



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Wednesday, 10 August 2016**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Wednesday, 10 August 2016**

**The SPEAKER (The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock)** took the chair at 10:00.

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

*[Notices of motions given.]*

## *Bills*

### **SECURITY INDUSTRY AMENDMENT (PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS) BILL 2016**

#### **Second Reading**

**Debate resumed from 4 August.**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (10:12):** On behalf of the New South Wales Labor Opposition and in my capacity as shadow Minister I speak to the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. The aim of the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016 is to transfer all regulation of the private investigation industry to the Security Industries Act 1997. This bill will also define and set out the roles of a private investigator and install a new licensing regime for the private investigation industry. A number of consequential amendments to other Acts will also occur as a result of moving the regulation of Private Investigators to the Security Industries Act 1997.

As a result of this bill's inception, the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 will be amended to remove all references in that Act to "private inquiry agents", commonly known as "private investigators". It should be set out that the roles of private investigators and commercial agents are vastly different. The roles of commercial agents include the serving of legal documents and debt collection, whereas the role of a private investigator includes the investigation and surveillance of people. Due to the vastly different operating nature, it makes sense to place them under the umbrella of the appropriate industry, rather than to regulate them both together. That is primarily what this legislation moves to enact. Schedule 2 to the bill moves to amend the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 to change the long title of the bill to "Commercial Agents Act 2004", by omitting "and Private Inquiry Agents". The remainder of schedule 2 continues to omit all references to private inquiry agents from the aforementioned Act. This bill sets out all regulatory provisions for private investigators under the Security Industry Act 1997. Schedule 1 to the bill defines a "private investigator" as:

... a person who is employed or engaged for the purpose of either or both of the following:

- (a) the **investigation of persons**, being any activity carried out by a person on behalf of a second person (not being his or her employer) that involves finding a third person or investigating a third person's business or personal affairs,
- (b) the **surveillance of persons**, being any activity carried out by a person on behalf of a second person (not being his or her employer) that involves the surveillance of a third person.

Under this bill any private investigator who has an existing licence may continue to operate without needing to apply for a new licence. The existing licence may continue to be used until its expiry and it will be considered to be one of the newly prescribed licences set out in this bill. Currently "master" or "operator" licences are required for private investigators to operate in New South Wales. Under this bill any person who wishes to run a business as a private investigator will require a master licence. A new classification of licence has also been introduced: class "2E" licence. This licence is a necessity for any person who wishes to undertake work as a commercial private investigator. However, to operate in New South Wales a 2E licence holder must be employed by a master licence holder unless they are the holder of a master licence themselves. The Commissioner of Police may deal with any pending applications during the transitional period. This means that any applicants with an existing application will not be required to make a new application as a result of this legislative change. All pending licence applications will be considered as an application for one of the newly prescribed licences under this bill.

Any licence application fees paid prior to the inception of this legislation will go towards the balance of the new licence application. Any underpayment of fees will need to be resolved before the application may be processed and any overpayment will be reimbursed to the applicant. All appeals currently being examined or outstanding at the time of this legislation's inception are to be determined as if the changes set out in schedule 2 to this bill had not been made. Any records taken or kept by the commissioner for the purpose of the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 may be kept and used for any purpose the commissioner sees fit. This legislation has come to fruition as a result of recommendations set out in the inquiry by the Legislative

Assembly Legal Affairs Committee in 2014. The Minister mentioned in his second reading speech that the Government intends to introduce new legislation to regulate commercial agents that will supersede the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004.

I note that in moving private investigators under the umbrella of the security industry all regulation and compliance of private investigators will be the responsibility of police. This change remains consistent with the duties that private investigators perform and allows for greater regulatory control and accountability for the industry. This change may also alleviate some of the burden placed on police in monitoring two likeminded but separate industries at the same time. Enhanced regulation and accountability of the industry is welcome because this type of work carries inherent privacy and integrity risks as investigators are required to intrusively pry into the world of other people, which may include their personal and/or business affairs. It has also been noted that fees for the new licences will be similar to the fees presently associated with the existing licencing system.

Under the new licencing regime applicants will be required to go through many of the same steps and checks as in the existing system. Strict criminal history checks will be performed prior to becoming a private investigator and an applicant may be declined a licence should any red flags be raised throughout this process. As this bill moves private investigators under the umbrella of the securities industry, probationary licences also have been removed. This has been done as such licences have been widely viewed as creating regulatory red tape and also to align the approach with the common standard in the security industry. In conclusion, I state that the Labor Opposition does not oppose the bill.

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (10:19):** I support the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. In responding to this bill, I first acknowledge the real risks presented by the private investigation industry that warrant continued government regulation. By the nature of their work, private investigators deal with personal and sensitive information. Much of it is done discreetly and out of public view. I imagine that the private investigators who do their job effectively may do this work without the person being investigated even knowing that it is occurring.

Quite rightly, the public expects that there is a robust and effective regulatory scheme in place to ensure that individuals who are monitoring and surveilling other persons operate within the law. These expectations apply to all the work of private investigators, regardless of whether they are investigating an insurance claim, locating witnesses for the legal profession, investigating employees on behalf of a business or investigating issues such as partner infidelity. I know that if I wanted to employ someone to investigate a particular person—which I do not—I would expect that the people who advertise the provision of those services are people of good character and subject to the right checks that ensure they conduct their particular investigations within law.

It is clear from the discreet nature of the work of this industry that there can be significant privacy and integrity risks associated with the work of private investigators—for example, the potential for private investigators to illegally access confidential information, breach confidence or impersonate law enforcement personnel. At the more extreme end of the spectrum, the community may be concerned that, in the course of investigating a person, some investigators may resort to trespassing, harassment or the inappropriate use of surveillance equipment.

I understand that the police receive complaints in respect of private investigators ranging from matters such as people operating without a licence to alleged fraud, harassment and unethical conduct. Therefore, it is quite right for the public—including all individuals who could be investigated by this industry at a point in time—to expect that all private investigators are licensed under a robust probity scheme before they are permitted to engage in such work. This bill continues the sensible and strong regulation of this industry in New South Wales to manage these risks by placing the industry under the Security Industry Act 1997. This established regulatory scheme provides for probity compliance checks for licence applicants as well as ongoing monitoring, thereby protecting the community from being subject to investigation by people who are clearly not fit to engage in this work.

Potential clients can have confidence that the private investigators that they employ have gone through a formal assessment process by the NSW Police Force, including a criminal history check, minimum qualifications and ongoing monitoring. It would not be acceptable if persons convicted of offences, such as firearms offences, drug offences, assault offences, serious dishonesty offences or terrorism offences, were permitted by the Government to investigate or surveil. If someone wants investigation of a person to be done, they need assurance that the people they engage do not have a history of that type of behaviour. The Security Industry Act 1997 currently provides that assurance for people who employ security personnel, and this bill will continue that assurance for the private investigation industry.

I am also pleased that under this bill the offences and penalties that apply for security activities under the Security Industry Act will apply to private investigation activity. For example, a person who works as a private

investigator without the appropriate licence will be subject to offences under section 7 of the Security Industry Act 1997 for carrying on unauthorised security activities. A maximum penalty of two years imprisonment applies for this offence. I am also pleased that the offence of misrepresentation will apply to any private investigator who induces business by making false or misleading statements or promises about what they are authorised to do. This means that private investigators who claim to access information that they know is illegal, or promise information that they know they cannot legally obtain, will be subject to penalties under the Act.

This provides sensible protection for clients who may not know the legal limits of what private investigators can or cannot do. It stops them getting ripped off and it will ensure that dishonest private investigators do not act in a way that could bring down the reputation of the industry. I am also pleased that the effect of this bill will be to remove the duplication that currently exists for police, who manage the security industry and the private investigation industry under separate legislation. This bill will reduce the inefficiencies associated with managing two separate schemes. It is pleasing that the Government has taken these steps, which will allow more efficient enforcement and ensure that police can deal with rogue private investigators more quickly and effectively, to the benefit of all industry members and the community.

It is better for everyone associated with this industry that the Government maintains the strong regulation as provided for under the Security Industry Act 1997. It is better for clients because they know that the people they engage have been assessed as being fit for the job; it is better for people who may be being investigated because the police are overseeing the way the industry is being run; and it is better for the investigators themselves because they can continue to go about their work legitimately. Ongoing strong regulation of private investigators by the Government is important to the community and that is what this bill will achieve for the people of New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (10:25):** I speak in support of the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. The main purpose of the bill is to transfer the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales to the Security Industry Act 1997. I note that the private investigation industry has been calling for increased national consistency in the way it is regulated across the States and Territories. With this bill New South Wales will join most other Australian jurisdictions that already regulate private investigators alongside the security industry. This is a sensible amendment that retains and strengthens the key features of the regulation of private investigators in New South Wales, such as robust probity checks before they are permitted to work as a private investigator.

I am pleased to support the bill, which provides for the private investigation industry to be regulated as a security activity alongside other activities already regulated under the Security Industry Act 1997. This sensible amendment will provide synergies to police in their regulatory and compliance activities and will reduce the red tape that comes from police managing two different, but similar, schemes across the State at the same time. Current activities regulated by the Security Industry Act 1997 include bodyguards, crowd controllers, locksmiths and people who advise on, sell, or install security services.

Like private investigation, these activities pose a level of risk to the public because of the intrusive nature of their activities. Currently, the NSW Police Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate in the NSW State Crime Command manages the licensing and regulation of the security industry and the private investigation industry under two separate pieces of legislation. This means that the NSW Police Force has to apply two different licensing regimes, offence regimes, licence fee structures and stakeholder communications for two very similar industries. In many cases, while the requirements of both schemes are very similar, differences in detail between the two schemes can create confusion and inefficiencies due to the duplication of processes and procedures. Removing the duplication will allow police to manage both under the one piece of legislation and will reduce the inefficiencies associated with managing two separate schemes across New South Wales.

It makes sense to stop managing private investigators and the security industry under separate but similar legislative schemes and this bill achieves that by regulating both of these under the same piece of legislation. For the more than 3,400 private inquiry agents currently licensed in New South Wales, this bill provides certainty to the industry. It also ensures that their licences have value and provide evidence of their good character and sound records. For the community, effective regulation is a sign that private investigators can be relied upon to provide services to clients in environments that may be of a particularly sensitive nature, whether personally or legally or both. The benefits to police from removing two duplicated schemes are clear. Duplicated processes will be streamlined, such as licence adjudication, and a single robust enforcement and compliance regime can be maintained.

I am pleased that this bill will also provide some benefits to the private investigation industry. For example, the probationary licence scheme, which requires first-time private investigators to spend their first 12 months of probation under the direct supervision of a more experienced private investigator, will be removed. I am pleased that this is being removed in New South Wales because it has created a barrier for new entrants to

the industry and creates unnecessary red tape. The provisional licence scheme was removed for security licences in 2011, and it makes sense to align the approach for the two industries. Private investigators will also benefit from service delivery improvements that have been introduced to the security industry regulatory scheme in recent years. These include the ability to renew licences quickly and easily, particularly online.

I also note that the private investigation industry has been calling for increased national consistency in the way in which it is regulated across States, as I mentioned before. With this bill New South Wales will join most other Australian jurisdictions that already regulate private investigators alongside the security industry. I understand that those States that have not joined will do so over time. This bill brings in a sensible amendment that retains the key features of the regulation of private investigators in New South Wales, such as robust probity checks before they are permitted to work as a private investigator and that is what the bill will strengthen. I understand that those opposite support this bill. I am pleased to support it as it both strengthens regulation of the industry and reduces red tape for government and for industry. I commend this bill to the House.

**Ms MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (10:32):** I also support the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. This bill was presented to this House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing, Troy Grant. I am pleased to speak in support of this bill, which has support from both sides of this place. The bill was drafted following a statutory review conducted in 2008 as well as the 2014 inquiry of the Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee into debt recovery in New South Wales. This is another example of how well this Parliament's committee system works.

I am pleased to highlight the good work of these committees, including Legislative Council and joint committees, which receive evidence from interested parties and then condense that information into meaningful reports that achieve outcomes. This bill will improve the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales. I commend the Deputy Premier and others involved in the drafting of this legislation for taking this journey. It is a real privilege to speak in debate on this bill today. Private investigators provide investigative and legal support services to government agencies, corporate entities and the public across a range of areas. I am a bit of a fan of crime novels by Sue Grafton and those featuring Harry Bosch.

It is a great way to while away the time but it is also an important process in a regulated legal affairs framework to have private investigators who act appropriately to ensure consumers and those who employ them are protected from unworthy activities. The bill has evolved from the statutory review and work of the Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee inquiry into debt recovery that was held in 2014. It takes the regulation of the private investigation industry out of the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents 2004 and moves it to the Security Industry Act 1997, alongside other similar security industries regulated by the NSW Police Force. The action will be followed by the passing of this legislation and another round of legislation under which commercial agents will be regulated and the current Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 will be repealed.

Under the Security Industry Act a person is a private investigator if he or she is employed or engaged for the purpose of investigation of persons, surveillance of persons, or both those activities. This adopts the features of what amounts to a private inquiry agent in the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004. So private investigators will be carrying out a security activity under the Security Industry Act. The bill amends section 4 of the Security Industry Act to include acting as a private investigator or acting in a similar capacity as a security activity under the Act. The implications for this are varied. Private investigators must be licensed appropriately under the Security Industry Act before acting as a private investigator. Private investigators will now be regulated alongside other security activities that involve similar levels of criminal and privacy risks such as bodyguards, crowd controllers, locksmiths and people who advise on, sell or install security services. Offences under the Security Industry Act will apply to people acting as private investigators.

This includes the offence of carrying on unauthorised security activities if the person acting as a private investigator does not hold the appropriate security licence; offences for private investigators who do not display their licence when conducting private investigation activity or produce the licence when requested by New South Wales police officers; and the offence of misrepresentation if a licensed private investigator induces or attempts to induce a person to enter into an agreement or contract in connection with private investigation work by false, misleading or deceptive statements or representations.

Licence applicants will be subject to licence fees under the Security Industry Act. However, these are generally comparable to similar licence fees applicable under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act. Transitional measures are included in the bill to ensure that existing private investigators with a licence in force under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 can continue to operate seamlessly as licensed private investigators under the Security Industry Act. Similarly, pending applications for licences under the current Act can be dealt with by police as applications for licences under the Security Industry Act. If this bill is passed—I am sure it will be with the support of both sides of the Chamber—the Act will commence on



proclamation. The commencement will be timed to coincide with the transfer of regulation of commercial agents to Fair Trading.

In summary, this commonsense bill puts integrity into the licensing system around security agents. I commend all those who worked on the bill in the Department of Justice and the NSW Police Force. I particularly highlight the work of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Legislative Assembly, which played a very big part. I commend the Deputy Premier, Troy Grant, for bringing the legislation to the House. It is commonsense legislation, it is good work and it is my pleasure to support the bill.

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (10:38):** I am bound to contribute to this important piece of legislation—the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators Bill) 2016. The member for Fairfield made a major contribution when debating this significant bill. He indicated that the Opposition does not oppose the bill. I endorse his remarks entirely, whatever they may have been. Nothing that I say, either expressly or by implication, will be inconsistent with his remarks. I am fascinated by the private investigator industry. We must enact legislation to ensure that the laws applying to this industry are appropriately supervised by the police and the courts. As a young clerk of petty sessions I recall issuing private inquiry licences on the recommendation of the police. This is an important industry to control because many members have only a cursory knowledge of it. I took the opportunity to look at some of the activities of private investigators and found that some of the published material on the website of [www.spousebusters.com.au](http://www.spousebusters.com.au) is quite remarkable. It states:

Have you found yourself growing suspicious of your significant other of late? If you're concerned about your relationship with your husband, wife or partner and have a feeling they might be engaged in extra-marital affairs, you need a professional and thorough Private Detective service.

Members will gain an understanding of what private detectives do at Spousebusters. They focus specifically on cheating spouses. I found their activities quite fascinating. One of the links on the Spousebusters website is called, "How We Do It", which is a cause for some concern. In order to obtain a private investigator licence in this State one must have no conviction for offences such as violence, fraud, dishonesty or theft, or an offence punishable by imprisonment. Those seeking licences are not to have been found guilty of offences involving the unlawful possession or use of a firearm or other weapons, offences involved in the unlawful possession or use of a drug, offences under part 2 of the Listening Devices Act or under the corresponding provisions of the law of the Commonwealth or of another State or Territory, or an offence under the Telecommunications Interception Act. In the case of a master licence holder, an application may also be refused if the licence holder or close associate or company named on the application has been found guilty of any offences.

The private investigator industry goes beyond the activities of Spousebusters. Spousebusters has on its website the catchwords, "unlocking the truth", "highly trained and qualified private investigators", and "specialists in cheating spouses". The private investigator industry is engaged in activities for a range of insurance companies, in particular in workers compensation and other damages claims in which people claim to have a variety of injuries and disabilities. Private investigators conduct investigations on behalf of insurance companies. One of the most hilarious events is when damages claims are being heard in court and the word goes out that a private investigator's video is about to be shown. Members of the legal profession descend upon the court. Usually a witness has given evidence to the effect that he has a disability, that he cannot work, that he can hardly walk and that he is hunched over all the time. He is then asked to explain why a video that has been taken of him shows him taking part in a half marathon or chasing his children down the street.

Private investigators do perform an important function in that regard. What they do goes well beyond spouse busting or dealing with people's concerns about their partner cheating. However, the control of these organisations is important. The tendency of private investigators to breach either the Commonwealth's telecommunications legislation or the Surveillance Devices Act is a matter of considerable concern, as is the fact that the activities of private investigators can intrude quite deeply into people's private conduct. Consequently private investigators need to be tightly regulated and controlled.

Private investigative organisations are at times engaged by a variety of corporations to conduct investigations—even criminal investigations—of fraud. They are asked to provide advice to those companies on how they should protect themselves from theft or fraud. That is another reason why those who are licensed under the Act not only need to be people of integrity but also require supervision. It is a private industry to which important matters are entrusted and it therefore needs to be closely regulated. This bill remedies the legislation by ensuring that all security industry activities are licensed under the one piece of legislation. As riveting as this bill is, it is an improvement. That is why it is supported by the Opposition—and even privately by the member for Kiama.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (10:46):** It gives me great pleasure to speak in debate on the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. The main purpose of this bill is to transfer the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales, putting it under the authority of the

Security Industry Act 1997. As background, private investigators provide investigative and legal support services to a range of government agencies. They also provide support and investigative services, including obtaining investigative evidence, to corporate entities, as well as broadly to the public, across a very large range of areas. Many people view private investigators as people who intrude on the privacy of others. However, it can be argued that providing accurate and admissible evidence in court transcends issues of privacy, helping perhaps, as the member for Heffron outlined, to ensure fair outcomes in matters of compensation in personal injury cases. So they do have a role to play in modern society.

Currently the NSW Police Force regulates private inquiry agents and commercial agents under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2014. At present more than 3,400 private inquiry agent licences are on issue in New South Wales. However, since 2010 the NSW Police Force has received, on average, about 800 new licence applications each year. I think that highlights the exact point I made earlier—that there are, unfortunately, people in society who seek compensation unrealistically. Without casting aspersions on particular people, therein lies the necessity for private investigators.

Following both a long statutory review conducted in 2008 and, under this Government in 2014, an inquiry by the Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee into debt recovery in New South Wales, our Government decided that regulation of private investigators should remain with the NSW Police Force. We also decided that the regulation of commercial agents would be better placed in the Fair Trading portfolio, as this industry is considered low risk and Fair Trading already handles complaints about debt collectors and breaches of consumer laws. The Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016 will amend the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 and the Security Industry Act 1997, which deal with similar security industries that are regulated by the NSW Police Force. This action will be followed by the passage of new legislation under which commercial agents will be regulated, and the current Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 will be repealed. The bill will insert a definition of "private investigator" in the Security Act 2007 as follows:

Schedule 1 [3] sets out a definition of private investigator as a person who is employed or engaged to investigate the business or personal affairs of a person or to carry out surveillance of a person.

This will include a private inquiry agent in the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004. Private investigators will carry out security activities under the Security Industry Act. The bill amends section 4 of the Security Industry Act to include "acting as a private investigator or acting in a similar capacity as a security activity under the Act". Under the Security Industry Act, private investigators must be appropriately licensed before they can act as private investigators, which will provide some probity in relation to such activities. Private investigators will now be regulated along with other security activities such as bodyguards, crowd controllers, locksmiths and people who advise on, sell or install security services.

Ten minutes ago I was speaking to a concerned parent whose son is trying to arrange a party in a community hall in Rouse Hill. A couple of weeks ago there was an unfortunate incident at that same community hall. We live in interesting times. Because of social media what is perceived as a private function can quickly turn into an unsavoury public function that is attended by hundreds of uninvited people. This is where the security industry comes into effect—by policing particular areas and providing safety and security for function attendees. A sad truth about modern society is that people cannot hire community halls for any type of function without the fear of hundreds of uninvited idiots turning up, causing all sorts of problems and destroying the friendly atmosphere. Sadly, some of those unsavoury incidents have included stabbings by youths, some as young as 17 years of age.

I place on the record my support for the security industry but recognise that we need that industry to patrol events and keep our citizens safe in the future. In the future we as a Government, as legislators, may need to look at enforcing other laws so that if uninvited guests arrive at a private function they will face punishment, perhaps in the form of an on-the-spot fine. Perhaps such punishments need to be increased, to send a clear message to society, and to young people in particular, that an announcement on social media is not an open invitation to turn up uninvited to a private function.

Offences under the Security Industry Act will apply to people acting as private investigators. This includes the offence of carrying on unauthorised security activities if the person acting as a private investigator does not hold the appropriate security licence. It is an offence for private investigators not to display their licence when conducting a private investigation or not to produce the licence when requested by the New South Wales police. The bill also includes the offence of misrepresentation if a licensed private investigator induces or attempts to induce a person to enter into an agreement or contract in connection with private investigation work by false, misleading or deceptive statements or representations. Licence applicants will be subject to licence fees under the Security Industry Act. Those fees are generally comparable to similar licence fees that apply under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004.

Transitional measures are included in this bill to ensure that existing private investigators with a licence in force under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 can continue to operate as licensed private investigators under the Security Industry Act. Similarly, pending applications for licences under the current Act can be dealt with by police as applications for licences under the Security Industry Act. If the bill is passed, the Act will commence on proclamation. The commencement will be timed to coincide with the transfer of the regulation of commercial agents to Fair Trading. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (10:56):** I contribute to debate on the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. I begin by echoing the comments made by the member for Castle Hill about the security industry. The majority of people who work in the security industry are helpful, law abiding and ethical. They play an important role in our society. I note the comments made by the member for Castle Hill about the hiring of community halls for parties. I am aware that the NSW Police Force has a safe party plan website. A person can register an event with the local police, indicating where the event is to be held and for how long. That informs the police that an event is taking place and contributes to the security of the event.

Over the years there has been an increase in security personnel at pubs and clubs. One can only comment that there has been an increase in security at those venues as a result of that type of regulation and innovation in providing services at such facilities. It is with that positive view of the security industry that I speak in debate on this bill. Private investigators provide investigative and legal support services to government agencies, corporate entities and the public across a wide range of areas. Those services can include the surveillance or investigation of insurance claims and workers compensation claims that may be incorrect or fraudulent. Private investigators can also be employed to obtain information about motor vehicle accidents, to obtain the evidence of expert witnesses or to undertake other forms of investigation. Currently the NSW Police Force regulates private inquiry agents and commercial agents under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004. There are more than 3,400 inquiry agent licences on issue in New South Wales.

Since 2010, the NSW Police Force has received on average 800 new licence applications per year. Following a statutory review conducted in 2008 and the 2014 inquiry of the Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee into debt recovery in New South Wales, the Government decided that regulation of private investigators should remain with the NSW Police Force and the regulation of commercial agents would be better placed in the Fair Trading portfolio as this industry, for a number of reasons, is considered to be in that portfolio, particularly since Fair Trading already handles a number of complaints about debt collectors and breaches of consumer law. This bill will take the regulation of the private investigation industry out of the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 and move it to the Security Industry Act 1997 alongside similar security industries regulated by the NSW Police Force. This action will be followed by the passing of new legislation under which the commercial agents will be regulated and the current Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 will be repealed.

The transitional measures included in the bill will ensure that existing private investigators with a licence in force under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 can continue to operate as licensed private investigators under the Security Industry Act. Similarly, pending applications for licences under the current Act can be dealt with by police as applications for licences under the Security Industry Act. The Act, if the bill is passed by this House—and I believe the Opposition has no quibble with it—will commence on proclamation. The commencement will be timed to coincide with the transfer of regulation of commercial agents to Fair Trading. This bill will assist police by joining their regulatory and compliance activities and reduce red tape that arises from police managing two different but similar schemes at the same time. From my perspective this is an important aspect of this legislation.

I worked in the law enforcement field for some 25 years on an operational basis and I am more than aware of the inconvenience of unnecessary attention to red tape and how it ties the hands of our operational public enforcement officers in this State. Any legislation that reduces red tape for our operational people—whether they are nurses, police, correctional officers or teachers in our education system— and makes their jobs easier and simpler to perform is good legislation. Reducing red tape enables them to get back to doing the job that they wish to do and that the community asks them to do, and that is to be operational officers on the street protecting the community, protecting life and protecting property. Some listening to this debate may think these amendments are inconsequential or minor; they are not. The fact is that this bill allows these officers to get back onto the street.

Part of the licensing regime is to make sure that only fit and proper persons hold these types of licences because they are involved in sensitive activities of surveillance and inquiry. These probity issues are not only addressed by the Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate of the Police Force State Crime Command; they are also enforced or inquired about, if I can use that phrase, by all police in New South Wales. That includes the good local area command [LAC] police in my area of the electorate of Seven Hills, who work out of Parramatta LAC, The Hills LAC and Blacktown LAC. They are great LACs with great police doing operational duty.

