to build on. To stand in this Parliament now, representing a government committed to delivering the public education facilities our kids need, is both humbling and incredibly fulfilling. The two schools may stand just a few blocks apart, but their reach extends far beyond the classrooms. Together, they educate thousands of young people who will become our future leaders, our essential workers, our artists, our engineers, our builders, our thinkers and our innovators. The benefits of the upgrades will be felt not just within school grounds; they will ripple across our entire community.

Look at what has been delivered by the New South Wales Labor Government. At Birrong Girls High School, students are already benefiting from stage one of the upgrade, which includes a brand-new teaching building with 13 classrooms and two dedicated visual arts workshops. There is a stunning new multipurpose hall—I wish I was in it; it is fantastic—a covered outdoor learning area, a new administration wing and upgraded staff facilities. The landscaped outdoor areas now provide spaces that are not only functional but also beautiful. It is a setting that inspires learning. Over at Birrong Boys High School, where three of my brothers went to school, the transformation is just as significant. The school now boasts a new teaching block with 11 classrooms, state-of-the-art wood and metal workshops, three science laboratories and two food technology kitchens. Students also now enjoy a new canteen, a refurbished school hall, a fresh school entrance and a new outdoor sports court. Just like at Birrong Girls High School, new shaded outdoor areas have been created to support learning and recreation.

The work is not stopping there. Stage two is already underway and on track to be completed by the end of May. At Birrong Girls, we are building a new materials learning unit, while Birrong Boys is getting upgrades to its general learning areas, its student support unit and its fitness centre. All of that has been delivered just 16 months after the sod was turned, on time and on budget. We can all be proud of it. It is part of the Labor Government's record-breaking \$8.9 billion investment in new and upgraded schools across New South Wales, with a historic \$3.6 billion earmarked specifically for Western Sydney. After decades of neglect under the former Liberal-Nationals Government, we are putting Western Sydney students and families back where they belong: front and centre.

World-class facilities give our students the resources they need to aim high, stay engaged and realise their full potential. The word "Birrong" comes from the Dharug word for stars. With the new facilities, our students at both Birrong Girls High School and Birrong Boys High School are even better equipped to reach for the stars. I also take a moment to acknowledge the resilience and patience shown by the principals, teachers, students, staff and families during the construction period. Their flexibility and determination have been key to making it possible. The New South Wales Labor Government's commitment is simple: It will keep delivering for public education, because students deserve nothing less than the best, because strong schools build strong communities and because investing in education is the smartest investment the Government can make for the future of New South Wales.

LT CREEK

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (19:14): It is always an honour to stand in this House and draw attention to issues which concern one's electorate. Today that honour is marred by disappointment and frustration as I highlight, yet again, an issue I have spoken about twice in this place before and which has been subject to numerous written requests to successive Ministers. So, for the third time, I raise the ongoing need to remediate LT Creek. LT Creek is a short but locally important waterway that flows into Lake Macquarie via Fennell Bay. Due to historic mining operations at Newstan Colliery, the LT Creek catchment suffers from high levels of suspended sediment in its upper tidal reaches. That causes poor aquatic health and impacts the lake further downstream. What does that look like? It looks like black sand and sludge being stirred up as one wades through the waters, leaving a dark trail behind. The flow picks up sediment the colour of tar from the creek bed, leaving little question as to why the marine nursery that once thrived there has so declined: the remobilisation and transport of sediment every time there is heavy rain and flooding.

The proposed solution is a one-off dredging operation to remove materials for offsite treatment and disposal. That work would significantly improve the local environment and recreation amenity. Lake Macquarie City Council is ready and willing to go with a proposed dredging and remediation plan, with costings having been prepared some years ago and regularly dusted off and updated. I first raised the need to remediate LT Creek in 2015. I spoke about it again in 2019 and was hopeful that revisiting the issue would encourage productive conversations and lead to action. While I raised the issue in this House, I have also met with Ministers and brought local advocacy for the creek to this place to appeal directly to the Government via the Minister. Unfortunately, six years on, we are still waiting. In that time, the estimated cost of remediation has increased substantially. The cost of dredging was valued in 2018 at around \$1.6 million and is now over \$3 million.

As I have told the Premier and the Minister for Regional New South Wales, I believe the State Government has a responsibility to remediate LT Creek. The State owned and operated Newstan Colliery for 125 years, which was the majority of its operating life. In that time, the State did not protect the local environment from destruction. While significant improvements were made in more recent times to reduce run-off from the site, it has not reversed the degradation caused by legacy mining operations. This Government now has an opportunity to exercise responsible stewardship of these historic operations and promote environmental sustainability by funding remediation of the creek. The sad reality is that, for years, no-one—besides locals—has cared about LT Creek. There are many to thank for their tireless efforts to call for change and clean up the creek, and I must call out John Paul Young for his commitment to this so far thankless cause.

The remediation of the important estuary system that is Lake Macquarie is an achievement locals can be proud of. My involvement in that process while I was a councillor and Mayor of Lake Macquarie is certainly one of my proudest achievements. However, the job is ongoing, and we must be vigilant to ensure our natural environment is protected even while more development, industry and growth is pursued. The rehabilitation of LT Creek is one part of that, and it is a part I am determined to continue to pursue during my time in this place. I ask the New South Wales Government to do the right thing by the people and the local environment of Lake Macquarie and fund Lake Macquarie City Council to do that work it has made numerous requests for. Please, after all these years and requests, let's clean up LT Creek.

REGIONAL ROAD SAFETY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast) (19:18): This week is National Road Safety Week, and it is auspicious that the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport is in the Chamber. As the Minister told the House yesterday, tragically 134 people have died on our roads this year. They are lives lost, loved ones from families and communities who are all deeply loved and missed. The grief is unimaginable for the families. That touches my electorate—it touches every member's electorate—and more so in the rural, regional and remote areas.

My area is not immune to it, and we all have to do better. I drive around a fair bit, and I know the Minister has driven all over New South Wales. She drives everywhere. She is not only the Minister but also sees it firsthand. I drive a fair bit across my electorate and I see a lot of speeding. We can build better roads, and we are building them. We are doing all of the things that we need to do, and we have campaigns but, at some point, people just have to slow down.

It pains me to say it, but I cannot unsee what I have seen on our roads. The other night I was driving home with one of my staff members in the pelting rain in my electorate. Driving around in the rain is not unusual in my area, and there is more rain coming at the moment, unfortunately. When I learnt to drive we were told that we should go five kilometres per hour slower when it is raining—slow down and drive to the conditions. We were driving safely, just under the speed limit, and there was a car behind us. It was like a bongo van—you know what I mean, Mr Temporary Speaker. It was really close behind us, flashing its lights and honking the horn. There was hardly any light, and it was pelting down rain. This happens a lot; it is not unusual. I have had cause to report people doing things like that out on the road because it is unsafe for them and for a lot of other people.

There is one thing I have noticed and want to reinforce. Yesterday the Minister said that we need to be very clear and lower speed limits in pedestrian areas because there is a 10 per cent risk that a pedestrian hit at 30 kilometres per hour will be killed, but if a pedestrian is hit at 50 kilometres per hour, the risk of being killed rises to 90 per cent. She talked us through some of those statistics. We know speed is not the only factor, but it is a big factor in road safety. The Minister also told the House that we introduced the 40 kilometres per hour speed zones around schools. The Minister may not know that I was part of that campaign many years ago with Brian Langton and even Wal Murray—going back a ways—because we had seen what happens outside schools, particularly in country areas where people could just hoick past at 80 or 100 kilometres per hour. Tragically, I saw someone in my area lose their life back then, and there was quite a campaign to lower the speed limit.

But when we lower the speed limit, I get lobbied by people saying we should not do it and that we should keep the limit high—and that is for country roads that clearly need the limit lowered. I have to say, Transport for NSW does a good job assessing where roads need to have lower speed limits. Globally, about 1.19 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged five to 29 years, and 92 per cent of the world's road fatalities occur in low- and middle-income countries, even though those countries have around 60 per cent of the world's vehicles. Road crashes cost most countries about 3 per cent of their gross domestic product, and the United Nations General Assembly has an ambitious target of halving the global number of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2030.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport) (19:23): I make a brief contribution in response to the Minister's important private member's statement. I thank her and her former parliamentary colleagues for the work they did on those school speed zones, because that has been really important. As part of National Road Safety Week, I also thank all of the advocates: the Road Trauma Support Group, and Peter Frazer, of course, who initiated this back after the death of his daughter Sarah in 2012. The stories they share have really managed to change the conversation to ensure that people are addressing issues of speed et cetera.

We can always do better. I urge everyone to look at their stories. Transport for NSW now has a website where people can share stories about road trauma, because looking into the eyes of someone who has had a lifelong injury, or someone who has lost someone, really makes a person rethink their attitude to speeding.

UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (19:24): Tonight I raise one of the great concerns in the Upper Hunter electorate at present, and that is public health services. Before I do so, I acknowledge our amazing health professionals, who work so hard, and I know that sentiment is shared by everyone in the Upper Hunter. My notice of motion this morning called on the Premier and the Minister for Health to ensure that the required amount of public health funding is made available to my electorate in next month's New South Wales budget. When I say required amount, I want to be clear that I am advocating that Hunter New England Local Health District [LHD] gets the additional resources it needs to address a number of issues.

Upper Hunter has eight of Hunter New England LHD's local public hospitals: Singleton, Muswellbrook, Gloucester, Murrurundi, Dungog, Scone and the multipurpose services at Denman and Merriwa. I recently met with the mayors of Singleton, Muswellbrook shire and Upper Hunter shire for a roundtable discussion with Hunter New England LHD management to discuss our local public health concerns. I thank the LHD CEO, Tracey McCosker, and the executive director of operations, Susan Hayward, for meeting with Mayor Sue Moore, Mayor Jeff Drayton and Mayor Maurice Collison. The priority public health issues that were identified included the declining maternity services, the increasing need for patient transport services, the difficulties in accessing a GP and the availability of 24-hour CT scanning.

The need for public maternity services was highlighted to me again last Friday night when I attended a regional health forum hosted by the Muswellbrook branch of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association at Muswellbrook Workers Club. I reiterated to the community that the Minns Labor Government has promised to have a regional health care plan for maternity services by the end of the year, and that I cannot stress how important it is that we reverse the decline in maternity services in regional New South Wales. I note that construction work is currently underway on the \$45 million Muswellbrook Hospital redevelopment, but a picture of the hospital inpatient wards shared by the nurses with the community is of concern. There is an issue across the board in the Upper Hunter with the inpatient wards at a number of our large hospitals. According to what the community was told by the nurses' union, the facilities are outdated and are no longer fit for purpose, nor do they meet infection control standards. Additionally, it was suggested that efforts to adequately maintain those facilities is minimal.

Concerns were expressed about safe staffing levels because, despite the increase in patient presentations to the emergency department, there has been no increase to staffing. Staff security on the Muswellbrook Hospital site is another serious concern, especially after eight vehicles were destroyed by fire in July last year and vehicles were tampered with overnight several times during 2023. I mentioned before that patient transport services are causing major concern, and I believe that it is a problem we should urgently do more about. The issue is twofold, as it impacts our frontline NSW Ambulance paramedics as well as hospital staffing.

I have spoken extensively with paramedics in my electorate to gain an understanding of the frustrations they go through while on shift. High on their list are the impediments that prevent them from performing first response duties, such as having to be involved in patient transfers or, worse, being unable to efficiently make a clinical handover of a patient at a hospital due to ramping or access block. I would like NSW Health to consider increasing the patient transport fleet to take the pressure off our ambulance paramedics, allowing them to fulfil the role for which they are trained and needed. We need to get a better balance in this area. Whilst I appreciate that public health units continue to address workforce issues, we cannot lose sight of what regional and rural areas require now and into the future.

The Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health, chaired by the member for Wagga Wagga, is a really important committee and will play a pivotal role in ensuring key regional healthcare issues are front and centre. I thank the committee members for their continuing work, which I am following closely.

At a recent meeting of the Country Mayors Association, we heard from the Deputy Secretary for Regional Health, Luke Sloane, who provided an assurance that NSW Health also has a focus on improving regional health. The Upper Hunter has given so much to the New South Wales economy through industrial-scale export coal production. In return, there must be a fair approach to ensure quality health care is always available close to home.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (19:29): The people I represent in my electorate of Heathcote are enveloped by the Federal electorates of Hughes and Cunningham. Both communities made their continued support for the Australian Labor Party well known in the 2025 Federal election. The people of New South Wales and Australia made it clear that they value leadership defined by respect, equality, dignity and, most importantly, a fair go for all. The re-election of the Albanese Labor Government by the Australian people gives us in the Minns Labor Government the opportunity to keep building a better New South Wales. We will continue to be a united front on housing, education and environmental reform. I am particularly excited to keep trailblazing for fee-free TAFE, as a TAFE alumnus myself.

Alison Byrnes will continue to represent her constituents in the Illawarra with passion and humility. David Moncrieff gave Hughes back to Labor after 30 years of the Liberal Party taking its communities for granted. I thank the people of Hughes and Cunningham, and indeed Australia, for acknowledging the need for political leadership that is local and committed to the community and building a better future for Australia. I look forward to working with those two exemplary Federal MPs to deliver positive and tangible outcomes for the locals I represent in Heathcote.

The previous Labor member for Hughes was Robert Tickner, 30 years ago. I knew him to be a genuine, caring and committed member of Parliament at the time, and he is still like that today. David will live up to and exceed the example set by Mr Tickner. I also thank outgoing MP Jenny Ware for her public service. I noticed that Mr Moncrieff's election was being touted by the media as "accidental" or a "shock" to the people of Australia. Mr Moncrieff's victory was in no way accidental, nor did he fall into the office. He ran a grassroots campaign focused on reaching locals face to face. When somebody holds true to the values of respect, dignity and opportunity, which are values of the Labor Party, no-one should be surprised that the people of Australia choose them. Mr Moncrieff won polling booths in the State Liberal electorates of Holsworthy and Miranda, some members opposite may be interested to know.

I thank the people of Cunningham for continuing to recognise Ms Byrne's staunch advocacy for her community and for renewing the mandate for the Albanese Labor Government. It has been a delight to work with her over the past two years of my tenure and I look forward to many more years of fruitful teamwork. I congratulate our Federal colleagues in the electorates of Hughes and Cunningham on their election victory. I am eager to work with two hardworking MPs to deliver positive outcomes for the people of Heathcote.

TWEED VALLEY HOSPITAL

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (19:32): Today is a special day in the Tweed electorate. I say a big happy birthday to the new Tweed Valley Hospital. On 14 May last year the \$723 million state-of-the-art hospital opened its doors to patients. The new hospital has 200 more beds than the old Tweed Hospital and an additional 16 emergency department treatment spaces. It also includes two services that were not provided by the old hospital: an interventional cardiology service and an integrated cancer care service with radiotherapy and PET/CT. The new cancer service has meant that patients no longer need to travel outside the area for treatment. In the last count, 1,800 people in the Tweed electorate are suffering from some form of cancer. For 12 months Tweed residents have been able to access this world-class health care.

I am proud that the previous Liberal-Nationals Government made the hospital possible by recognising the need for a bigger, more sophisticated hospital in the Tweed and allocating almost three-quarters of a billion dollars to the project. Many members in this place will be aware that the journey to our new hospital was not smooth. My electorate office staff and I endured accusations and criticisms as the new hospital stepped through the planning and development process.

Securing and delivering our new hospital is undoubtedly one of my proudest achievements during my 18-plus years as the member for Tweed.

It remains one of the biggest spends on a regional hospital in New South Wales history and will ensure that the people of the Tweed region and beyond have access to the best possible health care. However, I acknowledge that the hospital's first 12 months have not been without imperfections. Even though we fought hard and succeeded in securing free car parking at the hospital for staff, patients and visitors, the lack of adequate parking remains a serious issue. I sincerely hope the additional 130 street-level car parking spaces alleviates the pressures on the existing 1,100 multi-level and on-ground car parking spaces and improves the experience for those working at or visiting the hospital.

I also hope the first birthday of the Tweed Valley Hospital means that we are closer to knowing the future of the old Tweed Hospital site in Tweed Heads. I receive regular queries from Tweed constituents about the future use of the old hospital, which remains largely untouched since it was decommissioned 12 months ago. It is currently home to services such as the Tweed Heads Community Health Centre and BreastScreen. My recently re-elected Federal Labor counterpart promised to use the site for a new, free, bulk-billed Urgent Care Clinic as well as a free mental health clinic. There was speculation that the new services would be housed in the old hospital, but we are still waiting. I look forward to receiving further updates on that important piece of infrastructure. It is a happy day for the Tweed because I understand celebrations were held at Tweed Valley Hospital today to mark the hospital's first year of operation. My invitation must still be in the post. Unfortunately, I am in Sydney.

Ms Karen McKeown: Parliament is sitting.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: That is right.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: I don't think the Minister was there, either.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: No, I saw the Minister here. As always, I am 100 per cent for the Tweed. I wish a happy birthday to the Tweed Valley Hospital. I give a shout-out to all the staff. It is still an issue that nurses in Queensland are paid 16 per cent more, but I believe the Government is working on that. I look forward to a positive outcome. The nurses do a fabulous job and I hear of nothing but positive results. Once again, I am 100 per cent for the Tweed and I wish a happy birthday to the Tweed Valley Hospital.

PENRITH ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN 110TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith) (19:37): On 25 April this year, thousands of members of the Penrith community once again came together to honour the enduring legacy of our Australian and New Zealand veterans. A series of community events was held across the electorate, bringing together people of all ages and backgrounds in solemn reflection and deep appreciation for those who served. I thank everyone who participated in the local services. Penrith Paceway hosted the local school's service. The Penrith RSL Sub-Branch held the dawn service and march. The Penrith Bowling and Recreation Club hosted a service, and there was also a community service at Lions Park in Emu Plains.

Anzac Day is one of Australia's most significant national occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli during the First World War. On 25 April 1915, soldiers from both nations formed part of the Allied expedition that landed on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula. The Gallipoli campaign was long and arduous, lasting for more than nine months. Tragically, the campaign claimed the lives of more than 8,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers, with an additional 18,000 wounded. Yet, from the hardship and sacrifice emerged a defining chapter in our national story: the birth of the Anzac legend. This year I had the profound honour of representing the Penrith community in person at the Gallipoli dawn service. Standing on that sacred ground as the sun rose over Anzac Cove was a deeply moving experience. It reminded me of the courage it took for our diggers to land on that foreign shore and the price so many of them paid. So many of them were just kids. I was forewarned that it was an emotional experience. I thought I was prepared, but I was not.

It was such a privilege to be immersed in the birthplace of the Anzac spirit, marked by courage, mateship, endurance and self-sacrifice. With the day marking 110 years since the events of the Gallipoli campaign, I was joined by a crowd of more than 2,600 people at this year's dawn service as we commemorated the character of those who served in that campaign and those who have served in every conflict for our great nation since. On the previous day, 24 April, I also attended the Turkish service. That was also very moving. It was like no Anzac service I have ever attended. Later that morning, I was privileged to lay a tribute both on behalf of the Penrith RSL sub-branch and the broader community at Lone Pine Cemetery. I was also able to attend the British service later the same day.

Laying wreaths and tributes is a symbolic way to signify our enduring gratitude and respect. It is a powerful reminder that the memory of those who served lives on not just in monuments and ceremonies but also in our collective national identity. The sacrifice of our service men and women must never be forgotten. Their legacy is not confined to history but lives on in every service member, every veteran and every community that gathers each April to remember. As we reflect on the meaning of Anzac Day, we come together as communities not to celebrate war but to renew our commitment to peace, to supporting our veterans and to upholding the values the Anzacs fought to protect. I was especially moved by the profound words of Atatürk, the first President of the Turkish republic, who delivered the following message to Australian and New Zealander mothers in 1934 as an expression of friendship:

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 Mehmets 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.

How very poignant. Lest we forget.

BARWON ELECTORATE PROJECTS

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (19:42): I would like to tell the House about some amazing things happening in my electorate. A couple minutes out of Broken Hill, a tract of arid land surrounding a former town water reservoir is being transformed into an ecotourism park, recreation area and nature reserve. The Imperial Lakes project is being developed by Landcare Broken Hill, driven largely by renowned barrister Simon Molesworth. Simon has a vision to create a place to conserve the unique flora and fauna around Broken Hill, house research facilities and provide recreation for locals and tourists. The project has had my full support since it was first proposed. The decommissioning of the Imperial Lakes as a backup water source for Broken Hill provided an opportunity for Landcare to take it over and realise Simon's vision. There was already a strong sentiment that the lakes should be opened to the public. Many Broken Hill residents recalled picnics by the lake and swimming at their inland "beach".

