



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 15 September 2016

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THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2016



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Peter Wellington, Nicklin) read prayers and took the chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I table report No. 19 of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly titled *2015-2016 annual report*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 19—2015-2016 annual report [[1529](#)].

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 8 August 2016 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Surfers Paradise deliberately misled the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in his question at the estimates hearing on 27 July 2016. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. On the evidence before me, I am satisfied with the member for Surfers Paradise's explanation. Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

On 8 August 2016, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Member for Surfers Paradise deliberately misled the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in his question at the estimates hearing on 27 July 2016 when he asked:

What provision has been made for the nurses' and midwives' EB9, as a lot of people I speak to are curious to know if it will match the LNP's over three percent annual increase?

In his letter to me, the Minister stated that the Member for Surfers Paradise had knowingly misled the committee as the Minister had previously made a statement in the House correcting the Member for Surfers Paradise's claims that the former LNP government had provided pay rises in excess of three per cent.

I sought further information from the Member for Surfers Paradise about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Member for Surfers Paradise advised that the Nurses and Midwives (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (EB8) 2012 showed that nurses received a 3% wage increase plus a payment of \$500 between 2012-2015, which in effect took the total increase on average to 3.16%.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

In considering whether the matter should be referred to the committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. No matter should be referred to the ethics committee if the matter is technical or trivial and does not warrant the further attention of the House.

On the evidence before me, I am satisfied with the Member for Surfers Paradise's explanation that he was referring to the previous enterprise bargain agreement, and on that basis his statement was not factually or apparently incorrect.


Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 August 2016, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of deliberately misleading the House [[1530](#)].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 September 2016, from the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of deliberately misleading the House [[1531](#)].

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 5 August 2016 the Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment wrote to me alleging that the member for Glass House deliberately misled parliament during the estimates hearing on 28 July 2016 after asking a question about the Cross River Rail project when he stated—

Questions were put early on in estimates to the Deputy Premier and her staff regarding this and we were referred to the Minister for Transport and his staff and now we have been referred back to the Deputy Premier and Building Queensland; is that correct?

In her letter to me the Deputy Premier contended that the statement made by the member for Glass House was deliberately misleading because she did not refer any questions about the Cross River Rail project to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads during her estimates hearing, at which he was in attendance, and therefore there was a prima facie case that the statement made by the member for Glass House was deliberately misleading. I sought further information from the member for Glass House about the allegations made against him in accordance with standing order 269(5). The member for Glass House disputed the Deputy Premier's allegation and contended that his statement was a logical extension of the principles the Deputy Premier had previously outlined regarding ministerial project responsibility for the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor and that it was his intention to highlight the ambiguity in responsibility for the Cross River Rail project.

Standing order 269(4) requires me to take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. On the information before me, I am of the view that there are sufficient arguments with respect to the elements of the contempt and that further examination of questions of fact is required to determine the matter. I also note that the member has declined the opportunity to correct the record. Accordingly, I have decided to refer the matter to the Ethics Committee. In doing so, I wish to emphasise that I have formed no view as to whether there has been a breach of privilege but rather that there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the committee. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 17 August 2016 the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy, Minister for Small Business and member for Algeester, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, wrote to me alleging that the member for Mount Ommaney deliberately misled parliament when she stated—


In estimates, it was revealed that, to date, the government's Advance Queensland program, the centrepiece to the government's whole focus on the budget this year, which originally had a price tag of over \$180 million over three years, has created only 121 direct jobs. That is a cost of over \$500,000 a job.

In her letter to me the minister contended that the member for Mount Ommaney's statement was deliberately misleading because the government has created 121 jobs from expenditure of only \$8.29 million as advised by the director-general of the department at the estimates hearing on 26 July 2016 at which the member for Mount Ommaney was in attendance. I sought further information from the member for Mount Ommaney about the allegations made against her in accordance with standing order 269(5). The member for Mount Ommaney explained that the statement she made related to the government's allocated funding over three years and that she did not state that the \$180 million allocation had been spent. However, the evidence suggests that the member knew that only \$8.29 million had been spent in creating the 121 jobs. Therefore, the evidence suggests that the member knew that her claim that each job cost over \$500,000 was incorrect. I also note that the member has declined the opportunity to correct the record. Accordingly, I have decided to refer the matter to the Ethics Committee. In doing so, I wish to emphasise that I have formed no view as to whether there has been a breach of privilege but rather that there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the committee. I again remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.

On another matter, in the same letter to me from the member for Mount Ommaney she made a counterclaim that the minister deliberately misled the House on 16 August 2016. I find the matter raised against the minister is trivial and I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring that matter.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


Apologies and Explanations

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in a cynical world, truth in parliament has never been more important. Since the late 1990s, following the establishment of the then Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee and the adoption of the Members' Code of Ethical Standards, there has been an emphasis on ensuring the correctness of statements made in the Assembly and its committees and correcting the record if any misstatement is made. Part 3.7.2.3 of the Code of Ethical Conduct states—

Members may sometimes make incorrect or misleading statements in the House without actually intending to mislead the House. Recklessness by a member resulting in incorrect or misleading statements to the House is in itself a serious matter. Members have a duty to correct the official record in the House as soon as it becomes apparent that their statements were incorrect or could be misleading.

Standing order 269(4) requires me in considering whether a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee to take account of whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. I have actively encouraged members to correct the record, apologise or clarify their incorrect or misleading statements so as to avoid my referral of matters to the Ethics Committee. I would prefer to not refer matters to the Ethics Committee, but the maintenance of standards is important. If members who make incorrect or misleading statements in the House or committee refuse to correct the record, then they leave me little choice but to refer those matters to the committee. In a cynical world, truth in parliament has never been more important.

Parliamentary Precinct

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On a lighter note, if members are available I invite them to join with me at midday today under the jacaranda at the entrance to Parliament House when I welcome our new residents.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

TransLink Bus Service 529

Mr Madden, from 40 petitioners, requesting the House to give different service numbers to the two routes for TransLink bus service 529, which are two very different bus routes [[1532](#)].

TransLink Bus Service 529

Mr Madden, from 38 petitioners, requesting the House to add two additional services to TransLink Service 529 [[1533](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Rickertt Road, Upgrade

Mr Brown, from 830 petitioners, requesting the House to assume responsibility for future management, upgrade and design to improve Rickertt Road and local connections [[1534](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. C R Dick)—

[1535](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. C R Dick) to an ePetition (2550-16) sponsored by Mr Last, from 261 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the return of services, particularly maternity services, to the Bowen Hospital providing a safer maternity model for Bowen families

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath)—

[1536](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath) to an ePetition (2567-16) sponsored by the Member for Sandgate, Hon. Hinchliffe, from 43 petitioners, requesting the House to arrange for the introduction and installation of hearing assistance technology in all Queensland Courts to enable the public to clearly hear proceedings

Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Hinchliffe)—

[1537](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Hinchliffe) to a paper petition (2617-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 146 petitioners, requesting the House to reassess the eligibility for students from Goombungee and surrounding districts to receive a school bus subsidy to attend the Highfields State Secondary College or Oakey State High School

[1538](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Hinchliffe) to a paper petition (2618-16) presented by Mr Crandon, and an ePetition (2587-16) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 157 and 94 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to install full and appropriate sound proofing along the section of railway, being 8.2 kilometres of duplication, between Coomera and Helensvale stations

Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey)—

[1539](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (2597-16) sponsored by the Member for Cleveland, Dr Robinson, from 105 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the necessary upgrade to the pedestrian crossing at Birkdale and Main Roads, Wellington Point to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists

[1540](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a Petition (2614-16) presented by the Member for Lockyer, Mr Rickuss, from 82 petitioners, requesting the House to act immediately to find a safe resolution to the Withcott Warrego Highway Crossing

[1541](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a Petition (2615-16) presented by the Member for Dalrymple, Mr Knuth, from 1,807 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade and widen the Return Creek Bridge, Mount Garnet

MEMBER'S PAPERS

The following member's papers were tabled by the Clerk—


Member for Cairns (Mr Pyne)—

[1542](#) Document, undated, titled 'Local Government Area: Moreton Bay Regional Council—Sandstone Point: new pontoon constructed from Riverside Walkway fragment

[1543](#) Document, undated, titled '2016 Local Government Elections: Community demands answers and ACTION from ECQ'

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Revocation of State Forest Area

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.41 am): I lay upon the tabled a proposal under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act and a brief explanation of the proposal.

Tabled paper: Revocation of State Areas: Proposal under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to Beerwah State Forest [[1544](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Revocation of State Forest Area

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.41 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days, as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation the dedication of parts of a State forest; and
 - (b) dedicate by regulation the revoked areas of the aforementioned State forest as a national park,
 under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 as set out in the proposals tabled by me in the House today viz—

Description of area to be revoked

Beerwah State Forest	An area of about 744.558 hectares, as illustrated on the attached "Beerwah State Forest revocation: sketch A".
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Description of area to be dedicated

Mooloolah River National Park	An area of about 744.558 hectares, as illustrated on the attached "Mooloolah River National Park addition: sketch B".
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2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef for submission to the Governor in Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Corrective Services


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): Today, the Attorney-General will introduce another historic piece of legislation into this parliament. The legislation seeks to end the practice of 17-year-olds being treated as adults in Queensland's justice system. For more than 20 years, 17-year-olds have been treated as adults in our courts and they have been treated as adults in our prisons. That has left Queensland out of step with the rest of the nation. It has been in contrast to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As I have said publicly, successive governments from both sides of politics have either put this issue in the too-hard basket or they have simply ignored it. As opposition leader, I made a commitment to end this practice. As Premier, I am determined to end this practice.

I pay tribute to the Attorney-General for her hard work to bring this legislation before the parliament. I also pay tribute to the many community groups and individuals who have championed this issue for decades. This legislation not only delivers on my government's commitment but also gives all honourable members the opportunity to make a long overdue reform.

The legislation will go to a committee, where it will be fully scrutinised, before coming back to this House for a vote. The legislation will come into effect 12 months following the passage of the bill. We will convene a whole-of-government task force to work on the process of removing 17-year-olds from adult prisons—a process that will be complex and complicated, but it can be done and we will do it. We will do it not only because we promised to do it, but because it is simply the right thing to do.

Infrastructure

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): I am determined to work with councils to get infrastructure projects up and running across the state. Our \$375 million Building our Regions program is seeing money flow to local councils for important infrastructure priorities. These are councils big and small and we are constantly listening to them and coming up with ways to make it even easier for councils to access these funds.

That is why, today, I am pleased to advise the House that my government will provide an extra \$5 million for critical infrastructure projects to support jobs and economic development in our remote and Indigenous council areas. A total of 31 councils—some of the state's smallest—will be eligible to apply next month for this one-off special funding round. We will also halve the minimum amount they can apply for to help kickstart smaller projects. This is about listening and responding to the needs of Queensland communities.

This money is on top of the \$70 million in infrastructure grants for local government announced last week by the Deputy Premier. These are the smaller councils with lower rate bases. Some of these councils have been battered by the long-running drought. We want to see this money—money that has already been allocated in the budget—make its way to these councils so that they can build projects and create jobs in their local areas.

This is clear evidence that my government is all about building, all about economic growth and, most importantly, all about jobs. We have a \$40 billion infrastructure plan funding the critical infrastructure that our state needs. We are pulling the policy levers to facilitate private sector investment. As the Treasurer has outlined this week, the independent data from the ABS shows that public infrastructure investment is driving domestic economic activity. That is because our State Infrastructure Plan, delivered by the Deputy Premier for the first time in years, is helping drive the economy across our state.

The Townsville Stadium; Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2; North Queensland and western roads funding; new schools in Townsville, Caloundra South, Coomera and Yarrabilba, as well as the long awaited special school in Cairns, are just some examples of projects kickstarted under my government.


Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I give you notice that if your interjections are, in my view, designed to simply disrupt the minister's or the Premier's contribution, you will be warned and I will take appropriate action.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are just some examples of the public infrastructure projects in Queensland at the moment. That is why we have every reason to be confident about our economy. We know that some areas of Queensland are doing it tougher than others. We are addressing that by working directly with those communities, as well as putting in place programs such as Back to Work.

I look to the future with confidence, especially when it comes to the public and private infrastructure being delivered now, and the pipeline of projects planned for the years ahead, because those projects mean jobs and economic activity across our state.

Rugby League

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): Tomorrow night the defending NRL premiers, the North Queensland Cowboys, will meet the runners-up, the Brisbane Broncos, for an elimination final in Townsville. I understand that, in Townsville, the hotels are full and Townsville is ready for a massive influx of Broncos supporters—and also some Cowboys supporters.


Mr Pitt: We're ready for them, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I note that the Treasurer will also be there, going for the Cowboys. Hopefully, we will have a few Broncos supporters there as well. These two teams have had memorable clashes during the season, as they did at last year's grand final.

While we are guaranteed that a Queensland team will advance to the preliminary finals tomorrow night, this will come at the expense of another Queensland club. After tomorrow night's game, I urge all members of this parliament and, indeed all Queenslanders, to put their state ahead of their club. I urge them to back the victorious Queensland team and cheer them to victory in the grand final in Sydney on 2 October.

We have recently secured the finals for both the men and women Rugby League World Cups for Suncorp Stadium next year. We remain determined to secure an NRL final for Suncorp Stadium, possibly as soon as 2019. What a milestone it would be for a Queensland team to win the NRL premiership here in Queensland.

Petrie, Priority Development Area

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.48 am): I recently declared The Mill at Moreton Bay Queensland's latest priority development area—a new university campus and mixed use community precinct to be created on the former paper mill site at Petrie.


The Moreton Bay Regional Council and its anchor education partner, the University of the Sunshine Coast, will develop the 10-hectare campus, which is expected to welcome its first students for the first semester in 2020. The declaration of the PDA and establishing a local higher education campus will unlock significant job opportunities and boost the region's prosperity, potentially generating some \$950 million in economic benefits for the Moreton Bay region. The PDA will also offer new educational facilities, health, retail, commercial and residential development as well as significant social and community infrastructure in the large green space and environmental area.

It is anticipated that over the 20-year redevelopment lifecycle up to 6,000 jobs will be supported in the commerce, retail, community, local education and health sectors. Decommissioning and early construction works are currently underway supporting approximately 100 direct jobs per year through the university construction alone. The proposed university campus will address a significant tertiary blackspot in Queensland and provide local students with an alternative tertiary option that does not require them to travel up to three hours each day to attend a university either in Brisbane or on the Sunshine Coast. The world-class university is expected to deliver some 38 programs in its first year, including business, science, engineering, nursing, education and law, with over 100 programs expected to be available by 2030. The campus will be a central hub and expects to attract around 10,000 domestic and international students in the first 10 years.

It is predicted that The Mill at Moreton Bay PDA could provide around 4,300 dwellings and be home to more than 7,000 residents once completed by 2036. The potential economic catalyst from the university and associated mixed-use facilities will capitalise on the state's investment in existing and future rail infrastructure and support the delivery of on-the-ground transit orientated development outcomes by the private sector.

I want to take this opportunity to pay particular tribute to the mayor, Alan Sutherland, for his determination to deliver this transformational project for Moreton Bay. I also want to acknowledge the strong support shown from local Labor MPs, including the member for Kallangur, the member for Pine Rivers, the member for Murrumba, the member for Morayfield, the member for Pumicestone, the member for Redcliffe and the member for Ferny Grove. Declaration of The Mill at Moreton Bay PDA is a great example of the state, through Economic Development Queensland, working with local governments and communities to meet market demands, address local needs and deliver economic and community outcomes for the state.

Queensland Economy


 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government's economic plan has laid the groundwork for the return of business and consumer confidence in the Queensland economy. This week's release of the National Australia Bank Business Survey for August 2016 again showed Queensland at the top of the rankings for business confidence. Like the July survey, Queensland shares top spot on the business confidence ladder with New South Wales with a ranking of +7 showing that business in the state has positive expectations for conditions in the coming month. Queensland is still at the top of the NAB index among mainland states, as it has been for the past year. The Prime Minister cited the NAB survey back in February to say that business confidence was strongest in Queensland at that time, and that is where we have stayed.

Yesterday, the latest Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index was released for September which showed a rise of 1.3 per cent in Queensland's consumer sentiment index to reach 103.3, second only to New South Wales and ahead of the national average of 101.4. On a three-month moving average for Queensland, we are at the highest level achieved since November 2013. These consumer and business confidence results are a reflection of an economy that is returning to growth after the worst performance in a generation in the 2014 calendar year. Queensland is now a place where businesses and consumers are willing to spend. The return of positive sentiment in the economy is also driving the return of positive growth in Queensland's economy. We have already chalked up the strongest growth in the nation during 2015-16, estimated at around 3.5 per cent. This is a great outcome in light of global conditions and international peers that are adjusting to a new low-growth environment globally. Queensland Treasury forecasts our economy to be the fastest growing in Australia at four per cent in 2016-17. That is one per cent higher than forecasts for New South Wales and Victoria and almost three per cent higher than Western Australia.

Private analyses broadly reflect this position. The Deloitte Access Economics business outlook for June forecast Queensland to have the strongest growth in the country in 2016-17. We are forecast to grow faster than the national economy through to 2025-26. The NAB state update for July 2016 forecast our real GSP to grow solidly over the next two years. Queensland is a diverse economy and this diversity is our strength. While key sectors and regions are affected by global conditions such as soft prices and demand for our resources, the overall outlook for growth is good. However, this government is committed to providing additional support for regional economies because some regions and some sectors are not transitioning as quickly as others in the wake of the peaks of mining boom investment.

I have always said that there are great reasons to be confident about the Queensland economy. We have the best resource of human capital in the Southern Hemisphere, attracting the high-knowledge jobs for tomorrow; we are blessed with superior natural resources which underpin our mining and agriculture sectors; our spectacular natural environment is the envy of the world, which attracts tourists to our shores—never more so than right now—and this is all on the doorstep of the biggest middle class in the world in Asia. With a government that backs Queensland, consumers and businesses have every right to be confident in our future.

Ambulance Week


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): This week is Ambulance Week, a week when we recognise and pay tribute to all of the talented and hardworking staff of the Queensland Ambulance Service. Ambulance Week commemorates the anniversary of Queensland's first civil ambulance service and recognises the dedication and commitment of our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, patient transport officers and ambulance volunteers. This year is the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Queensland Ambulance Service, as well as the local ambulance committees that replaced the

Queensland ambulance transport brigade boards back in 1991. This was an early reform of the Goss government, one of many which modernised Queensland after the torpor of the Bjelke-Petersen era. Next year will be an even bigger milestone as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of ambulance services in our state.

Queensland ambos are always ready to answer our call for help, to care for us when we are sick and injured and to comfort us after trauma and tragedy. Tomorrow I will be attending the QAS remembrance service and achievement awards ceremony where ambulance officers who have performed above and beyond expectations will be recognised for their service. While our Ambulance Service does a fantastic job, we must also acknowledge the significant workload that it is currently facing. In recent months the QAS workload has spiked as it attended 88,326 incidents in the month of August alone. That is around 3,400 more cases than the QAS attended in August last year. In August the QAS received a total of 66,338 000 calls, which is the highest number of calls ever received by the QAS in a one-month period.

Indeed, the QAS faces a significant increase in its workload in the coming years as the state's population ages and the impact of chronic illness grows. We need to ensure our ambulance officers have the resources they need to continue delivering a high standard of care into the future. That is why the Palaszczuk government has invested heavily in front-line services and increased the Queensland Ambulance Service budget by over \$80 million. That is why we increased ambulance officer numbers by 115 last financial year and we will increase those numbers by a further 110 this financial year. We are investing \$59.7 million in capital expenditure across Queensland, including ambulance facilities, land, fleet, medical equipment, and information and communications technology. The Palaszczuk government supports our state's ambulance officers and today I would like to sincerely thank the men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service for all the work they do for Queensland.

State Schools, Disability Services

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.57 am): It is critical that the Turnbull government clarify how transport assistance for students with a disability will be delivered beyond 2019. Every day more than 5,000 students with a disability are supported to travel to and from their home to state schools. This year we are investing more than \$42 million in this program which provides travel for students with a disability on public transport, school buses, taxis and mini buses.

Under the national agreement entered into by the former government, school transport assistance for students with a disability will transition to the NDIS, but parents, transport operators and school communities are telling me that they have serious concerns as they have received no information from the federal government about how these services will be provided under the NDIS post 2019.

Government members: Shame!

Ms JONES: Clearly, as members can hear from the interjections from members behind me, this is unacceptable for students and their families. They need answers now.

Ms Davis: Speak to the CEO of NDIA.

Ms JONES: Yes, we are speaking to them. I take that interjection. That is a problem. Similarly, there were problems with ECDPs when we asked for clarity. They are not providing clarity. I am raising this here today in the chamber because we are getting deafening silence from the NDIA.

Ms Davis interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, your interjections are designed to disrupt the minister. If you want to ask a question on this matter you can do so this morning. If you persist with your disruptive interjections I will take the appropriate action. This is an important matter.

Ms DAVIS: It is.

Mr SPEAKER: It certainly is. I call the minister.

Ms JONES: That is why our government is 100 per cent committed to continuing to provide school transport assistance for students with a disability until the end of 2019 on behalf of the NDIS. Parents, schools and transport operators will continue to work together with the state government to provide safe and reliable transport assistance for students with a disability. However, we do need answers from the federal government and the NDIA—and we are finding those answers very hard to get from the NDIA, just as we saw with the ECDPs—to guarantee certainty for families and transport operators beyond the full NDIS transition into 2019. Parents need certainty to get their children to and from school every day.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms JONES: No-one has ever said that to me—ever. Transport operators need certainty to enable them to purchase vehicles and invest in their businesses over the long term. Why would we jeopardise a disability transport system that works so well and has so much support from families and students on the ground? The federal government must provide certainty in relation to this crucial issue. We believe one way forward is to request Queensland to continue to provide school transport assistance for students with disability—


Ms Davis interjected.

Ms JONES: We have, that is the point—on behalf of the NDIS beyond 2019—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment. Members, I know that in our communities there is a lot of interest in the matter that the minister is talking about. Member for Aspley, I invite you to speak with your leader of business. If you want to put a question to the minister or if you want to make a private member's statement this morning, you have that opportunity. Minister do you have anything further to add to that important topic? Thank you.


Social Housing

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (10.00 am): I am pleased to inform the House that across Queensland 396 companies have been awarded standing-offer arrangements to maintain and upgrade public housing between tenancies, which is a program of work worth more than \$44 million annually. That investment makes sure that vulnerable Queenslanders, such as women and children escaping domestic and family violence, people with a disability and Queensland seniors, are able to move into homes that are safe and that are comfortable. When people move out of our homes, that work makes sure that the property is in shipshape condition for the next family.

I am informed that the 396 companies in this arrangement support jobs for 4,121 hardworking Queenslanders. This government is proud to be supporting them with an ongoing pipeline of maintenance work. Those jobs are right across the state. In Central Queensland, we are set to spend approximately \$6 million on maintenance, with 93 local businesses a part of that arrangement. Likewise, we expect that in Townsville and North Queensland over \$6 million will be invested, with 59 local businesses taking part. In Cairns and Far North Queensland, we anticipate a \$3 million investment in this project, with 73 local businesses participating. In the Wide Bay-Burnett, 71 local businesses are participating, with a \$1.4 million investment being made in the area. We have tradies who know their local areas, they know the people and they are working to make sure that their own communities are better places to live.

On top of the approximately 2,000 jobs supported by our capital program, this arrangement is another demonstration of this government's commitment to jobs right across Queensland. Over the past 12 months, my department has undertaken significant local industry engagement around procurement. More than 4,300 stakeholders, including small local businesses, have attended sessions about how to get involved in our government's capital and maintenance programs. We are committed to government-led housing, we are committed to local businesses and we are committed to jobs. This government is backing in jobs right across the state.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.02 am): Today I am pleased to announce that South-East Queensland electricity users are set to access an even wider range of new products and deals as innovative retailer Mojo Power enters the Queensland market. The arrival of Mojo Power in South-East Queensland is an early sign that the deregulation of retail prices is bringing benefits to South-East Queensland consumers after 43 per cent increases under the previous government.


Mojo Power is a new electricity retailer with a business model that is completely different to anything we have seen before in Queensland, offering customers discounted prices under a subscription based service. New companies in Queensland and more competitive prices mean customers will have even more modern electricity deals and products to choose from, and more opportunities to save money on their power bills. All types of households, with both larger and smaller

consumption patterns, can benefit from shopping around for a better deal. In Queensland, two new retailers have entered the small business market since deregulation commenced and we have seen different offers available in the market every week.

The Palaszczuk government is empowering customers to take advantage of the full benefits of a deregulated marketplace through an extensive public consumer education campaign on social and mainstream media. I am sure many members have seen that underway. Importantly, we are also providing extra support to ensure that vulnerable customers are able to engage in the market. Our \$1.2 million funding agreement with the Queensland Council of Social Service over the next four years will include assisting vulnerable customers to access the tools and information they need to compare offers and to get the best energy deal to reduce their power bill.

Further support for vulnerable customers is being provided through initiatives such as the \$500,000 Switched-on Communities grant program funded by AGL. Nine different community and not-for-profit organisations throughout South-East Queensland will receive funding to deliver information about energy pricing, hardship assistance and show them how to access the tools they need to shop around, such as the Energy Made Easy independent price comparator at www.energymadeeasy.gov.au. We are very happy to work with the community sector for better outcomes for consumers.

Disability Action Week

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.05 am): This week is Disability Action Week, which aims to empower people with disability, raise awareness of disability issues and improve access and inclusion throughout the community. I was excited to launch this year's celebration over the weekend at Ballymore, home of the Queensland Reds. This year's theme, 'Inclusion: It's a game changer', aims to promote the participation of people with disability in sport, which also aligns really nicely with the 2016 Paralympic Games happening now in Rio.


I am excited to see sporting clubs such as the Queensland Reds fostering inclusive programs that encourage young people with disability to get involved. It was great to meet Megan and Anthony from Ginger Cloud Foundation and hear about the life-changing impact modified Rugby has had for their son. Piloted in 2014, the modified Rugby program enables young people with learning and perceptual difficulties to play Rugby at their local club with the support of an on-field mentor. This year across South-East Queensland, there are now six clubs and eight teams with 160 players, player mentors and coaches participating, with plans to expand the program.

Last week in Townsville, I had the opportunity to attend another fantastic event at local Mundingburra organisation Tardiss, where we held an early celebration. Tardiss has recently employed more than 20 new staff, including two laid-off QNI workers, in response to the increase in demand created by the NDIS. It is great to see local people making the most of these opportunities and benefitting from the huge number of jobs that will be created.

Disability Action Week is all about celebrating the contribution people with disability make in our communities and raising awareness of their needs. To highlight the importance of inclusion in the sporting community, this year my department has produced a number of videos that can be shared online. Each video tells a different story about what inclusion means for people with disability in cricket, golf and Rugby. I encourage members to jump online, share this important message and promote inclusion within their communities.

We know people with disability can achieve amazing things, such as winning a gold medal at the Paralympics if given the opportunity. Just this week, we have seen four Paralympians run the 1500-metre race faster than the gold medallists in the Rio Olympics final. I have been particularly cheering on our Queensland athletes, who have so far picked up an impressive 12 medals, with Australia collecting 50 medals. Let us hope we see some more to top off the great results and make our Disability Action Week Celebrations even better.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Centres

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): One of our government's highest priorities is to reduce the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care. With that firmly in mind, I am pleased to announce that tenders

will open next week for the second stage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services in Queensland. This second stage will see services opened in an additional 15 locations across Queensland. Those will be established in locations across the south-east, the south-west, the north coast, the central north and Far North Queensland. Stage 2 represents almost \$128 million over five years for those crucial new wellbeing services. These are on top of the four new services I have previously announced. I am happy to update the House that the first four services will commence this December in Roma, Mackay, South Burnett and Moreton Bay.

The shortlisting of providers for these service is now underway and we have been encouraged by the responses we have received. In total, this new investment will create more than 130 jobs, all within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled organisations. By 2018 these new services will offer support to up to 6,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to help care for their children.

We all agree we need to rethink how we work with families and communities to keep children safe. The new family wellbeing services will draw from the richness and diversity in the community to design local responses that focus on healing support, restoring people's social and emotional wellbeing and building the resilience of families. This can only come about when we work with community leaders and community run organisations.

These are the conversations I will be having when I and my director-general visit the Torres Strait this weekend. I have already seen community response in action in the community of St Paul's on Moa Island. I know there are many more examples of community responses keeping children safe within culture that we can support and partner with, and we will with these new services. These new wellbeing services are an excellent example of what we can achieve when we work together to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Islander children and families.

Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.10 am): Queensland is home to some of the country's premier universities and research institutions, recognised the world over for the quality and scope of their work. Through the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative we have established the Innovation Partnerships program to support Queensland researchers and industry to undertake collaborative projects that will deliver tangible benefits for Queensland, be they economic, environmental or social outcomes.

Our Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships program is designed to: boost productivity, growth and the competitiveness of existing industries; accelerate the emergence of developing industries; and increase the speed and scale of translation of our science and research into new products, services and business models that can help drive economic and jobs growth in Queensland.


Once again, we saw a huge response to an Advance Queensland funding program, with more than 90 collaborative projects put forward for funding. The collaborative nature of the project—with researchers working alongside industry partners—meant that the evaluation process for applicants required very careful consideration.

Today, I am pleased to announce that 15 projects have been successful under the first round of funding and will receive a total government investment of \$9.65 million. In addition, to the Palaszczuk government's investment, the successful recipients and their project partners are contributing a further \$15 million towards these projects. This is a boost of nearly \$25 million for science research and development in Queensland, keeping us ahead of the pack. The projects funded will address issues in priority areas such as agriculture, engineering, climate change, clean energy, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.

I will provide the House with two examples of how this Advance Queensland funding will contribute to health outcomes for Queenslanders. Professor Ros Boyd from the Queensland Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Research Centre at the University of Queensland will use the funding to develop new tools for the early detection of cerebral palsy in babies to improve health outcomes for children born with the condition. Professor Dietmar Huttmacher from the Queensland University of Technology will partner with the Transitional Research Institute, Biofabrication Design Solutions, 3D Industries and 3D Space Labs to develop world-first technology around breast scaffolds for reconstructive surgery, delivering significant benefits for women who have had breast cancer.

These projects demonstrate the innovative research being undertaken by Queensland researchers and the important partnerships being developed with industry to translate that research into practical outcomes for Queenslanders. These projects are about creating jobs and turning ideas into reality, which is at the heart of our innovation agenda. In addition, these partnerships are examples of some of the life-changing benefits that the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland program will deliver not just to our state and to our country but to the world.

Commonwealth Games, Nerang Mountain Bike Trail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.13 am): I am pleased to inform the House that our \$320 million Commonwealth Games venue construction program is on track and on budget. This week marked another exciting milestone on our journey towards the games with the start of construction on the new Nerang mountain bike trails. When this project is completed at the end of the year, the new trails will be the first international standard mountain bike trails in South-East Queensland.

Nerang National Park is already a popular mountain biking destination for the region's cycling community, with thousands enjoying the existing trails every week. There is no doubt the mountain biking community will make the most of the new facilities next year, ahead of the Commonwealth's best riders arriving in April 2018. The new course, measuring approximately 4.5 kilometres in length, will be a mixture of new and upgraded trails, guaranteeing a cross-country Olympic standard mountain bike course. It will include fast-flow trails and slow-speed steep and technical trails.


Industry-leading Australian company Dirt Art is teaming up with Gold Coast track builder Nathan Rennie to construct the trails. This partnership will ensure the delivery of another world-class venue for the games. Nathan's expertise, gained through racing in international competitions for more than 10 years, and local knowledge will be invaluable for the project. Dirt Art have delivered more than the 2,000 kilometres of trails for a wide variety of projects throughout Australia and around the world and are experts in the field of mountain bike trail design and construction. The team have extensive experience working in reserve bushland.

The Nerang mountain bike trails are being constructed as part of a \$3.2 million project which also included major upgrades at the Gold Coast Cycle Centre. Earlier this year Toowoomba based company FKG Group completed the upgrade work to provide improved facilities for competitors and spectators. The vital work they perform now ensures the venue is accessible to people with disabilities. The refurbishment included upgrades to the clubhouse, improvements to car park facilities, a new amenities block and a new spectacular viewing platform, from which there are great views of the existing outdoor velodrome and criterium track.

The Palaszczuk government has made it a priority to ensure that local businesses and workers benefit from the venue construction program. It is great to see a local trail builder engaged in this project. This project alone has created up to 10 full-time equivalent jobs during design and construction. We are looking forward to all of these developments in the lead-up to the games in 2018.

NOTICE OF MOTION


North Queensland, Secession

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (10.16 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House supports, in accordance with section 124 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the separation of Queensland into two states, and that the boundary of the two states is to be as recommended by an independent body, such as the current Queensland Redistribution Commission.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Health, Consultants and Contractors

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.17 am): Yesterday the Minister for Health waxed lyrical about a cut in consultancies in his department of 90 per cent from \$6 million to \$600,000. As usual, it is important to look at the detail behind his carefully chosen, cherry-picked statistics. Let us go on a journey through time—a time when the minister had not been teleported to another seat in another city. Imagine that when he was the member for Greenslopes in the 53rd Parliament.

On 1 February 2015 he must have woken up and pulled the curtains aside and said, 'We're not in Kansas anymore are we? Where are we?' The family must have said, 'Where are we?' He finally said, 'We are in a place called Woodridge. Woodridge is where we are now.' He actually is where he actually always was residing. The important point is that he is now the member for Woodridge and he was a senior minister in the Bligh government.


Let us have a look at what the consultancies in Health were then. A little birdie has told me that consultancy expenditure in 2011-12 was \$26.77 million compared to \$19.84 million in 2010-11 which was an increase of 35 per cent—all while the minister was a minister in the Bligh government, admittedly, as attorney-general and then, having overseen the disaster in SPER, he was moved to education and training. When are consultants employed? They are employed following a review of the availability of suitable internal staff and where it is considered to be cost effective. He was adamant that consultancies are needed when there are fewer staff.

In that government—he does not want to listen to it, Mr Speaker, does he? Come on, Cammy—'Look at moi, look at moi!' How does he explain the \$57.8 million in consultancies during the time of the Bligh government, of which he was a member of the cabinet, when the workforce was the biggest in the Public Service? There was one consultancy alone that cost \$16.6 million. Who can forget the Tahitian prince? That was all done while he was a minister in the Bligh government in the 53rd Parliament.

From July 2010 to May 2012, Queensland Health had 241 consultancies with the agreed value of \$57.8 million. I do not have time to go through the detail but, as usual, you cannot believe anything this minister says about what they are doing in Health. We have bed blocking back. We have ramping. We had people under the Bligh government who were on the specialist waiting list on the Gold Coast who were marked 'never to be seen'. That is what happens under Labor in Health.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, I urge members to make their comments through the chair, please.

Jobs

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.20 am): It was great to have Kath Day-Knight quoted in parliament by those opposite. The Palaszczuk government came into office with jobs as our No. 1 priority, not quoting daytime shows. We inherited an unemployment rate of 6.6 per cent, after three years of the LNP government which saw more than 30,000 Queenslanders thrown onto the jobless queue.

When the Leader of the Opposition was treasurer, the jobless rate hit a high of 7.1 per cent in October 2014. The LNP had no plan for dealing with unemployment during their time in office—just a plan for selling off assets and cutting jobs. They abolished Skilling Queenslanders for Work, reinstated by the Palaszczuk government. They sacked 14,000 public servants; front-line services are being reinstated by the Palaszczuk government. Each month under the Newman government, 380 full-time jobs were lost. Let me repeat that: 380 full-time jobs were lost every month. That is the record of those opposite.