At Blacktown LAC they are under the guidance of Superintendent Gary Merryweather. Only recently I was there with the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for the Safer Pathways launch at that location with a number of the local police. Police from the Parramatta LAC are under the command of Wayne Cox, who is an excellent superintendent, and closely engaged with the Indian community around that area. His general duty police often come across those with security licences and those involved in the security industry, and they perform their duties in the most ethical way they can.

I also mention the police on operational duties in The Hills LAC under the guidance of Superintendent Rob Critchlow, who has a particular interest in the prevention of domestic violence and elder abuse. They are examples of good local police whose hands will be untied by the reduction of red tape, which allows them to continue their operational duties. This type of legislation reduces red tape and assists police with their day-to-day compliance and to continue doing the great job they do. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (11:05):** I speak in favour of the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016, introduced to the Chamber by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice and Police, the Hon. Troy Grant. From the outset, I also acknowledge the bipartisan support of the Opposition for the bill. It is good to see that both sides can work in harmony for an amendment bill such as this.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Hear, hear!

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** I note and appreciate the support of the member for Maitland. I also acknowledge those who spoke earlier on the bill. What they said was very apt. There are almost 3,400 private inquiry agents licences throughout New South Wales, and around a dozen of those exist on the Central Coast. The main purpose of this bill, as has been outlined earlier, is to transfer the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales to the Security Industry Act 1997. I acknowledge the real risks presented by the private investigation industry that warrant continued government regulation. Private investigators, by the sheer nature of their work, deal with personal and sensitive information. Much of that work is done discreetly, in a clandestine manner and out of public view.

I imagine that private investigators who do their job effectively may do this work without the person being investigated even knowing that it is occurring. As a consequence, the public expects a robust and effective regulatory scheme to ensure that individuals who are undertaking monitoring, surveillance and clandestine operations on other persons operate within the law. These expectations apply to all the work of private investigators, regardless of whether they are investigating an insurance claim, locating witnesses for the legal profession, investigating employees on behalf of a business or investigating issues such as partner infidelity, which we see on a regular basis.

If I wanted to employ someone to undertake private investigation work, I would hope that the people who advertise to supply these services were of good character and subject to rigorous checks to ensure that they conduct their investigations within the law. In his second reading speech the Deputy Premier said the bill was to provide certainty to the private investigation industry and the New South Wales community. While the majority of the work is carried out in a clandestine way, employees of large corporations and government departments can also work directly with members of the public. The Deputy Premier outlined that private investigators may assist the legal professions to locate evidence or interview witnesses. He mentioned that the majority of private investigation work involves assisting insurance companies to investigate fraud.

Risks associated with the work conducted by private investigators include illegal access to confidential information, breaches of confidence, misrepresentation, impersonation, trespass, harassment, and inappropriate use of surveillance equipment. Currently police receive complaints relating to alleged fraud, harassment and unethical conduct. Those risks are often compounded because most of the private investigation work is done discreetly and in a clandestine manner. Often there is little visibility for the Government and the people being investigated as to the lawfulness of those activities. Given those risks, it is quite right for the public to expect that all private investigators should continue to be subject to a robust regulatory scheme such as the Security Industry Act. It will continue to apply ongoing probity and compliance checks before private investigators are permitted to engage in such work.

In his second reading speech the Deputy Premier made it clear that the bill enhances the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales by aligning it with the established regulatory framework of the Security Industry Act 1997. Current activities regulated by the Security Industry Act 1997 include such operations as bodyguards, crowd controllers, locksmiths and the people who advise on, sell and install security services. I feel more comfortable knowing that people who are installing locks and security devices are included in this amendment. Those people have access to our homes and we can feel safe knowing that they are being regulated to the highest standard. I acknowledge the member for Seven Hills and the member for Castle Hill who spoke about crowd controllers. It is an indictment on our society today that we need security for small private functions.

At Terrigal on the Central Coast people who hire a community hall have to employ bodyguards for events because social media enables uninvited and unwelcome visitors to attend and situations can spiral out of control. When this happens, the police have to be called. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by the two local area commands on the Central Coast—the Brisbane Water LAC, under the outstanding leadership of Superintendent Danny Sullivan; and the Tuggerah Lakes LAC, which is ably led by Superintendent Dave Swilks. As the member for Seven Hills outlined, this amendment reduces red tape and frees up the police to do their job.

I reflect on the content of the bill. The definition of private investigator will be included under the Security Industry Act 1997. It sets out that a person is a private investigator if they are employed or engaged for the purposes of investigating persons, to carry out surveillance of persons, or both of those activities. It adopts the features of what amounts to a private inquiry agent under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004. Private investigators will carry out a security activity under the Security Industry Act. The bill amends section 4 of the Security Industry Act to include "acting as a private investigator or acting in a similar capacity" when carrying on a security activity.

I highlight that this amendment follows a statutory review conducted in 2008 and the 2014 Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee Inquiry into Debt Recovery in New South Wales. The member for Oxley commended the work of the committees, which can be done in a positive, cohesive and collective manner in Parliament. They bring worthy amendments to this Chamber so that we, as legislators, can support them in order to pass legislation so that red tape can be reduced to ensure that the actions of people in New South Wales are more efficient. The passing of this legislation will result in the regulation of commercial agents and the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 will be repealed. There is a lot more to cover. The bill will include transitional arrangements to ensure that existing private investigators licensed under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act continue their work as licensed private investigators under the Security Industry Act. I commend the bill to the House.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON (Cootamundra) (11:15):** I speak in debate on the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. I note that the object of the bill is to provide for private investigators, formerly known as private inquiry agents, to be licensed under the Security Industry Act 1997 instead of the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004. This a brief bill, only seven pages in length. The Minister for Justice and Police rightly identified that this particular type of investigator should be licensed under the Security Industry Act. It is a sensible suggestion and I understand that it has the full support of the entire House. As we have heard the member for Terrigal and others say, it is important that the NSW Police Force is able to regulate those private inquiry agents. Importantly, the bill takes regulation of the private investigation industry out of the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 and moves it to the Security Industry Act 1997 with other security industries that are also regulated by the NSW Police Force.

As has been noted, this legislation will be followed by new legislation for commercial agents to be regulated and the current Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 will be repealed. Some sensible study has been done in this area by various committees and they have come to worthy conclusions relating to this bill. Under the Security Industry Act 1997, people who carry out a security activity must hold a licence. The new bill will have a new class of licence to authorise a person to act as a private investigator or act in a similar capacity. It takes a special person to act as a private investigator; I have no desire to do it. As the member for Terrigal said, certain parts of that profession require investigators to interview witnesses, undertake investigations on behalf of individuals into issues such as partner fidelity, or help businesses to investigate their employers and the actions of their employees on matters such as theft, misrepresentation or fraud.

There are all sorts of things that private investigators have to delve into, but one of the most common causes of investigation relates to helping insurers investigate claims. We have all heard of cases where somebody has tried to take advantage of the system. For example, a person may claim to have whiplash injuries as a result of a car crash or may claim that his car has suffered more damage than actually occurred. Private investigators have to look into a wide range of issues. The type of work they undertake carries privacy and integrity risks, so it is appropriate for the Government to continue to regulate the industry. In cases where confidential information is accessed there could be difficulty with a client that may result in a breach of confidentiality. There may be cases of impersonation, harassment and inappropriate use of surveillance equipment. There are real risks within the industry of these things occurring and so it is important that they have been taken into account in this bill.

The great work of the police in local area commands has also been mentioned in this debate. I have been very pleased to work very closely with the police in my electorate. In fact, at the Young train station, where Minister Gay and I together announced \$6.5 million for improvements in rail freight in the Cootamundra electorate last Monday, two hardworking police officers—Kristen and Kurt—came along to have a look and to have a piece of cake. I thank them for the service they perform in Young. We are looking forward to the announcement of the new local area commander at Cootamundra.

I mention Paul Huxtable, who did a sterling job acting in the position. Mr Sleight, a police officer from Wagga Wagga, is currently performing that role. He has been complimented on the great work that he has been doing. So we have been in very capable hands over the past 11 months but we are really looking forward to the naming of the new Cootamundra local area commander. The Cootamundra Local Area Command has done an amazing job in its many roles—investigations, finding criminals, and promoting community safety. The Canobolas Local Area Command and the local area commands in surrounding electorates do a similarly good job. I again congratulate the Minister for Justice and Police on another sensible, practical, workable bill. I also compliment the committees that have looked at this legislation. I support the bill.

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (11:23):** I am pleased to speak in debate on the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. The purpose of the bill, as has been stated, is to transfer the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales to the Security Industry Act 1997. I note that private investigators provide a valuable service to the community, particularly in the form of investigative and legal support services to government agencies, corporate entities and private individuals—broadly, to the public across a whole range of areas.

I note that the Opposition has supported the bill and has not raised any concerns. I support the bill but I want to raise a number of concerns in the spirit of providing a questioning stance. It is a perspective that has not been adopted by the Opposition, which has accepted the bill at face value. In 2014 I served on the Legal Affairs Committee, which considered this bill. There has been an appropriate recognition of the importance of the committee structure within this Parliament. That committee structure acts on behalf of the whole Parliament rather than the executive arm of Government. It is important for the committee structure to question, probe and sometimes make recommendations that the executive arm of Government does not choose to follow. That is the case with this bill with respect to the recommendations of the Legal Affairs Committee. Some members making contributions to this debate have misunderstood those recommendations.

I would like to clarify the recommendations of the Legal Affairs Committee and provide some rationale as to why the committee made those recommendations. I note that the Government has not followed the recommendation of the committee in respect of the regulation of private investigators—or private inquiry agents, as they are currently known. The committee that I refer to was chaired by Bryan Doyle, who is no longer in the Parliament. I was deputy chair of the committee when that report was delivered in November 2014. The report, which was directed primarily at investigating debt recovery matters in New South Wales, made, among many recommendations, one specific recommendation in terms of licensing. As I said, that inquiry into debt recovery in New South Wales was prompted by concerns about the adequacy of current legislation and administrative processes for collection of debts. The committee focused particularly on removing barriers to debt recovery and exploring measures to make debt recovery processes more efficient. In that context, recommendation 2 of the committee was:

The Committee recommends that responsibility for the oversight and licensing of commercial agents and private inquiry agents—that is, private investigators—

be transferred from the Security and Licensing Directorate of the NSW Police Force to Fair Trading NSW.

So the recommendation was not to put licensing under the Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate, as is currently proposed, but to have commercial agents and private investigators regulated by Fair Trading. I point that out for the record as I think it is important that parliamentary debate reflects reality as opposed to perpetuating a misunderstanding of what occurred in the committee, and the quite legitimate disagreement of the executive arm of Government with that recommendation. I also point out that the transfer of private inquiry agents or private investigators to police oversight is inconsistent with a recommendation of the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC]. That recommendation was made by ICAC in August 1992 in the context of a report on unauthorised release of government information. Recommendation 3 of that ICAC report read:

Both the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, and the Police Service, will have an interest in the conduct of the agents' business. Involvement of the Department is appropriate to place the industry on a proper footing, and should improve both its quality and its acceptance as a legitimate business activity. Department officers should have a great deal to contribute to the industry's efficiency, standards and reputation.

The next part of the recommendation is particularly relevant. It continues:

Involvement of the police should not include management of a registry, or of the industry generally. It should be limited to their proper role of investigation, and crime prevention and detection. That was the recommendation of ICAC in the context of looking at unauthorised release of Government information. As I said earlier, it was also relevant to the rationale. Although the ICAC report was not specifically quoted in the Legal Affairs Committee report, that thinking was in part behind the recommendation of the Legal Affairs Committee. The 1992 report also was reinforced by a conversation I had in the past week or so with a former senior investigator of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, who has now retired. The Legal Affairs Committee also heard evidence from the Australian Institute of Private Detectives and other entities. I know that the institute specifically was not comfortable with police oversight and preferred oversight by either the Attorney General or the Ombudsman.

I certainly do not accept that there should not be any oversight—there should be—but, in the spirit of a balanced debate, the question is whether the NSW Police Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate is the appropriate licensing organisation. The Australian Institute of Private Detectives also made comments that had some legitimacy around access to information when somebody is attempting to coordinate a defence to a prosecution. The Legal Affairs Committee made certain recommendations in terms of potentially examining some of the privacy restrictions and how they operate to restrict access in an arguably inappropriate way from the perspective of people who are involved in debt collection.

In the context of some comments made by the Australian Institute of Private Detectives, the institute also has an issue about why investigators in government departments are excluded from having the same training and licensing requirements as investigators who operate outside the public sector. In other words, there are different standards for those legitimately pursuing their own defence or who are legitimately pursuing private commercial interests, such as debt, compared with those investigators operating in government departments who may be investigating bureaucratic or other matters. There is no doubt that police officers do a wonderful job in our society. Recently I attended an awards ceremony on the North Shore that was also attended by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Scipione. The ceremony recognised some outstanding current and former police officers. In the next few weeks, I will attend a similar ceremony for the Northern Beaches Local Area Command.

The local area commands of the North Shore, the Northern Beaches, and Ku-ring-gai are led by excellent superintendents. In the North Shore, Doreen Cruickshank, who will be retiring shortly, has demonstrated fantastic service over some 45 years. On the Northern Beaches, Dave Darcy does a great job. A recent appointment to Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command, Jenny Scholz, also does a great job. All those superintendents lead fantastic teams. I very much value and recognise the contribution of current and former police officers to our society. While recognising the value and appropriate status of police officers, I will point out some potential concerns regarding their oversight of the private investigation industry. Those concerns are consistent with the concerns conveyed by the Legal Affairs Committee and those of ICAC. [*Extension of time*]

Pursuant to the existing rules, former and currently serving police officers also operate in the security industry. We allow police officers to engage in what is described as moonlighting, or having a second job. That is now accepted, but it should be recognised that it contributes to potential conflicts of interest. A large number of former police officers operate in the security industry, including the private investigation part of the industry. To point out the obvious, police also are involved in prosecutions. Under this legislation they are also involved in the regulation and licensing of private inquiry agents or private investigators.

Sometimes we hear the idiom of poachers and gamekeepers. I will adapt that slightly: It could be said that in the current circumstances under the proposed regulatory regime, current and former police officers are hunters—for that, read prosecutors; they are also gamekeepers, read private investigators assisting defendants; and they are also the licensors of private investigators. We have networks of police officers that often extend in a social, if not collegiate, sense to former police. When we have that situation and dynamic, there is greater scope for potential abuse or conflict of interest. I will not make any further comments in that regard, but merely point to a risk that I believe was central to why ICAC recommended in 1992 that the police should not be oversighting and licensing private investigators and why the Legal Affairs Committee recommended along similar lines in 2014.

I now discuss the attractiveness of having a harmonious regulatory regime across Australia and throughout different jurisdictions. Report No. 108 by the Australian Law Reform Commission, which was tabled in August 2008, represented the culmination of a 28-month inquiry into the extent to which the Privacy Act and related laws continue to provide an effective framework for the protection of privacy in Australia. The report recommended that the Australian Government should, in turn, recommend that the Council of Australian Governments consider models for regulation of private investigators and the impact of Federal, State and Territory privacy laws on their operations.

Following that report genuine, attempts to harmonise laws were made: Unfortunately those attempts were unsuccessful. In the absence of the various State jurisdictions being able to agree on harmonisation, despite those efforts—and I do not think the efforts have continued with quite the same vigour in more recent years—the State-based system might be disbanded at some stage and replaced by a national licensing scheme, which potentially in the longer term might be regulated more appropriately, I believe, by the Federal Attorney-General's Department. I make those comments in the interest of achieving a balanced debate. I will support the legislation. I note one particularly positive aspect of this legislation is that it will open the way for the more appropriate regulation of commercial agents, particularly, to be licensed under Fair Trading. In that context, the Legal Affairs Committee made various comments relating to the potential attractiveness of a negative licensing scheme.

I thank the Deputy Premier for making himself and some of his staff available to discuss these issues. I recognise that, as in any debate, there are lots of different perspectives. There is never an easy outcome. There

are different public policy considerations. I appreciate the opportunity to explain why the Legal Affairs Committee recommended as it did and clarify that its reasons are somewhat contrary to the understanding of some members who have preceded me in this debate. As I said earlier, the recommendations were supported by the logic of ICAC, which is not an insignificant authority on these matters. In the spirit of parliamentary rigour and a balanced debate, I appreciate having had the opportunity to make those comments while still supporting the bill.

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (11:38):** I compliment the member for Davidson on being the powerhouse that he is for his electorate. He is an unbelievable member of this House. No-one in this place has a work ethic that is comparable to that of the member for Davidson. I support the Security Industry Amendments (Private Investigators) Bill 2016, which is important legislation that will transfer the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales to the Security Industry Act 1997. I am pleased the Opposition also supports the legislation. Other similar activities are regulated already under the Security Industry Act. This bill will cut red tape that results from police managing two different but similar schemes at the same time.

Private investigators provide investigative and legal support services to government agencies, corporate entities and the public across a range of areas. The private investigation industry in New South Wales is currently regulated by the police under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004. There are currently more than 3,400 private inquiry agent licences in New South Wales. Since 2010 the NSW Police Force has received around 800 new licence applications per year. The bill will ensure that private investigators operate within an ethical framework. Their work often involves sensitive and personal issues. The majority of their work involves the investigation of insurance claims, and investigations by large corporations and the legal profession. A private investigator may assist the legal profession in locating evidence or interviewing witnesses. They may also assist businesses in undertaking investigations of employees or potential employees. They also explore issues such as partner fidelity. It is work that demands a high degree of integrity and involves issues of privacy.

Risks associated with the industry are enormous, and checks must be taken into account to ensure that material gathered by private investigators remains private. Other risks include: illegal access to confidential information, breaches of confidence, misrepresentation, impersonation, trespass, and harassment and inappropriate use of surveillance equipment. Police receive complaints relating to the activities of private investigators in these areas. The public expects that government will ensure that private investigators continue to be subject to a robust regulatory scheme. The Security Industries Act is such a scheme and it will continue to provide ongoing checks before private investigators are permitted to engage in work. It matches well with other activities of the Act, which include provisions for overseeing the work of bodyguards, crowd controllers, locksmiths and people who advise on, sell or install security systems. This work, like private investigation, has the potential to compromise the privacy of citizens.

This legislation harmonises the private investigation industry with other similar pursuits. Private investigators will also benefit from this legislation because it will enable police to deal with rogue private investigators more quickly and effectively. Licence applicants will be subjected to licence fees under the Security Industry Act. When passed, the Act will commence on proclamation. I congratulate the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Troy Grant, on the work that has gone into preparing this bill. Much of the legislation that has come before this House since the election of this Government has been the result of investigations of certain industries, usually by the parliamentary committees system. A number of bills have been drafted to harmonise legislation and cut red tape. It is important that all legislation in New South Wales cuts red tape, and this bill does that. A number of previous speakers in this debate have acknowledged that. I am pleased that the bill has the support of both sides of the House as this will enable the proper regulation of the private investigation industry. I believe the bill will result in effective legislation, and I commend it to the House.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (11:43):** I also speak in support of the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. In responding to this bill, I acknowledge the real risks presented by the private investigation industry that warrant continued government regulation. Private investigators, by the nature of their work, deal with personal and sensitive information. Much of their work is done discreetly and out of public view. I imagine that the private investigators who do their job effectively may do this work without the person being investigated even knowing that it is occurring. I note that the member for Heffron was able to elicit the work done in pursuing cheating spouses—dob in a spouse or investigate a spouse. Clearly, that work carried out by private investigators is very sensitive.

The public quite rightly expects that a robust and effective regulatory scheme will be in place to ensure that individuals who are monitoring and surveilling other persons operate within the law. These expectations apply to all the work of private investigators, regardless of whether they are investigating an insurance claim, locating witnesses for the legal profession, investigating employees on behalf of a business or investigating issues such as partner infidelity. I know that if I wanted to employ someone to investigate a particular person I would expect that



those who advertise for these services are people of good character and subject to checks that ensure that they conduct their particular investigations within the law.

It is clear from the discreet nature of the work this industry is involved in that significant privacy and integrity risks can be associated with the work of private investigators. For example, there is the potential for private investigators to access confidential information illegally, breach confidence or impersonate law enforcement personnel. I have received complaints from people in the private investigation industry about some private investigators who appear to have access to information that no-one else in the industry has access to. The potential for corruption when accessing people's private information is of some considerable concern. At the more extreme end, the community may be concerned that, in the course of investigating a person, some investigators may resort to trespass, harassment or the inappropriate use of surveillance equipment.

I understand that police receive complaints about private investigators, ranging from matters such as people operating without a licence and alleged fraud to harassment and unethical conduct. Therefore, it is quite right for the public—including all individuals who could be investigated by this industry—to expect that all private investigators are licensed under a robust probity scheme before they are permitted to engage in such work. This bill continues the sensible and strong regulation of this industry in New South Wales to manage these risks by placing the industry under the Security Industry Act 1997. This established regulatory scheme provides for probity compliance checks for licence applicants as well as ongoing monitoring to protect the New South Wales community from being subject to investigation by people who are clearly not fit to engage in this work.

Potential clients can have confidence that the private investigators that they employ have gone through a formal assessment process by the NSW Police Force, including a criminal history check, minimum qualifications and ongoing monitoring. It would not be acceptable if persons convicted of offences such as firearms offences, drug offences, assault offences, serious dishonesty offences or terrorism offences were permitted by the Government to investigate or carry out surveillance. If someone wants a person investigated they need assurance that the people they engage do not have a history of that type of behaviour.

The Security Industry Act 1997 provides that assurance for people who employ security personnel now, and this bill will continue that assurance for the private investigation industry. I am also pleased that under this bill the offences and penalties that apply for security activities under the Security Industry Act will now apply to private investigation activity. For example, a person who works as a private investigator without the appropriate licence will be subject to offences under section 7 of the Security Industry Act 1997 for carrying on unauthorised security activities. A maximum penalty of two years imprisonment applies for such an offence.

The offence of misrepresentation will now apply for any private investigator who induces business by making false or misleading statements or promises about what they are authorised to do. This means that private investigators who claim to access information that they know is illegal, or promise information that they know they cannot obtain legally will be subject to penalties under the Security Industry Act 1997. This provides sensible protection for clients who may not know the legal limits of what private investigators can or cannot do. It stops them from getting ripped off and it will ensure that dishonest private investigators do not act in a way that could bring down the reputation of the industry.

The effect of this bill will be to remove the duplication that currently exists for police, who manage the security industry and the private investigation industry under separate legislation. This bill will reduce the inefficiencies associated with managing two separate schemes. It will allow more efficient enforcement and ensure that police can deal with rogue private investigators more quickly and effectively, to the benefit of all industry members and the community. It is better for everyone associated with this industry that the Government maintains strong regulation as provided for under the Security Industry Act 1997.

It is better for clients who will now know that the people they engage have been assessed as being fit for the job; it is better for people who may be investigated because the police are overseeing the running of the industry and it is better for investigators who can continue to work with legitimacy. Ongoing regulation of private investigators by the Government is important to the community and this bill will achieve that in New South Wales. I compliment the Deputy Premier and his staff on the drafting of the bill and the improvement it makes to the legislative structure of the industry. I commend the bill to the House.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (11:51):** I support the Security Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016 and thank the Deputy Premier, in his capacity as Minister for Justice and Police, for introducing this bill. This Government has a proven track record of reducing red tape and providing additional legislation for police to assist in regulatory and compliance activities. This bill continues that record. This bill is about transferring regulatory arrangements for private investigators to the security industry. This approach is one I believe to be sensible, and provides for the management of criminal and privacy risks that are often included with this line of work.

The bill will enhance the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales by including private investigators under the regulatory framework of the Security Industry Act 1997. Activities currently regulated by this Act include body guards, crowd controllers, locksmiths and people who advise, sell or install security services. Private investigation activities can often be intrusive, thereby posing a small risk to the public. It makes sense to include private investigators within this framework. This bill outlines the definition of a private investigator under section 4 of the Security Industry Act 1997. The definition of a private investigator is one who is employed or engaged to investigate the business or personal affairs of a person or to carry out surveillance of a person.

Additionally, the Act will include a definition for surveillance of persons that includes activities such as following a person or surveilling places that they are known to frequent such as their residence or place of employment to identify their movements, activities or associates. As personal investigation will now be classified as part of the security industry under the Act, personal investigators will be required to carry a licence. This licence is similar to the private investigators master licence or operator licence that is required under the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004. Currently the Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate within the NSW Police Force State Criminal Crime Command manages security licence and private inquiry licence applications, and this arrangement will continue under the bill. There are more than 3,400 private inquiry agent licences active in New South Wales and since 2010 police have received on average 800 new licence applications per annum.

Criminal history requirements will continue to ensure that persons convicted of a range of serious offences are not licensed as private investigators. This important feature will limit the risk associated with the industry. Private investigation activities will now be subject to the offence and penalty regime under the Security Industry Act 1997. Although the offences are similar to those that have been applied to the industry under previous legislation, the offence of misrepresentation will now apply. Section 33 of the Security Industry Act 1997 directly addresses false or misleading activity relating to the engagement of security activities. Applying this offence to the private investigation industry will strengthen the integrity of the industry and will increase alignment with the way the security industry is regulated. Probationary licences for private investigators will now be abolished. These licences have created a barrier for people to enter this industry and unnecessary red tape.