In 2022 the land was transferred to Landcare. The project has relied on volunteers and support from non-government and private organisations such as Transgrid, which recently donated money for a generator. The Hydrostor energy project has also committed financial support. The Imperial Lakes project will make the city

more liveable and draw ecotourists from around the world. Tourism is great for regional areas. It brings money to local businesses, creates jobs, gives country people a chance to show their hospitality and lets people from outside the region see what our regional, rural and remote communities can offer. It also might just entice some people to move there. Communities in Barwon usually have either primary production or mining, or both, as their main income source. But tourism adds another income stream. Many Ministers and MPs have come to Barwon. All agree it is a great place to visit and all are eager to return. That has sometimes translated into commitments of support for tourism projects or some less sexy projects such as roads and rest stops and infrastructure that supports tourism—

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Hey!

Mr ROY BUTLER: I acknowledge the interjection of the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport. I am just saying that those are not as exciting as a water park.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: We love our roads projects.

Mr ROY BUTLER: We can always use more projects.

Although Imperial Lakes has managed without much government funding, Ministers have expressed a willingness to contribute. Last week the Premier committed \$50,000 from his discretionary fund towards a staff member for the reserve. The project is one of many in Barwon that have made or will make western New South Wales a better place to live and a great place to visit. Many projects are driven by community members like Simon, who are good at finding ways to make their vision a reality, but it is also good to see the Government showing more interest in tourism in Barwon.

Another attraction in a similar vein to Imperial Lakes is Burrima, which is a boardwalk through the Macquarie Marshes that allows people to get close to a Ramsar classified wetland. It was developed in collaboration between the non-government Macquarie Wetlands Association Incorporated and the Destination Macquarie Marshes Task Force, with \$3.4 million in funding from the State Government under the Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund. People come to Warren for the wetlands but stay for the cafes, art gallery and everything else the town has to offer. Warren is one of many Barwon towns with a proactive council. I was there in August last year unveiling several town-enhancing projects such as a new airport terminal and improvements to the racecourse. It is dubbed the Randwick of the West because it was modelled on Royal Randwick—it is the same racecourse.

In Coonamble the council is developing bore baths, which will make it part of a popular artesian bore bath tourist trail across New South Wales and Queensland, along with the other Barwon towns of Burren Junction, Collarenebri, Goodooga, Lightning Ridge, Pilliga and Walgett. The council has secured \$5.5 million from the Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund to build the baths. In Condobolin the famous Utes in the Paddock—utes decorated by outback artists—have become a tourism precinct with a great visitors centre and a sculpture trail, thanks to the Infrastructure and Job Acceleration Fund, the Regional Growth Fund, the Stronger Country Communities Fund and money from Lachlan Shire Council.

A couple of months ago I was in Cobar, where the council has bought the Grand Hotel—the one in the main street with the giant beer can—to make it part of a tourism precinct and a stop on the Pub Route, which is a tour people can take of iconic pubs in the west. Look it up at thepubroute.com.au. It would be great to see government funding to help that route grow. Events like the Mundi Mundi Bash also draw thousands of tourists, but the sealing of the Wilangie Road, which leads to the event, provides all-weather access to the Bash site. Those attractions could all use more government help. It does not even have to be a huge funding commitment; sometimes it is enough to fund small but meaningful projects. I encourage everyone to go out west and take a look at everything Barwon has to offer.

NAKBA DAY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice) (19:47): Last week I met a family of recently arrived Palestinians. They carry with them the scars from Gaza to Greenacre. They will now try to build a life in my electorate. They suffer survivor guilt, which becomes worse every day the news shows people they once knew being killed for no reason other than being in the wrong place and having the wrong heritage. The father spoke to me of the Nakba, Arabic for "the catastrophe", when 750,000 Palestinians were displaced and dispossessed from their homeland.

Tomorrow is the anniversary of the Nakba and, 77 years on, we cannot ignore the stark reality of what is unfolding before our very eyes. It is said we must learn from history or be doomed to repeat it, but I fear that we have forgotten, and we are not learning. This year's Nakba Day comes at a time when Israel has implemented a

total blockade, declaring its intentions to conquer Gaza, increase the annexure of land in the West Bank and move the population south. It comes as more schools are bombed and children are killed. Recently a team of medics was killed, their bodies buried in shallow graves. It comes as the journalists who can tell those stories are killed.

We cannot be surprised that the United Nations independent international commission of inquiry has found Israel has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. We have been watching the current tragedy for almost two years. I have said before that what happened on 7 October was horrific, and I have called for a just peace and a return of hostages. But the collective punishment inflicted on the Palestinian people runs contrary to international law—so much so that the International Court of Justice has warned of a plausible case of genocide and the United Nations special rapporteur has warned of mass ethnic cleansing.

The attacks on innocent civilians endorsed by the Netanyahu Government have killed close to 50,000 people, including children. Each life—each baby, child, mother, father, grandmother and grandfather—matters. Each image of bodies in bags and parents cradling dead children is a human story.

It is hard to reconcile this as we hug our children in the safety of our own homes. As the late Pope Francis said, "They bombed the children. This is cruelty, not war." This Nakba Day, as a direct consequence of a total blockade, Palestinians face starvation. Children are being denied nourishment. Horrific images of their skin stuck to their bones fill our screens. This is more than a war on Hamas; it is an annihilation of the people of Gaza. It would be easy for some to dismiss this as the view of Arabs alone. So let me be clear: Calling out the actions of a government that kills innocent civilians, blocks aid, destroys social infrastructure and ignores international law is to call out right from wrong, to speak for those who may never have a voice, and to advocate for a just world.

Many people in my electorate who trace their roots to The Nakba still carry the key to the home from which they were dispossessed. Their grief is a key to the past—a symbol of what has been taken. But compassion is the key to the future. I am a teacher who has always sought to model right from wrong. Our collective responsibility is to create a future where compassion triumphs over hate. We model right from wrong by calling for an immediate ceasefire, a release of all hostages, an end to this brutal killing and a lasting peace: a recognition of two sovereign States. In the families who have fled Gaza for Greenacre, I see strength and defiance. This Nakba Day reminds us that, through the enduring struggle, the Palestinian spirit and the Palestinian people will not be extinguished and will not be forgotten.

BADGERYS CREEK ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgers Creek) (19:52): This year's Anzac Day marked the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. I thank and commend the City of Penrith RSL Sub-Branch and all involved in arranging and running what was a very dignified and moving Anzac school service on 8 April 2025. It was wonderful to see so many students from across my electorate and beyond take part in the service. At the service, I laid a tribute in the form of the book entitled, *Australia, My Love*. The book is an autobiography by Rick Pisaturo, who lived in my electorate. It tells his story as an Italian soldier who was captured by the Allied forces in World War II and sent to Australia, where he was an Italian prisoner of war.

After the war, Mr Pisaturo repatriated to Italy but returned to Australia after two years. The book tells of his love for and commitment to Australia, and his appreciation of the opportunity and value of hard work in this country. Mr Pisaturo obtained a real estate licence and worked in the Penrith and Blacktown regions. He would go on to purchase land at Mamre Road in Erskine Park, where he worked as a well-known cattle breeder. The land is now known as Mandalong Park. Mr Pisaturo was awarded an Order of Australia Medal [OAM] for his significant contribution to the Australian cattle industry. From an enemy soldier to an OAM, his is a remarkable story. Sadly, Mr Pisaturo passed away in 2022 at the age of 100. I strongly urge all students to read the inspirational book and understand some of the important local history.

On Anzac Day I had the honour of laying a wreath at the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch Anzac dawn service. Thousands reflected on the courage and selfless sacrifice of all who served our nation throughout many wars and peacekeeping operations. I thank the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, of which I am proud to be a patron, for organising the wonderful service, which respected and commemorated all service men and women. In particular, I recognise the ongoing and extraordinary work of the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch president, Cyril Law; vice presidents Brad Siveright and Steve Tolsher; treasurer Ted Fish, OAM; secretary Tony Fryer; and wellbeing officers Bill Peet and Sam Vecchio.

As well as the Anzac Day dawn services, those amazing individuals and the wonderful community members who assist them organise commemorative services throughout the year to honour our past and present service personnel who have served in different parts of the world at different times. In reflecting on our service personnel, I recognise and commend former Glenmore Park High School student Private Zachary Hanman Reid, who is an enlisted soldier with the Royal Australian Corps of Transport. Zachary marched out of Kapooka on

Anzac Day this year having completed recruit training, and is currently located at Puckapunyal for further training. I wish Private Reid and his fellow service men and women the very best in this honourable career.

In addition to the RSL sub-branches, outstanding volunteers and organisations like the St Marys and District Historical Society share important stories and keep the memories of our past service men and women alive, particularly those from Western Sydney. The St Marys and District Historical Society shared the story of Major James Francis Thomas, who was born in 1861 on his parent's property, Lenore, at Erskine Park. Major Thomas served in several actions, including at the Relief of Mafeking, and is renowned for being called on as a lawyer to defend lieutenants of the British Army who were on trial for the murder of nine Boer prisoners of war during the Second Boer War. Incredibly, Major Thomas passed away on Remembrance Day in 1942.

The memory of those who have served are also preserved in honour rolls across our region. This includes the honour roll at Orchard Hills Public School, which commemorates 12 men and one woman with a connection to the local Orchard Hills area who served during World War I. The honour roll at the St Thomas' Anglican Church in Mulgoa bears the name of Private Lionel William Bennett, who was also known as William Edward John Sargent. He was a local of the Mulgoa area who fought for our nation in World War I and was killed in action in Bullecourt in France on 2 April 1917. I honour all those who have served and who continue to serve our nation. We are forever grateful for their service, and we will never forget them. Lest we forget.

WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (19:57): I first spoke about the mosquito outbreak in Liverpool in November last year to provide the House and the community with an update on the response from Sydney Water and the New South Wales Government. That was prompted by a significant mosquito outbreak that had partly originated from the growth of a specific weed over the oxidation pond at the Liverpool Water Resource Recovery Facility at Warwick Farm. In February this year I updated the House on actions that had followed, including the re-establishment of funding for Liverpool City Council's mosquito management plan, an initiative spearheaded by Labor councillors in Liverpool, as well as Sydney Water's development of a comprehensive four-year management plan for the site.

The management plan focuses on regular monitoring, treatment and removal of aquatic vegetation, which was identified as a primary breeding ground for the outbreak last year. Targeting the root cause reduces the risk of similar events in the future. However, we must go further if we are serious about protecting our community from future outbreaks. Our approach must extend beyond one site. It must be applied across our local waterways where ecological conditions transcend local government and level-of-government boundaries. I was encouraged to learn about the New South Wales Government's Weeds Action Program, which recognises the importance of long-term, coordinated management of invasive species and vegetation that can pose real risks to both public health and the environment.

The Weeds Action Program Regional Sub-program 2024-2025 is a targeted initiative by the New South Wales Government designed to empower local control authorities [LCA] to combat the threat of invasive weeds across the State. Grants range from \$20,000 to over \$700,000 in support of activities that prevent the establishment and spread of State and regional priority weeds. It aligns with the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2023-2028 and the NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Strategy 2022-2030. It focuses on early detection, rapid response and community engagement to strengthen biosecurity measures statewide. By funding projects that enhance the surveillance, control and management of high-risk weeds, the program ensures that New South Wales maintains the capacity and commitment to protect its agricultural productivity and natural ecosystems.

This collaborative effort between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and LCAs underscores our Government's dedication to proactive and coordinated weed management strategies that safeguard our environment and economy. The health risks posed by aquatic weeds and the difficult financial circumstances Liverpool City Council finds itself in mean that State Government resources are welcome. I was eager to see whether it had secured funding under the Weeds Action Program.

I scrolled through the list of 86 successful applicants, many of them familiar metropolitan councils, including Camden, Canterbury Bankstown and Fairfield. All of them rightly recognised the importance of proactive weed management. But when I got to "L", I could not believe what I saw or, rather, did not see. The only mention of "Liverpool" was Liverpool Plains Shire Council, located hundreds of kilometres away in regional New South Wales.

Not wanting to jump to conclusions, I contacted the Minister's office to clarify. Its response was both clear and concerning: Liverpool City Council had been invited to apply but chose not to. The metropolitan council that had firsthand experience with a major weed-related mosquito outbreak, where the mayor catastrophised about Christmas being cancelled, and that had only just re-established its management plan did not even submit an

application for funding. It is baffling. At a time when other councils are stepping up and seeking support to manage aquatic weeds, Liverpool simply sat out.

It is particularly frustrating given the ongoing local concerns I have raised with council about the state of our waterways. In recent months I have followed up on multiple outbreaks of aquatic vegetation, most notably a giant salvinia infestation in Hinchinbrook Creek between Cecil Hills and Elizabeth Hills. Those are not isolated issues. Across the Liverpool local government area, from Ashcroft to Austral, residents are dealing with the consequences of poor weed management. In the electorate of the member for Holsworthy, there is longstanding frustration among residents of Voyager Point about the condition of their lake. These are not abstract or hypothetical concerns; they are real, persistent problems impacting people's lives and their environment. To see such a missed opportunity, particularly when help was there for the taking, is disappointing and raises real questions about whether Liverpool City Council is taking the issue seriously enough.

Our community deserves better. We deserve a council that does not just react to get on the news when problems arise but anticipates them, plans for them and shows up when it counts. Funding was on the table. The problem was well known, the invitation to apply was there yet Liverpool City Council failed to act. It is not good enough, and it is not the first time. Time and again we have seen this pattern: opportunities missed, responsibilities shrugged off and our community left to deal with the consequences. I call on Liverpool City Council to stop dropping the ball.

NOWRA CRANES

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (20:02): In my inaugural speech in this place, I talked about the importance of small business. I told this House:

Small businesspeople represent the backbone of this State's economy. These people rarely complain because it is not in their nature to do so.

I remain as committed to small business today as I did the first day I walked into this Parliament. Over the years, I have been critical of the Liberal Party for its failure to do as much for small business as Labor does for the unions, but it is the behaviour of one union towards a small business in my electorate that I want to raise tonight.

Pacific National Constructions Pty Ltd has been operating under the business name of Nowra Cranes for over 20 years. From small beginnings with only two cranes, Nowra Cranes has grown to become the largest crane hire company in the Shoalhaven district, able to handle jobs of any size. But its ability to work on any job has been under threat in our local area because of behaviour by the CFMEU that can only be described as industrial bullying. Tonight I use the time of this House to call for an inquiry into local businesses being forced off government jobs because of bullying and harassment by the CFMEU. Those actions, which I will outline tonight, have not only hurt local business and jobs but the CFMEU's behaviour has also come at a cost to taxpayers, with more expensive and out-of-town contractors having to be engaged because of union hostility and union industrial power.

Problems started when an employee of Nowra Cranes consistently breached their employment contract. Nowra Cranes elected to terminate the employee's tenure on the terms consistent with the employment contract. Enter the CFMEU, which demanded a payment of \$2,000 on top of all entitlements owing in accordance with the contract. Nowra Cranes was assured that if it paid that amount, all its problems would go away. Nowra Cranes refused to pay a cent more than the employee was entitled. What followed can only be described as industrial bullying.

For the first time, the CFMEU began bombarding Nowra Cranes sites, including the New South Wales government jobs, with weekly right of entry requests, which resulted in work being delayed and risked delivery time frames. Nowra Cranes tells me that whilst Fulton Hogan had initially agreed to engage Nowra Cranes for work on local roads projects, those jobs were terminated when the CFMEU became aware of its involvement.

Nowra Cranes provided me with a statement, advising the following:

A typical visit from the CFMEU went like this... I received a call from Seymour Whyte asking me to send my Franna crane from the job site to their office as the CFMEU official has safety concerns about our crane and wishes to inspect it. The official stated he had an anonymous tip off. I sent my crew and crane to their office.

We were met by at least 5 representatives from Seymour Whyte including the superintendent for Seymour Whyte. The union official commenced his inspection and over a two hour period of trying to condemn the crane over the most absurd things, my son Keith had a satisfactory answer for everything including being able to show proof with paperwork and legislation. The Seymour Whyte project manager said to the union official "you've spent two hours trying to find something wrong with this crane and you haven't, what's say we all get back to work". The union official opened up his book and read out this statement. "If a union official suspects there is something wrong with the crane he is to send the crane home, I suspect there is something wrong with the crane". An excerpt from outdated legislation. It was very obvious the official had no mechanical knowledge at all.

Whether it is the Jervis Bay Road interchange site or the Shoalhaven hospital site, both of which are currently under construction, Nowra Cranes is being pushed out because of the CFMEU and its mates in the construction industry. In fact, Nowra Cranes had commenced work at the Nowra hospital site until a visit from CFMEU officials, which resulted in the head contractor advising Nowra Cranes that they had run into problems and that Nowra Cranes should leave the site. The very next day, a Wollongong-based crane company commenced work at the Shoalhaven hospital site.

Nowra Cranes has 14 cranes, which is 10 more than anyone else in the Shoalhaven. Nowra Cranes also actively engages Aboriginal staff as part of its commitment to Aboriginal employment. These problems only persist because an employer chose to exercise its lawful rights in the running of its business. Compulsory unionism is illegal in Australia. Our country enjoys freedom of association laws introduced by the Howard Government. But the CFMEU has found a cunning way around that by blackmailing companies and threatening to shut down job sites when contractors engage Nowra Cranes.

The CFMEU has been likened to the mafia. While I will not relitigate that commentary, I am concerned that behaviour like this is burning local companies and increasing the cost to taxpayers for government-funded projects, all because unions think they run the show. I call on the Government to investigate these claims so that taxpayers can be assured of value for money and local business can be assured of a fair go. I will always stand up for local businesses, freedom of association and the right of all employees to decide whether or not they join a trade union.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS TOURISM

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (20:07): It is less than a month until the start of the ski season and all of our region is hoping for the weather to turn a bit colder—preferably well below zero—and for the end of the very dry spell across southern New South Wales. We need precipitation to provide snow within the next three or four weeks. Visitors to the Snowy Mountains this winter will see important investments in infrastructure, which will make their visits very enjoyable. I encourage people to visit. The Snowy Mountains has diversified to become a year-round destination, with great activities like mountain biking, but the winter season is still extremely important for our local businesses. I welcome the great vote of confidence we have had from resorts in the area.

This year Mount Perisher will open for the first time its amazing new high-speed six-seater chairlift to replace two older lifts on the Towers run. That will move people up Mount Perisher in much quicker time and enable many more people to use the wonderful slopes. Last year Thredbo invested in and opened the Alpine Coaster. That terrific ride is available to people when snow conditions are not fantastic. Of course, Mount Selwyn has completely rebuilt its resort after it was destroyed by bushfires. That shows great confidence in our region and ski industry. I look forward to many visitors from New South Wales, the rest of Australia and internationally taking advantage of our winter ski season.

We want that ski season to continue, which is why the people of the Snowy Mountains are concerned about climate change. We need the action that the Albanese Government has been re-elected to undertake to ensure that Australia plays its role in reducing emissions and maintaining our alpine and ski areas for years to come.

The problem in our region is that the snowline has been rising over the years. Books about the 1950s, or even about the 1970s, show the ski season was longer and the snow came down further. One of the history books I read said that somebody ski'd from Cooma up to the mountains. It would be a very long time since anyone has been able to do that. We want to see action on climate. That is part of making sure that our Snowy Mountains remain a viable tourism destination for many years to come for the winter ski industry.

The attitude displayed in the Snowy Mountains and from Monaro people about wanting climate action reflects what we see around a lot of rural New South Wales. In 2024 a survey from Farmers for Climate Action found that 55 per cent of respondents viewed climate change as the single greatest threat to the future of farming. Only 1 per cent of respondents said that the threat was from transmission lines or from the roll out of renewables, which makes me wonder why many Opposition members spend their time talking about that rather than taking action on climate. The respondents in country areas see the changes in climate affecting their future incomes in just the same way as the people in the Snowy Mountains see the threat from lack of action on climate change, and climate change itself, posing a threat to their livelihoods in years to come.