By comparison, since we have come to office, 40,000 new jobs have been created in this state. Youth unemployment, which those opposite go on about, has fallen from 14.1 per cent to 12.9 per cent, with the latest July figures showing that in the regions 10 out of the 14 categories had a reduction in youth unemployment—10 of the 14 categories. Throughout this period, unemployment has remained below levels under the Newman government and new jobs continue to be created, but we recognise that there is always more work to do.

In the most recent budget, we have taken the view that the regions need targeted support and assistance. This came through the cabinet working committee, meetings throughout regional Queensland and the jobs forum held throughout regional Queensland. We are supporting the new jobs and industries of the future—biofuels, solar, education and training, agriculture and tourism, which is going gangbusters at the moment with international investment.

As an aside, I notice that the member for Clayfield is next on the speaking list. With international investment and visitors to this country necessary for our economic growth, is he going to rule out any preference deal with One Nation? I call on him to grow a backbone. He can say it today. He can put it on the record. Is he going to support a party which talks about 'being swamped by Muslims' and which

20 years ago talked about 'being swamped by Asians'? I am sure that 20 years earlier than that it would have been the Greeks, Italians and the Jews. Is he going to show some backbone? Is he going to jeopardise those jobs of the future? Is he going to stand up in this place and rule out any One Nation dirty deal? I call on him to do so.

Paralympians; Disability Action Week

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.24 am): For the past week we have witnessed the best of the best compete in Rio de Janeiro at the 2016 Paralympic Games. As we celebrate Disability Action Week, it is fitting that we do honour those who have achieved extraordinary things in Rio. Queenslanders should be proud that in 2016 more than a quarter of the Paralympian team is from our great state and, Mr Speaker, haven't they done well? From swimming and basketball to equestrian and athletics, our Paralympians have put in a stellar effort.


Australia has so far snapped up a swag of gold metals, 21 silver and 20 bronze. Among the Queenslanders are swimmer Lakeisha 'Lucky' Patterson from Caboolture, who clinched gold in the women's 400-metre freestyle S8 category. The member for Whitsunday would not forgive me if I did not mention David Nicholas, who is from Proserpine, not from Rockhampton, who has won gold in the C3 cycling. We have the Australian men's basketball team, the Rollers, currently in the quarter final. The team includes no less than five Queenslanders and is shooting for its fourth consecutive Paralympics medal.

Rio is not the only place where Queenslanders with a disability are triumphing. This year, for Disability Action Week, Queensland's focus has been on the theme 'Inclusion: it's a game changer'. That is a poignant message for young Queenslanders with a disability. Watching the Paralympic Games, it is clear that there is no limit to what they can achieve. This week we have seen dozens of events held across the state honour, encourage, support and celebrate the contribution of Queenslanders with a disability. From games of cricket to community fun days, these events have been quintessentially Queensland—the place where everyone, and I do mean everyone, gets a chance to shine.

The Rio Paralympics and Disability Action Week remind us that just up ahead is another significant game changer. The National Disability Insurance Scheme remains a key priority for the LNP. It is encouraging to see the level of bipartisanship for the NDIS in Queensland and in Canberra. The scheme in Queensland has been brought about as a result of the \$868 million that was initially contributed in December 2012 as a result of the budget repair task that we undertook. It was the single biggest funding increase in Queensland for disability and associated services and led to us spending \$1.77 billion as a minimum by 2018, escalating funding at the rate of 4½ per cent—almost double the rate of inflation. That was put in place in 2013-14. It is absolutely apposite to remind people that when we came to government we had the lowest disability spend per capita in Australia. We will double that over five years. The talent, spirit and persistence of all of those with disabilities inspires us all to push past our barriers and be at our best.

(Time expired)

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.27 am): It is pretty clear that the Leader of the Opposition will not rule out preference deals with One Nation after that disgraceful hate speech yesterday in the federal Senate. Let me talk about something else that is quite disgraceful.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I would urge members not to continue your discussions when I am on my feet or I will take the appropriate action.

Ms TRAD: I find the comments made by the member for Chatsworth personally offensive and I ask that he withdraw them.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear the comments but, member for Chatsworth, will you withdraw?

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, we will move on. Minister for Education, I would urge you not to engage in an argument across the chamber.

Ms TRAD: Another matter of absolute disgrace is the hypocrisy shown by those opposite. They come into this House and they talk about this government and the projects that we have on our agenda and say that we are holding up economic development in Queensland. The No. 1 project for Queensland—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I do not have a problem with reasonable interjections but when the interjections are so loud that I cannot hear the speaker they will not happen.

Ms TRAD: The No. 1 project for Queensland and the South-East Queensland corner is Cross River Rail. Infrastructure Australia has identified that and so has the Queensland government.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I draw your attention to the fact that there is a matter already referred to the Ethics Committee touching on that issue. Make sure you do not go near that area.


Ms TRAD: I absolutely will not go near that area, Mr Speaker. In 2013 we saw the most disgraceful retreat from a large-scale infrastructure project which, if it had been agreed back in 2013, would literally means thousands of jobs this year—right now. What happened? Those opposite walked away from the deal that they proposed to the federal government.

Let me say what was on the table and proposed under the former transport minister and now opposition Treasurer. He wanted the federal Labor government to put on the table \$715 million, 50-50 availability payments going forward for a PPP, and for the federal government to take on the responsibility for the debt on its own books. That was put in writing to the federal infrastructure minister, Anthony Albanese, who responded and said, 'You've got yourself a deal—\$715 million, 50-50 availability payments and we will put the debt on our books.'

What did those opposite do? There was a federal election so they decided to play politics with the biggest infrastructure project for Queensland in literally decades. They tore it up and walked away from it. Right now we would be having thousands of Queenslanders in major construction companies at work building the Cross River Rail. Contrast that with what we have done since we have come into office. We have established Building Queensland, we have put forward the business case, we have allocated the single biggest allocation towards building Cross River Rail with \$850 million. We are determined to see this project built. They are determined not to.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, I would urge you to be careful with your comments.

West Village Development

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (10.31 am): Isn't it the ultimate irony to see the Deputy Premier stand up today and talk about job destruction when yesterday she stood up and did the greatest job-destroying act that we have seen in this House for some time when she called in the West Village project. There were absolutely unbelievable scenes. Councillor Sri was popping up like a jack-in-the-box in the gallery, looking over the shoulder of his colleague—or should I say not his colleague—in West End. Here she is calling in a project which puts millions of dollars and thousands of jobs at risk.

The decision was so bad that on Steve Austin this morning Chris Mountford from the Property Council says that the decisions of this government over the last six months have sent a bad message to industry and it is affecting confidence. We are seeing that as clearly as we can. There is no need to pull out the bank's figures and your own spin. What the industry is saying is beyond dispute.

Let us look at exactly what happened yesterday. As of yesterday this document, appeal No. 2407 of 2016, was sitting in the Planning and Environment Court, giving everybody—the developer, the community and the Brisbane City Council—a fair go at having that matter resolved. It would go to mediation and it would then go to a hearing if it had to. There was a process in place—the proper process—to review any concerns that anybody had about that decision but, no, instead of allowing the proper process to take its course, the minister calls it in under section 427. Section 427 of the Sustainable Planning Act says this when a call-in happens—

The Minister's decision on the application is taken to be the original assessment manager's decision—

in other words, the Deputy Premier becomes the Brisbane City Council—

but a person may not appeal against the Minister's decision.

Her decision becomes final. There is no appeal. What is more, subsection (6) states—

If an appeal was made before the application was called in—

as it was—


the appeal is of no further effect.

The court has now been taken completely out of the system, as has the council and any other proper dispute mechanism, and the Deputy Premier is it. When that project is in her backyard, that is unacceptable. It is an unacceptable conflict of interest. It stands out absolutely, and the Deputy Premier should not be assessing this project. The Premier needs to find a mechanism for someone else to assess this proposal. It is a hot button development in her own backyard. The Premier has to step up and appoint a delegate or an acting minister to look at this project. It is absolutely unacceptable for the confidence of business in this state to have this decision made by the very person who knows that it is such a hot issue in her backyard. It is unacceptable and it has to be fixed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Question time will finish at 11.34 am.

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.34 am): My first question is to the Premier. How does the government's policy on alcohol fuelled violence accord with the member for Keppel's alleged behaviour on the weekend?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the question from the Leader of the Opposition. I would have thought that we might get some policy questions from the Leader of the Opposition so we could talk about the issues that are impacting Queenslanders. We thought there would be a change of leader and a change of direction. There is no change at all. It is the same LNP. Nothing has changed.

Last night the member for Keppel stood in this place and made a very emotional statement, putting on the record of the House her views in relation to this matter. I urge all members opposite—

Mr Seeney: The question is about your views.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I would—

Mr Seeney: We want to know what you think.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have heard your interjections, member for Callide.


Ms PALASZCZUK: Stand up and ask a question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is answering the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Keppel made a very clear statement in this House. I take very seriously that the member for Keppel has made her views extensively clear to the members of this House.

Interruption.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the Leader of the Opposition for his next question, I am pleased to acknowledge today in our gallery a delegation of young political leaders from Vietnam. I am informed that our Vietnam friends are hosted by the Australian Political Exchange Council. Welcome.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind all members that questions to a minister must relate to the public affairs with which the minister is officially connected or a matter of administration for which the minister is responsible.

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

 **Mr NICHOLLS:** My second question is also to the Premier. What actions has the Premier taken to make the member for Keppel aware of the government's alcohol fuelled violence initiatives, and when was the Premier first made aware of the incident reported today involving the member for Keppel?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Members of this House know very clearly the government's position when it comes to alcohol fuelled violence. It is a very important issue and one that we take incredibly seriously. What we want to see by the reduction in trading hours across the state is a reduction in violence. We have gone through this at length. Minister Lynham has spoken extensively about the issues that he has had to deal with during his time as a surgeon in relation to this incredibly serious issue.

In relation to the issue that the Leader of the Opposition is raising today, I can confirm that the Deputy Premier and I did have a conversation with the member for Keppel. The member for Keppel made it very clear in her advice to us that she was not directly involved in that. I believe the member for Keppel to be an honest and decent person. I also understand that the member for Keppel has gone through some rough times recently.

In the interests of the Leader of the Opposition's question, I place on the public record that, yes, the Deputy Premier and I have spoken with her. All members of the government know my expectations when it comes to these serious issues, as I would expect those opposite do as well.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Ferny Grove for his question, I am informed that we have a group of students and teachers from the Tallebudgera State School in the electorate of Currumbin in our gallery observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Solar Industry

Mr FURNER: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the government's strategy to create a new large-scale solar industry in Queensland? Is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is good to have a question from the member for Ferny Grove concerned about jobs in this state and concerned about the policy direction of this government. Before I go to the substantial answer, I also welcome the students in the House here today as well as our visiting delegation from Vietnam. Thank you very much for your attendance here.

As we know, this week I have been speaking extensively about a new solar industry for Queensland. Through the hard work of Minister Bailey and my government, we know how important it is to diversify the economy. We know how important it is to make sure that we drive jobs in this state and create over 500 jobs through this new solar industry. As we know very clearly, some alternative views have been put in relation to this issue—for example, from the Leader of the Opposition. When he was the treasurer of this state previously, he called the people who are receptive to solar 'champagne sippers and the latte set'. Minister Bailey and I were very pleased yesterday to meet with members from ARENA and Ivor in particular. In fact, Minister Bailey gave him a latte on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition. Let me table that photo.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey [1545].

It gets better. Earlier this week, we were talking about the Back to Work program and we saw the member for Gregory come on board and support our Back to Work program. Is there anyone else in this House besides members of the government who support a solar industry in this state to drive the economy and drive the jobs? Today the member for Burnett was on the radio, and what did he say? He said, 'We are quickly moving into a solar generated economy, aren't we? Our community in Bundaberg has a really high take-up, and I thought that would have put us in a good position that we do support some solar initiatives in our region.' There is some support, but wait because it gets better. He said, 'We would have hoped that ARENA and other proponents would have found Bundaberg the place of choice.' Three cheers for the member for Burnett for getting behind our solar program to create jobs in Queensland.

(Time expired)

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table the speech given by the member for Keppel on 17 February 2016 where she said, 'I urge all members to think about the families affected by too much alcohol'.

Tabled paper: Extract from *Record of Proceedings*, dated 17 February 2016, of a speech by the member for Keppel, Mrs Brittany Lauga MP, on the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill and Fair Trading Legislation (Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill [1546].

Does this statement accord with the government's policy on alcohol fuelled violence? What does the Premier say to the families, including young children, who reportedly witnessed the member for Keppel's husband smash a glass on a pool table?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I have stated previously, the member for Keppel has outlined her views to the House. I urge all members of this House, especially those opposite, to read what the member said in this House last night.

Trade and Investment

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Stretton for his question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PEGG: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question—

Mr SPEAKER: We might just wait a moment. I know you do not have a large voice like the member for Hinchinbrook.

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise the House of the importance of trade and investment to Queensland jobs?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Stretton for his question because I know that he is deeply interested in what trade and foreign investment has to contribute to our economy. I thank him for that question because he cares about Queensland, he cares about the economy and he cares about us doing trade with our partners—some of whom are in the gallery today. I would also like to acknowledge the Vietnamese delegation in the gallery today. You are very welcome.

Trade means jobs. One in five jobs in this state is related to trade. It is very, very important to our economy. I am pleased to inform the House that next week I will be travelling to Europe and the United Arab Emirates to promote Queensland's innovation and knowledge based industries and urban development and infrastructure firms. This is a key time to visit these regions. In the UK, Brexit can open up new trade opportunities, and in the United Arab Emirates there are significant opportunities for Queensland businesses from ongoing development. On this leg alone, I will be accompanied by 11 businesses which want to take advantage of these opportunities, which want to increase their presence in the UAE or establish their presence in the UAE. I met with members of the delegation the other day and they are very excited about this trade mission.

I will also be going to Paris where I will be meeting with UNESCO to outline this government's continued commitment to the Great Barrier Reef. Despite the failure of the vegetation management bill, I will be outlining to UNESCO why we are taking action to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef stays off the endangered list.

I will also be reassuring overseas investors that Ms Hanson's comments of yesterday do not reflect the views of Queenslanders. Yesterday she called for a halt to further immigration. I think we need to think about what that means for our economy. On the same day that she gave her speech, the Productivity Commission report was tabled in parliament. The report is quite clear. They found that on a per capita GDP basis a zero migration scenario would mean that every man, woman and child would effectively be \$7,000 worse off on an annual basis after 2060. That means we are all worse off under One Nation's policies. We are talking not about politics but about the future, about our economy, about our kids and the jobs they will have in the future. That is why it is critical. That is why it is important that the Leader of the Opposition says to the parliament he will not do a deal with One Nation.

(Time expired)

Productivity Commission

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Premier. The Queensland Productivity Commission, with its 17 staff, does not have any active inquiries and has only published one regulatory review. What is the Productivity Commission doing, or is this just another example of the government being asleep at the wheel?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. It was an election commitment of ours to set up the Productivity Commission and it has been undergoing extensive work with recruitment. It is in the compass of the Treasurer. I can confirm to the House that the Treasurer has written to the Queensland Productivity Commission about a new inquiry into Queensland manufacturing including reshoring.

Mr Pitt: What do you call the electricity inquiry?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. There was the electricity inquiry as well.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, members, I am having difficulty hearing.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I go back. It was an election commitment of my government to assess our policy options to improve the productivity competitiveness of the Queensland manufacturing industry in this state. The Queensland Productivity Commission was established to enable the government to draw

on the commission's independent expertise and provide in-depth economic analysis of complex policy issues. The investigation will focus on high-value advanced manufacturing sectors, which is what is needed when we are talking about—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They really are a rabble today.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members. One moment.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The commission will also focus on high-value manufacturing sectors including health, mining, transport and environment.

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I could not hear, either, because of your interjections, member for Indooroopilly.

Wynnum, Integrated Health Centre

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Lytton for her question I understand she is also having a birthday today. Happy birthday.

Ms PEASE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I ask: will the minister please update the House on the integrated health centre at Wynnum?

Mr DICK: I join all members of the House in congratulating the member for Lytton on her 30th birthday! Congratulations. We wish her all the very best today. Thank you for your indulgence, Mr Speaker.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DICK: I am not going to be lectured to by the opposition on leadership or unity. It is like being lectured to by Clive Palmer on transparency, honesty and accountability. I thank the member for the interjection.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr DICK: And on ethical standards from what we have seen this morning. What a bunch of low rent low flyers!

Mr SPEAKER: With respect, I think those comments are unparliamentary. Will you withdraw, please?

Mr DICK: I withdraw. The honourable member for Lytton has been a strong advocate for the restoration of health services in the Lytton electorate for the people of Wynnum. Of course, those services were taken away by the LNP government.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DICK: It was a shame. I take the interjection from the member for Lytton. It was a shame. That is what happens when the member for Clayfield gets hold of the purse strings: he demands savings, he puts a straitjacket for savings on the people of Queensland and on the government and services are reduced as a consequence. I acknowledge the leadership of the Premier in opposition who spearheaded the campaign supported by people like the member for Lytton before she was a member of this House calling for the restoration of those services. That call was responded to by the people of Lytton, who of course elected the member for Lytton at the last election.

In December last year I attended the Wynnum Health Service with the member for Lytton and told staff that we would be building a new Wynnum health centre. That centre will return 24-hour health care to Wynnum having had those services—

Mr Springborg: You have got to be kidding!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. He knows that he took away those 24-hour services from the people of the Lytton electorate and also from Wynnum. That new centre will expand services thanks to the advocacy of the member for Lytton. There will be new specialist outpatient services, an expanded dentistry service and a mental health service.

Mr Springborg: Who acquired the site for the new centre? Who put it in place?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. I am being attacked by the member for Southern Downs and the member for Surfers Paradise—I was savaged this morning. When it came to the member for Surfers Paradise it was like being attacked by a toy poodle. I will regain my composure and move on.

We have appointed a builder, ADCO Constructions, to deliver the new health facility and we are currently negotiating a start time. I am also pleased to report to the House that the facility will be named the Wynnum Manly Community Health Centre Gundu Pa, which is a combination of two words in the Jandai dialect meaning 'medicine stones place'. I am delighted that it was recommended for consideration by the Winnam Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation. That will be incorporated into the name of the new health centre. I thank the member for Lytton for bringing that to my attention. We are getting on with the job of delivering front-line services—

(Time expired)

Productivity Commission

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Premier. I ask: why is Labor slugging Queenslanders over \$15 million for the Queensland Productivity Commission, which does not have any active inquiries happening and has only published one regulatory review?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I explained in detail that there is a new inquiry before the Productivity Commission looking at advanced manufacturing in this state. There has also been the issue about electricity prices which was extensively covered. Perhaps the honourable member might like to have a look at those issues.

MacGregor State School

Mr RUSSO: My question is of the Minister for Education. Since I was elected my efforts to improve safety for students at the MacGregor State School have been frustrated by the Brisbane City Council at every turn. Will the minister advise what is being done to progress a stop, drop and go zone for MacGregor State School to ensure the safety of students?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for Sunnybank for his question. I know how genuinely passionate he is about ensuring that we get a solution at MacGregor State School. I have had the privilege of going out to the school with the honourable member to see firsthand the P&C president and other representatives from the school and to talk through the issues there.

As honourable members would know, traffic is an increasing issue right throughout Brisbane and in particular this is having an impact on our schools. As the honourable Leader of the Opposition would know as would the member for Indooroopilly, for a very long time there has been a bipartisan approach, both at a council and a state level, to deliver stop, drop and go zones out the front of schools. This has been a longstanding policy in Brisbane for more than a decade—I would say for 20 years. What we have seen recently in a letter written to me by the Deputy Mayor, Adrian Schinnerer, is an attempt by the council to walk away from this arrangement. What he failed to do was to tell his councillor in the MacGregor ward—and the honourable member for Sunnybank knows this—because he publicly committed during the council election campaign to funding a new stop, drop and go zone at the front of MacGregor State School. That is what he said publicly. He said that he would come to the table with us as the state government and fund it 50-50. I am here to say absolutely; we will honour the longstanding arrangement that has been in place in a bipartisan way to deliver a new stop, drop and go zone at MacGregor State School under the 50-50 arrangement. It is very concerning to me that they are now playing politics with children's lives by walking away from this safety arrangement.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms JONES: No, I am not because I did not write a letter to children saying that he was—

Mr Mander: You wouldn't do that!

Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the member for Everton. What has happened is the councillor has now written to students at the school about walking away from this commitment. I call on the Brisbane City Council, the local councillor and the deputy mayor to come clean with the people of Queensland and commit to keeping in place the longstanding arrangement of funding stop, drop and go zones out the front of state schools. Safety has to be the No. 1 priority. We will continue to keep up our end of the bargain as we have always done and as we will always do.

There is one bargain on which we still do not have a clear answer today. Yesterday we heard the comments of newly elected Senator Pauline Hanson. I once again reiterate that the Leader of the Opposition needs to stand firm and say clearly today will he or will he not do a deal with One Nation. Here is the chance for the member to stand up, show some leadership and clearly—

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order. The minister's answer clearly has no relevance to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I urge you to make your answer relevant to the question. If you have nothing further to add, I call the member for Aspley.

Productivity Commission

Ms DAVIS: Mr Speaker, my question is of the Premier. Does the Premier think it is appropriate that a body with 17 staff which costs taxpayers \$15 million but is not actively undertaking any major inquiries is further proof that the Palaszczuk government is asleep at the wheel?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The member for Aspley's question is phrased in such a way that it is seeking an opinion and it is out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, will you please repeat your question.

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier think it is appropriate that a body with 17 staff which costs taxpayers \$15 million but is not actively undertaking any major inquiries shows that is further proof that the Palaszczuk government is asleep at the wheel?

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question but I will give the Premier latitude if she wants to answer. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I said very clearly, the Productivity Commission has already done an inquiry in relation to electricity prices and the solar feed-in tariff. I have now also spoken extensively about the next inquiry concerning advanced manufacturing, which is about growing jobs in the state and diversifying our economy. What we saw from those opposite, especially the Leader of the Opposition, was a Commission of Audit. What did the Commission of Audit do? It was about selling everything and it cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. They could not even do it themselves. They got his old mate Peter Costello in—

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: to sell off all of Queensland! They wanted to outsource all of Queensland. It was a huge waste of taxpayers' funds. The Productivity Commission has been set up by my government to look at ways of creating more jobs in this state, unlike those opposite who are clearly anti-jobs.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take those interjections. Let me once again put on the public record that this is the fourth anniversary of the member for Clayfield's more than 14,000 savage job cuts in this state. I say to those opposite, 'Don't you dare come in here and lecture me about jobs when your record is absolutely and totally abysmal!'

Multiculturalism

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister outline to the House the benefits that multiculturalism brings to Queensland and any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I rise to speak on this question and I thank the member for Greenslopes for the question. I know that he is a passionate member of parliament, a passionate nurse and passionate when it comes to multiculturalism. I rise here as the proud daughter of Italian migrants. Queensland is a great multicultural success story. Multiculturalism brings great social and cultural benefits to Queensland and it is good for our economy. We have just come off one of the greatest multicultural months that we have seen in this state with awards that were started by the Premier recognising the role that the multicultural community plays in enriching our society here in Queensland.

If you want to look at raw numbers, migrants contribute an estimated \$15.4 billion to the national economy in their first 10 years after arrival. According to Deloitte Access Economics, international students spend nearly \$3 billion in Queensland, and they spent that in 2015. This translates to \$2.2 billion in value to the gross state product and nearly 19,000 full-time-equivalent jobs in 2015 alone. The economic benefits to Queensland from multiculturalism are clear and unequivocal, but those benefits are obviously not clear and unequivocal to those opposite.

Earlier this year this parliament passed the Multicultural Recognition Bill with bipartisan support, and I am working with the Multicultural Advisory Council to implement the charter and put in place an action and policy working plan. Unfortunately, a lot of that could be undermined by the actions of those opposite in not coming forward and not making a preference deal with One Nation. This is becoming even more urgent because yesterday everyone heard the views of One Nation.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: They do not want to listen because they are embarrassed by their stance.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under standing order 253A. Your interjections appear to me to be clearly trying to disrupt the minister who is on her feet. You are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. That also applies to the member for Chatsworth: you are also warned. I call the minister.

Ms GRACE: They should be embarrassed! They should hang their heads in shame because here we have a party which is espousing that we are being swamped by Muslims. Twenty years ago it was Asians and I am sure, given the opportunity, that it would have been the Greeks, the Italians and the Jews earlier on. Those opposite should stand here in this place side to side with us on this side of the House, because we will reject One Nation. We will put them last. We want the Leader of the Opposition to show some backbone, show some leadership, and come out and say that a deal will not be done with One Nation because nothing will save them if they do not; however, we will save the member for Lockyer!

Productivity Commission

Mrs SMITH: My question is of the Premier. Premier, does the productivity of the Productivity Commission reflect the productivity of this Palaszczuk government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It might help if the member could read the question instead of stumbling over the words. The member cannot even read the question out.

Let me very clearly put on the record what the Productivity Commission had to say about the LNP supporting the re-regulation of the sugar industry. Let's talk about that, shall we? What did they say about the sugar bill? They said that if we had retained the existing framework it would have provided the greatest net benefit to Queensland. What did those opposite do to the productivity of Queensland and the sugar industry? They destroyed it. They are anti-jobs in this state. They do not believe in jobs. They do not stand for anything. When we talk about productivity, there is no productivity from those opposite. Where are the policies? They are in a hammock with their feet up having a rest.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, one moment. I know that you and the Leader of the Opposition are keen to continue, but perhaps we can come back to the question and the answer. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The productivity of the Leader of the Opposition is like his ratings: they are in the high negatives. The productivity—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide and member for Indooroopilly.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are yet to see any concrete policies from those opposite. They have been here for 18 months and where are they? Can someone help me, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Let's get serious.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You said I could answer it how I wanted to.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, come on. Let's be serious. Premier, do you have anything further you would like to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms BOYD: My question is of the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister please inform the House of the initiatives the Palaszczuk government is implementing in order to keep Queensland women and children safe?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: This is a serious question. It deserves the answer to be heard in silence. I would urge members not to provoke me.

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for her question and for her ongoing commitment to supporting our efforts to restore front-line services that support vulnerable women and children in Queensland. Earlier this year the Palaszczuk government released a Women's Strategy and, for the first time in 20 years, a women's budget statement. We have restored the capacity of the Office for Women which was slashed by the previous government. Some 75 per cent of the policy and program staff were ripped from the Office for Women.

I am proud of the work this government is doing to engage with our essential community services that support women after so many of them lost vital funding under the previous government—like funding cut from the Breaking the Cycle program in Rockhampton, a community run program to tackle domestic and family violence; or funding cut from Sisters Inside, an organisation with a proven track record of supporting vulnerable women leaving prison.

Ending domestic violence in Queensland—in our homes and families—is one of this government's highest priorities, and it is vital that victims of domestic and family violence know that there is legislation and additional support out there for them to protect them from violence—protections like increased penalties for breaches of DVOs, ouster orders, and a requirement for magistrates to consider inconsistencies between DV orders and the Family Court. That is why it was so disappointing to hear the outrageous and, quite frankly, dangerous comments from Pauline Hanson last night when she said in reference to the Family Court—

... until we treat mums and dads with the same courtesy and rights, we will continue to see murders due to sheer frustration, depression and mental illness caused by this unworkable scheme.

She made these comments about the unfair treatment of domestic violence perpetrators in the same week that tireless advocate Rosie Batty was at Parliament House to present her petition about her experience of the Family Court. It is already difficult enough for vulnerable women to speak out and seek help when they have experienced domestic and family violence. I have personally spoken with countless domestic violence victims whose experience has been made so much worse because of the inconsistency between domestic violence orders and the Family Court.

While the Palaszczuk government continues to move forward with unprecedented reforms to protect women and hold perpetrators to account, we have a Queensland senator making excuses for murder. Given these outrageous, disgraceful comments from Pauline Hanson last night, the question for this House is whether the Leader of the Opposition will step up and rule out a preference deal with Senator Hanson and One Nation. Those disgraceful and dangerous comments deserve to be called out, and the Leader of the Opposition needs to rule out a preference deal.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you are warned under standing order 253A for your unnecessary interjections. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Labour Hire

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. In response to the one disappointing recommendation of the inquiry into the practices of the labour hire industry in Queensland, government members have made a statement of reservation demanding more action to help workers who are being exploited by labour hire companies. How will the minister respond to the deep concerns of her fellow MPs?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Dalrymple for his really great question. I think he understands that, particularly in regional Queensland but also spread throughout all of Queensland and Australia, the use of labour hire, the layering of subcontracting and the manner in which young people, mature people and Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders are being employed in this state and in this country is fast becoming a national disgrace. We are finding that workers hardly even know whether they are indeed a worker and sometimes are not even clear about who is their true employer.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I am sorry to interrupt you. I have received advice that this matter is already before the House, so we may move on. I understand that there is a report.

Ms GRACE: It is true: there is a report that is required to be responded to. I am sorry: I did not realise that this is anticipation, which I think the Clerk has drawn to your attention. I would have been happy to answer the question but I accept your ruling.

Passenger Transport

Mr POWER: My question is for the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister outline to the House any innovative initiatives to help improve access to passenger transport, particularly in Logan city, and whether there are any alternative approaches to the task?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Logan for his question. Today I can announce what could be a new era in the delivery of passenger transport services in suburban and regional Queensland. My department is seeking expressions of interest from companies that can contribute to demand driven shared-use passenger transport services, starting in Logan city. I thank the members for Logan and Springwood for their advocacy for this trial.

Demand responsive transport, or DRT as it is sometimes known, is the next development in the booked transport market. It involves using trip-booking technology, flexible routes and shared rides to meet customer needs. Demand responsive services can be delivered in many forms, but at its essence they provide passengers with a way to request or book a service in their local areas between nominated locations. Services are able to join up customer bookings, picking up and dropping off additional customers along the way. The department is inviting the market to express interest in providing any product, service or offer that could work throughout Queensland. We are embracing innovative technologies and business and service models right across our economy, including in the transport sector.

DRT trials will inform future investment in future mobility services, contracts and ticketing systems. After we have seen what the market can offer on demand responsive transport, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will start the process to design service trials in Queensland. This will be an innovative process to match the transport needs of the community with what is offered by the market. The EOI for DRT product or service offerings is available on the QTenders website and closes on Tuesday, 21 September 2016.

The decision of the Palaszczuk government to embrace the opportunities of the future in order to deliver for the commuters of today is in stark contrast to the approach taken by the former government. Just four years ago now the Leader of the Opposition embarked on a slash-and-burn attack on Queensland's transport industry. In Logan city in particular, we know that funding cuts impacted the frequency of local bus services. We know that in Springwood the 556 and 557 bus routes were cut. We know that they savaged the No. 1 transport project in South-East Queensland: Cross River Rail. We know that they had more plans for segways than they had for Queenslanders. We know that the savage approach to cuts and job losses started four years ago under the now Leader of the Opposition. It was an attack on working Queenslanders that resulted in thousands and thousands being added to the unemployment queue.

What have we seen from this government? We have seen delivery. We have delivered the single largest cut to public transport fares in history—a reduction in public transport fares of up to 34 per cent for commuters in South-East Queensland. We are on the right track.

Warrego Highway, Upgrade

Mr WEIR: My question without notice is to the Minister for Main Roads. I have tabled a nonconforming petition with over 1,500 signatures, and I ask: will the minister now review and provide adequate consultation for the Warrego Highway upgrade project through the township of Dalby?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for his question. We are absolutely committed to the Warrego Highway project—an 80/20 funded highway project. That is what we want on the M1—equal treatment for our highways here in Queensland. I thank the member for Condamine for highlighting that relationship—that principle—on road funding on highways in Queensland with the federal government. All we want is a fair deal for the M1 on the Gold Coast as well under its own policy announced less than two years ago.

Mr WEIR: I rise to a point of order. I was talking about the Warrego Highway upgrade in Dalby, not roadworks on the Gold Coast.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. You are asking the minister to be relevant. Minister, I ask you to make your response relevant to the question.

Mr Boothman: Where's Dalby?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Albert, I do not need your assistance.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to come to the specifics of it. I take that interjection from the opposition. I know where Dalby is: it is going to have the largest solar farm in the country. In terms of the actual project, extensive consultation has gone on with communities with regard to Warrego Highway upgrades. Of course it is very difficult to keep every person happy when it comes to the nature of the rollout. Sometimes there are issues around resumption. They are always difficult issues to manage. Our transport and main roads department works very hard to do its best in terms of working through fair processes with people. A lot of consultation has gone on in terms of the Warrego Highway upgrades, including at Dalby. I am aware that there are a number of people who disagree with what is being proposed there. That is not unusual. There is a petition before the parliament. They will get a full, frank and comprehensive response from the department in relation to the issues that the honourable member has raised.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mackay, I am informed that there are further students and teachers from the Tallebudgera State School in the electorate of Currumbin. Welcome.

Innovation

Mrs GILBERT: My question is directed to the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is strengthening Queensland's national standing as the start-up state?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Mackay for the question because I know how passionate she is about supporting innovation in her region, as is the member for Mirani. All regional members right across this House understand that innovation happens in every part of our state, not just in South-East Queensland. We on this side of the House understand the need for a razor-sharp focus on the application of innovation in everything that we do. We know that when we do that we will have stronger regions which will ensure that we have stronger regional economies right across the state, meaning better outcomes for all Queenslanders. That is why we have been committed to providing opportunities for regional Queenslanders to engage with, and participate in, the growing global knowledge economy. Through our whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative, we are providing an unparalleled level of support for those living in regional areas to take their great ideas and turn them into commercial reality.

To help foster the right environment to encourage further innovation and entrepreneurialism, my department has been holding a series of workshops around the state to co-design the \$6 million Advance Queensland regional innovation hubs funding program. I know that the member for Mackay has been very active in that and I note the great article today from Mackay in terms of the activities of the member. To date we have held workshops in Rockhampton, Gladstone, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Mount Isa and of course Mackay and all members in those locations have been enthusiastic participants at those local events. Over the next week there will be a further eight consultation workshops taking place from Cairns to Longreach and down to the Gold Coast.

There has been an incredible hunger to be part of these particular workshops right across our state. Every single one of them has reached or exceeded capacity and those workshops have been incredibly valuable in ensuring that we have the right mix of ideas in terms of rolling out the regional innovation hubs. As the global economy shifts, it is vitally important that all of Queensland is engaged in the new direction we are headed in and that we support our traditional industries along the way. That is why this side of the House is absolutely focused with a laser-sharp focus on ensuring that we apply innovation in every part of our economy in every part of our state.

Townsville, Crime

Mr MANDER: My question is directed to the Minister for Police. Will the minister join with the Townsville mayor and local community leaders and condemn the comments of the member for Thuringowa in trying to sweep the local crime issues under the rug?

Mr BYRNE: I thank the member for the question. Of course I am not going to be condemning anybody on my side of the House or anybody else who expresses opinions in this place. However, what I do want to reflect on are the efforts that have been made by the Queensland Police Service. As the honourable member would know, at the public forum held in Townsville about these matters there were a lot of things discussed. The member was there, as was I. There was not a single criticism levelled at areas in my portfolio—not at all. In fact, the commentary that came from the community at that forum was nothing but positive about the efforts of the Queensland Police Service dealing with these issues in Townsville.

Mr Mander: It's under control?

Mr BYRNE: The member was there. He was there but did not say boo and did not raise these issues. I was not asked to respond to anything because everything that was put on the table from members of the community about the Queensland Police Service was complimentary.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you have asked a question. I would urge you to allow the minister to answer.

