

# MIKE RANN

Premier  
Minister for Economic Development  
Social Inclusion  
The Arts  
Volunteers

---

## 1. REGIONAL TRAINING

<b>Portfolio:</b>	PREMIER & CABINET
<b>Budget Paper</b>	4
<b>Page:</b>	1.10
<b>Heading</b>	2004-05 TARGETS /2003-04 HIGHLIGHTS

### QUESTION

Which regional staff will receive greater access to leadership and management development at all levels?

Who is being targeted? What for?

*This Question was asked by the Leader of the Opposition Rob Kerin*

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** The 2004-05 targets on page 110 include providing greater access for regional staff to access leadership and management development to all levels. Which regional staff will be targeted to receive greater access to leadership and management development?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Staff in regions have communicated a concern about difficulty in accessing leadership and management development activities. In the past, the OCPE has offered financial support to regional staff to attend the public sector management program. During 2004-05, the OCPE will increase the type and amount of support to staff in rural regions. The nature of this support will be determined after consultation with agencies. Options include greater financial support to regional staff, better marketing of development options to regional staff and, where feasible, taking programs to regional locations.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 16 June 2004)

## **2. FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

<b>Portfolio:</b>	MINISTER FOR VOLUNTEERS
<b>Budget Paper</b>	4
<b>Page:</b>	1.14
<b>Heading</b>	Program Information

### **QUESTION**

Given the government's promotion and rhetoric about support of volunteering, and noting that the budget has been reduced annually, what funding will be spent to provide for cadet CFS personnel for training, uniforms and the like.

The numbers of volunteers in our communities are reducing because they are not being adequately supported.

***A similar question was asked by Liberal Member for Light Malcolm Buckby***

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Premier, you might have to get this information; you might not have it to hand. How much expenditure has been allocated in 2004-05 for the volunteer training and volunteer support of the CFS volunteers, and are there any CFS volunteers being replaced by paid staff in CFS brigades?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** That is through Emergency Services. I provided an answer before on training programs provided for volunteers, but maybe in the emergency services area.

**Ms RANKINE:** Yes, their volunteering is not funded through the Office of Volunteers.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 16 June 2004)

# KEVIN FOLEY

Treasurer

Deputy Premier

Minister for Police

Federal/State Relations

Assisting the Premier in Economic Development

---

## 1. ELECTORATE OFFICE STAFFING

**Portfolio:** TREASURY & FINANCE

**Budget Paper** 4

**Page:** 3.1

**Heading** Workforce summary

### QUESTION

The number of full time equivalent employees has risen from 523 in 2002-03 to 607 in 2004-05. How many electorate office staff have been increased in rural electorate offices.

Electorate office staff were increased by an additional FTE in all city electorate offices but no extra staffing for country offices e.g. Flinders.

***This question was asked by Liberal member for Morialta, Joan Hall***

**Mrs HALL:** I have two specific questions from the hard working member for Flinders that she particularly wanted asked of the Treasurer. I refer to page 3.1 under the heading 'Electorate office staffing'. The member's question is as follows:

The number of full-time equivalent employees has risen from 523 in 2002-03 to 607 in 2004-05. How many electorate office staff have been increased in rural electorate offices? Electorate office staff were increased by an additional full-time employee in all city electorates but no extra staffing for country officers was permitted, specifically the electorate of Flinders.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I am happy to obtain that information. One of the reasons why I felt we should increase the number of electorate staff in our city offices was that I thought there was an unfair workload on our single staff and that it was an occupational health and safety issue. The member for Flinders had a large staff contingency—and for very good reason, because she is a hard working member with a large geographical area. Quite frankly, I think the member for Flinders benefited from an imbalance in the system of staffing that was provided to members of parliament. There were anomalies. I think that until recently my colleague the member for Giles had just a suburban complement, and I had to increase her staff. I may be wrong about that. The member for Stuart had a different number. There was inequity in the way in which staff were allocated, particularly for regional and rural members, that I thought needed to be fixed.

If the member for Flinders is being critical of the government for giving extra resources to metropolitan members and some country members and not to her she is being a bit cheeky, because I think one will see that she has benefited over a longer period from increased resources which a number of rural members did not have and which, certainly, suburban members did not have. I will obtain a more detailed answer, but I think the member for Flinders is being a little cheeky on this one.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 16 June 2004)

## 2. RIVER MURRAY REHABILITATION FUND

<b>Portfolio:</b>	TREASURY & FINANCE
<b>Budget Paper</b>	4
<b>Page:</b>	3.22
<b>Heading</b>	Administered items for department T&F

### QUESTION

\$19m will be raised to the RML. How will these funds be spent and when will a report of monies spent be available.

How much has been collected by the River Murray Levy from Eyre Peninsula Council areas?

When will the River Murray Levy be lifted?

*NB: Letter from Michael Wright received 27 May 2004. Second para starts: "As indicated in my predecessor's response to your constituent, the levy is a revenue-raising initiative and is not intended to be a water conservation measure."*

***This question was asked by Liberal Member for Morialta, Joan Hall***

**Mrs HALL:** I have another question from my colleague the member for Flinders. I refer to page 3.22 under the heading 'Administered items for departments. Treasury and Finance'. The subject is the River Murray Rehabilitation Fund and her question is as follows: \$19 million is going to be raised by the RML. How will these funds be spent and when will a report of moneys spent be available?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I think I know where the member is coming from there, being from Eyre Peninsula. That question would be better directed to the Minister for Environment and Conservation, who has ministerial authority for that fund and can explain how it is being spent. We just raise it, I assume, through SA Water. The question is better directed to minister Hill.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 16 June 2004)

### 3. CFS MFS FACILITIES

<b>Portfolio:</b>	EMERGENCY SERVICES
<b>Budget Paper</b>	4 Volume 1
<b>Page:</b>	4.65
<b>Heading</b>	Country Fire Service

#### QUESTION

Given the governments objectives to achieve more cost effective delivery of emergency services, what is the current status of the proposed CFS MFS building in Port Lincoln and what is the estimated completion date?

#### *Similar question asked by Shadow Minister for Police, Robert Brokenshire*

**Mr BROKENSHERE:** As a point of clarification, I seek the minister's guidance on what was a policy when I was police minister. With respect to the status of police stations, that is, either removal of one or building a new police station, ultimately, governments have the say on budgets for new police stations and facilities. The minister has invited me (and I will take the opportunity when appropriate) to write to the Commissioner rather than the minister. As the minister has said many times in the chamber, certain issues are the responsibility of the Commissioner and certain issues are for him.