For the sake of the people of the Snowy Mountains and for our ski industries as well as our agricultural industries across New South Wales, we want the action taken. That is why it has been really pleasing to see the re-election of an Albanese Government, which is not just putting off action to 2036 and not saying, "It's not a problem." It is saying, "We need to get on with it", and that is consistent with the work that the New South Wales Government is doing. But back to the Snowy Mountains, there are some concerning dry conditions across southern

New South Wales and quite balmy conditions in Queanbeyan, where I live. It should at least be minus 3 by now, but it has hardly even got down to zero. I want some cold nights. I want some freezing conditions. I want some precipitation to make sure that we have a great ski season.

I also want the people of New South Wales booking, knowing that the facilities they will get in the Snowy Mountains are fantastic. Noting the presence in the House of the Minister for Roads, I want people to drive very carefully, as they do, in getting to the Snowy Mountains. I want them to make sure that they all travel there and go home safely.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): As I understand it, not everyone is happy about the new chair on Mount P. Some people preferred the old double chair and triple chair that crashed into people when they were loading because it kept away those who were not willing to pay the price for Mount P.

Mr Steve Whan: You might be right.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): Let the record show that I am right.

TERRIGAL ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (20:13): I honour the enduring spirit of the Anzacs and reflect on the solemn commemorations held across the Terrigal electorate on Anzac Day. I am proud to say that the Anzac spirit is alive and thriving in our community. From MacMasters Beach to Forresters Beach, from Copacabana to Matcham, our region united in remembrance to pay tribute to the courageous men and women who served Australia in war and peacekeeping missions. It was my privilege to attend four deeply moving services across the electorate, each a powerful reminder of the bravery, sacrifice and resilience of those who came before us. These ceremonies are not only about honouring the past but also reaffirming our collective commitment to the values that define our nation—courage, mateship and selfless service.

I particularly thank Trooper Alex McMartin for joining me at the Terrigal dawn service, Pine Needles retirement village and the Empire Bay service. Alex, a Central Coast local and past school captain of Terrigal High School, now serves in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and was posted to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment in 2020. Most recently, he served in Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia in 2024. His presence this year, returning home in uniform, was a fitting and powerful tribute to all those who have served and continue to serve. Alex is an inspiration to our younger generation and a proud reminder of the strength of character we cultivate in our community. The Terrigal dawn service, hosted by the Terrigal Wameral RSL Sub-Branch, was again a very moving event. I sincerely thank president Scott Warr and secretary Michael Tabone for their dedication.

The solemn song *Going Home*, performed by Ron Sinclair, set a reflective tone as thousands gathered at the foreshore in silence. The image of surfboats coming ashore and a Vietnam-era Huey helicopter flyover against the early morning sky was truly unforgettable. At Pine Needles retirement village, I was moved by the determination of residents who, despite age and health challenges, came together to honour our veterans.

I am grateful to Hazel Grosman and the residents association committee for their work. I also commend Trooper McMartin for delivering a heartfelt address, which resonated with all in attendance.

Later in the morning I attended the Empire Bay service, hosted by the Empire Bay Progress Association. I thank its president, Ken Shaw, for the opportunity to speak and reflect on the personal connection I have to this day. As the proud great-grandson of a light horseman and grandson of two World War II RAAF officers, Anzac Day holds deep meaning for me, as it does for so many. I spoke of the legacy of all who served and of our shared duty to uphold the freedoms and values they fought to protect. I also thank our outstanding master of ceremonies, Tony Thorington, who did a great job. The final service I attended was the sunset ceremony at MacMasters Beach. I thank MacMasters Beach Surf Life Saving Club President Alison McNeill and Vince Roberts for creating such a poignant and respectful close to the day. I never forget the beauty of the sunsets at the MacMasters Beach services, and this year it was equally as beautiful as in other years.

I also acknowledge the many organisers and constituents who ensured that Terrigal's other Anzac commemorations were marked with dignity and reverence: Peter Grothen of the Davistown RSL Sub-Branch for organising services at Davistown and Copacabana; Councillor Jared Wright and Michael Griffiths for laying wreaths on my behalf; Tegan Stables of Hardys Bay Club; Elizabeth Reynolds, who attended and represented me; Scott Warr and Michael Tabone for organising the Breakers Country Club service, with Quentin and Jan Anthony kindly laying a wreath for me; Steve Fortey of the Avoca Beach Community Association and Jan's grandson, young Oliver Anthony, who laid a wreath; Lorraine Scott of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association for the service at Ettalong foreshore, with Bernadette Enright representing me; Ingrid Medlicott at Matcham community hall, where Cath Wade and Allan Papas laid a wreath; and Doug Roser for the

Forresters Beach Retirement Village service, which was attended by my staff member Donna Golightly. Each of those individuals played a part in ensuring that the community could gather, reflect and remember.

I was also honoured to participate in Anzac Day services at schools across my electorate. My thanks go to Principal Brett Walker of Kincumber High School, and Principal Matt Riley and teacher Kellie McMartin—interesting last name; she is Trooper McMartin's mum—of Terrigal High School for organising meaningful ceremonies that pass on the spirit of the Anzacs to the next generation. As we paused this Anzac Day, we were reminded that the freedoms we cherish today were hard won. The legacy of those who served is not only etched into memorials but also lives on in the stories we share, the values we uphold and the community spirit we demonstrate. Their courage and sacrifice demand more than just remembrance; they call us to build a better, more united Australia. Lest we forget.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 20:18 until
Thursday 15 May 2025 at 10:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

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

NAGARATHAR SANGAM AUSTRALIA 25TH ANNIVERSARY GATHERING

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Every April for the past 25 years, the Nagarathar Sangam Australia Inc. [NSA] has gathered at Douglas Park, Wollondilly. NSA originated from a straightforward desire to reconnect with their heritage and foster a deep sense of belonging in their adopted homeland. I was truly honoured to be invited to celebrate this important milestone, which marks 25 years of community engagement, cultural preservation, and steadfast unity for the Nagarathar diaspora in Australia. This gathering serves as a chance to honour their accomplishments, reflect on their journey, and gaze toward the future. Guest speakers from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region were in attendance, and they engaged in a lively Q&A session facilitated by young participants. Starting from humble beginnings in the early 2000s, the NSA has grown into a dynamic organisation that supports hundreds of followers across Australia and the Asia-Pacific. They have become a pillar of support for newcomers, a centre for cultural interchange, and a platform for nurturing intergenerational relationships, regularly participating in the International Business Conference for Nagarathars with delegates from Australia. Thank you to the executive committee members for inviting me to celebrate this special occasion with you.

GRAHAM NOYES

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—On 30th April 2025 I joined the family and friends of the late Graham Noyes of Menangle to bid him farewell in a moving memorial service. Graham's wife Dorothy was present along with his son and daughter, and members of the Menangle RFS. Graham was born 12th March 1930 and celebrated his 95th birthday last month at Durham Green Village where he resided. Graham was a committed and cherished member of the Menangle RFS, and his calm and steady presence was a reassurance to others during challenging times. Having joined in his 70's, Graham's energy and commitment was admired by those he volunteered alongside. Graham was also a keen runner and athlete, and he was a part of the Menangle Community Action Group, using his voice to bring attention to matters that concerned the community. Graham lived his life with integrity, and his humble sense of duty, warmth and kindness will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him. Rest in peace, Graham.

COLIN MILLER OAM

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Colin Miller was a true gentleman whose kind and generous nature made a lasting impression on our Wollondilly community, and I, like so many others, am sad to hear of his passing at age 99. Colin carried on after his wife Joan passed away and is remembered by his children Colleen and Annie and their husbands, his four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Colin's many life achievements and volunteer contributions stretch back years, starting with his dedication to the Rural Fire Service. Colin joined the Tahmoor Brigade in 1940 and shared his knowledge and experience with fellow firefighters, Colin embodied the RFS values of professionalism, compassion and commitment, and captured the history of the Wollondilly RFS in a published book. Colin was a foundation member of Rotary Club of Picton, and hosted many exchange students who remember him fondly. He was in the Royal Australian Air Force for two years and received awards from the National Trust, Wollondilly Shire Council, Sydney Legacy, Scouts, RFS and Picton Rotary Club. Colin's legacy of warmth and wisdom will live on and he will be missed by his family, friends, colleagues and the community that he contributed so much to.

SUPPORTING CONTINENCE HEALTH

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Thanks to the tireless efforts and unwavering commitment of Macleay Valley local Gail Burn and the inspiring Lilli Pilli Ladies, local families now have improved access to life-changing support for children experiencing persistent bedwetting. Through their annual Melbourne Cup event at Gladstone Hall, Gail and the Lilli Pilli Ladies raised funds to donate two additional bed alarms, valued at \$2340, to the Mid North Coast Local Health District's Community Continence Service. This act of generosity doubles the number of devices available across the Hastings Macleay Clinical Network and brings hope, dignity, and confidence to children and families navigating the distress of nocturnal enuresis. But their impact doesn't stop there. The event also raised \$4600 for community programs, collected 75 dignity bags for women and children in need, provided food hampers to local families, and supported the South West Rocks Quilters in creating comfort items for victims of domestic violence and breast cancer patients. This is what true community looks like, local people lifting each other up, seeing a need, and responding with heart. Well done!

RIVER SOUNDS BRINGS BELLINGEN TO LIFE

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—River Sounds made its much-anticipated return to Bellingen, bringing music lovers together from across the region and beyond. With more than 1,500 people coming to the valley, the festival was a showcase of what makes the community so special. Events like River Sounds spark joy, boost our local economy, and bring fresh energy into regional spaces. Bellingen was absolutely buzzing with visitors, local families, and music fans of all ages, connecting over a shared love of arts and culture. With 28 artists performing across three stages, the talent on display was phenomenal, and a reminder that regional Australia can host world-class performances without losing its unique, local soul. For a town like Bellingen, events like River Sounds support local businesses, fill our cafes and accommodation, and give emerging artists and creatives a place to shine. River Sounds cements Bellingen as a cultural destination and reinforces our region's place on the map as a hub for creativity and community spirit. I want to commend the organisers, volunteers, artists, and attendees who made this weekend so memorable.

BEYOND BITUMEN RALLY 2025

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley)—Founded in 2015 by Peter and Trish Fehon, the Beyond Bitumen Rally supports Beyond Blue to raise awareness for mental health. Since its creation, the rally has raised an incredible \$4 million, ensuring that free, around-the-clock support is available for those in need. This year's event, saw over 100 cars travel from Taree through Comboyne, Kempsey, Grafton, and Armidale before finishing in Port Stephens. Along the way, participants not only checked in on each other but also supported local businesses, including The Udder Cow Café, Comboyne Take-away, and the Comboyne Community Centre & Craft. Their presence on a cold, rainy Friday was truly appreciated. What began with just nine cars in its first year has grown into a movement of resilience, generosity, and community spirit. Peter and Trish, who lost their daughter Beth to suicide in 2005, have turned their loss into a powerful force for change. To everyone involved in Beyond Bitumen, thank you. Your journey isn't just about the miles travelled, it's about hope, connection, and the lives you help along the way.

CRYSTAL HADLEY-MACKAY

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—One of the things I love about my constituents is the way they set their goals and go about achieving them. Orange's Crystal Hadley-Mackay is a perfect example of that amazing determination. A pocket rocket, or more correctly, pocket power pack, Crystal is the World Raw Powerlifting Federation's world and Australian record holder for her open female 52kg weight class. Her record was earned by deadlifting an incredible 170.5kg. More recently Crystal, who can also squat 135kg and bench press 70kg, qualified to represent Australia and the Arnold Classic Euro Qualifier, to be staged in Spain, deadlifting 175kg. These amazing numbers are a testament to Crystal's determination to get the most out of diminutive frame and her willingness to put the work in. Crystal trains with the team at One Strength Gym in Orange where she is supported by a strong team dedicated to the fitness of its members. It's no secret I encourage an active lifestyle for my constituents and while Crystal's efforts are extraordinary, she is wonderful example of what can be achieved when you put your mind and body to the test. I congratulate her on a success.

JOHN KICH

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Preserving the history of rural communities such as Orange for future generations is vital, which is why I wish to acknowledge the contribution of John Kich. Mr Kich has been engaged for the last few years as a volunteer with the Orange and District Historical Society, scanning thousands of negatives from the Central Western Daily that were in danger of being lost after the owners of the newspaper decided it no longer wanted to store them. Some dated back to the 1950s. Alone in a darkroom at Orange Historical Society, Mr Kich scans negatives from a wide range of events, encapsulating and preserving the unique history

of the town, which was later to become a city. As an example, in the month of April 2025 alone, Mr Kich scanned 831 negatives which are now available through the Orange and District Historical Society to the public. The events include grass roots celebrations such as 21st birthdays, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and the visits of dignitaries spanning several decades. Circulated on social media, these magnificently preserved snapshots of our city's history as are now available to all. I thank Mr Kich for his wonderful work.

ROBIN THOMPSON OAM

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—A passion for music has led Orange resident Robin Thompson OAM to contribute to the community in a variety of ways over several decades. Her passion and leadership have been inspiring – from organising subsidised music lessons for marginalised children at the PCYC in Orange for many years, to her involvement as a founding member of the Orange Symphony Orchestra in 1984 where rehearsals began in her loungeroom. Today with scores of performances, orchestral workshops and regional tours since its formation, the orchestra is proud to have Robin in dual roles of president and secretary. Her generosity in bringing music to the community has extended to supporting community causes. As an example, Orange Push For Palliative has been a beneficiary of a number of magnificent concerts performed to packed audiences. As well, Robin has garnered the support of her Toad Hall music appreciation group which meets annually and has donated over \$4000 to Push for Palliative during the past two years. The Orange community, including Orange P4P, extends a grateful acknowledgement and huge thanks to Robin for her years of dedication to and involvement in the arts.

EASTER PET PHOTO COMPETITION - CLARA CHUNG

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the participants of the Ryde Electorate's inaugural Easter Pets and Teddies Photo Competition. Seeing such strong community engagement, with creative and joyful submissions from across the electorate, was heartening. One such entry came from Clara Chung, who submitted a delightful photo of her cat, Mr Leroy Brown, proudly donning a pair of bunny ears. Clara wrote that Leroy "really is quite the affectionate kitty and loves Easter, but sadly can't help his grumpy face." I think many of us can relate. I thank Clara for her charming submission and for participating in this fun community event. Competitions like this are a chance for neighbours to share a laugh and a reminder of the creativity and spirit that thrives across Ryde. Thank you to all who took part. I look forward to seeing even more festive cheer in years to come.

EASTER PET PHOTO COMPETITION - DANIELLA TAN

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the creativity and enthusiasm shown by the Ryde community during this year's Easter Pets and Teddies Photo Competition. One entry came from Daniella Tan, who submitted a delightful photo of her duck plush toy dressed in bunny ears, a bowtie, and floral hair clips. Her submission was accompanied by a heartfelt note reflecting on her childhood love of Easter and the special meaning behind the plush toy, a prize her parents had won before she was born. Daniella's thoughtful decorations – including a mini bow and floral accents – were a tribute to her favourite animals and the spirit of Easter. I thank Daniella for her outstanding participation in this competition and for sharing a glimpse of her Easter joy with our community. Her entry brought many smiles and exemplified the creativity and warmth the Ryde Electorate is known for. I ask the House to thank everyone who entered the competition this year. The entries were a fantastic reminder of the festive cheer and community spirit that Easter brings out in Ryde.

EASTER PET PHOTO COMPETITION - JASON LEE, HUI QIN TEOH, OTILIA LEE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in acknowledging participants of the Ryde Easter Pets and Teddies Photo Competition - bringing together local families and their furry, fluffy, and much-loved companions in the spirit of the season. I particularly wish to thank Jason Lee, Hui Qin Teoh, and Otilia Lee for their delightful contribution to the competition. Their entry featured three charming photos of their pet rabbits, Bobby and Hazel, posing with Easter decorations. Each photo was a playful tribute to the holiday. One read, "Because Bobby looks like an Easter bunny," another, "Because how else can you celebrate Easter without Hazel the Easter bunny," and the final, "Somebunny just love to celebrate Easter." Their joy and creativity were exactly what this competition aimed to celebrate - community, family, and a bit of seasonal cheer. I thank them sincerely for their participation and spirit. This light-hearted competition was a small but meaningful way to bring our community together during Easter. Thank you again to everyone who took part.

NARRANDERA'S 40TH ROD RUN

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Steve Alldrick, organiser of the Rod Run and some 450 families and their prized Hot Rods were welcomed to Narrandera. Events were organised for the "Rodders," thanks must go to Leanne Ivanoff and her team for hosting the Sew Fab on Friday before the Dinner Dance that night. The "Rodders" and their families also made two observation runs, a fantastic sight as the vehicles travelled to Barellan and Ganmain. The Show and Shine had 398 entries, raising \$5,000 for Narrandera's CanAssist, with a further

\$500 donated to the Gillenbah Rural Fire Brigade. Narrandera Bakery's "Top Cruiser" was won by Bernie Smith's 1929 Ford Roadster, and Damien Hyde's 1947 International Truck won "Top Ride" sponsored by Lake Talbot Caravan Park. Emily Caldwell's 1946 Ford Coupe took out Young Rodder sponsored by Deluxe Rod Shop, and Top Custom Rod went to Mark Boller's 1951 Ford Mercury sponsored by MJC Auto Parks. The glory of Top Hot Rod went to Debbie Neilson's 1932 3 Window Coupe which Narrandera Auto Wreckers sponsored. Congratulations to Narrandera's Community for hosting such a wonderful event.

COOPER HERDEN REPRESENTS THE RIVERINA

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—A big congratulations to Cooper Herden on his outstanding achievement representing the Riverina at the NSWCHSSA Secondary Australian Football State Championships held in Penrith recently. Cooper's selection to represent our region is a true testament to his dedication, skill, and passion for the game. The Riverina teams showcased exceptional talent throughout the championships, with Riverina South West emerging as the overall champions, a remarkable achievement that highlights the strength of football in our region. Cooper played a key role in this success and delivered an exceptional performance across the week. As a result of his efforts, Cooper has earned selection in the Combined High Schools [CHS] team, which will compete at the prestigious NSW All Schools 15 Years & Under Australian Football Championships in Lavington this June. This is a significant accomplishment and reflects Cooper's growing talent and bright future in the sport. Cooper's success is a source of pride for the entire community, and he stands as a role model for other young athletes striving to reach their goals. I wish Cooper all the very best as he takes this next exciting step in his sporting journey.

LIONS DISTRICT FINALIST RYAN TOOLE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Year 11 student at The Henry Lawson High School, Ryan Toole was named Overall Winner of the Lions District Final. Lions District 201 N4 held their Lions Youth of the Year Finals at the end of March. The event was hosted by the Cowra Branch with three finalists chosen from 43 Lions Clubs across the District. The day comprised the three finalists being interviewed by five judges throughout the day. This followed with a dinner of around 50 guests where the finalists were given two 2-minute impromptu speeches on "Could a case be made for the introduction of mandatory Nationals Service and what benefit do you see for the Australian Community" and "How much impact do you feel social media has on self-esteem." The finalists then gave a 5-minute prepared speech, with Ryan's subject "AI Benefit or Detriment". All three finalists presented outstanding speeches and spoke very well. After much deliberation, Ryan was named the Overall Winner of the Youth of the Year Quest and in the public speaking section. Congratulations Ryan on this remarkable achievement.

ROBYN THOMSON AND TERESA MACPHERSON

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises two outstanding local residents Robyn Thomson and Teresa MacPherson and their recent community quilt project with the Jamberoo RSL to honour service and sacrifice and to spark conversation. When two gifted quilters answered a quiet call for help, they stitched more than fabric. They stitched memory, respect and community into every thread. Barbara Adams, President of the local Jamberoo Red Cross, saw them in a craft store and immediately felt their potential. She brought them back home, hoping they'd find someone to bring them to life. That connection was made by Annette Hoskins, the Community Coordinator of the Kiama Quilters Guild and a long-time volunteer with the Children's Medical Research Institute. She brought the panels to the Guild. Two members, Teresa MacPherson and Robyn Thomson, stepped forward. The pair are long-time contributors to community quilting projects, especially those that support the Children's Medical Research Institute through the Genes for Jeans campaign. Each quilt, while based on a pre-printed panel, was brought to life by hand. Thank you and well done to Robyn and Teresa.