There was also the chance that prospective applicants would choose not to register in New South Wales and look at additional jurisdictions. As with other security industries, private investigators will now have improved licence renewal facilities available to them, enabling them to update information and renew through Service NSW. The greater enforcement powers and resources available to the NSW Police Force to regulate the security industry will enable rogue private investigators to be dealt with quickly and effectively. That will benefit industry members and, importantly, the community. As I stated earlier, I believe this bill to be sensible and well thought out legislation. It provides for better management of the criminal and privacy risks within the private investigation industry. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Motions*

#### **CENTENARY OF ANZAC**

**Debate resumed from 3 August 2016.**

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (11:57):** Each year on Anzac Day, 25 April, we commemorate the service men and women who fought to defend our rights and freedom. This year I was delighted to attend a number of services in my electorate of Cabramatta to honour the service men and women who have fought for our nation and those who are currently serving in conflict zones. It is also wonderful to see younger generations participating in commemorative services. I thank the clubs in my electorate for their kind invitations to join them at their Anzac Day services. The day started at 5.15 a.m. at the Cabra-Vale Diggers dawn service, which was held at Cabra Vale Park. It was followed by the 7.00 a.m. service at Canley Heights RSL, the noon service at Mounties and then the 4.00 p.m. service at the Triglav Club. These services were well represented by the community, club members and our local schools.

Local hero Corporal John Hurst Edmondson was the first Australian to be awarded a Victoria Cross in World War II. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry at the Siege of Tobruk. John Edmondson, the only child of Maude Elizabeth and Joseph William Edmonson, was born in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, in 1914. When John was a child the family moved to Liverpool, where he attended Austral Public School and Hurlstone Agricultural High School. On completing his schooling, he worked with his father on their farm. With the rigours of the farming life John became a strong, well-built lad and an exceptional shot with a rifle. Corporal Edmonson,

having served with the infantry in the 4th Battalion since March 1939, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 20 May 1940 and was posted to the 2/17th Battalion. Later that month he was promoted to acting corporal.

After training at Ingleburn and Bathurst his battalion was sent to the Middle East in October and trained for desert warfare in Palestine. In March 1941 the 2/17th battalion moved with other components of the 9th Division to Libya and reached Marsa Brega before the German forces. The German forces, under the command of General Erwin Rommel, mounted a counterattack on the Australian and British positions, forcing them to retreat to Tobruk. The 9th Division, although outnumbered and outgunned, took up new positions and made a gallant stand outside the port of Tobruk. On Good Friday, 11 April 1941, the now famous siege began. The announcement and accompanying citation for the decoration was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 1 July 1941 and states:

War Office, 1st July, 1941. The King has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to:—No. 15705 Corporal John Hurst Edmondson, Australian Military Forces. On the night of 13th-14th April, 1941, a party of German infantry broke through the wire defences at Tobruk, and established themselves with at least six machine guns, mortars and two small field pieces. It was decided to attack them with bayonets and a party consisting of one officer, Corporal Edmondson and five privates took part in the charge.

During the counter-attack Corporal Edmondson was wounded in the neck and stomach but continued to advance under heavy fire killing one enemy with his bayonet. Later, his officer had his bayonet in one of the enemy and was grasped about the legs by him, when another attacked him from behind. He called for help, and Corporal Edmondson, who was some yards away, immediately came to his assistance and in spite of his wounds, killed both of the enemy. This action undoubtedly saved his officer's life. Shortly after returning from this successful counter-attack, Corporal Edmondson died of his wounds. His actions throughout the operations were outstanding for resolution, leadership and conspicuous bravery.

An hour later, 200 German infantrymen attacked the post, forcing the Australians to withdraw and establish an outer defensive line. So fierce was this defence line held that it forced Rommel to divert troops from his main attack. This attack of Rommel's failed; the Germans were forced to retreat with heavy casualties. Corporal John Edmondson is buried in Tobruk War Cemetery. He was the first Australian to receive the Victoria Cross—the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. John Edmondson's VC medal was presented to his mother by the Governor-General on 27 September 1941. In 1969 she presented her son's medals and some of his personal belongings to the Australian War Memorial, where they are on display.

A number of places have honoured John Edmondson. This includes: Remembrance Driveway from Sydney to Canberra; John Edmondson VC Memorial RSL Club in Liverpool, New South Wales; a plaque in the Walk of Honour in Baylis Street in his birthplace of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales; the school hall in his former school, Hurlstone Agricultural High School, is named after him; a high school in the Horningsea Park district in New South Wales is named after him; and the Sydney suburb of Edmondson Park and Edmondson Street in the Sydney suburb of North Ryde are named in his honour. We will never forget the sacrifices made by John Edmondson and others who lost their lives to protect our rights and freedom. Lest we forget.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (12:03):** This year our nation commemorated one of its most important historical events—100 years since young Australian soldiers landed at Gallipoli, thereby entering our first theatre of war during World War I. While the losses in that first confrontation of war were heavy, through their bravery and sacrifice our young Australian soldiers demonstrated a unique quality—a quality that would define Australians through their courage, sacrifice, compassion and mateship. Almost 100 years have passed since Australia entered that first theatre of war and never has the Anzac spirit been stronger and more evident.

Charles Bean was Australia's First World War historian who landed at Gallipoli together with our troops on 25 April and stayed with them on the front throughout the entire war. Bean, who was wounded at Gallipoli during the August offensive, refused to be evacuated. It was said of him that no-one risked death more often than him. Over almost a quarter of a century he then wrote and edited the 12 volumes of the official war history. Finally, in searching for the words to type onto a blank page before him to summarise it all, Charles Bean wrote:

What these men did, nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story—it rises, it always rises—above the mists of ages, a monument to great-hearted men and for their nation, a possession forever.

These words proved to be acutely accurate. The courage and sacrifice of our Anzac troops continues to this day to be a monument of inspiration for us as a nation and to each of us as individuals. The mist of time has not blurred the sentimentality or affection that we as Australians feel for our service men and women. Testament to this patriotism of our resonance was seen in my electorate of Castle Hill when 25,000 to 30,000 people attended the Anzac Day dawn service at Kellyville organised by the Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch. The site for this commemoration service recently received the appropriate new name Centenary of Anzac Reserve in recognition of the significance of this year. One hundred or more wreaths were laid during the early morning service, including one from Graham and Ann Brown whose son, Jason, was killed in Afghanistan in 2010 while serving with the Special Air Service [SAS] Regiment.

The week prior to Anzac Day the Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch always holds its memorial service, also at the renamed Centenary of Anzac Reserve at Wrights Road, Kellyville. As dawn broke we heard an outstanding address from commanding officer and Hills local, Brigadier Philip Bridie, AM. He spoke about the 540 local Hills men who enlisted to fight in World War I—and in particular the fact that only 22 returned. The loss of more than 520 strong, young Hills lads impacted heavily on our area—a small farming community where men were required to undertake the arduous task of doing the heavy lifting on their properties.

Two of the men who were the first to enlist from the Hills area were Edgar Allen and Percy Allen, both members of my family. They were the grandsons of Robert Allen, who had arrived in this country in 1796 and who received a land grant on Castle Hill Road, Castle Hill, in 1814. Sadly, Second Lieutenant Edgar Allen, regimental number 1505, who enlisted on 15 December 1914 in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcement Unit, Australian Imperial Force and served in Gallipoli, was killed in action between 6 and 9 August 1915 and has no known grave. Private Percy Bartholomew Allen, regimental number 1908, who enlisted on 27 January 1915 in the 1st Battalion, 5th Reinforcement Unit, Australian Imperial Force, and also served in Gallipoli, died of wounds received on 11 August 1915. He also has no known grave.

General John Monash would record in his diary in 1915 that he could hardly believe the excitement and enthusiasm of the young Australian soldiers who were about to enter their first theatre of war. Three weeks later after landing at Gallipoli that excitement and enthusiasm were soon replaced by the sheer horror of war. In the weeks ahead 8,000 young Australians, including two members of my family, would lie dead, with many thousands of others wounded. It was a hard way for a country to lose its innocence and an even harder way for families to lose their sons. For years following World War I, on 25 April—the day ships departed this country with our first soldiers going to war—mothers and wives left flowers and tributes at war memorials in memory of those lost loved ones.

In Albany, Western Australia, this act commenced what has become Anzac Day, when we now stop and commemorate the sacrifice and bravery of soldiers in all theatres of war each year. Dural brothers and Hills residents Godfrey and Charles Fuller also both died in that first confrontation in 1915, together with members of my family. These family names and many others now adorn the streets and parks around the Hills in their honour. It is a fitting tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. My grandmother's brother, Reg, left these shores in 1915 to serve first in Beersheba and then in Fromelles. He was one of those fortunate enough to survive one of the bloodiest of battles ever recorded and return safely home.

The Battle of Fromelles commenced on 19 July 1916 and was a bloody initiation for Australian soldiers into warfare on the Western Front. Soldiers of the newly arrived 5th Australian Division, along with the British 61st Division, were ordered to attack strongly fortified German front-line positions near the Aubers Ridge in French Flanders. The attack was intended as a feint to hold German reserves from moving south to the Somme, where a large allied offensive had begun on 1 July. The feint was a disastrous failure. Australian and British soldiers assaulted over open ground in broad daylight and under direct observation with heavy gunfire from the German lines. More than 5,500 Australians became casualties, almost 2,000 of them were killed in action or died of wounds, and some 400 were captured. This is believed to be the greatest loss by a single division in 24 hours during the entire First World War. Some consider Fromelles the most tragic event in Australia's history. For anyone to survive was a remarkable feat in itself.

At St Matthew's church some years ago, during the bicentennial of the reign of Lachlan Macquarie, Her Excellency Marie Bashir spoke of a plaque that is erected at the Dardanelles. The plaque simply reads, "Never forget the Australians." It is a poignant reminder of the bravery of Australian troops and their efforts on behalf of people in a faraway land. It was where the compassion and sacrifice that Australian troops extended to others were first noticed. They remain distinct qualities of our people.

Following last year's Anzac Day service, my wife, Wendy, and I travelled to Kenthurst Park where Kenthurst Rotary hosts its annual Anzac commemoration service. One of its members, Paul Rapp, always goes above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of our community. In his enthusiasm he organised an incredible flyover from Williamstown air base by three Hornet jets. I acknowledge Keith McGill, former president of Kenthurst Rotary, and retired Major Bill Duncan, OAM, who delivered a touching Centenary of Anzac address. I also take this opportunity to again thank and congratulate Castle Hill RSL—in particular, board member retired Major General Warren Glenn—along with Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch and The Hills Centenary of Anzac Committee, both led by president and retired Colonel Don Tait, OAM. His boundless determination, effort and organisation assured that all events leading up to and including Anzac Day were an outstanding success including, as I said, having between 25,000 and 30,000 people in one area at our reserve in Wrights Road, Kellyville.

Many members of my family contributed to the war effort, not the least of whom was my grandmother's brother, Reg Allen, whom I have already mentioned. He came home from that war and rarely discussed aspects of it, but I remember visiting him from time to time with my father, with whom he got along extremely well.

When I was a young boy I remember Reg in his eighties saying that he had bumped into a local padre—a minister. The minister said, "Reg, you have had a good life, but are you a Christian?" Reg said, "On the battlefield when the enemy came over the hill, we mowed them down one by one. I hardly think that was a Christian action." I have never forgotten that comment.

He was deeply affected by his actions in the war, as are so many other returned soldiers—and for good reason. But Reg went on to live a good and prosperous life following World War I. He was well known across the Hills area for his feats of sheer strength as he was a big, strong lad. In 1939, following the death of his grandmother, Reg pulled down the sandstone cottage on Castle Hill Road in Castle Hill where our family had been given a land grant by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. He moved the stone house using a horse and cart to Round Corner, where it stands to this day. It is now proudly heritage listed and is known simply as Allen House.

My grandfather, Cecil St Clere Williams, served on HMAS *Australia* in World War II in various battles but, most poignantly, in the Battle of the Coral Sea—which was a defining moment in the history of World War II, especially for our country—in holding back the Japanese forces. I proudly wear his distinguished medals, left to me by my mother, every Anzac Day. Reg's younger brother, Eddy Allen, unfortunately perished on the Thai-Burma railway. Following release of the recent popular movie *The Railway Man*, images may have come back for many people who still remember family members and loved ones who did not return from that theatre of war, or who were captured as prisoners. One of my grandmother's cousins, John Eric Allen, was the last remaining prisoner of war in Changi Prison. He returned to Australia from Changi and went on to lead a wonderful and interesting life as a businessman and, like me, was involved in the heavy vehicle industry.

Jack Allen was a great character. I would call him when he was in his nineties and say, "Jack, how are you going?" He would say, "Mate, I am getting three meals a day and I have a roof over my head. It does not get any better than that." That was John Allen to a tee. He was happy with his lot. As the last surviving prisoner of Changi Prison, it was a remarkable feat to live as long as he did. As a farming boy, Jack grew wheat in an area of Changi Prison. He worked the wheat into flour and made damper for his mates. The Japanese envied the smell of the hot damper so much they insisted on getting some for themselves. Jack kindly obliged but also insisted on getting better outcomes for himself and his mates—always a great negotiator.

My uncle, Terry, fought in Papua New Guinea. The member for Wagga Wagga spoke about the Cowra breakout during his contribution to this debate. Terry was stationed at Cowra when the infamous breakout took place. Our family has a proud history of representing this country in various theatres of war, with many making the ultimate sacrifice. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the recent return from Terendak of the bodies of soldiers who perished during the Vietnam war. I grew up a little confused regarding the Vietnam war. At the time our brave soldiers were very much maligned for their role in the war, which was dreadful considering they put their lives on the line for our country and the freedoms we now enjoy—as do all soldiers of war representing this country. I can only imagine how hurtful this was. I was particularly heartened by the recent patriotism displayed across the country but particularly by hundreds of thousands of members of the community who lined the roads in my electorate and stood side by side to honour the bodies of these men when they were returned to Richmond air base. It was a fitting tribute.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge a good mate, Bob Cockerill, who has dedicated his life to the memories of our Vietnam veterans and the sacrifices that they made. Bob is a proud and decorated Vietnam veteran and played a significant role in supporting the return of his comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. At the time of the end of the Vietnam war, in the early 1970s, I watched in complete dismay as elected representatives advised families that if they wanted the bodies of their family members returned they would have to pay for it themselves. What a disgraceful moment in the history of this country. Elected members of Parliament were prepared to instruct men to go to war and to put their lives on the line but they were not prepared to offer them the dignity of returning their bodies to their loved ones when they had made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. Time has certainly changed our perceptions. We now proudly acknowledge and honour every serving member of this country who has entered every theatre of war, as we should. It gives me great pleasure to contribute to debate on the Centenary of Anzac. Lest we forget.

**Ms PRU GOWARD (Goulburn—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (12:18):** I am proud to speak in this debate. So much has been said about Anzac over the past century—millions of words, poems, movies, songs and monuments—that it is difficult to find something important that has not been said. We have recognised the role of the First World War, and the Gallipoli campaign in particular, in forging the Australian character—a point to which I will return later.

We must continuously recognise the many individual acts of service, heroism and self-sacrifice. We can only hope that we can emulate them. The loss of boys, young sons, men, fathers and workers in every town, village and city in Australia has been felt keenly and the huge number of people who attend our memorial days is

testimony to the gratitude we feel. Latterly we recognised the impact of this terrible war on the men who survived and came home maimed, disfigured and suffering from post-traumatic stress, which was often suppressed and which marred the happiness of many of them and their families for the rest of their lives. In those days there were also the widows and children who struggled on without the only breadwinner.

I was fortunate to grow up at a time when many World War I veterans were still alive, one of whom was my grandfather, William Goward, who was a British soldier, not an Anzac. He served in the Heavy Tanks and the Black Watch, with distinction, in France. My mother's uncle, Victor Scadden, was a slip of a young man in his early twenties who served in the Australian Ambulance Corps. He was not so lucky; he was killed on the Western Front. When I look at the photograph of the slim boy I realise that he never came home, he never married, he never had children and he never lived again in a country that he loved. He left his sister who I can see from correspondence battled the authorities for months to have his last few belongings returned. All that remains of him is a photograph of a slim young man.

We must acknowledge that those men went to battle knowing the risks. We must remember, for example, that the colony of New South Wales sent forces to Africa in the preceding decade, so it is not true to say, as it is sometimes said perhaps in jest, that our Anzacs were a bold and bright-eyed group of boy adventurers who thought they were going on an overseas holiday. In fact, they knew what war was. They knew that their older brothers and fathers had had that experience. They went in extraordinary numbers to play their part for what was then the British Empire, but they went proudly for the first time as Australians. A decade earlier our young country was extraordinarily proud of its new nationhood and it was anxious to demonstrate that it was, as we have remained, a conscientious contributor to world peace and prosperity.

With all that has been said by many much wiser than me, little remains that is new to say, but I make one observation about the significance of Anzac, which is very much drawn from almost 10 years as a local and regional member of Parliament. Never does a month go by when I do not attend a Rural Fire Service or State Emergency Service function in my Goulburn electorate. Those organisations have, in one form or another, drawn on local volunteers for as long as there has been settlement. Villages and hamlets of people have banded together to protect themselves, their livestock and their property from the ravages of the Australian climate and our unique geography. Of course, all continents have climatic extremes, but Australia has the particular distinction of needing to manage, husband and tame a wild continent with small numbers of people. Added to that, our vegetation—the eucalyptus family—dominates much of our bush and brings particular challenges to firefighters. Over the decades and centuries our small communities have had to band together to survive with our unique climate and vegetation, which was so aptly described by Dorothea Mackellar when she was a young girl, as follows:

I love a sunburnt country,  
A land of sweeping plains,  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of droughts and flooding rains ...

The following verse is very telling:

Her beauty and her terror—  
The wide brown land for me!

They knew about the threat of terror and about the importance of working together. It is that spirit of camaraderie, heroism and egalitarianism—the stoic acceptance of making do whether it is in a bushfire or on the war front—and of giving it all we have so that we may all survive that our soldiers took uniquely into war and for which they are now deservedly recognised. The forging of the Australian character was a long process. The strongest steels are forged in the hottest fires and they take time to forge. They were forged in the terrors of flood and fire, in the need for selflessness, in the egalitarianism that comes from standing shoulder to shoulder as farmer and farm labourer, businessman and employees, and neighbour and neighbour to save a street, a house or a farm for one another and for the greater good.

That is what the world saw when Australian troops took on Gallipoli and played their part in World War I on the Western Front and in wars ever after. In a sense we owe those men our history, the confirmation of our unique character, and we must acknowledge that those same qualities continue to make us the great nation that we are today where, again, egalitarianism, good humour, cooperation and risk-taking are important elements of success for Australians. May the example of the Anzacs remain with us for future generations, for it is their sacrifice and their character that will continue to ensure in the future that Australia is a great nation and a decent contributor to the peace and prosperity of the world. Lest we forget.

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (12:26):** I make a contribution to debate on the Centenary of Anzac. I join many of my colleagues in this place in remembering the sacrifices that others have made so we can live the life that we do today. It is important that we remember our history and acknowledge the challenges that people faced

in a time that is different from now. When we remember World War I and Australia's involvement as a fledgling nation, it is the Anzacs who epitomise how we view our induction onto the world stage. Courage, bravery and sacrifice are the words we know that are synonymous with the Anzac story. The Centenary of Anzac is a significant milestone with many aspects worth reflecting upon.

Our world has evolved so much and we as a nation have grown in peace, but with the passing of time there is also the potential for us to lose sight of how dreadful war is. There were 420,000 Australians who enlisted for World War I, which was known as the Great War at the time. We suffered many fatalities for a small nation of only five million people. If we assume that of the five million half were male and half were female, potentially two and a half million could have gone to war, but if we take away the aged and the young, we see that the percentage of people who went to war was high for a small nation. As Minister Goward said, in the hottest fires we forge the strongest steels. The significance of this was captured in the famous statement of Prime Minister Billy Hughes during the enactment of the Treaty of Versailles. When he was asked dismissively whom he represented, Hughes famously said that he spoke for the 60,000 dead Australians and no doubt the 8,709 who died at Gallipoli.

There is a sense of leadership, too, in this statement by Hughes—a thread that can be woven through all aspects of the Anzac stories, whether big or small, hopeless or triumphant. Prior to coming to this place I was a teacher. I was an English and history teacher but my favourite subject was history. I absolutely loved it. I taught the children about World War I and I often tried to impress upon them that we were not celebrating war; we were celebrating the sacrifice, courage, endurance and mateship that developed as a result of the war. The kids could not comprehend the reality of war. I found, in an antique bookshop—it may have been in Goulburn or in Crookwell—a diary of a soldier during World War I. It was an exercise diary. I bought it and incorporated it into my teaching. Every time I taught the World War I unit I incorporated a session that allowed the children to experience the sort of training that was endured by the Anzac soldiers in Egypt before they made it onto the battlefield.

The children could not understand how difficult it was in Gallipoli—we saw it in the film—to go over the top when the whistle was blown. The soldiers jumped out of the trenches and ran to an almost certain death. One of the strategies I used in teaching about this was to take the children to a hill near the school. The kids representing the Australian soldiers would have water pistols and the kids who represented the Turkish soldiers had water bombs or water balloons and as much water as they wanted to throw—from buckets or whatever they had. Somebody would blow a whistle and the kids in the trench would try to make it about 50 metres to the other side. When not one kid made it to the other side without getting wet, they understood really clearly. That was a great way to highlight to the kids that this was not about fun or games but about sacrifice—that, unfortunately, when that whistle was blown it was like a whistle of death. I hate to imagine what it would have been like to be there.

Of the enlistments, there were approximately 1,900 men and five women who came from the broader Canterbury district—my electorate. I would like to acknowledge a few of the local stories about the Great War from my electorate, captured by the Canterbury and District Historical Society in the book *Canterbury's Boys*. The thing that brings us all together is a remembrance of a truly horrific situation in which young people from different parts of the world and their families suffered the same losses. These are stories that complete our remembrance of the Anzacs. It was the acknowledgement of loss as well as the small acts of leadership that sparked the traditions of remembrance that we continue today.

The majority of my electorate is made up of areas covered by Bankstown and Canterbury councils, and the area known as Canterbury during World War I was much larger than it is now. The commonly held view is that the origins of the dawn service come from the story of a group of five Lakemba ex-servicemen who were on their way home in the early hours of 25 April. As they were walking through Martin Place they came across a woman who was mourning at the Cenotaph with a bouquet of flowers. The men knelt with her and prayed. They decided that from then on, they would return each year at dawn to remember their mates who had not returned home.

Some of those who did return home shaped the area of Canterbury for generations—like Stanley Parry, who landed with the 1st Field Engineers on the shores of Gallipoli. He and his fellow engineers were put to use immediately, carving out shelters in the hillside for a casualty clearing station, constructing chains of trenches and turning the beach into a functioning port. Stanley Parry went on to become mayor of Canterbury and the iconic local park, Parry Park, is named in his memory. I have only to walk through a main strip of any suburb in my electorate and I will almost undoubtedly come across a memorial to those who served in war. The same is the case in the electorates of many of my colleagues in this Chamber.

The Punchbowl Soldiers Memorial, unveiled on 20 December 1919, in The Broadway in Punchbowl, is just one of these memorials. If members go there they will be able to find the names of locals who served in

World War I—locals like driver David Pollock. The book *Canterbury's Boys* describes driver Pollock's bravery. On 24 April 1918, driver Pollock was the centre driver of a team carting ammunition. The convoy came under very heavy fire, killing two complete teams and wounding all the drivers. Although wounded himself, driver Pollock helped the other drivers. While still under heavy fire, he dug amongst the dying mules and found an injured driver whom he then carried over 200 yards to safety.

Driver Pollock was one of the lucky ones. He returned to Australia in 1919, but I can well imagine the trauma and horrific memories he brought home with him and carried for the rest of his life. When we remember the stories of heroism we must remind ourselves that they come at a cost. War has an ongoing impact on, and creates trauma for, the people who live through it. We should reflect, too, on the experiences of the small rural and regional towns hugely impacted by the war. And we should remember the experiences of Indigenous people who served abroad without recognition or rights at home.

There are now approximately 55,000 voters in my electorate. Many people have ancestors who fought for Australia in World War I. But interestingly, many of them have ancestors whose homes were in places where wars were fought—in the lands of the former Ottoman Empire, as an example. It is moving to think that a century later, the descendants from all sides of the Great War could be living side by side in one of the most multicultural places in Australia.

A few years ago the now Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, the Federal member for Blaxland, Jason Claire, and I decided to take a group of kids to experience some of the challenges that former Australian soldiers faced. To do this we established a mateship trek. We took children from some of the southern Sydney regions and the Bankstown area on tours in order to go through these experiences. The first tour was to Kokoda. We followed that up with a trip to Sandakan. Rob Oakeshott came on that trip and he brought with him kids with Indigenous backgrounds.

Whilst we could not relive the experiences of our great soldiers, we were able, for a while, to walk in their shoes. We experienced what they experienced while knowing we had the safety of being able to find somewhere to sleep at night, of having food and, if worst came to worst, the ability to be evacuated. As we trekked through the jungle, not once did we have to worry about somebody shooting at us. Not once did we have to worry about whether we would be going home because of the injuries that we suffered. Our biggest fears or concerns were about whether we would hurt ourselves by rolling our ankles.

In bringing together people from so many cultural backgrounds to try to share the story of Australian identity we broke down many barriers. So, if, like me, your heritage does not allow you to be part of the Anzac story in that particular way, there is nothing to stop you being part of the Anzac tradition—the great Australian tradition—of continuing to honour the Anzac values. Those values of mateship, courage and endurance are enshrined in the big stones at Isurava on the way to Kokoda. Every person in Australia, regardless of where he or she was born, and regardless of heritage, can aspire to those ideals.

Unfortunately, in 2015 I was unable to go with another group; as everybody in this place would know, we were in the middle of an election campaign. This group went to Turkey. The kids who went from the Bankstown area were primarily of Turkish heritage, and they met up with some of their ancestors. So we had Australian kids with Turkish ancestry travelling with kids from the Sutherland shire. Those children were, potentially, descendants of people who fought with one another, yet here they were, 100 years later, breaking bread, sharing stories and understanding that when you strip everything away we are people with the same hopes and dreams regardless of where we were born or where we live.