Mr BYRNE: In terms of areas under my portfolio responsibility, the Queensland Police Service is doing exactly what it is required to do. Earlier this week I outlined in this House the substantial efforts that the Queensland Police Service is making in that space and it will be complemented by an additional investment of resources for a period for suppression purposes, as has already been outlined and pointed out to the House. With regard to this nonsense brought forward by those opposite, if we want to have a debate in this House about facts, evidence and what is really going on, I am happy to have that discussion in here or outside the chamber for the member's benefit. I will always support our hardworking local members who have worked very hard to bring these issues to a level of focus and integration that is necessary to comprehensively address these problems across not only Townsville but all other areas of Queensland. All other areas of Queensland have their own sets of issues in the justice space, and everybody in this House realises that.

The difference between us on this side and those opposite is that we actually consider a problem thoroughly from front to back. We do not just jump at shadows. We do not just spend 3½ hours introducing a bill and rabbiting on about bikies after years of doing nothing about it. We are taking a considered, thoughtful, integrated approach. All of the members in Townsville are backing that in. They have worked very hard in the background to establish a framework to move forward. They should be congratulated. I am happy to stand in this House and reflect on the efforts of this government compared to the nonsense put by those opposite.

Solar Projects, Electricity Prices

Mr KING: My question is directed to the Minister for Energy. Will the minister update the House on whether there is any truth to the LNP's claims that the investment in large-scale solar projects announced last week will drive up electricity prices?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Kallangur for his question. Last Thursday we saw the announcement of a new industry for Queensland and more than \$600 million—more than half a billion dollars—worth of funding coming in to Queensland. One would think the opposition, which bangs on about jobs whenever it wants, would come out and say, 'What a fantastic thing for Queensland.' Did it say that? No! Rather, what it did was to try to link it to electricity pricing. That is absolutely untrue. It has nothing to do with pricing. It is either a deliberate misleading of the public or the member for Burleigh has no idea how our energy system works. It made me think to look at the media release by the member for Burleigh, and as a work of fiction it rates very highly. The media release states that the Palaszczuk government—

... take credit for Federal LNP supported solar generation projects.

This is a program that is funded by ARENA that the member's own party tried to abolish. The program was only saved by Labor and the crossbenchers in the Senate. The member for Burleigh is now claiming credit for the funding. That is absolutely extraordinary.

Further in his media release the member for Burleigh says that I have criticised ARENA. I have backed ARENA every time. We have a close working relationship. ARENA and Queensland are like that, delivering six solar farms for Queensland.

Earlier in the week the member for Clayfield could not even pronounce 'renewables'. Did members hear him? He said 'renewals' and he had to correct himself. That seems to be catching on, because the member for Burleigh in his media release refers not to renewables but to 'renewals'. The media release states—

... the Federal Coalition Government has backed renewals in Queensland, supporting almost \$640 million ...

Members might ask, 'Is that a typo?' No. It appears again. The member for Burleigh in that media release states further—

We support the National Renewal Energy Target and welcome the Turnbull Government's investment ...

The LNP tried to abolish ARENA twice, but it was saved in the last term of the federal parliament by Labor and the crossbenchers in the Senate. This week, the LNP tried to do it again and, again, it was saved by Labor and the crossbenchers. We are landing a new industry in this state with half a billion dollars in investment and 600 jobs. The opposition should get behind it and support it.

(Time expired)

Townsville, Crime

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and I ask: does the minister acknowledge that Townsville has serious crime issues that need addressing, or will she try to sweep it under the rug like her colleague, the member for Thuringowa?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. Clearly, the members opposite are not listening to what we have been talking about—something that we have talked about in this House all week. The members of the Palaszczuk government talk to each other. We come together, we look at the issue, we come up with a solution and then we deliver.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is going to join the Minister for Education on the list of people who have been warned under standing order 253A.

An honourable member: Throw her out.


Mr SPEAKER: No, I am not going to throw her out. I might throw you out, whoever that was.

Mrs O'ROURKE: I will remind those opposite of what we have been talking about this week in parliament and that is a whole-of-government cross-agency approach, working with communities, working with the police force, working with existing and new initiatives that are going to truly address and break the cycle of youth crime.

We know that boot camps did not work. Locking up these kids and throwing away the key is not the answer. We must make sure that we have a holistic solution that is going to turn around these kids' lives, support their families and break the cycle of crime. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk government is going to do.

PRIVILEGE


Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (11.33 am): Under standing order 248, I rise on a matter suddenly arising. I table this document. The Minister for Industrial Relations keeps referring to the fact that I was elected on Labor preferences. Sixty per cent of Labor preferences went to One Nation.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from Electoral Commission Queensland website titled 'Elections 2015—State General Election—Lockyer—booth details' [[1547](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Notice of Motion, North Queensland, Secession

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today the member for Mount Isa gave notice of a motion that purports, on its face, to be in accordance with section 124 of the Commonwealth Constitution. That provision states—

A new State may be formed by separation of territory from a State, but only with the consent of the Parliament thereof, and a new State may be formed by the union of two or more States or parts of States, but only with the consent of the Parliaments of the States affected.

In my view, the proposed motion, if agreed to, would not be effective consent by the Queensland parliament within the meaning of the Constitution provision, because the territory to be separated from the state is not identified with any precision.

I have considered whether the motion is out of order. As noted by Speaker Mickel on page 451 of the *Recording of Proceedings* of 24 February 2010—

A notice of motion ... is merely an incomplete motion, a proposal.

It is for the House to determine whether it will agree to the proposition. As long as the motion, if agreed to, would not offend the law and the notice is internally logical, coherent and contains only facts necessary and able to be authenticated, it should not be interfered with.

If the member for Mount Isa's motion is agreed to, it will simply express an opinion of the House on the issue. It will not be effective as consent of the parliament within the meaning of the constitutional provision. On that basis, the matter will be left in the hands of the House.

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 17 has lapsed.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 23 has lapsed.


INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 28 has lapsed.

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (11.38 am): I move—

That the House take note of report No. 19, *Road safety—traffic cameras*, of the Transportation and Utilities Committee tabled on 22 June 2016.

Report No. 19 presented a summary of the Transportation and Utilities Committee's examination of the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 2 for 2015-16 titled *Road safety—traffic cameras*.

The committee considered the Auditor-General's findings into the effectiveness and implementation of the Queensland government's Camera Detected Offence Program—CDOP—in terms of road safety outcomes. The committee received a public briefing from CARRS-Q, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.


There are a few issues raised in the report which definitely deserve a mention in this place. The Auditor-General's report noted that the results from the Department of Transport and Main Roads speed surveys show some improvements in driver behaviour and that from May 2010 to May 2014 in four of the five speed limit categories the average speed of drivers was less than the speed limit and that since 2012-13 the number of motorists in the high speeding brackets, which is more than 13 kilometres per hour over the limit, has started to reduce. For mobile cameras, research shows the use of covert vehicles is more effective than overt. That seems pretty obvious. If drivers know they can be fined for speeding anywhere at any time they are likely to modify their speeding behaviour overall, not just in specific localities. However, even though the Auditor-General's report advised that a high percentage

of covert deployment tends to deter speeding, the Queensland Police Service are not using covert deployment to its full potential despite having government approval to increase the hours of usage because, in part, the Queensland Police Service wants to avoid perceptions of revenue raising.

The main discussions the committee had during the public hearing were around unclear numberplates, unregistered vehicles and unlicensed drivers. In relation to the issue of unclear plates, the Auditor-General report recommended that the QPS and DTMR identify and quantify the cause of unclear plates and address enforcement and design issues affecting the ability to issue infringements. The Queensland Police Service advised that significant achievements are being realised as obsolete film based road safety traffic cameras are being replaced, and it will work with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and key stakeholders to review the design characteristics and installation of registration plates. The Queensland Police Service stated it would also support the Department of Transport and Main Roads in the review of current legislation and sanctions in respect to the fitting and display of plates. I will let the member for Southport provide more depth around unregistered vehicles and unlicensed drivers, as that was his line of questioning during the public hearing and he has a particular interest in that matter.

The committee noted that the Department of Transport Main Roads and the Queensland police agreed with all eight of the report recommendations and are progressing implementation. However, as I discussed, we did note our concern about the disparity between the number of offences detected by the Camera Detected Offence Program and the number of offences that cannot be proceeded with due to various factors, including, as I have mentioned, unclear numberplates, unregistered vehicles and unlicensed drivers.

The committee has noted Queensland Police Service advice that there are a number of technological innovations coming online or already delivered which will significantly improve the ability to identify, target and track repeat offender and high-risk people and I look forward to seeing these methods come into play because, after all, we all want our roads to be safer and our police and transport officers to be able to perform their roles as smoothly as possible.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.43 am): I rise to speak with regard to the report of the Transportation and Utilities Committee on its inquiry into Auditor-General report to parliament 2: 2015-16 *Road safety—traffic cameras*. I wish to highlight a number of concerns that came from the review and the public briefing. I want to start at the end of the report where committee recommendation 1 is that—


the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply; and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services provide an update to Parliament about what strategies are being prioritised to address the disparity between the number of offences detected by the Camera Detected Offence Program and the number of offences that can be proceeded with.

This is as a result of the statistics that came out of the review, which I want to highlight today. In the period 2014-15, in that full 12 months there were some 841,401 infringement notices issued across the state. This resulted in the issuing of some \$167 million in fines with an average amount per notice of \$198. What is interesting, however, is that in addition to these infringement notices there were some 135,000 additional notices that were not issued because the vehicles were not able to be identified by the Queensland Police Service due to poor numberplates and other factors. If one does the maths and looks at the gap between those fines issued and not paid, there were 161,616 people who did not pay. Out of the 841,000 notices issued, 161,000 people did not pay and a further 135,000 notices were never issued, which means that some 30 per cent of offences detected by the cameras either did not receive a notice, they received a notice and chose not to pay, or a notice was sent but they were not able to detect the driver or the owner of the vehicle.

The focus of the speed camera program is to address the issue of safety, in particular with reference to slowing down drivers in respect of speeding. For the last 10 years there have been some 50 fatalities a year that are directly related to speeding offences and, on average, some 500 hospitalisations a year. That is about 20 per cent of all fatalities within Queensland. The concern that the committee identified and the concern that I wish to draw to the attention of the House today is the gap. The gap is simply this: for every 70,000 notices issued there are a further 30,000 that should have been issued or were issued with no result in a payment or no detection of an offender. What it really highlights is the need for not just a significant covert operation across the state, but the need for more overt operations on behalf of the Queensland Police Service in actually identifying those many drivers out there who are unlicensed or driving unregistered vehicles. What adds further concern to this particular issue is the fact that, when there was an analysis done of the number of fatalities, it was identified that in more than 50 per cent of those incidents either the driver at the time was unlicensed

or the vehicle was unregistered. This is a significant cause for concern and why the committee made the recommendation that the relevant ministers be asked to report back to the House on what can be done to improve the efficiency of both our covert and overt speed detection activities across the state.

In closing, I pass on my thanks to the committee and the secretariat that supported us through this process. There were a number of hearings. We heard from officers from the Department of Transport and Main Roads and also the Queensland Police Service and we are very grateful for their assistance.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (11.48 am): I rise to speak to the report of the Transportation and Utilities Committee on its inquiry into Auditor-General report to parliament No. 2 of 2015-16, *Road safety—traffic cameras*. I would like to start by commending the report, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Police Service and the minister. I think that this report shows that we can do better at making sure that our roads are safer and improve our Camera Detected Offence Program. I found this report useful and illuminating. It is a good snapshot of what we are doing and what we can do. On page 19 the committee recommended—

... that the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply; and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services provide an update to Parliament about what strategies are being prioritised to address the disparity between the number of offences detected by the Camera Detected Offence Program and the number of offences that can be proceeded with.


We should keep that mind when talking about this report. The areas in which we can do better are very clearly specified within the report. The report states that nine of the 17 recommendations are being proceeded with. An update of the report that comes to parliament shows that there has been great progress. What we can take from this is to make sure that we implement all 17 of those recommendations.

One of the things that we can implement to improve things is the greater use of covert vehicles, including after hours. Page 11 of the report states that the use of covert vehicles is more effective than the use of overt ones, that is, marked and visible vehicles. In addition, the QPS could use covert deployments to their full potential by increasing their hours of usage. For example, in 2014-15 they had approval for 30 per cent of mobile camera hours to be undertaken covertly, but they used only 16.3 per cent of those deployment hours covertly. We need to keep that in mind. On page 12 the report talks about how we can better analyse data or verify the data collected in a quicker manner and use it fully. Instead of using snap judgement or anecdotal evidence, we use the data collected. That is a really important part of improving things.

The report recommends that the Queensland Police Service and Main Roads could work together to make sure that police use all the approved sites. Page 13 of the report states that the QPS did not visit approximately one-third of those approved sites in any one year and one in seven sites were not visited over a three-year period. In 2013-14, two per cent of the available sites accounted for 18.1 per cent of all deployments. Therefore, some sites are being used more frequently than the scheduling suggested they would. I think that we can all take that on board as well. The issue of obscured numberplates has been dealt with.

There is no doubt that this does save lives. Interestingly, something that I picked up from the report—and perhaps this is hindering the police—is the need to dispel the perception of revenue raising. We know that if we fully apply all the schedules and all the criteria for mobile camera sites, covert and overt, it will work better and more offences will be detected. This is not necessarily about revenue raising; it is about making sure that we save lives. Certainly I would like to see us battle the perception of revenue raising, because we need to fully implement these recommendations.


I know that this does save lives. A number of years ago, I had a very big wake-up call when the Queensland police encouraged me to use an alternate kind of transport for a while. I had a huge wake-up call and things changed for me. I got married, I lost my father, I had children and I became a reformed lead foot. A big part of that was CDOP. I thank them for giving me that big wake-up call, which changed my attitude and my behaviour. I thoroughly support this program. I recommend that all people support it and recognise how it saves lives.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (11.52 am): I too rise to contribute to the discussion of the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 2 of 2015-16 titled *Road safety—traffic cameras*. I will keep my contribution brief. I acknowledge the contributions already made by the members for Murrumba, Southport and Kallangur.

The framing of this report is around the 437 fatalities, or 22 per cent of all road fatalities, from 2008 to 2014 and the 2,172 hospitalisations in the similar period from 2008 to 2013, which underscores the importance of this program. The committee's first recommendation states—

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply; and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services provide an update to Parliament about what strategies are being prioritised to address the disparity between the number of offences detected by the Camera Detected Offence Program and the number of offences that can be proceeded with.

We heard from experts in the field, including senior police, in relation to the speed camera operation. There is a real problem with traffic offenders who are, in essence, undetected. Evidence suggests that there is a significant cohort of people who are deliberately going undetected and who are hugely disproportionately recognised in the level of harm on our roads. Also, those drivers are overrepresented in serious crime. That was a revelation to the committee and it is something that we wish to pursue. I urge that there be more covert and overt enforcement to mitigate the risk to the community.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (11.55 am): I also would like to acknowledge the contributions of the previous speakers from the Transportation and Utilities Committee in relation to its report No. 19 and the inquiry into the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 2 of 2015-16 titled *Road safety—traffic cameras*. I am not going to duplicate the contributions already made. I come to the statistic that, between 2008 and 2014, more than one-in-five fatal motor vehicle accidents in the state of Queensland could be attributed to speed. I spend a lot of time on the highways and byways of central, north and Far North Queensland. In fact, I drive something like 80,000 kilometres a year, mostly in the discharge of my duties as a member of parliament and as the shadow assistant minister for North Queensland. Quite often, I drive past places where we have seen some horrific motor vehicle accidents. In fact, I remember at the time that I first came into this place there was an accident in the heart of my electorate at Elaroo, a sleepy railway siding south of Bloomsbury, where a family was all but wiped out.


There is no doubt that we need to be doing more and more in terms of educating the motorists of Queensland to exercise common sense. Invariably, a lot of it comes down to common sense. We have all heard of the fatal five and I dare say that speed is the first cab off the rank. Last year, I was very pleased to attend the Queensland Road Safety Awards in the city that I represent, Mackay. I see the member for Mackay nodding because, as I recall, she too was there, as was the minister. It was an important day for road safety advocates, CARRS-Q and, in particular, our good friend Graham Ransley, who deserves great accolades for his work as a strong advocate for addressing road safety issues, particularly involving the road toll around Mackay and the Whitsundays. The team from RAAG, the Road Accident Action Group, now chaired by former councillor Chris Bonanno, ought to be commended for their ongoing efforts. It was no surprise to see them pick up an award at the awards ceremony at the MECC last year.

I also note recommendation No. 1, which states—

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply; and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services provide an update to Parliament about what strategies are being prioritised to address the disparity between the number of offences detected by the Camera Detected Offence Program and the number of offences that can be proceeded with.

There is no doubt that if you cannot read a numberplate you are not going to be able to do much about the alleged offender. As I noted in the deliberations of the committee—and I thank the high-ranking officers of the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport and Main Roads who participated in that hearing—there is a lot to be said about dodgy numberplates. I have had the experience of going into the Department of Transport and Main Roads because the back numberplate of my vehicle was perfect, but the front numberplate could not be read properly. I had to pay for that. It was not my fault; it is just that I am on the road so often. The stones fly up into the front of the car and chip the numberplate, so you cannot read it. On any given street we can have as many cameras as we like—more cameras than Channel 9—but if we cannot read the numberplate we cannot take the matter up with an offender and ask them to pay a fine. Hence, we have a big gap between the number of fines being issued and what is being collected.

The other issue, as you would appreciate, Mr Deputy Speaker Crawford, coming from a tourist based region, is that we have a lot of backpackers and people travelling around North Queensland. They have a car that they have picked up for a song. They travel around North Queensland and have a great time in Airlie Beach and places that are dear to my heart and then they ditch the car, fly the coop and go home. We never hear from them again. They disappear like Peter Pan and no money is recovered from those people who have been clocked by a speed camera doing whatever speed. I acknowledge the contribution of my colleagues from the committee and I support the motion.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion to take note of the committee report. Firstly, I want to comment on the committee and its work on the report. I thank all members of the committee from both the government and opposition side. This report related to the issue of reducing our road toll through safety measures. Speed is an important factor to address in terms of road safety. Addressing the road toll and speed are goals that I hope have the bipartisan support of every member of this House. I know it is an important issue for the member for Yeerongpilly, the Minister for Main Roads. This is something that we as a committee look at very diligently. During our public inquiry we asked questions about the data and asked questions of the experts. We teased out the government's approach and teased out the way in which our enforcement system works.

Members may have heard me make reference to the roads in my own area many times. Those in the area feel the effects of every accident, injury or death that happens on those roads. Members know that I am a huge advocate for both local government and state government roads in the area—roads such as the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Waterford Tamborine Road and the Logan Motorway that crisscross my electorate. On the other side of Logan we have the M1 which desperately needs the 80-20 funding from the federal government. I hope we have universal support for that just as we have universal support for road safety.

I turn now to our traffic enforcement systems and speed enforcement systems. We heard that speed enforcement can make a difference to road safety. It can change the way drivers think such that speeding—one of the major contributors to serious accidents and death—is reduced.

In my area we are going through the process of installing point-to-point traffic camera systems. It is not a single point that they act upon but the distance between two points. In this case, they are on the Mount Lindesay Highway. We engaged some of the same experts to conduct a safety review of the Mount Lindesay Highway. Speeding was identified as one of the major causes of accidents and crashes.

As a result of that review, a balanced decision was made—it was not an easy decision; I believe it is never easy to make decisions about enforcement mechanisms—to put in point-to-point systems. I let all members of the House know that on the Mount Lindesay Highway approaching Jimboomba—I am sure all members would drive sensibly on that important stretch of road—these cameras are there to ensure the safety of drivers. They work not on a single point of reference but on the speed between the two cameras. These are not decisions that are taken lightly.

I note that the Auditor-General recommended that we get better data on these enforcement actions and that the Queensland Police Service and the department of main roads reduce the length of time to verify and analyse the data. I think that is very valid. I look forward to the individual reports that come from those two departments in order to ensure safety is maintained on the Mount Lindesay Highway as it is a priority. We want to continue to review the camera sites across the state to see that they are being best used. We want to maintain community understanding and the community belief that this is a safety issue rather than revenue raising.

On a personal note, a father of one of the kids in my son's soccer team at the Park Ridge Panthers—a fantastic soccer club—was the first on the scene of an accident on the Mount Lindesay Highway. He sat in the passenger seat with the driver who was fading in and out of consciousness. We have to remember that, when it comes to safety, it is not just a single person involved. It is the kids in the photograph on his phone. It is also the first responders, such as you, Mr Deputy Speaker, who have responded to accidents as an ambulance officer. It is also the people on the road who deeply care about our community. Safety is something that we can all contribute to. I commend the motion to take note of the report.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 20 has lapsed.

HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.05 pm): I move—

That the House take note of report No. 21 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee into the establishment of a Queensland health promotion commission.

The establishment of a health promotion commission presents an opportunity to provide strategic leadership and direction on whole-of-government initiatives and partnerships with industry and community organisations to reduce risk factors of chronic illness in Queensland. The central aim of our government's 10-year vision and strategy for health, *Advancing Health 2026*, is to make Queenslanders among the healthiest people in the world.

The establishment of a health promotion commission, one of our election commitments, is about achieving that aim. This commitment stands in strong contrast to the over \$8 million in annual grants to help provide health prevention, promotion and early intervention and the 177 health promotion and prevention officers terminated under the previous LNP government.

The committee received a broad terms of reference to inquire into the potential role, scope and strategic directions of establishing a Queensland health promotion commission. *Why focus on health promotion?* The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, in its report *Australia's Health 2014*, noted that a person's health and wellbeing are influenced by a number of intrinsically related biological, lifestyle, societal and environmental factors, many of which can be modified to some extent. Therefore, an important part of disease prevention is health promotion which impacts on these modifiable factors.

The committee found during its inquiry that there is strong support from stakeholders for the establishment of a Queensland health promotion commission. The committee sought written submissions, held a public hearing, travelled to Perth to meet with the Western Australian Department of Health and Healthway—the West Australian Health Promotion Foundation—and Melbourne to meet with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and VicHealth, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. Finally, we held a teleconference with the South Australian Department of Health and Ageing that outlined their HiAp approach. This allowed the committee to consider comparative health promotion arrangements across Australia.

Each jurisdiction spoke strongly of the importance of having a coordinated, strategic focus on health promotion and prevention efforts in addressing the social determinants of health, reducing risk factors of chronic disease and, in doing so, the significant cost of tertiary health care to the community. Each jurisdiction is employing a very different model to deliver on these health promotion and prevention efforts, from specific standalone agencies to whole-of-government policy frameworks. While, as I said earlier, the committee agreed that there is strong support for the establishment of a Queensland health promotion commission, the committee was unable to agree on a particular model to recommend for establishment in Queensland.


The committee heard evidence that high-level policy support, coordination and leadership are essential elements of effective health promotion activities and that the government is in a unique position to provide these elements. There were a number of common themes apparent in the submissions received by the committee. These are that a health promotion commission will require the following: a high-level strategic, planning and coordination focus, particularly in ensuring the elimination of duplication and/or gaps; a commitment to work collaboratively and in partnership with both government and non-government agencies and other bodies; a determination to build community engagement and capacity; a strong commitment to evaluation of strategies, programs and the work of the commission; and, importantly, bipartisan support so that any agenda is long term and not at the whim of politicking and election cycles.

We all need to be committed to giving children, families and our Queensland community the very best chance at a healthy future. I believe a commission of this nature provides an opportunity to further that work. I appreciate that the Minister for Health is currently looking at how best to operationalise that commitment and the feedback of the committee. I look forward to seeing how this takes shape in the future. I know of his significant commitment and determination to see the *Advancing Health 2026* vision become a reality in Queensland.

I also take the opportunity to thank the former deputy chair of the committee, the member for Moggill, who along with the members for Greenslopes, Thuringowa and Mudgeeraba as health professionals understand the vital importance of preventative health measures to the health of our

community and the opportunity that this commission presents. I also acknowledge the current deputy chair, the member for Caloundra, who joined the committee and this inquiry very late in the piece but I believe took a very genuine approach to looking at what a workable model would look like. I look forward to their bipartisan support for the work of this important commission long into the future. I commend the report to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): What a segue to the member for Caloundra.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.11 pm): I was askew in my target. The report deals with establishing a Queensland Health Promotion Commission in relation to health, wellbeing and chronic disease. I join the member for Nudgee in acknowledging all of those who took part in the inquiry. In her report in November 2014 entitled *The health of Queenslanders*, the Chief Health Officer said at page x—

Of the 26,922 deaths of Queenslanders in 2010, 1 in 3 was premature, that is, occurring before the age of 75 years, representing 46% of male deaths and 30% of female deaths. At least three-quarters of all premature deaths were due to cancer, cardiovascular disease and injuries in 2010.

What would the commission look at? As I said, it would look at cancer, cardiovascular disease and injuries but also smoking, obesity, diabetes, alcohol, breast screening, immunisation plus many other areas. In the 2014 report, the Chief Health Officer made these comments in relation to obesity—

The evidence is clear that obesity is fuelling the prevalence of other chronic diseases, some of which can't be turned back.

Further she said—

Australia's obesity rates have skyrocketed in the past 20 to 30 years ...

However, from a comment at the public hearing by the Chief Health Officer, that trend is no longer increasing. That is a welcome statement, yet the need to increase the effort is no less important as the increase has been rapid over the past number of years.


We know that the cost to the public and private health systems is increasing and one reason is the impact of chronic disease. The committee agreed with the benefit of a health commission but could not agree on what form it would take nor how it would operate. An important question is: where should such a body sit? Should it be totally independent of government or should it sit with the health department or Premier and Cabinet? Importantly, how do we get cross-government buy-in? This will require the involvement of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet at least in the early life of the commission. The question is important to ensure the best outcomes on a long-term basis.

A further question is: what is the role of the commission? Is it funding and policy, nonfunding and policy, limited funding and policy or some other combination? Again, that is a pivotal question. Further, how do we gauge the success of such a commission, what steps are taken to review its progress, how frequently is that done and who performs the review are important questions. The importance of tackling chronic and other disease is very important, but what we do not want is another large silo being developed. Whichever form it takes, the commission needs to be lean and to be able to move quickly to the changing needs of our society.

One of the agencies that must be engaged as it controls planning on a local level is local government. New developments are better planned than they were in years gone by but more work needs to be done. How we move around our neighbourhoods, access walking paths, bicycle paths and playgrounds have a role in our fitness level, and this is the province of local government. Exercise such as walking is cheap to do and one of the best things we can do for our general health. As such, local government needs to be involved in developing the strategy of the commission as they either own or have direct control over assets that can be used by the general public.

A health commission has been endorsed by the committee, yet a large degree of work is required to formalise it, to get it up and running, to engage with required partners and to assess its success. We need to not only consider the commission but also understand the role of general practitioners, primary health networks and the Commonwealth government. These bodies are important and I would say critical. As such, in working with these bodies the role of each needs to be clearly understood and we need to ensure that there is no duplication of both funding and messaging.

Budgets are finite, yet the number of us living longer is increasing. Age compounded by youthful health practices is placing these budgets under greater threat. As I have said, tackling chronic disease is critical but any commission must be judged on outcomes.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (12.15 pm): I rise today to provide a brief contribution to report No. 21, titled *Inquiry into the establishment of a Queensland Health Promotion Commission*, by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. As a new member of this committee, I joined part-way through this inquiry, so much of the physical inquiry had been completed prior to my joining. I would like to place on record my thanks to committee members, and especially the outgoing LNP committee members who greatly assisted me with the knowledge and information required to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues. I would also like to thank the secretariat for their efforts and assistance in this process.

A review of those inquiries already completed detailed that, while many other states around Australia and some countries around the world had health promotion bodies, there were significant variances of those bodies between each state and country. These variances extended to how each commission's hierarchy and reporting mechanisms were structured, what their desired outcomes and goals were and whether they initiated and operated programs on a stand-alone basis or in conjunction with other government departments and private entities.

Input from submitters highlighted the ever-increasing financial burden of health care for chronic disease in Australia; possible advantages to promoting healthy lifestyle via government initiatives as part of a wider program involving numerous other public and private entities and bodies; and a Queensland Health Promotion Commission could potentially assist in the funding and coordination of programs by these entities and bodies while also having scope for its own targeted strategic focus.

Overall, whilst there was comprehensive and significant input from bodies and entities throughout Australia and around the world, the committee recommended that a Queensland Health Promotion Commission be established but could not determine what model would be appropriate. Unfortunately, the Queensland Labor government's answer to this is to provide yet another huge cheque to bureaucracy—this time \$7.5 million over four years, along with a blanket statement to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders but with no direction or guidelines on how the money should be spent or who is accountable for the money being spent. This is unfortunately another example of a Queensland Labor government that is asleep at the wheel, with no idea and no plan for the health and wellbeing of the people of Queensland.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 97 has lapsed.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (12.18 pm): I move—

That the House take note of report No. 25 of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Before I continue, I would like to thank the secretariat for their hard work and also the other members of the committee, both government and non-government. I rise today to speak to report No. 25, titled *Inquiry into practices of the labour hire industry in Queensland*. In my foreword to the report, I indicated that this inquiry occurred during a time of increasing discussion and debate on the nature of Australian work arrangements and policy environment to best support both a flexible labour market and consistently fair and safe employment conditions for workers.

It was recognised during the inquiry that labour hire employment plays a significant and important role in many of our key industries and will continue to do so into the future, as businesses look to cost-effectively meet seasonal labour demand, streamline recruitment and hiring practices, address skills shortages, and boost productivity. Evidence gathered by the committee highlighted concerning incidents of phoenixing, sham contracting, the exploitation and mistreatment of workers, the undercutting of employment conditions and a range of other illegal or questionable practices.


The practices referred to above are undermining the operation of the labour hire sector, resulting in a range of other illegal or questionable practices which have a direct impact on employers, businesses, families and communities across the state. The impact of these practices were evident in the rural communities in Gatton, Bundaberg and the mining towns in the Bowen Basin, although not exclusive to the places named.

The report considered a range of possible solutions to the issues of illegal operators exploiting vulnerable workers and their families. The solutions included both statutory and non-legislative measures that operate in other jurisdictions both nationally and internationally. The report found that there have been a wide range of inquiries into the labour hire industry over many years, and it is apparent that the conservative side of politics, both federal and state, have had no appetite to address the issues that have led to the exploitation of workers.

The report goes some way to addressing the issue. The evidence that the committee heard is as follows: a failure to comply with basic award wages and conditions, health and safety and accommodation requirements; a systematic avoidance of income tax, payroll tax and superannuation obligations; sham contract arrangements where a relationship of employment in all but name is used to avoid tax and employment requirements; and workers left without recourse when their employer company closes down only to then recommence operations under another company name—phoenix companies.

Opposition members of the committee, despite this evidence, were simply not prepared to consider the measures required to provide even basic mandatory standards of compliance in this sector. The three government members were not prepared to let this report proceed without recommendations to intervene on many vulnerable and exploited Queensland workers. Government members considered that the evidence received by the committee clearly indicated that an assumption of self-regulation is an insufficient response to illegal industry practices.

Evidence was received by the committee that the Fair Work Ombudsman is under-resourced and therefore not able to properly police breaches under the Commonwealth legislation. The only way to combat the abuses is for an appropriate licensing scheme. I commend report No. 25 of the Finance and Administration Committee to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.23 pm): I rise to speak to this report as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee. I thank the other members of the committee who were part of this inquiry into the labour hire industry. This became a hot topic when *Four Corners* ran a program on labour hire processes in Victoria. We know that Victoria and South Australia are also running inquiries into the labour hire industry.

As we looked into this, it became very apparent that practices ranged from very poor to very good. We were of the opinion that it was only the single percentages of labour hire firms which indulged in these bad practices such as phoenixing and underpayments. The vast majority of labour hire firms were operating legally and respectfully. It is the ones that are operating illegally and unscrupulously which grab all the attention. That they need to be regulated was agreed by both sides of the committee. As the chairman just mentioned, an issue that often arose was the under-resourcing of the Ombudsman. Complaints were not followed up. We agreed that that is definitely an area that needed to be improved.


One of the main areas where we found problems was the fruit and vegetable industry. The reason for that is that it is a very transient workforce. They come into an area in large numbers, work for a short period and then move on. They are probably the group that is most open to exploitation. Many of them come from overseas and they can be at the other end of Queensland in a very short time.

The proposal as part of this inquiry was for a licensing regime to regulate the labour hire industry. We on this side of the House were not convinced in any shape or form that that would answer all the problems. The problems are wide ranging and they cover all areas of government. The Fair Work Act is a federal piece of legislation so we believe the federal government needs to take action to address the labour hire industry.

Accommodation was another issue. That falls under the Local Government Act. Workplace health and safety was an issue, and, as I said, the Ombudsman is severely under-resourced and unable to address all of those issues. The committee travelled widely. We held forums in Brisbane, Gatton, Emerald, Mackay, Cairns and Moranbah and we did a videoconference with Bundaberg.

We heard a lot of evidence about labour hire from the mining industry. There is no doubt that some of the actions of some of the unions over the years has grown labour hire. We spoke to some employers who said that it is quite easy to employ a worker but very hard to dismiss them if they are not up to scratch. Labour hire was one of the ways that they could address that problem.

We also had many companies that use labour hire on a short-term basis to employ workers for the very reason that I just mentioned. They would run them through a six-month trial period. If they performed well, they would be put on a permanent contract and become part of the permanent workforce. There are many different forms of labour hire. It is a very complicated area and we were of the opinion that the state government needs to take it to COAG for it to be addressed. It is not something that can be fixed simply by a licensing system. To get an ABN comes under a federal act. We have examples of labour hire companies that are operating from not only interstate but also overseas. We have employees coming in from overseas. It will not be easily fixed by a licensing system. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the AI Group and the Resources Council all said that it would be expensive and not achieve the desired outcome. We would like this to go to COAG.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak on the inquiry into the practices of the labour hire industry which has recently been conducted by the Finance and Administration Committee. I want to say at the outset that I strongly believe we should be considering a licensing system for labour hire in Queensland—indeed, a universal licensing system.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the minister. During May and June, public hearings were held with evidence from key stakeholders, employers and workers in the Queensland labour hire industry. Our committee heard many submissions on the effectiveness, nature, regulation and treatment of workers by labour hire companies during these hearings. As a former solicitor and also an industrial officer for the NUW, I was well aware of some of the practices engaged in by the labour hire industry. However, I was shocked to hear some of the evidence about practices engaged in by the labour hire industry and the exploitation of some of Queensland's most vulnerable workers.

We heard from many workers about the challenges they face from insecure employment, but I wanted to quote from someone who actually engages labour hire. For the benefit of the House, I will read a statement from Mr Gino Marcon who owns Marcon Family Farms and uses labour hire. His evidence shows the extent of abuse and vulnerability of these workers. He made the following statement in the public hearing on Wednesday, 22 June, and this is a direct quote—

If you asked me the question, 'Do we treat workers as slave labour?' I would have to say yes. Do we abuse them? I would say, yes, we do simply because the only cost we can control is the cost of labour.

This shows the extent of the shocking practices and abuse of workers that is happening in Queensland right now. It is shown through the statement of not only a worker but an actual host employer. When host employers are directly admitting to this, we have to think that something is not right with the way the labour hire industry is currently regulated. Something needs to be done to protect these workers and also the good people in the industry.


The labour hire industry is massively disaggregated, providing labour to practically every sector of the Australian economy. Companies in the labour hire industry provide workers to host companies on a casual and fixed term basis. Workers are employed by the labour hire agencies but take direction and perform duties for the host employer. The layers of contractual obligations and complications that arise through these labour hire arrangements can, in some instances, lead to exploitative practices, such as wage theft, extreme working hours and forced job insecurity—all of which are issues which the principal or host employer can avoid legal and moral responsibility for.