BEER FOOTY AND FOOD FESTIVAL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the inaugural Beer Footy and Food Festival which is coming to Bomaderry. The South Coast will get a taste of the retro rugby league sensation which has proved extremely popular in Sydney when the Beer Footy and Food Festival comes to Bomaderry for Group 7's Magic Round at the end of the month. Bomaderry's newly renovated Royal Artie Smith Oval will be the place to be on Saturday 31st May 2025 when the festival is held on the South Coast for the first time. The festival has attracted large crowds to NSW Cup matches at Newtown's Henson Park and North Sydney Oval, home of the Bears. There will be four games at the festival which doubles as Group 7 Magic Round: Berry-Shoalhaven Heads Magpies v Milton-Ulladulla Bulldogs 12.00pm Jamberoo Superoos v Albion Park-Oak Flats Eagles 1.45pm Nowra-Bomaderry Jets v Shellharbour Sharks 3.30pm Stingrays of Shellharbour v Gerringong Lions 5.15pm The day promises to be one for the books and will add to the rich rugby league history on the South Coast. Tickets are on sale via www.beerfootyfood.com.

BOMADERRY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises two outstanding local Bomaderry High School educators recognised nationally with Rising Stars awards. Two standout educators from Bomaderry High School have received national recognition in the Educator's 2025 Rising Stars and School Leadership Awards. Special education teacher and Year 7 advisor Paul Chicharo, along with school chaplain and student support officer Brittany Hedrick, were the only public school educators acknowledged in this year's prestigious awards. Ms Hedrick joined the school in 2024 and quickly became an integral part of the support network at Bomaderry High School. In her dule role as chaplain and student support officer, she offered daily emotional support, mentoring and guidance. Ms Hedrick helped run the school's breakfast club, choreographed performances for the South Coast Dance Festival and Southern Stars. Meanwhile, Mr Chicharo was recognised for his work not only in the classroom, but also in nurturing students' social and emotional development. Mr Chicharo is also part of the literacy and numeracy team and has led professional learning for staff literacy. I acknowledge the Principal of Bomaderry High School, Mr Ian Morris, along with the exceptional students, teachers, office staff and parents.

DUNCOMBE & CO

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Duncombe & Co. Duncombe & Co Livestock and Real Estate Agents was founded in 1975 by Mr Alan and Mrs Kaye Duncombe. Alan a licensed Stock and Station Agent with over sixty years of experience and Kaye with forty-five years of experience as a licensed Real Estate Agent. Their son Jock Duncombe and daughter-in-law Robyn both Directors, with Jock being a Licensed Stock and Station Agent and Robyn a licensed Real Estate Agent now run the family business. Not only has the longevity of the Crookwell family business been a highlight, proudly celebrating their fiftieth-year anniversary this year, Duncombe & Co were recently awarded the 2025 Agency of the Year at the RateMyAgent Award Ceremony. Robyn was also the recipient of the Agent of the Year for property sales in Crookwell, being the top selling agent in the area since 2020, recognising exemplary client centred services both for vendors and buyers. I congratulate the Duncombe family on the success of their family business and commitment to the Crookwell community.

CLAIRE LIVERSIDGE

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Claire Liversidge. Claire represented Goulburn Show at The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition and will go on now to represent the zone at the Sydney Royal Show in April. Claire is from Goulburn and went on to complete a Certificate III and IV in Agriculture, with knowledge from her family farm and her work with Elders in their livestock team. Claire is now extending her skill set and is in the midst of completing a Certificate of Registration in Real Estate. Interest outside of work extend to her membership with the Rocky Hill Musical Theatre Group, taking on roles as a performer, choreographer, and committee member. Claire has undoubtedly demonstrated her interest of Young Farmer Challenges, representing Goulburn, then NSW at both State and National levels at Sydney and Melbourne Royal, and looking at representing NSW at the Royal Adelaide Show. I congratulate Claire on her selection to represent Goulburn and wish her every success on this her second opportunity to represent Goulburn.

MS JAN GREEN

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I rise to recognise Ms Jan Green. Ms Green was nominated as a finalist and announced the winner of the 2025 Australia Day Award, Taralga Citizen of the Year in the Upper Lachlan Shire. A resident of Taralga, Ms Green has been recognised for her meaningful contribution to the community. Ms Green has established a book club, art group and ukelele group, which has brought immeasurable enjoyment to the many who participate in these activities, and the important health and well-being aspects that this also has had for all involved. Ms Green has been fundamental in her volunteer role promoting local talent and installing the metal street sculptures in Orchard Street. I take this time to recognise the many benefits of the activities that Ms Green has established and her innate attributes to serve the community. I congratulate you on your well-deserved award.

2025 NSW SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I congratulate Dr Aksheya Kumar who was on 9 May 2025 presented with a NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards. Dr Kumar is a respected community leader and co-founder of the India Club Inc., a not-for-profit organisation promoting multicultural harmony, social cohesion, and cultural enrichment across New South Wales. For over 20 years, Dr Kumar has led initiatives that foster cross-cultural understanding, including Holi and Diwali celebrations, Science and Culture exhibitions, and monthly 'Snack & Chat' sessions —community forums addressing health, entrepreneurship, and social issues.

These events have brought together people from various backgrounds, promoting inclusivity and mutual respect. Dr Kumar also collaborates with groups such as the Community Foundation of North Western Sydney, Indo Australia Sanatan Society, and HDVPN, helping to broaden the reach and impact of inclusive programs. His lifelong dedication to volunteerism and civic engagement continue to enrich lives and strengthen the social fabric of our region. Dr Kumar exemplifies the spirit of unity and leadership in a diverse community. I am proud to acknowledge Dr Kumar's outstanding service and congratulate him on this well-earned recognition.

2025 NSW SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I congratulate Elizabeth Lessells who was on 9 May 2025 presented with a NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Award. Elizabeth has dedicated her life to education and community service, making a lasting contribution to the Hills District over many decades. Elizabeth spent over 40 years in teaching and is particularly respected for her work with children with special needs. Even in retirement, she continues to volunteer at her former school, reflecting her enduring commitment to student wellbeing. For the past 27 years, Elizabeth has been a tireless contributor to Lions Clubs. She has held leadership roles including Club President, Region Chair and District Governor's Advisor. She has trained future leaders, presented at conferences, and helped deliver major initiatives such as the Lions Mobility Foundation, Drought Appeal, and 100 Christmas dinners for families in the Philippines in 2024. Elizabeth also plays a key role in Castle Hill Probus. A former President, she now coordinates monthly day tours that keep members connected and engaged. Elizabeth's compassion, organisation and leadership have earned wide admiration. I am proud to recognise her extraordinary service and congratulate her on this well-deserved honour.

2025 NSW SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I congratulate Keith Stapley who was presented on 9 May 2025 with a NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Award. Keith has served the community for over 48 years through the Rotary Club of the Hills–Kellyville, where his leadership and dedication have left a lasting impact. Keith has served multiple terms as Club President and remains an active Board member. He has played a central role in organising key community events, including the Sydney Hills Garden Competition, the Orange Blossom Festival and Jazz at The Pines —an event he has coordinated in partnership with local council and community organisations. Keith was instrumental in establishing the Baulkham Hills Community Garden, securing council support and foster community engagement. His commitment to social connection is reflected in the regular gatherings he continues to lead. In addition, Keith has helped drive the club's Christmas tree fundraiser and co-founded the Bourke Public School Breakfast Club, which has improved Indigenous student attendance. His continued support includes school visits, student awards and Christmas toy donations. I proudly acknowledge Keith's tireless service and outstanding contribution. Congratulations on this well-earned recognition.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Thank you to the Maitland community for joining together to raise awareness and funds during May for Domestic Violence Awareness month. Carrie's Place and Homelessness Services Inc. have joined forces with Maitland Netball Association and Maitland Junior Football Club under the campaign banner Stronger every year, united for change. This collaboration exemplifies that the Maitland community together has zero tolerance for domestic violence, supports those facing homelessness and is a safe place to play sport. This is an ongoing commitment by both community groups and sporting clubs to maintaining the profile of these issues in the Maitland area, especially during May. Together these organisations are creating safer, stronger communities, thank you for your efforts to say no to domestic violence.

KEN BURDEKIN

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—I acknowledge the passing of much-loved East Maitland resident, Ken Burdekin. Ken generously dedicated his time and energy to supporting local youth and community sport. Ken's involvement with the East Maitland School Boys football team left a lasting impression on many of these young players. His commitment to the East Maitland Junior Rugby League club was legendary. From mornings to late game nights Ken was always there, helping behind the scenes, cheering from the sidelines and supporting one and all without seeking anything in return. Ken was a devoted family man, raising three sons with his beloved wife Sandra. Ken's legacy lives on through their love of community and service to others. Ken will be missed both on and off the field. Rest in Peace, Ken.

MAITLAND REGION SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport)—Congratulations to all the winners at the recent Maitland Region Society of Artists members exhibition. The best in show went to Svetlana Katelas for "Complicated Simplicity". Other prizes went to: Open category-Joanne

Conder for "Unspoiled", Susanne Gorring "Salvation of the Pitthorse" and Greg Uhihorn " Meeting at Queens Wharf". Works on paper - Gaye Shield for "Glen Davis", Gabby Horvath "Branxton Town" and Helen Elphinstone-King's "Blue Hole, Armidale". Abstract - Dorothy Compton for " Violet Waves", Yvonne McCann's " Veiw from Space" and "Wistful" by Karen Malmgren. Minatures - Gaye Shield for " Lucy in the garden", Kay Sparks for "Old kitchen Table" and Bronwyn O'Neil "The Chat" Portrait - Kaye Sparks' "Les", Robert Ferguson " Self Portrait in Studio" and Robyn Bailey "Girl Talk" Sculpture - Sheryl Cain's "Autumn Flowers", Lorraine Tindall "Family Tree" and Dorothy Compton "Poised". Watercolour - Jennifer Holis' " Distance Riverland", Jill Falls "Storm over the Headland " and Margaret Heslop "Proud Mum" Other awards were presented to Marea Kozaczynski-McCaig "Banksia Blooms", Jackie Barron "Peaceful" and Joanne Conder " Nature's Harmony ". Congratulations to all who participated and to Maitland Region Society of Artists.

SUTHERLAND MUSIC CLUB

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—This year marks the 68th anniversary of the Sutherland Music Club, a not-for-profit organization that delivers an eclectic program of music to the Sutherland Shire. Established in 1957 by late Sutherland Shire music teacher, Clarice Campbell, the SMC provides affordable access to the upper echelon of Australian musicianship. In 2025, five concerts are offered to the community, including The Honeymakers Big Band – a 20-piece jazz ensemble; Dana Alison and Friends – headed by Dana, Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and causal of the London Philharmonic. The SMC also runs an Annual Youth Music Awards Competition, providing young instrumentalists and singers incentive to hone their skills in performance and composition in competition for cash prizes. On behalf of the Heathcote electorate, I celebrate the Sutherland Music Club's committee of volunteers for their advocacy of the arts, and their stewardship of young musicians throughout the Sutherland Shire.

RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA - RSL

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote)—Today, I rise to commemorate the advocacy and leadership of a beloved institution, the Returned and Services League of Australia, or, RSL Australia. First formed in 1916 to unify Australian repatriation facilities, RSL Australia continues to connect veterans and their families to essential services and social support networks. RSL Australia conduct critical work on behalf of serving and former serving ADF members, helping shape the national agenda on veteran's affairs, while defending veterans' rights and benefits. For over 100 years, RSL Australia has led the nation in commemorative services, from ANZAC Day dawn services, Remembrance Day commemorations, and the Kokoda Campaign anniversary, with dignity, respect, and austerity. On behalf of the Heathcote electorate, I celebrate RSL Australia's significant advocacy, and the promotion of Australian values of friendship, remembrance, and the unity of all services and all ranks of the Australian Defence Force.

SOUTHLAKES U3A

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—On behalf of the Lake Macquarie community, I congratulate Southlakes U3A on reaching an incredible milestone, namely, its 10th anniversary. U3A's motto, "Learn, Laugh, Live", is more than just words; it's a reflection of the vibrant, welcoming, and inspiring community this organisation has built. Over the past decade, Southlakes U3A has not only endured but flourished, offering connection, enrichment, and purpose to those aged over 55, semi-retired and/or retired residents in the southlakes region. This success is thanks to the hard work of dedicated volunteers and board members: Sharon Millar, Jeffrey Hickin, Mavis Crawford, Samantha Ridgway, Derek Ridgway, Cath Sharpe, and Anne Urquhart. And of course, a special tribute must go to founding President Laurene Malcahy—whose energy, passion, and persistence have been the driving force behind it all. From Brain Health to Ukulele Groups, Chair Yoga to Politics classes, yes, Laurene twisted my arm, Southlakes U3A offers countless ways for members to grow, connect, and thrive. Thank you for your contribution to our community, and congratulations again on this important anniversary. Here's to many more years of learning, laughter, and living well.

JIM PULLIN

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate GyMEA's Jim Pullin for his extraordinary contribution to the NSW State Emergency Service [SES] over more than six decades. Jim joined the SES following the devastating 1961 floods cleaning blackboards and providing clerical support at headquarters before building a career in staff positions including as head of operations. He joined the Sutherland Unit in 1982 and went on to lead as deputy and commander, his service covering the 1994 Sutherland Shire bushfires, 1999 Sydney hailstorm, 2003 Waterfall train derailment and 2022 east coast low floods. Jim's extensive experience also includes being deployed further afield to support recovery after the Thredbo landslide, Newcastle earthquake and Queensland floods. Now among the SES Metro Zone's longest-serving members, his commitment continues at 80 years of age by attending the unit weekly to provide support and training. Honouring Jim recently for 60 years long service NSW SES Commissioner Mike Wassing AFSM said "The NSW SES is built on

dedicated members like Jim, who is a true leader and a rock to other volunteers in his community. Jim has almost been here since the very beginning, and he continues to inspire others with his leadership, resilience and generosity today."

THE FAMILY CO.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I recognise a Sutherland Shire success story, The Family Co., which is expanding its to reach and support more families, women, children, young people across southern Sydney. After starting out in 1987 as Sutherland Shire Family Services, The Family Co. has become a leading provider of innovative and professional services for families and children in the Sutherland Shire and St George areas. From humble beginnings in a small back office in Miranda, The Family Co. has become a key support service for domestic violence victims and their children from its purpose-built centre in Jannali. Now it is great to see this trusted organisation opening a new hub in Hurstville to make its vital work more accessible. Building on its existing activities, the Hurstville Hub will provide offer a range of programs, support groups, and outreach services, including early intervention, family support, women's safety, youth services, and community education, together with expanded domestic and family violence services. I acknowledge CEO Ashleigh Daines and her staff and volunteers together with the board chaired by Belinda Fairfax on the wonderful work they do and send them best wishes as they open the new Hurstville Hub.

LILLI PILLI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I was pleased to join staff, students, families of Lilli Pilli Public School and current and former defence force members last month for the school's ANZAC ceremony and the opening of a special memorial garden to remember local service men and women. Wet weather on the day didn't dampen the spirits of the crowd as the ANZAC memorial garden was opened with the Australian flag flying above. The school's P&C was successful in receiving a grant for the memorial garden so that it can be part of the school's ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies. Principal Jane Shepherd says having a dedicated place will foster a deeper understanding of our shared history and values among students and the community. She says the garden will provide a serene space for reflection and remembrance, not only for the school community but for all residents of Lilli Pilli. I acknowledge the efforts of the school's staff and P&C team for the vision in creating this special place of commemoration and the dedication of school parent and police helicopter pilot Brett Degenhardt who volunteered weeks of his own time to help build the garden.

THE CORRESPONDENT AT ROSEVILLE CINEMAS

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Friday 4 April 2025, I attended a screening of The Correspondent, joining our local community at Roseville Cinemas. The Correspondent is a thought-provoking film, sharing the story of journalist Peter Greste of his time in Egypt. It reminds us of the importance and the bravery of the fourth estate in reporting from around the world that places them in harm's way. I was honoured to meet Peter after the film as he participated in a question and answer with actor Richard Roxburgh and director Kriv Stenders. The screening was held at Roseville Cinemas, a cherished local institution that continues to serve our community with quality films, cultural events, and a welcoming atmosphere. It's more important than ever to support independent venues like Roseville. I encourage members of our community to visit Roseville Cinemas—not only to enjoy great films, but to help sustain a local business that brings people together and contributes so much to the social and cultural life of our area.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION ST IVES

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Wednesday 7 May 2025, our community came together to observe Domestic Violence Remembrance Day at the St Ives Village Green. I recognise this day, as it brought our community together to honour those who have been affected by domestic and family violence, and to raise awareness of family and domestic violence in our community. Thank you to Ku-ring-gai Council led by Mayor, Cr. Christine Kay, for organising the commemoration. A distinctive purple seat was unveiled and a purple-flowering Tibouchina tree was planted to symbolise remembrance and hope, representing the colour of domestic violence awareness. This was accompanied by a performance from the Women's Hummingsong choir. This commemoration served as a poignant reminder of the need for continued support and action. The event featured heartfelt speeches and a moment of silence to reflect on the lives impacted by domestic violence.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS OLD BOYS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB INC

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On Wednesday 16 April 2025, I visited the Christian Brothers Old Boys Rugby Union Football Club Inc to announce a sports grant and meet with members of this proud and long-standing community club at Roseville Chase Oval. The club has built a strong reputation for promoting teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship across generations of players. It was founded in 1947 by old boys of St Pius X College Chatswood. I recognise the club successfully secured funding through the 2023/24 Local Sport Grant

Program. A grant of \$2,640 has been awarded to support the Brothers Rugby Club Women's Rugby Initiative—a positive step toward encouraging greater female participation in the sport and strengthening inclusivity at the club. I recognise club president, Rodger Shanahan, as well as the committee, coaches, volunteers and players who are working hard to grow the game while fostering a welcoming and supportive environment. Their commitment ensures that rugby remains a positive force in our community. I encourage locals to support and get involved with their community sporting clubs. Their impact extends far beyond the field.

BRETT STIBNERS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Brett Stibners, from Oak Flats, for being appointed to the position of head coach of the Wollongong Roller Hawks. A former player with over two decades of experience and a lengthy resume as captain, Stibners will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Roller Hawks ahead of the 2025 season. He is a decorated four-time Paralympian and current assistant coach of the Australian men's team, the Rollers. Stibners also holds the head coach position of the Australian Under 23's team, the Spinners, who will compete at the Under 23 World Championships in Brazil this June. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Brett on this wonderful achievement.

KYLEE DENNIS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Kylee Dennis, from Barrack Point, for being awarded the Micro Business of the Year Award at the Women Changing the World Awards in London in March 2025. Kylee Dennis has turned her super sleuth skills from being a detective with NSW Police to sniffing out romance scammers. Mrs Dennis operates Two Face Investigations, a business that helps people work out of their supposed online love interest - or a relative's - is a scammer. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Kylee on this wonderful achievement.

LILLIAN WIECEK

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Lillian Wiecek, from Warilla High School, for her outstanding results at the South Coast Swimming Carnival in March 2025. Lillian took out the South Coast Aged Champion award for the under 16's girls. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Lillian on this wonderful achievement.

MRS JENNIFER MCFARLAND – VWA IN NSW

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I recognise Mrs Jennifer McFarland, whose life experience has shaped the meaningful work she now does in support of other women through her involvement with the Vietnamese Women's Association in my Cabramatta electorate. For years, Mrs McFarland had to live under strict circumstances and in isolation. She was not permitted to engage with others or maintain any social connection, nor to access the support she knew existed. It was not a lack of awareness she faced, but a lack of access and agency. The outside world was near, yet remained out of reach. With the freedom she has found in her new life, Mrs McFarland has regained a sense of vitality and purpose. She joined the Vietnamese Women's Association, feeling a deep commitment to support other women who face similar barriers to safety and well-being. She offers care with a focus on both mental and physical health, teaching yoga, lending a listening ear, and helping others feel seen, heard, and supported. I extend my heartfelt admiration and gratitude to Mrs McFarland for drawing on her lived experience to uplift others with empathy and genuine care.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND THE COMMEMORATION OF 30TH APRIL 1975 IN CANBERRA (30/4/2025)

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—On 30 April 2025, I had the honour of attending the Wreath Laying Ceremony and Commemoration of 30th April 1975, marking the fall of Saigon, at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra. The day holds great significance as it marks 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War, a sad time in history. This also led to the beginning of a new chapter for many Vietnamese refugees. In the years that followed, countless Vietnamese Refugees began new lives in free nations around the world, including the United States, Canada, France, New Zealand, Australia, and others. As a boat refugee myself, having fled Vietnam at the age of five years old, I understand the immense challenges that many faced during that period. I am deeply grateful to Australia for opening its doors and providing safety for my family and I. This country has not only given us refuge but has become our home, and I will forever be thankful for the opportunities it has provided. I thank Mr Cong Le and the Vietnamese Community in Australia for organising this event.