As part of our honeymoon I took my wife to Gallipoli. As I said, I was a history teacher and I thought, "Where else would you go?" I think when I said we would go to Turkey my wife thought we would be heading over to the Greek islands but I wanted to see Gallipoli. I suggest that anyone who gets a chance to go there should do so. People can look at it in the old newsreels and pictures and listen to the stories, but until you stand there you cannot realise just how impossible the task was and how brave our soldiers were in meeting the challenges they faced. I noticed that there was one place where trenches would have been no further than three metres apart. Enemies were just three metres apart. Our guide was telling the story about the wonderful relationships that developed between the Turks and the Australians. At Gallipoli, a huge stone plaque bears an inscription by Atatürk addressed to mothers of soldiers, Mehmeds and Johnnies, which states:

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.

I thought the inscription not only was incredibly respectful but also spoke of something we value—the sense of human dignity. It shows that even during a time of war, there is a sense of dignity and respect for people. It was a good honeymoon and Gallipoli was an amazing place. It is an incredible place to visit and I would commend it to anyone. When I remember World War I, I consider the contribution made by people who lived in my electorate



and their stories of bravery and mateship. It is also important to recognise that there are no winners in war. There are only the stories of tragedy and hopeless sacrifice, but they are the stories that complete the Anzac picture and have shaped the nation that we have become. We learn that in the midst of utter despair, which is war, the actions of individuals are the ones that have the lasting impact.

The qualities of leadership underline all the different experiences of war. Whether it is the examples from driver David Pollock, Stanley Perry, the engineers, the Lakemba ex-service men and women, who took the time to be with somebody in need, or whether it is the countless men and women across our nation whose small acts of initiative and selflessness displayed the finest leadership qualities of all history, a respect for humanity and a sense of dignity must be acknowledged and celebrated. They have shaped our character. Lest we forget.

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (12:41):** Between 2014 and 2018, Australia is commemorating the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War. It is a time to remember not only the Anzacs who served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front but all Australian service men and women. The Anzac Centenary provides an opportunity to remember those who have fought and served in all wars, conflicts and peace operations in the past hundred years, and especially to remember the more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in service.

No town or community in Australia was left untouched by the First World War and my electorate of Charlestown was no exception. Ten thousand two hundred and six men from the towns, hamlets, villages and rural communities of the Hunter Valley enlisted, answering the country's call to fight for God, King and Empire. Many saw that as an opportunity to see the world and to explore. It was thought to be a great adventure and the chance of a lifetime. No-one could have anticipated the magnitude of what they were about to embark on, the scale of devastation and the horrors that would be endured. Sadly, many of those 10,206 men did not return home. One thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight Hunter Valley men were killed during the First World War on the ridges and in the gullies at Gallipoli, on the desert sands of Palestine, in the mud of France and Belgian Flanders or in the tunnels and mine galleries under the Western Front. During the next few minutes, I will recognise the wartime efforts of people from my electorate of Charlestown and areas nearby.

The Victoria Cross is the highest military award in the Commonwealth. It can be awarded to members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces. The Victoria Cross is awarded only in exceptional circumstances for most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. Only 63 Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the Australian armed forces in the First World War. Many people would be surprised to learn that two of those were awarded to former students of Dudley Public School in my electorate of Charlestown. Given that Dudley Public School at the time of the First World War had only two classrooms and principal's accommodation and was set among paddocks, bushland and only a handful of cottages in an isolated mining community, that is quite remarkable.

Clarence Smith Jeffries and William Matthew Currey were both awarded the Victoria Cross. Today I honour them by reflecting on their commitment, courage and sacrifice. When we look at pictures of Clarence Jeffries, he looks so young. He was very slightly built and looks almost too small for his uniform. Clarence's final rank, at the age of 22, was captain, which is unusual for someone so young. But the battles during the preceding months resulted in many deaths, which meant that younger and younger officers were being promoted. The battle of Passchendaele, officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres, became known for the scale of casualties—and the mud.

Prior to the battle, the Germans had established themselves in the area. They had large, reinforced concrete machine gun posts for the protection of their soldiers. Jeffries and his men were subject to atrocious conditions due to several days of heavy rain, which meant that the battlefield had been transformed into a boggy marsh on which the attack took place. On 12 October 1917 the advancing line led by Clarence was held up by one of the machine gun bunkers. Clarence organised a raiding party to capture the machine gun box. They were successful, taking three or four machine guns and 35 prisoners. This valiant act revived the allies' advance into Ypres. Clarence then moved his attention to his next objective—another machine gun box. Sadly, while doing that, Clarence was tragically killed by German machine gun fire.

Accompanying Clarence was Sergeant James Bruce, who was a 39-year-old Scottish-born miner who had worked for Jeffries' father at the Abermain Collieries. According to popular legend, Sergeant Bruce had promised to look out for his boss's only child. Bruce fulfilled this promise and remained at his captain's side throughout the attack and his death. One hundred and twenty Hunter Valley men were killed in the Battle of Passchendaele. As payment of a debt of gratitude to the late Lieutenant James Bruce, Clarence's father, Joshua, employed Bruce's two eldest sons as trainee mining surveyors at the Abermain Collieries.

William Matthew Currey is another Victoria Cross recipient. He was a determined man. He first attempted to enlist while 16 years old and underage by providing a false age, but was later discovered and

discharged. He successfully enlisted when he turned 18. In the attack on Péronne on 1 September 1918, William's company was suffering heavy casualties from a field gun at close range. At only 22 years of age and without hesitation, he bravely ran forward under fire. He single-handedly captured the gun, which had been preventing his troops from advancing, and killed all the enemy. Later, when the advance was checked by an enemy strong point, William again courageously crept around the flank with a Lewis gun, inflicting casualties and dispersing the enemy. It was entirely due to his gallant efforts that the situation was relieved and the advance was able to continue.

William continued to display his bravery the following morning when he volunteered to warn a company, which had become isolated, to withdraw. This was another life-threatening task. He proceeded into no-man's-land, stood up and called out to the company. The sound of his voice attracted a torrent of enemy fire. Despite being under constant heavy fire and gas, he survived and returned with valuable information from the isolated unit. It is therefore not surprising that William earned the highest military decoration, the Victoria Cross, and the King George VI Coronation Medal for his dedicated service. The citation published in the London *Gazette* on 14 December 1918 concluded that his behaviour was a "striking example of coolness, determination and utter disregard of danger and his gallant work contributed largely to the success of the operation."

After the war he became a member of Parliament, entering the New South Wales Legislative Assembly as the Australian Labor Party's representative for the seat of Kogarah, which he held from 1941 until his death in 1948. It is a wonderful acknowledgement that Clarence and Williams are rightly remembered and honoured through the Jeffries-Currey Memorial Library at Dudley Public School, where for generations to come our children can learn about these two men and the sacrifices they made. Stories of the Anzac legend usually revolve around the soldiers' experiences. I would also like to dedicate some time to remembering the Australian women who served in World War I. Australian women could only serve overseas if they joined the Australian Army Nursing Service [AANS] or Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the Red Cross.

Two thousand eight hundred and sixty-one women enlisted in the AANS. They were aged 21 to 40, mostly unmarried and had completed three years approved hospital training. These women were instrumental in saving the lives of the diggers who made it through the horrendous battles. Many men signed up in hope of adventure and a chance to see the world. Women were no different, except in addition for many women it was the first time they were able to work alongside men as equals. They stepped up to the plate without hesitation. During an era when women had only just received the vote in Australia and New Zealand and were more often than not confined to the home, even signing up was a bold move for the nurses.

The conditions confronting them were extremely taxing, particularly during the Gallipoli conflict. No-one could have been prepared for the conditions they faced. These conditions only worsened as there had been a failure to properly prepare for the number of wounded who would be coming back from battle. The equipment on the hospital ships and onshore facilities was extremely basic, and the staff assigned to help the nurses were often untrained. The hospital facilities were simple tents with dirt floors. Working in these conditions the women also had to face medical situations that they had not previously encountered such as the wounds inflicted by the new armoury coupled with a severe lack of doctors and insanitary conditions. Despite the lack of sanitation and medical supplies, the nurses of World War I lost only a very small number of soldiers due to infection.

Upon their return to Australia, the nurses of World War I did not receive the same post-service financial benefits as their soldier counterparts, nor recognition for the arduous work they had performed. The women were not asked to march in yearly commemoration events, nor were they invited to be part of local Returned Services Leagues [RSLs] around the nation. But many of the soldiers who had received care from the nurses realised the contributions they had made and would often pull in nurses from the crowd during Anzac Day marches, asking them to walk alongside the diggers.

In light of this it was wonderful to see the ABC honour the centenary of the commencement of World War I through the six-part series *Anzac Girls*. This eye-opening series was based on the unique and rarely told true stories of Australian and New Zealand nurses serving at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. One nurse who deserves to be recognised is Ida Mary Greaves. Ida was born and bred in Newcastle, where she also received her hospital training. Ida was nursing in London two years prior to the start of World War I. Shortly after the declaration of war was made, she volunteered with the Australian Voluntary Hospital and was in the field within a month of the outbreak of war, as a matron. The *Newcastle Herald*, then known as the *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, reported that Ida was later posted to a casualty clearing station where:

Severe work followed this appointment, and frequently she was under fire, the nurses often being called upon to shelter the wounded and dying with their own bodies.

Casualty clearing stations were located close to the front line in order to provide speedy treatment of the wounded. Nursing and medical staff were non-combatant but were as vulnerable to artillery fire and bombing as anyone else

whilst having the responsibility of caring for their patients as well as themselves. The following is an extract from Ida's account of the evacuation of No. 38 Casualty Clearing Station when the German army was advancing in March 1918:

Next day [23 March 1918] we had patients everywhere and a very fierce bombardment was on. We evacuated patients by ambulance steadily. Colonel Lowe came to me and said the Military Situation seemed to be very serious and said would I tell the Sisters to be prepared to leave at a moment's notice and to have their train coats etc ready and that we would not be able to take any baggage. He only had one ambulance at his disposal and the O.C. of the adjoining Camp promised to lend him another. There was a fierce bombardment and bombing all night and bombs dropping everywhere. At 5.30 a.m. Colonel Lowe gave an order that we were all to be ready to evacuate in 15 minutes time and could all take one piece of light baggage.

Ida was mentioned in dispatches three times with an official report written by a superior officer and sent to the high command which describes her gallant actions. In 1915, her efforts in moving the field hospital under fire won her the most prestigious decoration available to nurses. The Royal Red Cross (First Class) medal was presented to her by King George V at Buckingham Palace, making her, alongside Sydney woman Nora Fletcher, the first Australian women to receive the award. Ida served until 1919, helping care for the wounded long after Armistice Day. When she returned to Australia she went back to nursing in Newcastle and rarely spoke about the horrors of what she saw during the war. Returning nurses were trained to be "ladylike" and not to engage in self-promotion.

In March last year the *Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Star* ran an article about my constituent Betty Hepworth whose father, Cecil Victor Stanley Holt, served in World War I. It was October 1917, and Cecil was one of nine children, with another sibling on the way. Like many families at the time, money was tight for the Holt family of Adamstown. So, at only 17 years of age, Cecil lied about his age and joined the 1st Australian Infantry Battalion. Cecil fought for the Allies—the United Kingdom, France and the Russian Empire—on the Western Front. In August 1918, Cecil was wounded when a bomb exploded in the French trenches. His right leg was blasted by shrapnel and he was transported to a London hospital, where he underwent surgery. Fortunately he survived with his leg intact, although his muscles and nerves were permanently damaged.

Cecil arrived home in January 1919. In 1925 he married Mary Rutherford, and together they raised three children: Betty and her brothers, Robert and Ronald. Betty said that her father never talked about the war, "except to the kids at Christmas. He would talk about the beautiful French girls, but never about the battle." Cecil died peacefully in May 1989 aged 90. Betty, aged 88, uncovered most of her father's war memorabilia in a suitcase after he died and has used this to help East Lake Macquarie Historical Society compile its book on the history of the Anzac Centenary, which was published last year.

The Anzac Centenary is a time to honour the service and sacrifice of our original Anzacs, and the generations of Australian service men and women who have defended our values and freedoms in wars, conflicts and peace operations throughout a century of service. One of the most important legacies that can come from the Anzac Centenary is to improve community understanding and awareness of our wartime history, particularly for younger Australians. The Anzac Centenary gives families, schools and communities an opportunity to begin important conversations that will continue long after the national program has concluded, and in doing so ensuring an enduring and unifying legacy for current and future generations. Today I have touched on a few stories of people in my electorate and nearby. There are thousands more. I thank all of the service men and women who continue to serve. To all of the service men and women who have served and are no longer with us: Lest we forget.

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (12:59):** It is with a great deal of pride and humility that I take this opportunity to contribute to the take-note debate on the Centenary of Anzac. Like all members who have spoken in this debate, I express my enormous respect for and gratitude to the thousands and thousands of young men and women who have bravely put themselves forward to serve our country and to defend our values and interests in many conflicts, particularly in the Great War. On the Centenary of Anzac we remember the thousands of young men and women who bravely—and, in hindsight, somewhat naively—put up their hands to leave communities in the Northern Tablelands to serve King and country and to fight for what they termed in those days their "homeland".

Many never returned. Despite that, many answered the call to arms later in the war effort. I am reminded of the Kurrajong recruitment drive that started in the Inverell community in my electorate. Many of those young men from Inverell, Wialda and Moree travelled by train to training camps in the Hunter. News had already reached the Inverell community about the sheer waste of human life at Gallipoli, yet almost 100 men put up their hands and said, "We are going to go." They had heard of the carnage and waste that was wrought upon the Allied forces in that campaign. I pay special tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Braund, a former member for Armidale in this place. Armidale is the major city in the Northern Tablelands electorate. Lieutenant Colonel Braund's name is emblazoned on a plaque in this House, together with that of Sergeant Edward Larkin, who at that time was the member for Willoughby. Both those men were legislators who answered the call to fight in the

Great War. Both men perished in that war and were the first two serving parliamentarians in this State and this country to die in active service during World War I.

The Braund name is synonymous with the Armidale community. It lent its name to the local store and is borne by many locals in Armidale and Ebor. But not many people in Armidale know of George Braund. I take this opportunity to place on record the history of George Braund. He was an eminent person in the Armidale community, a former member of this House and, by all reports, a distinguished leader of the men under his charge in the Australian armed forces. George Frederick Braund was a merchant, a politician and a soldier. He was born on 13 July 1866 in Devonshire, England, and was the eldest son of Frederick Braund, a draper, and his wife, Ellen. He was educated at the local grammar school and at 15 years of age migrated to New South Wales with his parents and nine siblings—a large family.

He worked in Sydney at the York Street warehouse until 1889 when his father bought J. Moore & Co, general merchants of Armidale. From then until his father's death in 1899 George was an accountant in the family business. He then became the manager. As a young man he was a talented all-round sportsman, excelling at boxing, fencing and rugby. He was also an active member of the local drama and literary groups. On 30 January 1895 he married Lalla Robina Blythe at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Drayton, Queensland. In May 1893 Braund was commissioned second lieutenant in the Armidale company 4th Australian Infantry Regiment. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1898, captain in 1899—10 years after moving to Armidale—and major in 1912. He was company commander from 1899 until 1912.

As a local merchant he took a continuing interest in local affairs to stay abreast of what his customers required and desired. By World War I he was regarded as one of Armidale's prominent citizens, as was typical for merchants of the day. He was a man about town, educated, talented and popular. He was a magistrate and for many years president of the Armidale Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the public school board and a director of the New England Building Society and various local business concerns.

In 1910 the Liberal Party invited him to contest the Federal seat of New England. He declined, citing family commitments—not because the Liberal Party approached him. In 1913 he relented, accepted the offer and became the Liberal member for Armidale in this House—the first and only time that area was represented by a member of the Liberal Party. In that year Braund was promoted to lieutenant colonel and from July 1914 commanded the 13th Infantry Regiment. On the formation of the Australian Imperial Force at the outbreak of World War I, he was appointed by Colonel H. N. MacLaurin to raise and train the 2nd Battalion. On 17 August he became the commanding officer.

The unit embarked for Egypt two months later. Braund trained his officers and men with extreme thoroughness. He was a keen sportsman and believed strongly in improving people's physical fitness. He believed in that personally and that his men needed to be physically fit to endure the mental and physical rigors of war. Leading largely by example, he exacted a high standard of physical fitness and discipline. He was an ardent disciplinarian. He was convinced that self-discipline was important for the army unit. He was also a teetotaler, non-smoker and vegetarian. He was obsessive about his physical fitness. He was short in stature, alert, active and, according to local reports, of a lively disposition. He commanded respect rather than affection. He was a hard taskmaster. He was well respected but not necessarily well liked by his troops.

When they arrived at Gallipoli his insistence on physical fitness, discipline and mental alertness was appreciated by his men. He was ahead of his time for military commanders of that day, pre-empting the need for all those skills in order to be effective in the field. On the morning of 25 April 1915 the 2nd Battalion landed at Gallipoli and two of its companies were assigned to the 3rd Brigade, which was already engaged in fierce fighting at The Nek. B and C Companies were held in reserve—which obviously included George Braund's company—until 1.30 p.m., when, under harassing fire, Braund led them up steep goat tracks to the junction of Walker's Ridge and Russell's Top. There, in a vital but isolated position, they dug in and held on for two days against a sustained Turkish attack. Casualties were high and only Braund's tenacious leadership held his seriously weakened force together—again, no doubt helped by the strong discipline that he imposed on his troops and the physical fitness that they had gained in Australia.

On 27 April, when reinforcements from Lieutenant Colonel W. G. Malone's Wellington Battalion reached him, he led the combined force in a steady bayonet charge though the scrub to the crest of Russell's Top. Forced to withdraw before a strong enemy counterattack, his men resumed their original positions and retained them until the morning of the twenty-eighth. By then Braund's exhausted battalion had withstood the main Turkish advance for three consecutive days without rest—remembering that they got there, dug in, waited for reinforcements, held back Turkish advances and pressed ahead against the Turks, and then had to withdraw and dig in again. They did that for three consecutive days without rest and still held the line. After those three days and nights without rest they withdrew to the beach, leaving Malone's men in control of the sector, which they had taken from the Turks.

Malone kept a diary, in which he was quite critical—I think unfairly—of Braund's command. His comments in retrospect seem unjustified because, far from voicing any criticism of Braund, his own men in their letters back home pay tribute to his courage and gallantry. Indeed, he was a true country gentleman who led his men from the front rather than from the rear. Charles Bean, the acclaimed World War I historian who was at Gallipoli, judged that Braund had shown "every quality of a really great leader". On 2 May 1915 Braund was ordered from the beach, where his battalion was held in reserve, to Victoria Gully. After midnight on 3 to 4 May he was asked to send part of his unit to reinforce the third battalion in the line. After despatching C Company he set out for brigade headquarters and, instead of using the normal track, took a shortcut through the scrub.

Despite all Braund's qualities and his relentless discipline regarding physical fitness, he was hampered by being slightly deaf—it probably helped him to be a politician in this House. Unfortunately, because of that affliction Braund, upon returning to his troops via that shortcut through the scrub, failed to hear the challenge from a sentry. As a consequence, the sentry did what he was trained to do and shot Braund, killing him. George Frederick Braund was buried in a beach cemetery at Gallipoli and was survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. He was mentioned in despatches posthumously. He was the first legislator to enlist for World War I and the second to die in battle, along with Sergeant Edward Rennix Larkin, who was at that time the member for Willoughby.

George Braund's story is one of tens of thousands that I could have chosen to tell in my contribution today. Indeed, I have listened with awe, admiration and deep respect to the contributions of many of my colleagues on both sides of the House who told stories of servicemen from their various regions, like the one I have just related about George Braund. I sincerely hope that our country never sees a battle, a war or a conflict such as that in which people like George Frederick Braund fought. As a member of this House and as one of George Braund's successors representing the people of the Northern Tablelands in this place, I cannot fathom being confronted with the choice of whether to sign up and go to fight in a foreign land in defence of our country. It is anathema to me. I think that speaks for the peace and the quality of life with which we are so blessed and fortunate to enjoy. I pay tribute to George Frederick Braund and to every man and woman who has volunteered to serve our country and who has laid down their lives to defend our values. Lest we forget.

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **HUNTER TAFE APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (13:15):** Today I recognise young Lake Macquarie people who offer yet more proof that our future is in good hands. At the age of 11, Cejay Alsop found himself drawn to his father's back shed at their Silverwater home, which was equipped with an array of tools including welders and presses. Together with his dad, he would build ramps and jumps that he and his mates would ride their bikes over. Cejay's passion for his interest eventually drew him to metal fabrication courses at TAFE. After three years of study and with an extraordinary work ethic, Cejay was recently named Hunter TAFE Apprentice of the Year.

The talents of the former Morisset High School student were not lost on industry leaders, with TMS, a large Sydney-based air-conditioning duct manufacturer, offering Cejay employment, which he now undertakes while completing the remainder of his studies. Cejay was not the only young person in my electorate to be recognised in the annual awards. Zoe Saunders from Toronto won the Food Services and Hospitality Award and a scholarship that will no doubt set her off on a long and successful career path. I acknowledge the outstanding achievements of these young people whose hard work and dedication is a credit to them and a shining light to other young people in our community.

#### **BERT OLDFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (13:16):** Today I speak about a great educational institution in my local area, Bert Oldfield Public School. Bert Oldfield Public School was named after the great Australian wicketkeeper Bert Oldfield. Oldfield had a very healthy batting average and it is fitting that the school is his namesake, given the amount of runs on the board that the teachers, parents and students have chalked up. Recently the school did its sporting heritage proud as students reached the finals of the Parramatta All Schools Rugby League competition, culminating in an 18-point win for the senior boys team.

I acknowledge also the school's 2015-16 parents and citizens committee for its hard work over the past 12 months and congratulate the new executive: president Mrs J. Gatley, vice president Mrs O. Howell, vice president Mrs Funda Basaran; secretary Mrs Tanya Sheehan, treasurer Mr Sanjay Khakhar, canteen manager Mrs S. Wilson, and uniform shop coordinator Mrs A. Giudice. Parental involvement in the parents and citizens committee is integral to a school's success, and it is no wonder that Bert Oldfield Public School is going from strength to strength with such a committed group of community-minded individuals.

**EDGEWORTH EAGLES**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (13:17):** I congratulate the Edgeworth Eagles on their 2016 National Premier Leagues minor premiership win on Sunday. It was fantastic to watch the Eagles win 2 to 1 over Maitland and take out the minor premiership again. All season I have been attending matches whenever I can and it was a thrill to see them fight back for the victory. This title follows their historic win last month, which made them the first northern New South Wales team to make the Football Federation of Australia Cup top 16. Damian Zane and his team should be feeling really proud of their efforts, and we are also very proud of them.

**IMB BANK, BOWRAL**

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (13:18):** The Wollondilly community is home to vibrant and active small businesses from an array of different fields, comprising myriad different professions. Recently the IMB Bank's branch in Bowral enjoyed its thirty-seventh birthday, and celebrated by expanding its staff and installing new fittings in the branch. In a reflection of the growth of the IMB Bank, the Bowral branch has recently taken on a new specialist, Jye Cajar. Mr Cajar's appointment indicates the step towards modernising the branch as the bank adapts to meet the demands of its clients in 2016. I congratulate the IMB Bowral team on the bank's thirty-seventh birthday. I hope that it continues to be a leading institution in Bowral and keeps inspiring the vibrant business environment in Wollondilly.

**SYDNEY BUS MUSEUM**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (13:19):** I draw to the attention of the House the fantastic work done by all of those involved in the Sydney Bus Museum. People can now step inside the more than 100-year-old Leichhardt tramshed to see the extensive collection of vintage buses, view the World War II exhibition and experience a ride aboard a vintage double-decker bus across the Anzac Bridge and return to the central business district. It is now open on the first and third Sunday of each month between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. I had the pleasure of joining the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and other dignitaries as well as the fantastic volunteers at the recent opening. I particularly commend David Bennett, the director, Phil Stanton, Pia Zadnik, Bob Kendell and Andrew Chechlac. The bus museum is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1996 in Tempe and now permanently residing in the old tramshed in Leichhardt. More than 250 members help to preserve a rare and invaluable collection of historic buses dating from the 1920s to the 1980s. I commend the organisation and encourage members to attend and support the museum.

**WHITLAM INSTITUTE WHAT MATTERS COMPETITION**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (13:20):** I congratulate Ms Kirti Sharma, who was named the year 9/10 category runner-up in the 2016 Whitlam Institute What Matters Competition. The competition is committed to involving young people in the shaping of Australia's future. The competition is open to school students in years 5 to 12 from New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania. Ms Sharma, who is a student at William Carey Christian School in Prestons, was named runner-up after submitting her entry to the competition, entitled "Human trafficking—a crime against humanity". Her conclusion is as follows:

There is no doubt now that the world we know will always exhibit in creating disconnected individuals every day. Human trafficking is one of the greatest ethical challenges facing modern times. Eradicating human trafficking needs to start with change and if humanity is willing to allow that change to occur.

I once again congratulate Ms Sharma on submitting this thought-provoking essay and wish her all the best for the future.

**FAIRFIELD ABORIGINAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (13:21):** On Tuesday 19 July 2016 I had the great pleasure of attending Mary MacKillop College, Wakeley, to present Miss Adriana Ferkula-Cohen with the 2016 Fairfield Aboriginal Student of the Year award. Adriana is an outstanding student who has shown a great sense of pride and commitment in her work and has been recognised as an emerging leader in our community. Further to receiving this award, Adriana had the great opportunity to attend the 2016 Aboriginal Student of the Year Emerging Leaders Forum held in Parliament House. I take this opportunity to congratulate Adriana on all her achievements, which have earned her the accolades she so rightly deserves. I wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

**SPAR MACLEAN**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (13:21):** I offer my congratulations to SPAR Maclean on taking out the national SPAR Store of the Year award for a second year in a row along with Delicatessen of the Year and Produce Department of the Year, competing against nearly 300 stores. SPAR Maclean is my local supermarket and I can assure members that it lives up to its motto: "We Pack, We Carry, We Care". For 36 years Bob and Judith Little and their team of dedicated employees have put their hearts and souls into making sure that

their customers receive high-quality products, value for money and exemplary customer service. SPAR prides itself on high levels of customer service, and this is evident as soon as you walk in the door. The staff always greet you with a smile and are genuinely happy to see you and make your shopping experience a pleasant one. More often than not Bob can be heard singing or whistling the same old tune that was playing some 36 years ago or having a chat or a laugh with one of his loyal customers.