The structure of labour hire arrangements in their present form leaves workers vulnerable and insecure. Some of these workers are paid less than the minimum wage, they are denied superannuation, penalty rates and other minimum entitlements, and they are forced to work excessive hours in unsafe workplaces. The existence of worker exploitation, the lack of an effective compliance mechanism and the unlawful behaviour by labour hire operators in Queensland have been recognised by many. I believe we need to act upon this evidence and institute a licensing system.

Those opposite have said that a licensing system may not work or that we should leave this to the federal government to sort out. I honestly have no faith in the Turnbull government taking action on this important issue. I note that Bill Shorten and the federal opposition took a very strong policy in relation to this issue into the last federal election. I sincerely hope that the federal opposition will continue to maintain that. However, at a state level, we cannot stand idly by after learning of the extensive exploitative practices in place in Queensland merely because some may say it is a federal

matter. We cannot sit here and turn our backs on this evidence. It is our duty as a government to address these issues and draw the attention of the federal government to these shocking practices. We need a licensing system to stop these injustices being perpetrated. We need to do what we can to the best of our ability.

There are a range of requirements that seem obvious and straightforward but are not being implemented at the present time. Vulnerable workers are being exploited through an inadequate regulatory scheme both nationally and at a state level. This is particularly perplexing, considering that Australia has a highly regulated employment system. For some reason, the labour hire industry has been able to fall through the cracks, and this needs to end. We all have a responsibility and a duty to correct the wrongs that are happening to the most vulnerable of Queensland workers and update our laws so we are better able to protect these people. Queensland is always at its best when it leads the way. This state should lead the way and provide an example for the rest of the country.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.34 pm): This inquiry proved to us beyond any shadow of a doubt that there is a problem with certain small members in the labour hire industry. We understand that completely. As members have said, there were individual cases that we are very, very sorry about and we are sorry to hear of the practices going on. However, what we did find out conclusively from that inquiry was that a licensing arrangement for labour hire firms will not assist or solve that problem one iota. There will still be individuals running terrible practices and they are people we all abhor who are abusing the good workers of Queensland.

Clearly, there were recommendations that it would be much better addressed through the federal sphere of legislation. Perhaps at COAG they could bring these matters forward and then put in place laws that effectively work. It was identified that we did not have proper regulation through the Fair Work Ombudsman and that all those matters could be better addressed if the government funded better Fair Work officers to go out and supervise these matters where people are bending the rules and breaking them quite clearly now.

From our point of view, if there is any movement to this licensing regime, it will be more bureaucracy and more jobs for union mates. They will run the licensing arrangement. It is clear that since this government came in on day one it has danced to the puppeteers of the union movement. That is where this proposal is basically coming from. The best estimate that all members put forward was that the number of problem operators from Victoria right through to Queensland was a single digit number. They basically said that most of them were wonderful for the industry and were doing a great job for employees. They said that if there were not these labour hire groups there would be no jobs. For a government that keeps rolling on about jobs, jobs, jobs, I can say that any further impediments on this labour hire industry will roll back those jobs, jobs, jobs and, again, this government will be responsible for a lessening of work practices throughout this state.

Clearly, licensing does not fix the problem. Even the people who presented from unions et cetera basically said that licensing will not stop the rogue operators because the rogue operators are exactly that—rogue operators that we do not want in our system today. We want this government to use all of the facilities through the laws that are available now and can be effective now to address this matter, instead of sitting on their hands and saying, 'Let's have a licensing regime and let our union mates run it. If they're not in the CFMEU'—or whatever particular union it is—'you don't get the licence if you don't hire union members.' That is what this proposal is all about. It is not about looking after those workers who were disadvantaged through bad employers—and those bad employers are out there.

This is all about serving their political masters who do not have the interests of the workers at hand. All they want is more members because I think they are down to about 13 per cent of the workforce now. They want more members so they can get more union fees to fund these Labor campaigns. That is how it works. There is no evidence whatsoever that a licensing regime will satisfy anything other than the pockets of the union masters who drive this lot on the other side of the House.

We are totally opposed to the licensing regime as it is another burden on industry. There is not one instance that could show us where a licensing regime would fix the problem. I can guarantee that the minister will bring in some you-beaut, whoopy-do legislation to help out her union mates, and that will be coming shortly. This is a thought bubble. There is no sustainable supporting evidence to bring in that legislation. It is just more crippling of Queensland, where this government will do anything in its power unfortunately to break down industry so industry cannot get on with the job of fixing Queensland's parlous state.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): The time for the debate of committee reports has expired.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (INCLUSION OF 17-YEAR-OLD PERSONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.38 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Youth Justice Act 1992, and the acts mentioned in schedule 1, for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016 [[1548](#)].

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [[1549](#)].

I am proud to introduce this historic legislation, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016. These amendments will bring 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. This bill speaks to our values as a community and as a parliament. Queensland is the only jurisdiction in Australia that treats 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system. In Queensland the law defines adulthood as commencing at the age of 18 except in the criminal justice system. By treating 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system, we are not just inconsistent within our own state and with the rest of Australia but also in breach of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

When the Juvenile Justice Bill 1992 was first introduced, it stood alongside a clear commitment to including 17-year-olds in the system. Twenty-four years later the Palaszczuk government is determined to resolve this issue once and for all. Yes, it is complicated, but we cannot continue to deny 17-year-old people proper recognition under the law. While we have an efficient and effective adult corrective services system, we appreciate that 17-year-olds are still youths and not adults, and the youth justice system provides:

- increased ability to be diverted from the court system;
- access to more age-appropriate education, training and specialised programs;
- more intensive staff support and supervision in custody;
- reduced exposure to adult offenders; and
- the sentencing principles of the Youth Justice Act, which prioritise support and rehabilitation in the community wherever practicable and appropriate.

Moving 17-year-olds into the youth justice system is the right thing to do. It is the right thing for our young people and it is the right thing for community safety because improving rehabilitation outcomes for 17-year-olds will make our communities safer. It is the right thing for Queensland and brings us into line with the rest of our nation and with international law and standards.

The amendments I will introduce today will increase the upper age of a 'child' for the purposes of the Youth Justice Act from 16 to 17 years. These changes will commence by proclamation, to ensure thorough planning for a safe and proper transition is undertaken. The government will undertake a comprehensive and rigorous process working with stakeholders to ensure our infrastructure and services are ready to safely meet the increased demands that will accompany the 17-year-olds. The bill establishes heads of power for a regulation to provide the necessary detail of the arrangements. Final arrangements will be needed to ensure a fair and safe outcome in transitioning young people for whom proceedings have already commenced in the adult system.

It is highly unlikely that all 17-year-olds in Corrective Services custody—approximately 50 at any one time—can be moved to youth detention centres on the day of commencement. Final arrangements will need to facilitate this transition over a reasonable period and will need to be flexible enough to accommodate every possible scenario including illness, imminent court dates or imminent release from custody. We will continue to work with stakeholders to identify all possible scenarios and develop arrangements to resolve these. This work will, in turn, inform the regulation.

I turn to the detail of the bill. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016 changes the definition of 'child' for the purposes of the Youth Justice Act from under 17 years to under 18 years. It then provides for the management of this change by dealing with three cohorts of 17-year-old offenders: those who have not yet been charged, those for whom proceedings are on foot, and those who have been sentenced and are under Corrective Services supervision, under either an imprisonment order or a community based order such as probation or community service.

The bill will commence by proclamation 12 months after passage. From commencement, a 17-year-old in the first cohort, one who is alleged to have committed an offence whilst aged 17 but has not yet been charged, will be treated as a child for the purposes of the act. I note that part 6, division 11 of the act deals with child offenders who become adults and will apply if the person has turned 18 or when the person turns 18. The second cohort—17-year-olds who are the subject of current court proceedings—and the third cohort—those who are serving current adult sentence orders—require more careful planning. I note that the government had the option of utilising the existing section 6 of the act by making a regulation to raise the age of a child, but that would have left these two cohorts in the adult system.

We acknowledge that the extent of the planning and capacity building required means that these cohorts—those who are close to turning 18, close to the finalisation of their proceedings or close to completing their sentences—will need to be considered on an individual basis as part of the transitional arrangements. Accordingly, the bill provides a transitional regulation-making power to deal with these cohorts. For the second cohort—those for whom proceedings are on foot—a transitional regulation may provide for the person to be treated as a child in relation to the offence or the alleged offence. For some, this will be a simple matter of transferring proceedings to the Children's Court; but the regulation will need to provide certainty for a range of different scenarios including, for example, a case where a lengthy hearing is part heard at commencement, or a joint trial of a 17-year-old with a co-accused 18-year-old. The proposed new subsection 390(3) provides a broad power for a court to make an order or give directions to facilitate the transition to ensure that any unanticipated scenarios can be managed in the most appropriate way.

For the third cohort—those subject to a sentence order—a transitional regulation may provide for the application of the Youth Justice Act and other acts to the person as if the sentence, or any subsequent order about the sentence, were a sentence or order made under the Youth Justice Act. This is important because it preserves the independence of the judiciary. The bill does not interfere with sentence orders made prior to commencement; rather, it provides for the administration of those orders for 17-year-olds in the youth justice system rather than the adult system.

It would simply not be practicable to go back and rewrite the last 24 years and the way the legal system has historically dealt with 17-year-olds. What we can do is improve the law into the future and ensure the effective transition to a new system. To that end, an adult probation order, for example, will be able to be administered as though it were a youth justice probation order. The adult order would stand, but the person would report to a youth justice service centre and take direction and receive the support from a youth justice caseworker. Similarly, a person sentenced to imprisonment would serve that term of imprisonment in a youth detention centre, subject to the relevant provisions of the Youth Justice Act in relation to supervised release orders in place of parole or transition to an adult corrective services facility on reaching a certain age.

The bill contemplates exceptional circumstances where a 17-year-old might not be transferred from adult to youth custody. This is to provide for circumstances where, for example, the person is due for release only a short time after they would otherwise have been transferred. For these cases, a regulation may provide for relevant provisions of the Youth Justice Act to apply even though the person is in adult custody.

Again, the bill provides a broad power for a court to ensure that any unanticipated scenarios can be managed in the most appropriate way. The proposed section 389(4) will allow a court to make orders or give directions or, in the interests of justice and having regard to the application of the act or another act under the transitional regulation, to vary the sentence or even to discharge a sentence and replace it with an equivalent youth justice sentence. I anticipate a discharge would only occur in an extreme case where, for example, the intention of a sentencing court would otherwise be thwarted and could not be achieved by way of an order, direction or variation of the sentence order. These powers the bill gives to the courts will ensure flexibility and the preservation of the intention of sentencing courts through this transition process.

I also note the proposed section 389(3)(a), which facilitates the continued application of other acts to an adult sentence that is being administered using the provisions of the Youth Justice Act. This will facilitate, for example, the application of appeal provisions to the sentence, again preserving the integrity of the adult sentence order made prior to commencement. Taken as a whole, these heads of power for a transitional regulation are broad enough but clearly defined enough to facilitate a regulation which will provide for all of the detailed arrangements necessary to achieve the policy intent of this bill.

This bill will complement the reforms already underway by the Palaszczuk government. The work undertaken in the first 18 months of government in youth justice provide us with the platform to bring about this historic change. Reform in youth justice is clear in its objectives: reducing offending and reoffending, reduced use of remand and increased numbers of children and young people successfully supported in the community. Reform in youth justice acknowledges the responsibility we have when a child or young person offends to intervene and stop them from progressing into a life of crime. Reform in youth justice acknowledges that how we intervene with young offenders will have a profound impact on whether they continue into a life of crime and on our community's safety.

Importantly, evidence is driving this reform. Research and government data shows clearly that all government agencies need to work together more effectively to respond to the highly complex needs of children and young people in the youth justice system. It is clear that children and young people who do not have their basic health and welfare needs met and who are not participating in education, training or employment are at high risk of being remanded to custody and of reoffending.

This complex support cannot be provided by youth justice alone. This magnitude of change will require a coordinated, comprehensive, whole-of-government approach. A whole-of-government youth justice policy is being developed to: secure agreement and drive coordinated effort to identify safe and better alternatives to remand in the community; divert children and young people from the youth justice system; provide support for the underlying complex needs that lead to offending; and provide support beyond the completion of a youth justice order to sustain change and reduce reoffending.

A priority of the reform is to reduce the unacceptable overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, who are 23 times more likely to be held in detention on an average day. The high use of remand, with almost two-thirds of children and young people in detention and not sentenced, is a feature of the youth justice system that cannot be left to continue and is a priority of this reform. These reforms will also target the high rate of reoffending for children who have been in detention, with 90 per cent of these children or young people reoffending within a year. Under these reforms youth justice continues to hold children and young people accountable for their offending, courts will continue to impose appropriate outcomes and youth justice continues to administer youth justice orders.

This process of reform is well underway. Amendments to the Youth Justice Act which have already passed through this parliament this year have restored balance to the youth justice system. This bill will bring Queensland into line with the rest of the nation; however, this is not enough. The Palaszczuk government seeks to lead the country in the way we engage with young people by developing strategies and initiatives to stop our youth turning to crime and divert those that are in the youth justice system away from reoffending. We all know that we cannot stop every young person from offending; however, this should not be used as an excuse to avoid our obligation as members of parliament and citizens of this state from identifying and intervening early to support young people and their families so that crime does not become part of their future. By doing this, these young people can go on to live productive lives in society and our communities are made safer.

There is nothing easy about this, but good government is not about making the easy decisions. Good government is about tackling the important issues and making decisions that improve the lives of people who call Queensland home. The amendments support the act's rehabilitative focus and reintroduce restorative justice processes as a powerful diversionary option for children and young people. Evidence based practice is being rolled out across youth justice.

The bill I present to parliament today supports the comprehensive reform work that has been developed over the past 18 months and contributes positively to the fulfilment of youth justice's strategic objectives. The focus going forward for all government agencies will be on concrete and measurable strategies to reduce reoffending and remands in custody. A whole-of-government panel will be convened to oversee the development and implementation of programs and practices necessary to achieve these aims and safely integrate 17-year-olds within the youth justice service system. A stakeholder advisory group will also support and advise the government panel on this work. A cabinet subcommittee has been formed to oversee the progression of this work.

The government is unequivocal: bringing 17-year-olds into the youth justice system will happen. This bill represents a profound opportunity to change the way Queensland delivers youth justice. If done right, these reforms can change young people's lives and improve community safety, which is an objective that all of us in this chamber should strive to achieve. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.53 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.53 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee report to the House on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill by 27 October 2016.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Photographs in Chamber

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Honourable members, I am advised by Mr Speaker that there will be a photographer in the chamber today taking photos.


School Group Tour

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am also advised that we have captains from the Wellington Point High School in the gallery.

HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 16 June (see p. 2421).

Second Reading

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.55 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its careful consideration of the bill and its report, tabled 1 September 2016, recommending that the bill be passed without amendment. This bill removes a longstanding source of discrimination from Queensland's Criminal Code. If enacted, it will standardise the age of consent for all lawful sexual intercourse to the age of 16 years, removing the existing disparity between the legal age of consent for anal intercourse and other forms of sexual intercourse. For too long Queensland has been the only jurisdiction to set a different age of consent, and by doing so it has stigmatised particular sexual relationships. As health minister I am proud to progress this amendment, which is one of a number of measures that the Palaszczuk government is taking to improve the sexual health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

I welcome to the gallery of the Legislative Assembly leaders and members of the Queensland lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community who are here to witness this debate. Many of them, along with so many other gay Queenslanders, have, during their lives, faced fear, intimidation and abuse, threats of violence and actual violence, bullying, exclusion and humiliation, amongst many other things, simply because of their sexuality. They have faced these things simply because of who they are. Many gay men and women in our state have overcome these challenges; many carry scars; and others, I am sad to inform the House, were simply unable to endure what was thrown at them. My hope is that this reform bill will continue to break down barriers of discrimination, to help change the discriminatory attitudes of others and to continue the journey of our state so that it becomes a place where all people are treated justly, fairly, compassionately and, most importantly, equally.

In May this year I released a draft of the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021, which aims to support healthy and safe sexual experiences based on respect and consent. One of the focus areas of the strategy is ensuring that Queenslanders have access to information about sexual health. The panel of health experts that met in May to look at the implications of standardising the age of consent advised me that the current laws may result in young people in same-sex relationships withholding information about their sexual history from their health practitioners. This may prevent young people from receiving appropriate medical advice and discourage them from seeking testing and treatment for sexually transmissible infections. The Queensland AIDS Council and other sexual health experts have echoed these concerns in their submissions to the committee. The amendments to standardise the age of consent will support the final sexual health strategy by ensuring that young people talk to their health practitioners about safe sexual practices and receive appropriate testing and treatment where needed. I intend to release the strategy later this year after incorporating feedback from the public consultation process.

Another success factor in the draft strategy is reduced stigma and discrimination and an increase in positive mental health and wellbeing in specific population groups, including the Queensland lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. This bill will contribute to this by removing the pejorative term 'sodomy' from the Criminal Code and instead refer to 'anal intercourse'.

The bill also amends three health portfolio acts to improve health outcomes for Queenslanders. The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database, known as the Viewer. It will also enable other health practitioners to access information systems and prescribe those information systems in the future where necessary to support patient care or treatment. The Viewer displays patient information consolidated from public sector health systems and is currently available to authorised Queensland Health clinical and support staff.


Queensland Health's *My health, Queensland's future: Advancing health 2026*, the 10-year vision and strategic framework for Queensland Health, recognises the importance of connecting health care both for patients and for healthcare providers. Enabling the public health sector to seamlessly share patient information with GPs means that GPs will have a more comprehensive understanding of a patient's medical history, allowing them to provide more targeted and consistent treatment. The legislation includes safeguards to ensure the protection of patient information. Misuse of the Viewer will, of course, be subject to strict penalties. GPs will have a unique login and their access to the Viewer will be logged and audited. Patients will also have the ability to opt out if they do not want their GP to have access to their information. Giving GPs access to clinical information about their patient's treatment at public sector hospitals is just one of the measures to improve the patient journey outlined in our \$361 million specialist outpatient strategy, which I released on 6 September 2016.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dick, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mooloolah Community Centre

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.30 pm): The Mooloolah Community Centre was opened in 2008 by then Queensland governor Quentin Bryce after many years of repairs and renovations by the local community. The centre's mission statement is: 'To encourage and promote the community into action in a welcoming space addressing community needs with quality services, activities and support'.


The centre delivers many services but all are funded mainly by the centre's op shop, with other local support. The op shop has major local patronage and is staffed by volunteers who devote many hours weekly to their community. We in this House know of many proud men and women who do similar work in their own communities without which we would not have the services they have at this time. The money from the op shop goes back to our community, including a welfare program for those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in dire financial circumstances. The centre proudly offers a variety of services including counselling, a JP service, community garden, community barbecue and room hire. The centre has a policy that those they live with are their family, and family always look after each other.

There are two aspects I will highlight. The first relates to counselling. The counselling service is provided by two psychologists on Fridays and Mondays, with referral via a GP. Importantly, the centre assists those who are sometimes most in need. Though it may not be a full service, it offers assistance where people live. Secondly, a monthly community barbecue is offered by way of a gold coin donation. I attended such a barbecue a few weeks ago. Those who were there received a meal and mixed with friends. It is an excellent way for a community to get together and bind together.

The lease on the premises expires on 31 January 2025, some nine years away, but the committee is looking to the future. The land is owned by Education Queensland. Requests and a petition to the minister to transfer the freehold title to establish a long-term, 99-year lease have not been successful. Importantly, the committee is looking long term and wants the centre to become self-sufficient by 2020. The committee is keen to attract capital funding for renovations and extensions, but I am told that it cannot due to a lack of security of tenure. It is important that the government listens to the people of the centre and Mooloolah. They have worked hard together to establish an environment and a centre that provide long-term services for those in the local area and they are proud of what they have achieved.

When a local community binds together and develops the will to succeed, it becomes a force in its own right. Having met with the committee many times I can say that that force is now moving forward, and they will achieve their goal at the end of the day.


Diversionsary Therapy Technologies

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.33 pm): I have spoken in this House before about how proud I am of the businesses and individuals in the Bulimba electorate that are at the forefront of the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland agenda. Advance Queensland is quite literally putting Queensland on the map. It is one of the reasons Queensland has forecast economic growth of four per cent, the strongest of all Australian states. We are in this position because of our prudent management of the economy. I particularly acknowledge the work of the Treasurer in that regard. We as a government are determined to diversify our economy. I do not think there is any day of any parliamentary sitting week when the ministers of the Palaszczuk government are not standing up in this House and talking about the initiatives which are delivering jobs for Queensland.

On the Advance Queensland agenda, I particularly wish to speak about a company in my electorate. I am very fortunate that the chair of a wonderful organisation called Diversionsary Therapy Technologies actually lives in my electorate. A couple of weeks ago he came to talk to me about an initiative his company has developed and which is now featured on the Advance Queensland website. If members go to the Advance Queensland website or google 'Diversionsary Therapy Technologies', they will be amazed. They have developed the first method in the world to use a psychological mechanism to produce a physiological outcome by a device called the ditto, which looks very much like an iPad but which, once engaged, blocks the pain receptors in the brain.

The ditto was trialled specifically on children with severe burns. It was trialled with over 3,000 patients. I was quite overwhelmed when Paul Barrett, the chair of this company, spoke to me about the process children with severe burns must experience when they are being treated. It is akin to having steel wool rubbed over their burns several times a day. The pain is extreme. On a scale of 1 to 10 it is a 10. Using the ditto, which blocks the pain receptors in the brain, the pain experienced by these children is reduced by 75 per cent. It reduces treatment time by 30 per cent and healing time by 20 per cent. It increases health professionals' productivity by up to 25 per cent. I want to say how proud I am that this company is a Queensland based company and that it is producing real results for children who are in the most dire of situations.

Glass House Electorate


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.36 pm): As a Sunshine Coast LNP member of parliament I am proud to report that my record of delivering with the Glass House community continues. I am pleased to report that Queensland's newest state school, Pumicestone State School, is effectively open for business, with Principal Robyn Conlon on board and enrolments flooding in. I am pleased to report that, after many years of construction, the D'Aguilar Highway, particularly between the Gamgee roads west of Wamuran, is open, with our new overtaking lane and safer intersections creating not only a safer commute for my constituents but also a faster one. We have delivered lights at both Reed Street and Bowen Road on Steve Irwin Way at Glass House Mountains, and I am very grateful for all of the thanks the many community members have provided—whether in person, over the phone or via email—in recent months.

We continue to deliver funding for sporting groups and community groups the length and breadth of the electorate, but I know, as do the constituents of Glass House, the importance of regional infrastructure projects. Whilst they may not be in the electorate of Glass House, they benefit the people of Glass House as they benefit the people of the broader Sunshine Coast and Noosa regions. That is why as an LNP team we delivered the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We brought forward that funding. That is why we secured funding for the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Coast Motorway and are hoping, unless this government finds a way to go slow on this too, for that construction to commence imminently. That is why we gifted land to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, so they could expand the Sunshine Coast airport. That is why we had a commitment to get the duplication of the north coast rail back on track. It is a vital project that services not only the Sunshine Coast but also all stations north, not to mention the freight load it can take and remove from the Bruce Highway. That is why we had a commitment to build the Mooloolah River interchange.

Quite frankly, this government's attempt to bust the congestion that is going to occur around the university hospital is just farcical. That is not going to solve the problem; it is only going to make it worse. This government needs to come up with a solution. That is why we are looking at roads such as Nicklin Road, Caloundra Road and Beckmans Road in Noosa: to bust the congestion throughout the Sunshine Coast.

We on the coast have the record. We know what needs to be done. As your Sunshine Coast LNP team, we will deliver.

Gateway Upgrade North Project

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.39 pm): Another Gateway Upgrade North project milestone has been achieved, with the first bridge deck units—20-tonne concrete road carriageway supports—lifted into place on the new bridge at the Bicentennial Road interchange at Boondall in my electorate.


Mr Hinchliffe: Hear, hear!

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection. I know it also significantly affects and benefits the member for Sandgate. Once complete, the Bicentennial Road interchange will have more than 100 bridge deck units fitted as part of the upgrade works. I visited the site last week along with the federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan, and my Gateway neighbour, the member for Sandgate, to see the progress firsthand. The project will widen an 11.3-kilometre section of the motorway from four to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge and address a long-term congestion issue in Brisbane's north. This almost \$1.2 billion project, jointly funded by the state and Commonwealth governments, will literally change the lives of the estimated 80,000 motorists who commute on this road daily.

In other updates on the project, preliminary works at the North Boondall train station are complete and the new permanent car park on Peacock Street is now open to commuters. Permanent fauna fencing will be installed this month to prevent animals from accessing the motorway and will direct them to fauna crossing locations. In addition, earthworks are ongoing on both sides of Nundah Creek, with major construction works commencing this month on the northbound bridge. Some of these activities are occurring at night when traffic volumes are lower for the safety of motorists and workers. As a Nudgee local myself, I have been lulled to sleep on a number of occasions now by the repetitive sound of sheet piling and pile driving. I appreciate that construction noise associated with the motorway upgrade works has caused some concern in my community and want to acknowledge associated noise as a very real cost of such works. Noise post construction is also an ongoing concern to residents in Nudgee, particularly in the Circa estate backing on to the motorway. I have raised these concerns with the project team and the need for appropriate noise mitigation measures and treatments and will continue to do so at each of our regular project meetings.


The Gateway Upgrade North project is of tremendous significance, as I have said, not only to my and the neighbouring Sandgate electorate but also to the Queensland economy as a whole as it will reduce congestion and improve freight movements between the Port of Brisbane and the Brisbane Airport. Congestion means lost time, lost opportunity and lost revenue. This project, due for completion in late 2018, will support more than 1,000 jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever. This government is continuing our momentum to deliver the projects we know Queensland needs to drive our economy, create local jobs and meet the projected needs of our rapidly growing region. The State Infrastructure Plan, State Infrastructure Fund and Building Queensland, along with market-led proposals, are about planning, prioritising and investing in the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time to grow Queensland's economy and support jobs.

Noosa Electorate

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (2.41 pm): It is time for this government to pay attention to the needs of the Sunshine Coast and in particular my electorate of Noosa, and not just those communities that belong to its own sitting members. In the 10 years I have had the honour of representing the people of Noosa and the seven years at the perilous hands of a Labor government, the only change in Noosa—which was far from an improvement—was the unwanted and forced arranged marriage with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, which is why, I suggest, the wary constituents of Noosa voted Labor third at the last two state elections. More than any other community in Queensland, Noosa defines itself as being truly sustainable—evidenced by becoming Queensland's first designated biosphere under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, which means it is possible for man to live sustainably within a healthy environment. Part of this has been assisting our water supply and demand, ensuring that we can sustain the people who live in our community and not exhaust our natural resources now and into the future. As a community we have tackled issues like height restrictions and excessive signage. Like all communities, we continue to work with council to keep up with the demands on the road network and how public transport fits into our vision.

There is a standing issue that dates back before our amalgamation with the Sunshine Coast Council, and that is the responsibility by the state government to improve or widen or duplicate Beckmans Road, which is sometimes called the Tewanin bypass. The road has multiple problems—at one end extreme traffic congestion where two schools and a residential estate feed into local traffic and at the other end a T-junction where Beckmans Road meets Cooroy Noosa Road. It is dangerous in the extreme. What was once a dirt road to provide an alternate route in the event of flood, Beckmans Road now carries in excess of 19,000 vehicles a day and must be upgraded to meet the needs of a growing community which, as I said, includes those two very large schools and several new housing estates. In a Noosa electorate-wide survey of 23,000 residents late last year, more than one-third rated the upgrade of Beckmans Road as an urgent priority. The solution can be achieved in three stages and over a number of years at a total cost of approximately \$40 million, which is a reasonable investment for priority road infrastructure that will ensure the future of Noosa is not hamstrung through inaction.

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.44 pm): They say that a week is a long time in politics. Eighteen months has gone very quickly since the Palaszczuk government was elected and I was elected the member for Maryborough, but it has been a great 18 months for the electorate of Maryborough.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: The electorate has had 18 years of neglect, but the last 18 months has been a great ride. People are smiling because we are getting front-line services reinstated. I take the interjection from the health minister because—


Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection, too, from the member for Lockyer, because if members saw what was happening in Maryborough prior to the Palaszczuk government coming to power they would have been horrified. Those opposite talk about the Labor Party being in the south-east corner. No-one opposite knew how to get to Maryborough—and they had a local sitting member—so that is how bad it was. Returning to the health minister in the chamber, pathology services have been reinstated at the hospital. We know that the government is doing something right when there was a story in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* yesterday saying that there is too much roadworks going on in the electorate. I have been in politics a long time, but I have never heard of people complaining about the

roadworks that are happening in a state electorate—and that is because of the Palaszczuk government getting on and delivering services and ensuring that regional Queensland is not forgotten, and that is what is happening in the great city of Maryborough.

As I walk around the streets and talk to people I note that we have lights at St Helens school, which we were told could never happen, and the interchange coming into Maryborough is being funded by the federal government. That is strange: it cannot do the M1, but it has funded the Maryborough interchange 80-20. Those opposite have done a lot of things to the Maryborough electorate. They brought the great city to its knees, but we are rebuilding it. The Palaszczuk government is leading the way. Businesses in my electorate are telling me that their turnover has never been better after the three years of that dark, dismal day when the curtains were pulled around Queensland with the Newman government and we had 'Tiny Tim'. I will retract that—the member for Clayfield. We had three dark years, but I can honestly report to the House that thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government and this great cabinet we are finally back on track and moving forward. The city of Maryborough will become what it used to be thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Sunshine Coast, Infrastructure

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (2.47 pm): I ask the health minister, the main roads minister and the Premier to take note. I want to talk about the Mooloolah River interchange—a project for which in August 2014 the LNP made an announcement of \$440 million to build this essential piece of infrastructure. Through that process over 100 houses were resumed so that we could make way for this essential piece of infrastructure. Since Labor came to government in 2015, I have spoken on this topic 20 times—that is, through 11 questions on notice and nine speeches in this House about this essential piece of infrastructure. The LNP delivered a \$2 billion hospital on the Sunshine Coast. Labor has delivered nothing. Let me explain this to the ministers very clearly. We need to do preloading for that particular road network, and it will take two years for that soil to settle before bitumen can be laid.


This hospital will open in April next year and the big problem we will face the day that hospital opens is that traffic will increase in that area by 47 per cent. That means that the Labor government is about to turn Kawana into the largest car park in South-East Queensland. There will be impacts on those people trying to get to the hospital and those people living on the Sunshine Coast, and the population is heading towards over 300,000 people at the moment. Labor pork-barrels Labor seats and forgets about the rest of the state. It tells the people of Queensland that it is going to treat people equally and fairly, but that is absolutely not the case.

I will give the Minister for Main Roads some information that he might want to take on board. For as little as \$150 million he can get that project up and running. That is what it is going to cost to do the preloading. That work could be part of the capital works program for Main Roads. The main roads department wants to see this happen, the people of Queensland want to see this happen, but Labor is left short. It is left wanting. It will not deliver this infrastructure for the people of my region. I hope and pray that nobody from the Labor Party is on the Sunshine Coast one day and gets sick or has a heart attack and needs to get to that hospital very quickly. We all know that, when it comes to saving someone's life, minutes can be very important.

The LNP members representing the Sunshine Coast are working together very hard to deliver outcomes. When we were in government, we delivered many things. I refer to the Maroochydore Junior Rugby League Club. Last weekend, I had the pleasure of opening that club—a 1,000-seat structure that has delivered great outcomes. That field is the most used Rugby League field in South-East Queensland. Right now, in the electorate of Buderim, a couple of basketball courts are being built. They will open very shortly. That is another project that was delivered by the LNP government. Labor has been caught short. The people of my electorate need this road for the hospital. I call on the Premier to make it happen, or she does not care about people.

(Time expired)

Donnybrook Sports and Community Club

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.50 pm): About six months ago I was asked to attend at the Donnybrook bowls club. The newly appointed administration team were there to advise me of the potential closure of this club—a club that had been around for decades. The administration team asked me if the government could come up with some money to help the club get along. We did not desert them, but we did not give them a handout either. I do not usually list names, but I think the following

members of the bowls club committee are extraordinary for what they have achieved: Valerie Guilfoyle, Ormand O'Reilly, Jeffrey Stevens, Julie Davis, Patricia Crossley, Robert Guilfoyle, Gary Davis, Annie Kelly and Patrick Tuohy. These people were left with the massive task of trying to turn around this club.

I made one suggestion—that they change the name of this club from the Donnybrook bowls club. It is now called the Donnybrook Sports and Community Club. That name change was done for several reasons. It allows the club to be not just a bowls club but have associate members. The bowls club, the darts club, the fishing club and all the other community clubs now are a part of this club. The name change also opens up the club to receiving community grants.

The Donnybrook Sports and Community Club is the lifeblood of the Donnybrook community. Previously, the club's committee could not pay the bills, there was no stock in the fridges and the bank would not give them a loan. The bank has now given them a loan. The club has a new agenda. The committee has not had to draw on the club's overdraft. That is a very good achievement on behalf of this committee.


The Palaszczuk Labor government is about jobs. To see this club close would have seen more jobs go down the gurgler. Building communities, having people communicate, looking after one another and helping one another is what the Palaszczuk government is about. Last Sunday, the Donnybrook Sports and Community Club held an Olympic sports day for new members. The club managed to pick up an extra 50 new members in one day—from Donnybrook, Meldale and Toorbul. That is a far cry from when the club was just about ready to close its doors. I am helping the club organise live entertainment. I am looking for opposition members to perform.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WILLIAMS: They perform well enough. The club is no longer just a bowls club; it is part of the community.

(Time expired)

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month


 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.53 pm): This month is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and I join the Golden Octopus Foundation in asking for help. There are eight groups of insidious, heartbreaking childhood cancers that tragically claim the lives of three Australian children each week. Many more children die from complications arising from outdated treatments, diluted adult chemotherapies and the development of secondary cancers.

The Golden Octopus Foundation is doing a remarkable job in trying to make these traumatic journeys just that little bit more bearable. The foundation was set up last year by a group of parents who have been affected by childhood cancer. Initially, the idea was sparked by young cancer patient, Keely Johnson. She wanted to help other sick children, so she created the Golden Octopus Foundation, which is symbolised by Ollee the octopus, whose eight legs represent each group of childhood cancer.

I praise the work of this invaluable foundation and the hope and support that it brings to struggling families. The money raised by the foundation goes towards improving telehealth services and placing childhood cancer nurses in regional hospitals. Taking medical services to sick children means that they do not have to relocate or travel to receive treatment; they can stay with their families where they feel safe and comfortable.

Keely Johnson has a saying, 'Let's go gold, bright and bold, so our kids will all grow old.' The gold represents how precious children are and symbolises the strength and resilience that children develop when they are touched by childhood cancer. I would like to acknowledge all the work that the member for Thuringowa has done with the foundation. I thank all members who have worn the gold ribbon pin in parliament this week to honour and support these brave children and their families who are battling incredible hardship. The children experience unspeakable challenges and decisions on a daily basis that no-one should ever have to face in their lifetime. Members can visit the website, goldenoctopusfoundation.org.au, to make a donation or learn more about childhood cancer. Let us raise awareness and funds for those who matter the most.

Logan West Meals on Wheels; Volunteerism

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.55 pm): Sharing a meal is more than getting nutrition. The volunteers at the Logan West Meals on Wheels know that the sharing of meals shows that we are a community, we care and we value those who cannot care for themselves as they once did. No doubt the student leadership team at Marist College Ashgrove and Mount St Michael's College, who are with the education minister in the gallery, know that as well.

Throughout our history, humans have gathered to share meals. I have been to a Jewish friend's home on a Friday night and shared a Shabbat meal. I have shared an Iftar meal with the Logan Muslim community, breaking the fast during Ramadan. At the church services that I attend with others, we symbolically share the bread and wine of a meal. At Christmas time, when we gather as a family, what do we do? We share a meal. The volunteers at the Logan West Meals on Wheels know that they deliver far more than sustenance; they share the spirit of community.