MS KIM YEN PHAM – VWA IN NSW

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I acknowledge Ms Kim Yen Pham, a dedicated member of the Vietnamese Women's Association [VWA] in NSW, for her invaluable contributions in supporting vulnerable people with kindness and commitment. Ms Pham arrived in Australia in 1990, sponsored by a family member who had settled

here after the Vietnam War. While caring for her family, she has also volunteered with Foodbank and St Vincent de Paul, providing food and support to those in need for the past decade. Her dedication extends to her work with the VWA, where she facilitates casework, particularly supporting victims of domestic violence and their families. Leveraging her knowledge of charitable networks, she collaborates with other organisations to ensure these families receive essential resources such as food, clothing, safe housing, legal aid, and transportation. Reflecting on Ms Pham's words, "I may not be able to offer much in material support, but I help with my heart," reminds us of the importance of compassion and the will to help others which will make a difference. I commend Ms Pham for her dedication and thank her for all the wonderful work she has been doing for our community.

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL ON THE BORDER

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge all the dedicated Rural Fire Brigades from Lavington, Splitters Creek, Jindera, Gerogery, and Table Top, as well as the Albury & Border Rescue Squad, VRA Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, and SES Wodonga West Fire Brigade, St John Ambulance Victoria—Wodonga Division, for coming together in support of the 2025 Good Friday Appeal. This year's appeal brought together people of all ages – children, youth, and seniors, all working side by side for a truly meaningful cause: raising funds for Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital. The powerful spirit of "children helping children" was felt across the region, as volunteers took to the streets with enthusiasm and purpose. I thank all the volunteers for their tireless efforts and generosity. Albury Wodonga community, raised a combined \$237,525.77, proudly making our region the second largest donor in 2025. The funds raised, this will help sick children and their families continue to receive ongoing care and support they need. Thank you for your efforts year after year.

49TH NAIL CAN HILL RUN

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate the 800-plus runners, the largest turnout in several years, who took one of Albury's most iconic and challenging events on Sunday May 4. The Nail Can Hill Run, now in its 49th year, is organised by the Rotary Club of Albury West and continues to raise vital funds for local charities and non-for-profit causes. Participants tackled the scenic 11.3km bushland course along the Nail Can Range, a true fitness challenge for all ages. Special recognition goes to the following: Paige Campbell who finished first in 43:12, with Katherine Dowie and Belinda Dore rounding out the podium in the women's section, and to Alex Franzke who claimed victory in the men's category at 38:25 minutes, followed by Patrick Stowe, and Joshua Hudson. Over 200 entrants joined the family-friendly 4.3km Half Can, with Eric Wood 15:23 followed by Freya Rae 17:39 leading the way. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Albury West, race director, Steve McKewen, all the runners, families, schools, volunteers, marshals, first aid staff, and generous sponsors for their ongoing support.

TYSON MUTSCH – AUSSIE SHARKS SELECTION

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Tyson Mutsch selected for the Ord Minnett Aussie Sharks team for the Water Polo World Championships Oceania Qualifier in Perth. This is an incredible achievement as Tyson prepares to represent Australia in a best-of-three series against New Zealand, competing for qualification in the 2025 World Aquatics Championships. The event took place at the Perth High Performance Centre in April, coinciding with the 2025 Australian Youth Water Polo Championships. As such, the event hosted young players from across the country to gather and watch their heroes in action. Tyson's selection marks yet another incredible milestone, following his recent recognition as a finalist at the 2024 Joss Young Achiever Awards – a testament to his dedication and sportsmanship. As you step onto the international stage, you're not only chasing your own dreams, but also becoming a role model for the next generation of water polo athletes. Your journey is an inspiration, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success. Well done, Tyson—your hard work, passion, and perseverance are truly commendable.

PYRMONT PENINSULA PUBLIC TRANSPORT FORUM

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—As the Member for Sydney, I commend the Pyrmont Peninsula Public Transport Forum for their unwavering advocacy in restoring ferry services to our community. The return of the F10 ferry stop at Pirrama Park is a significant achievement, enhancing connectivity for residents, workers, and visitors alike. This success underscores the power of community engagement and persistent dialogue with government bodies. I am proud to have supported the Forum's efforts and look forward to continued collaboration to further improve public transport options in Pyrmont. Together, we are building a more accessible and connected city for all.

PHOEBE DORAN

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Phoebe Doran 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. Phoebe was awarded State Champion in U17 Beach Flags, received 2nd in the U19 Mixed Beach Relay and 3rd place in the U17 Mixed Beach Relay alongside Phoebe Doran, Will Griffiths, Emi Leadbetter and Campbell Connelly. 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 Phoebe 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.

SAM MURPHY

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Sam Murphy 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. Sam was awarded the U19 Double Ski State Champion alongside Tommy Hall and received 3rd place in the U19 Board Race. 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 Sam 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.

STEPHEN CARCARY

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Steven Carcary 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. Stephen placed 2nd in the U19 Board Race 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 Stephen 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.

FIRE AND RESCUE OPEN DAY

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—On Saturday 10 May, Cardiff and Tingira Heights Fire Stations proudly opened their doors as part of Fire and Rescue NSW's annual Open Day, giving locals a chance to step inside the stations and meet the people who help keep our community safe. It was a fantastic day out for families, with plenty to see and do. Visitors were able to tour the stations, climb aboard the fire trucks, watch interactive equipment demonstrations, and learn important home fire safety tips—all while enjoying a classic sausage sizzle. Events like these are a great way for the community to connect with our local fires. It is easy to think of firefighters as only responding in times of crisis, but they do so much more. They are educators, role models, and everyday heroes who are always ready to lend a hand. The openness and enthusiasm shown by the teams at Cardiff and Tingira Heights made the day extra special. A heartfelt thank you to all the firefighters involved for welcoming the community so warmly and for everything you do year-round. Your dedication, professionalism and kindness are deeply appreciated by everyone in our community.

CENTRAL NEWCASTLE RLFC – LADIES DAY

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—This weekend, Central Newcastle Rugby League Football Club hosted their annual Ladies Day as part of the NRL Women in League Round, shining a spotlight on the incredible women who are part of the game. From the Butcher Birds women's team to the many coaches, volunteers, supporters and families behind the scenes, women are the heart of the club. Their passion, commitment and contributions help make Central a strong, connected and vibrant sporting community. Ladies Day is more

than a celebration. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the essential role women play in rugby league and to continue building a sporting environment where everyone feels supported and included. When women and girls are given the platform to lead, play and be recognised, it strengthens the game for everyone. Events like this ensure that rugby league continues to grow as a sport that welcomes and reflects the whole community. Clubs like Central are leading by example, creating opportunities for women, and helping to build a sporting culture that values fairness, representation and the contributions of women at every level. Thank you to everyone involved for your dedication to equality, community and the future of rugby league.

NARELLE KIDNER

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Not even the rain could dampen the spirit of this year's Newcastle Mother's Day Classic, where more than a thousand people came together in pink and teal to walk or run in support of breast and ovarian cancer research. A huge part of what made the day so special was the work of committee member Narelle Kidner, whose passion and commitment helped bring the event to life. While the final fundraising total is still being tallied, it's expected to surpass \$70,000—an incredible achievement. But as Narelle shared, the real heart of the event lies in the community it builds and the conversations it starts. The Mother's Day Classic is about more than just raising money. It's about honouring those affected by breast and ovarian cancer, bringing people together, and making a real impact—and Narelle helped make that possible. Her involvement and dedication behind the scenes played a key role in ensuring the event ran smoothly and left a lasting impression on all who took part. Thank you, Narelle, for everything you've done to support this cause and bring our community together. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

PETA SMITH

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—The holiday of Easter celebrates birth and new life. One Newcastle mother took that quite literally, giving birth on the ferris wheel at the Newcastle Easter Fair. Event manager Peta Smith got an emergency call, saying there was a woman going into labour. She thought it would be quite simple, get the mum to the gate and into an ambulance. But when she arrived at the scene, the baby was coming and fell right into her arms. With her experience as a first-aider and a mother of four, Peta realised that the premature baby was not breathing. Under the guidance of triple-zero operators, Peta carried out CPR on the baby. The mother and 29-week-old baby were taken to hospital and are happy and healthy, thanks to Peta. Congratulations to the new mother and baby, and well done to Peta for your quick thinking and quick hands.

GEORGE MIROSEVICH

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to George Mirosevich, a local chef and caterer has hit Australian screens on the new docu-soap 'Billion Dollar Playground'. Streaming on Binge from May 13, George will star alongside his brother Matt, who is also a chef, preparing food for the uber wealthy in luxury holiday homes in Sydney. The series has been coined as an access-all-areas pass into the world of luxury vacations. It is George and Matt's job to fulfill crazy demands and cook the best possible meals for their clients. George is also the mastermind behind Bare Chefs, a high-quality, ready-made meal service, described by George as a "boujie take on 'grab and go'". Well done George, I'll be watching along at home.

LITTLE POLAND DINING

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—The Polish Association of Newcastle have opened their doors and their kitchens to all, turning their hall into a restaurant, Little Poland Dining. Every second Friday, the smell of pierogis and stews waft through the streets of Broadmeadow, inviting Novocastrians to get a taste of Poland right on their doorstep. Two Polish Association members, Justyna and Eliza came up with this brilliant idea, to use food to encourage people to learn more about Polish culture and the local community. On April 11 they opened the restaurant and only a month later, they are fully booked until July! Congratulations on a this huge success and I look forward to trying some delicious pierogis.

ERIN BURNS AND CAITIE BURNS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend Badgerys Creek electorate locals Erin Burns and Caitie Burns for representing Australia and contributing to the team's 10th place finish at the Indoor Hockey World Cup held in Croatia in February 2025. To represent Australia is testament of their exceptional quality and skill in the sport. I recognise the hard work and commitment of Erin and Caitie to rise to and maintain the extraordinary level required to perform amongst the most elite in hockey. Further to their success on the international stage, Erin Burns and Caitie Burns were instrumental in securing the NSW Women's State team the gold medal at the Hockey Australia Indoor Nationals held in Canberra in January 2025. On behalf of my electorate of Badgerys Creek, I congratulate and commend Erin Burns and Caitie Burns on their outstanding success and wish them continued success in the future.

GLENMORE PARK BASKETBALL CLUB

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I congratulate and commend the Glenmore Park Basketball Club for a highly successful 2024/2025 season in the Penrith & Districts Basketball Association competition. The 2024/2025 season saw 200 players comprising 28 teams represent the club in the Summer Competition, with outstanding results achieved. 11 of the club's teams qualified for the semi-finals, with 7 of these teams proceeding to their respective grand finals and 4 of the teams winning their grand finals. It is important to note that a number of these matches involved two of the club's teams versing each other, meaning it was mathematically impossible for all teams to proceed further, thereby making these achievements even more extraordinary. The club will compete in the upcoming Winter Season and I have no doubt the successful results will continue. I thank all the club's volunteers and families who play an important role in the functioning of the club and I wish the club continued success.

ORAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I commend and congratulate Oran Park High School students on their completion of a beautiful new succulent garden bed in the garden space of the school. The project required the attributes of teamwork, mindfulness and pride in their work. The result is testament to these important attributes being held by the students and I'm thrilled that the school setting and environment is made even more beautiful as a result. I commend the staff for guiding and educating the students on this gardening project. The students will proceed to the next session which will involve Bunnings joining them to run a special gardening workshop. I wish the students at Oran Park High School all the very best in their endeavors.

TENTERFIELD HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND REBUILDS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—I caught up with members of Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band at the town's Autumn Festival for a briefing on how \$22,260 in NSW Government funding will help its renewal project. Band President and Drum Major Patrick Pickett CSM thanked me for securing the funding, which will be used to buy new equipment, including musical instruments and uniforms, for the band's growing membership. I met with Patrick, Pipe Major Narelle Besseling, Barry Bicknell and brothers Nate and Reid Lockwood at the Tenterfield School of Arts. Mr Pickett told me things within the band's business plan that were only aspirational a week ago can now move closer to reality. The Highlanders have been part of the fabric of the Tenterfield community for over 40 years and performs, mostly at no cost, at community events throughout Tenterfield Shire and beyond. The band is recruiting new members, re-engaging with past members and reaching out to new Tenterfield residents who would like to learn the pipes and drums. Tuition is free and equipment is supplied. An ongoing fundraising campaign is supported by the Tenterfield Lions Club, Tenterfield Rotary Club, Tenterfield Chamber of Tourism, Industry and Business, and Tenterfield High School.

MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB'S ANZAC MURAL

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—Murwillumbah Services Club's stunning new ANZAC mural was finished just in time for this year's ANZAC Day commemorations. New Chief Executive Officer Phil Kelly and the club's Board of Directors on Facebook gave a huge thank you to the very talented James Alley from Metagraphics for his amazing artwork. They dedicated the new mural to all our local servicemen and women, past and present, who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. "Your courage and sacrifice will always be remembered. Lest We Forget," the club posted. James has decades of experience in designing and painting hundreds of murals in various settings, mainly in Queensland. He told my office that Murwillumbah Services Club gave him a specific brief, with Army, Navy and Air Force represented, together with an ANZAC nurse, the eternal flame and Mount Wollumbin. James created the mural over seven 10-hour days using a scissor lift, and despite wet weather, was able to complete it in time for the club's ANZAC commemorative events. James, who holds a Bachelor of Design, has taught design and entrepreneurship at Griffith University, as part of his ethos of giving back to the community and championing the arts.

SURPRISE AWARD FOR CLINICAL NURSE CONSULTANT TIM AYERS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast)—I wish to congratulate Clinical Nurse Consultant Tim Ayers who last month was surprised to receive a Parkinson's Community Hero award during a regular monthly meeting of the Lismore Parkinson's Support Group. The Northern Rivers Times reporter Samantha Elley reported that Tim was presented with his award by the group's co-patron Jenny Dowell OAM. As co-patron, I also offer my thanks for the wonderful work Tim does in his clinical role. In accepting the well-deserved recognition, a modest Tim said he was part of a team including Liesel Jeffers and Rebecca Manners and they tried to help give information and education to people

with their health issues. "We also identify people with Parkinson's as we provide a holistic and comprehensive service," he said. "We also run a clinic via Westmead Hospital ensuring first-class service to the Northern Rivers, which is life changing." Jenny said the Lismore Parkinson's Support Group is fantastic for partners as well so they can talk about the issues they have. "Tim is the nurse, and he visits people in their own homes and provides information on new things and services. He has broken down those barriers for them."

HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—The Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace in Cremorne has been honoured as one of the world's most beautiful cinemas, securing the 22nd spot on Time Out's global list. This recognition celebrates its stunning Art Deco architecture, six uniquely decorated auditoria, and the iconic 744-seat Orpheum theatre, which features a genuine Wurlitzer cinema organ that rises from the stage pit. Built in 1935, the Orpheum has long been a cherished cultural landmark. In 2024, following a dedicated community campaign, it was added to the NSW State Heritage Register, ensuring its preservation for future generations. I was proud to support this successful campaign to heritage list this iconic venue. The Orpheum holds a special place in our community's heart, and its recognition and protection are testaments to its enduring significance. Thank you to General Manager Alex Temesvari and his great team for their continued hard work.

JOHN FLINT - GORE HILL MEMORIAL CEMETERY: LANDSCAPE, PEOPLE, MONUMENTS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery holds a profound place in the history of Willoughby, serving as a resting place for many whose stories shaped our community — including members of my own family. Author and historian John Flint captures this deep and layered history in his outstanding new book, *Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery: Landscape, People, Monuments*. I was pleased to introduce John at the launch of his book at Willoughby City Library. His work reflects not only meticulous research, but a personal connection to the site, having served as Librarian at Willoughby City Library when the cemetery closed in 1974. John's book explores the landscape, the many notable individuals interred there — from medical pioneers and missionaries to engineers, sportspeople and civic leaders — and the monuments that honour them. Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery, established in 1868, has evolved from a burial ground to a treasured heritage site, protected for future generations. I commend John Flint for his dedication in preserving and sharing the stories of this historic cemetery, which remains a vital part of Willoughby's identity.

AKARA KOGA – STATE REPRESENTATIVE AWARD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—It is a pleasure to acknowledge the remarkable achievement of Akara Koga of Artarmon, who has represented New South Wales at the highest level of school sport. Akara earned selection to the 2024 NSW PSSA Athletics Team and competed at the 2024 School Sport Australia Track & Field Championship — a prestigious national event bringing together the finest young athletes from across the country. Participating in the highly competitive 100m sprint, Akara demonstrated tremendous speed, skill and determination on the track. His impressive performance and commitment to excellence were recognised with a State Representative Award. This honour not only celebrates his personal success but also highlights the dedication and hard work that underpin his achievements. We are immensely proud of Akara and his achievements. He sets a fine example for his peers and is an inspiration to other aspiring young athletes. I congratulate Akara on his success and look forward to following his continued progress in athletics.

MATTHEW GILKES

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and celebrate Ulladulla's own Matthew Gilkes, who continues to make his hometown proud with his outstanding cricket achievements. Matthew, a former Ulladulla United junior, was recently awarded the prestigious Michael Bevan One-Day Cup Player of the Competition by Cricket NSW - a wonderful reward for his hard work and rising consistency. At just 25, Matthew has stood alongside some of the best, including being named a finalist for the Steve Waugh Medal. Matthew's journey from local junior fields to the big stage with the NSW Blues and Sydney Thunder is an inspiring story of perseverance, passion, and commitment to continuous improvement. Matthew's determination to keep pushing himself and aiming now for that elusive first-class century, reflects the spirit of our South Coast community: humble, hardworking, and always striving for better. I am extremely proud to see an Ulladulla junior thriving at the highest levels of the game, and we know Matthew's best is yet to come. Congratulations, Matthew — your South Coast community is right behind you!

HARRY BAYLISS

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—**Mr. SPEAKER:** One hundred-year-old Harry Bayliss led the Anzac Day March at Milton this year, and was a proud and stirring moment that reminded us all of the courage and sacrifice of those who served. At just 17, Harry was so determined to serve his country that he lied about his age to enlist in 1942. He recalls charming one woman to steal an enlistment form and another to sign it — a bold and

cheeky start to a life of service. Harry was deployed to what is now Papua New Guinea, where he fought in the pivotal Battle of Milne Bay. This campaign, fought between August and September 1942, marked the first land defeat of Japanese forces and became a defining moment in Australia's World War II history. Now a century old, Harry still marches with pride, carrying the stories of his generation with dignity and grace. His presence at Milton this Anzac Day is a living tribute to the bravery, resilience, and enduring spirit of our veterans.

WONDERFUL WOMEN OF GREENWELL POINT

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast)—Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate the Wonderful Women of Greenwell Point for their extraordinary contribution to the heart of their community. Following Greenwell Point's Anzac Day dawn service, many locals gathered at the community hall to enjoy a warming breakfast of hot soup and sausage sandwiches, generously provided free of charge by this inspiring group. Formed nearly nine years ago, the group began with the late Tanya Patterson teaching craft from her home. It has since flourished into a vibrant gathering at the community hall, where members create scarves and beanies for the homeless and craft beautiful items to sell at fetes twice a year—at Easter and the October long weekend. The funds raised go directly to support worthy local causes. Beyond their incredible generosity, the Wonderful Women of Greenwell Point embody the true spirit of friendship and community, meeting for a cuppa, a laugh, and to care for one another. Under the Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Centre's umbrella, their membership spans all generations—including 96-year-old Joyce Widdows. I wish to thank them for their kindness, passion, and community spirit.