#### **BATTLE OF LONG TAN FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:22):** I ask the House to acknowledge the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans Day on 18 August 2016. On 18 August 1966 the combined Australian battalions faced off against an estimated 2,500 enemy soldiers. There were 24 Australian casualties in the battle—one of the most significant losses of life in one battle during the Vietnam War. This year on Vietnam Veterans Day I will have the privilege of attending a ceremony at Mawson Park in Campbelltown commemorating the Battle of Long Tan. As a former soldier and a proud patron of the Macarthur Vietnam Veterans, I am very moved by the ceremonies and the stories of the heroic efforts by Australian soldiers at the Battle of Long Tan. These brave men fought for our country in battle. Many of them returned with the scars of war and some did not return at all. I ask the House to join me in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. Lest we forget.

#### **COOPER REICHELT**

**Ms LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie—Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education) (13:23):** I recognise and congratulate Cooper Reichelt on his selection in the Under 16 NSW Country Rugby Union team to tour New Zealand in September. Cooper's story is one of incredible courage and of overcoming the odds through sheer determination. Cooper Reichelt was about to celebrate his ninth birthday when doctors discovered a neuroblastoma. The malignant tumour meant Cooper would undergo several surgeries followed by bouts of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in the years to follow. This treatment severely weakened his lower spine, seemingly limiting his options in life.

When he was in year 5 he decided he wanted to defy the odds and play rugby union. However, doctors were concerned he was potentially one tackle away from a wheelchair. He has been playing ever since, only taking a break during year 9. He now plays fly-half in the under 16 Port Macquarie Pirates team. A few months ago Cooper successfully tried out for his first representative team, followed a few weeks later by the country champs in Scone. From there a 40-man country squad was selected and, to Cooper's surprise, he made the cut. This was followed by the unexpected but pleasant announcement that he had been selected for the NSW Country Rugby Union team to tour New Zealand in September. I congratulate Cooper on his selection in the team.

#### **MOUNT DRUITT SWIMMING POOL**

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (13:24):** I congratulate Blacktown City Council on the successful reinstatement of the Mount Druitt Swimming Pool for the community of Mount Druitt. Since reopening the pool in December 2014, the centre has attracted more than 75,000 visitors. The pool has hosted 23 school and zone swimming carnivals as well as hosting the 2016 RSL State Youth Swimming Championships, which were attended by 1,183 participants and spectators. The 2015-16 season marked the pool's fortieth year of operation. Recently the pool received the New South Wales Parks and Leisure Australia award "for promoting inclusive and connected communities". On behalf of the Mount Druitt community, I thank the mayor, Councillor Stephen Bali, Blacktown City Council and councillors for their support of the Mount Druitt community.

#### **TRIBUTE TO JOHN JOSEPH BAYNIE**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (13:25):** Today I acknowledge a lifetime of service. John Joseph Baynie of Thornleigh began his service with St John Ambulance as a volunteer first aider in 1956 at the ripe age of 20. He assisted the late John Ward in forming the Hornsby division of St John Ambulance. Ever since he has been supporting the Hornsby community. John's service has extended over 60 years. His duties have included a regular presence at the historic Bobbin Head and the original Hornsby pool as well as covering sporting and public events, including RSL marches and services. In his time he became a first-aid lecturer and ran voluntary first-aid courses from the early 1960s. Life took him down a variety of paths but through it all John remained an active member of the St John Ambulance until 1994 when he became president of the division he helped to found.

As if that were not enough, there is also his work with the scouting movement as the resource adviser first aid for Hornsby district Scouts and the fact that he spent 13 years in the Army Reserve's artillery and medical corps. Members of the St John Ambulance have remarked that John is a unique and cherished source of advice and has provided endless support, both emotionally and financially, to the division. He has seen the St John Ambulance transform from a small, basic first-aid service with wooden kits and canvas stretchers to a

well-equipped modern health service with advanced equipment. John Baynie represents what is best about our community and our country. I thank him for his remarkable contribution.

### CONNECTING WELL EXPO

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (13:26):** On Friday 22 July I was delighted to attend the Connecting Well expo organised by the New South Wales branch of the Older Women's Network at the Bankstown Arts Centre. I congratulate the chair of the Older Women's Network, Annette Bray, Wellness Centre manager Marnie Fitzpatrick and representatives of the 19 Older Women's Network branches throughout New South Wales, including the branch at Bankstown and the Bankstown Greek Older Women's Network branch, and the many community groups and representatives, including Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre and Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre, who attended the expo on making it such a great success.

Thanks also go to Bankstown Arts Centre for helping to host the event and to Auntie Lyn Martin, who gave the Welcome to Country. The Older Women's Network in our community provides an opportunity for older women to come together and enjoy a range of activities that help to support their health and wellbeing. I particularly enjoyed the performance by the theatre group, which included an entertaining rendition of *Yes, Prime Minister*. Congratulations to all involved.

### MANNING GREAT LAKES AND MID NORTH COAST POLICE COMMANDS

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:28):** I inform the House that police officers from the Manning Great Lakes and Mid North Coast police commands have been acknowledged for the integral role they played in a high-profile arrest. The officers formed part of Strike Force Durkin, which led to the capture and arrest of Australia's most wanted man at the time, Malcolm Naden. The officers attended a ceremony at the Art Gallery of New South Wales at which the Commissioner of Police, Andrew Scipione, presented them with their honours.

Superintendent Peter Thurtell, Detective Chief Inspector Peter McKenna, Detective Sergeant John Williamson, Sergeant John Broadley and Leading Senior Constable Tim Cusack received commissioner's commendations. Fellow officers received the Commissioner's Unit Citation and Commissioner's Certificate of Merit. These included Senior Constable Kurt Wiseman, Detective Senior Constable Jarrell Wilson, Detective Senior Constable Paul Kelly, Renae Kelly, Alexandra Reid, Sharon Vandermeij, Superintendent Peter Thurtell, Chief Inspector John Sullivan and Detective Chief Inspector Peter McKenna. All these individuals are owed a debt of gratitude, and I congratulate them on their achievements.

### GOT YOUR BACK, SISTA

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (13:28):** Today I speak of the local Hunter anti-domestic violence community group Got Your Back, Sista. This new charity group, in partnership with White Ribbon, is holding an event titled "1000 people, 1 voice" at Hunter Stadium on Saturday 3 September to bring 1,000 members of the community together to say no to domestic violence. At the event they will make a series of videos and still images to be used in a social media campaign and television commercials stating that as a community we stand united and call for an end to domestic violence in our region. Any money raised at the event will go towards providing more crisis accommodation beds for women escaping domestic violence. I support this dedicated group in organising this fantastic event. I urge all Novocastrians to get along and support this worthy cause.

### HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (13:29):** I congratulate the four members of the Hawkesbury community who have qualified to represent, and are competing for, Australia at the Rio Olympic Games and the upcoming Paralympic Games. Four-time World Equestrian Games athlete and Maraylya local Stuart Tinney is competing in his third Olympic Games riding his 17-year-old grey gelding Pluto Mio. I congratulate Stuart and the Men's Eventing Team on winning the bronze medal overnight—an incredible achievement.

Former Richmond High School student and 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games victor Daniel Lewis made his Olympic debut this morning in boxing and won his first round preliminary fight—a split decision; a great decision. Alpine skier Nathan Chivers of Canoelands and swimmer Kara Leo of Grose Wold will compete in the Paralympic Games later in September. To quote former Olympic champion Jesse Owens, "We all have dreams, but in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort." I wish the very best of luck to our Hawkesbury representatives. I am very proud to be serving a community with such a high calibre of talent and commitment.



**BLAKE CARR**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:30):** I congratulate my constituent Blake Carr, who was selected to represent Australia at the Oceania Melanesian Regional Championships in Suva, Fiji, last month. Blake is a T/20 athlete with an intellectual disability. He is a well-regarded past student of Hunter Sports High School at Gateshead and even more impressively, he is a great supporter of the Butcher Boys Central Newcastle Rugby League team. Blake has been competing in athletics since 2011 through school sport, and since joining a club he has represented New South Wales twice—cross-country in 2013 and athletics earlier this year. Blake's outstanding performance at nationals gained him selection to represent Australia at the Oceania Melanesian Regional Championships. I am happy to report to the House that Blake ably represented Australia in Suva, with a second in the men's 100 metres and a third in the men's 200 metres. Well done, Blake. I look forward to catching up with you soon to hear all about your trip.

**ROTARY NSW EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMUNITY AWARDS**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (13:31):** On Saturday 23 July 2016 I was very pleased to attend the Rotary NSW Emergency Services Community Awards 2016 at the Dockside Pavilion in Darling Harbour, Sydney. I congratulate two finalists from Kiama in the NSW Ambulance category. First is David Kay, who has served our local community as a paramedic for the past 16 years and travelled to Poland to help build youth activity camps. The other deserving finalist is Kelvin Milne, who has been a station officer with the NSW Ambulance Service since 1994 and a volunteer with the State Emergency Service unit in Kiama.

Congratulations to both David and Kelvin on their much-deserved recognition at these awards. I pay a special tribute to all ambulance officers in electorates right across New South Wales. They do an absolutely outstanding job under the most difficult conditions on a daily basis. I pay tribute also to Dot Hennessey, who is the hardest-working member of Rotary I have ever come across. She puts together these awards every year. They started in the Illawarra and we have now taken them statewide. I am sure that before too long they will be national as well.

**MARINERS WALK HERITAGE TRAIL**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:32):** I was delighted to recently join community members at the opening of the Mariners Walk Heritage Trail in Salamander Bay. The trail is the result of three years of effort, led by Port Stephens Historical Society in partnership with Port Stephens Council and with the support of the Salamander Bay Soldiers Point Parks Committee, the Mambo Wetlands Parks Committee, and the Lions Club of Soldiers Point, with funding from the National Maritime Museum and the New South Wales Government.

The 3.3-kilometre Mariners Walk commemorates the important history of Port Stephens mariners and their service in civilian and naval fleets over many decades. It was fascinating to hear from Mr Ian Pfennigwerth about the Australian Government's submarine base plans for Port Stephens. It was a submarine base that could have been, but never was. I congratulate Mr Dennis Corr, president of the Port Stephens Historical Society, on his efforts and those of the society for making this wonderful idea a reality. I encourage everyone to come and take a stroll on the Mariners Walk Heritage Trail at Salamander Bay.

**BARMEDMAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON (Cootamundra) (13:33):** I am in receipt of a lovely letter from Wendy Glover, president of the Barmedman Development Association Inc., which was successful in obtaining a grant for the purchase and installation of air-conditioning units in its arts, crafts and coffee shop through the New South Wales Government's Community Building Partnership initiative. Wendy writes to advise that the air conditioners have been installed and volunteers are absolutely delighted. People with limited resources now come not only for companionship but also for warmth and to reduce electricity costs at home. Wendy thinks she will see more and more of them during the summertime. Wendy says:

Although our shop serves a pleasing number of those travelling through Barmedman as well as residents of the village and is now making a small profit each month, it additionally offers a haven for those who are infirm, lonely and/or depressed. On their behalf I would like to thank you and your staff and the NSW Government for helping us to obtain the grant and improve the level of comfort for our customers.

I thank Wendy and all members of the Barmedman Development Association for that feedback and for the wonderful work they do every day for the Barmedman community.

**BLUEBERRY PARK, WYOMING**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (13:34):** On 30 July 2016 it was my pleasure to open Blueberry Park, which is located on the corner of Blueberry Street and Lisbon Way, Wyoming. The project has been the

result of community concerns raised with me last year regarding poorly maintained vacant Housing NSW land on Lisbon Way that the community said would be better utilised as a park for the area. Wyoming Community Centre Inc. embraced the opportunity to improve the amenity of the area and, using funds available from a variety of sources, engaged a group of 15 men and women of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the project. Many of those who participated later found employment and some continue to volunteer at the community centre. I acknowledge the leadership role played by Kathy Sokk, manager of Wyoming Community Centre, and team leader for the program, Phil Medew. Plans have been developed to add further improvements to the park. I thank the community for its support. Well done, Wyoming.

#### DAVIDSON ELECTORATE OLYMPIANS

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:35):** The Olympic dream inspires many young Australians to rise to the heights of athletic attainment. Genevieve Horton and Henry Hutchison are two excellent examples from my electorate of Davidson. The youngest members of the Australian Women's Rowing and Men's Rugby teams respectively, Genevieve and Henry are exceptional young athletes competing in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games this month. Genevieve Horton won gold in the Junior Women's Pair at the 2013 World Rowing Championships and secured first place in the same year at the World Rowing Cup as part of Australia's Senior Women's Eight.

In 2016 she became the Under 23 Australian National Rowing Champion in Single Sculls and won the Women's Double Sculls with rowing partner, Sally Kehoe. At the Olympics, Genevieve and Sally are competing against the world's best in the Women's Double Sculls. In 2015 Henry Hutchison was selected for the Commonwealth Youth Games, but was fast-tracked to the senior team where he played in Olympic qualifying matches against New Zealand and Tonga. In the 2015-16 World Sevens Series he was awarded the World Rugby Sevens Rookie of the Year Award. I commend Genevieve and Henry for their great achievements and will be cheering them on as Australian representatives.

#### MARRICKVILLE RED DEVILS

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (13:36):** When one thinks about Marrickville one thinks about the Red Devils. For 70 years the club has represented the inner west on the football field and engaged adults and countless kids in health and sport. The club celebrated its seventieth year last week at an event in Marrickville. It was a packed house at the Ritz, including many life members and past players. It was the perfect way to acknowledge the vital contribution the club makes to our local community. The club has an incredible history, boasting thousands of members. It runs the popular Red Devils Football Academy and calls Mackey Park in south Marrickville home. A highlight of the night was joining with Federal member Anthony Albanese to acknowledge Ron Royston, who was awarded an OAM for his dedication and service to football and sport in the inner west. I congratulate everyone at the club on a successful 70 years and particularly congratulate the current executive, under the leadership of president Gary Schmidt and secretary Walker Tapia. Also I congratulate Georgina and Theodora on coordinating such a fantastic celebration.

#### INVERELL EDUCATION WEEK AWARDS

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (13:37):** I congratulate the recipients of the Inverell sixty-second New South Wales Education Week Awards that were awarded last week across Inverell High School, Macintyre High School, Ross Public School and Ross Hill Public School. I acknowledge at Inverell High School Mr Dal Santo, Ashleigh Campbell and Declan Drake; at Ross Hill Public School Mrs Lyell, Mrs Enersen and Ethan Kent; at Inverell Public School Meg Fuller, Lesley Beattie, Andrew Wieteci and Joe Little; and at Macintyre High School Marg Penberthy, Sarah Flick and Mr Beattie. This year's theme of Education Week was Shared Stories, Better Learning, Stronger Communities. I pay tribute and put on record my utmost support for public education in the Northern Tablelands and also the wonderful schools we have in Inverell and other communities across the region. I thank all the teachers, staff and students for making public education such an incredible system in this State.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith):** I will now leave the chair until 2.15 p.m.

*Visitors*

#### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome our guests to the gallery for question time this afternoon. I extend a warm welcome to the Tasmanian Premier, the Hon. Will Hodgman, MP. It is good to see him in the bear pit. He is a guest of the Premier, Minister for Western Sydney, and member for Manly. I also welcome Professor Audrey Blunden and a group of international law students from the University of New South Wales, guests of the Premier, Minister for Western Sydney, and member for Manly, and the member for Coogee.

*Notices***Presentation**

[During the giving of notices of motions]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Hornsby to order for the first time. I call the member for Kiama to order for the first time. The member for Kiama will come to order. I call the member for Kiama to order for the second time. Members will come to order.

*Question Time***NEPEAN HOSPITAL CARDIAC PATIENTS**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:23):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Given that the Nepean Hospital's general manager has advised that the hospital will not admit heart attack patients between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, what is the Minister's advice to local residents who suffer heart attacks during these hours?

**The SPEAKER:** Members who interject will be asked to leave the House. I will wait for the members—particularly Opposition members—to come to order.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER (North Shore—Minister for Health) (14:23):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question because it gives me an opportunity to advise that there are problems because maintenance is required at the cardiac catheterisation laboratory at Nepean Hospital, which will require it to be shut during those hours so that those repairs can be done.

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

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** Before he gets too excited I remind the member that this matter goes back to his time in government, so he should just watch it. Those on the other side of the Chamber did absolutely nothing to fix this.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Blacktown to order for the first time. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time. The House will come to order. I call the member for Mount Druitt to order for the first time.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** In the meantime, those patients are being provided with excellent care by the doctors during daylight hours.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Maroubra to order for the second time. I call the member for Londonderry to order for the first time. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the second time. I remind members that they will be asked to leave the Chamber after only 10 minutes, if they continue to interject. Some members have been called to order twice but do not know it. They should not complain when they are asked to leave the Chamber for the day.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** After hours, the patients will be in the fantastic hands of paramedics who have equipment in the ambulances that can monitor patients to determine whether they are having a heart attack. Those paramedics can initiate treatment and link patients with a cardiac catheterisation laboratory elsewhere—in this case it would likely be one of the major hospitals within the district.

**Mr John Robertson:** Which one?

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

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** That would most likely be Westmead or Blacktown hospital. If the member for Blacktown does not know that, I would be very surprised.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Blacktown to order for a third time.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** Our record in improving outcomes for cardiac patients is second to none.

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will come to order. The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure will come to order. I am waiting for the House to come to order; this is a ridiculous start to question time. I remind members that all members who have been called to order once or twice are now called to order for a third time. If any of those members interject they will be asked to leave the Chamber for the rest of the day. That includes the member for Kiama and the member for Hornsby.

### MEDICINAL CANNABIS

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (14:26):** My question is addressed to the Premier. What is the Government doing to help vulnerable members of our community who are suffering from a range of debilitating terminal illnesses?

**The SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Keira of my earlier ruling. I remind those who are correcting the member's pronunciation that I could give them a few lessons on pronunciation and grammar.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) (14:):** I thank the member for his question. He was not only an outstanding student at school but is now an outstanding member of this Parliament. He does an incredible job and I am very proud to have him as part of the team. I also acknowledge the Premier of Tasmania, who is in the gallery. It is great to have him here. He is used to the Opposition in Tasmania telling pork pies so he has come to hear this Opposition tell pork pies. As a side point in terms of tolls, I point out that on the Eastern Distributor—which was signed off by Carl Scully—tolls were at 4 per cent under the Opposition.

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the member for Kogarah and the member for The Entrance to come to order. If they wish to take points of order they should wait for the call; they should not interject.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order goes to Standing Order 129. This is an important question. Given that the question was about vulnerable people I would like to know the answer.

**The SPEAKER:** I am sure the Premier will return to the question that he has been asked.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** I say to the member for Strathfield that I look forward to the debate on tolling. As I said, it is great to have the Premier of Tasmania here. He is known around the country as the Robert Redford of Australian politics. He is also a man who is concerned about medical cannabis availability and he has been incredibly supportive at a Council of Australian Governments [COAG] level of bringing reforms forward. I am sure that Labor Opposition members are very proud of the progress the Government has made in that space. It is all about providing additional support for our most vulnerable members of society in circumstances in which traditional medicine is not working. We have looked for hope that we will be able to provide some relief from nausea, illness and pain. The Minister has done an outstanding job of bringing together a number of reforms that the Government is very proud to be delivering.

I will provide updates on progress to the House but I pause to pay tribute to Dan Haslam and his incredible crusade of turning personal tragedy into change for his nation. In many respects the Government is proud to be following his legacy. What Dan Haslam has asked the country to do, this Government is attempting to do in this State. Part of that is establishing a medical cannabis compassionate youth scheme. The Government currently is considering establishment of the scheme and whether it can be extended from terminal illness only to include the provision of options for broader compassionate access across the State, and I expect that to be finalised in forthcoming months.

I am sure all members of the House will be very interested to know of a recent very important announcement by the Minister for Health that children with severe treatment-resistant epilepsy may be assisted. In some cases, epilepsy can result in children having an epileptic fit every minute. It is difficult to comprehend how painful it would be for parents of those children to watch their children suffer in that manner. The Government not only is undertaking a clinical trial but is partnering with GW Pharmaceuticals, with which the Minister has been personally negotiating, to provide access to medicine. Right now GW Pharmaceuticals has provided additional doses for children suffering from epilepsy. The Government is very proud to be delivering that type of assistance. The trials undertaken have been the basis for GW Pharmaceuticals partnering with the Government. To begin with, 40 families will have access to the medication. The Government is working with GW Pharmaceuticals to ascertain whether the medication can be provided to additional families.

Why is that important? The evidence from the last stages of trials being conducted in the United States is that for three out of 10 children, the medication will significantly reduce the effects of epilepsy and for one out of 10 children, the effects are truly miraculous. The evidence suggests that not every epilepsy sufferer will benefit, but it is clear that some young New South Wales children will be able to receive miraculous treatment. The Government is very proud to be delivering that treatment. I note that New South Wales became the first Australian State authorised by the Commonwealth to conduct medical cannabis cultivation research, which is long overdue. The authorisation will bring the provision of local pharmaceuticals one step closer. The Government is seeking opportunities for expanded interest among industries that are able to take hold of the provision of medical cannabis. There are many such players across this State. [*Extension of time*]

Initially the establishment of medical cannabis production will be in new state-of-the-art high security facilities that are subject to all types of strict protocols, but establishment will lay the foundation for future cultivation. Certainly, a great deal of research is being undertaken by universities alongside the medical cannabis centre apart from the many trials that are being undertaken. I announce that New South Wales doctors will be able to apply to prescribe a broader range of cannabis-based medicine. Patients for whom traditional medicines have not worked and who are without other options of medical treatment raise the issue of whether there is capacity for the use of cannabis-based products to provide relief. The Government is proud to be delivering this treatment breakthrough.

But, most importantly, what is driving this Government is the desire to make a difference for those who are suffering greatly. The Government is assembling the best minds as part of clinical trials and good progress is being made across many elements of this breakthrough in treatment. The Government will continue to push and push and push. While there has been great progress at the Federal Government level across the nation—and I also acknowledge the part played by Tasmania under the leadership of Will Hodgman at the COAG level—the prospect of getting the introduction of medically-based cannabis right is based entirely on a desire to reduce suffering and make a difference for people who are in difficult circumstances. That is the motivation of this Government. This Government is proud to be delivering progress.

#### NEPEAN HOSPITAL CARDIAC PATIENTS

**Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:34):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. What is her response to comments made by the head of the medical staff council, Dr Nguyen, that the Nepean Hospital's catheterisation laboratory is too dangerous to use?

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER (North Shore—Minister for Health) (14:34):** That is why the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District has allocated the money to upgrade it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Londonderry that the question and answer are over.

#### PROHIBITED DRUGS

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (14:34):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. How is the New South Wales Government addressing the scourge of ice and other serious illegal substances?

**Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing) (14:35:0):** I thank the member for Northern Tablelands for his question on a very important issue that is challenging us in New South Wales. As the Premier of Tasmania would acknowledge, it is also a problem in his State. In fact, the issue is challenging all jurisdictions in Australia. However, here in New South Wales the Liberals-Nationals Government believes that ice and other prohibited drugs are best addressed through the adoption of both an effective harm minimisation approach and effective policing of drug producers, smugglers and peddlers of insidious drugs. The Government believes that the two approaches are not mutually exclusive. The Government believes that both should be examined, not in isolation, but by the manner in which our approaches will complement the work and money this Government invests.

Only a holistic approach to addressing this very important issue will result in its impact on the community being minimised. Minister Goward is doing an outstanding job through her portfolio of dealing with referral and treatment providers across the State. In the face of this complex and significant challenge, Minister Goward is doing an outstanding job. Through her role and portfolio, she is absolutely best placed to address specific harm minimisation measures that the Government believes will contribute to tackling the problem. For my part, as the Minister for Justice and Police I know that we must support her efforts by continuing to effectively police and disrupt the drug supply network across our communities.

The NSW Police Force does a fantastic job in that regard, which is acknowledged by members on both sides of this House, and is making considerable inroads into disrupting the drugs trade by undertaking historical levels of drug busts and police operations. Only a few weeks ago 20 people were placed into custody for supplying ice across the communities of Dubbo and Wellington. The NSW Police Force is doing an outstanding job at a local level. Illegal drugs often finance other criminal activity and globally are linked to financing terrorism, so a prudent Government should always maintain a strong focus on drugs trade disruption. The New South Wales Government believes that adoption of the dual approach will lead to the best outcomes for the community.

However, what the Government does not believe in—and let me make this abundantly clear now if my media comments have not conveyed the intention—is that allowing pregnant women and children into the injecting centre is the best way to deter and refer that activity; nor does this Government believe that establishing an ice smoking room is appropriate. Apart from sending the wrong message to children in the community about

acceptance of those practices, there are other concerns. An ice smoking room would make it difficult to ensure the safety of the community and our staff who are performing front-line services in such a centre. As many members of the community and members on the Government side of this House know, ice turns people into uncontrollable fighting machines and medical staff and police officers into punching bags.

This Government will never support any measures that will put our front-line staff at risk. It is simply absurd for people to try to normalise this illegal drug. People who do not care about the risks posed to or consequences for those trying to capture people affected by illegal drug use advocate normalisation. I make it absolutely clear to advocates in favour of normalising illegal drug use that the Government will never support it. When this report was issued recently it was explored on the ABC's 7.30 program. Many ice addicts said that they would not use such a facility, which shows that these advocates are trying to create facilities that will not be used by ice addicts. One of the ice addicts who was interviewed said:

I would—if anything, I'd be hidden away smoking it in my own little police, you know what I mean?, away from everybody.

In relation to the injecting centre this question must be asked: Why are people pushing to extend the coverage of the injecting room to pregnant women and children? It is a very interesting question. I suspect part of the answer would lie in the design of the injecting room legislation. A review of the injecting centre's economic viability is triggered by the average daily visits, with the numbers falling below 75 per cent of the level outlined in the regulation concerning the centre's operation—that is, it is below 156 average daily visits for a consecutive three-month period. [*Extension of time*]

I understand an assessment was triggered in 2014, when levels dropped below 75 percent in May, June and July. We should be pushing for effective treatment and disruption of criminal activity rather than touting for business to meet benchmarks and making pregnant women and children the target of increasing attendance. That is outrageous. The participation in supervised drug-taking is not the focus of this Government. This Government believes in both strong harm minimisation and effective policing.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind members of my earlier ruling.

**Mr TROY GRANT:** We will ensure that our policy on these matters is open, transparent and reflective of the community's views. I am pretty confident that the community's views support those of this Government. Pregnant women and children have no place in a heroin injecting room.

#### NEPEAN HOSPITAL CARDIAC PATIENTS

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (14:41):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Will the Minister guarantee the safety of Nepean Hospital heart attack patients, given that urgent stent procedures should be completed within one hour of presentation, but ambulances are being diverted to other hospitals because Nepean Hospital is crumbling?

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER (North Shore—Minister for Health) (14:42):** I find this question absolutely extraordinary after the previous Government did absolutely nothing during 16 years in office.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will cease interjecting. The member for Mount Druitt asked the question, but he does not want to listen to the answer. The Leader of the Opposition will listen in silence.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** This is an extraordinary question, as those opposite were in government for 16 years and allowed the hospital system across the board to run down and crumble. This Government is investing over two terms \$10 billion to upgrade and rebuild our hospital system, including at Nepean Hospital.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Mount Druitt that this is not an opportunity to debate the matter.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** This Government invested \$40 million in the last term to update hospitals. The previous Labor Government failed to complete the work it started. It left the job half finished, and this Government has allocated \$4 million to proceed with the planning for the next stage. Watch this space: This Government will come up with the money for the next stage in a proper, planned way, not some "pick a figure out of an envelope and run with it" when you know you do not have the money.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members are reminded of my previous rulings on interjections.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** The truth of the matter is that this hospital is providing excellent care to patients. Patients are delivered in a timely fashion to other hospitals for treatment, and improvements in cardiac outcomes have been dramatic over recent years. In terms of Mount Druitt, the Mount Druitt-Blacktown upgrade has been one of the hallmarks of this Government's upgrades over the past two years with more than \$700 million for upgrades.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is unlike the member of Mount Druitt to continue to interject, so I am reluctant to remove him from the Chamber. I call on the member for Mount Druitt to cease interjecting.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** The Mac Wyllie ward has been opened. This is a ward honouring a doctor who had worked in that place for many years. Now the local community is able to concentrate on getting the care it needs. This consolidation of care happened after a review by the former Labor Government in 2010 recommended that something be done. It never happened; under this Government, it has happened. Patients in this area now have better outcomes than ever.

#### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (14:44):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. How is the Government supporting the vulnerable affected by drugs in New South Wales?

**Ms PRU GOWARD (Goulburn—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (14:45):** I thank the member for Ku-ring-gai for his question and his support for the work the New South Wales Government is doing to assist vulnerable drug users. This Government will continue to be the champions of social policy that makes people's lives better. For more than five years this Government has championed social policy reform through social housing, child protection, mental health, and domestic and family violence. These are all crucially interlinked with people affected by drugs. It is all part of helping people to get their lives back.

That is why the Government's \$75 million drug package will support more people into the treatment they need. It will help more families to stay together. It will help pregnant women get off drugs, save their children and ensure they are back on track. The package will help young people through detox and treatment. It will help vulnerable young people achieve their hopes and dreams. And it will help families support their loved ones into treatment. I recently met with a mum in rehab—I will call her Elizabeth. She is 36. She is the mother of four. She has been using drugs since she was a teenager. She was addicted to ice. She was dealing with her own traumas. She was pregnant, homeless and at risk of losing her children permanently. With expert drug treatment she has turned her life around. She is now ready to parent confidently and to manage her own life. I was touched by Elizabeth's words to me in a letter after we had met:

Thanks to organisations like Jarrah House my future is now looking very exciting ...

Elizabeth should be our inspiration. She shows that people can overcome the scourge of drugs, rebuild their lives and save their families. Getting drug and alcohol policy right is critical. Complex drug and alcohol problems drive demand in our hospitals and put additional pressure on our wonderful front-line clinicians working so hard to help those who are unwell. Just over one-third of people presenting to New South Wales hospitals in need of care have a drug and alcohol problem. That is why this Government has acted. This Government knows that strong communities and supported families are our best defence against drugs.

Over the past 18 months the Deputy Premier and I have been listening to the drug and alcohol sector. I have heard from experts on the front line, wonderful clinicians in our hospitals and in non-government drug services, and terrific police and justice officials. I have met families who have lost loved ones and parents who are determined to help their children. I have met people struggling to recover from addiction. The package that we have would not have been possible without the drug and alcohol sector; and they are now its champions. Larry Pierce, Chief Executive Officer of the Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies [NADA] said:

This new and well thought through package ... is the most significant enhancement of resources ... in NSW for over 15 years.

Matt Noffs said:

This Government's support for the drug treatment sector is truly historic.

Tracy Howe, Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Council of Social Service [NCOSS] said:

... the increase in residential rehabilitation for women and parents with dependent children is ... a great initiative.

Another positive statement was:

The AOD Women's Network applaud the positive injection of funds to help sustainability, innovation and evidence based services.

I thank Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile for his advocacy and ongoing commitment to vulnerable families. This Government is building a system that empowers non-government services to intervene earlier and work with our young people in new and innovative ways; we need to. This Government is building a system that supports people in crisis, including the families of those affected by a loved one's drug abuse; we need to. This Government

wants to see more mothers like Elizabeth, more fathers and more young people off drugs, in stable housing, employed and being positive role models for their children. Reform in social policy is tough, and realigning services and government agencies is even tougher, but that is what this Government is doing. I do not support the push by some of those opposite to decriminalise drugs. I do not support the push for pill testing, ice smoking rooms or for pregnant women to inject drugs. [*Extension of time*]

I certainly do not support the push to encourage children to access the injecting room. This Government believes in the power of the person, the power of the individual. Government is an enabler of that power. We have to change and that is why the drug package focuses on getting more people, and more young people, into treatment and detox, and supporting families to help people beat their drug addiction. We do not want to manage drug policy, we want to get people off drugs so that they have better lives. It is this Government's duty to care and protect, and to deliver the services that vulnerable people need. That is exactly what this Government is doing.

### **COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE REFORM**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (14:51):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation. Will the Minister explain to the House what action the Government is taking to ensure the State's compulsory third party scheme is fair and sustainable?

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (14:51):** I thank the member for Davidson, who is also the Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Major Events, for his quick, off the mark, Olympic-style jump. He is a parliamentary gold medallist.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Rockdale will stop being petulant.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** The member is keen on reform. Earlier this year the Government undertook to review and reform the compulsory third party green slip scheme in New South Wales. It is a significant issue. There are more than five million green slip policy holders, and 17,000 claims are lodged every year. That does not include approximately 7,000 at-fault drivers who are not entitled to compensation. The total cost of the scheme exceeds \$2.1 billion annually. The current scheme is inefficient, with only 45¢ in every green slip dollar going to injured road users. It takes up to five years for seriously injured motorists to receive benefits, with even minor incidents taking an average of 18 months to resolve. There is too much opportunity for fraud and exaggeration.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** What about the soaring cost of insurance premiums and insurer profits?

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

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** It is estimated that \$75 of every premium is attributable to fraud and exaggeration. We have seen a doubling of low severity claims between 2008 and 2015 with the average claim cost of \$100,000. Forty per cent of all claims are for minor whiplash and soft tissue injuries, and that figure is rising. This is despite the fact that the reported road casualties requiring presentation to hospital or reported by the police have declined by 12 per cent from 2008 to 2013. Green slip prices are rising. Most policy holders have seen a 70 per cent increase in premiums since 2008. Sydney motorists are now paying on average \$637 a year for a green slip, which is one of the highest costs in Australia.

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

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** Without reform premiums are expected to rise a further 10 to 20 per cent by this time next year. These statistics hit motorists on low incomes the hardest. According to the NSW Council of Social Services [NCOSS], around 15 per cent of people living in New South Wales live on low incomes. That is less than \$400 per week for a single person or around \$850 for a couple with two children. Applying the statistics from NCOSS to the compulsory third party [CTP] scheme suggests that as many as 500,000 people live on low incomes in New South Wales and are green slip purchasers. Those are damning statistics and demonstrate that our CTP scheme is broken and not fair. The Government is determined to reform the scheme to make it fairer and more sustainable. The NSW Council of Social Services endorses the need for reform, and states:

It is the view of NCoSS that in recent years the scheme has become too unaffordable for low income people. As such, reform is well over due.

In March this year I released an options paper and consulted extensively with the legal fraternity and insurance sector in relation to scheme design. In June this year the Government announced the adoption of a hybrid model that would see the defined benefits introduced for minor injuries with lump sum compensation retained for the most seriously injured. This ensures that in relation to minor injuries the new scheme will focus on rehabilitation rather than litigation whilst retaining common law protection for those with major injuries. I have established an expert reference panel chaired by former Government Minister John Della Bosca and the Deputy Chair of the



State Insurance Regulatory Authority, Nancy Milne, OAM, who will make recommendations on the detail of the enabling legislation that will be introduced into Parliament later this year.

The reforms to be introduced in the months ahead will represent the largest structural reforms to compulsory third party insurance in more than 16 years. It is simply not fair that only 45¢ in every dollar ends up in the hands of injured road users. It is simply not fair that such a large proportion of green slip premiums go to those with minor injuries and not the most seriously injured. It is not fair that injured people wait three, five and in the most extreme cases 10 years to receive benefits. [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister has the call. If members continue to interject I will stop the clock to ensure the Minister has his extra two minutes.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** It is not fair that the State's five million green slip policy holders are paying amongst the highest premiums in the country.

[*Interruption*]

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** I acknowledge the interjection of the shadow Minister. In relation to scheme design the member asks about the soaring cost of insurance premiums and insurer profits. The reality is that the insurance profits are increasing because of the volatility of the scheme design. They are increasing because of the nature of the claims that are being made. At the moment 40 per cent of claims in New South Wales are whiplash or soft tissue injury related. That 40 per cent is increasing at a rapid rate.

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

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** In the United Kingdom up to 80 per cent of claims were soft tissue related. It was considered the whiplash capital of Europe. As a result it had to completely redesign its scheme. We do not want to get to that position. That is why we are redesigning the scheme to make it fairer and stabilising the scheme to stabilise insurer profits and make it fairer. In that way there will be benefits for motorists in New South Wales and the injured road users, particularly those with significant injuries. There will be a focus on rehabilitation for minor injuries, which will eradicate fraud from the system.

#### AIR QUALITY REGULATION

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (14:59):** My question is directed to the Minister for the Environment. As the actions of the Federal Government made the New South Wales low sulphur fuel regulation inoperative, what is this Government doing to urgently restore stage one and stage two of this important air quality regulation?

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning) (15:00):** I thank the member for Balmain for his question and for his ongoing advocacy on the issue of air quality in the Balmain electorate. Everyone who is born, lives, plays, learns, works, travels, makes their home, does business and grows old in New South Wales deserves clean air. New South Wales communities generally enjoy good air quality but some urban and regional communities are exposed at times to elevated pollution levels. Population growth raises the risk of more people being exposed to existing pollution levels and rising pollution as businesses, transport and household activities increase.

Science is revealing more about the way emission sources pollute the air we breathe and predicts that climate change will result in more episodes of poor air quality. There is growing evidence of the serious health effects and costs of air pollution. While we generally have good air quality in New South Wales we cannot rest on our laurels and there is more to do. That is why, for example, New South Wales led the process for tougher national standards for fine particle and coarse particle pollution. As a result, Australian jurisdictions have adopted what appear to be the toughest fine particle pollution standards anywhere in the world and coarse particle standards that are tougher than those of most other developed economies, including the European Union, Canada and most of the United States of America.

The Government has worked with all stakeholders, including the local community, the cruise liner industry, fuel suppliers and relevant port and government agencies to reduce environmental impacts on cruise ships. Cruise ship visits to Sydney Harbour constitute more than 90 per cent of all cruise ship visits to New South Wales ports. In September last year the New South Wales Government introduced regulatory changes to require the use of low sulphur fuel—that is, 0.1 per cent or less—by cruise ships in Sydney Harbour in two stages. Stage one required the use of low sulphur fuel by cruise ships while berthed in Sydney Harbour from 1 October last year, and that took effect. Stage two required the use of low sulphur fuel by cruise ships while otherwise in Sydney Harbour, and that was due to take effect from 1 July this year. These requirements fulfilled a New South Wales Government 2015 election commitment and addressed strong community concerns raised about emissions from cruise ships and in particular by residents living near the White Bay Cruise Terminal.

In the course of developing that regulation, the Environment Protection Agency [EPA] consulted widely, including with Commonwealth departments and agencies. In May 2016 the Commonwealth Government advised the EPA that amendments were made to the Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983, effective from January this year. It is clear that these amendments to the Commonwealth Act prevail over the New South Wales regulation and have had the effect of rendering the New South Wales low sulphur requirements inoperative.

However, from extrinsic materials for the Commonwealth amendments it appears that this effect on New South Wales low sulphur requirements was unintended. On 21 July I wrote to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy, having discussed it with the previous Federal Minister for the Environment shortly before the election, asking the Commonwealth Government to urgently amend the Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act to allow for the operation of New South Wales low sulphur fuel laws. I await that response.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Does the member for Rockdale have a point of order? The member may leave the room if he wishes. The Minister for the Environment has the call.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** In the interim the Government procured the agreement of both main cruise lines whose ships regularly visit Sydney Harbour, namely, Carnival and Royal Caribbean—to comply voluntarily with New South Wales low sulphur fuel requirements whilst at berth. This covers the significant majority of cruise ship sulphur dioxide emissions in Sydney Harbour. The Government plans to extend the operation of its low sulphur requirements to cruise ships in regional ports consistent with its election commitment, and it plans to do so following resolution of the current legal issue. A review of emissions from other shipping types has also been underway. [*Extension of time*]

A technical assessment of the feasibility, costs and emission impacts of adopting emission reduction measures for ships at major ports in the New South Wales greater metropolitan area was completed by an international shipping consultancy expert in 2015. A stakeholder workshop was held to discuss the report findings and to seek feedback from industry and community representatives. Further recommendations were made to Government based on this review. We are also investigating the potential use of alternative technologies that reduce air pollution impacts. This Government takes seriously the issue of air quality and it will continue to strive for improved air quality across New South Wales.

### SOCIAL HOUSING WAITING LISTS

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (15:05):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing. How is the New South Wales Government working with the private sector to ensure that more families on the social housing waiting list have a permanent place to live?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing) (15:06):** I thank the member for Parramatta for his question and for the work he is doing in his local electorate. I had the great pleasure of being with him at the weekend to take part in a bikers ride from Penrith to Parramatta.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I thank the Brotherhood Christian Motorcycle Club, Bikers Australia and all the other bikers who came to support homelessness, in particular, in the Parramatta area. The member for Parramatta and I attended a gathering of all government agencies and non-government organisations [NGOs] in Parramatta. It was amazing to see all the groups that supported people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing everything from haircuts to financial advice. I also thank the legal aid officers who were there. If one's legal aspects are wrong that can result in homelessness. People provided food and medical advice and representatives from the University of Western Sydney attended. I thank them all for an amazing job. The message to the rest of the community is that there is much that we can do.

When the Liberal-Nationals Coalition came to office it was left a long housing waiting list by the Labor Government. It is a challenge to try to support all those who now need housing. We looked at the options and found that the Labor Government was challenged when dealing with maintenance issues. In its last seven or eight years in office it was selling approximately 800 to 900 public housing estate homes each year, making the housing waiting list even more difficult to deal with. We approached the problem from a tangential point of view and said, "How can we do this? How can we obtain more social housing to try to address the public housing waiting list?"

We identified—and it is working really well—that taxpayers own major assets across New South Wales, some of which are to be found in Riverwood, Telopea and Macquarie Park. We have tried to leverage off taxpayer-owned assets by working with the private sector to ensure that we can build a lot more social housing.

Just as an example, at the moment there are about 226 social housing dwellings in Ivanhoe at Macquarie Park. Under the proposals that are going through we will double the amount of social housing, add in affordable housing and have private housing.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Bankstown to order for the first time.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Sometimes the member for Bankstown believes she is suffering relevancy deprivation. It is a worry that some of her senior colleagues do not even know who she is. Perhaps she had better listen to some quotes that I have from people who are supporting the Government's proposals.

**Ms Tanya Mihailuk:** Where is the invitation?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I did invite the member for Bankstown. I have invited her to most of the things this Government has done. Sometimes she has come and I thank her for that. For the recent announcement at Riverwood I chose not to invite her but I did invite former Labor Premier Morris Iemma. He came along and was very supportive of what we are doing. At the end of the day it is all about bipartisanship and about trying to get much more housing.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** This Leader of the Opposition is the most irrelevant drip that we have had in a long while. He should simply keep his mouth shut.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order so that I can hear the point of order.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 73. The Minister's statement is clearly offensive and should be withdrawn.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Maitland that this is question time. If she had heard some of the interjections that were made last week she would not have bothered taking a point of order. It is lucky I did not draw attention to some of them. There is no point of order. The Minister has the call.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** The member for Parramatta raised the issue. I am indicating that there should be a bipartisan approach to this issue, such as the approach of former Premier Iemma, who has the commitment and understanding to achieve a better outcome for homeless people and those who want to get off the public housing waiting list.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will be out for the rest of the day if they continue to interject. It is not too late to remove members.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Point of order—

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Is the member for Maitland taking a point of order again? She is interrupting me while I am saying nice things about Morris Iemma.

**The SPEAKER:** I have not been able to hear what the Minister has been saying because of the level of interjection. What is the member's point of order?

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 74. Other Ministers have been calm—not you, Jillian—but this Minister is being quarrelsome.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! What is the point of order?

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 74, which is what I said. Does the Speaker not know that one?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maitland will resume her seat. She is being obstructive.

*[Extension of time]*

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** The model at Riverwood is a good one. At the moment we are working with the community and with the Department of Planning and Environment, and we are looking at a State significant precinct. We have about 30.5 hectares of land which will enable us to provide hundreds more social housing dwellings. We have an opportunity to make an impact on that public housing waiting list. It must be remembered that Sydney will have of the order of—I think from my planning days—1.2 to 1.6 million more people in the next 20 to 25 years. Some of those people will obviously need to go onto the public housing waiting list, so it is important to make these inroads. PAYCE Consolidated Limited general manager Dominic Sullivan, who is working with us in Riverwood, has had strong support for the proposal to go ahead—to leverage off public assets

to provide much more public and social housing, and affordable housing, at that site. St George Community Housing is working with the Government. Its chief executive, Scott Langford, said:

We've seen with the first stage of the development what a successful public-private partnership can achieve and what community housing providers can bring to the table in the development space.

**Ms Tanya Mihailuk:** The first stage was under Labor.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** God, but the member for Bankstown is noisy. She should do something substantive rather than making a noise. Telopea is a great opportunity. The member for Parramatta has been in that one up to his eyeballs. He came to see me shortly after I became Minister and said, "Minister, we can do so much more in Telopea." As a result we are doing so much more in Telopea. Well done to the member for Parramatta. We will do a lot more across this State. We will use those public-private partnerships to build much more social housing. In the process we will engage with the community but we will be doing everything we can to reduce the public housing waiting list.

### HOSPITAL CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (15:14):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. How can the community have confidence in the investigation into the chemotherapy mistreatments at St George and Sutherland hospitals, given that the investigation is being undertaken by its own local health district?

**Mr Gareth Ward:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member is entitled to raise a point of order.

**Mr Gareth Ward:** That question clearly contains an imputation in relation to the investigation. It is a breach of section 128.

**The SPEAKER:** In my view it does not contain an imputation. There is no point of order. The Minister has the call.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER (North Shore—Minister for Health) (15:15):** I welcome the question, which is erroneous. It is not an investigation about chemotherapy—it is about haematology. It is not being conducted internally—it is an investigation being led by a clinician from Westmead who is not from the local district.

### *Documents*

### UNPROCLAIMED LEGISLATION

**The SPEAKER:** Pursuant to Standing Order 117, I table a list detailing all legislation unproclaimed 90 calendar days after assent as at 10 August 2016.

### *Petitions*

### PETITIONS RECEIVED

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

#### **Powerhouse Museum Ultimo**

Petition requesting the retention of the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and the expansion of museum services to other parts of New South Wales, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

#### **Safe Schools Coalition**

Petition requesting that the Government prevent the use of the Safe Schools Coalition program in government schools and support for holistic anti-bullying approaches, received from **Mr Thomas George**.

#### **Route 389 Bus Services**

Petition requesting more reliable 389 bus services, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

#### **Social Housing**

Petition requesting that the Sirius building be retained and its social housing function be continued, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

#### **Pet Shops**

Petition opposing the sale of animals in pet shops, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

*Business of the House***RIVERSTONE POLICE STATION****Reordering**

**Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (15:17):** I move:

That General Business Notice of Motion (General Notice) No. 732 [Riverstone Police Station] have precedence on Thursday 11 August 2016.

**The SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion of the member for Riverstone have precedence on Thursday 11 August 2016.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....49  
Noes .....33  
Majority..... 16

**AYES**

Anderson, Mr K  
Baird, Mr M  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Dominello, Mr V  
Fraser, Mr A  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Hodgkinson, Ms K  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Roberts, Mr A  
Skinner, Ms J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Ms L

Aplin, Mr G  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Brookes, Mr G  
Coure, Mr M  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Ms M  
Piccoli, Mr A  
Rowell, Mr J  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G

Ayres, Mr S  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Conolly, Mr K  
Crouch, Mr A  
Evans, Mr L  
Goward, Ms P  
Henskens, Mr A  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Provest, Mr G  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

**NOES**

Aitchison, Ms J  
Catley, Ms Y  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lalich, Mr N (teller)  
McKay, Ms J  
Minns, Mr C  
Piper, Mr G  
Washington, Ms K

Atalla, Mr E  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Dib, Mr J  
Foley, Mr L  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D  
Park, Mr R  
Robertson, Mr J  
Watson, Ms A

Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McDermott, Dr H  
Mihailuk, Ms T  
Parker, Mr J  
Warren, Mr G (teller)  
Zangari, Mr G

**PAIRS**

Davies, Ms T  
Grant, Mr T  
Hancock, Ms S

Barr, Mr C  
Hay, Ms N  
Smith, Ms K

**Motion agreed to.**

*Motions Accorded Priority***NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE WELLBEING****Consideration**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:25):** The following motion should be accorded priority:

That this House:

- (1) Notes the Government is committed to supporting former police officers and their families.
- (2) Welcomes the Government's investment in a joint initiative with NSW Police Legacy to provide greater support to injured officers and their loved ones.
- (3) Notes the contribution former officers have made while serving the community, with many carrying physical and mental scars from their policing careers.
- (4) Notes that the Government is delivering specialised programs and initiatives to support police officers as they begin another stage in their lives through Backup for Life.

Rarely do we get an opportunity to make a statement like I am making today. Ninety-three members in this Chamber can say to their communities, "We support your police." Ninety-three members in this Chamber can say to police officers, "We support you and we have got your back." Today the people of New South Wales have the opportunity of hearing their leaders say, "We support the police and we want you to support the police." Police officers are commonly the first people to attend crisis situations. We expect them to be the pillar of strength in extreme situations when those around them are experiencing their blackest moments.

Police see the worst of humanity; police witness unspeakable acts by humans on other humans. Every day they go to work not knowing what they will confront. However, they know that if there is danger they have to put themselves in front of that danger and if there is a crisis they have to meet it; they cannot walk away. They have a duty to put themselves in harm's way to protect us and our communities. We cannot underestimate how significant a burden it is and how the wellbeing of officers can be adversely affected. The choice to enter the police force is a selfless one. The job requires people to risk their lives for all of us.

Last week the Deputy Premier spoke in this Chamber about launching a new initiative of joining with NSW Police Legacy to support those who have dedicated their lives to the service of our community. The New South Wales Government has committed \$17 million over a period of four years to support police wellbeing. Today, we should support this motion as we have to send a message to current and former police that we have got their backs. We have to send a message to the community that we are supporting the police for doing a fantastic job in our communities.

**SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM****Consideration**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (15:29):** I am sure that this House could resolve to debate both motions—mine and the motion of the member for Myall Lakes. Yesterday there was lots of fanfare and a special mention in Parliament about the opening of a new school. It is great to see any new school opened and I would never argue against a new school being opened, but let us be realistic. Rather than trumpet this as a great opening, let us remember that this school is just the tip of the iceberg of what is required.

The Government boasts about the budget for school capital works but the Minister knows as well as everyone else in New South Wales that it is nowhere near enough. The Department of Education refers in its own documents to a \$10.8 billion shortfall in funding for school places that we need to deliver within 15 years. By 2031, conservative estimates are that 225,000 places will be required—a shortfall of 165,000 places, many of which are in the electorate of the member for Drummoyne, whom I can hear interjecting.