Some economists think that we are simply the sum of our commercial purchases, that we simply desire to accumulate more and more. These economists know the price of everything on the open market, but they know nothing of the value of community, of caring, of charity, or family. As a government, we need to know the limitations of this narrow form of economics. These cold, hard economists would not be able to explain the actions of volunteers, such as those whom I met at the annual general meeting of the Logan West Meals on Wheels. At that meeting, Treasurer Bev Wood read out a letter from one of the elderly people that they delivered meals for, which read, 'The volunteers are the most beautiful people ... they come into my home with the most beautiful bright smile and light up my home with warmth and sunshine.' Sometimes we focus too much on those things that we do not do right. We do not spend enough time recognising those people who do such great things, such as the President of the Logan West Meals on Wheels, Karen Grasmeder, Treasurer Bev Wood, and the many other volunteers.

If anyone who is listening to this speech has the time, including the students from Marist College Ashgrove and Mount St Michael's College, I say to them that it is worthwhile joining a great crew like Meals on Wheels. They can go to the volunteeringqld.org.au website and find a charity organisation that will light up the homes with sunshine near them. I know that other members respect the work that organisations such as the Donnybrook bowls club and the Golden Octopus Foundation do. They are organisations that can never be priced, but we know that they make an enormous contribution to our society. As members of this House, we should support them.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The time for private members' statements is over.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.58 pm), by leave: I table Ethics Committee report No. 169 titled *2015-16 Annual Report*. I commend the report to the House.


Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 169—2015-2016 Annual Report [[1550](#)].

HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3582, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.59 pm), continuing: To achieve our goal of making Queenslanders among the healthiest people in the world by 2026, we must capitalise on the potential of health technology. Queensland is leading the way in this regard as one of the first jurisdictions in Australia to give GPs this kind of access to public sector health information. It is these innovative solutions that will help to transform Queensland's approach to health care.


Participation rates in our school immunisation and dental programs are not as high as we want them to be. The Palaszczuk government is committed to taking action to ensure these programs do reach as many of our young people as possible. While parents may choose not to participate in these school health programs, I am concerned that too many students are not getting that opportunity because the consent form has been left in the bottom of the schoolbag or has been signed but not returned to the school. The bill seeks to address this by amending the Public Health Act 2005 to enable schools to share student information with school health program providers, supporting the uptake of the school immunisation and school dental programs. The amendments will allow approved school health program providers to follow up with parents. This will enable providers to answer any questions parents

may have and address any concerns. Safeguards will be in place. All providers are bound by the privacy principles and will be directed not to follow up with families who have indicated they do not want their child to participate.

Other amendments will support medical research. Queensland is home to some of the best and brightest minds in medical research. This year alone the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute has announced developments in malaria and HIV treatments, the diagnosis of depression and genetic linkages to breast and endometrial cancer. The bill amends the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 to enable the QIMR Berghofer to approve the payment of bonuses to its successful discoverers and inventors up to an annual aggregate limit of \$10 million. This will ensure QIMR can continue to attract and retain high-performing researchers to support its goal of translating medical research discoveries into better treatments, diagnoses and health prevention strategies for Queenslanders.

The bill will also amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to streamline the process of seeking disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes. To carry out medical research involving Queensland Health, researchers must comply with a rigorous approval process including ethics approval and Queensland Health authorisation of the project. Patients with impaired capacity, such as dementia patients, can only participate in medical research where their substituted decision-maker has consented to their participation. The researcher must also apply to Queensland Health to access the patient's information. The Australian Medical Association of Queensland has advised this application to Queensland Health is a burdensome and time-consuming step for researchers which may delay important medical research. These amendments, developed in consultation with the AMA Queensland, will streamline the process by removing the unnecessary additional step while maintaining safeguards around the research project.

In conclusion, I again thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its detailed consideration of the bill and the stakeholders who participated in the committee process. I particularly acknowledge those individuals who shared with the committee their firsthand experience of discrimination on the basis of their sexual preference. They have highlighted why the proposed Criminal Code amendment is particularly important. It is, above all, an amendment aimed at improving sexual health and it should be treated as such. Too often the conversation about the age of consent has focused on morality and, worse still, on criminality. By making this amendment in a health bill we change the focus of the debate. More importantly, we remove a discriminatory provision from our statute books and support the sexual health and wellbeing of young Queenslanders. Other amendments in the bill will facilitate stronger connections across the health system, support pioneers in medical research and ensure our children are getting access to vital immunisation and dental services. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.03 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill debate. Before I begin I would like to thank the committee for its work in assessing this bill, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 38 of the 55th Parliament. The bill before us has several elements. It proposes amendments to the Criminal Code, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945.

The first element seeks to amend the Criminal Code to standardise the age of sexual consent and proposes to use the words 'anal intercourse' in place of the word 'sodomy'. The bill achieves this by removing the offence of unlawful sodomy in section 208 and amending the offences of unlawful carnal knowledge in sections 215 and 216 and to extend the definition of carnal knowledge in those provisions to include anal intercourse. It amends other acts to align with these changes. These proposed changes are the result of a draft Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-21 which was released for public consultation in May. Currently there is a difference between the age of consent for anal intercourse, which is 18 years of age, and all other sexual intercourse, which is 16 years in Queensland. Ultimately, this amendment is about creating consistent laws in our state. As page 5 of the committee report states, whilst the current provisions in the Criminal Code do not by their express terms discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation, in practical effect they do discriminate against same-sex attracted men under 18.

The committee report highlighted that in pragmatic terms this amendment supports healthy and safe sexual relationships and provides Queenslanders with sexual health information. This amendment not only encourages equality practically but textually. The removal of the word 'sodomy' from legislation and adopting the words 'anal intercourse' eliminates the stigma associated with this form of intercourse. Currently, Queensland is the only jurisdiction in Australia without a standardised age of consent. New

South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory all have a standardised age of consent of 16 years. In Tasmania and South Australia the standard age is 17. South Australia was the first to legislate a standardised age of consent in 1976, with the most recent being New South Wales and the Northern Territory in 2003.

The LNP will not be opposing this legislation. However, we do need certainty and clarity from the government as to how it will educate the 16- to 17-year-old cohort around these changes. While the bill before us mentions time and time again that it will work to provide information to support safe and healthy sexual relationships, upon closer inspection the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy actually contains little to no detail on how this will be delivered. The priority actions are very light on detail. Priority action 3 and related parts fail to outline or explain how the government intends to provide education and support on the proposed changes in the bill. There is also no information in the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy that mentions advice about education programs that refer to physical side effects of sexual activity on bodies that may not have developed completely or the mental health aspect. In fact, priority action 3, titled 'Improving education and support for children and young people', is very light on any real detail to better inform and educate young people.

It is obvious that, like most of the Palaszczuk Labor government's work in the past 21 months, they actually have no plan beyond the concept of what the minister has explained today. All we have seen from this report are ambiguous points which actually do not tell students, families, schools and support organisations how this government will deliver important education and support programs to Queensland students. These important changes deserve more than a half-baked idea from the government.

The LNP's efforts remain on providing meaningful education strategies that make young people aware of the health risks associated with unprotected sex, regardless of the act itself. It is important that the community is properly educated and informed. I would like to hear from the minister just how education for 16- and 17-year-olds will be tailored to explain the physical and mental aspects of the changes and what support will be implemented and whether the strategy will be updated once this bill goes through.

The second element of the bill seeks to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate access to patient information for GPs and researchers. The first amendment is about improving patient outcomes by ensuring that general practitioners have access to a comprehensive view of a patient's clinical history. This is set out in the explanatory notes at page 3. The second element aims to simplify a currently complex application process to better facilitate access to patient data for research purposes. The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to give GPs access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer. The Viewer is a web based program that provides a consolidated read-only view of patient information which includes the patient's name, address and demographic information, admission and discharge history, pathology and medical imaging reports and other information relating to medical history.

The committee has reported that enabling GPs to access this information-sharing program would lay the foundations for better coordinated treatments for patients. It would also ensure that tests are not duplicated. In its current form, the legislation does not allow a designated person to disclose patient information to another person except in prescribed circumstances. Part 7 of the act lays out exceptions to this under section 142 but does not go far enough to enable a general practitioner to access their patient's information. Thus, clause 14 of the bill before us expands on the definition of a 'designated person' to include GPs.

In their submission, the Australian Medical Association stated that, while they are supportive of the changes, it would be beneficial to allow GPs to upload information onto the program to provide a more comprehensive view of a patient's medical history. Their submission acknowledges that whilst allowing GPs to contribute information to the Viewer could present challenges, including privacy concerns and potential IT issues, it may result in better patient care, particularly for palliative care patients. Some other suggestions included further expanding the category of medical professionals who can access the Viewer, as well as allowing access to personal indemnity insurers and lawyers. I note that the committee has indicated that it is open to considering expansions to allow GPs to contribute information to the Viewer in the future.

Given that Queensland is the first state to allow GPs access to such a program, it is imperative once again that education and appropriate precautions are adopted to ensure that such information is secure. The committee report mentioned that viewing information for reasons outside of the user's duty of providing patient care would be considered an offence. Sharing such information without

authorisation from the Hospital and Health Boards Act is also deemed an offence. Offenders can face a penalty of 600 points, which equates to \$73,140. The report advises that defences would also be included within the program, which would undergo frequent auditing and monitoring. To ensure that only authorised users can access patient information, users must provide a range of patient information, including their Medicare number and date of birth. Users will also be trained in using the program, which includes being notified of the penalties associated with misuse.

Further changes to the Hospital and Health Boards Act aim to improve the current application process that researchers must apply to gain access to patient information. The AMA highlighted that research projects have been delayed because of the complex framework provided by the application process under the Public Health Act. Currently, research must be approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee or another review body and then reviewed by the Department of Health or hospital and health services. This research governance review ensures that all potential issues have been addressed, including financial considerations and regulatory obligations.

Given that patient information is necessary for many research projects, a process currently exists that allows researchers to gain access to patient information in the instance that a patient is unable to give consent. Whilst other frameworks do exist to allow a person to act on a patient's behalf, including under the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 and the Powers of Attorney Act 1988, these frameworks do not necessarily legislate that a nominated person can disclose a patient's confidential information on their behalf.

Under the framework in the Hospital and Health Boards Act, researchers can apply to Queensland Health to access patient information under chapter 6, part 4 of the Public Health Act. The chief executive can grant access to this information held by a health agency under section 281 of the Public Health Act. As mentioned before, the AMA has indicated that this can be a long and convoluted process that hinders the progress of important research projects. Accordingly, the amendment takes away the requirement for researchers to apply through the Public Health Act process to obtain patient information, as the process is unnecessary if the research project meets the following requirements, as stated in the explanatory notes—

- the research has ethics approval
- commencement of the project has been authorised by the relevant chief executive in accordance with administrative requirements within Queensland Health, and
- the patient's participation in the research has been approved under a substitute decisionmaking framework.

This amendment facilitates greater efficiency in research by removing unnecessary red tape.

Amendments to the Public Health Act 2005 outlined in the bill will enable researchers to access information on deceased patients and to facilitate information sharing between schools and health service providers to encourage an increased uptake of school immunisation and dental programs. Those are important programs and we have seen significant coverage in terms of immunisation rates and participation in dental programs. The amendments will enable more and more patients, especially those at vulnerable stages in their lives, to access those programs and allow us to increase the participation rates as much as possible.

The bill clarifies a definition under the Public Health Act 2005 to allow researchers access to information on deceased patients. Under the act, the definition of 'health information held by a health agency' did not stipulate whether it refers to both living and deceased persons. The amendment clarifies the definition and, in effect, grants researchers access to information on both living and deceased persons for research purposes.

As I have already mentioned, the committee has recommended amending the Public Health Act to encourage the better uptake of the School Immunisation Program and school dental programs. The amendment involves information sharing between schools and immunisation or oral health service providers. That will allow providers to identify and follow up with eligible students who have not returned consent forms and grant those health services access to information that will inform future decisions on how to improve participation. This is an important amendment that provides families with a direct link to service providers. As a parent and a registered but non-practising dentist, I know that promoting good oral health care routines to Queensland students is vital to ensure that they develop healthy habits, such as brushing correctly and flossing, that last a lifetime.


The Queensland Immunisation Strategy 2014-17 outlines a goal of ensuring that 85 per cent of Queensland adolescents are fully immunised through the programs provided at schools. The report states that records from 2015 indicate that year 8 students fell well short of the immunisation target and

that participation rates in the school dental programs have fallen. Thus, this is an important measure to ensure that health service providers can facilitate and encourage a greater uptake of their programs. Other jurisdictions, including Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, have legislation that to varying degrees grants selected healthcare providers with access to student information to encourage increased participation in those programs. New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory have not legislated to allow access for such purposes.

Some stakeholders, including the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland, have supported the motivation behind the amendments. However, they have indicated that such an initiative may inflict privacy and administrative burdens. Independent Schools Queensland highlighted their concerns about how this initiative might be administered and mentioned the varying data management systems used in schools across Queensland, a lack of certainty regarding data storage and disposal, as well as ambiguity in how data discrepancies will be managed as information is uploaded. The committee has said that a one-size-fits-all solution cannot solve those issues due to the varied data management styles of Queensland schools. However, concerns can be addressed using communication tools, marketing resources and with support from the department. The bill also makes consequential amendments to reflect changes made federally to the Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015.

Finally, the bill makes amendments to section 19 of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act. Previously, the Governor in Council was required to approve payment bonuses that can range up to \$10 million combined per financial year. The Governor in Council must approve the amount should the annual limit exceed \$10 million. The amendment removes the need to seek the Governor in Council's approval for bonuses that accumulate to less than \$10 million per financial year. In effect, this allows the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to independently manage bonuses up to this amount. We all know that Queensland is home to some of the country's most brilliant and innovative minds, and we want those researchers to be attracted to and stay in Queensland to make important medical discoveries. Providing payments in an efficient manner will allow QIMR to be competitive in a country where other states have attractive remuneration programs.

This includes New South Wales, where broad approval is not necessary regardless of the amount paid. Under the Garvan Institute of Medical Research Act 1984, these payments are reported to the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. Further, Victoria's Walter and Eliza Hall Medical Research Institute internally mandates distributions. The board's authorisation is required and the institute's commercialisation committee must watch over activities to determine remuneration, which is capped. QIMR has indicated their support for this amendment and has alluded to favouring Victoria's framework.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (3.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In July the committee received an oral briefing on the bill from Queensland Health and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and also received written advice from those departments on issues raised in the submissions. The committee received 21 submissions to this inquiry and followed up with a hearing on the bill on 17 August.

After deliberating on the bill the committee unanimously endorsed the report and recommended the bill be passed without change. I thank my fellow committee members for their deliberations and support for this bill. I thank the research staff, all the submitters to this inquiry and those who appeared before the committee on 17 August.

In short, the amendments contained in the bill are to standardise the age of consent. Out of all the amendments contained in this bill, these amendments attracted the most interest in submissions and at the hearing. That is not surprising. In considering the effects of this bill the government established a panel of key health experts and relevant organisations which convened in May 2016. The panel noted that young people in same-sex relationships may feel compelled to withhold information about their sexual history from their health practitioner for fear of the possible legal consequences, whether for themselves or their partner.

The panel recommended that: the age of consent for all forms of lawful sexual intercourse be standardised to 16 years; and the Criminal Code be amended to replace references to 'sodomy' with 'anal intercourse', considering that using the term 'sodomy' may stigmatise this form of intercourse and homosexual relationships in particular. This view was consistent with evidence received by the committee. For example, Dr Neil Simmons stated—

Young people will not approach health practitioners to discuss their sexual health if they believe what they are doing is illegal.

The committee heard some compelling evidence from those who appeared. It is a shame that people in our society need to face that stigma and the attacks upon them. I believe this bill will correct that in many ways. The Queensland AIDS Council expressed concern—

... that with the current inequality of age of consent, young people who are sexually active are reluctant to access sexual health services including HIV and other STI testing and preventative health education for fear of being prosecuted.

The council also raised another area where the current law can have adverse health impacts and that was regarding mental health. It stated—

In addition to placing a barrier to accessing sexual health care, the unequal age of consent significantly damages the mental health of LGBTI young people. The inequality of age of consent signals to young people that engaging in anal sex is dirty, taboo, or dangerous and should only be practised by people older than themselves.

The proposed amendments will bring Queensland into line with all other Australian jurisdictions. The current position is discriminatory in practice. The change will remove potential barriers to young gay men seeking health advice and will remove a stigmatising effect. This is good and just legislation. It will protect some of the most vulnerable in our society.

I now turn to the amendments to the Hospitals and Health Boards Act 2011. The proposed amendments would allow a general practitioner to access the Viewer to see a patient's information such as public hospital medical records, including, for example, pathology and radiology tests reports. This was supported by a number of submitters. The Australian Medical Association Queensland advised the committee of its support. It stated—

AMA Queensland welcomes moves that would allow General Practitioners to access the Queensland Health Viewer database. Continuity of care is an important principle in the delivery of health in Australia and these amendments will help reduce fragmentation of care.

The Medical defence organisation and medical indemnity insurer, Medical Insurance Group Australia, observed—

MIGA sees the crucial importance of clear and timely clinical information being available to a patient's treating practitioners. This ensures a continuity of care which is as seamless as possible, minimising the risk of important clinical information, which could impact advice and decisions relating to a patient's clinical condition, not being known by key practitioners involved in their care.

I now refer to the privacy concerns and the need for education. During the introduction of the bill the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Hon. Cameron Dick, stated—

Appropriate safeguards will be in place to ensure the privacy of patient information. It is intended the system will require the health practitioner to search by a unique identifier such as the patient's Medicare number. The system will involve regular monitoring and audits.

While the committee heard concerns regarding this amendment, accepting appropriate education in the effective and permissible use of the system is vitally important, particularly noting the sensitive and personal nature of much of the information and the privacy concerns involved, as explained throughout the hearing. Health Consumers Queensland opposed the amendment, on the basis that—

The rights of consumers, particularly those who are most vulnerable (who may not have capacity to consent) ... need more consideration than just ethics approval and approval for commencement of a research project.

However, subsequently Health Consumers Queensland advised that, having received further information, it supported the proposed amendment. It stated—


... we are now supportive of this moving forward. We understand that Queensland is the only jurisdiction in Australia that does not have this ease of access to all patient information and we would support that happening within the existing protections that exist.

In addition, the OIC was consulted in relation to the privacy aspects of the proposal and found no significant privacy implications were identified.

In terms of the proposed amendments to deceased patients' data, the proposal is to make a minor amendment to the Public Health Act to clarify that the definition of 'health information held by a health agency' includes the information of both living and deceased persons. This proposed amendment was not addressed in any detail in submissions to the inquiry, though some submitters briefly indicated their support while none were opposed.

In terms of the proposed amendments to the dental and vaccination records I point out that vaccination rates are below the target. Also, consent levels for participation in the school dental scheme are declining. The amendment would allow school principals and delegates to disclose student information to immunisation or oral health service providers to allow providers to follow up with parents where consent forms are not returned and reconcile returned forms against all eligible students.

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland expressed broad support for the intent of the amendments but raised a number of concerns going to issues of privacy and administrative burdens. In response, Queensland Health advised that such issues would be addressed in supporting resources and communication materials. The committee is encouraged by the response from Queensland Health and its reference to providing supporting resources and communication and marketing materials. The committee sees the administrative burden on schools as not insignificant. It is important that there be close collaboration to minimise this burden as much as possible. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.28 pm): The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the honourable member for Woodridge, on 16 June this year to support this Labor government's policy initiatives. As is common practice, the bill was then referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for detailed consideration, with the committee to report by 6 September 2016, which was duly done.

The bill amends the Criminal Code and three Health portfolio acts to support policy initiatives of the government and to improve the effective operation of the acts. In particular, the bill amends the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years and to replace references to 'sodomy' with 'anal intercourse'; the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer; the Public Health Act 2005 to allow health information relating to deceased patients to be disclosed for research purposes, to enable schools to share student information with school immunisation and oral health service providers to improve the uptake of the school immunisation program and school dental program, and to make consequential amendments to reflect changes to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. Further, the bill amends the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 to facilitate the payment of bonuses to successful discoverers or inventors.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee invited written submissions from the public and from identified stakeholders to be received by 22 July. Twenty-one submissions were received. The committee received an oral briefing on the bill from Queensland Health and the Department of Justice and Attorney General on 11 July 2016 and received written advices from those departments on issues raised in the submissions. The committee held a hearing on the bill on 17 August 2016. The committee recommended that the bill be passed. I acknowledge the work of my fellow committee members and our secretariat for working closely together and in a truly bipartisan way as we deliberated on this bill. I would also like to acknowledge the visitors in the gallery today.

As stated earlier, this bill aims to amend the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years—it is currently 18 years for anal intercourse and 16 years for all other sexual activity—and replace references to 'sodomy' with the term 'anal intercourse'. The bill also implements recommendations of a recent panel of health experts and relevant organisations who met in May 2016 and will be contained in the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021 to be released later this year. The Sexual Health Strategy is purported to be the first of its kind in Australia and aims to improve sexual health outcomes for specific population groups.

According to the explanatory notes, there is disparity with Queensland laws and those in other states where there is an equal age of consent for all sexual activity. They also note that the average age of a young person's first sexual experience is now below 16. Unprotected anal intercourse is the highest risk behaviour for transmission of human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. Therefore, thorough education programs must be implemented that explain safe sex practices but are not seen as coercing young people into behaviours they may later regret. Further, the explanatory notes state that the current law discriminates against young same-sex attracted men under 18 years. I have to admit I am a bit confused here with the term 'men' as being under the age of 18, as when this cohort is referred to in the criminal justice system, even as serious violent offenders, they are classified as children or juveniles—but that is an argument for another day.

The word 'sodomy' is to be replaced with 'anal intercourse'. The Queensland AIDS Council referred to the term as having connotations of outdated laws and moral standards. After reading a few of these definitions on Wikipedia and in dictionaries, I concur with the AIDS Council.

I thank the witnesses who presented at a public hearing on 17 August. They provided the committee with some startling facts that better informed us. Dr Wendell Rosevear told us that in Australia 30 per cent to 35 per cent of people—male and female—engage in anal sex and that we also have a syphilis epidemic. It went up 30 per cent in 2014-15 and a staggering further 230 per cent this year compared to last year. We were told that condoms are becoming unfashionable, so treatment and information about safe sex practices are paramount.

I asked some of the departmental witnesses at the 11 July hearing what specific programs there were going to be available for this young cohort of teenagers to promote safe and healthy sex. I was somewhat surprised at the response which was that it is the responsibility of parents and some schools deliver age-appropriate programs. I do not believe for a moment that parents should not take front-line responsibility, but it is clear from those frightening statistics just mentioned that the safe sex message is not getting through and more needs to be done as a matter of urgency. I wholeheartedly agree with the shadow minister's comments earlier and his concerns about timely and practical information for youth.

I do have some very serious concerns about the difference between exploitation and exploration—as I discussed with witnesses during the hearings—as young people experiment with sexual behaviours. News stories have been full of royal commissions into child abuse from institutions, churches, boarding schools, carers—highlighting horrific acts of abuse that in some cases occur in very young children and others in their teens. How many of these young children continue with these 'learned' behaviours as they grow into their teens and beyond in their search for love, acceptance and self-worth? There will always be those with evil intent who prey upon our young and, speaking from personal experience, I have very genuine concerns as to just how young the age of consent will go in years ahead.

Amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 will allow access by general practitioners to the Viewer, a read-only, web based application that displays patient information that has been consolidated from other systems and 'to enable more efficient disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes'. A GP would be able to access the Viewer to see a patient's information, such as public hospital records like radiology and pathology test reports which would provide GPs with a more comprehensive view of their patient's clinical history. This would develop a more connected, coordinated healthcare plan for patients by improving collaboration between different parts of the health system and avoid some tests being repeated unnecessarily.

The Office of the Information Commissioner, the OIC, were consulted on privacy aspects and support the policy intent. However, they noted that it will create a new 'privacy vulnerability' and are supportive of the proposed privacy safeguards. Many of us guard our right to privacy fiercely. Whilst this move to expand the sharing of patient data is going to assist with multiple diagnoses and transferral of information and care plans amongst health professionals, it is not without privacy risks. Whilst it is worth noting that Queensland is leading the way, a move towards designated persons accessing the Viewer is not completely worry free which is why the duty of confidentiality for designated persons carries new offences with hefty penalties for breaches.

I move to the disclosure of patient data for research purposes and amendments to the Public Health Act 2005. Provisions in this bill would enable a more efficient process for disclosure of patient information by removing the need for researchers to follow an application process under this act in certain circumstances and, of course, where the research project has met a number of other requirements including ethics approval. The Australian Medical Association Queensland, AMAQ, identified a legislative barrier for researchers in situations when a patient does not have the capacity to provide express consent. This could be a clinical trial involving a patient in intensive care or one with dementia. The current framework is complex and does not include disclosing patient information for research purposes.

Palliative Care Queensland opposed amendment 44 stating, 'PCQ does not support streamlining the existing process relating to disclosure of confidential information for research purposes where the adult patient is unable to consent to the disclosure of information'—their reasoning being that regulations accompanying the act are not available for review. They were particularly interested in knowing whether the regulations would contain more stringent guidelines about the use of this information or who can become a designated person or how that selection comes about. I trust that this request will be answered adequately in due course if it has not been already. Perhaps the minister would address that, if that is the case. Health consumers also opposed this amendment initially but were satisfied with further details from the department.

Having lost my dear dad in recent years to the ravages of dementia, I am all too aware of the need for dignity and respect when dealing with people with diminished capacity to make decisions for themselves. Losing a loved one to dementia tears you apart as you watch the vibrant, fit, sharp-witted person you have known all of your life disappear. In our quest to cure diseases and extend lifespans of the human species, let us always remember the 'human' side of this.

Amendments to the Public Health Act 2005, with regard to deceased patient data, concerns the application process for accessing confidential information. At present the definition of 'health information held by a health agency' under the Public Health Act does not clearly relate to both living and dead patients, instead referring to 'a person'. A minor amendment to the Public Health Act would clarify this. When handling information of deceased persons extra care should be taken, as it could also be the personal information of a living family member. The Office of the Information Commissioner noted there were stringent requirements of the Public Health Act including privacy considerations. I note that hospital and health services were consulted but gave no feedback.

This bill also includes amendments that will authorise school principals and their delegates to disclose student information to immunisation or oral health providers. This step is considered necessary due to declining reporting of consent rates for school dental programs and immunisation falling short of the target of 85 per cent. It is hoped it will enable providers to follow up with parents of students who have not returned their consent form and assist in the development of strategies to improve consent form return.

During the hearings I asked witnesses from the Independent Schools Queensland and Queensland Catholic Education Commission their thoughts around non-disclosure of information when it is not in the best interests of the child. The department responded to this concern stating it did not intend prescribing criteria as to what is considered best practice but would be providing examples as part of resource materials. I asked witnesses present whether they would like to participate in what would go into that resource material, to which they replied in the affirmative. They also concurred that some guidelines would be very useful.

As I have said in this House in previous speeches, I am a great supporter of immunisation. In the UK recently my husband, a GP with over 40 years experience, and I, a former paediatric nurse, had discussions with our daughter in the UK about options available for vaccinating her baby, our first grandson. Discussion included separating the vaccines and not giving them all in one hit. I recall the ill-informed and insulting response from the health minister to my valid suggestion that 'separating the vaccines and administering them on separate days may allay parents' fear and increase vaccination rates' when speaking to the Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. Drawing a parallel of my comments to those of Donald Trump showed how low the minister was prepared to go to score a political point. It shows how little empathy he had for families of autistic children. All I was attempting to do was increase vaccination rates in this cohort. The Minister for Health, the honourable member for Woodridge, also showed his arrogance and ignorance about vaccinations. I did not ask—

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I have had enough of the rubbish from the member for Currumbin. Those words are completely personally offensive to me and I ask her to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to withdraw.

Mrs STUCKEY: I withdraw. I did not ask—and I quote from the minister—that he 'give consideration to allowing parents concerned about the alleged link between autism and childhood vaccines the option to separate vaccination doses'. They already can separate these, but many would not know that fact. He obviously did not know it himself. It is not up to the minister in this House to tell people whether they can separate a vaccine or not. I simply suggested that parents are given the option to have vaccines administered on separate days which may possibly increase vaccination rates within this community. A little more understanding and a little more empathy from this minister would be helpful. As the Mary Poppins song goes, 'a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down' and immunisation rates go up.

Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (3.42 pm): I rise tonight to support the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I would like to thank my committee members—the member for Currumbin, the member for Coomera, the member for Beaudesert, the member for Lytton and the chair, the member for Ferny Grove—and the secretariat for the work that they have put into this bill. Normally health bills do not come to the legal affairs committee, so it was fortunate and I revelled in the fact that as a former health professional I was able to deal with not only a health bill but also a legal bill.

I note that the main objectives of the bill are to amend the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse and to replace the word 'sodomy' with 'anal intercourse'. I think these are noble measures by the minister and ones that we need to pursue in this House. I note that there are many colleagues, people in the gallery today including Sean Leader and Lawrence McLean, and

many others who have fought long and hard for many decades to make sure that the LGBTI community is treated equally. It is important that they are treated equally, but I know that we have some way to go. I think we are addressing each and every one of those inequities in this parliament.

I also note and echo the sentiment that the Premier made yesterday in regard to the plebiscite. It is absolutely ridiculous that the Turnbull government is putting forward a bill to parliament to have a plebiscite and then it has to go back to parliament and legislate it again. Just cut out the \$175 million. We do it here every day. They can do it in Canberra.

Mr Langbroek: Nominate against Andrew Laming.

Mr BROWN: I might do that; you never know. I might take the step up to A-grade. I echo the Premier's sentiments made yesterday. Anyone who is really interested in what we should think about the plebiscite should read the words of Liberal Senator Dean Smith on that.

In my contribution, however, I want to focus on the area of immunisation, which was my line of questioning to the department. That is because of my background as a microbiologist. The bill amends the Public Health Act to allow health information relating to deceased patients to be disclosed for research purposes and it enables schools to share student information with school immunisation and oral health service providers. I heard the member for Currumbin talk previously about the link to autism. I think it is a dangerous precedent to go down, because, as a scientist, I know that there is no scientific evidence linking autism to immunisation. In my line of questioning during the committee process I did note the low levels of immunisation within that cohort. Even though this is a good step forward, I queried sending home permission slips in school bags. I know what I was doing when I was in grade 8 and that was not giving permission slips to my parents. I think it is an antiquated way to get a herd mentality in regards to immunisation.

During the process I thought I would look at the research to see whether there is a better way in which other countries are doing immunisation. I asked the library to research a few countries including Australia and the US. The member for Moggill, the good doctor, made a contribution last Thursday in which he stated—

We also need to be very careful with respect to the agenda of the increasingly radical left-wing elements of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Those socialists opposite who support the now disgraced Safe Schools program have been unmasked as Marxist ideologues who are promulgating a socialist cultural agenda at the expense of the welfare of our developing children and young people. Those socialists opposite want to destroy families and harm the existence of humanity itself in Queensland.

After that speech, I added one more country. I asked the research department to include Cuba. Let us look at the statistics in regard to immunisation, and we will go to Australia first. In the 2014 report it said that coverage at 12 and 24 months is about 90 per cent. In 2015 we had two cases of diphtheria; 74 cases of measles; 633 cases of mumps; and the cases of whooping cough doubled. If anyone has seen the effects of whooping coughs on newborns, 22,508 up from 11,842 is way too many. There were no cases of polio, which is good. We eradicated that. There were 18 cases of rubella and three cases of tetanus.

I then compared that to the United States, which had similar coverage of about 90 per cent in their early years as well. In 2014, they had one case of diphtheria, 667 cases of measles, 1,223 cases of mumps, 32,971 cases of whooping cough and 25 cases of tetanus. In respect of Cuba, I just have to put this on the record: their treatment of homosexuals is deplorable but we do have to open our minds to what they are doing well in this aspect of the bill, which is immunisation. They eradicated polio in 1962, tetanus in 1972, diphtheria in 1979, rubella in 1989, mumps in 1989, measles in 1993, whooping cough in 1993—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection: this is from the World Health Organization. They eradicated rubella in 1995 and tuberculosis in 1997. With regard to their reportable cases of vaccine preventable diseases in 2015, there was one out of all of the categories and that was tetanus.


I would like to say in particular to the member for Moggill that we do not close our minds to ideologies. On this side, we look to capitalist countries that are doing things well and to socialist countries that are—

Miss Barton interjected.

Mr BROWN: Well, in this aspect they are the No. 1 in the world under the World Health Organization. Why wouldn't we look to the No. 1 in the world? Some of those opposite think they are still in the Young Liberals fighting the ideologies, but let us look at those who are doing the world's best practice. I am not saying that we need to send a doctor and a nurse to every home to do the vaccinations

like they do in Cuba. I think that is a bit too far, but we do need to do more than just send home a permission slip in a bag. We can do better than that. We need to make sure we have an opt-out process whereby parents are able to get permission from their doctor to opt out of the immunisation process due to a medical reason. We need to have an opt-out process, instead of asking for permission.

I commend the measures in the bill. I thank again the members of the committee. I thank the minister for bringing forward the bill and addressing these particular wrongs in regard to the LGBTI community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.53 pm): I am proud to rise today to speak to this very important bill, the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Firstly, I would like to thank the chair, Mr Mark Furner, the member for Ferny Grove, and my fellow committee members for their careful consideration and participation in the consideration of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I would also like to thank the secretariat for their continued professional support and work. I also acknowledge those members of the LGBTI community who are here today in the gallery.

The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced into the House on 16 June 2016. The bill has a number of policy objectives with amendments to various acts. It will amend the Criminal Code to standardise the age of sexual intercourse to 16 years and to replace references to 'sodomy' with 'anal intercourse'. The bill will amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer, and to enable more efficient disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes. The bill will amend the Public Health Act 2005 for various reasons: to allow health information relating to deceased patients to be disclosed for research purposes; to enable schools to share student information with school immunisation and oral health service providers to improve the uptake of the School Immunisation Program and the school dental program; and to make consequential amendments to reflect changes to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. The bill will amend the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 to facilitate the payment of bonuses to successful discoverers or inventors.

As I have stated in the past, I am really proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government. This government is committed to removing discrimination and improving the sexual health of all Queenslanders. The bill will remove a longstanding source of discrimination, with amendments to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse. The current disparity in the Criminal Code between the age of consent for anal intercourse and all other lawful sexual activity discriminates in practice amongst young same-sex-attracted men. This discrimination is at odds with the community's views about human rights.

Public policy about lawful sexual practices should be focused first and foremost on improving the sexual health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. This bill implements the recommendations of an expert panel and will support the release of the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021. The committee received 21 submissions and held public hearings where we heard from a number of stakeholders. We also received a briefing from the department. I would like to thank all of those who lodged a written submission and who attended the public hearings. I appreciate the time and their participation in this important process.

At the public hearing, the committee heard from Dr Simmons, a GP who has worked in sexual health for over 14 years. He advised that research shows that most 16- to 18-year-old same-sex-attracted people are having sex by the time they are 16. He went on to say that if it is not legal for that group of people to talk about what they are doing it means they cannot get the support they need, nor can they be educated about how to have sex safely to avoid sexually transmitted infections and HIV or learn about having good relationships. He further went on to say that the fact that anal sex is illegal does not make people not do it. We know that. He indicated that 70 per cent of same-sex-attracted young people have had sex, and that is why the law needs to be equalised.

The Queensland AIDS Council highlighted the fear of prosecution experienced by young men in same-sex relationships or young men exploring sexuality. Having an open dialogue between patients and healthcare workers is critical to ensuring young people are getting support and education, are getting tested for HIV or other STIs, are practising safe sex and are feeling comfortable and safe to talk openly to their healthcare provider without fear of legal reprisals.

Amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 will enable general practitioners to access the Queensland Health database, the Viewer. Many of us have attended hospital emergency departments and also have had a stay in our public sector hospitals. I know from personal experience that whilst there may be a discharge summary upon discharge this may not contain all of the information that is needed by our GPs.


Prior to their deaths, both my darling parents, Agnes and Jack Pease, regularly attended our local public hospitals where they received outstanding care. However, often upon their return home their local GPs did not necessarily have access to up-to-date or timely information about the treatment, medication or tests they received during their stays in public hospitals. That is why providing GPs with access to the Viewer will ensure patients do not have to worry about remembering the details of medications administered and tests conducted by hospital staff. GPs will be able to access up-to-date, complete information about their patient's treatment and care in the public hospital system. This will have the benefits of the removal of the duplication of tests as well as potential adverse drug interactions. Further, there will be safeguards to protect patient details and also an opt-out option if requested. This collaborative relationship between parts of the public health system and GPs will help to ensure continuity of care for our patients.

The importance of immunisation and oral health care cannot be overstated. School immunisation programs are vital in protecting our community health by vaccinating against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and HPV. As an infant I contracted whooping cough from an unimmunised student at the local primary school where my sisters attended. I was a very, very sick little baby and my poor parents did not think that I would survive. That is why I am so passionate about immunisation and ensuring that as many children as possible take part in immunisation programs. Therefore, parents will not have to go through the same experience as my parents.

This bill also allows for the disclosure of student information. This allows providers to follow up with parents regarding consent forms for student vaccinations. The school will be able to follow up with parents where consent forms are not returned. They will be able to reconcile the returned forms against eligible students and make informed decisions on future strategies to improve the consent rates for certain cohorts.

The bill will also make amendments regarding the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to ensure that they are able to pay bonuses for discoveries to inventors working as officers or employees under the auspices of the QIMR without the approval of the Governor in Council.

As I have said in the past, I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government. I am very proud to be able to stand here to speak to this bill today. I congratulate the Hon. Cameron Dick, the Minister for Health, on bringing this important bill to the House. This is a sensible bill achieving important health outcomes and strategies. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.02 pm): I rise to add my contribution to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I want to concur with the other speakers on the bill about the broader issues in relation to the bill, but I want to limit my contribution today to the area that overlaps with my portfolio responsibilities.

I want to thank the Minister for Health for his leadership in this important policy area. It has been a privilege to work with the Minister for Health and other members of our government to progress this historic and much needed reform. I want to acknowledge and congratulate the Minister for Health on initiating the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021 and his consultation with the community in developing this strategy to make sure that we get it right into the future.

While this bill deals, in part, with legislation in my portfolio, I think it is fitting that the parliament recognises the important public health outcomes that are intrinsically involved and the importance of these initiatives being dealt with under a health bill as opposed to under other legislation that I may have brought before this House. Fundamentally, this is a health issue, not a criminal law issue.

This bill removes a longstanding source of discrimination from Queensland's legislation by standardising the age of consent for sexual intercourse, bringing the age of consent for anal intercourse into line with other forms of intercourse. Under current laws, Queensland's Criminal Code sets the minimum age of consent for anal intercourse at 18 years. This is inconsistent with the age of consent for all other forms of sexual activity, which is 16 years. Queensland remains the only jurisdiction that provides disparate ages of consent for different forms of sexual activity. Let's not pretend that these people between the ages of 16 and 18 are not engaging in this type of sexual activity. The bigger concern is that they do not come forward and seek advice from their GPs or sexual health experts because currently it is a criminal offence.


Our government committed to establishing an expert committee comprising health experts to consider issues surrounding standardising the age of consent for all lawful sexual activity in Queensland. Our government has acted on this expert advice. This is comprehensive, evidence based, values driven policy. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is driving reforms to improve the circumstances of all Queenslanders including those in the LGBTIQ communities. I believe it is important to recognise and celebrate these changes including today's bill.

On 22 March this year the House passed the Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015. This legislation delivers on the government's commitment to reinstating civil partnership ceremonies by enabling a couple, regardless of their gender, to hold a ceremony prior to registering their relationship as a civil partnership. The amendment act also made important terminology changes to reflect a couple's commitment to each other by renaming registered relationships civil partnerships. This week our government introduced changes to the Adoption Act including broadening the eligibility criteria for persons adopting a child to include same-sex couples, persons undergoing fertility treatment and single persons.

Our government has also taken steps to address issues that have proven difficult for governments over many years. One of these important steps is to remove the stigma and shame that has—and wrongly—attached to same-sex relationships. In many ways the election of the Goss government in December 1989 heralded the start of what we now know as modern Queensland. It ended three decades of a very conservative regime. Perhaps one of the more obvious signs of the new world order was that consensual sex between adult men was decriminalised in Queensland in 1991 in recognition that this type of private consensual activity is not a matter of concern for our criminal justice system. That change, important as it was, left previous victims of an unfair regime with the wounds and stigma of past wrongs. Fast forward 25 years and this government is proud to honour the government's election commitment regarding expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences. We are initiating the process to see this finally come to pass.

In January this year I was pleased to stand with members of the LGBTIQ community to announce the referral to the Queensland Law Reform Commission to seek the best process to deliver this important reform. Let me stress this was to develop the most effective means of how to expunge those convictions, not if it should be done. On 16 February this year the QLRC released a consultation paper seeking the community's input on the issues raised in the review. The QLRC's extensive public consultation process has also included roundtable meetings with legal stakeholders, the LGBTIQ community groups, human rights organisations and relevant state and interstate government departments and agencies. A 227-page report has recently been received and I look forward to considering the recommendations contained within the QLRC report with a view to introducing Queensland's own legislative scheme to expunge criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences. The government has also committed to amending section 304 of Queensland's Criminal Code to exclude an unwanted sexual advance from being able to establish a partial defence of provocation in the case of murder—the so-called gay panic defence.

I want to thank the activists, public health experts and community campaigners who have pushed for these reforms for so long. I make special mention of those who are in the gallery today listening to this debate and looking forward to seeing this legislation pass before this parliament today. I am very proud to stand alongside all of them as this government delivers its commitment to a more inclusive community for Queensland and Australia. I again thank the health minister for his leadership on this reform. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and Report No. 38 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services on 16 June 2016. The committee invited submissions from the public and identified stakeholders, and 21 submissions were received. The committee conducted a public briefing on the bill from Queensland Health and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and a hearing was held on the bill on 17 August 2016.

The bill seeks to amend the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years and to replace references to 'sodomy' with 'anal intercourse'. The bill also proposes to remove the offence of unlawful sodomy, to amend the offence of unlawful carnal knowledge and to extend the definition of carnal knowledge to those provisions to include anal intercourse. The bill will also make consequential amendments to a range of other acts to support these amendments. These amendments will bring Queensland into line with other states in Australia.

We have heard members commenting on the need for an education program from a safe-sex perspective, and I do ask the minister to please ensure that appropriate education programs are properly targeted and, most importantly, properly funded to ensure that those programs are taken up in the community.

The bill also seeks to provide access to general practitioners to the Viewer. These amendments are aimed at facilitating general practitioners' access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer, and to enable more efficient disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes. It is important to note that access activity to the Viewer is recorded and is audited, and individual doctors are the ones who are able to access it. As you would understand, cross-referencing comes from recording and auditing. The committee was satisfied that these changes are beneficial.

The amendments seek to allow disclosure of patient data for research purposes to enable a more efficient process for the disclosure of patient information by removing the need for researchers to follow an application process. Once again the committee was satisfied with the evidence and supports these changes.

We also considered the amendments to the Public Health Act 2005, firstly for deceased patient data. The current provisions that allow disclosure refer to health information held by a health agency under the act. The definition of that term refers to a person. It is unclear whether, in referring to a person, the relevant definition extends to deceased persons. The proposed amendment clarifies that in this context the information held by a health agency extends to both living and deceased persons. Once again the committee supports the amendment.


Another amendment relates to the disclosure of student information. A substantial number of the parental consent forms required to authorise student vaccinations are not being returned and, worryingly, vaccination rates are below target. Consent levels for participation in the school dental scheme are also declining. The amendment allows school principals and delegates to disclose student information to immunisation or oral health service providers. This would enable health service providers to follow up with parents where consent forms are not returned, reconcile returned consent forms against eligible students and make informed decisions on future strategies to improve consent form return rates from certain cohorts—for example, students from Indigenous or culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds. Once again we fully supported these amendments.

The bill also makes consequential amendments to the Public Health Act in light of changes to the Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015. On that point, the member for Capalaba talked about immunisation rates and he mentioned polio around the world. I believe the member said that we do not currently have any cases of polio in Australia, which is wonderful news. With regard to polio, it should be noted—and this is a very important point—that the then Rotary International president Sir Clem Renouf, I believe in the late 1970s—a Queenslanders, by the way, who currently resides in the state seat of Coomera—was the driving force behind nearly eradicating polio globally through the Polio Plus program, I believe it was called. That program has saved thousands of lives right around the world and, based on the comments of the member for Capalaba, Australia. That was all through the actions of a Queenslanders who was then the Rotary International president and is now a proud resident of the Coomera electorate. He is a lovely man and an absolute delight. He is into his 90s but he is as bright as bright can be. I was walking out of a room one day and this fellow walked towards me. As he came towards me I nodded and continued to walk and he said, 'You look like someone I should know.' I said, 'Really? Hello, my name is Michael Crandon, the member for Coomera.' He said, 'Hello, I'm Clem Renouf.' I thought, 'Wow, how's this! I'm meeting the man who has made such a difference to people right around the world and who has saved so many people from the dreaded disease of polio.'

Finally, we considered amendments to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945. This act currently provides that the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Council may pay successful discoverers or inventors working as officers or employees or under the auspices of the council such bonuses as the Governor in Council determines. Part 5 of the bill will replace section 19 with a new provision to remove the requirement for a Governor in Council determination unless the total paid in any one financial year exceeds \$10 million. In that event the council would require Governor in Council approval. We did make some inquiries of witnesses as to how often that might occur, and my memory is that they indicated it was a very rare occurrence and it may have happened once or twice in the last 20 or so years. It is not a really big issue, though I suppose if we were kicking a number of rather big goals as far as these things are concerned, where we have got new drugs coming on the scene and so forth, it would probably be good if we were in fact paying out many tens of millions of dollars to these particular individuals who are bringing these drugs to save lives around the world.

Lastly, the new provision also changes the description slightly to cover a discoverer or inventor working, or who has worked, as an officer and employee or under the auspices of the council, so that is just a definition change to make it absolutely clear who we are talking about. Once again the committee agreed to all of these amendments and, as you are all aware, the committee agreed that the bill be passed. That was the only recommendation in the bill.

In closing, I thank our secretariat, who work tirelessly—and they have a little bit of work ahead of them over the next few months, between now and 1 November! I also thank the rest of the committee members who worked with me on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is an important bill amending the Criminal Code and three health portfolio acts. The bill amends the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years and replace references to 'sodomy' with 'anal intercourse'. It amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer, and to enable more efficient disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes. It amends the Public Health Act 2005 to allow information relating to deceased patients to be disclosed for research purposes; enable schools to share student information with school immunisation and oral health service providers to improve the uptake of the School Immunisation Program and school dental program; and make consequential amendments to reflect changes to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. It also amends the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 to facilitate the payment of bonuses to successful discoverers or inventors.

For a patient to get the best possible care it is important for GPs to have timely information about history of care. The Viewer, a read-only database, enables GPs, with the consent of the patient, to access quickly a picture of a patient's medical care to ensure the best possible ongoing health care. Records are treated with confidentiality, as defined in part 7. It is important to have a coordinated approach to health care for the best possible outcome for patients. Patients who are worried about privacy can opt out of the system.

I know how important it is for doctors to have a holistic picture of a patient's health history. When elderly family members come for holidays, sometimes they forget to bring their medication and you need to take them to a GP to help them access their medication. They cannot always remember what the medication is, so GPs having access to their records will be very helpful. At times I have had to access a GP who is not my local GP when I have been away from home or travelling with children. In those instances it would have been very handy for my and my family's records to be able to be pulled up.


Preventative health measures are the best for the community. Having students immunised through the School Immunisation Program and accessing the school dental program will save some of our students from more serious health issues later in life. The School Immunisation Program is below its target of 85 per cent coverage for Queensland adolescents, and the uptake of oral care services is declining. Students are not returning their permission notes. This bill will require principals to provide to school health providers information prescribed by regulation when required.

This bill standardises the age of consent. It will bring an end to one of the state's most discriminatory laws. This bill sets a minimum age of consent of 16 years for all sexual activity. The current laws discriminate against young same-sex attracted men under 18 years. An expert panel was consulted on changes to the Criminal Code. They advised we remove the disparity in the age of consent for different sexual activity.

The Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021 was released for public consultation on 25 May 2016. It aims to support health and safe sexual experience based on respect and consent and to provide Queenslanders with the knowledge required to maintain optimal sexual and reproductive health. The changes will enable young people in same-sex relationships to seek appropriate medical treatment and sexual health information without stigmatising their relationships.

Sixteen-year-olds are becoming young adults. They are in a transitional period of their lives, bringing up issues of independence and self-identity. They face tough choices regarding schoolwork, sexuality, drugs, alcohol and social life. Young people realising that they are same-sex attracted need society to be non-judgemental and positive.

A key action from the Sexual Health Strategy is to improve sexual health outcomes for specific population groups including reducing barriers to testing and treatment. For sexually active young people and those who identify as same-sex and gender questioning, this is a great thing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.25 pm): Queensland is the only state in the country that has a different age of consent for different sexual acts. The age of consent is currently 16 for all sex acts except what we archaically call sodomy. That is what it is called in Queensland law. These laws will start calling it what it is. Even now I hesitate to call it what it is, especially here in the parliament. I felt a bit uncomfortable as I wrote this speech, but I realise that it is that discomfort, that kind of stigma, that leads people to feel shame about their relationships and their sexuality and the kind of stigma that leads to outdated, moralising laws sitting on the books for far too long, just because we are too afraid or too embarrassed to talk about it. Today we are talking about anal sex.

Existing law, which sets down the higher age of 18 for consent for anal sex, has stigmatised particular sexual relationships, mostly those of gay men. It is the kind of stigma that contributes to the isolation and loneliness of young LGBTIQ Queenslanders, especially if they live in rural areas or in families that lack understanding or if they are subject to religious misinformation. We all know that this archaic law does not prevent anyone from having anal sex. What it does is prevent young people from accessing important healthcare and safety information. Young people who go seeking vital health advice get told that what they are doing is illegal. It is a law that prevents discussions between young people and their medical practitioners about sexual health for fear of prosecution. That some Queenslanders cannot discuss safe, consensual sexual activity with health professionals is not just discriminatory; it is also dangerous. All sexually active people over the age of 16 should be able to talk freely about their sexual practices with their doctors without fearing they are breaking the law. Right now in Queensland, the maximum penalty for sodomy with a person aged under 18 is 14 years imprisonment.


The Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will amend Queensland's Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for all lawful sexual intercourse. It will also change the term 'sodomy' to 'anal intercourse', removing a term long associated with gay male sex and biblical overtones of sin. This is just one more form of gay discrimination that will be removed from the statutes in Queensland, following a long tradition from Labor at a state and federal level of delivering equality for LGBTIQ people. This contrasts with the cruel campaign of the Newman government to roll back the rights of LGBTIQ people in this state. In his budget delivered four years ago this week, the member for Clayfield stripped funding from the state's only dedicated health organisation for gay people, then called the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities. Those opposite also cruelly reversed Labor's civil union reforms in favour of the demeaning 'registered relationships'. They also attacked same-sex couples' access to altruistic surrogacy. All of this occurred in less than 100 days in government—urgency they did not give the economy, infrastructure or any other priority.

It was not just the Newman government that enshrined discrimination in our laws. Successive Queensland governments over many decades have written prejudice into our statutes and successive governments have not acted to remove them. The Palaszczuk government will not be one of those governments. We have already acted to restore civil partnerships, but there is much more to do. This government will continue to work to bring about long overdue reforms such as giving same-sex couples the right to adopt, expunging historic homosexual convictions and eradicating the gay panic defence. With this bill today we address one more longstanding case of legislative discrimination against our LGBTIQ community. Sadly, our federal parliament could act just as swiftly to deliver marriage equality—something so important to so many Australians. It could vote on that today. Instead, Malcolm Turnbull is persisting with Tony Abbott's bizarre, hateful plan for a referendum. Marriage equality is about love. It is about saying that gay Queenslanders—gay constituents in each of our seats—have the same right to celebrate their love for their partner in the same way that Kim and I were able to celebrate our relationship and to have it recognised at law in the same way. Love does not need a referendum. Love certainly does not need a publicly funded no campaign.

I hope that a young person hearing about these laws that we are debating today and the other efforts the Palaszczuk government is going to to eliminate homophobia from our laws and our community feels that attitudes in Queensland are changing for the better. I hope they will speak to their doctors and councillors about their sexual health, their sexuality and their relationships and I hope the gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer community know that the Palaszczuk government is and will continue to be a champion for their rights.

I want to congratulate the health minister for pursuing this reform. It might have been easy for him to ignore it, as his predecessors have, but instead he has made a very principled stand—one that he can rightly be very proud of. I also want to honour the decades of campaigning by Queensland's gay community for this reform. I am always inspired when passionate people come together, campaign,

protest and advocate to right a wrong in our society. I know my friend Phil Carswell was in the gallery earlier, together with other activists. I also want to acknowledge the members of Rainbow Labor who have pursued these issues within our party. None of you ever deserved to be treated differently under Queensland law, but you certainly do deserve to win these new laws today. Finally, I want to wish everyone in the House today a very happy Pride Month.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (4.32 pm): This afternoon I rise to contribute to debate on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The bill amends the Criminal Code and three health portfolio acts to support policy initiatives to improve the effective operation of the acts. I have no doubt that medical research is held in the highest regard by most of us in this chamber, myself included. I feel it is important to highlight this area, particularly in relation to the diagnosis of life-threatening illness and disease.

There are a number of illnesses and diseases that would benefit from improved access to medical records for research, especially if it means being able to make improvements to diagnosis time frames. This would especially be the case for aggressive diseases such as bowel cancer. We recently lost one of our own in Gaven to this silent killer. As was reported in the media, doctors told Antoinette Brennen that, at 39 years of age, she was 'too young' to have bowel cancer. Because of her age, it took almost two years to diagnose. Sadly, Antoinette lost her battle to bowel cancer. Antoinette leaves behind four beautiful children and her much loved husband, Greg. She was admired by her local community and both she and Greg served as officers in the Queensland police force. The whole community rallied behind the Brennen family during her battle with the disease and it continues to support the family to this day.

Each year more than 15,000 Australians are diagnosed with bowel cancer. It is the nation's second deadliest form of the disease after lung cancer, claiming about 4,000 lives annually. If improvements to medical research can assist in diagnosing this disease in its early stages, then more lives could be saved. I note the Australian Medical Association of Queensland has raised concerns that the current Public Health Act application process may delay or temporarily suspend research projects. The Office of the information Commissioner, the OIC, was consulted in relation to this proposal and no significant privacy implications were identified. However, it did note that care should be taken when handling the information of a deceased person, as it may also be the personal information of a living family member.


Amendments proposed to remove a requirement for the Governor in Council to approve the payment of bonuses should also be of assistance to medical research. This will be up to an annual limit of \$10 million in a financial year in an effort to provide the Queensland Institute of Medical Research autonomy to manage bonuses as it determines. Hopefully this will ensure that we are able to attract and retain world leaders in medical research. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research has been consulted and supports the proposed amendments to the act.

With regard to access to the Queensland Health database, known as GP-Viewer, it is noted that giving GPs access to the Viewer will facilitate information sharing and collaboration, ensuring patients receive consistent, timely and better coordinated care. The explanatory notes provide the following example describing how an amendment to the current legislation would benefit a patient—

... a patient attends an emergency department after hours and is instructed to follow up with their GP for further treatment or care, the GP will be able to access the relevant admission and discharge, pathology and imaging reports to ensure appropriate care is provided and only appropriate outpatient referrals are made. GPs will be able to see the results of pathology and other tests already performed at the hospital and avoid unnecessarily repeating tests.

The proposed legislative amendment for disclosure of student information is due in large part to issues surrounding the number of consent forms which are not being returned for students to take part in the School Immunisation Program and dental program. I note that the current goal under the Queensland Immunisation Strategy 2014-17 is to ensure 85 per cent of Queensland adolescents are fully immunised through the School Immunisation Program. Currently, only 75 per cent of year 8 students in this program are vaccinated for whooping cough and only 61 per cent for the complete vaccine course for human papillomavirus, HPV. To improve this, this bill seeks to authorise school principals and their delegates to disclose student information to an immunisation or oral health service provider to enable them to follow up with the parents of students who have not returned their consent form, reconcile returned consent forms against eligible students and make informed decisions on future strategies to improve consent form return rates for Indigenous children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds if required. Additionally, the amendment provides the principal an opportunity to refuse disclosure where they consider disclosure is not in the best interests of the student.

It is also worth pointing out that no feedback was received from the state school sector in relation to these amendments. However, Independent Schools Queensland and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission supported this in principle but are concerned about the shift in practices for school principals. I believe that feedback from these institutions and their peak representative bodies is very important to ensure that we do not overburden schools with an excessive workload, potentially leading to information not being disclosed correctly or recorded correctly. In principle I would always support any measures to improve the ability of funding for medical research and also for any framework that allows improvements to the medical and health care of Queenslanders, especially our children.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which seeks to amend the Criminal Code and standardise the age of consent. Let us be very clear about this amendment bill. It is not controversial, it is not drastic; it is something that is well overdue. We are righting a wrong and removing legislation that has discriminated against LGBTI community members for far too long. I want to acknowledge and thank the members of our LGBTI community who are with us today in the public gallery, particularly those members of Rainbow Labor and my good friend Sean Leader. As the health minister has said, Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction where the age of consent for anal sex is different to the age of consent for all other sexual activity. There is no logical reason for this disparity, particularly when it comes to the health and protection of young Queenslanders.

Sexual health experts tell us that varying ages of consent, dependent on sexual activity, is a barrier for young people who are seeking assistance and education. Amending the Criminal Code is essential if we want young Queenslanders to feel comfortable seeking advice from sexual health providers, because it removes the fear of retribution. I know that the health minister, through his consultation on this bill, has heard that feedback from sexual health providers many times over. The last thing we want is young Queenslanders feeling too intimidated to visit a sexual health provider.

This amendment has been supported widely across the health and education sectors, including the Public Health Association of Australia, the Queensland Family and Child Commission and the Queensland AIDS Council. Not only do those organisations support the change; they advocate for ongoing investment into sexual health education; and safe, accessible and quality health care, including sexuality health care—and it is the right of every citizen in this state and this country to have access to that care. The Palaszczuk government is committed to removing barriers for any community members accessing the services and support they need.

On the day that legislation to amend the age of consent is passed, we should also reflect on the impact that this legislation will have on women and women's health. Our women's health strategy means that we are investing \$4.4 million for 12 women's health services around the state. We are investing \$15.8 million over three years to fund the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016-2021 to strengthen health systems and reduce STI rates that present particular risks for women. Our commitment to women's health will ensure that women, especially young women, have access to the help and support they need to have safe sex.

The current difference between the age of consent has had a particular impact on the LGBTI community—a community that has historically suffered at the hands of the Queensland government, which has had to endure inequality embedded in our laws. After decades of Nationals rule, it was only under the Goss Labor government in the early 1990s that homosexuality was decriminalised in Queensland. Now, in 2016, we are righting the wrongs of past governments against our LGBTI community.


In just 18 months, the Palaszczuk government has reinstated civil unions after they were shamefully taken away by the Newman government. We are taking action to expunge historical convictions of homosexuality for gay Queenslanders. Just yesterday, I was so proud to introduce legislation that will finally allow same-sex couples to adopt—one of the last barriers of discrimination against LGBTI Queenslanders in our statute books. We are slowly dismantling legislation that continues to discriminate against the LGBTI community, but we know that inequality still exists at both the state and federal level.

We only have to look at the LNP's costly and divisive marriage equality plebiscite, which we found out this week will give \$7.5 million to groups such as the Australian Christian Lobby, to run damaging campaigns in our community. In an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, family psychologists Dr Liz Short and Dr Sharon Dane warned that the no campaign would be incredibly damaging for young LGBTI

people, who already experience higher levels of aggression and prejudice and are more prone to depression and suicide. It is shameful that this divisive campaign, which could potentially cost lives, is supported by the LNP at the federal level.

We on this side of the House can help deliver equality to the LGBTI community by simply doing our job and, by passing the right legislation with this bill, we will. We are amending legislation because we know, like marriage equality, equality in the law is the right thing to do. I am proud that this bill will remove discrimination against the LGBTI community.

I want to finish by informing the House that, on 14 June this year, along with many of my colleagues I attended Brisbane's vigil for the Orlando massacre. This tragic event was a direct attack on LGBTI people and a deeply sad day for the international LGBTI community. During the vigil, which was cloaked in sadness, optimism and hope shone through. Even through this devastating event, the speakers at the vigil still reminded each other that better days will come. One of the speakers at that vigil used the age of consent laws, which were introduced the same week as the vigil was held, as proof that, although there have been setbacks, change was coming. This bill might seem small to many people, but it is part of a bigger and longer march for equality. When this bill passes, we will take another step forward. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill seeks to build on the Palaszczuk government's ambitious health reform agenda in line with its election commitments. The bill aims to improve public health by providing consumers with more nutritional information about the food they eat. It includes mandatory labelling requirements so that consumers can make a better informed choice at food outlets. This is an important public health reform that will lead to better health outcomes.

I want to take this opportunity to put on record my support for the equalisation of the age of consent laws that form part of these broader legislative reforms. I want to thank those in the LGBTIQ community who have worked so hard to get this issue on the agenda and waited for so long for it to come before parliament. It is not a special privilege for those in the LGBTI community to be treated equally under the law; it is a right.

Ever since I was first elected to parliament and years before, the rights of LGBTIQ members, friends and colleagues have been of immense importance to me. I will always fight for those rights. I have spent most of my working life fighting against discrimination in all its forms and I will continue to do so until full equality is achieved. The law should not discriminate on the basis of sexuality full stop. Yet that is exactly what Queensland's existing unequal age of consent laws do. To be honest, I never understood it. I never really got it. I never could quite understand why we had a difference in the age of consent. It did not make any sense, it was unfair and I look forward to removing it today.


The equalisation of the age of consent is just another step in addressing the inequalities that have been a sad reality in Queensland for far too long. The proposed changes to Queensland's age of consent laws have been recommended by a panel of health experts and other relevant organisations. In May this year, this expert panel informed the health minister that the current laws may have adverse implications for young Queenslanders. I congratulate the health minister for taking on this issue, realising the health implications and doing what other governments have ignored for many years. I also congratulate all the members on this side of the House of the ALP caucus who unanimously agreed that this was something that we should do today.

One of the problems with the current laws is that young people in same-sex relationships sometimes feel compelled to withhold information about their sexual history from their health practitioner. This fear of the possible legal consequences, whether for themselves or their partner, has to stop. It is unfair and it makes no sense. Our laws should not be putting young people in the situation where access to appropriate medical treatment is adversely impacted. This is yet another reason we all need to support this bill.

I would like to acknowledge the work that the Queensland AIDS Council and the doctors from Holdsworth House, Stonewall Medical Centre, the Gladstone Road Medical Centre and other sexual health doctors who have advocated for this change for many years. I know that many of them are in the gallery. I acknowledge each and every one of them as well as members of Rainbow Labor, who I see in the gallery as well. I thank them all for coming to listen to this debate, because it is another historic day and another step forward that this government is making in order to achieve equality for the LGBTIQ community.

I also want to thank the expert panel for its findings, which have added crucial momentum to these proposed changes. It is Queensland's LGBTIQ community who will be the biggest beneficiaries as today we have the foresight and the willingness to make these laws a reality. This government is getting on with the business of delivering greater equality for the LGBTI community. We are making the decision to move forward and we are voting with our feet on issues to impose that equality. I urge the federal government to do exactly the same thing: get on with it as we are and introduce marriage equality into this country. Do not dillydally. We do not need a plebiscite. We know the issues. They are front and centre. It is about equality. It is about rights. It is about people from the LGBTI community having exactly the same rights that I have—no difference, no unfairness, exactly the same. Get on with it. What I say is bring on the legislation. Vote in favour and bring marriage equality into this country.

There are many activists in the gallery who have fought for decades for equality with respect to the age of consent. I am proud to be a long-time supporter of this proposed reform, and I know many Queenslanders share in my pleasure to see that the LGBTIQ community's years of hard work may soon finally pay off. I commend everyone involved in bringing this before the House, particularly the Minister for Health, who has done an excellent job, and my Labor caucus once again. I thank those in the gallery for their support. It gives me great pleasure to vote in favour of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.50 pm): I rise to speak briefly on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which achieves a number of fine things. However, the amendment that I wish to speak to today is that which amends the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years and replace references to 'sodomy' with 'anal intercourse'. At the outset I congratulate the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services not only for introducing this amendment but also for the way in which he has dealt with it by taking the emotion out of the debate and by placing it fair and square as a health issue so that it can be discussed in an objective way, which is the way that it should be discussed.


The very real fact is that the inconsistent age of consent for anal sex in the Criminal Code is a barrier to young people accessing safe sex education regarding anal intercourse, with gay and bisexual youth being denied peer acceptance and community support. We know that unprotected anal intercourse is the highest risk behaviour for transmission of human immunodeficiency virus. We know that many of the public health experts and public health organisations have, through the process of this bill with the committee, stated quite objectively that these are significant public health issues and we can see that for what it is. However, there is no doubt that this, aside from all of that, is an issue of discrimination.

On the weekend I was talking to my 15-year-old daughter about this bill coming up for debate this week and she said to me, 'Mum, why would anyone oppose this bill?' Having lived with the draconian legislation that is in place, I realised that it had been such a way of life for us in Queensland to have such discriminatory legislation that I had actually stopped thinking about why anyone would actually oppose it. It makes so much sense to make this fair for everybody. I recognise all of the groups and all of the activists who are here, including my friends in Rainbow Labor, and acknowledge the wonderful work that they and many of their fellow activists do. I want to say to them that with this legislation we are getting there. I want to say it also to the individuals from my own electorate who have spoken to me so many times over the years that I have been an MP about what it is like to be seen as an illegal person, to feel so hurt by being treated as someone different and to be subjected to the values that their love for their partner is an inferior love to the love between heterosexual partners. I say to those people that we are getting there. Here in Queensland we are putting things in place to make sure that they are treated equally.

While the debate rages over the marriage plebiscite in Australia—the indignity of the federal government asking the Australian people to say whether it is okay for a member of the LGBTI community to love the person they love; what right do we have to pass judgement on the love between two people—in Queensland we are putting legislation in place to make sure that everybody in this state is treated equally.

We have talked about the Civil Partnerships Bill which delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to reinstate civil partnership ceremonies by enabling a couple, regardless of their gender, to hold a ceremony prior to registering their relationship as a civil partnership. We have talked about expunging convictions for homosexual activity. We know that consensual anal sex between adults was decriminalised in Queensland in 1991 in recognition that this type of private consensual activity is not a matter of concern for our criminal justice system. It is now time to ensure that members of our community are not burdened by criminal convictions for something that should not have been a crime in the first place.

The government honoured its election commitment by referring this issue to the Queensland Law Reform Commission in January of this year. This week the minister introduced laws to allow same-sex couples to adopt. We talked about the commitment that the government made during the 2015 state election to amend section 304 of Queensland's Criminal Code, killing on provocation, to exclude an unwanted sexual advance from being able to establish a partial defence of provocation in the case of murder. We are referring, of course, to the 'gay panic' defence. Today we have another opportunity to say to members of the LGBTI community that we value them and that everyone in this state is equal. It is not often that as a member of parliament we necessarily get to vote on our values. We often vote on things that have quite objective outcomes. These laws are about the sort of people that we are, and that is why I am very proud to support this bill today.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (4.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, particularly the amendments enabling the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to pay bonuses to researchers and inventors whose work leads to breakthroughs and those amendments addressing the age of consent for sexual intercourse. QIMR Berghofer is a recognised world leader in medical research, delivering breakthroughs in cancer, infectious diseases, mental health and chronic disorders. The institute has consistently been at the forefront of Australia's effort to prevent, detect and treat disease for 70 years. QIMR's work translating medical research discoveries into better treatments, diagnoses and health prevention strategies benefits not just Queenslanders but people right around the world. For example, in August this year, QIMR announced a breakthrough in malaria research, with researchers developing a protein that completely cures mice of malaria and protects them against re-infection. In July, QIMR announced that one of its scientists found that a protein he developed switches off HIV infection in cells. It is hoped that this finding might eventually lead to a cure for HIV in the form of a one-off treatment.

The list of achievements delivered by researchers and scientists working at QIMR is extensive, and I could spend quite some time talking about the outstanding work being done right here in Queensland. Our government does not just talk about outstanding innovation, we back it. In fact, the Palaszczuk government is supporting cutting-edge research at QIMR through Advance Queensland funding. In total, \$825,000 has been awarded to researchers at the institute who are working on projects with the potential to have a life-changing impact on the health and wellbeing of millions of people.

Advance Queensland funding is supporting projects such as those being led by Dr Philip Mosley to improve the post-operative care of Parkinson's disease patients who are undertaking deep brain stimulation. Dr Mosley has been awarded \$180,000 for his research as part of an early career Advance Queensland research fellowship. The Palaszczuk government is backing researchers such as Dr Mosley because we are determined to keep our state's best and brightest minds in Queensland.

Similarly, to maximise its potential QIMR must be able to attract and retain leaders in medical research. Requiring Governor in Council approval of the payment of bonuses impacts on QIMR's ability to enter into commercial agreements with its researchers. That can make it difficult for QIMR to attract higher-performing researchers and inventors and keep Queensland researchers in our state. Giving QIMR the authority to manage bonuses up to \$10 million per annum will help to ensure that the institute has the best opportunity to attract and retain high-calibre medical researchers, supporting QIMR's medical research projects.

I also support the bill as it standardises the age of consent for sexual intercourse. Queensland is the only state in Australia that makes a distinction between different forms of sexual activity and the age of consent. The current disparity in the Criminal Code between the age of consent for anal intercourse and all other lawful sexual activity, in reality, acts to discriminate against young gay and bisexual men. This discrimination is not only at odds with the views of a modern progressive community but also, and more alarmingly, has meant that young people, particularly young gay and bisexual men, have been discouraged from accessing safe sex practice information, given that health practitioners are forced to inform those seeking information on anal sex about the illegality of the act. In essence, it is a discrimination that has left young men in same-sex relationships fearing prosecution when seeking information or health services.


Overwhelmingly, submissions made to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on this issue support the proposed amendments. The committee heard from the Queensland AIDS Council, the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland, the LGBTI Community Legal Service and a number of sexual health experts. Individuals also shared their personal accounts of discrimination on the basis of their sexual preference. It made me think about a number of personal stories that I have encountered in my life, in my family and in my work career.

A few years ago—quite a few years now—I ran into a former student of mine. He was in the city. He looked a little bit upset. He did not look himself. At that time he was 17 and six months into a university course. I took him to lunch. I said, ‘What’s going on for you? I haven’t seen you for a while. You look a little upset.’ He had just been to a GP to talk about his own sexual health. A recent partner of his had revealed that he had an STI, so he went to do the normal thing that one would do, which was to check out his own health. That day, he had gone to seek assistance and had been told that, in fact, what he had been doing was illegal and that he ran the risk of being prosecuted. He was not asked, ‘How can I help you? What is the right path to ensure that you are safe?’ Rather, he was told, ‘What you are doing is illegal and you could be prosecuted.’ One can imagine, for a 17-year-old at university who was holding down a part-time job and living away from his family, how much of a shock that kind of response from a trusted GP would be. As a young man, he had to carry that and it impacted on him a great deal. He was already challenged a great deal by his sexual identity. He has suffered a bit from mental health issues over the years since the last time I saw him. I know that he has struggled a great deal. I do not think at that point that that helped him at all.