HANNAM VALE COMMUNITY HALL

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise the incredible contribution that the Committee of the Hannam Vale Hall make to their local community. The Community Hall is owned by the local community and was opened to the public in 1927. Since this time, a band of passionate and willing volunteers have managed the facility for the betterment of the local community. Like most community halls in the area, they are all aging structures, with fundraising and grants vital to keep these icons of the community in good condition. Events held at the hall include concerts, Trivia nights, Community Dinners, Melbourne Cup Luncheons, Mini Markets and their famous 'Art in the Vale' event. These events all assist with funding ongoing operations. The current committee of Carolyn Turley, Oonagh O'Neill, David Richards, Janet Vickers, Michelle Wadsworth, Tina Phelps, along with outgoing President, Jono Enemark have more than 30 years of combined service and they, along with the volunteers and previous committees, deserve recognition for all they do for their community. Thank you all for your contribution.

MOORLAND COMMUNITY HALL

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise to incredible contribution that the Committee of the Moorland Hall make to their local community. The Community Hall is on Crown Land and was opened to the public in 1912. Since this time, a band of passionate and willing volunteers have managed the facility for the betterment of the local community. The Community Hall precinct also contains a double tennis court and large recreation oval, used by the local tennis club, the Moorland 'Devils' Soccer Club and the adjacent public school. All facilities are maintained by the current committee and their group of volunteers. Like most community halls in the area, they are all aging structures, with fundraising and grants vital to keep these icons of the community in good condition. Events held at the hall include concerts, birthday's, funerals and regular 'morning tea and chatter' sessions, all of which assist with funding ongoing operations. The current committee of Stewart Waugh, Diane Gowans and Alan Stone have combined service of 24 years and they, along with the volunteers and previous committees, deserve recognition for all they do for their community. Thank you all for your contribution.

WYONG MASONIC LODGE

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)—Order of the Amaranth – Wyong Masonic Lodge donated \$6,000 to the Lake Haven Renal Unit. Being the oldest consecrated Lodge on the Central Coast, the members were pleased to be able to make the contribution. This donation is part of their commitment to support local services that make a difference to the community, like the Lake Haven Renal Unit. The donation was presented to Nurse Unit Manager of Lake Haven Renal Unit Jodi Lanci in the recent Wyong Masonic Lodge Annual Meeting. The funds will help the unit continue to provide and enhance medical and therapeutic equipment used in the care provided for patients in the Lake Haven Renal Unit. A long-time member attends the unit to receive dialysis, which makes it even more special for the lodge to donate to the Renal Unit.

AMBER LANE DISTILLERY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Congratulations to Amber Lane Distillery at Wyong Creek for receiving two prestigious medals at the 2025 San Francisco World Spirits Competition. Proudly winning the gold medal for its Liquid Amber expression – an incredible result for the leading Australian sherry cask whisky, which was ranked Australia's equal best single malt at last year's International Wine and Spirits competition. The Distillery also received a silver medal for its newly released Silk Lane – the first international award for this new dram, known for its sugar and spice notes. This is the third consecutive year the Distillery has been announced for the best spirits globally at the San Francisco awards. Owner Rod Berry recognises the medals of the Distillery's ongoing commitment to excellence and exceptional spirits that are near the pinnacle of achievement. The Distillery is set to celebrate the official public launch of the world's first whisky to be aged in a Chartreuse barrel on International Chartreuse Day on May 16. Amber Lane Distillery is now one of Australia's most decorated whisky producers, renowned for its large premium barrels, longer maturation cycles and the careful application of principles learned from European distilling traditions.

CANTON BEACH BOWLERS ANNUAL PINK DAY

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)—Canton Beach Bowlers Annual Pink Day raised \$4,000 for Shirely Shuttle a one-of-a-kind service to transport-challenged cancer outpatients within the Central Coast region. The event successfully honoured loved ones lost to cancer and supported community members needing transportation for vital appointments. Raffle prizes were awarded, and a lively cake auction with generous bids served as the main entertainment. Shirley Shuttle Founder Barb Galvin received a cheque from event host David Gooch, while Max Purcell contributed \$500 cash from the Canton Men's Bowlers, highlighting the community's collective effort and generosity. The donations will be used for maintenance costs for the five Shirley Shuttle vehicles. Pink Day 2025's record-breaking fundraising highlights a remarkable collective effort and dedication towards a meaningful cause. Such achievements highlight the power of community and generosity in making a positive impact.

DONNA CARRIER

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Donna Carrier of Wingham, who recently handed over the reins of her much-loved café, Bent on Food, after 20 years at the helm. From its early days in Bent Street to its growth into an award-winning destination on Isabella Street, Donna built more than just a café — she created a place that brought people into town, supported local producers, and added something special to the Wingham community. Through challenges like COVID, Donna adapted with creativity and care, finding ways to stay connected with her customers and keep her team going. Her many accolades, including national tourism recognition and most recently the 2024 Coastline MidCoast Business of the Year, are well deserved. While she's stepping away from the café, Donna will now focus on her homewares store, Bent on Life, and make time for her family, friends, and creative pursuits. Thank you, Donna, for the role you've played in shaping Wingham's identity. We wish you all the best for this next chapter.

JESSICA LECK

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Forster-based marine ecologist Jessica Leck, who recently returned from a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Antarctica as part of the global leadership initiative, Homeward Bound. Jessica was one of 124 women from around the world selected to participate in this unique program, which included a 12-month online course before setting sail to one of the most remote and ecologically significant places on Earth. From observing the thriving colonies of Adélie and Gentoo penguins to witnessing humpback whales feeding just metres from shore, Jessica described it as a powerful reminder of what healthy ecosystems can look like and how much there still is to protect. Alongside scientific insights, Jessica contributed to an art project of 130 handmade postcards carrying messages of hope and change from women in STEMM to world leaders. The collection is set to tour globally. Jessica's experience will continue to inform her work and advocacy, and I thank her for bringing a piece of that journey home to the Myall Lakes community.

JAMESTRONG PRECISION PACKAGING

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I recently had the opportunity to tour Jamestrong Precision Packaging in Taree, the only manufacturer of aluminium aerosol cans in Australia. The facility operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, producing over 120 million cans annually across three production lines. It was a valuable visit, guided by Operations Manager Gavin Bands, who showed me through their impressive manufacturing process. With state-of-the-art necking equipment and in-house press facilities, Jamestrong plays an important role

both locally and nationally in the aerosol and beverage packaging industry. Thank you to the team for the warm welcome and for giving me an insight into the incredible work being done right at home in Taree.

WARREN SAUNDERS 2025 CHARITY WALK

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to recognise and commend the St George District Cricket Club for raising over \$21,000 for medical research through the Warren Saunders 2025 Charity Walk. The club generously donated this money to the St George Sutherland Medical Research Foundation in their pursuit to help develop emerging medical technologies, such as brain cancer and dementia treatments. The charity walk is named in honour of the late Warren Saunders who passed away at the age of 88. Warren dedicated 75 years to the club, serving as a patron for 30 of those years. Warren spent his time mentoring young men and women in their paths of cricket and in the business world, drawing from his experience building his business, Warren Saunders Insurance Brokers. Over the past 11 years, the charity walk has raised over \$221,000, serving as both a tribute to the club's legendary member and a way to give back to the community that has greatly supported the Cricket Club. Once again, I recognise and commend the St George District Cricket Club on their remarkable achievement and thank them for their service to the community.

CALVARY HEALTH CARE KOGARAH HOSPITAL

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to commend the dedicated staff and volunteers at Calvary Health Care Kogarah Hospital, who embody the Calvary mission of Being for Others, providing compassionate, high-quality care to the elderly and those nearing the end of life. Guided by hospitality, stewardship, respect, and healing, its dedicated team serve some of the most vulnerable in the community. Last year, Calvary cared for nearly 8,000 admitted patients, alongside many more in outpatient and community programs, with unwavering excellence. Its recent bi-annual race day fundraiser raised an impressive \$50,000 for the hospital's Day Rehabilitation Unit, made possible through the generosity of local supporters. With a 60-bed inpatient unit and a specialised day rehabilitation unit, Calvary focuses on restoring independence and well-being through individualised programs. Its hydrotherapy pool and gym provide tailored rehabilitation for patients recovering from major surgery, musculoskeletal conditions, and neurological disorders like Parkinson's Disease. The funds raised will help expand models of care to further enhance quality of life for the frail and aged. As Calvary approaches its 60th anniversary in 2026, it continues the legacy of compassionate service envisioned by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary.

WILLIAM AND BARBARA CLARKE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to congratulate William and Barbara Clarke, long time residents of the St George area, on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. William and Barbara were both born in England but moved to Australia as children. They met in Launceston Tasmania, married and then moved to Sydney where they raised their two children. William and Barbara have made significant contributions to the community. Barbara volunteered as a scripture teacher for Blakehurst Public School and frequently accompanied William as he contributed to various organisations. From events like school carnivals to the Park Road Anglican Church, William and Barbara were always looking to help and never asked for anything in return. They now have four grandchildren and one great grandchild and always look out for them. The couple celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with a family lunch. This is a remarkable occasion for William and Barbara, and on behalf of the St George community, I would like to congratulate the couple for their incredible 60-year milestone.

BRONTE PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—We would like to acknowledge Bronte Public School for its centenary celebrations in 2025, honouring its rich history and vibrant community. The celebrations began with a solemn Aboriginal smoking ceremony followed by a welcoming barbecue, creating an atmosphere of respect and inclusivity as the school marked this significant milestone. A highlight of the celebration was their photo event, where students recreated a cherished old photograph at Bronte Pool, creating beautiful memories for all involved. These special moments not only celebrate the school's past but also look ahead to a bright future for this beloved community institution. Congratulations to Bronte Public School for 100 years of fostering education, unity, and pride.

RISING MAKERS MARKET

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—We would like to acknowledge Waverley's first-ever youth market, the Rising Makers Market, showcasing the incredible talent of young local artists, creators, and entrepreneurs in our community. Hosted at the Boot Factory on April 12th, this event offers a platform for Waverley's best young creatives to shine. The market features a diverse range of original art, ceramics, jewellery, homewares, and more from skilled makers aged 24 and under. The Rising Makers Market is a key part of the

2025 Youth Week celebrations which also includes Beach Bash 2025. Thank you to everyone involved for celebrating the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our youth.

YOUTH WEEK WAVERLEY COUNCIL

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—We would like to acknowledge Waverley Council for hosting Youth Week, a national event held each April for young people aged 12 to 24. This week provides a great opportunity for youth to express their ideas, showcase their talents, and participate in activities designed to empower and inspire. As part of this celebration, Waverley highlights the Rising Makers Market, where young local artists and entrepreneurs can showcase their work, and hosts the Beach Bash, which brings together the local youth community for a night of emerging bands and DJs. Thank you to everyone involved for making Youth Week a platform for creativity, connection, and expression.

ANZAC DAY 2025

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—I would like to acknowledge everyone who has been involved with the many Anzac ceremonies that were hosted across my electorate of Campbelltown. Campbelltown RSL Sub-Branch and Campbelltown City Council have regularly run outstanding commemorative services in our community. The Campbelltown area has a long and proud military history, amongst other things, being home to Victoria Cross recipient Warrant Officer Kevin Wheatley. Many individuals from Campbelltown and beyond served in armed conflicts to fight for and defend the freedoms that we are so privileged to have. I was so heartened to see this year's service and march so well attended by members of our community, in particular many of our school students. There have been conversations about the younger generation not understanding or valuing the Anzac spirit as much as some of the older generations do, but every year when I see our students attending dawn services, marches and commemorative services, I am reminded that the Anzac spirit remains in good hands.

DEIDRE BARRY

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—I would like to acknowledge Deidre Barry, one of the joint winners of my Seniors Achievement Award for 2025. Deidre is an icon in the community of Mt Gilead Estate and a tireless advocate for and supporter of her peers. Deidre was instrumental in setting up the Carer's Group at Mt Gilead Estate seven years ago. Since its inception, Deidre has held fortnightly meetings, where over 40 participants attend for a fun morning of activities, craft or entertainment. This gives hours of entertainment for those impacted by health issues who would otherwise be confined to their home whilst also providing relief for family members who would generally provide care. Transport is also organised for the members of the group to attend concerts and lunches which brings smiles to all – happiness can be contagious. The carers group was the first of its kind in NSW, but in the last seven years, more and more villages across the state have been establishing similar groups based on the model that Deidre has set. I don't think that anyone would disagree with me when I say that Deidre is a very worthy recipient of the Seniors Achievement Award for 2025.

REILTIN BULLOCK

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—I would like to acknowledge Reiltin Bullock, one of the joint winners of my Seniors Achievement Award for 2025. Reiltin and her family came to Australia from Ireland in 1973, and they settled in the suburb of Bradbury. Reiltin has been involved in numerous organisations in our Campbelltown area including St John's Catholic Church, the Campbelltown Embroiders Guild, and the Campbelltown branch of the Country Women's Association. Reiltin joined the CWA in 1975, where she promptly took on the role of Handicraft Officer, encouraging members to learn skills whilst also organising for entries in various competitions. She took on the role of branch secretary in 1978, before accepting a nomination to become President of the branch in 1981. Reiltin held this position for 19 of the next 30 years, supporting the branch and its members through a period of growth. Reiltin also took on the role of Social Welfare officer, where she purchased items for toiletry bags which were donated to the St Vincent De Paul Society for their domestic violence refuges. Reiltin is a much valued and much-loved member of our Campbelltown Community who is a more than deserving recipient of the Senior's Achievement Award.

ELECTRONIC WASTE DROP-OFF DAY

Ms KAREN McKEOWN (Penrith)—I want to congratulate the tremendous efforts by Penrith community recently, with residents diverting over 20 tonnes of electronic waste at Penrith City Council's annual e-waste drop-off day. Many Penrith residents lined up in their vehicles to hand over their old, unwanted, and broken electronic waste. Today, e-waste is growing three times faster than any other type of waste and the hazardous elements that it contains are harmful to our community and environment. With e-waste being responsible for 70% of toxic chemicals found in landfill and 23,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year, I am proud to acknowledge Penrith City Council's efforts in educating the Penrith community on responsible recycling

of e-waste items. Thank you, Penrith City Council, for cultivating such a resourceful event and to the Penrith community for taking the time to recycle and helping protect our environment.

GOAL COLLEGE ULTIMO

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I would like to acknowledge the GOAL College in Ultimo, who I was pleased to join recently for their campus warming party. GOAL College has a unique and valuable approach to education that helps students who may not be comfortable or enthusiastic in a standard school environment to learn and achieve their best. GOAL is a great representation of the commitment to learning and development for all students that underpins our education system, and the environment fostered there enables students to thrive. I would like to give a sincere thank you to Jackson and Oscar, two of the wonderful year 12 students at GOAL for giving me a tour of the school and for sharing their plans for the future. Thanks also to Kate O'Donnell, the founding principal of GOAL, and Bradley Chitty, the school's current principal for their commitment to excellence in education. I extend those thanks to all the fantastic staff and the school board who welcomed me to the school, for your wonderful contribution to our community.

THINGS I WISH I KNEW EXHIBITION

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I would like to acknowledge the success of the recent Things I Wish I Knew photography exhibition, brought together by local artists Anni Payne and Matthew Duchesne of Milk and Honey Photography. This exhibition featured portraits of young people along with their reflections on creativity, identity and wellbeing. This is a powerful focus that reflects the unique challenges many young people face and amplifies the importance of youth mental health initiatives. I am so grateful that our community has the benefit of people like Anni, Matthew and all of the young participants in this exhibition, whose creativity makes our community so much more vibrant and interesting. I would like to thank all of the participants in the Things I Wish I knew program and give a special thank you to Anni and Matthew, whose vision and effort made this exhibition so successful.

BANKSTOWN RSL SUB BRANCH ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On the 13th of April I was honoured to attend and be the guest speaker at the Bankstown RSL Sub Branch ANZAC DAY commemoration at the Bankstown Courthouse Reserve. ANZAC Day holds a sacred place in the heart of our nation. It is a day where we pause, reflect, and pay tribute to the courage, mateship, and resilience of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and all those who have served and continue to serve our country. For many years the Bankstown RSL Sub Branch has represented and upheld the spirit of remembrance within our community. Through their tireless efforts, they ensure that the stories of our servicemen and women are never forgotten, and that each generation understands the true meaning of the ANZACs. I would like to thank and acknowledge the dedication of the Sub Branch members, volunteers, veterans, and their families, who work tirelessly each year to deliver a commemoration that is both respectful and inclusive. Their work strengthens community spirit and keeps the legacy of our heroes alive. This is something that I know will continue for years to come. Lest we forget.

BOISHAKHI MELA 1432 2025

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 this year's Boishakhi Mela 1432, held at Wiley Park on 14 April 2025. This vibrant celebration marked the Bengali New Year, Pohela Boishakh, and is a significant cultural event for our local community. The festival showcased a rich variety of traditional Bengali elements, including authentic cuisine, cultural performances, and displays of rural handicrafts. Many attendees wore colourful traditional attire, creating a lively and festive atmosphere that truly reflected the joyous spirit of the occasion. The event also served as a meaningful bridge between generations, giving younger community members a chance to connect with their heritage and proudly share it with others. This celebration was a heartfelt display of community pride and cultural unity. Events like Boishakhi Mela are vital in preserving tradition while promoting understanding and inclusion, welcoming people from all backgrounds to experience the beauty and vibrancy of Bengali culture. A big thank you to all the organisers, volunteers, performers, and community members whose hard work made the Wiley Park Boishakhi Mela 1432 such a memorable and meaningful event. Your efforts help keep these traditions alive and continue to bring our community closer together.

LAKEMBA RSL SUB-BRANCH ANZAC DINNER

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On the 11 of April, I was honoured to be invited to the Lakemba RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Dinner. This special event paid tribute to the brave men and women who

have served our country, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace and freedom. For many years, the Lakemba RSL Sub-Branch has been the foundation of remembrance, support, and camaraderie within our community. Through its tireless efforts, we are reminded that the price of peace was paid by those who answered the call to serve. The ANZAC Dinner was not just about reflection, but also about connection — with our history, our veterans, and each other. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, organisers, and all those involved in making the dinner possible. The dedication and commitment ensure that the stories of our veterans live on, and that we, as a community, never forget the sacrifices made for our freedom. I would like to thank Chris Taylor the Manager of the Lakemba Club and Ann Garland OAM the President of the Lakemba Sub-Branch for their hard work that he dedicates in ensuring the ANZAC Dinner runs smoothly.

SHAWN CASWELL

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Shawn Caswell who is riding his pushbike from Gulgong to Lithgow in the aim of raising money for kids for cancer. On Friday, 30 May 2025, Shawn, who is no stranger to long distance charity rides, will take on his most ambitious challenge yet. A two-hundred-kilometre cycle from Gulgong to Lithgow. Shawn is raising funds for the Great Cycle Challenge, who ride to end childhood cancer and save little lives. Having recently faced his own health battles and undergone a major hernia operation; Shawn remains undeterred. His unwavering commitment to helping kids doing it tough is what keeps him pedalling forward. Anticipating the ride will take around ten and half to eleven hours, Shawn plans to set off at 4am. He will be supported along the way by his wife who will be in the safety vehicle. His incredible journey will conclude at the Lithgow Bunnings store, where a charity BBQ will welcome him across the finish line. Shawn, your commitment to helping children enduring tough times is truly admirable. Good luck on the ride, I am sure that snag at the end will be well earned and even better enjoyed!

KURT EATHER

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Kurt Eather from the Dubbo Cycling Club who has recently been named AusCycling Men's Track Cyclist of the Year in the 2024 NSW Performance Awards. The AusCycling Performance awards celebrate individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill, and achievement across competitive cycling events throughout the year. These awards recognise not only outstanding results, but also the commitment, perseverance and passion that underpin high level performance. Kurt is a well deserving winner of this award, having completed some incredible rides over the season. He has competed not only locally, but also across Australia and internationally. He also earned the title of NSW State Omnium Champion. Kurt's exceptional talent, skill, and dedication to cycling was evident from an early age, earning him the title of NSW Junior Cyclist of the Year in 2018. Congratulations Kurt on this well-deserved recognition. It is wonderful to see your passion, talent and hard work being honoured. Wishing you even more success ahead!