Maybe an increase in the budget looks good on paper but when one takes a closer look one sees that it does not even scratch the surface of the problem. Every measure that is available to us highlights that, under the Baird Government, it will take 45 years to deliver the new schools that are required within the next 15 years. I will put that in another way. The school places that we will need by 2031 will not be delivered until 2061. That means that we are behind by a whole generation, not just a few years. Everyone in this Chamber knows that any business model that runs on a system that is 30 years behind schedule is a failed, miserable model. This should not be about politics. It is about common sense. It is not a want of society to have schools; it is a desperate need.

Let us look at what lies behind the gloss, the flashy brochures and the promises: there is a lack of foresight and the inability to put people before the interests of business. In this year's budget, the Government announced a school at Wentworth Point for the fifth budget in a row. Members can see that they have milked that announcement

for all it is worth. But let us not stop there. Green Square will become the most densely populated suburb in Australia, with 62,000 new residents. Has there been any news of a new school there? No. Has there been any mention of schools in the Bankstown-to-Sydenham corridor, which is expecting 60,000 new homes? Absolutely not. My colleague the member for Londonderry was promised a school at Jordan Springs for her community. There was a glossy brochure with a promise of a school but that community got zip for two budgets in a row. The facts speak for themselves. We require 7,500 new classrooms but there is a \$10 billion shortfall. The Government is 30 years behind schedule. So that is a fail. [*Time expired*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion of the member for Myall Lakes be accorded priority.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....49  
Noes .....31  
Majority.....18

**AYES**

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Brookes, Mr G  
Coure, Mr M  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Hodgkinson, Ms K  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Roberts, Mr A  
Skinner, Ms J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Ms L

Aplin, Mr G  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Conolly, Mr K  
Crouch, Mr A  
Evans, Mr L  
Goward, Ms P  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Ms M  
Piccoli, Mr A  
Rowell, Mr J  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G

Ayres, Mr S  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Dominello, Mr V  
Fraser, Mr A  
Grant, Mr T  
Henskens, Mr A  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Provest, Mr G  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

**NOES**

Aitchison, Ms J  
Catley, Ms Y  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D  
Park, Mr R  
Warren, Mr G (teller)  
Zangari, Mr G

Atalla, Mr E  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Dib, Mr J  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McDermott, Dr H  
Mihailuk, Ms T  
Piper, Mr G  
Washington, Ms K

Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lalich, Mr N (teller)  
McKay, Ms J  
Minns, Mr C  
Robertson, Mr J  
Watson, Ms A

**PAIRS**

Baird, Mr M  
Davies, Ms T  
Hancock, Ms S

Barr, Mr C  
Hay, Ms N  
Smith, Ms K

**Motion agreed to.**

**NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE WELLBEING****Priority**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:37):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes that the Government is committed to supporting former police officers and their families.
- (2) Welcomes the Government's investment in a joint initiative with NSW Police Legacy to provide greater support to injured officers and their loved ones.
- (3) Notes the contribution former officers have made while serving the community, with many carrying physical and mental scars from their policing careers; and
- (4) Notes that the New South Wales Government is delivering specialised programs and initiatives to support police officers as they begin another stage in their lives through Backup for Life.

Earlier I expressed disappointment that this motion does not have bipartisan support and that Labor Opposition members voted against giving priority to this motion. Of all motions, I would have thought that this motion would enjoy the support of all members of this House. The motion provides an opportunity for 93 members of this House to say to police officers, "We support you." It provides an opportunity to show leadership to all communities from Tibbooburra in the north of the State to Moulamein in the south of the State and to show that members of this House support our police officers and think our communities should support the police. But Labor Opposition members gave up the opportunity to support the police by not supporting this motion.

Police officers often are the first at the scene of a crisis. It is police officers who are expected to show strength in crises and the worst experiences that people face. When other people are falling down and breaking down around them, police officers are the ones who have to show strength. Labor Opposition members should have supported this motion being accorded priority. They had the opportunity to do so and they offered no support for our police officers. It was absolutely disgraceful that they did not support the motion but instead wanted to play politics. The Labor Opposition wanted priority to debate a political motion relating to education whereas the Liberal-Nationals Government already had a motion on the books to support the State's police.

People cannot estimate the burden carried by police officers. I speak from experience when I say that police officers see the worst of humanity and unspeakable acts. When I was a police officer I saw three-year-old children with gonorrhoea who were the catalyst for a man being charged with sexually assaulting four of his step-daughters ranging in ages from under the age of 12 to six. That man came to notice because his three-year-old son was bleeding from his anus. I have attended the scenes of hangings, suicides and murders among other things and I know that police officers, past and present, carry those experiences with them for life.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Londonderry that she already is on three calls to order.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD:** Police officers and former police officers have both physical and psychological scars and they carry that burden their whole lives. Irrespective of whether they are currently serving in the Police Force or have left the job, they carry that burden continuously. That is why last week the Deputy Premier announced a fantastic initiative to join with NSW Police Legacy to launch a program of assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to serving the community. The New South Wales Government has committed \$17 million over four years to support police officers' wellbeing. The Government announced that \$2 million of that funding will be used to create the BACKUP for Life program for former New South Wales police officers and their families.

On behalf of the Government and the people of New South Wales I express my admiration, respect and endless gratitude to those who serve and who have served our community as police officers. NSW Police Legacy has worked tirelessly to establish the program and without its support, the service would not be possible. The support system will offer counselling services that will be delivered by qualified and informed professionals. Mentoring programs and workshops will allow current and former police officers to ask questions and ascertain whether the program will work for them. Exhibitions will be delivered on key areas such as employment, further education, physical fitness and wellbeing. As I stated earlier, police officers do a wonderful job for our communities. Each day they go out into our communities to protect people despite the potential of being harmed. They put themselves in harm's way for the protection of others. I commend police officers and the Government on this initiative.

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:43):** I move:

That the motion be amended by leaving out "Government" in paragraph (1) with a view to inserting instead "Parliament".



Far be it from Labor Opposition members to be political in a matter of this nature. Last week the Deputy Premier and the New South Wales Labor Opposition stood shoulder to shoulder regarding post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD]. The member for Myall Lakes has attempted to make this debate political, so I draw to the attention of the House his silence when in 2012 the police death and disability scheme was wound back by the current New South Wales Government. When that happened, the member for Myall Lakes remained silent. Enough said in relation to his criticism of the Labor Opposition. I now return to the leave of the motion.

We know that PTSD does not discriminate and we know about its impact on police officers and their families. We also know that police officers deserve support. Police officers must not be ostracised for coming forward and seeking help. We know the impact that PTSD has on families and that it can lead to family breakdowns, family domestic violence and homelessness for former police officers. We also know that PTSD sufferers experience nightmares, anxiety, stress, depression and exhibit risky behaviours as well as feelings of helplessness. They also have suicidal thoughts.

The member for Myall Lakes failed to mention that police men and police women who suffer from PTSD experience extra stress when insurance companies treat them as though they have committed a crime and use surveillance techniques against those officers. That adds to their stress, anxiety and depression. The toll that PTSD takes is immeasurable. I am pleased that BACKUP for Life has become available and will be able to provide additional support services to those who need them. I want it to be widely known that the Labor Opposition supports police officers, as does the Government, but the Labor Opposition will not be drawn into a political debate on this issue.

I place on the record in *Hansard* that on 6 July 2016 I wrote to the Minister of Health, Jillian Skinner, regarding the Healing Your Life: Moving Beyond Trauma retreat program offered by the Quest for Life Foundation in Bundanoon. The program has shown positive results over the past 15 years. Their K10 results from 2015 indicate that Quest's clients experienced a 26 per cent improvement in quantified wellbeing over the four weeks following the retreat. When I spoke with Quest I was informed that no other service provider can achieve results that are anywhere near close to those results. The nearest provider could achieve only a 6 per cent improvement. I pointed out in my letter to the Minister for Health that Quest presently conducts 27 five-day retreats per annum and has plans to increase that to 42 five-day retreats by the end of 2018. Unfortunately, its funding has been shifted and Quest can conduct one-day workshops only.

Quest told me that it is grateful for committed funding and has indicated that the quality and outcomes of its retreats certainly would far outweigh the benefits of diluting the program to a single-day workshop, which is intended to be delivered to a large group of people. I hope the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, responds to my letter very quickly regarding Quest and its desire to allocate funding to its Healing Your Life: Moving Beyond Trauma retreat program. There is no doubt that the Labor Opposition supports the motion per se. However, I am disappointed that the member for Myall Lakes politicised the issue when he knew that the Opposition was opposed only to the matter being accorded priority, and that was all.

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:49):** It is an honour and privilege to support my colleague the member for Myall Lakes, an ex-member of the NSW Police Force, on this motion accorded priority. I note the bipartisan support for this motion in the contribution by the member for Fairfield. I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the member for Myall Lakes and the Deputy Premier on this motion. It is one thing to recognise those who protect us but it is another to go beyond that and provide meaningful support to those people. As the member for Myall Lakes said, policing is an extremely difficult job, as evidenced by some of the experiences he outlined in his contribution. Many police face difficult and challenging circumstances on a daily basis.

Being a member of the Police Force necessitates constant vigilance and this has a major impact on the health of officers over the period of their service. It seems to be the case that officers who have spent a long time in the service suffer from a build-up of stress from this constant vigilance. There is a mix of young officers suffering from the difficulties they encounter in their service and long-term officers suffering from ongoing job stress. It is pleasing to know that this Government has brought forward the BACKUP for Life program to ensure that the service is in tune with the challenges faced by police officers. The Government has put in funds to work with Legacy to ensure the program's enduring success. I congratulate all those involved in bringing this program forward; it is a fantastic achievement.

Mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety account for 90 per cent of the injuries suffered by police officers. They are all conditions that become debilitating and far too often lead to tragic circumstances. As a society we have been battling, and continue to battle, the stigma associated with mental health issues. As an ex-police officer I know that over the years we have moved on from trying to treat workplace stress by having a few beers at the pub after work and patting each other on the back. Thank goodness we have moved on from that in recognising that workplace stress is a very serious issue. This Government takes this issue very seriously. I commend the operational police who are on the streets every

day protecting communities, protecting life and protecting property. This is a great initiative on the part of the New South Wales Government.

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (15:52):** I am delighted to make a brief contribution to this debate on police wellbeing. I support our brave police men and women, who protect communities in all of our electorates. The Labor Opposition has welcomed the \$2 million funding announcement. We always welcome funding that goes to assist our brave police men and women, who day in and day out do one of the hardest jobs—if not the hardest job—in our communities, protecting our communities. There is no greater issue in any community than protecting our police. However, I was disappointed to hear the member for Myall Lakes politicising this issue in his contribution to the debate. I recall that in 2011 the Liberal Government slashed and burned the police death and disability pension. At that time I did not see the member for Myall Lakes supporting Labor in our bid to retain that benefit. In this debate we have spoken about post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] and mental health issues. Many 2011 submissions to the inquiry detailed the effect of police work on our brave police men and women. It was disappointing to hear the member for Myall Lakes' contribution to this debate ignoring this aspect.

As other speakers have said, it is widely known that post-traumatic stress disorder can lead to family breakdowns and self-harm. I have spoken to police men and women in my local area commands [LACs] and heard their experiences. I spoke to the young wife of a policeman who had seen some horrific things while at work, things that no-one should see. She told me that because of the axing of the death and disability pension this family would lose their home. Her husband still suffered from mental health issues and they had a very long road ahead of them. I never found out what happened to that family. I congratulate Superintendent Zoran Dzevlan, the Lake Illawarra LAC Commander, and his team on the magnificent job they do in the electorate of Shellharbour. I regularly attend LAC briefings and find it an eye-opener to hear about the work they undertake in our communities. I welcome this \$2 million investment in funding for assistance with PTSD, but it does not go far enough. I hope that this Government will recognise that. [*Time expired*]

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (15:55):** I seek leave to make a brief contribution.

**Leave not granted.**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:55):** In reply: As I said, it is imperative that we care for members of the Police Force, the people who care for us. It is also important to recognise the impact of psychological injury on the families of those who are suffering from the conditions under which they work. As they have been impacted significantly, often their families bear the brunt of the police officers' trauma and psychological problems. Police Legacy is an exceptional charity with a longstanding reputation for supporting police officers and their families in the most challenging and traumatic times. Legacy has been working on this program, BACKUP for Life, with this Government making a \$17 million contribution to Police Legacy, \$2 million of which is earmarked for the program.

This Government has listened to the NSW Police Force, the Police Association and Police Legacy about the need for further assistance. That assistance did not exist in the past. This Government is very proud to support the police and Police Legacy. This is a joint initiative and it is a tremendous way to send a message to police officers that the Government and the Parliament support them. It is also a message to those in the community that they need to support the police in their local communities. The police cannot protect us on their own. They need the support of the community, which is the eyes and the ears of the Police Force. It is through community assistance that the police are able to do their job.

Earlier today I had the pleasure of recognising a number of police at Manning, on the mid-North Coast in relation to the arrest some time ago of Malcolm Naden, then the most wanted man in Australia. Those police officers did significant work in tracking, locating and then arresting this violent armed offender in horrific conditions. The officers knew that a police officer had been shot at and the offender had murdered two people, but they went out to bring this person to justice. They did a fantastic job; that is an example of how police protect the community. When they go out to do their job they do not know what is going to happen to them, and that has a psychological impact on them. Those psychological scars can stay with them for life. Therefore I commend this motion to the House and I commend the Government for this program.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The original question was that the motion as moved by the member for Myall Lakes be agreed to, to which the member for Fairfield has moved that the motion be amended by leaving out the words, "NSW Liberals and Nationals Government" and inserting instead the words, "New South Wales Parliament". The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

**Amendment agreed to.**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

**Motion, as amended, agreed to.**

*Bills*

**SECURITY INDUSTRY AMENDMENT (PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS) BILL 2016**

**Second Reading**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (15:59):** On behalf of Mr Troy Grant: In reply: I thank members for their contributions to this debate. The member for Davidson raised some issues associated with the Legal Affairs Committee's report into debt recovery in New South Wales and in relation to the Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate. I thank the member for his contribution to the parliamentary committee inquiry as a deputy chair together with the member for Hawkesbury. The Legal Affairs Committee's report recommended the transfer of the regulation of private investigators and commercial agents to Fair Trading. I note that the Minister for Fair Trading is in the Chamber. The Government decided not to adopt this recommendation in full. While the Government will transfer the regulation of commercial agents to Fair Trading, the Government decided that police should continue to regulate private investigators.

The robust probity requirements for private investigator licence applicants require access to information and functions that rightly sit within the NSW Police Force. This includes access to criminal history information and capacity to take applicants' fingerprints. These requirements significantly contribute to the level of integrity the community expects with the licensing process. I have been advised that the Office of Fair Trading is unable to monitor security industry licences. That job is currently performed by the NSW Police Force. NSW Police Force regulation is required as private investigators have a higher risk profile due to the likelihood that they will engage in more intrusive behaviour. Risks associated with the work of private investigators include: illegal access to confidential information, breaches of confidence, misrepresentation, impersonation, trespass, harassment and the inappropriate use of surveillance equipment. Accordingly, the Government decided that the regulation of private investigators should remain with the NSW Police Force.

The member for Davidson raised concerns about possible conflicts of interest associated with regulation by the Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate [SLED], which falls within the NSW Police Force State Crime Command and currently manages applications for security licences and private inquiry licences. This arrangement will continue. It is staffed by civilians and does not include sworn officers. Some security licence or private inquiry licence applications made to SLED are made by former police officers. The Security Industry Act 1997 sets out specific requirements for police to follow when they receive an application for a private investigator licence from a current or former police officer. Specifically, section 19 of the Security Industry Act 1997 requires that an application from any current or former police officer must be referred to the Professional Standards Command of the NSW Police Force, which may seek further advice from the Police Integrity Commission as to the suitability of the applicant to hold a licence or the suitability of the applicant being employed by any specific master licensee.

If the applicant for a private investigation licence is a current police officer, police must have regard to section 16A of the Security Industry Act 1997. This sets out that the commissioner must refuse the licence if the commissioner considers that the grant of the licence or the carrying on of the security activities authorised by the licence would create a conflict of interest between the proper performance of the officer's duties as an officer and the officer's private interests. As part of the Police Force SLED is also subject to the integrity controls within the NSW Police Force. Section 3B of the Security Industry Act 1997 provides authorised officers with a range of powers to enter premises or obtain documents for the purpose of administering that Act—that is, regulatory powers necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act. SLED officers who perform those functions are civilian staff, not police officers, and hence do not have the full suite of powers available to police officers. If a crime were suspected within a security firm, the matter would be dealt with by sworn police officers and not the civilian staff working within SLED as it may, for example, require search warrants to be obtained and arrests to be made.

I note the member for Davidson's comments in relation to the 1992 Independent Commission Against Corruption report regarding the unauthorised release of government information. Concerns raised about the involvement of police in the regulation of the private investigation industry were raised prior to the establishment of SLED, which is staffed by civilians and refers operational investigations to sworn officers. I am advised that the Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate was established as the security industry registry in January 1998. In 2010, following reviews of the regulation of the security industry by the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Australian Crime Commission, the Government made significant changes to the security industry regulatory model, which included expanding the registry's role to full regulation of the security

industry. The security industry registry was renamed the Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate and was transferred from corporate services to the State Crime Command to enable ongoing close ties with operational police investigating serious and organised crime.

The robust probity requirements for police investigator licence applicants necessitates access to information and functions that rightly sit within the NSW Police Force. In addition, the higher risk profile associated with private investigators demands the involvement of the NSW Police Force. In conclusion, and on behalf of the Minister for Police, Mr Troy Grant, I am pleased to support a bill that strengthens the regulation of the private investigation industry in New South Wales and improves efficiencies for New South Wales police in regulating this industry. This bill represents a sensible approach to managing the crime and privacy risks presented by this type of work and I commend the bill to the House.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

### Third Reading

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON:** On behalf of Mr Troy Grant: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### *Private Members' Statements*

#### **BLUE MOUNTAINS TRAIN SERVICE**

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:08):** I have spoken in this place about timetable problems, maintenance issues, track and signal failures, staffing shortages, Opal areas and inadequate infrastructure for the trains in the Blue Mountains. Once again I thank the hardworking front-line staff at Sydney Trains, NSW TrainLink and Transport for NSW for their efforts. I thank them for their hard work in the face of funding cuts, incompetent ministerial direction and a Government privatisation agenda that seeks to work the staff ever harder and pay them less and less. Instead of blowing millions of dollars on consultancy fees for rebranded stations and grey/orange polyester uniforms, the Minister should take the free advice of his workers.

My community relies upon the railway to commute, to do the weekly grocery shopping and to visit friends and family in the next town or in the city. Likewise, our local economy depends upon the tourist dollar. Day trippers who travel by train keep our local economy ticking. Our local businesses need efficient public transport to and from the city. I have said all of this before. I have said it in this place and I have put it in writing to the Minister, and yet nothing has been done. Instead of repeating myself, I will read into *Hansard* some of the many comments that my constituents have provided to me about their experiences, in their words. Cassandra, a regular correspondent with my office, wrote recently:

It is 7.15 p.m. The 4.51 p.m. Central to Mt Victoria service has been stuttering up the mountain for the past hour, with flickering lights and violent thrusts as the train starts and stops, starts then stops.

We are now stationary at Faulconbridge while they 'try and figure out what's wrong with the train'.

I have just returned from China, where the efficiency, cleanliness and modern system puts NSW Trains and infrastructure to shame.

And we are expected to pay \$8.70 for our "service"?

**John from Mount Riverview emailed me the other night:**

Once again I am on a late running train to the Mountains with no information on why it is late.

Why can't the guard inform people? Has Sydney Trains directed them not to?

The Government just don't seem to care about those who have long distances to travel home. I don't expect much to change especially with this non-entity timeserving rail minister. No doubt a fare raise will be coming soon too.

**Mark from Hazelbrook vented by email, too:**

The overcrowding on trains is immediately apparent to anyone who travels by train to work and it is ridiculous that train travellers pay a premium to travel in those conditions at so-called 'peak' times.

Today the train was over full, with passengers blocking the aisles and even sitting on the stairs.

It requires considerable agility, not to mention goodwill and patience to alight from the train. Sometimes I have missed my stop, being trapped in the crowd. This situation must make train travel for persons with a disability extremely challenging—even traumatic.

I suspect that the re-imposition of tolls on the M4 by this Government will only exacerbate this overcrowding on trains by discouraging driving to work on the motorway!

Earlier I mentioned the hardworking staff, who have put up with so much. A train driver and I were discussing his concerns recently. He told me:

Every weekend, a huge amount of passengers come up to the mountains for a day trip to visit our great area.

However, trains are packed, with standing room only from Sydney to Katoomba in the mornings and by afternoon on the way back to Sydney they are just as crowded.

The decision to provide four car trains instead of six or eight makes our railways look really bad to the public.

To make matters worse, over the school holidays there was no extra capacity provided, so you can imagine the extra overcrowding that occurred...

I am sick and tired of being yelled at and being told it is my fault passengers have to stand for hours at a time and asked to explain why there are not extra carriages provided at peak times on weekends.

It is completely out of my control.

So, Minister Constance, wherever you might be, listen up: You need to lift your game. You need to beat a path to your predecessor's office door—that of Treasurer Berejiklian—and demand the funding our train system needs to run efficiently and reliably. Fix our train line, restore our services, support your frontline staff and get your act together. The public transport system in New South Wales is falling apart at the seams and you have been standing around doing nothing about it for five years. Stop making excuses and fix this mess.

### NEPEAN HOSPITAL UPGRADES

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport) (16:13):** Nepean Hospital is a critical piece of local infrastructure within my local community that has looked after the health needs of patients in outer Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains on its current site since 1956. With the continuing population growth in our region, it is absolutely critical that investment in Nepean Hospital keeps pace with the changing needs of our community. That is why this Government continues to make record investments in the local district health budget. This Government has invested more than \$70 million in upgrades at Nepean Hospital since 2011, which includes upgrades to mental health and oral health facilities, and additional car parking as well as the State's first da Vinci robot, to name just one example of a number of new pieces of equipment that have been rolled out across the hospital.

Since we came to government, the allocated recurrent budget for Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District has increased by almost 50 per cent, from \$500 million to \$740 million in 2016-17. I will say that again: It has increased from \$500 million to \$740 million in this financial year. The Government is currently investing \$4 million towards planning the major redevelopment upgrades of Nepean Hospital. This work is currently underway and happening in this term, as promised. Since 2011 there has been an increase in the number of nurses—more than 234 new nurses have been rolled out across the district and more than 70 new doctors have been employed in the local health district.

The Nepean Hospital emergency department and elective surgery performance have also improved dramatically since Labor was last in office. Despite a 28 per cent increase in the number of emergency department presentations, that improvement has been dramatic. We continue to see the increases that we need to see in this community when it comes to delivering better quality services. The most important thing is that the performance of the hospital now, even with increased presentations, is actually seeing more people through the emergency department within four hours. Furthermore, we have seen improvements in the percentage of elective surgeries completed within clinically determined time frames.

Urgent surgery within 30 days has increased from 93 per cent under Labor to 100 per cent under this Government. Similarly, semi-urgent surgery within 90 days has increased from 71 per cent to 83 per cent and in all categories performance has increased from 78 per cent to 83 per cent. The community in Penrith, across Western Sydney and in the Blue Mountains who use this hospital are consistently getting better service under this Government than they had under the previous Labor Government. The hospital figures prove it consistently.

Those opposite continue to talk about cuts being made to the Nepean Hospital budget. As I stated earlier today, that is simply not the case. There have been consistent increases in recurrent funding to ensure that we get better quality service—and we are seeing better quality service. We are also planning the extensive upgrade that we have committed to. That extensive upgrade includes what is often referred to as the stage 4 upgrade. We are undertaking the planning work with the medical staff council and with representatives of the community to ensure that this hospital gets what it deserves and the resources that enable it to meet its new and growing community.

I reference what happens if there is not proper planning. Talk to the people from Bathurst, who have seen what happens when things are rushed and not planned properly: resuscitation bays that are too small, a children's playground that is unsafe, and communication systems in operating theatres that are unreliable. These are the things that put communities at risk. This is why we are planning this hospital properly, this is why we are

committed to the people across the Nepean region and the Blue Mountains, and this is why we will continue to deliver a high-quality health care system to this community. People does not have to read my words to realise how committed the Opposition is to Nepean Hospital. I refer every person from my community and Western Sydney to the Leader of the Opposition's speech in reply to this year's budget. If anyone can find the words "Nepean Hospital" amongst those 3,400 words then they are doing better than I am.

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (16:18):** I commend the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport, and member for Penrith. A local member stands up for his community time and again. I echo the same sentiments as the member for Penrith who has identified that need for his community, the growth in his area—

**Ms Prue Car:** But there are not any possums in our hospital.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Londonderry that she is already on three calls to order.

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI:** I echo his sentiments about the Opposition. They have no credibility when it comes to health. The new members who wish to comment should look at the destruction that the former Labor Government left behind. We all know there is a deficiency in the Nepean and Concord hospitals. This Government is doing the right thing by addressing the problem in a staged, planned way. The last thing we want to do is spend \$500 million on the Metro and not lay one track, which is what those opposite did for 16 miserable years.

### WOOLGOOLGA HIGH SCHOOL HAIRSPRAY PRODUCTION

#### SUNNY'S BUSINESS AWARDS

**Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour) (16:20):** We all know that members have busy schedules when they return to their electorates from this place. I attended two events last weekend. On Friday evening my wife and I had the great pleasure of seeing the Woolgoolga High School students perform the play *Hairspray*. We could not have had a more enjoyable night. I compliment Principal Guy Wright and his staff and the students who took part in the play. It was a memorable event and everyone who attended would have enjoyed it immensely.

On Saturday night we attended the Sunny's Business Awards in Coffs Harbour, which are hosted by the local Chamber of Commerce and the Coffs Harbour business community. The Young Business Executive award winner was Becky Cole; the Young Entrepreneur award for the 18 to 35 age group winner was William Buckingham from Blue Sky IT Consulting; the Business Leader award winner for the age group 36-plus was Deb Ryan; the Excellence in Business Ethics award winner was Community Care Options; the Excellence in Innovation award winner was Business By Design; the Excellence in Sustainability award winner was Fuji Xerox Business Centre Mid North Coast; the Excellence in Small Business award winner was SOS Phone Repairs and Accessories; and the Employer of Choice award winner was Community Care Options.

The Retail Award winner was Meraki Images; the Community Services award winner was Community Care Options; the New Business award winner was Serendipity Learning; the Marketing and Advertising award winner was The Edge Coffs Harbour, a real estate firm; the Professional Services award winner was DFA Financial Planners; the Achieve Anything award winner was Community Care Options; the Professional Development and Training award winner was Holiday Coast Credit Union; the Tourism, Restaurant and Catering award winner was Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort; Smarttek also won an award in that division; the Excellence in Business award winner was The Big Banana Fun Park; the Leisure and Entertainment award winner was Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort.

Liz Anscombe from Community Care Options and Krystie Boyes from Champ Cleaning won a Special Judges award. Krystie's business ad was humorous and well done. Anyone who does not use her business for cleaning services is not doing themselves a favour. Bishop Druitt College won a Special Judges award; and HWH Stables, which is a horseriding business that was started by a fellow from the Northern Territory, also won a Special Judges award. His business ad was quite good and he is also doing well. The Business of the Year award winner was Community Care Options, which does a great job of providing options to people in our community with disabilities and needs. I commend all of its staff. The business has been an entrant in this division for many years and has won many times. The Hall of Fame award winner was Key Employment, which won for its community service contribution to the community. As we can see by the number of awards, the excellence that was on display last Saturday night was second to none. I commend the winners and the finalists. I could not list all the finalists in the allotted time.

The Chamber of Commerce is proactive in our community and George Cecato, Garth Shipperlee and Leonie Kennedy do a fantastic job. They first encourage the businesses to enter and then they judge them. I would not like to judge the number of quality businesses that were on display last Saturday night. The master of

ceremonies [MC] had a fantastic evening telling many fibs. Leonie Kennedy kicked the night off by telling us that the MC was world renowned, but it was Nic from Port Macquarie who spent 12 years in Coffs Harbour. He enjoyed himself on the night. Congratulations to everyone involved—the sponsors, the people who attended, all the businesses that entered, and the category winners.

### **LUCAS GARDENS SCHOOL**

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (16:25):** I am pleased to give the House an update on the progress of the new Lucas Gardens School in my electorate. It is an exciting project and I am pleased to report that the New South Wales Government has been entirely responsible for the construction of this new facility. In 2014 the Government committed \$16 million in funding for a complete rebuild of Lucas Gardens School at Queens Road in Five Dock in my electorate. The community has always supported the school for severely disabled students and a number of community-based organisations have been instrumental in helping to fund initiatives at the school. Communities for Communities is a great organisation in my electorate that has raised \$500,000 to help fund the new hydrotherapy pool, which will be housed in the new state-of-the-art school. However, the school was old, run down and in need of a major makeover so it could deal with new enrolments in the future. It was decided that a complete rebuild was the most viable option, hence extra funding was needed.

Lucas Gardens School was built in the 1950s as a primary school and has served as a crucial educational facility in the inner west for severely disabled students from kindergarten to year 12. Prior to the commitment to fund the new school, it comprised mostly demountable buildings. The new school will maintain the ratio of six students to one adult. I congratulate the work of Principal Jenny Zagaz; she is an amazing woman. She has been highly instrumental in helping to raise funds for the school. The new school has many facilities and all students have iPads, thanks to the community. Every interactive whiteboard was provided by funds from Communities for Communities.

Work has commenced on the \$16 million rebuild, which will increase capacity at the school with new classrooms, a library, special purpose rooms, a hydrotherapy pool, and a games and recreational area. The new school is expected to be completed by January 2017. In the meantime, the students have been relocated to a campus that was a disused purpose-built school in Lakemba. The member for Lakemba will be disappointed to lose that school when it is relocated to my electorate. He is more than welcome to attend its opening. As the member for Drummoyne, I am proud of the outstanding achievements that the Government has delivered for schools in my electorate. The new Lucas Gardens School adds to the newly completed school at Concord West and a new primary school at Wentworth Point, which is to commence construction shortly.

For those of us who have driven past the site it is evident that the project is now beginning to take shape. The concrete is in place for all the buildings, including the stairs and lift wells. I walked around the top floor of the main block recently. The back of the school, which is adjacent to Officeworks, includes classrooms, an administration block, a library, a hall, and cafe areas. Although the fittings are not complete, it is clear that the new structure will have a welcoming feel to it. The building has been built around an existing tree in the courtyard that has been there for decades, which creates a great effect. The 12-metre hydrotherapy pool is in place and will be used for community purposes, which will also generate some additional income for the school.

It is currently being built and will be flood-tested for leaks. On the day of the tour, electrical work and air conditioning were already appearing in the smaller home bases on Queen Street. One of the great things about being a member of Parliament is seeing these wonderful projects come to fruition. I will be proud of this project well beyond the time that I spend in this place. Achievements like these are life-changing for members. When I walk into places like this I feel blessed to know the parents, teachers and students and I feel lucky and fortunate to be able to go home every night to find my children safe and healthy.

### **PORT STEPHENS WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:30):** Recently I was honoured to be a guest speaker at an event hosted by Port Stephens Women in Business. Port Stephens Women in Business is one of the most vibrant groups in Port Stephens and this event, attended by more than 120 people, was testament to their energy and attitude. The function was a fundraiser for our local domestic violence service, the Yacaaba Centre, and the theme for the day, fittingly, was women empowering women. In my usual shock and awe approach, I discussed two of my greatest drivers—reducing barriers to women entering and staying in the workforce, and strengthening our communities. I believe that those of us in this place have a responsibility to address the systemic and structural barriers that make it so difficult for women to work, and to identify ways the ways in which we can strengthen our communities.

Current statistics show that there is still a lot to be done, as 59 per cent of women work compared to 71 per cent of men; women make up 69 per cent of all part-time employees; on average, women take home

17 per cent less earnings than men; and average superannuation balances for women at retirement are 53 per cent less than those for men. The representation of women at the peak of their careers is particularly low in Australia. On boards, women hold only 14 per cent of chair positions and 23 per cent of directorships. In the New South Wales Parliament women hold just 26 of the 93 seats, yet this is the largest percentage of female members of Parliament ever to represent their communities.

In my role as shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education I want everyone to understand that one of the biggest barriers to increased workforce participation for women is the lack of access to quality and affordable childcare or preschooling. I am talking about formal day care, long day care and preschool services. I know how hard it was when I was having a family and trying to maintain a career. There were times when I was not making any money because of the cost of child care and preschool—and I was a lawyer living in Newcastle. I can only imagine how difficult it is for families now, especially single mums, and families trying to maintain Sydney mortgages. Early childhood education is also one of the most important elements of any child's education. Academics globally agree that participation in quality early childhood education is the biggest predictor of improved educational outcomes, improved physical, social and emotional health, and improved employment opportunities. In short, it gives kids the best chance in life. Importantly, participation in early childhood education reduces disadvantage. Gough Whitlam nailed it in 1972 when he said:

... pre-school education is the most important single weapon in promoting equality and in overcoming social, economic and language inequalities.

Accessible and affordable early childhood education improves women's ability to participate in the workforce and markedly improves children's lives over their lifetime. So it makes sense economically, socially and morally to ensure all children have access to quality and affordable early childhood education. It is an investment in stronger communities. Some countries are beginning to recognise this return on investment. In the United Kingdom children have had access to up to 15 hours of free preschool for three- and four-year-olds, with moves to extend that to 30 hours. In New Zealand, children have access to up to 20 hours of free preschool for all three- and four-year-old children. In comparison, Australia is still working towards 15 hours of affordable preschool for four-year-olds.

And within Australia there are big differences across the States and Territories, with only 3 per cent of services in New South Wales operating no-fee services, compared to 71 per cent in South Australia and Tasmania, and 59 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory. Tragically, New South Wales is coming last in participation in early childhood education, last in investment per child, and first in cost. It costs more for parents to send their children to preschool in New South Wales than it does in any other State or Territory in Australia. This is an appalling state of affairs. Why is this the situation? This situation has arisen because this Government has not invested enough. It does not even invest the money it has budgeted or the money it has been granted by the Federal Government to invest in early childhood education.

The New South Wales Auditor-General recently issued a scathing report that confirmed the New South Wales Government has underspent the money it budgeted on early childhood education by \$350 million over the past four years. Opposition members value early childhood education. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Luke Foley, made this a priority for the Opposition by committing to ensuring that under a Labor government every child in New South Wales will have access to at least 15 hours of affordable, quality preschool education per week in the year before school. I thank Port Stephens Women in Business—President Kylie Smiley and her wonderful committee—for all that they do to empower women to achieve their goals in business and in life. In this place we should be doing all that we can. This Government must do more for early childhood education.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR PHILLIP BOOKALLIL

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (16:35):** Consider for a moment what it would be like to be in a chosen profession for 47 years, and that that profession involved working seven days a week from early in the morning to late at night and getting callouts at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning. Imagine leaving home and reporting to work in order to deal with emergency situations. I would like members to imagine what it would be like doing that work for 47 years and working with some of the most underprivileged and uneducated people who require help in the local community. Imagine being able to do that whilst maintaining a positive outlook and always having a smile on one's face, and over those 47 years never uttering a negative word about anyone or anything.

If members can imagine that they will begin to understand the greatness of a local Armidale doctor, Dr Phillip Bookallil, to whom I pay tribute this afternoon. Dr Bookallil has served the Armidale community as a general practitioner, specialising in obstetrics and Aboriginal health, with great distinction for 47 years. Recently it was my delight and privilege, on behalf of the State Government, to present Dr Bookallil with a community



service award acknowledging his exceptional service to the Armidale community, in particular, the Aboriginal community in Armidale over 47 years.

Dr Bookallil will hate the fact that I am giving this speech today because he is an incredibly humble man. He shuns the limelight. In fact, even though he has delivered thousands of babies and helped countless families, members will have never seen his name or heard mention of him in the local newspaper, on the radio or on television. He loves to go about his business quietly, such is the dedication of the man. Recently Dr Bookallil quite deservedly retired, but he will not be leaving the profession altogether. He has already signed on at the University of New England School of Rural Medicine to help student doctors and bring the next generation of general practitioners and obstetricians through the system. Phil has always been content to work diligently, patiently and without fuss or bother. He frequently worked well after the last doctor had left the building and would often be there until 9.00 p.m. or 10.00 p.m., finishing off his day.

Throughout his career he was always happy to see all comers, giving each person, regardless of background, colour or creed, his full attention and the time that they needed. He did this without fear or favour and without concern for reward or recognition. Dr Bookallil has always had a particular concern for, and an interest in, the health of the Aboriginal community in Armidale. In conjunction with another long-serving paediatrician, Dr Keith Power, Dr Bookallil helped to set up and run a clinic in East Armidale to try to reduce the level of illness among children in the Aboriginal community. As a result of this initiative, the frequency of admissions to hospital and the severity of the cases seen has been markedly reduced. Dr Bookallil has been delivering babies for the 47 years that he has been practising in Armidale. Just before his retirement he was delivering the babies of the women that he had delivered many years earlier.

There is no easy way to estimate the number of babies that Dr Bookallil delivered, but it must be well into the thousands. Dr Bookallil is held in the highest regard by his peers, and particularly by the Armidale community. It was my great pleasure to present him with his award in the presence of his colleagues Dr Eric Baker, Dr Nigel Pain, his son, Dr Luke Bookallil, Dr Rod Martin, Dr Jane Martin, Dr David Thew and all the staff at the Rusden Street Medical Practice. I thank Dr Bookallil for his service to the community and wish him a wonderful retirement—but I know that he will be around, still doing some locum work and still teaching the next generation of doctors. Congratulations, Dr Bookallil.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (16:40):** I commend the member for Northern Tablelands for paying tribute to Dr Bookallil. As a former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Volunteering, I travelled throughout the State and I would see giants in our community who were doing tireless work. I labour on the term "work": What Dr Bookallil did was not work; clearly, it was a labour of love. Obviously, he dedicated his life to service of the community. It is because of heroes like him, who are always unsung, that we are able to achieve great outcomes. The fact that he has dedicated his life to one of the two great enablers in our society—health and education—and has put his efforts into health means that we have a stronger community because of people like him. I congratulate the member for Northern Tablelands for appropriately singling out heroes in our community such as Dr Bookallil.

#### **FORMER DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER NICK KALDAS**

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (16:40):** Today I pay tribute to one of the most outstanding members of the NSW Police Force, former Deputy Commissioner Naguib "Nick" Kaldas, who recently retired from the force after an outstanding career spanning more than 34 years of active service. Nick Kaldas was born in Egypt in 1958 and was 11 years old when his parents migrated to Australia in 1969. A few years later they became Australian citizens and as a young man he decided to pursue a career in the NSW Police Force. He graduated from the force's academy in 1981 and worked as a hostage negotiator for a period of 10 years.

As head of the homicide squad, he was responsible for a number of high-profile murder investigations, which included that of Samantha Knight, John Newman and Sef Gonzales. In 2004 he spent some eight months in Iraq training local police and in 2009 he was seconded for a period of 12 months to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon to investigate the 2005 assassination of Rafic Hariri. Topping his stellar career in 2007, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the NSW Police Force, the position he held until his retirement this year. Nick Kaldas received numerous awards and commendations at home and also overseas. In 2008 he was awarded the Australian Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Other awards included the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal, the National Police Service Medal and a number of NSW Police Force medals and commissioner's commendations.

I am sure that all members of this Parliament will join me in wishing Nick Kaldas all the best in his role with the United Nations [UN] in The Hague. There is no doubt that his appointment to the UN is very much a case of our loss being the UN's gain. For my part it is a great loss to our local police force. I am greatly disappointed at the failure of the Baird Government to have not done more to retain a senior police officer who is still relatively

young and with enormous experience as well as great character. It is a sad commentary that officers such as Nick Kaldas are lost to the NSW Police Force. I believe it reflects poorly on the Baird Government's failure to recognise such talent and excellence within the NSW Police Force.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (16:43):**

I commend the member for Mount Druitt for his outstanding tribute to Nick Kaldas. When I was the Minister for Multiculturalism in New South Wales I had a lot to do with Nick Kaldas, a man of outstanding credibility and leadership. The number of times I called on him to bring communities together in very difficult circumstances was countless and the manner in which he did his job was exemplary. I am joined by many Government members who also would be glowing in their praise of Nick Kaldas. In particular, the member for Drummoyne has asked me to say what a bonzer guy Nick Kaldas is and how he worked regularly with Nick Kaldas on the Bay Run at 6.20 every Saturday morning. I join with the member for Drummoyne in saying that, whatever Nick does in his life, he will be a success. He is a man of exemplary character and—I agree with the member for Mount Druitt—he is a great loss to our State.

*Matter of Public Importance*

**RAIL SAFETY WEEK**

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (16:44):** Rail Safety Week commences on 15 August and runs through to 21 August. This year's theme is "Rail Safety—it's everyone's responsibility". Rail safety is of particular importance in my own life. My father was a general practitioner [GP] in Moss Vale. Very early in my life I remember that on at least three occasions he attended level crossing accidents in which people lost their lives in very horrific circumstances arising out of collisions at level crossings involving trains. I vividly remember a night when my father was up all night treating three people at one particular level crossing accident. It was a big event in his life and it certainly impacted upon my own family. Upon reflection, one of the issues that springs to my mind about train and rail safety is the incidences of train surfing. As recently as 16 July this year, a train surfer narrowly escaped death after an idiotic escapade ended in his being spreadeagled across busy tracks and being moments from death. A newspaper report describes it like this:

Luckily for the 24-year-old would-be daredevil, a quick-thinking train driver saved him. But authorities have warned the next person to try this stupid stunt may not be so lucky.

Police said the man climbed onto the back of a train while it was stopped at Central Station's platform 22 at about 11.45pm ... but was only able to hold on for 500m before falling onto the tracks inside a tunnel.

Paramedics moved to the injured man to a waiting ambulance ... A train driver travelling in the same direction spotted the man on the tracks and managed to stop and pull him into the driver's cabin. The injured man was treated in the driver's compartment while emergency services, unaware he had been located, searched rail lines in vain.

This incident alone shows the need in our community to take rail safety really seriously. If someone wants to commit an idiotic act in which they place their own life in danger, so be it, but those types of incidences have impacts on train drivers, paramedics and medical people who have to treat them as a result of their stunt. That factor needs to be highlighted during Rail Safety Week. When we say "it's everyone's responsibility", that means that all of us have some responsibility. Acceptance of that responsibility is manifested in small things, such as courtesy when people are getting on and off trains as well as ensuring that we stand behind the yellow line to allow people sufficient time to leave trains and board trains. It also relates to the manner in which people use mobile phones when travelling on public transport. The use of mobile phones and other devices while we travel on public transport can have disastrous consequences. Rail Safety Week aims to improve education and awareness around railway level crossings. It is designed to ensure that customers are fully aware of their surroundings when on platforms and boarding or alighting from trains.

Since 2006 this event has grown and a record 48 organisations are now participating in the event. Some of the highlights of the week are an event for Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, which is being held at Central station on 14 and 15 August for preschool age children and is about the importance of safety on trains; a national primary schools competition, which will bring train track, road and level crossing awareness into the classroom with winning entries to be published in a book about rail safety; and a steam train ride at Central station, which will highlight the history of train travel. Sydney Metro will host events aimed at reinforcing the importance of safety while constructing the Metro and promoting individual health and wellbeing. Events will be held across the network. I urge people to get involved in this important initiative and raise rail safety awareness by taking part in activities and events during Rail Safety Week.

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (16:50):** I make a contribution in debate on this matter of public importance on Rail Safety Week. This year's theme "Rail safety—It's everyone's responsibility" is a timely reminder of how dangerous level crossings and rail corridors can be. The member for Epping talked about the many events during Rail Safety Week to highlight this important issue. I also remind members of Australia's worst

rail disaster, which occurred at Granville on 18 January 1977, the fortieth anniversary of which will be commemorated in a few months. First, with regard to the dangers of level crossings, I would like to relate my personal experience. I grew up in rural New South Wales and often heard about horrific accidents at level crossings, particularly ones involving freight trains. Sometimes these accidents were due to visibility issues but at other times people took massive risks to try to get through the crossing rather than wait for a very long train to pass.

My electorate of Granville is also home of one of Sydney's few remaining level crossings, on Parramatta Road. Surprisingly, motorists do not always take their own safety seriously enough at that level crossing. In the 2014-15 financial year, infringement notices were issued to three motorists for entering the level crossing contrary to the lights and bells; and another was issued for entering the level crossing with the gate-boom barrier operating. I find it deeply troubling that people will put themselves so obviously in harm's way just to save a few minutes at the level crossing on Parramatta Road or any level crossing. I hope that Rail Safety Week will help raise awareness of these dangers.

As I mentioned, on 18 January next year we will commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Granville rail disaster. The accident occurred on 18 January 1977 at Granville, when an eight-car passenger train derailed and collided with the Bold Street Bridge. As we all know, the bridge fell on the third and fourth carriages of that train resulting in the deaths of 83 passengers and injuries to a further 213 passengers. The train driver, the second man and the motorists driving on the fallen bridge survived, but all were affected by the tragedy they had survived. The crowded eight-car commuter train left Mount Victoria for the city at 6.09 a.m. As it was approaching Granville railway station, it left the rails at approximately 8.10 a.m. and hit a row of supports of the overhead Bold Street Bridge.

The derailed engine and first two carriages passed the bridge, but the first carriage broke free from the other carriages. Carriage one was torn open when it collided with a severed mast beside the track, killing eight passengers. The remaining carriages ground to a halt. Less than 10 seconds later, with all its supports demolished, the 200-tonne concrete deck of the bridge collapsed onto two carriages, crushing them and the passengers inside. Half of the passengers travelling in the third and fourth carriages were killed immediately when the bridge collapsed on them, crushing them. Several injured passengers were trapped in the train for hours, with part of the bridge crushing their torsos or limbs. Some had been conscious and talking to rescuers but died of crush syndrome soon after the weight was removed from their bodies.

There is still contention about the cause of the accident. While it is certainly true that the poorly maintained track buckled on a hot summer's day, causing a wheel to come off the track and sending the train into the supports for the bridge, poor maintenance on the wheels themselves cannot be ruled out as a causal factor. Maintenance records disappeared and have not been found since. However, defects are known to have been found in the wheels of the locomotive in August 1976. It went in for a check in December and was found to be satisfactory. They let it run and planned to keep it under surveillance—and let it run another 43,280 kilometres.

Even today, the photos of the disaster or the news clippings or television footage make very difficult viewing. The psychological impact of the Granville rail disaster on passengers and emergency workers was enormous, and many people I know still recall that day quite vividly. It is an important part of their lives and our history. The victims were not travelling from Granville; the train had not yet arrived at Granville station, but it is an important and horrific event in the history of Granville. The passengers were travelling from the Blue Mountains, Parramatta, the city and all places in between.

The Granville Memorial Trust was established after the accident to commemorate the victims and to campaign for improvements to rail safety. I acknowledge the trust's tireless efforts to ensure the Granville disaster is never forgotten. The trust's founder, John Hennessey, passed away earlier this year, after working tirelessly to remind us each year about the scale of the impact of the disaster and of the need to be vigilant when it comes to scrutinising governments to ensure it does not happen again. Together with the trust, he raised funds to build the commemorative wall that features the names of all those deceased. Earlier this year I attended his funeral, along with the member for Campbelltown, as he had also made a large contribution to that community.

Preparations are underway to ensure the fortieth anniversary of the Granville rail disaster will be a fitting tribute to the lives lost, those injured and those who assisted in the rescue efforts of Australia's worst rail disaster. The Granville Memorial Trust, together with survivors and relatives of the deceased, is working with Cumberland Council and Sydney Trains to arrange the commemoration. Other tragic rail events have affected other areas of New South Wales in recent years, including Glenbrook and Waterfall, and these events always bring to mind our worst rail disaster, at Granville. We will always remember those whose lives were taken on 18 January 1977.

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (16:55):** It gives me great pleasure to make a contribution to this matter of public importance. Rail Safety Week is an annual community awareness event in Australia and

New Zealand run by the TrackSAFE Foundation and the Australasian Railway Association. Now in its eleventh year, Rail Safety Week will run from 15 to 21 August. Rail Safety Week activities complement work underway focused on raising awareness of safety across all modes of transport. This year, one of the focuses of Rail Safety Week will be around our State's railway level crossings. There are approximately 3,800 railway crossings throughout New South Wales.

The Level Crossing Improvement Program was established in 2000 to accelerate upgrades to priority railway crossings, to fund safety awareness and enforcement campaigns and to promote new technologies to improve safety at level crossings. The New South Wales Government has allocated \$7.3 million per annum for the Level Crossing Improvement Program between 2014-15 and 2017-18. In 2015-16, the level crossing awareness campaign "Don't rush to the other side" used tailored messaging to remind both light and heavy vehicle drivers in regional New South Wales that level crossings should not be approached with complacency. The campaign consisted of radio and digital advertising, including a television commercial, targeted billboards, petrol pump and truck stop advertisements, and print advertising in heavy vehicle magazines. Location-specific education material and media were used to support the level crossing enforcement campaigns. The combined use of highly targeted media, in conjunction with police enforcement and local activations, extended the reach of the campaign beyond the media investment.

In 2016-17, the "Don't rush to the other side" campaign will continue for light vehicle drivers; however, new bespoke communications will be developed for heavy vehicle drivers. This new campaign will be underpinned by insights gained from recent heavy vehicle quantitative research undertaken to positively shift attitudes and behaviours around risks at level crossings among heavy vehicle drivers. There are serious consequences for motorists, pedestrians and customers ignoring safety around rail crossings alerts. It takes up to 570 metres for a passenger train travelling at 100 kilometres per hour to stop, the length of more than three football fields. This shows the importance of raising awareness in this special week. Rail safety is indeed everyone's responsibility. I congratulate a number of people within the office of the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure on the outstanding job they do day in and day out. I thank Ryan Bloxom, Russell King, Kristina Cimino, the great Chontelle Perucich, Anne Lewis, Josh Murphy, Dominic Cuschieri, Brittany Kenaly, Angus McKenzie-Wills, Harry Sutchbury, Ben Rooke, Michelle King and Polly Lawton.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (16:58):** I thank the member for Drummoyne and the member for Granville for their contribution to the debate. I recall vividly the Granville train disaster. It will stay with me until my death. It impacted the entire population of Sydney. The member for Drummoyne and the member for Granville raised issues relating to level crossings. Level crossings can be very dangerous and accidents at those crossings are often caused by impatience or a failure to be attentive. I have seen a video that encouraged bike riders to dismount and walk across rather than ride and try to beat the train. Often that is the cause of accidents at level crossings in country areas. The member for Granville made the point that instead of waiting for a long train that may take five minutes to pass drivers try to beat the train and that has had disastrous consequences.

This week provides an opportunity to take part in various events. Schools are engaged in this process and there are community organisations highlighting the responsibility of people in relation to train stations. One of the important features of the delivery of the north-west rail link is the train station configuration of perspex screens that highlight safety. As seen in Hong Kong, the screens prevent people trying to rush onto a train as the doors close. This feature of the new metro line and attention to safety will ensure that people are protected when alighting and entering trains and prevent them from competing with a moving train. I am sure members have been guilty of trying to jump through the doors as a train is leaving the station. When we were younger we thought that was okay but it is not. It is definitely not fine when one is older. In retrospect it was a foolhardy act and we ought to be aware of the consequences of rail accidents for customers, health and safety workers and railway employees.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 17:02  
until Thursday 11 August 2016 at 10:00.**