Those personal stories and the fact that this is the right thing to do are the reasons I am standing up tonight to support the bill. It is clear that the current law is a barrier to the kinds of conversations that young men, in particular, need to be able to have to stay safe and to feel secure about who they are. Standardising the age of consent will help to ensure that young people feel that they can talk to their health professionals openly and honestly, without fear and without shame.

I absolutely congratulate the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services for bringing this bill to the House, for taking the right steps and for conducting himself in a way that I think we can all be proud of. I commend the members of the committee who have addressed this legislation in such a respectful way. I commend all those who have tirelessly advocated in this space on behalf of those young men such as the young man whom I used to teach, to ensure that they feel safe and that they feel as though they are equally valued in our society and our community. I particularly commend Rainbow Labor and some of the activists in the gallery tonight for all the work that they have done over decades.

As I have said, I absolutely thank the Minister for Health for all of his work in bringing this bill to the House. The bill will support young Queenslanders to have healthy and safe sexual experiences in their lives and keep them mentally well and physically well, as they grow as a part of our great state of Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.06 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I do not intend to canvass all of the policy objectives that are covered in this bill, but there are a couple that I particularly want to speak to. I want to talk about some of the changes that are being made to ensure that children in Queensland schools will be able to access immunisation. I am sure that all members of this House are particularly cognisant of the fact that it is incredibly important for the safety of all children, whether they are young children or older children, that we maintain a particular level of immunisation to ensure the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. Even though I might not yet have children, I am aware—as I am sure we all are—that not all kids are very good at remembering to give their mother or father the form or, if they have and their parents have signed it, they are not always very good at returning it to school. The changes that we see in this particular legislation will go a long way to ensuring that parents are able to make informed decisions about what happens with respect to their child’s immunisation and that parents are able to make a conscious decision to allow immunisation of their child within the school environment.

As I said, we all know just how critically important immunisation is. The member for Capalaba spoke about some of the diseases that we have seen effectively disappear off our radar in Australia as a result of the work that has been done, in terms of not only research and vaccines but also maintaining levels of immunisation.

I put on the record my appreciation to the Rotary club of Runaway Bay. Every year on the Gold Coast we hold a symposium for local health professionals with respect to early psychosis. The other day as we were hosting our symposium, which was on youth suicide, we also ran an awareness and fundraising program as part of Rotary International’s Purple Pinkie for Polio campaign. We encouraged people to make a gold coin donation and have their pinkie painted purple so that we can provide vaccinations for children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. When we think about the significant changes that are being made to the lives of children, not only across this country but also across the world because of the work that is being done, not only in the research space but also in terms of increasing the numbers of people who are being vaccinated, it is really quite amazing. I particularly acknowledge the new president, Eric Lewis, for the work that he has done to raise awareness in this space.

I also wanted to touch on the changes with respect to dental care and oral health in the same vein as immunisation in terms of the ability of providers in schools to contact parents directly and have discussions about this issue with the parents. The shadow minister for health has touched on this. He has a professional knowledge about how important oral health is.

The reality is that oral health is important not just in terms of the health of one's teeth and mouth but the wellbeing of the whole person. It not only impacts people's blood pressure and results in other diseases but also impacts people's self-esteem and mental health. One of the things that we are all very conscious of is the need to ensure that teenagers and young children particularly are comfortable with whom they are. Maintaining good oral health goes a long way towards that. I have no doubt that, in the same vein as the work that is being done around encouraging and supporting immunisation, we will see an uptake in the number of people who are participating in oral health programs that are run within our schools.

There are also some changes with respect to the research that is being done. I do not think anyone could doubt that there is an amazing depth and breadth of research being done with respect to new and emerging diseases and also in terms of the way that we treat disease that we may not have always understood.

I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Currumbin when speaking about her father. I know that he was a very dear man and she was very close to him. I too have seen someone that I love change before my eyes. My grandfather suffered from dementia. In the last two years of his life the person that we all knew and loved had started to change. It is really heartbreaking.


As we make it easier for people to conduct vital research in a range of areas, what we will hopefully see is a better future for others. This is in the same vein as the changes we made last night with respect to mandatory reporting. It may not help my family and it may not help the member for Currumbin, but I am sure it gives us both comfort to know that we are encouraging and supporting really innovative medical researchers in the great work that they are doing. We hope that we can help other families so that they do not have to feel the devastation that I am sure the member for Currumbin felt and that I know I felt and my grandmother and my mother and her brothers felt.

I will briefly touch on the changes with respect to GPs accessing information about their patients through the Queensland Health Viewer database. What we will ultimately see is better outcomes for patients. As someone who is not a medical professional, one does not always know what it is that one needs to tell one's GP about what has been done, say, in hospital or with another doctor. Some vital information could be left out about a test that was conducted when someone was in hospital two weeks before. The results of those tests and the changes that need to be made to medication could ultimately be very critical to someone's life.

Through the increased capacity for GPs to access data about their own patients I think we can ultimately all take comfort in the knowledge that that will result in improved outcomes for patients, which is what it is all about. Critically, for patients it will mean that there is not a duplication of tests. Whilst some people might feel very comfortable with blood tests and other tests, the reality is that not everyone is very comfortable with medical procedures. For an older person or someone who has a phobia of needles or confined spaces it might be very distressing for them to have medical tests duplicated. Increased access and better communication between GPs and other medical professionals hopefully will ultimately result in improved outcomes for patients, which can only be a good thing.

I acknowledge the work that was done by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in its consideration of this bill. I know that the members of this committee are incredibly diligent in the work that they do. They are conscious of understanding the broader issues. The deputy chair, the member for Coomera, is a big fan of ensuring that the evidence is listened to, as he has said many times in this House. I am sure members of the government would remember that every time he makes a contribution he mentions his great commitment not only to the committee process but also to the evidence that those committees consider.

I note that all six members of this committee worked diligently in their consideration of the issues. I acknowledge those who took the time to make submissions. I also acknowledge the secretariat for the work they did.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I want to particularly confine my remarks to

the amendments to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse. I commend the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services for bringing forward this very important amendment to the Queensland statute book.

This week is the annual Brisbane Pride Festival, a wonderful celebration of our local LGBTIQ community which has been a part of the culture of our city since 1990. With the main event, Brisbane Pride Fair Day, to be held this Saturday it is fitting that we are discussing this very important legislation here tonight. The Pride Festival is not just a celebration, it is also an important reminder that there is still much to do to achieve genuine equality before the law for our LGBTIQ community.

This bill seeks to address some of these hurdles by standardising the age of consent and removing the loaded term 'sodomy' from our legislation. This legislation is essential to addressing fundamental differences in the way the law treats heterosexuals and LGBTIQ members of our community. Although the law as it stands does not specifically target young people on the basis of their sexual orientation, in practice the law discriminates against young same-sex attracted men.

Removing these laws is not just a symbolic change; it goes to the core of breaking down discriminatory attitudes and improving the sexual and mental health of the LGBTIQ community, particularly young men. The importance to public health was reflected in the evidence presented by the Queensland AIDS Council during the committee process. They noted that—

With the current inequality of age of consent, young people who are sexually active are reluctant to access sexual health services including HIV and other STI testing and preventative health education for fear of being prosecuted.

This is especially concerning when we look at the data from the Queensland Gay Community Periodic Survey that shows that 1.7 per cent of men who have sex with men are 16 or 17 years old. Of that group, only 32 per cent had ever been tested for HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases.

This legislation is about empowering young people to access appropriate sexual healthcare services and information. It is simple. It is about keeping young people healthy and safe, without the fear of repercussions. This reform is also bigger than a public health outcome, though the impact in that space is significant. It is also about removing the stigma and letting LGBTIQ young people know that their sexuality is normal, that they are valued and that they are equal before the law.

This is especially important when we consider that LGBTIQ people have a significantly higher instance of mental health issues than the rest of the population, with the difference particularly pronounced in young people. Some 55 per cent of LGBTIQ women and 40 per cent of LGBTIQ men aged between 16 and 24 are identified as suffering from mental health problems. This is compared to 18 per cent of heterosexual women and seven per cent of heterosexual men in the same age group.

Frankly, these are shameful statistics. As elected representatives, it is our duty to act to prevent inequality that leads to these outcomes for our young people. Unfortunately, this is clearly not a view shared by all of our politicians. In Canberra this week, the Turnbull government is attempting to put the fundamental rights of LGBTIQ Australians up for debate through its divisive and expensive plebiscite. The Prime Minister of this country, a so-called long-time supporter of marriage equality, wants to give \$7.5 million of taxpayers' money to fund a campaign of bigoted, hate-filled propaganda.

A government member: Shame.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection. It is absolutely shameful. This follows their attacks on the important Safe Schools program—an initiative aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion. This is why this legislation here tonight is important, because it lets young Queenslanders who may be struggling with their sexuality know that their state government will stand up for their rights. It is about sending a message to LGBTIQ young people that they are not different, that they deserve to be treated equally and that they can count on their elected representatives to stand up for their rights. It is about letting young men who are attracted to other men know that they are important, that their health is important and that their lives are important.


I am proud to be a part of a government with the courage to reform discriminatory legislation, but this legislation has also come about as a result of the committed efforts by many people over many, many, many years—some of whom I know are here in the gallery today. I want to acknowledge you all. In particular, I commend Michael Scott and the Queensland AIDS Council for all of their work over many decades. To the LGBTI Legal Service, to Rainbow Labor and the indomitable Sean Leader, and to my very dear and long-term friend Phil Carswell: I commend all of you for all of your efforts over a long period of time. Tonight is about you.

I know that there is still much to do to advance the rights of our LGBTIQ community here in Queensland, including the repeal of the gay panic defence and the expunging of historical convictions for homosexual sex, both of which our government is working on. We have already moved to reintroduce civil partnerships. Being in this House in the last term when, shamefully, civil unions were repealed by the former Newman government, I take particular pride in the Palaszczuk Labor government, as one of its first legislative reform areas was to bring back civil partnerships in this state. I also commend the Minister for Communities for introducing into this House this week changes to the adoption act to allow same-sex couples to adopt.

Today, in the middle of Pride Festival, which I will be attending on Saturday—

Ms Grace: Me too!

Ms Trad: Woo-hoo! I am happy to be able to support this legislation, to be able to put this issue out in the open and encourage a frank discussion about sexual health, about mental health and about equality before the law. As Jason Collins, the first openly gay NBA player said, 'Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start.' I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.23 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The many speakers before me have spoken passionately about the bill in its entirety, and I endorse those comments. I will keep my contribution brief regarding the bill, as there are two key amendments contained in the bill that I specifically wish to speak to. These are the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer, and the Public Health Act 2005 to enable schools to share student information with school immunisation health service providers to improve the uptake of the School Immunisation Program. I am passionate about these two elements. They are elements that have come through my committee, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

The School Immunisation Program ensures that students can access publicly funded immunisation services. Participation in these programs, as any parents in the House would be aware, requires parental consent forms to be signed and returned to school. As busy parents in the House also know, some consent forms do not always make their way back to school. I am guilty of this myself on occasion, but when it relates to vaccination I certainly return my forms.

The amendments before the House as they relate to disclosure of student information will allow school principals and their delegates to disclose student information to an immunisation health service provider to allow follow-up with parents of students who have not returned their consent form to occur, will allow for the reconciliation of returned consent forms against eligible students and will inform future strategies to improve consent form return rates. The amendments are about promoting immunisation to protect young Queenslanders.

Vaccination is an important public health strategy and a key health priority of the government. Immunisation has long been recognised as one of the most successful public health interventions introduced in Australia, enabling community health to be maintained and protected by reducing and eradicating vaccine preventable diseases. The majority of people support immunisation and have their children vaccinated, which is validated by the high childhood immunisation rates in Queensland of approximately 92 per cent. Within my electorate of Nudgee, the immunisation rate is closer to 93 per cent.


These rates are high and are the product of long-term and concerted public education campaigns and are reflective of a broad acceptance in our community of the merit and importance of immunisation against preventable disease. Commonwealth government research indicates that, since the introduction of vaccination for children in Australia in 1932, death from vaccine-preventable diseases has fallen by 99 per cent, despite a threefold increase in the Australian population over that period.

The second element of the bill I would like to speak to briefly is the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer. The Viewer displays patient information consolidated from public sector health systems and is currently available to authorised Queensland Health clinical and support staff. This is a wonderful amendment. What it means in practice is better and more timely patient care. Enabling the public health sector to seamlessly share patient information with GPs means that GPs will have a more comprehensive understanding of the patient's medical history, allowing them to provide more targeted and consistent treatment. I understand that Queensland is leading the way in this regard as one of the first jurisdictions in Australia to give GPs this kind of access to public sector health information.

Giving GPs access to clinical information about their patient's treatment at public sector hospitals is just one of the measures to improve the patient journey outlined in this government's \$361 million Specialist Outpatient Strategy, released by the Minister for Health on 6 September 2016. This strategy is an investment over four years to provide more specialist outpatient appointments but also to fix known problems in key parts of the patient journey by 2020. This strategy identifies key improvements that can be made to that patient journey and is a key element of our commitment to setting the strategic direction for the Queensland public health system under *My health, Queensland's future: Advancing health 2026*.

Importantly, journey improvement 10 in this document, which is the strategy document I am referring to, is about sharing information about patients' hospital experience with their GPs which is so important to ensure that any adverse reactions and readmissions are avoided. GPs do not always immediately know that a specialist is recommending changes to your medication or if you have been referred for further diagnostic procedures or on to surgery. That is why this government is investing in a web based application to give GPs real-time access to medical information such as pathology and radiology reports. Data available will also complement the information more traditionally included in patient discharge summaries.

People who come into my electorate office often talk about the need for a more seamless patient journey. I am very pleased to see these amendments. I look forward to seeing them in practice and the changes that they will make to patient journeys in Queensland. I commend the minister for bringing these amendments before the House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.28 pm), in reply: I start my closing remarks by thanking all honourable members for their contribution to the debate on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill contains important health reforms for Queensland. I am very heartened to see that these reforms are supported on both sides of the House. I just want to address, if I can, some of the points that were raised in the debate.

I am pleased at one level that the member for Surfers Paradise has read the draft sexual health strategy, and I am also pleased to provide the House with detail of the steps we are taking to educate young Queenslanders. I note that the member for Surfers Paradise indicated there was nothing in the draft sexual health strategy to support sex education for young people. This came as a surprise to me given the extremely unfortunate and damaging history of the LNP when it comes to supporting sexual health in Queensland. Members who served in the previous parliament—not just members of this parliament who were returned at the last election but all Queenslanders—will know that the Newman-Nicholls government stripped funding from sexual health services across Queensland.

Ms Trad: Shame!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for South Brisbane and Deputy Premier. It was a terrible thing for that government to do. Members will recall that the LNP all but shut down the Biala sexual health service. They sacked public health education prevention officers in the far north of our state where we have now seen rates of sexually transmitted infections increase since those cuts were made. The history of the LNP is very clear. When it has access to the purse strings of our state, when it has access to the treasury benches, it seeks to cut essential sexual health services that impact on Queenslanders, often vulnerable Queenslanders.

The Queensland sexual health strategy is draft. It is not yet finalised. We seek the views of the community and public health experts in finalising that strategy. We are even happy to receive submissions from the LNP if they wish to make submissions on this very important public document, but I will give this commitment to the parliament: we will not close down important public health services in our state, particularly in the sexual health space, and we will not change things either without properly consulting and receiving the advice of experts.

I agree with the member for Surfers Paradise that education for young people about their sexual health is important. I hope this is a matter that is genuinely engaged with by the LNP. We have seen some terrible attacks by members of the LNP both in this parliament and in the federal parliament on the Safe Schools program and on programs that are designed to provide information and support to young people, particularly as their own sexuality develops. Young people need support. They do not need judgement and discrimination if they are to develop fully as individuals. That is why we are discussing the reforms before the parliament.

While we are the last state in Australia to standardise the age of consent, we will be the first state in Australia to have a statewide sexual health strategy. The final strategy, which I intend to release later this year, will be underpinned by action plans designed to respond to specific sexual health issues. It will also include a focus on the importance of education of children and young people. Our government,

the Palaszczuk Labor government, has committed \$5.27 million over four years to implement the priority actions of the strategy including the focus on relationships and sexual education for children and young people. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these education programs to ensure that we make the best use of taxpayers' funds.

In terms of education programs already in place, I note that it is primarily the role of parents to educate children about sexuality and relationships. Families play an important role in that space but individual state schools in Queensland develop and deliver age appropriate relationships and sexuality education programs for their students. Opportunities currently exist within the Queensland health and physical education years 1 to 9 curriculum to address relationships and sexuality education. Comprehensive relationships and sexuality education covers a broad range of topics including sexual and reproductive health, relationships, growth and development, identity, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills and decision-making.

These programs are developed in consultation with the school community, and parents may elect for their children not to participate. The school principal, in conjunction with teachers and the school community, makes decisions about the resources and delivery of the school's learning program. In addition, school principals in Queensland have access to a range of external education programs. School based youth health nurses employed by Queensland Health can provide sexual health, healthy relationships and sexual inclusivity education and advice to students, parents, teachers and the broader school community to promote positive health outcomes for young people through the delivery of accessible, appropriate and culturally respectful primary healthcare services in the state school setting. The Life Education Program, which is funded by Queensland Health and delivered by Life Education Centre Foundation Queensland, also provides programs. The program principally offered by Life Education offers three modules that are focused on identity and diversity, reproduction and relationships. Life Education Queensland delivered sexual health education to 90,000 Queensland students between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2016. The Love Bites program, delivered by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, focuses on respectful relationships, consent, rights and responsibilities and sexual assault scenarios.

The member for Currumbin expressed some concerns about the age of consent. The expert panel considered this issue, noting that existing data suggests the average age of an individual's first sexual experience in Australia is just under 16 years of age. The government has no intention of further changing consent ages without evidence indicating it is necessary or appropriate. I note that it has not been changed in any other jurisdiction including jurisdictions that standardised the age of consent to 16 many decades ago.

The member for Currumbin also took us back to 2015 with her comments on the childcare vaccination bill that was passed by the parliament in that year. I appreciate the comments made by many members in this debate around the importance of vaccination and immunisation. I say again what I said in October last year—

We need to be careful about giving any credence to the connection that some in the community put forward between autism and vaccination. Research indicates that there is no difference in the rates of autism between vaccinated and unvaccinated children. From a public health perspective, it is essential that we follow the national immunisation schedule. I think we need to act on the advice of experts.

Government members interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjections from the members for Sandgate, Brisbane Central and Greenslopes. Vaccines cannot be separated. It just does not work that way. They are simply not available on the market as separate vaccinations, I am advised, and there is no evidence whatsoever that they should be separated. Again, I call on the member for Currumbin to stop encouraging anti-vaccers by talking in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland about the link between autism and vaccination.

Mrs STUCKEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is offensive in his words. I ask him to withdraw. He is also misleading the House.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. All members of this House—no matter where they sit in the chamber, no matter what party they represent, whether they represent no party or whether they are Independents on the crossbench—should be resolute in their support for science, for the power of vaccination and for the strength of immunisation. Anything that anyone does in this chamber or in the Queensland community or the Australian community that draws any link at all between autism and vaccination undermines the importance of immunisation and vaccination in Queensland and in our nation. We know

that immunisation saves lives, and we put at risk the lives of our children, the lives of elderly citizens, the lives of all Queenslanders and Australians if we do not continue to increase the rate of vaccination in Queensland.

Mrs Stuckey: You just lied to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Currumbin, that is an unparliamentary term and I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs STUCKEY: I withdraw.

Mr DICK: The member for Currumbin also sought clarification regarding the amendments to minimise the administrative burden on medical researchers when working with persons with impaired consent. During the committee process, there was some confusion from stakeholders about the effect of these amendments, but I am pleased that through the committee process—a process that has been enshrined in our Constitution this very week—those stakeholders who were confused have had that confusion dispelled. Let me assure the member for Currumbin that the amendments do not remove safeguards for persons with impaired consent. Medical research will only be conducted where the research has been through the ethics approval process and, importantly, the patient's substitute decision-maker has agreed to their participation in the research.

We have also heard today a number of members of the House speak on other important amendments being progressed through the bill, including those amendments relating to the GP-Viewer. The member for Lytton's experience dealing with her late parents' healthcare issues and the member for Mackay's experience while travelling with her children highlight the importance of GPs having prompt access to clinical information following a patient's hospital admission. Amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 will improve connections within our health system by granting GPs access to the Viewer. Ensuring GPs have access to up-to-date clinical information from Queensland Health is one of the 11 initiatives outlined in the *Specialist outpatient strategy* which I released last week.

Turning to the Public Health Act, I was delighted to hear members from both sides agree that it is vital that Queensland children can access immunisation and oral health services. As I said earlier, immunisation is a proven way to protect our children against vaccine preventable diseases. Since 2007, the School Immunisation Program has proven highly efficient in ensuring adolescents are kept up to date with their immunisations. Much of the debate today was focused on the importance of immunisation. Of course I wholeheartedly agree with the honourable members who spoke in favour of those amendments.

The school dental program also plays a critical role in providing dental services to children who are most in need of dental care, particularly those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds who are unlikely to be able to access private dental care. The school dental program offers dental services at accessible clinics at no cost to families with child focused dental practitioners. These amendments will help to ensure all parents are given the opportunity to access both the school immunisation and school dental programs, even if their son or daughter forgets to hand in the form.

I thank honourable members for supporting the amendments to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act which will allow employees and those individuals working at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute to benefit financially from successful discoveries and inventions. That is a way to ensure we retain the best and brightest in Queensland.

I move finally to the amendments to the Criminal Code in relation to standardising the age of consent for sexual activity in Queensland. Those amendments to the Criminal Code are not just about removing discrimination from our statute books; they will also improve sexual and mental health outcomes for young people. I reflect on the comments of the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, the member for Algeester, about her experience with young people whose mental health was affected through an adverse interaction with the health system.

As the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe highlighted, public policy debate about lawful sexual practices should be focused first and foremost on improving the sexual health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. I thank the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe for her support to have this amendment to the Criminal Code progressed in a Health portfolio bill. I want to commend the Attorney-General, as I have done on previous occasions, for the work she is doing to reform the law in our state.

Mr Ryan: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Morayfield. She has led by example and worked on significant reforms. She restored the law in relation to civil unions in Queensland that was taken away by the previous LNP government. She has moved forward on amendments in relation to the law of provocation, the so-called gay panic defence. She has worked on expunging criminal convictions for historical homosexual offences. She has moved legislation through this parliament to protect members of the community from the adverse effects of alcohol. She has introduced legislation in this parliament today to ensure that 17-year-old Queenslanders who are convicted of a serious criminal offence and spend time in juvenile detention serve their period of detention in a juvenile detention facility. She has also ensured the law of Queensland remains strong in relation to serious and organised crime. I thank the Attorney again for her work and also for supporting me as I move these amendments to the Criminal Code in a Health portfolio bill.

A number of members have spoken today about the need for young people to feel that they can talk openly and honestly with their doctor about their sexuality and sexual practices. As a government and as a state, we do not want young people holding back information that might impact their medical treatment because they are afraid they or their partner may face legal consequences.

I was particularly compelled by the expert panel's advice about the potential mental health impacts of the current laws on young LGBTI people. These concerns are reflected in the submissions made to the committee, particularly submissions by the Queensland AIDS Council. As Minister for Health, I am concerned greatly about the impact of current laws on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Young LGBTI people are already at higher risk of experiencing mental health issues, and we must do everything we can as a community to reduce these impacts. By removing anachronistic, value laden language and ensuring equality in the age of consent, the bill will improve not just sexual health outcomes but also mental health outcomes for young Queenslanders.

These amendments were overwhelmingly supported by stakeholders. I acknowledge those who made submissions to the committee about these amendments, including the Queensland AIDS Council, the LGBTI Legal Service, the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland, Health Consumers Queensland, the Public Health Association of Australia, the Caxton Legal Centre, Protect All Children Today and a number of sexual health experts in their individual capacity.

The reforms to the Criminal Code that we are soon to vote upon in the Legislative Assembly have been a long time coming. This debate has had a long and extremely difficult history. It is a debate, I regret to say, that has done untold damage to LGBTI Queenslanders. I was a young man in the time of the Bjelke-Petersen government, and I recall that being a young gay male at that time in Queensland was a choice between being silent and lying to the world about who you were or being honest and facing a barrage of abuse, often violence and homophobia. The disparity in the age of consent was one brick in the wall of discrimination enshrined and legitimised by legislation. It is a privilege for me as a member of this Labor government and as health minister to facilitate the removal of that discrimination.

I thank my colleagues in the state parliamentary Labor Party for their unwavering and unstinting support for this legislative amendment. I again thank the Attorney-General and my cabinet colleagues for allowing me to move these amendments to the Criminal Code through this legislation. Every day in this parliament for the past many months we have heard the opposition say that this government is frozen at the wheel. I am so delighted that this important legislative reform demonstrates not only that the government is not frozen at the wheel but that all members of the LNP support this important reform for Queensland. I am delighted that they are supporting the legislative measure being moved in the parliament today. A reform measure of this type will only ever be moved in the parliament of Queensland by the Australian Labor Party. We are the only political party that will reform the law, bending the arc of history towards justice and equality for all people.

I want to in particular acknowledge and pay tribute to the advocates for this reform, some of whom are in the gallery today and some who come from across the state. I want to acknowledge these champions, these leaders—people like John Frame, Phil Carswell, Dr Wendell Rosevear, Michael Scott, the Queensland AIDS Council, the LGBTI Legal Service, Rainbow Labor and Young Labor, just to name a few. For decades they have sustained the campaign for reform. They have remained steadfast in the face of opposition and doors being closed, often slammed shut, to them.

In Queensland the only determinant for access to safe and reliable health care should be a person's Medicare card, not their age, gender, sexual orientation or any other discriminatory criteria. With the passing of this bill we can say that we are a step closer to this being true.

I want to thank and acknowledge the opposition for their bipartisan support to standardise the age of consent in Queensland. In acknowledging that bipartisan work, I do have to reflect on the federal LNP. I do have to acknowledge and express my extreme disappointment that the federal LNP and those members of the Queensland LNP who serve in the House of Representatives and in the Senate have not taken a leaf out of their Queensland counterparts' book in relation to marriage equality. The federal parliament could make marriage equality a reality right now. Instead, there is a bill that has been introduced in the parliament by the Prime Minister, who once was a man of Liberal leaning, a man who would have supported that reform. He has now introduced a bill into the House of Representatives that will ultimately, if passed, waste \$175 million of taxpayers' money on an opinion poll that many of those LNP senators and members of the House of Representatives have said they will not respect. They have said that even if the plebiscite is held, even if Australians vote in favour of marriage equality, those LNP senators and members of the House of Representatives will not support it.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. I refer to relevance. The minister is now referring to a matter that is not the subject of this Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There has been some leniency allowed but I think he has gone on long enough.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Minister, I would ask that you remain relevant to the long title of the bill.

Mr DICK: Obviously that is a sore point for those opposite. I will in my concluding remarks indicate that I believe that Malcolm Turnbull should follow the example of the Queensland LNP in this House and get together with the rest of the federal parliament to pass a marriage equality bill.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the committee staff of the parliament, who work so hard supporting committees in their detailed consideration of this bill.

I also want to acknowledge, as I always try to do when it comes to legislation, the very dedicated and hardworking officers in the Public Service in Queensland who work so very hard to bring these legislative measures to the parliament. In this case I do want to acknowledge officers of the Department of Health and also the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, two great departments of state, and the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel for their work in developing the bill. A miscellaneous bill such as this one requires the collaboration of officers across departments and between departments. I am not able to mention all of those involved. However, I want to particularly thank the Department of Health officers Scott Brown, Dr Peter Osborne, Narelle Doss, Melissa Hagan, Katrina Brosnan and Craig Humrich; and the Legislative Policy Unit, particularly David Harmer, Eve Gibson, Kirsten Law, Sally Stubbington, Alessandra Atkinson, Megan Pretorius and Oakley Corn; as well as Jo Hughes from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. This bill contains important reforms for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with standing order 106.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 40—

Division: Question put—That clauses 1 to 40, as read, stand part of the bill.


Mr SPEAKER: I propose that the bells ring for one minute.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106.

Clauses 1 to 40, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed.

Third Reading

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.04 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.04 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COAL WORKERS' PNEUMOCONIOSIS SELECT COMMITTEE

Order of Appointment; Membership

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That:

1. A select committee, to be known as the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP) Select Committee be established to undertake an inquiry and report on the re-emergence of CWP amongst coal mine workers in Queensland.

In undertaking the inquiry, the committee consider:

- (a) the legislative and other regulatory arrangements of government and industry which have existed in Queensland to eliminate and prevent CWP;
 - (b) whether these arrangements were adequate, and have been adequately and effectively maintained over time;
 - (c) the roles of government departments and agencies, mine operators, nominated medical advisers, radiologists, industry safety and health representatives and unions representing coal mine workers in these arrangements;
 - (d) the study into CWP undertaken by Monash University and the findings of the Senate Select Committee on Health (Fifth Interim Report) and other relevant reports and studies;
 - (e) the efficacy and efficiency of adopting methodologies and processes for coal mine dust measurement and mitigation, including monitoring regimes, engineering measures, personal protective equipment, statutory requirements, and mine policies and practices, including practices in jurisdictions with similar coal mining industries; and
 - (f) other matters the committee determines are relevant, including other respiratory diseases associated with underground mining.
2. The committee have power to call for persons, documents and other items.
 3. The committee report to the Legislative Assembly by 12 April 2017.
 4. The committee consist of six members of the Legislative Assembly: Mrs Miller (Chair), Mr Costigan, Mr Crawford, Mr Kelly, Mr Knuth and Mr Springborg.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

North Queensland, Secession

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.07 pm): I move—

That this House supports, in accordance with section 124 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the separation of Queensland into two states, and that the boundary of the two states is to be as recommended by an independent body, such as the current Queensland Redistribution Commission.

This is an interesting subject, and I think it is very difficult for people to comprehend such a significant change. When the colony was formed 150 years ago some boundaries were drawn up, and I do not think for a second that the people who drew up those boundaries thought they should be there ad infinitum and never be challenged. Section 124 of the Constitution states—

A new State may be formed by separation of territory from a State, but only with the consent of the Parliament thereof ...

They did that for a good reason. In the post-Federation period there have been several petitions calling for areas of existing states and the Northern Territory to become a new state in the Federation. The United States has recognised this and they have created some 20 new states since 1859, but we

have not done this at all. We have therefore missed out on the advantages of efficiencies that can be achieved as a result of this. North and western Queensland are underrepresented and are not achieving their full potential. We now have only one senator left from North Queensland, but there are 12 from Tasmania representing a smaller population and a significantly smaller gross domestic product, so we have short-changed ourselves in terms of representation.

The population decline in rural and western areas is very evident and can be supported empirically. One reason for that is there is usually a deficit of funding and policy in those areas by the existing representation, so that is a self-manifesting problem that we as Queenslanders and Australians need to address. Geoffrey Blainey stated that, 'Australia has created no new states since 1859. The United States, in contrast, has created close to 20. For a land of this size we do not have enough states and thus miss out on the advantages of federalism.'


I put it to you that those are wise words, Mr Speaker. Many one-size-fits-all laws are made in this place and I would be the first to admit that many of them are very constructive and good for South-East Queensland and the larger metropolitan areas, but they do not work in regional areas. Housing codes and vegetation management codes, for example, had a far bigger impact when they were rolled out in western and northern areas. The year 7 transition was probably a good idea for Brisbane and metropolitan areas, but in rural and remote areas where there are no high schools many young people may have missed out on the opportunity to ever attend school again. I think policies are just rolled out with no consideration of their impact in those areas.

I think these things are done with the best intentions. I am not having a go at this government or previous governments and saying they are not thinking of things. These consequences arise despite the best intentions. We do not have the numbers in parliament, and the one-size-fits-all approach to legislation ends up impacting on us. Try as we may to make the application of the legislation more flexible, it just does not happen. The evidence is there.

Mount Isa Mines was voted the most significant business in Queensland's 150-year history because the wealth generated by that business grew the state. It is perverse that that rail line is now performing a lot more poorly than 40 or 50 years ago, yet we are still creating \$300 million a year in royalties.

This can be done. It is estimated that it would cost \$8 billion to \$10 billion a year to run the new state. We would be getting up to \$4 billion to \$5 billion a year in royalties and we would be getting GST revenue of \$2 billion to \$3 billion. It can be done and we need it to happen.

In the same way that separate National Rugby League teams in the north and the south—the Cowboys and the Broncos—has led to the State of Origin dominance of Queensland through better competition and better efficiency and we have invigorated both parts of the state to make a strong Queensland team, this can be done with the north and south of the state. If you empower people to make these decisions, we can make better decisions and power up the economy in that sector of the state. We are all Australians; we are all Queenslanders. We all want to grow the country; we all want to grow the state. There is a better way to do it. We should be challenging this in a debate in this place. I would like to hear more from people. We might be small in number but we can offer a lot to this country and this state. It is a serious debate. Go the Cowboys!

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (6.11 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. This debate is not new, of course. The separation of North Queensland has been part of public debate since the formation of Queensland itself in 1859 and it has been considered several times by this parliament since then. It has never come to pass ultimately because of the spirit of Queensland. This state has a big heart. It has a big spirit shared by all Queenslanders.

During the revival of this old debate this year there has been plenty of mud thrown about in terms of North Queensland separatism. People in this House know that I am a proud North Queensland and they also know that I am a proud treasurer from regional Queensland. There have been many allegations of dishonesty levelled at me—even a suggestion that I am some kind of a traitor—for responsibly putting on the table why a separate state does not make sense for North Queensland.

Some people take this a bit too far. I did see some very interesting comments online today, that this is another devious New South Wales plot designed to split Queensland and destroy us at State of Origin time. They suggested that State of Origin could be a tri series. This might give New South Wales

at least a chance to beat one of the Queensland teams! I know that the member for Mount Isa is as big a Cowboys supporter as I am, but I wonder if he would change his tune when he realised that Johnathan Thurston would qualify for Queensland South!

Putting to one side the histrionics and the emotive language of proponents of separatism, they have in no way made clear how they would fund their proposal. There has been much talk about what the north produces in terms of royalties and gross state product without any discussion of how much it would cost to run the necessary health, education, police and emergency services. Mining royalties are just a fraction of the current Queensland state government revenue. North Queensland does provide around \$2.03 billion more than the rest of Queensland, but in a proposed state which has 21 per cent of Queensland's current population mining royalties would not cover for the loss of other state taxation revenue, which is disproportionately collected in South-East Queensland.

The rest of Queensland provides \$2.44 billion more than North Queensland when it comes to transfer duties. In terms of payroll tax, it is estimated that the rest of Queensland provides \$2.8 billion more than North Queensland. It is estimated that the rest of Queensland provides \$740 million more than North Queensland. The combined effect of stamp duty, payroll tax and land tax—\$5.99 billion—is almost three times the size of North Queensland's net contribution of royalties. That is a big hole in the budget of a North Queensland state.

As part of Queensland, the north benefits from the diversified state economy. In the aftermath of the GFC, the mining boom in North and Central Queensland certainly helped keep the state out of recession, but significant spending on infrastructure projects across Queensland by the former Labor government also kept hundreds of thousands of people in work.