I therefore write to the Commissioner on matters that I see as operational, and I will continue to do that. However, with respect to this policy that we had, will the minister confirm that it would be his policy to confer and consult with local members, of whatever political colour, prior to a final decision being made about, first, where a police station may be located and, secondly, the closing of a police station because it has been determined to locate a police station in another part of that region? For example, in my own electorate there are matters concerning the review of Willunga policing. Would the minister agree that local members should have an opportunity to be briefed by either himself or the Commissioner on that matter?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I will answer that as best I can, and the Commissioner may wish to add to it. First, I am looking at the fact that we are building police stations at Mount Barker, Gawler, Victor Harbor and Port Lincoln. The truth is that I do not know whether I have changed any policy from what the honourable member had. I have not considered what the honourable member's policy was. I operate in a reasonably cautious way, and with something like these stations—and I have listed new stations at Mount Barker, Gawler, Victor Harbor and Port Lincoln—it would not automatically come to mind that I would consult with the local member as to the location of a police station given that these are PPPs and, to a large extent, the market will dictate the location of these sites.

Out of courtesy, I would brief the local member if I thought that a specific issue was involved. I do not think that, for example, the member for Kavel would necessarily have a view about whether the police station at Mount Barker was located at one end of the street or the other. He may have a view if it was located in Hahndorf or Littlehampton, and that may be something that I would choose to discuss with the local member. However, I am not saying that I would. I would not, as a matter of course, want to have extensive dialogue with a local member as to where local stations were located, primarily because I would not expect the police to have extensive consultation with me.

I mean, we would consult but I do not believe that it is my job to tell police where they should be building police stations. My view would be that, wherever possible, we should act on the advice of the Police Commissioner on these matters. That is not to say that—and I am being quite upfront about this, because politics is the business we are in—there may well be reasons why governments choose to build a police station; that it may be a priority of the government that is not necessarily a priority of the

Police Commissioner. We should identify those priorities and those programs if and when they ever eventuate.

I think the Commissioner would be correct in expecting the government to resource that accordingly. To date we have not had that situation on which I can comment either privately or publicly. I have to say that members on my side are lobbying me for police stations, and there are members on the honourable member's side lobbying me for police stations but, ultimately, the decision must be governed by what is good policing. If the argument for a police station can fit within the principles of good policing, then perhaps the body politic and the police can be at one on it; if we are not we will be upfront about that, but, at this point, I have not seen such a situation developing.

I know that the members for Wright and Florey have discussed with me the issue of policing in the north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide. I am sorry; I am rambling a bit.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 17 June 2004)

# PATRICK CONLON

Minister for Infrastructure  
Energy  
Emergency Services

---

## 1. GAS FULL RETAIL COMPETITION

<b>Portfolio:</b>	ENERGY
<b>Budget Paper</b>	4 Volume 1
<b>Page:</b>	3.32
<b>Heading</b>	Statement of cash flows

### QUESTION

What is the return on investment for the \$64.5m of taxpayers money being paid to private companies to implement gas Full Retail Competition in South Australia?

*This question was asked by Liberal member for Schubert, Ivan Venning*

**Mr VENNING:** My question relates to gas for retail competition, and I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 3.4, 'Highlights'. Reference is made to the setting aside of \$64.5 million to help shield gas customers from the costs associated with the implementation of gas for retail competition. How was that \$64.5 million calculated as being necessary, and to which organisations was each component to be paid?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I cannot give the details at present because we are concluding arrangements with the organisations. One of the organisations involved is REMCo. That is a market company that had to be set up (like NEMMCO for the electricity market) from scratch between ourselves and Western Australia to run the gas market. The second company has substantial capital costs—and we are talking about capital costs for retail competition. That company is Envestra, the gas distribution company, which has to incur significant capitalisation of complex costs arising from FRC. Those are the two companies that have to expend substantial money to introduce full retail competition.

Some parts of those costs are pretty clear. Capital costs are a lot easier to discern, for example, than what should be the returns to a retailer operating prudently in the market, which is always a measure of analysis. What we do know is the cost of setting up REMCo—frankly, that is a cost from scratch—and the verifiable costs of Envestra. Our estimate would be that they were around that mark. Of course, it is up to the Essential Services Commission to undertake the program of analysing those, and I understand that that is virtually done. We are progressing, and I would expect by the end of this week to finalise those costs with the companies concerned.

I can indicate at this point that it may well be that, for reasons that I can give perhaps next week, the cost for REMCo will be paid through Envestra for reasons of mutuality associated with the REMCo organisation. I can give all that detail next week, but it is about the actual capital and additional capitalisation of FRC operational costs. Very simply put, gas competition was something that had to be done after going to electricity competition, and it was our view that it was an obligation imposed on us that we would have to impose on South Australians, but, while we believe we had to meet our obligation and move to gas FRC, we believed that it was not appropriate and that we should shoulder the burden of the cost of FRC rather than impose it on gas customers. That was a decision that we were able to make and one that I am very happy having made.

**Mr VENNING:** Minister, are you able to tell us how much money has been spent?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** No. I do not think it will be much short of 64.5. I mean—

**Mr VENNING:** Already?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** It is not already. I can tell the parliament next week, in fact, because we will be able to finalise the final figures, but it is a lump of money for the cost of introducing full retail competition. I point out that, because it is capitalisation of costs, we spent a substantial proportion this financial year, although the vast bulk of it should be finalised this week. What I cannot talk about is just where we are at in finalising particularly with the gas distribution company.

**Mr VENNING:** Minister, are you saying that, of the 64.5, most will be appropriated in 2003-04?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** That is right. I think it appears that way in the budget figures.

**Mr VENNING:** Does the minister think that the whole of the money will be required?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I think the vast majority of it will be, if not all. I will not say too much about that, but, at the end of the day, these things are clearly verifiable. I mean, capital costs, as I say, are a little simpler to verify. You have to understand what would have happened if we did not do this. By law, the Essential Services Commission would have identified the cost of FRC to the gas distribution company and the cost of REMCo, and it would have passed them on in the retail price of gas. They would have analysed them and then passed them on. What occurs in this process is that ESCOSA analyses them, then we pay the companies for them instead of allowing them to recover it over a five or 10-year period, or whatever ESCOSA thought was the appropriate period. It is natural that the bulk of it will be spent in this financial year.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 17 June 2004)

# RORY MCEWEN

Minister for Agriculture/Food & Fisheries  
State/Local Government Relations  
Forests

---

## 1. CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS

<b>Portfolio:</b>	ENERGY
<b>Budget Paper</b>	4 Volume 2
<b>Page:</b>	5.6
<b>Heading</b>	Targets 2004-05 Energy

### QUESTION

What electricity concessions does the government intend to offer for single pensioners?

Currently married and defacto couples are entitled to electricity concessions however this concession is not afforded to people who live alone.

### A similar question was asked by Liz Penfold

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I have a supplementary question, although it may be that it is another minister's responsibility. I understand that the electricity concession has not been applicable to those people in single households. If you are in a married or de facto relationship you can get electricity concessions, but if you are in a single-person household I understand they are not applicable. Will it change that position?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** No, this extends the existing concessions to commonwealth senior health card holders.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** There is no extension to single households?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** This relates only to commonwealth senior health card holders.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 23 June 2004)

## 2. MISA PROJECT

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Primary Industries & Resources
<b>Budget Paper</b>	6
<b>Page:</b>	12
<b>Heading</b>	Primary Industries – Marine Innovation SA

### Question

Will the Marine Innovations SA project be given major project status to ensure it goes ahead without any delays, and if not, why not.

NOT ASKED BUT MENTIONED BY THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS:

### **A section taken from the Minister's opening statement**

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Over the four years in the forward estimates period, the government has provided over \$50 million in new initiative funding for the portfolio. The single largest initiative is the exciting new MISA project with an additional \$7.7 million over four years (or \$13.7 million over five years), which I was delighted to announce in Port Lincoln yesterday; and I acknowledge the work the member for Flinders has done in terms of promoting MISA and its significance to Port Lincoln. It will be provided by the state government to support the expansion of ecologically sustainable developments in South Australia's fishing, aquaculture and marine eco-tourism industries through the Marine Innovation SA (MISA) project.

MISA will help to ensure that we have the knowledge base to underpin these developments so that we can achieve the targeted doubling in the value of seafood industries to \$1 billion per annum by 2010. I might add that yesterday others were even more optimistic than the \$1 billion, and they are setting the bar as high as \$1.5 billion. Sir Eric Neal, representing Flinders University, was part of that joint announcement yesterday. It also conserves and protects the environment on which these industries rely. The state government and Flinders University, in partnership with the commonwealth government, other universities, the South Australian Museum and industry are planning to spend an additional \$15 million over the next four years (or \$25.8 million over five years) on R&D and associated infrastructure to support marine innovation programs.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 23 June 2004)

### **Part of a response to a question asked by another member**

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Yesterday when I was launching MISA I had to say that I cannot claim a lot of credit for it, but I have come in on the tail end of an enormous amount of work that has been done over a long time. I had to put on the record the amazing amount of work that Liz Penfold has done, particularly in terms of Port Lincoln, keeping in mind that West Beach and other things are part of that. Equally, of course, I acknowledged the work of Flinders University; I mentioned Adelaide University in my opening remarks and there is also the Museum, the commonwealth government and the CRC. There is a lot of money that is in programs that are buried in MISA or complemented by what is happening at MISA. In terms of where money sits over the next four and five years and who is making which contributions where, I will ask Mr Knight to run through that table.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 23 June 2004)

**A section taken from the Minister's opening statement**

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** Another important initiative is a \$12.9 million, not directly in my portfolio, total investment to support ecologically sustainable development of South Australian fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecotourism, through the Marine Innovation SA initiative. This initiative, to be implemented by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), to be undertaken in partnership with universities, industry and the CSIRO, targets the aquaculture industry in R&D, technology, transfer and education. Overall, the Science and Technology Innovation Directorate (being part of DFEEST) has an expenditure budget of approximately \$20 million for 2004-05 whose component parts include the Premier's Science and Research Fund, and related STI support resources, and also funds supporting the development of the state's broadband infrastructure development and ICT industry.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 21 June 2004)

**A section taken from the Minister's opening statement**

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** We also have the new Marine Innovation SA initiative which will help South Australia achieve the targeted doubling in the value of the seafood industry to \$1 billion per annum by 2010, and it will help ensure that these economic gains are obtained through the sustainable use of the natural environment upon which the industry relies. That is a program of \$12.9 million over four years.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 18 June 2004)

# MICHAEL WRIGHT

Minister for Administrative Services  
Industrial Relations  
Recreation, Sport & Racing  
Gambling

---

## 1. WORKS IN PROGRESS

<b>Portfolio:</b>	SA WATER
<b>Budget Paper</b>	5
<b>Page:</b>	43
<b>Heading</b>	SA Water Corporation

### QUESTION

- Can the Minister advise the cost of desalination trials that have been undertaken at the Tod Reservoir near Port Lincoln? (Project reduced from \$32 million to \$27 million. What happened to the difference?)

***This question was asked by Liz Penfold***

- Is the Tod Reservoir capable of filling 100% or is there a fault, causing capacity to be significantly reduced?

***This question was asked by Liz Penfold***

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Referring to Budget Paper No. 5, page 43, can the minister advise the cost of desalination trials that have been undertaken at the Todd reservoir near Port Lincoln and can he also advise whether the Todd reservoir is capable of filling to 100 per cent or is there a fault in the wall causing capacity to be significantly reduced?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** The advice that I have received is that we would need to get for you the cost of the trial so far. It is part of the \$25 million that is in the budget, but I do not have the cost of the trial so far. In regard to the second part of the question, the advice that I have been given is that there is no restriction on the filling of the dam.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 22 June 2004)

## 2. FOREGONE INCOME

<b>Portfolio:</b>	SA WATER
<b>Budget Paper</b>	5
<b>Page:</b>	48
<b>Heading</b>	SA Water Corporation

### QUESTION

What has the government done about amending 1870 legislation that excuses the Adelaide City Council and the Port Adelaide Enfield Council areas from receiving their water free?

*This question was asked by Liz Penfold*

**Mrs PENFOLD:** My question relates to Budget Paper 5, page 48. What has the government done about amending the 1870 legislation that excuses Adelaide City Council and Port Adelaide Enfield council areas from receiving their water free?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Discussions are taking place with respect to that issue. Primarily, that is being undertaken under minister Hill's portfolio responsibility. Having said that, whether it relates to this particular issue or other issues, both minister Hill and I, and representatives from other departments, meet on a regular basis. Obviously, it is important that, whether it be this issue or other issues, we take a global approach to these issues. Discussions are currently under way. I am not sure how advanced they are, but certainly discussions are under way.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** It was announced in *The Advertiser* some months ago; that is where I read about it.

*Ms Ciccarello interjecting:*

**Mrs PENFOLD:** It makes people in my electorate angry, because they have been conserving water for many years.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 22 June 2004)

### 3. OPERATING PERFORMANCE

<b>Portfolio:</b>	SA Water
<b>Budget Paper</b>	3
<b>Page:</b>	6.3
<b>Heading</b>	SA Water

#### QUESTION

What additional staff will SA Water employ on Eyre Peninsula to assist staff, some of whom now work for up to approximately 33 hours straight in attending to breakages and other issues?

SA Water has provided approx \$250 million revenue to the State. How much of this will be put into additional employees.

*This question was asked by Liz Penfold*

**Mrs PENFOLD:** As a supplementary question, what additional staff, if any, is SA Water employing on Eyre Peninsula to assist the existing staff, some of whom have been working up to 33 hours straight attending to breakages and other issues across the electorate?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** No additional staff, but we use contractors to supplement our existing staff and will continue to do so.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 22 June 2004)

#### **4. OPERATING PERFORMANCE**

<b>Portfolio:</b>	SA Water
<b>Budget Paper</b>	3
<b>Page:</b>	6.3
<b>Heading</b>	SA Water

#### **QUESTION**

Can the Minister advise the cost – if any – of prevention measures undertaken at Ceduna to ensure that there will be no pipe bursts in the coming summer?

*This question was asked by Liz Penfold*

**Mrs PENFOLD:** In relation to Budget Paper 3, page 6.3, will the minister advise the cost of prevention measures undertaken on Eyre Peninsula, in particular at Ceduna, to ensure that there will be fewer pipe bursts in the coming summer?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** I do not have the detail of the costs but I can check that, and I will be happy to provide additional information, if that is possible. The honourable member would be aware that some solid work is being undertaken. Obviously, this is an important issue and a sensitive one. I think that more work needs to be done to ultimately come forward with a foolproof solution, but the advice I have received is that the pressure reducing valve is being planned for next summer.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 22 June 2004)

## 5. Community Recreation & Sports Facilities Program?

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Recreation and sport
<b>Budget Paper</b>	Budget Paper 3 We don't have the appropriate Portfolio book
<b>Page:</b>	4.18
<b>Heading</b>	Administrative and Information Services

### QUESTION

Have the criteria changed for the distribution of grants from gaming revenue that is distributed to sport and recreation groups under the Community and Recreation Sports Facilities Program?

*This question was asked by Shadow Minister for Sport & Recreation Duncan McFetridge*

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I would like to say what a pleasure it is to have the shadow portfolio of sport and recreation. The opportunities are tremendous for all South Australians. We know that sport and recreation is an integral part of everyone's lifestyle and should be encouraged. As the minister has just said in his opening statement, this is something that not only the government but all members of parliament would be quite bipartisan in encouraging. I thank the officers of the Office for Recreation and Sport and the minister for his cooperation in allowing me to get a bit of a grip on what is going on in the rapidly advancing areas of recreation and sport. Phil and Jenny have been very helpful there and I thank them for that. The members and executive of Recreation SA and Sport SA have been very good, as have many other sporting organisations, and I am thoroughly enjoying this portfolio.

We recognise the fact that, this year with the Olympics, there is a huge focus on sport, not only just locally but internationally. The Commonwealth Games are coming up and South Australia will be hosting the Police and Emergency Services Games, the third biggest sporting event in the world, in 2007. So we have a lot to look forward to and some questions will be asked. Today my main aim will be to seek clarification and explanation rather than confrontation, as it should be in areas like this where we can all go forward, because we all want the best for the community.

I refer to Budget Paper 3, page 4.18. Have the criteria changed for the distribution of grants from gaming revenue that is distributed to sport and recreation groups under the Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** With the fund that you referred to, the Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program, there have been some changes as a result of the review process. I will summarise those for you. Perhaps to put this in context, one of the things that we said in the lead-up to the last election was that we would do a review of all our grant funding. The reason that we thought that was important was because we wanted to ensure, right through our grant funding, that we were achieving the best possible outcomes and that we had the right criteria. A committee was put in place and, to the best of my memory, Sport SA and Recreation SA joined us in being a part of that review process of all the grant funding.

In a general sense they made recommendations to me. I accepted most of them, but not all of them and one I will draw to your attention in a moment in regard to this fund. That is just the general process we pursued in regard to all of the grant funding. With this program you asked about—community recreation sports facilities programs—if there is anything to add we would be happy to do so. I have just been reminded that in regard to that program it was recommended to me that the program principle be changed to read, 'to ensure the provision of sustainable facilities that meet community needs'. I accepted that recommendation.

It was also recommended to me that the maximum funding amount for regional level facilities be increased to \$500 000. I accepted that recommendation in part. I thought \$500 000 was a bit high and

was concerned that, if it was at that level, obviously there is only a certain amount of money to go around, irrespective of who is in government. So, I did not accept that in its entirety. Ultimately, we increased the level of funding to \$300 000, which is the maximum. I think under the previous government it may have been \$150 000, so there is a tweaking there. How many get the \$300 000 will depend on the quality of the application, but I guess my thinking in that regard was that if something were outstanding it would be a pity that through a ceiling of \$150 000 it was not able to go ahead, particularly if it was of significance and importance for a regional area, and that does not just refer to country areas.

It was recommended that an annual fixed application period be introduced, and that was accepted. It was recommended that the project eligibility criteria be broadened to include the funding of feasibility studies, and that was accepted. I thought that was important. This is formalising that. The former minister may be able to advise on this. I am not saying necessarily that it could not occur previously, but we have formalised that, because I could see its importance and it may well be that organisations need to do a feasibility study before going to the next step of coming forward with a worthwhile application to this fund. So, it is a worthwhile recommendation and has been accepted. The existing assessment criteria being amended to include the use of appropriate socioeconomic indicators when assessing the need for the project within the community was accepted as well.

They are all important, but the critical ones were the lifting of the maximum amount of funding that could be received under this and the inclusion of a feasibility study. We have also tried with the grant funding to give some certainty to the organisation so that each year, whether it be this fund or all our other funding programs, generally speaking we go out at the same time every year so that organisations in the sporting and recreational community are aware that at this time of the year that program will be called for. We will have certainty throughout the calendar year for all of our programs in the future.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 22 June 2004)

# TRISH WHITE

Minister for Transport  
Urban Development & Planning  
Science & Information Economy

---

## 1. UNSEALED RURAL ARTERIAL ROADS

<b>Portfolio:</b>	TRANSPORT
<b>Budget Paper</b>	Portfolio Budget Paper 4 Volume 3
<b>Page:</b>	8.28
<b>Heading</b>	Access for regional Rural and remote communities

### QUESTION

Where will the \$1million that has been allocated in the budget for unsealed rural arterial roads be spent? How many roads and what length are left to be sealed?

*A similar question was asked by Liberal Member for Newland, Dorothy Kotz*

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** This government has, in most of its budget papers and in most of its projects, looked at four-year projects. This is a huge budgeted allocation. It is an extremely important project for this state. We have seen rural roads funding cut to absolute abysmal numbers, and here we have an amount of \$73 million now expended, and there is \$1 million put in for this year, and no expectation for further years' allocation, minister. That would be an absolute disgrace if that was the case.

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** The honourable member's statement that rural road funding has been cut is not correct at all. The premise she seems to be taking is that I should know, ahead of time, what is going to be in next year's budget. The government has allocated \$1 million in this budget for the unsealed rural arterials.

The member's question is about next year's budget, in 2005-06. As I say, that is a matter for next year's budget.

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** Rural roads do not have any money in the forward estimates from this government, and you as minister cannot give an answer to that. Has it been looked at?

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** The member might recall that in the previous budget it was announced that that program was coming to an end. It has a \$1 million allocation in this budget, and that is the situation.

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** It is disgraceful.

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** That is not the total amount of funding on rural roads by any means. We have a shoulder sealing program, a state black spot program, an overtaking lanes program, and a road safety program that is putting extra funding into rural roads. We have individual programs funded in our capital works program and we have a maintenance program. So, for the member to infer that the total allocation to rural roads is \$1 million is not correct.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 21 June 2004)

## **2. RAIL UPGRADE ON EYRE PENINSULA**

<b>Portfolio:</b>	TRANSPORT
<b>Budget Paper</b>	Portfolio Budget PAPER 4 Volume 3
<b>Page:</b>	8.27 and 8.28 or 8.34 and 8.38
<b>Heading</b>	Maintaining freight competitiveness

### **QUESTION**

Can the Minister advise when funding will be provided to upgrade the railway on Eyre Peninsula from the State fund set aside for such assistance from the Sale of Rail assets?

Rail is the most environmentally friendly means of moving large tonnages of freight. NB: Tram (Glenelg?) over budget

*A similar question was asked by Labor member for Giles, Lyn Bruer which mentioned Eyre Peninsula's freight network.*

**Ms BREUER:** With respect to the implementation of the state freight strategy (Budget Paper 4, Vol. 3, page 8.55 under 'Targets—freight'), will the minister explain how the government is supporting the freight industry in South Australia?

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** The government is maintaining and fostering safe and efficient freight networks as a key component of the state's economy. It is key to our exports and our infrastructure. In the current financial year, my department has been working on developing a freight strategy in close consultation with key members of the industry, principally the South Australian Freight Council. The process is nearing completion, and it is our intention to come forward with the strategy in this next financial year. We are interested in holding a freight strategy forum to address some of its key challenges and to facilitate its implementation. This will be done, of course, in conjunction with the freight industry, various sectors of the government and, indeed, the community, which has an interest as well. Similarly, the South Australian government continues to support industry freight logistics improvements through its funding for and support of the South Australian Freight Council. That peak freight body has about 100 members, I understand, representing an estimated 10 000 businesses in South Australia, and it covers all modes of transport.

The government is further assisting industry by providing seed funding through the council for the establishment of a national cold chain centre in Adelaide. That centre will provide practical solutions to industry cold chain logistics problems by harnessing research and education and training resources here in South Australia and Australia to find practical and affordable solutions. This will significantly improve our perishable food export competitiveness and, again, support the Premier's State Food Strategy.

Similarly, in March, the Premier announced a major infrastructure plan of more than \$300 million in value, and the aim of that plan is to integrate road, rail and shipping infrastructure at Port Adelaide to make South Australia's export industries more competitive.

**Mr VENNING:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** I thank the honourable member for Schubert for his support, because it is an important project—an exciting project that will not only rejuvenate that section of town in terms of its support for freight but it is a very intensive and important fillip for the construction industry as well. My department is also progressing the first stage of construction of the Port River Expressway from South Road at Wingfield to the Gillman area. Tenders, as I have outlined, have been called for the

construction of stage 2 of this project, which will extend this new road across the Port River onto the Le Fevre Peninsula to join up with Victoria Road on the peninsula, and stage 3, which will realign the freight railway line across the Port River on another new bridge. These works are expected to be completed at the end of 2006. While the Auslink announcement did not provide that funding until after these are intended to be completed, I hope that will be renegotiated with the commonwealth government.

The state government has also announced an allocation of \$20 million for the upgrade of the Le Fevre rail freight corridor, and that upgraded corridor will connect the new rail bridge across the Port River along the peninsula to the upgraded export facilities at Outer Harbor. That work will provide modern infrastructure capable of carrying the expected large increases in rail freight at a higher speed and with greater safety to the port. Again, it is planned that these works will be funded in partnership with the commonwealth government and the owner of the track, the Australian Rail Track Corporation.

Furthermore, in the South-East, the government has committed to seeing this important region reconnected to the national rail network. We have set aside funds to trigger private sector investment in the project and are taking a cross-border approach to make that happen.

***On the Eyre Peninsula, our government agencies are working with the Eyre Peninsula Development Board, local government, the grain and freight industry and the South Australian Freight Council to identify necessary improvements of not only the narrow gauge rail network but also the total freight logistics system there. Obviously, that is aimed at enhancing our grain exports, but it is also to result in better use of the Eyre Peninsula freight network.***

***To provide better access for industry to take advantage of lower cost road transport, the government has developed an extensive network of roads that can be used by B-doubles. Moreover, to assist the operators of restricted access vehicles—that is, the B-doubles, road trains and related vehicle combinations—my department recently adopted a policy aimed at gazetting those heavy vehicles that previously required permits to be obtained by operators annually.***

My department is also currently undertaking a project in relation to heavy vehicle access in conjunction with local government and industry that is aimed at significantly improving the regulatory regime under which heavy vehicles operate on the state's road network. All those strategies, initiatives and programs that I have just talked about are geared towards encouraging economic growth in South Australia through a freight network that is efficient, affordable and also, importantly, safe.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 21 June 2004)

# JANE LOMAX-SMITH

Minister for Education & Children's Services  
Tourism

---

## 1. CEDUNA AREA SCHOOL

<b>Portfolio:</b>	EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
<b>Budget Paper</b>	5
<b>Page:</b>	34
<b>Heading</b>	New works

### QUESTION

Can the Minister advise why the funding for Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Ceduna Area School is not mentioned in the budget papers?

What has happened to the \$1 million of federal funding received for the project in 2001-02. Will the interest from the \$1 million be added to the project which was scaled down by the present government from \$5 million to \$3.9 million, both amounts including the \$1 million of federal funds.

In letters from two constituents this week I have been advised ...

I personally would not like to send children I may have in the future to Ceduna Area School where numerous signs can be seen which read "WARNING: this building contains asbestos" and the ceilings are caving in. It was promised that the new school would be finished by June 2004 – as yet there are insufficient funds to start building anything.

Ceduna Area School is a health issue for our child. We have a 5 year old boy who is an Asthmatic who started school at Ceduna Area School at the beginning of first term of 2004 in reception. Prior to starting at the school his medication was keeping his asthma symptoms under control, since starting school we have had to increase his medication to control his asthma symptoms.

***This question was asked by Liz Penfold***

**Mrs PENFOLD:** My question relates to Budget Paper 5, page 47, relating to capital works. I would like to know about the Ceduna Area School Can the minister advise what progress has been made to date to complete stage one of the Ceduna Area School? And perhaps I can ask a supplementary question at the same time about whether the administration building will still be included in stage one, as was originally planned.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As you know, we announced a \$3.9 million redevelopment of Ceduna Area School—

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Except that it did not occur in this budget. It disappeared in this budget.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is carry-over.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** It did not seem to be there, either.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The carry-overs do not appear in the same way—the money is there. It has not disappeared.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** That will be very nice. Plus the \$1 million from the federal government plus the interest for four years, I hope.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The total amount is \$3.9 million.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Including the \$1 million plus interest from the federal funding?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** That is included, I understand.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** It should be \$2.9 million from the state and \$1 million from the federal government, making \$3.9 million, plus you have had the \$1 million from the federal government for four years now. That should be about \$0.25 million, which I am hoping will pay for that administration—

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not understand that that is how it happens. The money goes into allocated funding for the school. There is no question of paying interest.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Well, it was allocated for the Ceduna Area School and I would have thought that, seeing that it has not been used for four years—

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am advised that it is not with interest.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Are we getting the administrative building in stage one, as it was originally planned?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not have that level of detail to hand, but I am advised that there will be 10 new classrooms, support spaces, a new school community library, landscaping and the removal of surplus DEMAC accommodation.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** By what date?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It has gone to tender, and we are still working on finalising the project.

**Ms RIEDSTRA:** Some initial work is planned for the July school holidays. The intention is to have the classroom accommodation ready for the start of the next school year.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I understood that the tender was way over and that it was going to be looked at again and reassessed.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Is this the matter related to the new modular format?

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Yes. I came and saw you about it.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The modular format seems to be the way we are progressing. The school community will approve the design and the shape of the building.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Will the tender go to the person who originally tendered, or is it to be re-tendered? What will happen?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** No. The original tender, as I understand it, was for a different style building. The new tender for the modular design will be a different tender process.

**Ms RIEDSTRA:** That is currently under negotiation.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is one that can be done very quickly, because it is a quicker construction form. That is why it will be ready by the beginning of next year.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** So, it is a preferred tender. Can I ask about the stages for the middle and upper schools at Ceduna, because that is a very sub-standard school with DEMAC classrooms put there many years ago?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As I understand it, those extra schools are not on the program at the moment.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I think I have more Aboriginal students in my electorate than in any other part of the state. This particular school has—

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not think it corresponds to another stage of this development.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** It is just very unfortunate that this school is not being progressed.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is one that can be assessed for future works, but it is not a later stage of this development; it is a different project, as I understand it.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 21 June 2004)

## **2. SCHOOL BUSES**

<b>Portfolio:</b>	EDUATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
<b>Budget Paper</b>	5
<b>Page:</b>	38
<b>Heading</b>	Capital Works

### **QUESTION:**

**Mrs Penfold:** My question relates to Budget Paper 5, page 38, capital works. Which schools are to receive a replacement bus for their school transport services program and will all area schools be guaranteed to receive at least one departmental bus?

**The Hon J.D LOMAX SMITH:** I am afraid I do not have that information on hand. I will take it on notice.

**Mrs Penfold:** I have a supplementary question. Do any of the schools have local transport or bus services available and, if so, has any feasibility been undertaken to contract these services to provide school bus transport? If not, why not?

**The Hon J.D LOMAX SMITH:** That is an operational matter. I will pass that over to the CEO. They are not contracted out.

**Mrs Penfold:** Not all of them.

**The Hon J.D LOMAX SMITH:** We will have to take it on notice.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 21 June 2004)

### **3. SCHOOL BUSES - CONTRACTORS**

<b>Portfolio:</b>	EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
<b>Budget Paper</b>	5
<b>Page:</b>	2.37
<b>Heading</b>	Capital Works

#### **Question**

**Mrs Penfold:** My question relates to the same Budget Paper, page 2.37, regarding school buses again, this time contractors. What action has been taken to amend the current index used to calculate payments to contractors of school bus services to more accurately reflect the costs incurred by school bus operators?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Flinders for her question. She has shown a great deal of interest in the difficulties regional students have in getting to their schools. Some school bus operators indicated that they think the index used by DECS to adjust their contract rates does not reflect the increased costs of running their businesses, and this dates back to 1998 when the Bus and Coach Association was part of a working party that reviewed the index. It was representing school bus operators and at that time they agreed to all parts of this index, including the fuel component and method of payment for wage increases.

In 2000, after agreement with the Bus and Coach Association, fixed term service agreements were initiated for five years, with a five-year right of renewal. The new contracts were established and agreed to by the BCA (Bus and Coach Association), and these included specific details of the index by which the contract remuneration would be adjusted to account for wage and price changes. These agreements were signed and agreed to by all existing bus operators when the contracts were reviewed in 2002-03. A significant part of the agreements was that the contractors were permitted to renegotiate their contract rate to include the capital cost of vehicles. This was designed to improve the quality and age of the bus fleet used by school bus operators. The agreements and subsequent index adjustments resulted in a direct increase to contract payments of \$4.5 million per annum, bringing the total level of funding provided to school bus operators to \$15 million a year.

One of the outcomes of the 1998 review was that the index was to be examined every five years. DECS officers met with the BCA in September 2003 and requested a paper on the BCA position to enable the review to commence. A paper was provided on 24 May 2004 outlining recommendations for changes to the index and requesting back payments to the time that government charges and insurance increased. The submission provided by the BCA is currently being assessed and costed and I have yet to receive advice on it.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Will DECS consider adjusting the index for school bus service contractors annually, as is the case in Victoria?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** At the moment we are waiting for a report on this matter, so when it comes we will form an opinion.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I refer to Budget Paper 3, page 2.37, school buses. Has the department engaged the services of a consultant to investigate the provision of school buses under contract or by the department and, if so, what is the name of and amount paid to this consultant and when are they expected to report?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am told that we have not engaged a consultant.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I refer to Budget Paper 3, page 2.24, capital works, where it indicates that there were no proceeds from the sale of replaced school buses in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial years, but \$200 000 in each of the 2005-06 and 2006-07 years. The school buses are to be replaced in 2004-05. Are they to be sold? If not, why not and, if so, why are they not recorded in the 2004-05 financial year? It seems that a year has been missed.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am not sure how the asset management will operate over that term. We will take the question on notice.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 21 June 2004)

#### 4. SOLAR PANELS & RAINWATER TANKS IN SCHOOLS

Portfolio: EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I understand that \$4 million has been allocated for solar panels and rainwater tanks in schools across the state that already have adequate water and power. Is the funding for these panels and tanks coming from the education budget and, if so, can you indicate the budget line as I cannot find it?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is coming from our budget line; it is our appropriation. To start with I do not think that it is \$4 million per year—it was \$1.25 million last year. The other sums were not for tanks: they were for reticulation watering and programs for water conservation. I do not think it was exactly tanks.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** While we are getting that information: will these tanks be connected to the toilets and, if so, are the necessary pumps and pipes for connection provided within that \$4 million? Also, I am concerned about contamination of the water in the tanks, because SA Water does not agree with people drinking the tank water and for places like Streaky Bay, with startling contamination, I would not be at all happy. So I was wondering whether anything has been put in place to ensure that students do not drink the water from the tanks.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think that there is also lead in some paints going into tanks, so there is a risk of contamination. My understanding of the ESD and the water devices was that it was not tanks. I have to say that my—

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I have seen two brand new tanks in the last month in my electorate with my 72 schools.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We were dealing with water conservation strategies to do with stormwater run-off and irrigation systems for ovals in particular. I have no knowledge of drinking taps or water for—

**Mrs PENFOLD:** So these are just going to be used for watering ovals?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** These may have been a choice of the individual school and not something that was appropriated from our funding, but if you could provide us with the names of the schools we could track down—

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I guess that if I have seen two there are probably quite a lot of them, and I wondered whether children were going to drink from these and whether they were going to be plumbed to toilets, but if they are just being used on grass then there is no problem. But I still have a problem that it is coming from the education budget, because I really do think that is an environmental matter not an educational one.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** No: we had funding that was an appropriation for these strategies. The Premier arranged an allocation. So, when we say it is within our appropriation it is not coming out of teaching money; it is not coming from the base funding for education. In fact, the point I made about the increased funding is that, when we calculated the per capita funding for students in schools and pointed out that we had increased the funding by just under 17 per cent over three budgets, that is new money going into education. This is a separate allocation that came from the Premier's initiative for solar systems which was \$1.25 million and I think, from memory, the \$1 million a year which was the

environmentally sustainable development program which, in the last year, has been channelled into irrigation and water systems.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I hope there is a 17 per cent increase in my 72 schools! I will check that.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** All the schools were getting more money. Of course, there may not be 17 per cent on their global budget allowance, because you will recognise that the global budget is dependent upon enrolments. So, if there has been a dramatic decline in enrolments the global budget will fall as well.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** On the whole, mine are going up.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** That is good.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee B 21 June 2004)

# JAY WEATHERILL

Minister for Families & Communities  
Housing  
Ageing  
Disability

---

## 1. ENERGY CONCESSIONS

<b>Portfolio:</b>	FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
<b>Budget Paper</b>	4 volume 2
<b>Page:</b>	7.69
<b>Heading</b>	Statement of Financial performance - administered

### Question

Can the Minister advise why single pensioners have been excluded from concessions available to married and de facto couples.

*This question was asked by Liberal Member for Heysen Isobel Redmond*

**Mrs REDMOND:** Minister, perhaps if I could first of all tidy up the question asked in the previous section under ageing relating to concessions. First, can the minister confirm whether any concessions were increased this year for pensioners regarding their council rates and so on? It appears from the budget that there has not been. The second part of the question is: can the minister advise why single pensioners appear to have been excluded from concessions available to married and de facto couples?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The first part of the question is that it is too early to conclude that there has been no increase in concessions because those negotiations are progressing well with the federal government and there may well be an extension of the concessions for self-funded retirees. So, that is the extent to which concessions have been dealt with there, and there are those ongoing discussions with the commonwealth concerning the extension of the senior's travel arrangements for interstate travel. In relation to the second point, once again the single pensioners without dependents are eligible for some concessions, not all. Single pensioners without dependents are eligible for electricity concessions. Certain single people receiving certain pensions are not eligible for concessions under the state government, and that has been a longstanding arrangement, one which pre-dated the existence of our government.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 22 June 2004)

# LEA STEVENS

Minister for Health

Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion

---

## 1. HEALTH SPECIALISTS IN REGIONAL AREAS

Portfolio: HEALTH

**Mrs PENFOLD:** With my 10 hospitals, we are finding that fewer specialists are being sent to Eyre Peninsula, and therefore, as the minister has said, a huge amount of trauma is being caused by my people travelling long distances to catch aeroplanes or travelling eight to 10 hours on the bus to come to Adelaide. It would seem to me that it would be best if those people did not have to travel and that the specialists visited the region. When people come to Adelaide to see specialists, they then suffer that major trauma (as mentioned by the minister) and they are often sent back too soon in order to empty the beds in the city hospitals, which causes major trauma in my hospitals and for families in the region. I am curious to know why, when about 33 per cent of the population live in the regions, the regions receive only 12 per cent of the funding.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I will ask my Chief Executive to give the detail on that question. However, in terms of country areas and the whole issue of country health services, as recommended by the Generational Health Review, to the greatest extent possible, we have to try to put services as close as possible to where people live. Of course, that is balanced with the critical shortage we have in relation to work force across all disciplines of health, which is compounded by the problem of how you get the work force to move out of city areas into country areas. We are endeavouring to try to put those services, to the greatest extent possible, where people are living. In relation to the 12 per cent, I think the member said that 33 per cent of people—

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Approximately 1.4 million people live in South Australia, a third of whom live in the regions. Of course, I have 10 hospitals in my electorate, and it would seem to me that the specialists need to visit my hospitals, which would cause a lot less trauma. I think that is occurring less frequently rather than more frequently under the minister's government. Evidently I have only 12 per cent of the funding allocated, yet I think our need is greater.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I will ask my Chief Executive to answer that question.

**Mr BIRCH:** This is one question where we may need to come back to the honourable member with a specific brief. I do not have a specific brief on this issue, so I am recalling from my own memory of the statistics. My understanding is that, whilst the honourable member is correct in saying that country health services on the ground receive a smaller percentage of expenditure versus the total population, if she takes into account all country people treated within a public health system in this state, my recollection is that the total expenditure spent on country people from all health services in the state correlates very closely and, indeed, may actually exceed, the level of country allocation based on a population basis.

However, I am happy to take that question on notice and provide the honourable member with a very specific allocation. The honourable member is correct in saying that the amounts spent within the country regions themselves do not equate to the per capita population basis. However, when you consider the total health services provided in metro, or at statewide services to country people, it equates very closely.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** It costs \$300-odd just to travel backwards and forwards on the aircraft from Port Lincoln, and that has been included under 'Patient assisted travel'. You cannot call that a health service; that expense should be separated from any cost that could be attributed to my patients.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** We have just advised the honourable member that we will provide her with the detail she requires. I reiterate the comments made by the Chief Executive in his answer, and advise that we will get the detail for the honourable member.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 22 June 2004)

## 2. HOME VISITING

Portfolio: HEALTH

**Mrs PENFOLD:** As a supplementary question, of all the electorates in the state, my electorate has the most Aboriginal children. Minister, you said that 100 per cent of Aboriginal students living in this home visiting area would be getting this new service. That would be very pleasing, but I would like to know whether that includes the electorate of Flinders. I did ask the minister, the Hon. Jane Lomax-Smith, whether the Ceduna junior school could have a health clinic. I have not received any response from that request. The minister did not seem to think that was possible, but, while we are doing that junior school, I would certainly appreciate that being looked into.

I think it is an opportunity that should not be missed. I would like to know whether this home visiting area, in which 100 per cent of Aboriginal students will be getting this service, includes Eyre Peninsula, where the greatest number of Aboriginal children in any one area are to be found.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I might ask Ms Roxanne Ramsey to talk about the honourable member's particular area, but in terms of sustained home visiting I will ask George Beltchev, who heads our major project unit and who has taken lead responsibility in relation to this program, to answer the honourable member's question.

**Mr BELTCHEV:** The universal home visiting program is being rolled out for every child born in South Australia. I emphasise that it is a voluntary program. The service is offered. It is not a service that is provided unless the family accepts it. At the moment special arrangements are being discussed about how that will be best provided, particularly in the remote areas of the state and in particular in the Aboriginal communities in the Far North. Certainly, 100 per cent is a realistic program ambition. In terms of the sustained—

*Mrs Penfold interjecting:*

**Mr BELTCHEV:** Now. These discussions are occurring now.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** Yes, but you said that 100 per cent of Aboriginal students are eligible for this sustained home visiting area. Am I getting those at Ceduna and Port Lincoln?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** There are three parts to this.

*Mrs Penfold interjecting:*

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** This is sustained.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** What I am particularly interested in is Ceduna and Port Lincoln for the students.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I will ask Mr Beltchev to talk about the sustained home visiting designated areas. They are the areas where we said that 100 per cent of Aboriginal families with a new child would receive this service.

**Mr BELTCHEV:** At present, the sustained home visiting program is resourced to be able to service the northern and southern metropolitan areas and three country areas: Port Augusta, Whyalla and the Riverland. That voluntary service is for new-born children and will be provided for up to two years. The total number of new-born children who will be serviced by this program with the available \$3 million a year is estimated to be 900. That is just over a third of the target population. In relation to those designated areas (northern metro, southern metro and the three country areas), 100 per cent of Aboriginal children will have that service offered to them.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** That means that 50 per cent of Aboriginal children in my area will not get this sustained home visiting.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** At this time, that is correct. The government will endeavour to roll out this program in future years. You have to understand that we have already put \$16 million towards this program. We are developing it and rolling it out as the years go by and, at the moment, that is where the program is in terms of sustained home visiting in country areas. Your existing services will still continue and also the community

capacity building part of this overall program is still available to other areas. In terms of the health centre on the primary school site, that is a different matter, and I am happy to get Roxanne Ramsey to talk about that.

This program is aimed at newborn children, not school-aged children. The whole issue of siting health and education facilities together is something at which we are looking because many programs which existed when I was a principal of a school (which was at a time when health and education worked very well together at local levels) have disappeared over the last 10 years or so. This government is faced with the job of re-establishing those tried and true things that were very much part of the system in earlier times.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** The school at Ceduna is a junior primary school and it is next to the kindergarten. My feeling is that, if I could involve the parents, particularly the mothers, then we would be able to access them when they are pregnant and their babies when they are born. It would be a good opportunity to spread that information amongst their friends and perhaps make a meeting group. I ask the minister to look at it. I am very disappointed that an area such as mine, where I think the need is great, has not been included in this program.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** Yes; I guess that you would have been really disappointed that that did not happen during the years when your party was in government and it had the opportunity to bring in such a program. However, this Labor government is making this a priority: it has started on the job and it will not give up. I will ask Mr Jim Birch to answer the question.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Can I just remind you not to shout into the headphones of Hansard, who may need a visit from a professional if they keep getting that in the head.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** Sorry, Hansard.

**Mr BIRCH:** I think that it needs to be made very clear that there are three or four key programs in this area. Some are run by DECS and some are run by the new Department of Health; the one to which we refer in the component mentioned by Mr Beltchev is the universal home visiting program. Prior to the universal home visiting program commencing, a range of different existing services, including those on Eyre Peninsula, provided antenatal and postnatal care. The universal home visiting program is simply a mechanism to ensure consistency across the whole state and that no children fall between the gaps. You are correct in saying that the linkage between pregnant women, the early years and kindergarten is critical.

The sustained home visiting program is based on an assessment by child health nurses who visit all people who volunteer that those parents have a particular need for parenting support for a variety of reasons, and we estimate that about 40 per cent of the population of newborns will access that program. It has always been intended that the sustained home visiting program would become a universal program. However, it is very important that—and I refer you to Professor Victor Nossar who is a national expert in this area—we actually test this amongst a number of different population groups to ensure that it works well. At this stage, it is very positive, particularly for Aboriginal families, whereas programs provided to traditional non-Aboriginal families are not as suitable for rural and remote Aboriginal families.

There is also a third area, the early childhood and literacy programs of DECS. We are now linking the Every Chance for Every Childhood program into those programs. I would have an expectation that we would progressively roll out this across the state, subject to funding, because it is not a terribly expensive program when you consider the benefits. We would be more than comfortable to check with what DECS is intending to do in relation to its early childhood, kindergarten and pre-school areas, particularly on Eyre Peninsula, to see what opportunities there are in relation to linking with our universal home visiting program.

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I think that it could also be included with food and nutrition, as there are opportunities to teach cooking and hygiene in my kindergarten.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** Absolutely. I reiterate what Mr Jim Birch has said: we will definitely do that. Of course, that is exactly what we need to do. It is about a holistic and community-based approach. It is about involving the people in determining their needs and developing those programs around them. As I said before, the new organisation in the Children's, Youth and Women's Health Service will also have specific lead responsibility to

look at innovative primary health care approaches in conjunction with DECS and other departments so that we can try to achieve more than has ever been achieved in this state.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We are out of time. I ask the minister and her advisers to keep their answers shorter after lunch, because I think that one question took 23 minutes to answer.

(HANSARD Estimates Committee A 22 June 2004)