VIOLET WHITEHOUSE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker..... I would like to acknowledge Violet Whitehouse who recently shaved her head in support of the Tie Dye Project, raising awareness and funds for children and families going through sarcoma. Violet, a Year 9 student from Dubbo, was inspired to raise vital awareness and funds by fellow Dubbo local Molly Croft. Molly, the remarkable President of the Tie Dye Project, is a two-time osteosarcoma survivor who uses her journey to inspire others. Her decision to undertake this shave is a truly selfless and compassionate act. The awareness she has raised and the funds she has helped generate will leave a lasting and meaningful impact on the individuals of all ages. With the aim of raising two thousand dollars, Violet is well on her way to achieving it, giving kids with cancer a better chance to survive, thrive and look forward to brighter futures. Congratulations Violet, on making a bold decision to change your personal appearance in support of this inspirational cause. You should be very proud of your compassion and achievement.

RAMADAN EID BAZAAR FESTIVAL

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—On 23 March, I attended the annual Ramadan Eid Bazaar held at the Whitlam Leisure Centre in Liverpool—an event that brought together many to celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Organised by Multicultural Festivals Australia under the leadership of the amazing Sashi Lal, this festival has been a cornerstone of the community for 16 years. With food stalls, cultural performances, shopping, and family-friendly entertainment, the bazaar offered something for everyone. Beyond the festivities, it fosters a strong sense of unity, pride, and belonging among the Muslim community and the wider public. Events like these are vital for cultural connection, promoting inclusivity and understanding across backgrounds. The atmosphere remained lively well into the night, creating lasting memories for all who attended. With past attendance exceeding 10,000, the event continues to grow as a joyful, meaningful celebration for the entire community.

PAKISTAN DAY

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—This year, I had the privilege of celebrating Pakistan Day on 23 March by attending two significant community events that reflected pride, unity, and purpose. The afternoon began with a Pakistan Day Rally organised by the AUSPAK Youth Association, starting at Parry Park in Lakemba and concluding in Revesby. AUSPAK is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to empowering disadvantaged communities through education, healthcare, and social welfare. The rally was a powerful display of unity and pride, promoting inclusivity and social impact within the local Pakistani community. Later that evening, the Pakistan Association of Australia Inc. hosted a special Iftar and Pakistan Day celebration at Himalaya Restaurant in Granville. Attended by community members, local leaders, and the Consul General of Pakistan, the event commemorated the Lahore Resolution of 1940 and the formation of Pakistan's first constitution. It was a chance to honour the contributions of Pakistani Australians to New South Wales and embrace the spirit of Ramadan, strengthening cultural and communal bonds across generations.

EID

Mr NATHAN HAGARTY (Leppington)—After a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection during Ramadan, the joy of Eid Al-Fitr was deeply experienced through several beautiful community gatherings. On 31 March, I attended an Open House at the Khalique Residence in Edmondson Park, where the warm hospitality, delicious food, and meaningful conversations created a heartfelt celebration of gratitude and faith. Later that evening, I joined the Ratan Family, whose kindness and festive energy brought people together in laughter and unity—reflecting the true essence of Eid. On 5 April, I was honoured to be welcomed into the home of the Nadeem Family in Denham Court. Sharing in the spirit of Eid and enjoying traditional dishes like Kheer and Sheer Khurma which was a sweet highlight to the evening. Each of these gatherings reflected the generosity, connection, and shared values that uplift and strengthen our communities. I'm truly grateful to have been part of these moments that showcased the beauty of unity and the joy of coming together.

ST FLORIAN'S DAY 2025

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—We proudly honour St Florian's Feast Day, a tradition for firefighters for centuries, on May 4th as the International Firefighter's Day. It has been honouring the sacrifice, bravery, and service of firefighters across the world for over 150 years. St. Florian, a Roman soldier born sometime in 250 A.D., is famous for his courage in fighting for what he believed in and the legendary act of putting out a fire with only one pitcher of water. He is honoured today as the Patron Saint of Firefighters and an eternal symbol of courage and commitment. The NSW Rural Fire Service [RFS] is honoured to continue this tradition with the recognition of members who have stepped beyond the call of duty. The RFS has officially acknowledged bravery and meritorious service in an internal awards scheme since 1999, maintaining a tradition that reaches to the very essence of community protection. On this St Florian's Day, we pay tribute to good women and men of the RFS. May your commitment, bravery, and unstinting service be well appreciated. You do deserve gratitude for working in our communities and upholding a good tradition that makes such a great difference!

SARAH HICKS - MOUNT ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—I proudly acknowledge Sarah Hicks, a Year 11 student at Mount St Benedict College in my Epping electorate, for her achievement in representing New South Wales at the 2024 National Netball Championships. As a member of the NSW 17U Team, Sarah competed at the highest level against Australia's best young players, helping her team secure a silver medal in the Grand Final. Following this strong national performance, Sarah has been selected for the Australian U17 Squad. She has also been elevated to the Netball NSW Waratah Academy, where she will continue advanced training in preparation for the Australian Nationals Camp at the Australian Institute of Sport later this year. Sarah's sporting success is no accident. She is a committed netballer, representing Mount St Benedict in the CGSSSA competition and playing club netball with North Shore United in the Premier League. Sarah's selection to the national squad is a significant personal milestone and a proud moment for her school and community. I commend her for this achievement and wish her continued success in her sporting endeavours.

MARLEY DIGHTON - MOUNT ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—I proudly acknowledge and congratulate Marley Dighton, a Year 11 student at Mount St Benedict College in my Epping electorate, for her outstanding performance at the 2024 National Netball Championships. As a member of the NSW U17 Team, Marley competed against Australia's top junior talent and helped her team earn a silver medal after a strong campaign that culminated in a Grand Final appearance. Marley's standout performance at the national level has earned her a place in the Australian U17 Squad. She has also been selected for the Netball NSW Waratah Academy and will continue intensive

training in preparation for the Australian Nationals Camp at the Australian Institute of Sport later this year. Marley is a dedicated athlete, playing for Mount St Benedict College in the CGSSSA competition and for North Shore United, where she contributes as a training partner in the Division 1 Metro League. Her commitment to both school and club netball has played a crucial role in her development as a top-level player. I congratulate Marley Dighton on this well-deserved recognition and wish her every success as she continues her netball journey.

EPPING FUTURE LEADERS – ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ms MONICA TUDEHOPE (Epping)—I acknowledge four outstanding young individuals from the Epping electorate: Jacinta Murphy and Pius Lee, and Meg Kelleher and Samuel Manton, of St Gerard's Catholic Primary School in Carlingford, who have been elected as school captains and vice 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, Jacinta, Pius, Meg, and Samuel are entrusted to uphold the school's values of justice, responsibility, and respect, while also representing their peers and setting a positive example within the school. Positions like these are crucial 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 St Gerard's Catholic Primary School. I also recognise Principal Barbara Yee for her commitment to cultivating leadership.

JOHNS RIVER COMMUNITY HALL

Mr ROBERT DWYER (Port Macquarie)—I rise today to recognise to incredible contribution that the Committee of the Johns River Hall and Recreation Reserve make to their local community. The Community Hall is on Crown land was opened to the public in 1937. Since this time, a band of passionate and willing volunteers have managed the facility for the betterment of the local community. Like most community halls in the area, they are all aging structures, with fundraising and grants vital to keep these icons of the community in good condition. Events held at the hall include concerts, monthly community markets, RFS training sessions/meetings, birthdays and funerals, to name a few. These events all assist with funding ongoing operations. The Hall Committee also manage a highly successful and well patronised Community Rest Area complete with toilets and children's playground. These facilities have been open for 15 years now and are a credit to the group. The current committee of Chris Bawn, Wendy Bawn, Jo Comber, Marian Heath and Daintry Gerrand have more than 80 years combined service and they, along with the band of volunteers deserve recognition for all they do for their community and visitors. Thank you for your contribution.

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN HARMONY GROUP LUNAR NEW YEAR

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise today to thank the Canterbury Bankstown Harmony Group and the Riverwood Community Centre for their warm hospitality in hosting me at the 2025 Lunar New Year Event. It was truly an honour to be part of one of the most significant cultural celebrations of the year—Lunar New Year. Sydney, with its vibrant and diverse population, stands as one of the largest Western cities to engage with and celebrate the traditions of Southeast Asia. The celebration welcomed the Year of the Snake with traditional Chinese dances performed by the Sydney Chinese Drum Art Troupe Incorporated, Little Apple, the Chinese Seniors Club, RCC Chinese Aged Care Group, and the Harmony Care Group. Everyone also received red envelopes and enjoyed a Chinese traditional lunch. I must say, we all had a wonderful time. I thank Maha Taleb and Julia Wang for their dedication and hard work in bringing this event to life. Your efforts enabled the community to come together in such a vibrant and joyous way.

CLUB GRANDVIEWS ANZAC DAY SERVICE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to congratulate the team from Club Grandviews in Peakhurst, who recently hosted a heartfelt and memorable Anzac Day commemorative service. Anzac Day is a particularly important time in our community for so many, with many having served in the Australian Defence Force themselves or knowing a loved one who has proudly worn the uniform. It is a time to recognise the bravery of our servicemen and women throughout Australia's military history, including the ultimate sacrifice that many made at Gallipoli in 1915. I was honoured to attend the event alongside our community, and I must say, it was very well attended. There was performances from Sing Australia St George and tributes from members of the Australian Defence Force, both serving and retired. I would like to thank General Manager of Club Grandviews, Nathan Buhagiar, as well as Chairman Alex Fotheringham and the rest of the board of directors for organising such a wonderful event. I look forward to attending again next year.

GEORGES ESTATE HEALTH & AGED CARE COMMUNITY ANZAC DAY SERVICE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to congratulate the team from Georges Estate Health and Aged Care Community, who recently hosted a fantastic Anzac Day Service at their centre in Penshurst. I was grateful to be able to attend this service and lay a wreath in remembrance of those who laid down their lives

for country. There were many in attendance on the day, including both residents and carers from Georges Estate and other special guests. It was also great to see that many of the residents played an active role in the commemorative service. Of course, Anzac Day is an opportunity to recognise our brave service men and women who served and fought for our freedom. Many gave their lives as the ultimate sacrifice, so that we may live our lives in peace. I would like to thank the entire team from Georges Estate who hosted such a fantastic and memorable event. In particular, I recognise Kyla Hawkins and Sarah Riarch, alongside the rest of the team who made the service such a success. I look forward to attending next year.

GARRY REARDON – 30 GRAFTON TO INVERELL RIDES

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to recognise and congratulate Garry Reardon on completing his 30th Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic in this year's ride. Over 300 participants took part in the 229km 64th Squadron Energy Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic, which started in Prince Street, Grafton and finished at Vivian Street in Inverell. Garry took part in his first Grafton to Inverell ride in 1986, less than 12 months after first taking up the sport. An avid sportsman with a background in basketball, rowing, playing and umpiring cricket and coaching women's hockey, Garry's decision to take up cycling came after he sustained a stress fracture in his lower spine while playing competition squash. For Garry's 30th ride this year, he finished in seventh place in the Men's 60-69 years category, with an overall time of 8 hours, 24 minutes and 32 seconds. Garry is a member of the Grafton Cycle Club and regularly competes in local competitions to keep up his fitness levels. Garry's continued efforts have also seen him awarded with February 2025 Grafton Shoppingworld Senior Sports person of the month. Congratulations on your fantastic efforts Garry, a remarkable achievement.

HEADSPACE GRAFTON WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations to Headspace Grafton's Work and Study team on receiving the 2025 Excellence in Innovative Practice Award at the Headspace National Work and Study Conference held in Melbourne. The Grafton team was recognised for the valuable work they do in integrating mental health care with vocational support for young people, particularly through the Clarence Community Strides project. Their work enables building of connection and increasing mental health literacy, while boosting awareness of the Work and Study Program by engaging young people with employers and sporting clubs. A highlight of the project was a collaboration with emerging First Nations artists from Bundjalung, Gumbaynggir and Yaegl countries to design unique sporting apparel. The designs encouraged conversations around mental health and vocational support within youth sporting clubs and the broader community. This national recognition showcases the importance of Headspace Grafton's dedication to an integration of youth mental health and vocational services to empower young people to achieve their goals. Well done to all involved in the success of the project, and congratulations on the remarkable achievement of receiving the award.

BIG RIVER GLASS ANNIVERSARY

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to offer my congratulations to Adam and Roxanne Sydenham and all the crew at Big River Glass on your 10th anniversary in business. Adam and Roxanne took over Big River Glass back in 2015 and business has only grown and strengthened over time. Big River Glass is a locally owned and operated Business and has been a leading aluminium window and door manufacturer in the Clarence Valley and beyond for almost 40 years. Big River Glass supply aluminium windows and doors, security screens and shower panels and work in partnership with multiple development and construction companies. They continue to excel in expert service and supply of comprehensive glazing solutions for both the private and public sectors of NSW. Well done to Adam, Roxanne and the team at Big River Glass, and wishing them many more successful years in business.

BINGARA COMMUNITY OP SHOP

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Bingara Community Op Shop on their valuable services provided to members of the community, with this not-for-profit organisation being operated solely by volunteers. The store offers pre-loved goods, food pantry, as well as a space for storytelling, activities and social gatherings. I congratulate all involved in the Op Shop, both past and present, including the current committee: Presidents Will Schonewille and Denise McLachlan; Vice Presidents Lynn Clarke and Bev Matthews; Secretary Cherisse Amer; Treasurer Dr Chris Matthews, along with Patron Nancy MacInnes. The shop is truly a team effort with around 25 integral members, voluntarily working in every facet of the service. Community organisations such as this in regional towns, cannot function without the wonderful support and commitment volunteers give. I commend all involved in the success of the Bingara Community Op Shop, who have given their time and effort to ensure the longevity of this wonderful enterprise. Since its inception, the group has raised in excess of \$160,000, which has been returned directly back to the local community to benefit others.

MOREE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the achievements of the Moree and District Historical Society on their hard work preserving and promoting the history of Moree and the surrounding districts. I congratulate all involved in providing this community legacy, as well as on celebrating their first anniversary of the new home of the Moree Plains Museum. Special thanks to the committee: President Neville Campbell, Vice President Jeni Bruno, Secretary Jenny Pritchard, Treasurer Lauren Winkley, Assistant Treasurer and Grants Officer Michael McNamara; committee men Jeff Greenaway, Allan Jenkins and Robert Bartel; Accessions committee: Denise Jenkins, Sue Greenaway, Lorraine Bartel and Sue Carter; Public Officer Cheryl Timmins and Publicity Officer Jane Rohde. Thank you to each of the members, whom give selflessly of their time and knowledge, ensuring history is maintained and shared. Behind the scenes volunteers are dusting, polishing, cataloguing memorabilia, artefacts and records, maintaining the building and displays, as well as ensuring the museum evolves and continues to impart our history. I commend all involved with this very important initiative, for their foresight, hard work and dedication to the museum. In doing so, providing the opportunity visitors to learn about history significant to our people and region.

RECOGNITION OF DINO VANNUCCI - YOUR LOCAL BLOKE

Mr BRENDAN MOYLAN (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Dino Vannucci of Armidale on racking up 30 years behind the wheel, through his business Dino's Express. This family-owned business services the New England, including daily deliveries to Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha and weekly to Inverell, Glen Innes and many places in between. I congratulate Dino on marking this terrific milestone and providing an essential linkage between our towns. Special thanks to all involved over the years, including Dino's son Almy, for their support and contribution to the success of this dependable local business. I commend Dino on his hard work and commitment to providing enduring and excellence service to the New England. We wish Dino Express many more successful years ahead serving our region.

ANGELA HARBEN - BALRANALD

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today, I would like to recognise Angela Harben of Balranald for her long-standing dedication to the community. From her early career as a librarian to her ongoing support for family history research, Angela has shown a deep passion for helping others trace their roots. Angela served as Balranald's librarian for 25 years, becoming a trusted source of local knowledge. Though retired, she continues to assist those seeking information about their ancestry. She also brings colour and life to town events like Australia Day, Easter, and Christmas, with creative displays across Market Street, Discovery Park, and local businesses. Angela's community spirit extends further. A former Historical Group member, she has volunteered at the local football club, served on the Balranald Club Board, and continues to help at local op shops. She is also an active member of the Sewing and Craft Group. Angela's dedication, creativity, and community spirit are truly inspiring and deserving of recognition.

ROXY WOOD - SOUTH COAST FOOTBALL'S YOUNGEST STAR

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast)—I'd like to acknowledge the incredible talent of Roxy Wood, a 15-year-old local who is making waves in the world of Aussie Rules football in the Illawarra. Roxy is the youngest player in the history of the South Coast Senior Women's division, at just 15 years of age. Roxy ran on the field for the Figtree Kangaroos recently, following in the footsteps of her mother. She also received a nomination for 'Best on Ground', having a standout performance among women, mostly more than double her age! Roxy has been training at the development academy squad with the Sydney Swans since she was 12 and is well on her way to becoming a rising star in Women's AFL. It's exciting to see the growth and development of Women's AFL in the Illawarra, and I wish Roxy all the best with her future endeavours in the sport. The entire Illawarra is behind her – Go Roxy!

RYAN WILLIAMS

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—Narrabri local, Ryan Williams is a keen touch football player and recently played against some of the best at the NSW Touch Football's 2025 Junior Regional tournament in Mudgee. Ryan, who is 16, played for the Northern Eagles in the under 18's division, playing against teams from Sydney, Newcastle and across the state and although the team didn't get any wins across the week, Ryan came away with more skills and saw this as an opportunity to try again next year. I would like to acknowledge Ryan's efforts with touch football and wish him all the best in his future sporting journey.

LIVERPOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Congratulations to the Liverpool Public School community for officially opening their brand new playground. Complete with artificial turf, a running track, a

soccer field with moveable goals, a cricket pitch and a sandpit, this new space has everything any primary school child could dream of. The attention to detail in this space is astounding, with bricks sourced from when the school originally opened in the 1860s. Not only that, the space pays tribute to Liverpool Public's history, with interpretive signage placed throughout the new playground containing information about how the school looked in centuries past. This important connection to the history of Liverpool helps foster deeper understanding and appreciation for the children and families, many who have moved into our community relatively recently, to the school and our broader community. None of this work would have been possible without the fantastic work of the staff and community in delivering this important project. I particularly want to highlight the work of School Principal Jenny Vajdevski, and Business Manager Jodie Barnes, who has been there since the beginning! I look forward to seeing this fantastic new space put to good use.

LANE COVE ART SOCIETY - ARTXTRA! 2025 EXHIBITION

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker - I wish to commend the Lane Cove Art Society for their successful ArtXtra! 2025 exhibition, held from 9 to 23 April at Gallery Lane Cove + Creative Studios. This annual event continues to offer a platform for local artists to showcase their talents in painting, printmaking, and drawing. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all participating artists and the dedicated members of the Lane Cove Art Society for their commitment to promoting the arts in our region.

CLARA CHIU - EMERGING ARTIST PRIZE WINNER

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove)—Mr Speaker - I wish to acknowledge the remarkable achievement of Clara Chiu, a gifted photographer from Lane Cove, who has been honoured with the Emerging Artist Prize for her water-inspired photography which was showcased at the Lifeline Art Show in North Sydney. I extend my sincere congratulations to Clara on this well-deserved recognition and commend her for her contributions to the cultural landscape of our community.

BIG WATER WALK BY CARITAS AUSTRALIA

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—It's a difficult discussion to have, as a community, however it is important that we come to terms with a difficult truth – that climate change could one day make water no longer free or easily accessible in our homes. This can be hard to accept, but organisations like Caritas Australia are helping bring this potential reality to light. On the 10th April, students from five schools, including St Bernadette's Primary Dundas Valley, participated in a meaningful initiative at Domain Creek in Parramatta Park. Through a symbolic 'water walk', these students raised awareness and funds for communities in Samoa, where water scarcity sometimes forces schools to shut down. As Year 6 student Lachlan Bruce explained, he walked to help build water tanks so children in Samoa don't have to trek for miles just to access water. This effort is a beautiful reminder that our younger generation are already thinking deeply about our collective future. I'd like to thank Ryan Reyes, the Mission Partner at Catholic Schools Parramatta Dioceses and Caritas Australia for their important work — true to the Latin meaning of their name, they continue to act with love and compassion.

STORY FACTORY

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—I am proud to recognise the Story Factory Parramatta, a not-for-profit creative writing centre that supports young people in under-resourced communities. The centre has become a beacon of hope, offering a safe space where individuals can express themselves, find community and connect with others who share similar experiences. In 2024, the Story Factory saw over 8,700 enrolments across various programs, reaching nearly 50 schools and community organisations across all eight states and territories. With 43 open programs and 29% of students speaking English as an additional language, the impact is undeniable. Through creative writing, students not only improve their skills but also gain confidence in voicing their perspectives. One poem that stood out to me was An Ode to Women by Sarah, a Year 12 student. Her consistent use of "we're mother nature for a reason!" in the poem was particularly impactful conveying the connection of women as nurturers and creators. Story Factory volunteers including Lawrie McCane, Silvia Martinez Garcia, Ruben Galego Montero and Kimberly Camiring were awarded the Aunty Uma Award for their unwavering support. I commend the Story Factory for nurturing such talent and look forward to its continued growth!

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—The Alfred Street Pedestrian Cyclist Walkway Bridge and PHIVE have been recognised at the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia's Engineering Excellence Awards. These exceptional infrastructure projects, which have quickly become recognised as significant landmarks in the heart of Parramatta - my home - have been rightfully recognised for their innovation, design and impact. I had the privilege of officially opening PHIVE during my time as Lord Mayor of City of Parramatta, serving as a hub for learning, a library, exhibition and community meeting spaces, earned the award for the Design and Construction of a Public Works Project valued over \$5 million. It beautifully integrates functionality with design and you can

see it as the backdrop of the ABC nightly news. Alfred Street Bridge, awarded in the 'New or Improved Techniques' category for 2025, is a standout in public works engineering. This bridge is not just a crossing - it is a testament to cutting-edge engineering and the importance of thoughtful urban planning. This recognition is a tribute to the hard work, vision and dedication of Council, architects, builders and more. I would also like to extend my gratitude to IPWEA for hosting these prestigious awards.

TUMBULGUM AND CONDONG SCHOOLS

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—Three years after the 2022 Northern Rivers floods, it was pleasing to see sods turned last week to kick off the rebuilding of Tumbulgum and Condong Public Schools in the Tweed Electorate. Both schools were damaged beyond repair during the flood and students have been learning in temporary facilities ever since. Weather permitting, students will be able to return to permanent classrooms later this year. Both schools are steeped in local history and I'm pleased that the old school bell at Tumbulgum Public School will be restored and historical building materials will be re-used as part of the rebuild. At Condong Public School items such as the Great War Honour Roll, painted murals and plaques will be preserved. I commend the students, families and staff at both schools for the resilience they have shown over the last three years. And I look forward to visiting the completed school rebuilds later in 2025.

TVH INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed)—Hospital were the hospital's annual nursing awards. Winners included:

- New to Practice, Nurse of the Year Award – Brigid Isbester, with Tommy Mull-Mathers awarded runner-up;
- Nurse of the Year – Zali Belcher;
- Midwife of the Year – Nicole Moore;
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Noelene Williams;
- TTH Leadership Award – Carly Boyle;
- Team of the Year Award – Midwifery in the Home;
- Healing Hearts Award – Lily Borwick.

All award winners were nominated by their peers, with the Healing Heart award nominated by the community. Congratulations to all the award winners and thank you for your outstanding contributions to the world-class healthcare provided at Tweed Valley Hospital. We really do have a talented, caring and terrific staff at Tweed Valley Hospital and I'm grateful for their commitment and dedication to patients and loved ones.

GEMMA NORTON

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Miss Gemma Norton is a Year 10 student at Scots All Saints College Bathurst and a very talented young artist. She was recently acknowledged as a 2025 finalist for the Art Gallery of NSW Young Archie Prize. Gemma's portrait of her grandfather has been selected above hundreds of entries from across the state to be exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW as part of the Archibald Prize exhibition. Her ability to capture character and the subtleties of human connection through the medium of drawing were highly praised. Gemma described her artwork as an "intimate portrait that captures my grandfather's quiet resilience through decades of unspoken challenges... His weathered face tells a story of both struggle and strength." This statement is to acknowledge Gemma Norton for her outstanding achievements in the field of art, congratulate her on her raw talent and clear creativity and encourage her to continue to pursue her dreams and passions.

MICHELLE PRATLEY

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Michelle Pratley has been honoured as a finalist in the Jean Alexander OAM Award for Administrative Excellence as part of the recent annual Bathurst District Sport and Recreation Council Sports Awards. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of Michelle Pratley who is indeed a quiet achiever, having established the Superstars Netball Club some 14 years ago when a group of school friends wanted to play netball together when they were just eight years old. When the club started there were two teams, but fast forward to 2024 and the club boasted 19 teams ranging from Netta, Juniors and Seniors including having an A grade outfit. The club is now one of the most successful clubs in the Bathurst region and has an enviable reputation for its ethos of inclusion and participation as well as being very successful in its competition results. This is evident by the fact that the Superstars Netball Club have had players appear at representative and WRAS level while many others have been selected for their school teams. Congratulations Michelle, the sporting community of Bathurst owes you a vote of thanks.

DAVID FLUDE

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—It is with great pleasure that I am able to recognise the efforts of Mr David Flude for his role as a long-term administrator for the Bathurst Bushrangers Australian Football Club. David was honoured as one of three finalists in the Jean Alexander OAM Award for Administrative Excellence at the recent Bathurst District Sport and Recreation Council Annual Sports Awards. His impressive resume includes being the club's Facilities Manager since 2014 as well as its Treasurer, a role he has also filled since 2014. However, it is his role as the person responsible for the Bushrangers' grant applications that has allowed the club to continue to grow going from strength to strength. Highlights of his successful funding support include the

addition of female change rooms at their home ground at George Park II, awnings across both sides of their clubhouse, upgrades to infrastructure like installing solar panels and lighting at the grounds. He has also been an umpire since 2015 and volunteer barman on game days as well as a chef for club functions. Congratulations David Flude, your contribution to the sport of Aussie Rules in the Bathurst region is greatly appreciated.

PROBATIONARY CONSTABLES CLASS 365

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to congratulate and welcome the newly appointed Probationary Constables to Burwood Police Area Command. On Friday 2 May 2025, these officers were attested to the NSW Police Force at the Goulburn Police Academy as part of Class 365 and have since begun working in our community as part of Burwood Police Area Command. I would like to acknowledge Probationary Constable Lili Gelonesi, Probationary Constable Tahir Issa, Probationary Constable Soleil Russo, Probationary Constable Xaviere Santos, Probationary Constable George Bawari, Probationary Constable Christopher San Juan, Probationary Constable Sharra Gibson-Puller, Probationary Constable Tae Jun Park, and Probationary Constable Ashley Chan. It was a pleasure to meet these officers on their first day. Their passion and dedication is to be commended, and I thank them for their service to our community. They have taken up the incredibly challenging but rewarding responsibility of serving and protecting our community. I wish these nine new officers all the very best. I extend my sincerest gratitude to the entire Burwood Police Area Command and congratulate these newly appointed Constables. Congratulations.

CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL PREFECTS

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge and congratulate the 2025 Student Leadership Team of Concord High School. The 2025 Leadership Team have taken up an important role at Concord High School, demonstrating their dedication to their peers and commitment to fostering a positive and supportive environment for all. Their efforts set a strong example of leadership for others in and help shape the school community. I sincerely congratulate School Captains Zachary Mastrogiannis and Sally Harris, Vice Captains Kiara Bartlett and Anastasija Tomcic, Student Voice Prefects Taleah Yassine and Harry Dunne, Sport Prefects Ben Ronan and Jayden Smith, Inclusivity and Enrichment Prefects Carvelina Phin and Ryan Spierewka, Concordia Prefects Joshua Ta, Joy Ha, Harry Lever and Hannah Mangerah, and Creative and Performing Arts Prefects Rachel Yi and Adele Zuo. I am confident that these leaders will have a meaningful impact in their role and inspire younger students. Congratulations to each of the 2025 Student Leaders at Concord High School. I wish them all the very best. I know their teachers, families, friends and loved ones are very proud of them.

E.M. LANE NURSES MUSEUM

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge the grand opening of the E.M. Lane and Concordians' Nurses Museum at Concord Hospital on 9 May 2025. Named in honour of Mrs Ethel 'Stalky' Lane AM, the E.M. Lane and Concordians' Museum is a collection of historical pieces that highlight Concord Hospital's founding decades as a Repatriation Hospital for returning soldiers. It stands as a proud reminder of our community's deep connection to the Anzac history. The collection includes a vast array of historical nursing uniforms, photographs, and other documentation dating back to the 1890s. These invaluable items preserve the legacy of our servicemen and women and ensure that future generations never forget their sacrifices. It is truly a magnificent community asset, and one that we are very proud of. I acknowledge the Concordians President Assoc. Prof. John Cullen, Vice Chair Jan Bell, Secretary Alice Kang OAM, Treasurer Assoc. Prof. Lloyd Ridley and sub-committee members Jennifer Collins AM, Meg Green AM and Peta Macfarlane. Their dedication to preserving the history at Concord is truly commendable. Thank you to everyone involved in the development of the E.M. Lane and Concordians Museum, our community is truly grateful for this outstanding historical collection.

CELEBRATING RUBY NABLE: MOSMANS YOUNGEST PILATES INSTRUCTOR

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I rise to commend Ruby Nable, a remarkable 15-year-old from Mosman, who has recently become the youngest instructor at XFIT Mosman. Despite her age, Ruby has quickly established herself as one of the studio's most effective and popular instructors. Ruby's journey into fitness instruction began with her extensive background in dance, including ballet, jazz, contemporary, musical theatre, and hip hop. This diverse training has greatly influenced her dynamic and engaging teaching style, particularly in her barre classes. Clients consistently praise her ability to deliver challenging workouts in an enjoyable and motivating manner. Her transition from student to instructor was inspired by her mother, Liz Nable, co-founder of XFIT Mosman. Recognising Ruby's potential, Liz encouraged her to pursue Pilates and barre qualifications, leading to Ruby's certification and subsequent role as an instructor. Ruby's dedication and passion for fitness not only highlight her personal achievements but also reflect the supportive and empowering environment fostered by XFIT Mosman. Her success serves as an inspiration to young individuals in our community, demonstrating

that age is no barrier to making a positive impact Congratulations, Ruby, on your outstanding accomplishments and setting a remarkable example for others to follow.

UTS NORTH SYDNEY SECURE BACK-TO-BACK WOMEN'S TITLES

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I rise to congratulate the UTS North Sydney Women's Second Grade Cricket Team on securing back-to-back premiership titles with a commanding nine-wicket win over Parramatta at Tunks Park. It was a fantastic team performance, but special recognition goes to Laveena Rampal, who delivered a match-winning spell with the ball. Taking four wickets for just 10 runs across six overs, Laveena stifled Parramatta's momentum and was deservedly named Player of the Match. Her performance was a standout example of skill and composure under pressure. Marlie Pathirana led the scoring with a confident 23, supported by Vani Bhadana with 13, as the team comfortably chased down Parramatta's total of just 69 runs. I also want to acknowledge the leadership and support of the club's head coach, Michelle Goszko, whose dedication and expertise continue to inspire and develop the next generation of female cricketers. Congratulations to Laveena and the entire team on another successful season—you've done your club and our community proud.

CELEBRATING STUDIO A AND THOM ROBERTS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Studio A, a creative collective based in St Leonards, dedicated to empowering artists with intellectual disabilities. Under the leadership of CEO and Artistic Director Gabrielle Mordy, Studio A provides a professional platform for artists to develop and showcase their talents, transforming community perceptions and fostering inclusivity in the arts. As part of this collective, Thom Roberts exemplifies the transformative power of art. His distinctive style, characterized by vibrant portraits that merge people with trains and buildings, offers a unique perspective on identity and the world around us. Thom's work invites audiences to see the world through his eyes, fostering a deeper understanding of diverse experiences. Thom's dedication to his craft has been recognised through his first solo exhibition, *The Immersive World of Thom Roberts*, which is being held at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. The exhibition provides an immersive experience that reflects Thom's commitment to expressing his identity through art. I commend Gabrielle Mordy and the team at Studio A for their unwavering commitment to supporting artists and enriching our cultural landscape. Their dedication ensures that artists like Thom Roberts have the opportunity to thrive.

THE FAMILY CO - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the leadership of The Family Co in hosting an International Women's Day event themed *Her Health, Her Power* for our community. In celebration of the women in our community, the team at The Family Co hosted an incredible event filled with inspiring conversations on women's wellness, empowerment and meaningful connections. I was delighted to attend the morning that served as a powerful reminder of the critical role women's well-being plays in building stronger families and communities. Highlights of the day included an incredible panel of motivating speakers sharing their stories and a make-your-own scented bath salt station to kick off women's wellness routines at home. Of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing team at the Family Co. I recognise the vision of Ashleigh Daines, and the incredible team who implemented it and organised the occasion namely, Michelle Fairweather, Hayley Damian-Harris, Danielle Christie, Theresa Morgan, and Catherine Schreuder. I also acknowledge Board Members Belinda Fairfax, Belinda Kendrigan, Stephanie Famolaro, Sarah Lamb for their ongoing efforts. I thank the wonderful team at The Family Co for highlighting the importance of women's health and well-being.

SAHSIN BODY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I acknowledge SahSin Body for their outstanding 30 years of service to the Manly community. Offering exceptional care and holistic wellness offerings, SahSin boasts 13 beautiful rooms and a dedicated team of 29 skilled therapists, including physios, chiropractors, naturopaths, massage therapists, and beauty specialists. Not only have they supported the physical and mental well-being of our community, but SahSin Body has also generously given back. Recently, they donated a 1-hour complimentary massage, valued at \$130, to a parent in need. I cannot overstate the profound impact small acts of kindness like this have on those who need them most. For families at Manly's Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH), even a simple gesture, like a complimentary massage, provides not just physical relief but emotional comfort, showing them they are not alone in their journey. Congratulations on 30 years of excellence and service in Manly, and thank you for your support of AYAH and of course the Manly community.

MANLY-WARRINGAH CHOIR CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—I rise to recognise the Manly Warringah Choir as it marks an extraordinary 50 years of bringing classical choral music to life on the Northern Beaches. With a repertoire spanning Vivaldi, Mozart, opera choruses, and choral works in languages from Latin to Hebrew, the choir's

dedication to musical excellence should be commended. Now, under the skilled direction of conductor Carlos Alvarado, the group continues to grow in strength and spirit. The Manly Warringah Choir is a welcoming, intergenerational ensemble with singers aged from their 40s to their 90s who travel from across the Northern Beaches to be part of this vibrant musical community. As the choir prepares to celebrate its golden jubilee with two concerts this year in Manly, I congratulate all past and present members on this significant milestone and thank them for their ongoing contribution to the cultural fabric of our region. Congratulations to the Manly Warringah Choir on 50 years of musical excellence and community spirit.

DR ANNE JOHNSTONE

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater)—Dr Anne Johnstone is a wonderful educator from the Pittwater area with a successful career spanning nearly 25 years. As an educational leader, Anne has spearheaded the design and implementation of positive education programs that have had a wide reaching impact on students and their families. A testament to this is Ravenswood School for Girls receiving the Australian Education Award for Excellence Award for Best Student Wellbeing Program across three years under Anne's leadership. Anne's impact on education has been recognised in Australia and internationally. She is the only woman recognised by University of Pennsylvania and Eisenhower Fellowships with an award for pioneering work and contribution to Positive Education. She was also the only Australian invited to join the independent AI in Education UK strategy panel which seeks to draw together a large community of teachers and leaders from all school sectors to support schools to maximise the benefits of AI and minimise the risks. Anne's positive impact on our education system cannot be measured, I would like to sincerely thank her for all her hard work and for her dedication to our next generation.

FLYNN GREENOW

Ms JACQUI SCRUBY (Pittwater)—Flynn Greenow is an exceptional young person from Pittwater who was recently selected for NSW Youth Parliament. Through this program, Flynn will participate in leadership camps and online workshops across six months to build his leadership capabilities. Flynn will also attend a mock sitting week where bills will be debated, giving the participants a sense of what it's like to be a member in NSW Parliament. Flynn is a dedicated student with a real passion for maths and history. He is currently completing the HSC Advanced Mathematics course a year ahead of schedule and attended the Autumn School of Engineering last holidays. It's wonderful to see Flynn take an interest in a wide range of areas ahead of finishing school. Outside of school, Flynn is a unit leader at Venturer Scouts where he participates in a range of challenging activities. He also helps to mentor the younger members and enjoys representing the Scouts at community events. I would like to congratulate Flynn on all his achievements so far and wish him all the very best for the future.

AVIATION LOGISTICS

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—I would like to acknowledge the team at Aviation Logistics, one of the many outstanding businesses operating out of Bankstown Aerodrome. I was delighted to meet Director, Matthew Kline, Group Business Development Manager, Paul Lister and the team onsite last month to find out more about operations at both Air Link and Air Med. Air Link was established in 1974 in Dubbo, offering charter flights from Bankstown and working with partners including NSW Health, NSW Rural Fire Service, Juvenile Justice and Royal Flying Doctor Service. Its partner company, AirMed supports the transport of patients to their next medical facility accompanied by specially trained nurses. AirMed has been providing patient transport services by air and by ground for over a decade. Bankstown Aerodrome has evolved into a significant economic driver, generating substantial employment through various aviation-related activities, contributing to the local and regional economy. Thank you to the team at Aviation Logistics for the important work you do supporting our essential emergency, health, and community services across New South Wales.

ISRAEL 77TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Tuesday 6th May, I was pleased to join community leaders, volunteers and Parliamentary colleagues to celebrate the 77th Anniversary of Israel's Independence Day at the Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney. Hosted by the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Zionist Council of NSW, Zionist Federation of Australia and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, more than 500 people came together to celebrate Australia and Israel's shared democratic values. Members of the Jewish Australian community were joined by leaders from Armenian, Assyrian, Afghan, Sikh, Greek, Latin American, Sri Lankan, Pasifika and Ukrainian community, alongside business and industry leaders. Rabbi Dr Ben Elton, Chief Rabbi, Great Synagogue, led a prayer for the safe return of Israeli hostages held in Gaza, and Premier, Chris Minns gave an address acknowledging the NSW Government's swift response to antisemitic violence targeted against Jewish Australians. His Excellency, Amir Maimon, Ambassador of Israel to Australia, presented the Premier a letter of thanks from His Excellency, Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel. My warm congratulations go out to David Ossip, President, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, and to all our Jewish Australian community on a wonderful celebration of Jewish Independence Day. Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach!

ST GERTRUDES'S PARISH SMITHFIELD

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Sunday 30th March, I was delighted to join our St Gertrude's Parish community and welcome His Grace, Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney to Prospect Electorate with his visitation to St Benedict's Shrine, Smithfield. With a presence in Smithfield since 1875, the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has been a pillar of faith and connection for our local Prospect Electorate for more than a century. The first Mass was celebrated in a temporary chapel on Christmas Day 1875, before St Gertrude's was blessed and opened on 18th August 1895. On the conclusion of the Mass, I was happy to speak with St Gertrude's parishioners, priests and parents, as well as students from our local schools, St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School Smithfield and Mary Mackillop Catholic College Wakeley. During his visit, the Archbishop also met with homebound and sick parishioners, with children at St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School Smithfield, as well as parents, staff and parishioners for an informal Question & Answer session. My heartfelt thanks go out to His Grace, and I congratulate Fr Peter James Strohmayer OSPPE, Parish Priest, and all community volunteers, and supporters at St Gertrude's Parish for a wonderful visitation.

SYDNEY MARAE ALLIANCE - MAORI CULTURAL CENTRE AND MARAE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 17th April 2025, I was pleased to join the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, and Local Councillor Diane Coleman, celebrating the funding announcement that will establish a Māori Cultural Centre in the heart of Western Sydney. The first dedicated Māori cultural centre in Australia, the Marae will offer a multi-purpose facility to host cultural education, events and facilitate broader community engagement. There are over 65,000 Māori descendants who reside in NSW - many finding their home in our Western Sydney community. Establishing the Marae is a significant step in recognising our vibrant Māori community. This event gathered our local leaders with the Sydney Marae Alliance (SMA). The SMA is a roopu of committed volunteers fostering cultural prosperity within our Māori community. With such good news to celebrate, the Marae event featured a wonderful celebration of a proud culture, and included spoken recitals, a powerful haka, and Māori song. After 30 years of dedicated advocacy, it is wonderful to see this Cultural Centre coming together. Thank you to Chairperson, Louise Cooper OAM, Kiri Barber Community & Cultural Director and the Sydney Marae Alliance, for supporting our Māori community in Western Sydney.