More recently we have seen, with the transition from the mining boom and the fall of the Australian dollar, that regional Queensland has gone into a period of economic readjustment. That is certainly not news to anyone in this House. When revenue from one region may suffer a downturn, it can be compensated for with revenue from another region. With different economic strengths in different regions of the state, we can together ride out economic difficulties to ensure the delivery of services and infrastructure to all Queenslanders. That is the same for the different and diverse economic inputs we have from sectors across Queensland. Of course we have mining, which is not performing particularly well, particularly mining construction, but tourism and education are picking up. Of course, let us not forget agricultural production.

A single state is a strong state, both economically and financially. The cost of Queensland providing the services and infrastructure we have today is significantly lower than if a new separatist state government were formed. For example, money raised in the more populated south-east corner is used to build schools and roads and pay teachers, doctors, nurses and police in sparsely populated communities.

The bottom line is that revenue raised anywhere in Queensland is revenue used to benefit Queenslanders wherever they may live. Under current arrangements North Queensland, which has around 21 per cent of the population, receives 29 per cent of the state's infrastructure spending. Let us not forget that the Palaszczuk government spurred the development of the new Townsville stadium, having to drag the federal government to the table to fund the project.

Instead of peddling separatism, I would urge those proponents of a separate state, both here and in Canberra, to secure funds for Queensland from the federal government's \$5 billion Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility. Around 70 per cent of the population of Northern Australia lives in Queensland, so we should expect the lion's share of that funding. This is a genuine opportunity to work together across the political divide. I suggest that NAIF is a better use of people's time than a motion like this.

I cannot support the motion as it stands, but one thing on which I will agree with the member for Mount Isa is that the Cowboys will be victorious tomorrow night in Townsville.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion to separate Queensland into two states and for the boundary of the two states to be recommended by the Queensland Redistribution Commission or other commission. This is not a new argument. In 1896—120 years ago—the Queensland Labor member for Rockhampton, William Kidston, moved a motion for a referendum for the separation of northern and central Queensland colonies. It was passed by the Speaker's vote after a 20-20 split in the vote. However, the movement was blocked because a number of members who were absent when the vote took place managed to have their votes recorded.

In 1948 another new state movement was inaugurated in North Queensland following which the Governor's speech at the opening of the Queensland parliament in 1948 contained suggestions that a new state might be formed in Queensland when they had a reasonable degree of economic stability. I quote—

The North Queensland Movement received additional impetus following a representative popular convention held at Mareeba in August 1955 when the 'New State for the North Queensland Movement' was officially launched. Agitation for a North Queensland State has persisted through the 1970's and 80's, with continual demands for a referendum. The driving force at this time was the North Queensland Self-Government League which had the aim of having 'a separate self-governing sovereign state by 1988'. In 1994 the North Queensland Party was formed with Frank Rossiter of Townsville as a leading figure. The new North Queensland flag was proposed and approved at a meeting on the 16 October, 1994. In attendance were Frank Rossiter, Max Keating, Alex Caldwell and other leading figures supporting a separate state. The blue and white North Queensland State Flag consisted of the Southern Cross and Tropical Sun with Marlin.

In April this year the KAP set up a working group to help drive the push for a separate state. While we have been through local and federal elections, we have committed to progressing strongly with this push.

There are many factors behind our decision, the top one being that people in North Queensland believe that the highly populated southern regions and electorates determine what is in the best interests for the north. By becoming autonomous North Queensland can develop to its full potential, and decisions about North Queensland should be made by North Queenslanders. The area has not had a major infrastructure project for up to 30 years and it is continually short-changed. Out of the \$3.6 billion for the Royalties for the Regions, rural and regional Queensland only received \$100 million. On top of that, Townsville was short-changed \$500 million according to the *Townsville Bulletin* through the State Infrastructure Fund, and I table that document.


Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin* online, dated 17 March 2016, titled 'Townsville's 2.6 per cent share of \$35 billion plan' [\[1551\]](#).

It was southern politicians who made the decision to sell off the coal infrastructure that delivered \$1.7 billion to the Queensland economy each year that provided services in health and education. That money is now in the hands of multinationals. Out of 89 MPs, only 13 belong to North Queensland and yet the decision was made to sell off assets, including the above rail from Townsville to Mount Isa which produced \$500 million—

Mr Rickuss: Which government did that, Shane?

Mr KNUTH: The member is right: the Labor government, but his government also had a big assets sell-off planned too, didn't it? Yes, and that is why that government was booted out. I notice that there are 30 fewer LNP members. The LNP used to occupy all of these seats, and there are roughly 30 of them left but 30 of them gone as a result of asset sales. Do not be hypocritical and point the finger. North Queensland has one senator. Tasmania has 12 and yet North Queensland is double the size of Tasmania. Some \$1.6 million of GST revenue goes to Tasmania. Southerners say, 'Where are we going to get the funds from?' They got \$6 billion from the Bowen Basin and \$1 billion comes from the western minerals province.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (6.21 pm): This evening I rise to speak against the member for Mount Isa's motion to divide Queensland into two separate states. When the member for Mount Isa has publicly spoken about this issue in the past, he cites reasons such as resource allocation, even going so far as to say that there will be a reckoning. I want to highlight that the constituents of my electorate of Gladstone have not been missing out on resource allocations since the Palaszczuk government came into office, and I do not support the presumption that all of the money is being spent in the south-east corner of Queensland. The people of the entire Central Queensland region have benefited from major infrastructure projects, with many in my electorate, including \$40 million for timber bridge upgrades, \$42 million for a new accident and emergency ward, a \$74 million upgrade to the terminal at the port of Gladstone, \$60 million for a new high school—and thanks to Minister Kate Jones for that—and \$22.7 million to expand and improve social housing, just to name a few.

Mr Katter interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: I will take that interjection: I do not want to be included, because I want to stay as Queensland. In fact, in the last state budget more than \$823 million was allocated to infrastructure projects in the Fitzroy region. This government has consistently shown that we are delivering for regions when it comes to things that matter the most. Our Enhancing Regional Hospitals package and the Back

to Work program are supporting 8,000 jobs and actually exclude the south-east corner. This discussion about two separate states has been raised many times in this House before, but every Queenslanders knows that we are stronger together. What our government has shown is that it is possible to prioritise regional projects, jobs and infrastructure without separating the state of Queensland.

In terms of our capacity to influence things with our federal counterparts and our capacity to continue to unashamedly defeat New South Wales at every opportunity in every sporting code, especially the one that matters most—and we have heard about it tonight—Rugby League, we are stronger as a united Queensland team. The reasons for this issue being raised again today are because the member for Mount Isa and the member for Dalrymple believe that their communities do not get a fair go, but there is one major problem with this plan of theirs—that is, the member for Cairns joining their party with the Katters. We all know that he thinks Cairns will be the capital of the new state in Queensland that they are suggesting. In fact, he may even have a tilt at being the Premier of 'Van Pyne Land'. Well, do I have news for you: the city of Townsville has always believed that it is the Big Brother of the north. The end result will be that these two cities will be at war with each other when it comes to funding.

I hate to break it to you, member for Mount Isa, but in the words of Bachman-Turner Overdrive, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.' They will be so caught up with who is getting what that Mount Isa, Dalrymple and all other Western Queensland centres will be standing on the outside looking in. You can forget your hospital upgrades. You can forget your school upgrades. You can even forget your inland road funding, because guess what? It will all be about Cairns and Townsville. The member for Mount Isa will be left crying in his schooner of 'Van Pyne Land Bitter'—'what about me, it isn't fair, I've had enough, I want my share!' I am sure that the four new members of parliament being introduced next term as a result of the crossbenches will have much more of an opportunity in their electorates to advance the region.

I refer to comments today that the member for Rockhampton, the Hon. Bill Byrne, made to the ABC. He said—

The north could not survive economically on its own.

...

It's a \$50 billion state budget. Let's just say all mining royalties for example went to the new northern state. That'd be \$2-3 billion


...

Significant, but it's still a modest component of how the state budget is put together.

In straight budgetary terms I would say that if you tried to split the state in half you're going to see a northern state that fundamentally does not have the financial wherewithal to sustain the level of service that's currently there.

So I think the real issue here is not one of passion or loyalty or parochialism ... the reality is that the state needs to stay together in order to ensure our collective economic wellbeing.

I think all Queenslanders know 'they can never tear us apart'.

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (6.26 pm): The people of North Queensland are fortunate in this parliament to have strong representation through the crossbenches to make sure the voice of our region is heard. What worries me is that we could go back in the next parliament to one of the big Brisbane based parties running this parliament, and we know that when that happens the voice of the north is not heard down here. We can see the many years of neglect and the lack of infrastructure. I do not think people realise the burdens on families needing medical procedures always needing to fly down to Brisbane when the patient transit scheme hardly covers the costs for those families, not to mention the trauma and the difficulties of moving away from their support networks to get medical treatment in the south. We need these sorts of medical treatments and medical services in North Queensland.

Ports in other areas get significant infrastructure investments, yet Cairns gets no investment in its ports. In terms of roads, I love coming to Brisbane and seeing all of these underpasses and overpasses. If we are all going to be Queenslanders, surely we are all entitled to the same level of service. By no barometer—by no measure—could anyone in this House say that the people of my city receive the same level of services as people in South-East Queensland. No-one in this House could say that with a straight face. Public transport is another great example. Down here Cross River Rail is proposed. What a wonderful piece of infrastructure that will be, but the north is lucky to get the bare essentials in terms of transport infrastructure.


People can get a go card and hop on a ferry, a train, or a bus. We have only buses in Cairns, and it is not a great service. The people in Cairns are entitled to receive the same services. It is that failure to deliver the same level of services in the north that has led to the call for a separate state. Where do members think this call for a separate state comes from? It comes from people in North Queensland who feel that they have been neglected, who feel that the state government is not delivering the services that they are entitled to receive.

I would like to reflect briefly on the administration side of a new state. One of the big problems in the rollout of government policy is that policy is channelled from George Street—from public servants making decisions who have no knowledge of the context in which those decisions will be rolled out in Cairns, Far North Queensland, Townsville, rural and remote communities and Indigenous communities. We all know how significant public servants and directors-general are in the policy process. It is okay for ministers to stand up in this place and announce a project as theirs because they are the minister at the time, but many of these projects are developed over the years through the departments. We need to have some of these public servants living in Cairns and making decisions on a more informed basis.

Why are we not entitled to have more public servants in Cairns? Cairns has one of the highest unemployment rates of the state. Why is more of the machinery of government not located in the regions, such as in my city of Cairns? North Queensland has one senator based in North Queensland, Senator Macdonald. He must be getting on now, but that is not his biggest problem. His biggest problem is that there is only one of him.

Mr Springborg: But Murray Watt stitched up the other one.

Mr PYNE: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. I can tell him exactly why Jan McLucas is no longer a senator and Murray Watt is. What did the Labor Party say? 'Where are the numbers? Where are the votes? They are down here. Don't you worry about Far North Queensland.' North Queensland lost a senator and the Gold Coast got one. We see this happening across-the-board in North Queensland: neglect, neglect, neglect. We need a separate state. I look forward to North Queensland becoming a separate state, with its beautiful, lush, green capital of the Pacific rim city of Cairns.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (6.32 pm): As already noted, the government will oppose the motion. In doing so, I note my respect for the position of the Katter's Australian Party on this issue. I know that it is a matter it feels very strongly about and it has advocated for it for an extended time. However, the government's view on this matter is that the state functions best working together as a whole. In balancing state revenue and spending across the range of government services, we need to have the widest base possible. I have never been convinced that, by cutting off the south-east corner and its revenue, the result would be the north and the west of Queensland receiving a greater amount of expenditure from their own funding sources.

We live in a decentralised state. As a society, Queenslanders have decided that the quality of the public services provided, whether they be health, education, roads or housing, should not be determined by their postcode. We know that that choice comes at a higher cost, but we do not begrudge that. We accept that that is part of the social contract that we have with the people of Queensland. As a state government, we provide for the entire state.

Today's ABS figures underline the Palaszczuk government's strong focus on providing for the entire state. Queensland's unemployment rate for August remained steady at 6.3 per cent on a trend basis. The Treasurer has announced that these latest figures show a net 41,500 jobs created since the January 2015 election. Results like that occur only by working across the state, using the full base of revenue and deploying it to the areas in most need.

The motion moved by the member for Mount Isa states—

That this House supports, in accordance with section 124 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the separation of Queensland into two states—

I will come back to section 124 in the moment—

and that the boundary of the two states is to be as recommended by an independent body, such as the current Queensland Redistribution Commission.

I note that, basically, every member who has spoken to this motion so far has presumed that we are talking about separating North Queensland from the rest of Queensland. If we take the experience that we have had with the Queensland Redistribution Commission, it is more likely to create a north-south boundary. It is not very sensible, but it is what that commission might create. I warn members to be careful of what they might wish for.

The member referred to section 124 in his motion. In opposing the motion, I thought that I would also look at section 123 of the Australian Constitution as it also relates to state boundaries. Section 123, titled 'Alteration of limits of States', states—

The Parliament of the Commonwealth may, with the consent of the Parliament of a State, and the approval of the majority of the electors of the State voting upon the question, increase, diminish, or otherwise alter the limits of the State, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed on, and may, with the like consent, make provision respecting the effect and operation of any increase or diminution or alteration of territory in relation to any State affected.

On reflection of section 123 of the Australian Constitution, I thought that it might be worth starting a community conversation about the realignment of some of our other state borders. Why should we consider only splitting our great state when we can consider growing it? Perhaps the New South Wales parliament might want to consider the realignment of its state's borders and see the north coast of its state join the great state of Queensland? Many people have suggested moving the Queensland border south to Grafton. Granted, that might entail us rolling out stages 5 and 6 of the light rail to Byron Bay, but we are happy to consider that.

New South Wales has long complained about the Bowraville junior, Greg Inglis—I should say Shorncliffe's own Greg Inglis—playing for the Maroons. We can fix that with section 123. A few other parts of the southern state might want to be considered to be annexed by Queensland. I suspect that there might be some punters at Wentworth Park and Dapto dishlickers who might want their part of New South Wales to be an enclave of Queensland. In fact, these days, with Queensland having the lowest payroll tax in the nation, businesses in New South Wales—and, indeed, in Victoria—might want to be considered Queenslanders. I think Collins Street, Queensland and Martin Place, Queensland have a nice ring to them. That is the direction we want to be looking. We want to be looking forward to how we can grow our state, how we can improve our state and make it the best state in this country.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.44 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 11 October 2016.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.43 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Katie Rose Cottage

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (6.43 pm): On 16 November 2011 I rose in the parliament to speak about the fine work being done in a community hospice in my electorate, Katie Rose Cottage. The hospice model was developed by Terry Clarke-Burrows and Sue Story and has been supported by a very large and passionate group of volunteers who did it all, from mowing lawns, helping in the admin office, giving their time in the op shops across the Sunshine Coast and donating goods and services. Katie Rose Cottage provided services for terminally ill adults, children and their carers and this organisation was embraced not only by the Noosa community but by families in need much further afield.


I wish I could say that Katie Rose Cottage, rebadged as Sunshine Hospice, has continued to flourish and provide the caring service which became its hallmark for many years. As with all not-for-profit organisations, different committees have different ideas in terms of their strategic direction. The current administration is not focused on the original community model, which worked, but more on growth and a business model. This has resulted in the regrettable cessation of services by the current board that has also negotiated the termination of its lease and put into storage all of the items donated to Katie Rose Cottage. There was no reason for this closure, as I believe that both of these models could have, in fact, existed side by side: one continuing to operate as a small in-home community funded operation whilst plans to expand and grow the vision could have been built alongside with patience and due diligence.

The current board of the Sunshine Hospice have kept the large volunteer base and members in the dark as to the actual status of plans and the financial situation, so much so that the Katie Rose Cottage name is now registered and owned by a recently formed group called the Katie Rose Cottage Committee which is intent on showing its support and willingness to return to the previously successful model of palliative care. It is this committee that has assembled an impressive nonconforming petition with 954 hard-copy signatures, which I now table.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the reopening of Katie Rose Cottage in Doonan [1552].

I would like to direct the attention of the House to an online petition which has more than 1,300 signatures. This level of commitment is deserving of a good outcome, and I wish the Katie Rose Cottage Committee every success with its plans for palliative care in Noosa and across the Sunshine Coast.

Kawana Electorate

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.46 pm): The Sunshine Coast LNP team are very much committed to the Sunshine Coast with respect to not only road infrastructure but also hospital projects. We brought forward the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, delayed originally by the Labor Party and again delayed by the Labor Party. Unfortunately the hospital now opens in April 2017. We have seen hundreds of millions of dollars cut by the Labor party in terms of road infrastructure for the Sunshine Coast community. There is a \$22 million road project by the current government but that is a bandaid solution for what we understand will be 10,000 fewer people having to travel to Brisbane when the Sunshine Coast Hospital opens next year.

The Sunshine Coast LNP team will continue to fight for the coast as one group en bloc because we achieve more when we do that, namely, of course, the \$2 billion hospital that has been achieved. I take this opportunity to say that we will continue to put pressure on the current government to deliver the Mooloolah River interchange, an interchange that should be being built by now.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the minister to cease interjecting.


Mr BLEIJIE: The commitment by the Labor Party to the Sunshine Coast is nil, zilch, zero. We will continue to put pressure on the Minister for Main Roads to deliver the Mooloolah River interchange, a \$400 million project that was promised by the LNP at the last election; the rail duplication which will help all Sunshine Coast commuters; and, of course, the airport expansion which we will also support.

I pay tribute to a few of the great sporting groups on the Sunshine Coast, particularly the Kawana Football Club Men's Premier League team that won against Woombye the other night 4-2. They won it last year against Woombye as well. They did a fantastic job despite rain washing the game out on Saturday night. They had a rematch on Wednesday and the boys did a fantastic job taking home the trophy. I wish the Sunshine Coast Falcons all the very best against the Dolphins this Sunday. They will go on to play the Burleigh Bears in the Intrust Super Cup. We wish the Sunshine Coast Falcons all the very best for that.

I wish the Kawana Chamber of Commerce a happy 30th birthday. Linda Delamotte is the president of the Kawana Chamber of Commerce. It was a great 1980s themed party. To SCAR, which is a Sunshine Coast animal refuge, and 4 Paws Animal Rescue, thank you for your Walk for Awareness. As I always say, adopt don't shop! I have two rescue dogs, two Great Dane crosses, that we rescued from the RSPCA and another group at Caboolture. With respect to dogs and animals, adopt don't shop! I congratulate the Kawana Park Eagles under-13s. They won the division 1 premiership. Unfortunately Division 3 lost, but they played very well.

As I indicated earlier, the Sunshine Coast's entire LNP team will continue to fight strongly for the entire region of the Sunshine Coast en bloc as we keep delivering for the Sunshine Coast as we have done for many, many years.

HMAS *Tobruk*; Rio Paralympics


 **Hon. LE DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries) (6.49 pm): The quest for the sinking of the *Tobruk* is heating up in Queensland. I would like to warn everyone in the chamber to keep their hands off; the *Tobruk* needs to come to Bundaberg and the Fraser Coast. The ex-HMAS *Tobruk* has a long history of great service to Australia and a connection to our region with an active Rats of *Tobruk* association and it can continue to provide service as a dive wreck tourist attraction which could deliver between \$1 million and \$5 million in tourism a year. This has been a project my region has been actively courting from the start and has the support of all three levels of

government and the business community. We have a bid that is very well advanced. Only recently our local politicians, including the member for Burnett and the member for Hervey Bay, and businesses pulled together to pay for a hydrographic survey to confirm the exact best site for its sinking. The Bundaberg Regional Council and the Fraser Coast Regional Council are on board, pledging \$1 million each to go towards the sinking.

As the local member I have been advocating to get the state government on board and I thank the Minister for Tourism for her support, with the Palaszczuk government lodging a formal bid to the Department of Defence for the *Tobruk* to come to Queensland. I know that Keith Pitt, the federal member for Hinkler, has also been working hard by harassing the defence minister to make sure she knows how much we want the *Tobruk* in Queensland. This has the potential to add another tourism attraction to our marvellous region and bring much-needed tourist dollars with it. Although it is trending downwards, in Bundaberg our unemployment rate continues to be stubbornly high and it is attractions such as that that will bring to our beautiful region more tourists, much-needed economic activity and jobs in hospitality, tourism and our retail sector.

While on my feet, I want to give my congratulations to Chris Pitt and Rheed McCracken on their recent endeavours at the Rio Paralympics. Chris came from a long way back in the field to almost snatch a bronze in the P3 mixed 25-metre pistol event. Rheed McCracken won a silver medal in the T34 100-metre event and a bronze medal in the T34 800-metre event. Both of those Olympians have been exemplary ambassadors for the disabled and wider community of Bundaberg. I take this time to express my congratulations to them both for representing Bundaberg, Queensland and Australia, and for being great role models for everyone in our community.

Redlands Electorate; Lee, Mrs EW


 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (6.52 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on a number of matters of importance to the Redlands electorate. Firstly, I want to address an ongoing issue of concern for not only Redlands residents but also all taxpayers, that is, the waste of taxpayer funds and the lack of transparency that has surrounded the purchase of prime real estate by the Department of Housing and Public Works. Thus far, Minister de Brenni has left my correspondence on the purchase of land at 1 Boat Street entirely unanswered. The land is expensive, at over \$600,000 for 800 square metres, and is poorly located. It will take residents more than an hour by public transport to reach Redland Hospital and health services. With the scrapping of the Logan Renewal Initiative, the minister has already proven that he has no interest in providing more public housing for the many Queenslanders on waiting lists. The purchase of this expensive bayside land is yet another example of poor decision-making by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

I also want to draw the attention of the House to the plight faced by residents living near the Anita Street intersection at Redland Bay. Anita Street is one of the most dangerous intersections in Redlands. At the last election the LNP committed to the upgrade of that intersection and, since I was elected, I have been calling on Minister Bailey to see sense and commit to the upgrade. Constituents who have to run the gauntlet of the intersection contact my office almost daily. It is time that the Palaszczuk Labor government sat up and listened. Redlanders do not care who fixes this intersection; they just want it done.

In closing tonight, I wish to express my condolences and, in some way, honour the life of Erna Winnifred Lee, née Lyons. Erna was born on 3 March 1925 at the European hospital in Samarai in Papua. She grew up on Samarai, a tiny island on the China Strait. Erna's father was a magistrate for the eastern division of Papua. Erna was sent to Brisbane to attend boarding school and later attended business college. She was there when her mother was evacuated from Moresby on the *Katoomba* in 1941. Erna married Gary Lee on 15 September 1948. Gary passed away in 1976.

Erna was a long-time active member of the Liberal Party in Redlands and would hold meetings in her tiny worker's cottage in Victoria Point. As I understand it, five people made an uncomfortable crowd in the confines. However, Erna was so sweet that members dared not suggest another location. One can imagine the remarkable times that Erna lived through. Erna Lee is survived by her children, Lenore, Slade and Sandi. I offer my condolences to them and her extended family and friends.

Inland Rail Corridor

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.55 pm): Tonight I rise to speak to an issue that is causing a lot of uncertainty and concern to affected landholders in the seat of Condamine; that is, the inland rail corridor currently being proposed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation and the impact that that

corridor will have on landholders and the farming landscape on the Central Downs. The Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail project is a long-awaited and much anticipated vital piece of infrastructure that has overwhelming support in the electorate of Condamine. The cost of the project will be in excess of \$10 billion over a period of 10 years and it will be one of the most significant freight transport routes in the country. With this in mind, taxpayers and affected landholders have every right to expect total transparency and open scrutiny of all proposed corridors.

Therefore, it is very disappointing to discover that in 2015 a report was compiled by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation to investigate alternate routes from Inglewood to Gowrie Junction, but it has not been officially released to the public. As the member for Southern Downs advised this House on Tuesday night, the report was commissioned by the state departments of Transport and Main Roads and State Development, Queensland Rail and the proponents of the ARTC project. The \$10 billion question is: why has this report not seen the light of day? The report lists an alternate route through Karara, Felton and Umbiram to Gowrie Junction, which is less expensive, will take less time to construct and will provide more efficient freight delivery outcomes than the currently favoured route across the floodplain from Brookstead to Gowrie Junction. The route in this report has never been mentioned at any time as an option for the inland rail project.


The proposed route from Brookstead to Gowrie Junction is based on information from 2010. Since then, there have been two significant and devastating flood events on the floodplain, one in 2011 and another in 2013. The SMEC report states that the Karara route did not encounter as many floodplain problems. The 2015 report compiled by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation takes into account the last two flood events. It is a comprehensive report and addresses many of the floodplain problems raised. It was also prepared with the full knowledge of the current Queensland government and ARTC.

In today's *Warwick Daily News*, an ARTC spokesman states—

ARTC engaged consultants to undertake a further analysis of the route identified in the SMEC report and the outcome of that analysis was that there wasn't a compelling case for the alternative route.

That would indicate that there has been yet another undisclosed study done. If there is to be any public confidence in this project, it is imperative that all options are investigated in an open and transparent manner.

Jeays, Mr L

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (6.58 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the loss of a true local hero in my electorate of Sandgate. Laurence Jeays passed away after a long battle with cancer at the Redcliffe Hospital Palliative Care Unit on the afternoon of Friday, 2 September, in the company of his wife and sister. The Jeays' name is a very storied one in Sandgate, but Laurie was the member of the clan with whom I had the most interaction. Laurie was a passionate community activist, driven by the values of community and conservation. Those values evolved through a life of achievement in construction, boat building, youth instruction, and his real first love, sailing. Those values are embodied in the Sandgate community and environment which he loved so dearly.

Laurie's legacy of local conservation includes the protection of the Deagon and Boondall wetlands. Laurie's passion for conservation was sparked by the proposal to develop the Deagon and Boondall wetlands after the Catholic Church land was sold to council. These remarkable wetlands, which span my electorate and those of the members for Nudgee and Clayfield, feature mangroves, grasslands, open forests and woodlands which support wildlife such as squirrel gliders, frogs, reptiles, sandpipers, kingfishers and rainbow bee-eaters. Laurie knew development on the wetlands would destroy its native ecosystem.


In the 1980s a proposed development of the wetlands ignited community and conservation uproar. Ken McEwan and Brian Hutchinson joined Laurie to form the Bramble Bay Consultative Committee in 1985. This committee fought to save the wetlands by successfully overturning a decision to dredge Cabbage Tree Creek in order to build a marina and high-rise foreshore buildings as well as blocking the frankly weird idea of a Bavarian style shopping centre at the Deagon Wetlands. As a result of Laurie's advocacy, the Boondall and Deagon wetlands were declared reserves in the early 1990s. Recently, former councillor for the Deagon ward and my current neighbour, Denise Herbert, remarked that Laurie was not a NIMBY but rather a man who always offered a solution. He never opposed something without an alternative, which brought him great respect from far and wide.

Laurie's outstanding community service continued for years thereafter. He worked with the Sandgate Historical Society and the Keep Sandgate Beautiful Association and, more recently, the Glider Alliance. Laurie was a founding member of the Einbunpin Festival committee in early the 1990s with Denise Herbert—a festival that is celebrated by thousands each year on Brisbane's north side, celebrating the unique character of the Sandgate community. He was also a board member of SANDBAG one of our vitally important community organisations.

A section of the foreshore park along Allpass Parade in Shorncliffe has been named Laurie Jeays Way. What a great dedication that is to him and his life. He fought tirelessly to preserve the Boondall Wetlands that we can see across Cabbage Tree Creek.

The community in my electorate is much the richer for Laurie's generous contributions and much poorer for his passing. Laurie is survived by his wife of almost 57 years, Margaret, and two daughters, Kyleigh and Tricia. I am sure that I speak on behalf of the Sandgate community in expressing our condolences to Laurie's family and friends. Vale Laurie Jeays.

Albert Electorate, Roads

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (7.01 pm): I rise tonight to speak on an issue of serious concern to many residents and emergency service providers throughout the northern Gold Coast and southern Logan City areas and, I am sure, other parts of Queensland. We are continuing to see considerable new development in the region as more people wish to call the northern Gold Coast and southern Logan City home. With this type of development we are placing more residents on smaller block sizes whilst still claiming it is low density.


This is substantiated with PDA guideline No. 5, neighbourhood planning and design, specifying that there is no minimum lot size in a PDA. As a consequence, we find ourselves with Legoland housing estates with narrow roadways. Adding to this issue is the occurrence of multiple family units residing at one address with limited room to park their vehicles. Therefore, they are forced to park their vehicles on the roadway, as parking a vehicle on a council verge is a fineable offence. The act states—

A driver must not stop on a bicycle path, footpath, shared path or dividing strip, or a nature strip adjacent to a length of road in a built-up area.

With reference to UDLA guideline No. 6, streets and movement networks, the width of a neighbourhood access street can vary between 7.5 metres and 5.5 metres. To provide a visual understanding, let us consider a VE Holden Commodore and a Toyota Hilux, both approximately 1.9 metres wide. If they were parked adjacent to one another in a local street, depending on how close they were parked to the gutter, it would make it incredibly difficult for other vehicles to traverse the carriageway. Imagine how difficult it would be for emergency vehicles, which can be up to 2.5 metres wide, to traverse these areas. It is nearly impossible for emergency vehicles to safely navigate these congested streets, potentially placing lives at risk. A fire truck requires a width of four metres for fire officers to access its appliances.

As more families are forced to live in one dwelling to combat escalating cost-of-living pressures, we are seeing more vehicles per residence. The days of one car per family are confined to history. With the cost of owning or renting a property, this situation of clogged streets will only be exacerbated over time, placing lives at risk and increasing the number of vehicles damaged due to sideswipes as vehicles pass along these thoroughfares. I ask the minister and his department to review this situation for the safety and security of our local communities.

Bundamba Electorate

 **Mrs JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.04 pm): In my electorate of Bundamba many people see an Australian economy that has simply failed to deliver what many people believe is a basic human right—that is, a steady living wage. Underemployment is a sleeping giant of social inequity in my local community. It outstrips unemployment and between the two it means that 20 per cent of our population is either unemployed or underemployed and not getting enough hours to get by, let alone get ahead.

In policy terms, this means a sharp slowdown on wages growth and weak inflation in the economy. What it means to many families is absolutely devastating. Not knowing week to week if they will get enough hours to pay the bills, let alone have enough to catch a movie with friends or a cup of tea with loved ones, is having a soul-destroying effect in my community.


Underemployment has increased by 40 per cent in the last four years and it hits women workers the hardest. It is not just one to two hours; the average need for extra hours is 15 hours per week. That is almost two extra days per week of work or \$300 a week for someone on \$20 an hour. That is substantial, it is life-changing and that gives people dignity in their work and their home life.

The uncertainty, the anxiety, the effect on their feelings of self-worth are exacerbated by the financial stress of being unemployed or underemployed to one in five of my local people. This even includes university graduates. I understand that about 26 per cent of those have under-utilised participation in the workforce.

Locally there have been millions of dollars invested in shopping centres in my electorate over recent years, but when 20 per cent of the population are not getting enough hours to get by then the shops, which are already under pressure from internet sales, will be hard-pressed to make a go of it. There are more window-shoppers than real shoppers. As my locals say, 'They're building more shops, but we've got no money to spend in them.' People feel like they have been left behind and they are getting angrier and angrier about it.

On behalf of the people of my electorate, when announcements are made in relation to jobs, can we please get more information? It might be nice to say that Adani is employing 10,000 people, but when is that going to happen? When is the Royal Children's Hospital refurbishment going to happen? We would like to ask for more information because if we do not get this information, when they go to get these jobs they are told that they do not exist and that makes them all feel worse.

Toogoom Esplanade Rock Wall; Political Donations

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (7.07 pm): I rise tonight to speak about being honest and up-front. Some people in this place in local government are absolutely honest and dedicated to doing the right thing. I am honest and up-front. Mr Speaker is honest and up-front. The member for Bundamba and the member for Southern Downs are honest and up-front, as are a number of others in this place.


This week in parliament I tabled an update on the Toogoom rock wall. My electorate has an ocean frontage and I would not want this cover-up in my electorate. The department has had oversight under both an LNP and ALP period of government, yet no-one is prepared to be honest and up-front. The cover-up must stop and that starts by being honest and up-front that both sides have had a hand in the failures. It is not a point-scoring issue, so just be honest and deal with the reality.

The other issues I tabled go to the heart of being honest and up-front when we nominate for public office. I am speaking about the reporting of electoral donations. If candidates cannot be honest and up-front from the outset, starting with their own transparency and accountability and attention to all of the relevant detail, then it will not be found in this House or around the council table. These concerns are justifiable, especially in the absence of accurate and timely disclosure.

Mr Speaker, like you and so many others, I want to see action on the important reforms necessary to make real-time reporting of donations happen in Queensland. We are so far away from that in Queensland because in 2016 we cannot even get accurate post-election disclosure. I sincerely want this to happen before the next state election, so today I have contacted the Parliamentary Counsel to at least discuss the legislative amendments that are necessary to ensure this occurs.

There has been enough talk. It is time to act and help more candidates to be honest and up-front. Let us be honest and up-front. I urge the government to move forward with real-time disclosures and meaningful penalties. We need to stop settling for less and stop the cover-ups.

Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (7.10 pm): The past few weeks have been full of good news for the electorate of Woodridge, and I am proud to share some of that news with the House today. Last Friday I visited Berrinba East State School to mark the 10th anniversary of the YMCA Schools' Breakfast Program. This invaluable breakfast program has supplied more than 2.5 million breakfasts to students with the aim of helping schoolchildren make the most of their education and to reduce the number of students disadvantaged by hunger and poor nutrition. This fantastic initiative was started by the late great Clem Jones AO. If there ever was a Labor legend, it was the former lord mayor of Brisbane, Clem Jones. I would like to pay tribute to him now for kickstarting this program in 2006 at five schools in the heart of the Woodridge electorate in the City of Logan, including Berrinba East State School.

I also want to put on the parliamentary record my thanks to other individuals and organisations who have contributed to this program over many years, including: Peter Johnstone, the CEO of the Clem Jones Group; David Muir, a board member of Foodbank Queensland; Ken McMillan, General Manager of Foodbank Queensland; Stan Bowes, Operations Manager for Tip Top, which is part of George Weston Foods; Daniel Mackay of Mackay's Marketing; Adam Brookes, Nathan Dodds and Diane Townsend from Coles Logan Central; Murray Watt, Managing Director of Management Options Pty Ltd; and Alan Bray, Gary Adsett and, in particular, Catherine Hannell, who all work for the YMCA. Catherine Hannell has supported this program and led the Schools' Breakfast Program for 10 years. In the 10-year period, with the backing of program supporters YMCA, this initiative has grown to support 88 schools across the south-east and is now providing more than 53,000 free nutritious breakfasts each month to more than 8,500 school students.


It is also my pleasure to inform the House that Logan Hospital's School Based Trainee Program has recently graduated its first cohort of students since the late 1990s—a milestone of which the hospital can definitely be proud and a program that I am delighted to support as the Minister for Health. I would like to see that program expanded. The seven successful school students were selected from 130 applicants to complete their certificate III, including 12 months of clinical experience at the hospital. I want to congratulate T'nyshe Fa'agase and Yean Te from Shailer Park State High School; Alexa Berry and Ella Firth from Trinity College; Mikayla Holyoake from Browns Plains State High School; and Kloe Schackow and Lydia Benea from Marsden State High School.

This program is run with the support of Metro South Hospital and Health Service, the Department of Education and Training, TAFE and the South East Health Pathways Alliance. I want to thank those groups for their contribution for creating education and employment pathways in health care for some of our youngest and brightest residents in the City of Logan.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Member for Chatsworth

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this morning I called on the member for Chatsworth to withdraw comments I thought he made. I understand the member did not make the comments. The member withdrew the comments, as requested. He did not argue the point with me and, as someone said, took one for the party. I apologise to the member for Chatsworth.

ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 7.13 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams