

Wednesday 2 May 2018

The Speaker, **Ms Hickey**, took the Chair at 10 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People, and read Prayers.

QUESTIONS

Royal Hobart Hospital - Emergency Department Issues

Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.02 a.m.]

Did you know that yesterday there were 63 patients stuck in the emergency department at the Royal Hobart Hospital, patients were being treated in three corridors, and there were 10 ambulances ramped? This is bad for patients and bad for stressed staff. If anything, it looks like this winter will be worse than last winter. Why was the hospital not escalated to level 4, as staff were asking for? Was there political pressure not to escalate due to the parliament resuming?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question but would cast a very healthy level of scepticism over any suggestions from her as to what this Government might do other than ensure we get on with the job of delivering on our record level of investment and commitments that will go to delivering the health service, which is improving under our Government and that we promised in the election. That is what we are focusing on. We recognise that there are pressures on the health system. That is why, with our budget back in balance, we have been able to commit a record amount over the last four years, \$7 billion in the last budget and \$750 million, to boost our efforts to improve the health system Tasmanians need.

We will need to not only build the health system and the infrastructure to support it -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr HODGMAN - but employ more staff and, importantly, almost three brand-new beds are to be opened. That will help us relieve pressures in the hospital.

Madam SPEAKER - With due respect, Premier, I am standing as I would like this parliament to start its second day with decorum. Please allow the Premier to continue his answer.

Mr HODGMAN - Thank you. We are endeavouring to get on with the job of delivering our election commitments. The \$689 million redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital is on track, on time and on budget. We rescued that project. It was promised by successive Labor and Labor-Green governments. They did not lay a single brick on that important redevelopment, yet they have the gall -

Mr O'BYRNE - Point of order - standing order 45 on relevance. It was a clear question being asked on whether he knew the circumstances of the Royal Hobart Hospital yesterday. He has not gone close to answering that. We ask him to answer that.

Mr HODGMAN - Speaking of relevance, talk about the relevance deprivation disorder the member who was last on his feet has had for the last four years. With respect to the operational matters that take place at the hospital, there may be some that are within the knowledge of the Health minister. I am certainly not aware of the matters that were asserted by the Leader of the Opposition. What I do know is that we are investing more than ever before into our health system. We are fixing a broken system that we inherited from a Labor-Greens government and we are determined to get on with the job of giving Tasmanians what they need, and that is a good health system and not engaging in simple political games, which is all you have brought back after four years.

Housing Issues

Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.06 a.m.]

This morning there is a very visual example of your Government's failure to invest in housing, with the tent city moving to Parliament Lawns. Your population strategy failed to plan for increased demand for housing. In fact, your Government has cut investment in affordable housing by \$45.6 million. ABS statistics show that last financial year dwelling approvals fell by 8 per cent and residential building work dropped by \$60 million. Do you agree with your new Housing minister, Roger Jaensch, that your Government has been caught napping?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. The fact is we are well aware of housing stress in various respects in our community. We are very conscious of the extraordinary rate of growth in our economy that has happened over the last four years of a majority Liberal government that is leading to population growth for the first time in a long time. Under the Labor-Greens government our population actually went backwards. There was net interstate migration. Our population is now growing at the fastest rate in seven years. We are experiencing growth in the number of tourists that are coming to our state.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr HODGMAN - International tourism for Tasmania is the strongest of any state in the country. There are more people in our communities. There are more people wanting to live here, invest here and confidently be part of a Tasmania that is growing.

Ms White - You didn't plan for it.

Mr HODGMAN - That is not true either. Our population strategy does indeed -

Ms White - Talk to those people out there and tell them that.

Mr HODGMAN - reflect the fact that it is important to -

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I do not want this to be a day where I am jumping up and down every couple of minutes. Allow a bit of respectful debate. As I said, I do not mind a bit of robust banter but I am asking for a bit of respect when the Premier is speaking. Thank you.

Mr HODGMAN - Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is a serious matter. We recognise that there is housing stress in various respects and we are dealing with that and have done for some time. To deny the fact that in the last term of government we delivered the Affordable Housing Strategy, which was warmly welcomed by the community sector and other key stakeholders as the most significant step in addressing housing stress, is farcical. That was what we did in the last term in government. What we propose to do and will do in this term of government is to increase our efforts even further.

We are getting on with the job of fixing the problem. We recognise there are challenges and there is more to be done. We would not expect anything positive or constructive from members opposite. We wanted to engage the broader community to understand what we can best do together, government and the community, to support housing options for Tasmanians so we held a housing summit, which the Leader of the Opposition attended, presumably to make some sort of positive contribution, and surprisingly we found that she was prepared to endorse the recommendations and the outcomes of the summit. Someone must have got hold of her after the summit and said, 'No, that's not a good place for us to be. We don't want to be part of a solution, we're more comfortable being part of the problem.'. Since then the Leader of the Opposition has played no constructive role, nor indeed has her spokesperson on this, other than delight in the misery of people who have housing problems.

Members interjecting.

Mr HODGMAN - You are using them as political tools to advance your own agenda -

Ms White - Shame on you.

Mr HODGMAN - and cannot even come up with a single idea of your own, other than to tax vacant properties.

Ms O'Byrne - That's offensive.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I am asking for a little respect on both sides, please.

Mr HODGMAN - The one and only idea of the Labor Party is to tax vacant properties, but that speaks for itself. Our plan, which we have outlined, very sensibly addresses not only the size of the issue but the size of our government's commitment to address it.

Political Donations

[10.10 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

It is now two months since election day but Tasmanians have not forgotten. You allowed your party to be bought and paid for by the gambling industry, accepting cash and in-kind donations in the order of millions of dollars from vested interests.

Why should Tasmanians have any confidence in a premier and a government that so gladly sold its soul to a predatory industry that destroys lives?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Greens for her question. I utterly refute every single assertion and suggestion she has made within it and would ask rhetorically, whether it is the case that when the Greens Party received donations that they have been bought, or the Labor Party through the union movement.

It is so convenient that the holier than thou Greens claim that when any other political party receives the support of a constituency, an organisation or individuals who feel so compelled to be part of our democratic process that the so-called upholders of free speech, the Greens, complain. But no complaint came when they received a donation direct from a business person with an interest in Greens policy that was over \$1 million dollars. Not a complaint then, but they come in now and assert that in some way have bought the election. That is arrogant and petulant because it says to the Tasmanian people that the Greens think they are stupid, that they do not know how to make a decision about the future of our state and its government.

What the Tasmanian people did buy was a strong team with a plan for Tasmania's future and a track record for delivering and a Tasmania that is very different now than it was four years ago under a Labor-Greens government. That is what they bought.

Still, here we are, a couple of months on from the election, and we have Labor and the Greens still complaining about the result. I fundamentally believe that the people always get it right and they did in this case. They are not stupid as Labor and the Greens are suggesting. The fact that there are a lot of people -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I apologise, Premier. I ask everyone to be more respectful. I am calling order again. My patience is being severely tested. Please let us get through this as civilly as we can.

Mr HODGMAN - The fact that many people and organisations were eager to be part of a democratic process which determines the future direction of our state -

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order on relevance. I asked the Premier why Tasmanians should have confidence in him given that he allowed his party to be bought and paid for at the election. Why should they have confidence in you, Premier?

Mr FERGUSON - On the point of order, the members are trying it on in a new parliament. The member is well aware of the latitude that the Standing Orders provide to the Premier to answer the question.

Madam SPEAKER - Yes. I have read up on that. Premier, please proceed.

Mr HODGMAN - The facts are, Labor, the Greens, the media, often ask similar questions or as is normally the case of Labor and the Greens, assertions of that nature were made all the way through the election campaign and running up to it.

Tasmanians had the choice on election day. They were well aware of these claims that you are making and they deliberately chose to express their confidence in the return of a majority Liberal Government. Get over it.

Housing Issues

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING

[10.14 a.m.]

Three weeks ago, in your own words, you handed over the keys to a two-bedroom unit in Warrane which you said would provide a home for a family that has been on our priority Housing Register. Has this home been provided to a family from the priority Housing Register, or has your complete inaction meant that this property has remained empty for the past three weeks? Is it not a fact, that you were more interested in a photo opportunity than actually helping homeless Tasmanians, Tasmanians like those out the front of this parliament at the very moment who are sleeping in tents?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, this morning I went out and met the people who were in tents on the front lawn, as you did, and spoke to them. I was grateful to them for sharing their stories with me as have other people who I have visited and met with over the last six weeks that I have been the Minister for Housing. What it reinforced to me very clearly is that every one of those people has an individual, unique, complex story, a set of circumstances that led them to be in housing stress or housing crisis individually. But what every one of them needs, and what the only ultimate solution for them all is, are more houses for Tasmanians.

That is what our Government is focused on. We have a \$200 million, eight-year plan to deliver more houses for Tasmanians so every Tasmanian has a roof over their head and a safe place to sleep.

I was very happy to visit some of the new sites coming on line, being delivered as part of our first four-year Affordable Housing Action Plan: \$73.5 million of investment started in 2015 with the broad support of the community housing and social services sector and, I believe, the opposition at the time. This is now delivering houses on the ground for Tasmanians every day with 100 more -

Ms WHITE - Point of order, Madam Speaker, Standing Order 45. The question to the minister was about a specific property in Warrane. Three weeks ago he handed the keys over for a family to move into. The question is whether a family has moved into the house. I ask that you direct the minister to answer the question.

Madam SPEAKER - Minister, I ask you to answer the question.

Mr JAENSCH - Housing Tasmania and Housing Connect are actively working with people across Tasmania every day to move them from our social housing register into appropriate housing and we are delivering the housing for them to move into.

This Government has returned our budget to surplus. We have the capacity now -

Ms O'BYRNE - Point of order, Madam Speaker. You did instruct the minister to answer the question. He has continued with a prepared script. I ask that he do as you have instructed.

Mr FERGUSON - On the point of order, members opposite are trying it on. The minister is attempting to answer the question but they do not know what he is about to say. He is answering the question. The usual observances around latitude are appropriate and I believe the members are trying to have a disrupted answer. They do not like to hear what the minister has to say about his actions.

Madam SPEAKER - The Leader of Government Business has answered that as far as relevance goes. We do not know what the minister is going to say next. Minister, please continue.

Mr JAENSCH - This Government has a plan to deliver 2400 houses for the benefit of 3600 Tasmanian households over the next five years, \$125 million over the next five years, to deliver housing for Tasmanians in need. Over the next -

Madam SPEAKER - I ask the minister to consider the time limit and be speedier and get to the answer.

Mr JAENSCH - The Hodgman Liberal Government has a 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy. We have a second stage of our Affordable Housing Action Plan in consultation shortly. It is supported by the community. It was supported by the housing summit. It is supported by \$125 million of action commitment which will be delivered from 2018-19. We ask that the Opposition and the Greens support it also.

Government Plan for Tasmania

Mr SHELTON question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.20 a.m.]

Since being returned by an overwhelming number of voters at the recent state election, can the Premier outline the majority Hodgman Liberal Government's clear and strong commitment to delivering on our plan to take Tasmania to the next level?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question and the opportunity to talk about the plan we took to the election. I congratulate all members, especially new members, on their election to this place. As was pointed out to us all yesterday in the Governor's speech, a democratic process is one to be respected, one that allows all Tasmanians to have their say about how they are feeling about the performance of their government, and to express their confidence in it as they did for us this year.

One of the main reasons is that we had a plan we took to the last election and it was delivering positive results. We produced another plan, one which had a strong foundation to continue the growth in our economy and to keep our budget in good shape. We have worked so hard to bring it back into balance. It was important we demonstrate our ongoing commitment to do so. The reason those things are so important is that we can now invest what will be record amounts into the capital and the people required to build a stronger health system, better education system, to protect those who are in need and to keep the cost of living pressures down, as we are doing. We are also investing in infrastructure needed to support our growing economy.

That is the plan we took to the election and it received the endorsement of Tasmanians. They made their own assessment about what was offered by those opposite. Clearly, those opposite have not accepted the result. They are telling Tasmanians that they are stupid and that their votes could be bought. That is what members opposite are now asserting.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I can do this all day long. I can stand up and down like a yo-yo and get a lot of exercise doing it. I respectfully ask, once again, that we have order and discipline in this House.

Mr HODGMAN - Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would love to talk all day about our plan, the plan we took to the election and the plan we intend to deliver. I know those opposite would not enjoy hearing about it or have any interest in it. Why would they? They do not have a plan of their own. Well, we do. We are tabling our Building Your Future first year agenda today. It is what we did four years ago and it demonstrates all the things we are committed to under those priorities I have already outlined. It details a number of actions for which we will be held accountable and demonstrates what is important to us.

The obvious thing that will come out of today's proceedings is that while we are talking about a plan for Tasmanians and their future, all we are going to hear from the Opposition are political games and whingeing about the election result. All we have heard from the opposition parties is that they are unhappy with the result since the moment the result became clear. Our focus is on the best interests of Tasmanians, not denigrating them by suggesting they were silly or unable to express their views about what we are doing. I will table that plan and I invite members opposite to start delivering some ideas of their own.

What is contained within our plan will be contained within our budget, which is not too far away. I suggest the Opposition might on this occasion take the opportunity to produce an alternative. In the absence of that, notwithstanding how meaningless that would be other than to demonstrate some capability, all our commitments will be contained in our budget and we look forward to the debate.

Tasmanians have exercised a view as to how they want this place and the Government to function. Tasmania is stronger, prouder and more confident than it has ever been before. I will not stand by and let political playtime take over what is a great opportunity for our state to reach the next level. I know members opposite are hoping for the Government to face challenges, for any opportunity to score political points, but not take any responsibility to come up with their own. I will not stand by and let members of the Opposition talk down the state, talk down the high level of confidence that is helping our economy boom like never before, and which is allowing us to deliver on our plan and its positive results for Tasmania.

Housing - Regulation of Short-Stay Market

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.25 a.m.]

Peak organisations, including Shelter Tasmania and the Tourism Industry Council, have been calling for better regulation around short-stay accommodation platforms such as Airbnb and Stayz. They say they are having an impact on the private rental market and contributing to the housing crisis. On 10 April, you left the door open to regulation until only hours later you were pulled into

line by the Government's communications unit, which issued a statement shutting you down, saying there would be no improved regulation. Why were you gagged? Were any of your Cabinet colleagues involved in gagging you?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, our Government is committed to the sharing economy. This is a phenomenon that is sweeping the world. We are now a global destination, and 18 months ago we were in a position where there was not enough accommodation in our state to support the growing number of visiting tourists. We chose to enter into that global market and open our doors to the sharing economy. We built a set of regulations we believe are class-leading, they have proven effective and they have given us the capacity to support increased tourism numbers.

I object to the characterisation of there being no regulation or that there are no compliance requirements. We have set regulations, we believe they are the right ones and we expect people to comply with them.

There are assertions flying around about the role of the sharing economy and home sharing in the housing shortages Tasmania is facing. We have a lot of anecdotes but we do not have enough data. At the Housing Summit, our Government -

Mr O'BYRNE - Point of order, Madam Speaker, Standing Order 45 on relevance. The question was clear. We know the minister floated the idea of regulation of Airbnb at a media conference and later that day, as the question states, he was shut down by his own communications unit. The question is clear: who gagged him and who kicked him down when he was on the floor? Answer the question.

Madam SPEAKER - Mr Jaensch, I ask you to proceed because we do not know what you plan to say next.

Mr JAENSCH - My answer is that the sharing economy is regulated in Tasmania and we expect people to abide by those regulations. Much has been said about the importance of this sharing economy. I quote from a leader in this field, in bringing the sharing economy to Australia, and what they had to say about it -

Mr O'BYRNE - Point of order, Madam Speaker. This is not a monologue on Airbnb and the sharing economy. This is about government policy. The minister made it clear in the media that they would consider regulation. Later on, the communications unit shut him down. We want to know what happened between the media conference and when the communications unit shut him down. He believes it or he does not.

Madam SPEAKER - It is not an opportunity for the member to make a great speech. Mr Jaensch, you have a chance to wind up your answer.

Mr JAENSCH - I will wind up. The sharing economy is regulated in Tasmania and we have no plans to change the regulations.

Tasmanian Hospitality Association - Government Funding

Ms O'CONNOR question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN

[10.29 a.m.]

We heard the Premier use the THA's talking points during his answer to our earlier question. Following the Federal Group, THA and gambling interests interstate bankrolling the Liberal Party's election campaign, you decided to gift the Tasmanian Hospitality Association \$6.8 million. This deal only became public after election day. It raises the spectre of a quid pro quo for the millions the THA and the interests it represents poured into buying government. Can you tell the House when you agreed to gift the THA \$6.8 million? Was it before election day? Whose idea was it and what was agreed? Further, what do you have to say to Tasmanians who believe this money was simply payback to the industry for the millions it spent buying you and your colleagues a place back on the Treasury benches?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, here we go again with the conspiracy theory. I am not the hospitality minister but am obviously responsible for ensuring all of our policies are fully funded through the process, and I can assure the House that all of our policies will be delivered in full and on time.

In terms of the attack on the hospitality industry, that industry employs tens of thousands of Tasmanians.

Ms O'Connor - The THA is not the hospitality industry.

Madam SPEAKER - Member for Denison, please.

Mr GUTWEIN - My understanding of that program is that it will ensure the necessary skills required in the industry and the support that is required for those employees to ensure they can continue to provide first-class service to the record levels of tourists coming to this state.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Madam Speaker, again on Standing Order 45. The nub of the question was: when was it agreed, what was agreed, and whose idea was it?

Mr GUTWEIN - I have answered it. I am not the hospitality minister. My job as the Treasurer is to ensure that our election commitments are fully funded, costed and, importantly, delivered on time. I am pleased to be able to say to the House that that policy, along with every other commitment we made, will be delivered in full and on time.

Short-Stay Accommodation

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.32 a.m.]

Do you, or any of your colleagues on that side of the House, have properties listed on short-stay platforms such as Airbnb or Stayz?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I do not have a property listed on Airbnb or Stayz. I do not know about anyone else.

TasWater - Memorandum of Understanding

Mr BROOKS question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN

[10.33 a.m.]

Yesterday, the Government signed an historic memorandum of understanding with TasWater and the local government owners' chief representative. Can the Treasurer please update the House on what this means for consumers and the economy more broadly?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr Brooks for his interest in this very important matter. I will take the opportunity whilst I am on my feet to welcome all of those new members to the House and yourself, Madam Speaker, to the Chair. I especially welcome the former economic development minister to the House and make the point in my opening remarks that when he left this place 10 000 jobs had been lost, the economy was in recession and confidence had collapsed. Most Tasmanian businesses felt that the former economic development minister's policies were working against them. Today Tasmania is a much different place. I welcome him back to this place. It is prouder, stronger and, importantly, it is more confident.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. It does not worry me, it is five calories every time I stand up. I am asking you again to please show a little respect. It is difficult up here to hear all the argument.

Mr GUTWEIN - Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am certain that throughout the day the former economic development minister will ignore that and continue with his job application for Ms White's job.

In the last term of government, we set out to improve water and sewerage services across Tasmania because we wanted lower prices and a quicker fix for infrastructure and the mechanism that we proposed was to take over TasWater. This was defeated by the Labor bloc in the upper House. That is a statement of fact, but our aim in improving the outcomes remains.

We took our policy to the election with the two clear aims of keeping prices lower and accelerating the infrastructure, and we received overwhelming endorsement for those outcomes. In that policy we made it clear that we intended to freeze price rises for a year and then cap future rise increases to no more than 3.5 per cent. We also committed to have the existing tenure infrastructure program accelerate and increase to \$1.8 billion.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. Please behave.

Mr GUTWEIN - Madam Speaker, this is like a one-hour job application this morning.

Yesterday's announcement and the signing of the historic MOU means that we have a clear mandate. Importantly, both TasWater and the chief representatives of the owners group have endorsed the new model that we signed up to, which they will now take back to their local council owners for their ratification.

Under the new joint ownership model, the state Government will contribute \$200 million in equity over 10 years to TasWater, becoming a shareholder and part-owner alongside local government. This equity injection will enable TasWater to accelerate and expand its infrastructure program, put in place a price freeze next year, constrain price rises to no more than 3.5 per cent and ensure that councils will still receive the revenue they need and rates will not need to rise.

Councils will collectively retain majority ownership. We will be a part-owner but will have a joint say in the corporate planning and also have a say in the selection of the skills-based board. Importantly, and consistent with our previous commitment, we will not take a return from the business. We always said we were not in this for the return; we were in this for outcomes and that is what we are delivering.

We have consistently said that more needs to be done. In saying that, we know this will be good for the economy, good for jobs and good for Tasmania's brand. I encourage those on the other side of the parliament to get on board with this. It surprised me this morning when the member was taken on by Leon Compton. Even he thinks it is a good idea. You should get on board.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I have a couple of choices here. I can either start suspending people, which I do not want to do, or I can flounce out the door, which I also do not want to do. People are watching this and watching the behaviour of each and every one of you. I ask you to be more like the good parliament we should be.

Mr GUTWEIN - Thank you, Madam Speaker. Those opposite did not have a plan for water and sewerage. They had proposed to have superannuation funds partly privatise public assets. They could not explain where the workforce would come from or who would be responsible for doing the work. I say to them that there is a way forward that will deliver on the Government's commitments. I know it is hard for them to accept that we will deliver lower prices and an accelerated infrastructure plan but I would say to them stop being blockers, accept that this is a good outcome for the state and get on board.

Natural Gas Arbitration Process - Status

Mr SHELTON question to MINISTER for ENERGY, Mr BARNETT

[10.39 a.m.]

Can you please inform the House on the status of the natural gas arbitration process between Hydro Tasmania and the owners of the Tasmanian gas pipeline?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, congratulations on your appointment, and to the new members in this parliament, congratulations and welcome.

It is a very important issue and I thank the member for his special interest in this. As a Hodgman Liberal Government we were elected and re-elected to implement our plan for a stronger economy and more jobs. We are delivering on that. Part of that solution is energy security, maintaining it and ensuring it continues and that underpins business confidence in this state.

The arbitration process initiated by Hydro Tasmania was the first test case of Australia's new gas pipeline arbitration system that was established just last year. The establishment of the commercial arbitration process was an important reform of the COAG Energy Council. The process is designed to result in outcomes that would be expected to occur in a competitive market delivering fair and reasonable terms to the relevant customers. That process was entered into after protracted negotiations between Hydro Tasmania and Tasmanian Gas Pipeline.

A decision has now been issued by the arbitrator. Both parties have confirmed that they will take up the commercial terms set down by the arbitrator. That is good news. It resolves the impasse that was occurring and it is an excellent outcome for Tasmania. It continues energy security, provides gas supply into Tasmania and that will continue on a commercially fair and reasonable basis. It supports continued jobs growth, continued confidence across Tasmania and it provides opportunity.

Natural gas is a very important commodity for different parts of our state, for example, the mining and mineral processing sector. This is particularly important with more than 50 per cent of our state exports and of course 6300 jobs in that sector alone. In terms of advanced manufacturing it relies heavily on gas as a fuel, and that is important as the Deputy Premier knows in particular as minister for advanced manufacturing. That is 6.4 per cent of Tasmania's gross value and that is more than 15 900 jobs across the state. Many small businesses, not just large businesses, use gas. There are around 1000 across the state and 13 000 residential customers use gas as well and enjoy those benefits.

We welcome the arbitrator's decision. It is broadly welcomed by gas customers across the state. It will be, and it is, a very good injection of confidence to provide for our long-term plan. We have a long-term plan. We were re-elected to deliver on our mandate, to implement our plan. That plan is now rolling out and we are encouraged that a key element of our energy mix is now both secure and competitive.

Agri-Food Plan

Mr BROOKS question to MINISTER For PRIMARY INDUSTRIES and WATER, Ms COURTNEY

[10.43 a.m.]

Can the minister update the House on how the Hodgman Liberal Government's comprehensive Agri-Food Plan is delivering for farmers in north east Tasmania?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. The Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering on our long-term plan for Tasmania that was endorsed by the majority of Tasmanians at the election. This is no more apparent than in agriculture where we are building new irrigation

schemes which are transforming Tasmanian agriculture, growing jobs and rural communities right across the state.

Today marks an important milestone for the north-east, one of our most productive agricultural regions. Work will begin immediately on the \$57.3 million Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme. With \$20 million from the state government, \$25.27 million from the Australian Government and \$12.03 million from farmers, the scheme will provide 8600 megalitres of reliable irrigation water to more than 100 properties. It will stimulate further investment and gross 60 jobs during construction and 45 in ongoing support and on-farm roles. This is the fifth and final Tranche 2 irrigation scheme delivered by the Hodgman Liberal Government in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, farmers and the expertise of Tasmanian Irrigation. This season we have seen water flowing from the new Southern Highlands Scheme, the construction of the Swan Valley Irrigation Scheme is complete, and work is well under way on the Duck and North Esk schemes.

We are also getting on with the job of delivering a third tranche of irrigation schemes - a key part of our \$150 million Agri-Food Plan to grow the value of agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050. Tasmanian Irrigation is starting the development of a business case for federal funding for Tranche 3 to complement the state government's \$20 million commitment. Tasmanian Irrigation is currently undertaking feasibility studies including the potential of 13 irrigation schemes right across the state - this is good news, Dr Broad, I am surprised that you are not welcoming it. The projects which ultimately proceed from the feasibility stage through to construction will be determined by Tasmanian Irrigation's robust project development process.

This includes the need for each scheme to demonstrate technical feasibility, landholder investor support, environmental sustainability, a viable business case and an economically positive investment. Tranche 3 has the potential to deliver an additional 50 000 megalitres, further boosting dairy and livestock production, broadacre crops like poppies, seeds, cereals and vegetables, as well as high value agriculture. If we reflect for a moment on what was the Labor policy - just \$30 million for irrigation with no vision, no plan and no details. This lazy attitude from Labor clearly showed why this side of the Chamber, as I said yesterday, is the best friend of agriculture and indeed the best friend of rural and regional areas across Tasmania.

The Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme demonstrates how the Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering on our election mandate for growing agriculture, creating jobs and further strengthening our economy.

Short-Stay Accommodation

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.47 a.m.]

While at the same time you were ruling out regulation around short stay accommodation platforms, we know at least two of your colleagues have properties listed on Airbnb and Stayz, namely the Health minister, Mr Ferguson who owns a property, and your colleague, the Education minister, Mr Rockliff, who owns a property. How many of your other colleagues have investment properties listed on these platforms? Does your denial of any knowledge of these listings demonstrate that these ministers neither absented themselves from decisions or declared a conflict of interest?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we have adopted the sharing economy-

Mr Bacon interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr JAENSCH - I do not know where this question is going. We do not run an audit here of anyone's properties. I do not know what the Leader of the Opposition is trying to do. I have no knowledge. I have no interest to declare and I have not asked for others to do so. We have a policy. We are responding to the market at a time when housing is needed.

Ms WHITE - Point of order, Madam Speaker. It appears the minister did not understand the question. It was: how many of your other colleagues have investment properties listed on these platforms, and how have you failed to manage the conflict of interests here when you are making decisions about regulation, choosing not to regulate when you benefit directly as ministers on the front bench?

Mr FERGUSON - Madam Speaker, the member is trying to recast the question - reboot it and re-prosecute it. The minister is on his feet, he is answering the question, but if the member feels that she has not asked it adequately the first time then she has another opportunity shortly.

Madam SPEAKER - Thank you. I ask the Minister for Housing to continue.

Mr JAENSCH - Thank you. I do not know where this is going. I do not have a register of the property interests of all of our members over here. I am not being gagged. I do not have anything to declare. Try again.

Madam SPEAKER - We have already had two questions from the Greens. I will take another question from the Leader of the Opposition.

Short-Stay Accommodation

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.50 a.m.]

You are planning to encourage landlords to leave short-stay accommodation platforms with a \$13 000 incentive payment. How many of your colleagues have significant property portfolios and will they be eligible for these incentive payments?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, we are very keen to ensure that there is a house available for everyone in Tasmania who needs one. We are progressing with an initiative that was developed some years ago as part of our first housing strategy. We are moving into the area of providing a special incentive for private landholders to make their properties available to low-income families. I do not understand where the Leader of the Opposition is going to here in terms of knowing what the interests of the members on this side of the House are.

We are trying to provide more houses and more housing for people in Tasmania who need it. That is what the people expect us to do.

Mr O'BYRNE - Point of order, Madam Speaker, on relevance. It was a very clear question: will his Cabinet colleagues who have made decisions around these incentive payments be eligible to seek and take benefit from that payment? This is a clear conflict-of-interest question that the public will need to know when the Government makes a decision about taxpayer money and who it goes to.

Mr BARNETT - On the point of order, the member for Franklin is simply repeating the question and has then added a further question. He should simply refer to the Standing Orders and seek your ruling.

Madam SPEAKER - I rule in favour of Mr Jaensch, so please continue.

Mr JAENSCH - We make no apology for doing what we need to do to make houses available for people in Tasmania who need them. We have a raft of initiatives and policies under way and investments broadly endorsed by the community and social services sector to ensure Tasmanians who need a roof over their head are going to get one. The program you are referring to is one of them. I think we have nothing to answer for.

Gun Laws - Commitment to Changes

Dr WOODRUFF question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.52 a.m.]

You and your former Police minister made a secret deal with the shooting lobby to weaken Tasmania's gun laws in February this year which would violate the National Firearms Agreement. This included doubling the period of licences to 10 years, widening access to the restrictive category C and creating a whole new prohibited category. You did not release these commitments to the Tasmanian community and they only came to light days before the election when the Greens revealed them.

It was the twenty-second anniversary of the Port Arthur massacre shooting last Saturday. Everyone was touched by that terrible event and knows the importance of tough gun laws. Since the news broke of your perfidious secret deal, Tasmanians of all political persuasions have loudly voiced their outrage. Former Liberals premier, Tony Rundle, and former prime minister, John Howard, have voiced their total opposition to your plan. Instead of cooking up an upper House inquiry to diffuse the stench of this dangerous policy, will you instead commit to walking away from it today?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I will say again, as I have repeatedly in relation to this matter, we will not do anything to compromise the safety of Tasmanians, nor will we do anything to breach the National Firearms Agreement. We are all aware of the sensitivities around these matters. We are also well aware of the significant public interest, which is why we believe that a Legislative Council inquiry is to be supported because it will allow all interested

parties to make a contribution to provide perspective and to advance what is a sensitive area of public policy through a robust and transparent process through our parliament.

We are normally criticised by the Greens for not doing things to involve the parliament to inquire into matters of public interest and now we are doing it they complain about that as well. We believe there is an important opportunity here for stakeholders.

It is not true to say that we did not release our policies. In fact they were released and circulated more than three weeks before the election day, not three days or whatever you assert. It was certainly a lot longer than the Labor Party, so I would not be chirping up if I were them.

We did engage, as you should, extensively with key stakeholders in a range of public policy areas and we are criticised for that now. It is appropriate and indeed, the Leader of the Opposition in their statement on this matter, acknowledged the very real concerns of a particular sector who lawfully uses firearms. There is nothing wrong with that. That is what we were doing, yet there were proposals contained within that letter that we are prepared to have tested through a parliamentary inquiry which represents the interests of a sector.

It is certainly our intention to allow a parliamentary process to be pursued as per the proposed legislative inquiry will do, without in any way leading to us doing anything other than ensuring that our laws with respect to firearm use remain the best, strongest and safest they can be for Tasmanian communities. Those lawful firearms users have to abide by the law, quite rightly and properly, and do so respectfully, but they are also to be entrusted with assisting the community, government and the Parliament to understand the practical issues that confront them. That is exactly what has happened here.

It is not true to even suggest that our laws have remained untouched since the Port Arthur tragedy. They have been changed several times. There have been 14 amendment acts since 1996. In fact it was this Government that strengthened Tasmania's gun laws during the last term of government. That is our track record. It demonstrates how seriously we take this matter. We will not do anything to breach the agreement and certainly nothing to endanger Tasmanians.

Housing - Shortage

Mr SHELTON question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.58 a.m.]

Can the minister please update the House on the Government's plan to meet the increasing demand for housing supply in Tasmania and to address the current housing shortage?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question and his continued interest in the issue. As we know, Tasmania is experiencing a period of economic growth and confidence. We are more confident about getting a job, with recent data highlighting our positive economic direction, and business confidence is leading the nation. We are prouder and stronger and a more confident place to live than we have been before. While we are heading in the right direction, however, there is more to be done. We recognise that with this growth comes growing pains. We know that some Tasmanians are not experiencing the benefits of a stronger economy and that some people are currently facing housing stress.

Since becoming minister, I have met with and listened to people in our community who are under real pressure. I have heard their stories and I understand their need for assistance and support. I recognise this is an issue facing Tasmanians across different parts of the state. When we first were elected we set about delivering our 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy 2015-2025. It is the most comprehensive affordable housing strategy ever developed in Tasmania. It is backed by a \$73.5 million investment over four years from 2015 to 2019. It will deliver more than 900 homes and assist over 1600 households into affordable housing.

So far, we have assisted 532 new households to access safe and affordable housing including 243 households that have been assisted into affordable home ownership; 46 households assisted into supported accommodation; 37 households assisted into new social housing; 24 units of medium-term or transitional accommodation have been provided; six households have been assisted into micro-housing; 10 households have been assisted into disability accommodation; and 101 have been assisted in escaping family violence. We have set some very ambitious targets. The Hodgman Liberal Government will treble the number of new affordable houses by 2025. We will ensure a 10 per cent increase in housing available for young people at risk by 2025, and see sustainable home ownership rates of over 5 per cent above the national average.

We are on track to deliver on the outcomes of stage 1 of the Affordable Housing Strategy and in acknowledgment of increasing demand over our next term of government, this term of government will invest an additional \$125 million into stage 2, commencing with an additional \$25 million in 2018-19. This brings the Liberal Government's additional investment in affordable housing to almost \$200 million over eight years. It brings the total number of new affordable homes to 2400, with around 3600 households assisted. We have a plan to build for a future where we no longer see young Tasmanians leaving our towns for a better life on the mainland. Young Tasmanians can stay and obtain a job or complete further studies here. With this comes greater competition for housing and that is why the Government convened the housing summit after our recent elections.

Together with the community sector peak bodies and stakeholders, we broadly endorsed a series of actions to address the current housing shortage. All nine of the housing summit actions are now well underway. One action has resulted in the draft residential housing supply bill 2018, released for consultation yesterday. It enables the Government to fast track zoning changes for government land identified as suitable residential development, which will add to the supply of affordable housing.

We recognise the real challenges some Tasmanians are facing in trying to find affordable housing and legislation is another important step to boost the supply of homes available throughout the state.

Time for Questions expired.

TABLED PAPER

Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees - Report

Mr Jaensch presented the report of the Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees 2017.

MOTION

Leave to Move Motion of Want of Confidence in the Premier

[10.08 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, I seek leave to move -

That so much of Standing Orders be suspended that would prevent a motion of no confidence from being debated.

That this House has no confidence in the Premier on the following grounds -

- (1) The Premier, Hon Will Hodgman, MP, allowed gambling interests from Tasmania and interstate to bankroll the Liberals' election campaign with unknown millions of dollars in dark, undisclosed money in cash and in-kind donations.
- (2) The Premier allowed Tasmanians to go to the polls on 3 March 2018 not knowing which vested interest gave how much money to secure a Liberal win.
- (3) The Premier secured the support of the gambling industry due to a change of Liberal policy on poker machines that would deliver the industry an estimated \$250 million windfall.
- (4) The direct licensing of venues model, post the expiry of the Federal Monopoly Deed, was the position Federal Group and the Tasmanian Hospitality Association presented to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets.
- (5) The Premier and the Liberals subsequently backflipped on their original policy position on the future of poker machines, which was for a price-based market mechanism.
- (6) Once the industry's and the Liberals' policy aligned, the millions started flowing into the Liberal campaign, corrupting Tasmania's democracy -

Mr FERGUSON - Point of order, Madam Speaker. This is to rescue Ms O'Connor from the mess she is in. Ms O'Connor sought the leave of the House. The Government will agree to give that leave and others can speak for themselves. The member is reading the motion again, which she tabled and is on the notice paper for all to read. This is an opportunity for Ms O'Connor to explain why it is so urgent. We are not going to hold this up. This will affect whatever time we have to debate it.

Madam SPEAKER - I am going to uphold that point of order because the Leader of the House has explained the situation. I am now going to put the question, and you are not allowed to debate it.

Ms O'CONNOR - Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is an urgent issue and it should be debated today. Tomorrow it will be exactly two months since the state election and we know it was a particularly long period the Government set between election day and the resumption of parliament. That was quite deliberate. There were two months left between election day and yesterday in order to try to take some of the heat out of what was a corrupted election. We have not had an opportunity in the past two months to ask the Premier or the Treasurer about that dark money. This the parliament's opportunity.

We have no confidence in this Premier. We have no confidence in the Liberals because we believe the election was bought by the gambling industry. We believe there are many Tasmanians who want answers out of the Premier and his Government. Why did they take so much money from the gambling industry? How much money was it? We have estimates of \$5 million, \$10 million, but Tasmanians knew on Boxing Day when they saw the first ads aired that this would be the mother of all scare campaigns and this was vested interests seeking to back in their profits in Tasmania until the year 2043. To say this is not an urgent issue is to insult the Tasmanians who voted against you people on the basis of poker machines.

This is an urgent issue. We have no confidence in the Liberals. You have no confidence in yourselves either.

Members interjecting.

Ms O'CONNOR - I am getting on with it. What would you like me to do? I am bringing on the no confidence motion. I am bringing on the seeking of leave. What do you want?

Ms O'BYRNE - Point of order, Madam Speaker. Loathe as I am to jump to the defence of the Greens on any matter, the reality is that the member is attempting to have her say. As we were asked to be respectful during question time surely they should be respectful. It does seem like bullying and harassment in that they are all yelling at the same time.

Ms O'CONNOR - I am taking seven minutes on the seeking of leave. Is that a problem for you, Mr Ferguson?

Madam SPEAKER - I ask you to get to the point.

Ms O'CONNOR - The point, Madam Speaker, is this: tomorrow it will be two months since Tasmanians went to the election not knowing how much money from vested interests both here and interstate was poured into buying government for the Liberals. It has been two months since there has been any opportunity to hold this wafer-thin majority government to account for allowing itself to be bought and sold by the gambling industry. What happened here and why this is an urgent issue is that you had a party in government that was prepared to put the interests of big business ahead of the people of Tasmania and the community sector, which cleans up the social pieces caused by the proliferation of poker machines in pubs and clubs around Tasmania and, as I said on election night, the stain of this will live with you people forever.

Time expired.

[11.13 a.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, this is a very serious motion and the seeking of leave is a matter of principle. We support to hear the arguments in favour of the motion and against.

[11.4 a.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, it is only the members on the Government side of the Chamber who need to have this question explained to them. It is extremely important that we have the conversation in this House and broader in the Tasmanian community about what happened leading up to the state election this year where the Liberals were returned on the back of dirty money from the gambling industry. It was an incredible backflip that the Treasurer presented to the upper House inquiry last year when the Government's position changed entirely from where they had been trenchant supporters of the rights to operate electronic gambling machines after 2023 and being allocated on a price-based mechanism such as a tender. The Treasurer backflipped entirely on government policy and transformed that into where we are today, which is an agreement to sign over an arrangement to Federal Hotels to continue -

Madam SPEAKER - Member for Franklin, you are getting into the substantive motion here. I ask you to resume your seat and I will put the question for leave because I think that is a given.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Move Motion Forthwith - Want of Confidence in the Premier

[11.15 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens - Motion) - Madam Speaker, I thank the House for the granting of leave in order to debate a want of confidence in the Premier. We are doing this on behalf of every Tasmanian who was sickened by the evidence of corruption -

Mr FERGUSON - Point of order. Madam Speaker, this is appalling behaviour. The members had months to sort out this stunt. She has not even moved what she needs to move. She has been given leave -

Ms O'Connor - I beg your pardon? Don't you lecture me.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. We are getting into some dangerous territory here. Please resume with good behaviour.

Mr FERGUSON - Madam Speaker, I invite the member to move her motion. She cannot just launch into her speech.

Ms O'CONNOR - I am about to move it, you patronising turkey.

Mr Ferguson - Bullying and harassment, you see?

Madam SPEAKER - Leader of the Greens, I need to remind you that you are supposed to be moving the suspension of standing orders.

Ms O'CONNOR - Thank you, Madam Speaker. If the Leader of Government Business was not so concerned to deflect the points I am making about him having sold his soul, he would give me the chance to move the motion of no confidence.

Madam Speaker, I move -

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the motion of no confidence in the Premier from being debated forthwith.

I further move -

That the House has no confidence in the Premier on the grounds of the motion that was tabled yesterday.

I do not need to read it out to you again, Mr Ferguson. My motion was tabled. You have had 24 hours.

Madam SPEAKER - Leader of the Greens, please ask the question for the suspension of standing orders.

Ms O'CONNOR - Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have sought leave. We have leave to debate the suspension - that is right.

Mr Hidding - So let us put that.

Ms O'CONNOR - I have already moved to seek leave to suspend so much of the Standing Orders that would prevent a motion of no confidence from being debated forthwith. The reason I do that is because there has been a motion on the books for some 24 hours which lays out the case of the Premier and the Liberal Government perfectly.

Madam SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, I have to remind you that this is a three-stage process and that we are asking for the suspension of standing orders, purely and simply.

Ms O'CONNOR - Yes, that is what I just did.

Madam SPEAKER - I do not think you should be debating too much of that.

Ms O'CONNOR - I have just had the former Speaker of the House tell me to sit down. I will not be taking orders from the former Speaker of the House.

Ms Archer - I didn't say that at all. I said you 'can' sit down now if you like.

Madam SPEAKER - I expect respectful behaviour, thank you.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order, I heard that. This is not good parliamentary behaviour. I request no comments of that nature.

Ms O'CONNOR - Thank you, Madam Speaker; that was a wise ruling.

This is urgent. The House should have a full debate on want of confidence in the Premier because there is a lingering stink around the election campaign and the result of the election. Every Liberal member who is sitting either on the government benches or the backbenches knows that. The Attorney-General, who just fled the Chamber, knows that, because the Attorney-General's face

was sitting up on the Welcome Stranger Pub throughout the entire election campaign, as was the Premier's face. All over Tasmania we had Liberal candidates images on venues. Did you pay for that, or was that in-kind? They are the sorts of questions that need to be answered. How much was it? Was it \$5 million, \$10 million, or was it all in-kind? How much went straight to the Liberal Party and how much was just the industry backing in their profits?

Have you sought forgiveness, Mr Shelton, for allowing your soul to be bought by a predatory industry? I think not.

This is urgent. I do not know how much you really talk to people who are not Liberal voters. There were people across Tasmania who saw what happened in the last campaign and they felt sickened. They spoke to us and that is why we said to the people of Tasmania we would move no confidence at the first opportunity.

Mr FERGUSON - My point of order is about what we are debating. I ask that this debate be confined to the suspension of Standing Orders.

Madam SPEAKER - I uphold that point of order. It would be good if we could move on.

Ms O'CONNOR - I am arguing for the suspension of Standing Orders. In a properly functioning parliament, with a government that was confident in its campaign and are confident in its win, they would allow a motion of no confidence to be debated for as long as it took for the House to resolve that it had confidence in the Premier.

There is a large section of the Tasmanian community that has no confidence in the Premier or in the Liberals because they know that without that \$5 million to \$10 million that came to the Liberal Party from the gambling industry you would probably be sitting opposite. You and your backers spent all that money and you still lost two seats.

Madam SPEAKER - Leader for the Greens, please move on to the suspension of Standing Orders.

Mr Ferguson - Is this how you planned it?

Ms O'CONNOR - We planned to come into this place and ask the questions the people of Tasmania want answered. We asked a question of the Premier this morning, which he fumbled his way through. We asked a question of the premier-to-be this morning, the Treasurer, about the THA money and he did not answer. It is a critical question. How can it be that so much money can go to a Liberal Party campaign? The people went to the polls not knowing how much money was donated and from whom. Moments after the election is declared, \$6.8 million in taxpayers money is gifted to the very same industry that bought you government.

Are you saying, in all honesty, that this is not an urgent issue? Are you saying the House should not debate confidence?

Madam SPEAKER - Leader of the Greens, with your indulgence, you have been well over seven minutes.

Time expired.

[11.23 a.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of Government Business) - Madam Speaker, we are wasting a lot of time. The Government is supportive of moving on with the stunt Ms O'Connor wants to test this House and the Government's numbers. The member wants to test the motion tabled yesterday and, as a courtesy, we will now have. There are issues with trying to up-end the day's program. I want to address that in the short time that I have.

First, I make an important point. It is most unusual that you would ask questions of a government or a minister you do not have confidence in.

Ms O'Connor - I asked him to explain why we should have confidence.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - Dr Woodruff asked three questions of the Premier this morning, having yesterday tabled a motion indicating want of confidence.

Ms O'Connor - Focus on the trivialities.

Mr SPEAKER - Leader of the Greens, I ask you to be a bit more respectful. Thank you.

Mr FERGUSON - It speaks to the nature of this motion.

Second, I am well aware this is a promise Ms O'Connor feels the need to deliver on. This is a promise she made during the election campaign. She promised on the first day of parliament -

Ms O'Connor - At the first opportunity.

Mr FERGUSON - at the first opportunity, she would move a motion of no confidence in the Government. This was her desperate attempt to encourage people to vote Green. That is precisely what it was. I understand why Ms O'Connor would want to move this motion today.

Any occasion of a want of confidence motion is important, needs to be dealt with and the Government also wants it dealt with. We want to put this motion to this House and allow it to be dealt with without delay. I observed during the election campaign the Opposition made it clear they would not be supporting you. You are seeking to up-end the whole of what the House is here for today.

The House is here today to debate the Governor's Address. A number of new members from the Opposition are to give their inaugural address. I am mindful of that business. As important are the necessary condolence motions for the late Tony Benneworth, the late Dr Vanessa Goodwin, and the late Jocelyn Newman. I expect the House should be able to do all those things. Time has been wasted since this debate started around 11 o'clock.

I intend to move an amendment to Ms O'Connor's suspension motion, as I always do when I am put in this position, so we can ensure the House can have these numbers tested and move on with business.

Madam Speaker, for all of those reasons, I move -

That the motion be amended after 'forthwith' and by inserting -

and that he debate on the motion be completed by 1 p.m.; that the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Denison, Ms O'Connor, as mover of the motion, shall speak for no longer than 30 minutes each, and other members speak not longer than 10 minutes each in speaking to the motion; and that immediately following a vote on the motion the House proceed directly to the condolence motions, to be followed by the Address-in-Reply; and that for this day's sitting the House shall not stand adjourned at 6 p.m. and that the House continue to sit past 6 p.m.

For the information of members I indicate it is not my intention or desire to sit ridiculous hours tonight. I will speak with Mr O'Byrne as the Opposition manager, and Ms O'Connor, but I am interested in hearing from the Opposition, pending what Mr O'Byrne has to say. I would like to be mindful of any family arrangements made today and I will do my best to ensure they are supported.

[11.27 a.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, we support the amendment as moved by the Government but we will make it extraordinarily clear that we do not see this as the rule of thumb in this House. A matter of confidence in government is fundamental to the workings of this parliament. It needs to be fully debated and appropriate time should be allowed for these matters to be dealt with in seeking leave and in seeking of the suspension of Standing Orders.

We made it clear in the public domain in the lead-up to the first day and the first question of parliament that we would not be supporting the Greens move for a no confidence motion. The reasons will be given by the Leader in her address in this matter to be debated.

We believe on this day this is an exception in terms of time. We need time to debate this. Appropriate time to debate this is not only to 1 p.m., but on this case, given the context and given the clear view of the House we will support the amendment as moved by the Government.

[11.28 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, we are prepared to support the amendment but I echo what Mr O'Byrne said. It is not good parliamentary practice to have want of confidence motions restricted in such a manner.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

MOTION

Want of Confidence in the Premier - Motion negatived

[11.29 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, I move that the House has no confidence in the Premier on the following grounds -

- (1) The Premier, Hon. Will Hodgman MP allowed gambling interests from Tasmania and interstate to bankroll the Liberals' election campaign with unknown millions of dollars in dark, undisclosed money in cash and in-kind donations.

- (2) The Premier allowed Tasmanians to go to the polls on 3 March 2018, not knowing which vested interest gave how much money to secure a Liberal win.
- (3) The Premier secured the support of the gambling industry due to a change of Liberal policy on poker machines that would deliver the industry an estimated \$250 million windfall.
- (4) The direct licensing of venues model, post the expiry of the Federal Monopoly Deed, was the position Federal Group and the Tasmanian Hospitality Association presented to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets.
- (5) The Premier and the Liberals subsequently back-flipped on their original policy position on the future of poker machines which was for a price based market mechanism.
- (6) Once the industry's and the Liberals' policy aligned, the millions started flowing in to the Liberal campaign, corrupting Tasmania's democracy.
- (7) Following the election, it emerged the Liberals would gift the Tasmanian Hospitality Association \$6.8 million in taxpayer funding over the next four years, raising the question of a quid pro quo.
- (8) Premier Hodgman and the Liberals put the future profits of the multi-billion dollar gambling industry and their own political self-interest ahead of the interests of the Tasmanian people.
- (9) On this basis, the House has no confidence in a government that was bought and paid for by the gambling industry.

It gives me no pleasure as the Greens Leader to stand here and bring on a motion of no confidence in the Premier of Tasmania. We made this commitment to the people of Tasmania in the days before the election. The reason that we did that after long and careful consideration, talking to Greens supporters and members, elders and people in the community, is that we knew if the people of Tasmania did not give any party a majority we could not in all conscience provide confidence and supply to a Liberal Party in government which allowed itself to be so comprehensively bought and sold by vested interests. We made this commitment to the people of Tasmania because we felt very strongly that we owed it to the people of Tasmania to be honest with them before election day what our intentions were. We could not have given confidence and supply to a party which had been corrupted by so much dark money and we made that very clear to the people of Tasmania.

We said on that day we would move no confidence on the first day at the first opportunity and that was because the stench, the smell of corruption, about the Liberal campaign was overpowering. Everywhere you went in this state the sea of blue, of Liberal faces above gambling venues was indeed a nauseating sight to behold. Driving up Davey Street, for example, you could see two Liberal candidates, including the Premier, with their faces adorning the Welcome Stranger, a poker machine venue. We have never seen anything like it, Mr Deputy Speaker.

By the way, Mr Deputy Speaker, congratulations on your appointment to Chair of Committees.

We have never seen anything like this last election campaign. I am 51 years old, been around a very long time, worked on numerous election campaigns both as an adviser and as an MP, on federal campaigns and state campaigns. I have never, ever seen such a corrupted campaign. It was not just the Greens who saw this and felt this. Talking to people in the streets, there was a growing sense of unease about what this meant; this overpowering wall of millions of dollars in undisclosed money. People got a sense that the Liberals had been bought and sold by the gambling industry. Tasmanians in significant proportion understood that the Liberal Party's policy changed. It changed from prior to the establishment of the Joint Select Committee into the Future Gaming Markets. It changed after.

The Federal Group and the Tasmanian Hospitality Association presented to the select committee inquiry and put to the inquiry that the direct licensing model was their third way, their solution, to the expiry of the Federal monopoly deed. It was their way of making sure that poker machines remained in pubs and clubs until the year 2043 and that is what we are looking at here. That is why this is such an important issue. The consequences of allowing yourselves to be bought and sold for the future social and economic wellbeing of Tasmania are profound. The consequence of the Liberals allowing Federal Group, THA, the money that come in from interstate, the millions will be lives lost because gambling addiction is a suicide risk. It will be livelihoods lost because gambling addiction leads to a loss of jobs, the loss of housing, the breakdown of relationships, the neglect of children. We know that from the evidence of the Government's own reports. The Social and Economic Impact Study is very clear about the social costs of the proliferation of more than 3500 poker machines in some of our poorest communities in Tasmania.

I am sure that Liberal members have spoken to people who have been hurt by gambling addiction because there are so many people whose lives have been maimed by this addiction. There are children who have missed out as a result of the addiction of their parents. We have talked in this place before about the Kids Come First dataset. That is no longer anywhere I can find, but it was a magnificent dataset. It told us something very important about socio-economic distress. It told us that where there are poker machines located deliberately in areas of socio-economic disadvantage there is an increased rate of notifications of child abuse and neglect. There is a direct relationship between the location of these machines, the socio-economic circumstances of the communities they are located in and the wellbeing of children living in those communities. Every Liberal member who allowed themselves to be bankrolled by the gambling industry might want to have a think about that. Ultimately in these circumstances it is children who suffer most. No question whatsoever. They are the most innocent victims of gambling addiction.

Is there a reason that you are laughing, Dr Broad, or is something funny happening over there?

Dr Broad - No, keep going.

Ms O'CONNOR - Someone in this place has to remind the Liberals about the social harm of the policy that they basically sold to the gambling industry. They sold themselves to the gambling industry. The victims of that will be desperate people, families on low incomes and children who have no control over the addictions of their parents. We have heard time and again from the Premier and the Treasurer, and his other ministers, that gambling is a matter of personal choice. For people who do not get out enough and talk to other people who are doing it really hard, for people who have never lived with the pain of addiction that is easy to say. It is easy to say it is a matter of personal choice when you do not understand addiction. It is easy to say that when you have never

read too deeply about mental distress, alcohol addiction, drug and substance abuse and gambling addiction. It is easy to disassociate yourself from the human cost of your policies if you do not get out into the real world and talk to people who have been hurt by the decisions you make. That is what has happened here.

I said it on election night and it is true. The stain of being bought by the gambling industry will live with this Government and this Liberal Party, and every member of it, for the rest of their days. They were bought. They were bought with millions of dollars. They were bought with in-kind donations. They were bought by the gambling industry. The reason they were bought is because the Federal Group, Steve Old and the THA and gambling interests interstate knew that if the industry suffered a blow here, the domino effect around the country would be unstoppable. Tasmania was a litmus test for the industry, which knows its product is toxic and on the nose.

Of course the amount of money that was spent buying government and the Liberals was supported by interstate gambling interests. They had to bulwark Tasmania against this momentum to remove poker machines from pubs and clubs. That is why so much money went into the Liberal campaign. We do not know how much. There have been estimates of \$5 million, \$10 million. Tasmanians went to the polls not knowing how much. The Premier, when he was asked this question during the campaign, with almost a straight-face, said it was all above board, lawful and that the donations would be revealed through the Australian Electoral Commission process. In fact, the vast majority of that money will not be obvious in October when the Australian Electoral Commission releases its electoral disclosures.

We know that because the vast majority of that money did not go into the Liberal party coffers because it did not need to. It went into funding the Love your Local campaign. It went into all the signage around the state supporting a Liberal government. They did not need to put the money into Sam McQuestin's Liberal Party bank account because it was an in-kind contribution to buying government for the Liberals. That is the money we will not get to the bottom of without an Integrity Commission inquiry or a royal commission of inquiry.

Cue awkward laughter from our temporary Premier.

Mr Hodgman - Ha! Four years, two days.

Ms O'CONNOR - You reckon you will be here for four years? I have heard you are off to the consulate in the UK and that the Treasurer is getting his office ready for about two years from now when you will be heading off to the northern hemisphere because you do not have the ticker to stick out another four years in a tricky parliament. That is what I have heard.

Mr Hodgman - You've been predicting my demise for years.

Ms O'CONNOR - No, not your demise; I think you would be a lot happier in the UK. You certainly went through the election campaign not looking like you were particularly enjoying it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, through the Chair, please.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Deputy Speaker, the point I was making before was about the fact that most of this money will not come to light. The only way you would flush it out is if the Integrity Commission fully flexed its muscles, as it has the power to do. It could have a public and open hearing. It could have an inquiry into the corruption of democracy and an election. It could have

an inquiry into the grotesque sale of public policy to an industry at the expense of the people of Tasmania. A commission of inquiry or royal commission would have coercive powers to make sure that the people of Tasmania understood the extent of the in-kind donations that were made to the Liberal Party and to make sure that the people of Tasmania know how much the Liberal Party itself raised from various different vested interest sources.

We also do not know whether there has been any more money flowing into Liberal Party coffers from foreign donors. We asked that question during the campaign and there was no answer. We may or may not find out when the AEC returns come out in October. We may or may not find out whether the Liberals have pocketed another \$30 000 from the Yuhu group and Mr Fan Xiangmo, a close personal friend of people in the Chinese Communist Party, the same character ASIO warned your federal colleagues about and who you took money from.

The issue here is that the Liberals apparently have no scruples about where the money comes from. It was not that long ago that they used to take tobacco donations, gambling industry donations, donations connected to an oppressive government in China.

Mr Gutwein - How much did the Greens take from gamblers?

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Duncan Turpie, who is an individual gambler, made personal donations to us.

Mr Gutwein - So you have taken donations from gamblers? You are a hypocrite.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order.

Ms O'CONNOR - Talk about desperate! I am going to lay this out on the table because we have nothing to hide here. Unlike you people who will not tell the people of Tasmania what you accepted, we have nothing to hide. We have real-time donations disclosure.

There is a marvellous organic farmer in Queensland called Mr Duncan Turpie. He loves Tasmania's forests, he loves this island so much it gets him right in the heart. That is why he donated to the Tasmanian Greens at this last state election. I think he gave us \$50 000. Thank you, Duncan Turpie. He also happens to be a savant who is a really good individual gambler. He does not own a gambling company. He does not destroy peoples' lives through the proliferation of poker machines. He knew giving us money was not going to buy him anything, but that is the deflection we are getting here from the next premier of Tasmania, and it is irrelevant because it pales into insignificance against the millions that came into the Liberal Party from vested interests.

We still have not had an explanation from the next premier of Tasmania about this change of policy. How could it be that before the gambling inquiry we were going to have a price-based market mechanism and then after Greg Farrell and Steve Old appeared before the inquiry and said 'Hey, have we got a deal for you and us', the policy changed to a direct licensing model which at a conservative estimate, even according to Greg Farrell's own testimony, would deliver a \$250 million windfall to the industry in Tasmania and lock in the misery of poker machines to the year 2043?

Perhaps the next premier of Tasmania could get to his feet and explain why there was such a dramatic policy shift. At what point did the next premier of Tasmania say to Cabinet that they were going to go with the industry's direct licensing model? When did that happen? Suddenly, without

any public fanfare, that was the Liberals' position not long after the inquiry brought down its findings, most of the recommendations of which have been completely ignored.

Perhaps Mr Gutwein could explain why a policy that would lock in harm until the year 2043 and that directly licenses individual venues became the Liberal Party's policy after the industry put it forward. You cannot argue that on public interest grounds. You cannot argue that you are putting people first with that policy. The issue here is that there is a smell of illegitimacy about this Government because of the amount of money it took for them to just scrape into government with quite a precarious one-seat majority. All that money and they still lost two seats.

I know the industry must feel it is going to get a return on its investment and they already have, with the \$6.8 million that was awarded to the Tasmanian Hospitality Association not long after the election was over. Again we have no explanation from the next premier of Tasmania about that \$6.8 million. What is the justification for giving that much money to an industry body when there are so many other pressing social, economic and environmental priorities in Tasmania? Imagine if you put \$6.8 million into building affordable housing. You could actually put roofs over people's heads instead of lining the pockets of vested interests, which is what this money does.

I would not be surprised if \$6.8 million is actually what the industry spent on the campaign. It is somewhere between \$5 million and \$10 million. We know that is how much came in, so \$6.8 million sounds about right. It sounds like the THA said, 'This is what we put in', and the next premier of Tasmania said, 'No worries, this is what we'll put out to you at the end of it'. Quid pro quo. There is a smell of corruption, and a strong one at that.

There has been totally inadequate explanation of the shift of policy and the wilful ignoring of the advice of the former Gaming Commissioner Peter Hoult on the direct licensing model and the harm that would cause. They have been wilfully deaf to the community sector. Remember, the strength of opposition to the Liberals' policy and the strong will to remove poker machines from pubs and clubs was represented by such respected bodies as the Tasmanian Council of Social Services, Anglicare and Hobart City Mission. These are the organisations that pick up the human pieces of the nasty and destructive policies of the Liberals and in fact, to be fair, until not that long ago the Labor Party. The Labor Party and the Liberals are responsible for the Federal monopoly deed and the extension of poker machines into pubs and clubs. Well done to the Labor Party for coming around to the position that the Greens have held for a very long time.

I want to pass on a little anecdote from an old friend of mine who is a former very senior Labor Party MP - and it is not Duncan Kerr in case any one thinks it is Duncan - who said not long after the election on the issue of poker machines, 'You can be sure Labor will always do the right thing, once all the other options have been considered'. I thought this was quite an astute observation on the way the Labor Party develops its policy. Harsh, but he had been a part of the Labor Party for a very long time, an elected representative and a minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, that is a diversion. The fact of the matter is that if you look at the votes, very close to half of Tasmanians voted to remove poker machines from pubs and clubs to some extent. There are plenty of people who voted Liberal at the last election because it is in their family, it is in their culture and it is what they have always done. But they did so with a sick feeling in their guts about the amount of money that was coming in from vested interests. They knew there was something wrong with this campaign. They could smell it, feel it - it was everywhere you looked. That sea of blue. Those Liberal faces bought and sold by the industry. We can never let this happen again.

The parliament now has a very important task to do and that is to make sure that we have some donations disclosure laws in Tasmania that at least bring us up to the level of other jurisdictions. Would it not be better if we had nation's best practice donations disclosure laws? We need real time disclosure of donations. We need transparency about where the money is coming from. There should be a ban on corporate donations and most certainly a ban on foreign donations. We heard some noises from the Premier during the campaign - once the heat became pretty hot - about improving donations disclosure laws in Tasmania. We have not heard anything since.

If you come into this job with your conscience intact and you recognise that we are elected to serve the people of Tasmania, this beautiful island and its people, if you come in here because we are the beneficiaries of democracy, then you want to make sure you have the best democratic processes in place. That means never again allowing one industry to buy a government. That is what happened.

We have the weakest donations disclosure laws in the country. In fact, we have none. Our donations disclosure laws are the Commonwealth's laws which are weak. People went to the election on 3 March and they had no idea who was bankrolling his campaign. They could not see the rivers of dark money but they could see the evidence of it. They could see the evidence of it everywhere they looked every time they turned the television on. We could not afford television ads in this election campaign. I stand here and confess that the Greens are not a wealthy party. That is because television ads are really expensive, but these ads started on Boxing Day and they were wall-to-wall, on the hour. A relentless scare campaign. Minority government. We have something pretty close to that right now and the sky has not fallen in, but that was an incredibly expensive campaign.

To have that much money to put into television advertising as well as advertising in print, online, as well as every day full page and half page ads either Liberal MPs or Love Your Local or the Federal Group. Every day in newspapers, like the *Mercury* newspaper, we had tens of thousands of dollars of pro-Liberal, pro-pokies advertising. Every day tens of thousands of dollars. Tens of thousands of dollars daily in print. Then there was the online advertising, television advertising, the scale of which we have never on this island before because it was not just coming from the Liberals. This is in-kind stuff we are talking about. It was coming from the industry, it was coming from the Federal Group, the Tasmanian Hospitality Association, the Love Your Local campaign.

If you really love your local, if you really love your people, you do not stick poker machines on every corner, in every poor suburb of Tasmania. If you come in here, as we commit to doing each day, to work in the best interests of the people of Tasmania, if you want this island to prosper and if you want everyone to reach their full potential - including the children who are now the children of gambling addicts - you do not have this policy which puts industry first and puts children and marginalised people last. That is what happened.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I note for the purposes of *Hansard* that with the exception of the Deputy Premier all Liberal members' heads were hanging and so they should be. Hanging in shame.

Mr Ferguson - The quality of debates is amazing.

Ms O'CONNOR - Thank you, Mr Ferguson. Mr Ferguson actually thinks I care what he thinks about me.

We know how this no confidence will roll because Labor has said they will not support it so Labor has confidence in a government that was bought by the gambling industry. The record will show that but we had to bring it on because this needs to be on the public record. This debate needs to be on the public record as an historical record that lays on the table some of the facts about a party in government that allowed itself to be bought by an industry which has no other priority than the making of money.

You cannot argue that the gambling industry is about social good. You cannot even argue they are about economic good because it is about lining their own pockets and you let yourselves be bought. I believe every Liberal member knows that. They know there is an air of illegitimacy hanging over their government. They know that almost half the population did not like what they stood for. They know that when their faces were above those venues that that was almost their final sell out as elected representatives. They should be ashamed. They should be deeply, deeply, ashamed because this was not a free and fair election. It was not an election that was a contest of ideas and vision. It was an election that was utterly corrupted by dark money, undisclosed money, money that in all likelihood, unless there is a full Integrity Commission hearing, or a royal commission, the people of Tasmania will still be in the dark about in years to come.

We have no confidence in Premier Hodgman or in his Government.

[11.59 a.m.]

Mr HODGMAN (Franklin - Premier) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to not only defend myself and my Government against the baseless claims that have been made throughout that contribution but also to talk about the vote of confidence that the people of Tasmania expressed in the Liberal Party at this election and in so doing entrusting us to another four years of majority Liberal Government which, I hasten to add, I have every intention of serving.

I said to the member taking her seat and Opposition members, including many who are no longer with us, who have been predicting my demise or departure from this place for years. I am still here and I am not going anywhere. The Leader of the Greens suggesting that Peter Gutwein is the next premier of Tasmania demonstrates how little faith she has in returning to the government benches any time. It will be a long time before I go anywhere.

Dr Woodruff - We are just recognising your weak leadership.'

Mr HODGMAN - My weak leadership, how is that?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order.

Mr HODGMAN - As usual, and it is a comfortable place for you to be, you are in the minority. That is a minority view. I am leading a majority government and that is what Tasmanians voted for; strong leadership, a strong plan, a strong team and a strong track record of delivering. That is what Tasmanians voted for.

For those who wanted to make gambling a big issue during this campaign, that was a matter for them and it set a lot of our priorities. Almost every day of this campaign I was asked by the media or prompted by the opposition parties to disclose donations the Liberal Party was receiving. They wanted to change the rules at the last minute, again. It was an issue Tasmanians would have taken into account when they voted on 3 March.

They voted for the return of a majority government. I recognise not every single Tasmanian voted for us, but our system of government, our parliamentary democracy, says that the government receiving a majority vote or the return of the most seats forms government. In this case it is a continued majority Liberal Government. We have an expression of confidence from the Tasmanian people. It was about all our policies, our plan and the team to deliver it that led them to vote for the return of a majority Liberal Government.

I will reflect on this election campaign. There has been some commentary, including by members of this place and particularly those opposite as to the result, what it meant and to the closeness of the result. We received the majority of the vote, a little less than 1 per cent difference to that which we received in 2014. It is the first time since the 1970s that any party topped the 50 per cent of the primary vote threshold for the second election in a row, and it is the first time since 1912-13 for a conservative party. Respected commentator and electoral analyst, Kevin Bonham, said it was the 'Hare-Clark equivalent of a 56-44 pasting at federal level', in two party terms. We received a major swing to us in some parts of the state, including a 1.7 per cent swing in Bass. There was an endorsement of what we had done over four years in government, what we were planning to do for the next four years and for Tasmania's future.

Far from the Liberal Party being pushed to the brink of defeat, as the Leader of the Opposition claimed on election night and was subsequently described as being, 'delusional', it was not a close run thing unless you were again planning to form government with the Greens. In that case, I concede it was a little too close for comfort for those of us who believe in majority government.

The Leader of the Opposition did not really believe in it when she was part of a minority government with the Greens. She was a supporter of that and, for the better part of the last term of government, was proudly defending their record as a minority government and expressed no real reservations. She might have even said, along with other colleagues, that they were proud of what they had done as a minority government.

As we came closer to the election, the Leader of the Opposition started to toughen up the language and say that they would govern in majority or not at all, or words to that effect. On one occasion it was falsely claimed, as is often the case by the Leader of the Opposition, that they could not govern in minority because their party rules do not allow it when we know that they do. We know they do not care about what their rules say, nor what they have said, because they can say they will not govern in minority but they will, given the chance.

It would have occurred to all Tasmanians after scratching their heads hearing the Leader of the Opposition say on election night that they pushed a first term Liberal government to the brink of defeat that either she was completely away with the fairies and delusional, as national newspapers have reported, or she was seriously considering another coalition minority government with the Greens. We know they are comfortable in that place and all Tasmanians can see it. They will not forget in four years time, if you think they will. They know what really matters is what you say you will do. When you look at the Labor policy agenda - scrambled, unstructured and unconvincing as it was - in so many ways it mirrored the Greens. We had Labor pushing the Greens even further to the left to try to outdo them on the policy we are discussing today. Labor adopted Greens policy on pokies.

The other thing worth pointing out, despite the delusional claims of the Leader of the Opposition on election night - yes, their vote did increase. It came off a very low base, the worst ever election result in their history, 2014, and the Leader of the Opposition was a member of that

team, as was the returning former minister for economic development, Mr O'Byrne, who lost his seat after taking the state's economy into recession - that the people of Tasmania delivered Labor their worst result. It was their third worst result, this time under Leader, Rebecca White, their third worst defeat since the 2014, and 1992, elections. If it is not sinking in for members of the Labor Party that both elections occurred immediately after they had done deal with the Greens, their review after the last election that said they are no good at campaigning is right. I wonder, not that I care, when you are will sit up and take notice of what Tasmanian voters care about and the sort of government they want to lead them. Despite the other extraordinary revelation post-election that the Labor Party were not set about winning this, their hearts were not in it to the extent they needed to be, they did not realise an election campaign is our audition to the people of Tasmania.

To have the honour and privilege to serve as government, you have to win government. That they do not accept this is an important part of the democratic process is extraordinary. It demonstrates the inexperience we have been talking about for some time with respect to the Labor Party.

The Greens result speaks for itself. You talk about a party losing seats; the Greens were nearly driven to extinction -

Ms O'Connor - You wish.

Mr HODGMAN - No, it is better having you around as a permanent reminder of the risk you pose as the very natural partners of the Labor Party. That is the role you will play for the next four years. The fascinating thing will be to watch who will have the whip hand, who is leading the show, because at various points it can be either party.

Ms O'Connor - We lead our own show, thanks.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I ask the House to be respectful and allow the Premier to have his say.

Mr HODGMAN - Concluding my remarks about what happened on 3 March and in the lead-up - it is important in the context of a debate on policy that was very much part of the narrative of this election and part of the debate - we agree it would have been wonderful to have a competition of ideas. We brought ours. There were not many coming forward from the other parties, who decided early on that despite apparently recognising that health is the number-one priority for Tasmanians, the Labor Party would spend the whole time talking about pokie policy, and of course the Greens found themselves in an awkward spot of being outflanked by their Labor partners on that subject. It was a determined choice by the parties opposite to make their policy priorities clear and we endeavoured every single day to outline the elements of our plan which are all about building our state's future and giving Tasmanians another term of majority Liberal government. I believe, as the record shows, that Tasmanians reflected that in the vote. They trusted us with that, and even for those who I understand are not sympathetic to Liberal views or were not supportive of us and did not vote for us, we still have that responsibility and we respect that and we will deliver that. I also believe that in the back of people's minds there was a serious mistrust as to what Labor and the Greens might do if there were a hung parliament and as we have seen ever since, in fact throughout the election campaign and every day since, it will be a natural fit for Labor and the Greens to join back up again given half the chance.

It is not just my view of the world on this. I want to reflect on the national reports on the outcome of the election, which I hope the leaders of the Opposition and the Greens reflected upon, because they said very clearly that we deserved our electoral win in *The Australian* newspaper.

Ms O'Connor - *The Australian*!

Mr HODGMAN - Well, it is a national newspaper. That is an interesting reflection on its local journalist Matthew Denholm, who somewhat surprisingly became a subject and in fact a participant in the political debate during the course of the election campaign. If I had the time to get back into that -

Ms O'Connor - How? Did he call you 'a competent middle manager' or what?

Mr HODGMAN - Do you not recall the excruciating involvement of Mr Denholm in an interview conducted with Mr Brian Powell on a northern radio show with the Leader of the Opposition and as to what she told Mr Denholm and what happened after Mr Denholm reported that? That will need a whole separate debate to revisit because that was something else. It was things like that which people got wind of, that there was a substance-over-style thing happening here that people could not quite get their finger on nor indeed trust with respect to the leadership of Tasmania's next government and it was exposed by a very well-respected journalist, in this case working for a paper which believed that we had been -

Ms O'Connor - This is the same one who called you a 'competent middle manager'.

Mr HODGMAN - Well, I will go to the *Financial Review* then. Are you happier with their editorialising? They said that the economy 'has turned around under Will Hodgman's Liberal Government and this Government's scorecard looks good'. A local paper quoted Richard Eccleston, a respected commentator, as saying, 'A strong result for the Tasmanian Liberals would also demonstrate that even in an era in which large swings against governments are the norm it is possible for a disciplined government presiding over an improving economy to get re-elected.'. An editorial in the *Mercury* said our strategic plan for our future is strong, more focused than that of Labor's and they had been careful to ensure they presented a team, not just a leader, to voters.

I could go on. The point I am making is most reasonable, objective observers have accepted the result. They have acknowledged the strengths of this Government and we recognise our weaknesses, but for anyone to say that Tasmania's votes were bought is the most offensive thing to say to every Tasmanian who voted, that they do not have the intellectual capacity to express their choice and to form a view no matter what political advertising is taking place. No matter what other smokescreens are being thrown up in the political environment and all the distractions with an election campaign, Labor and the Greens are saying that when push came to shove people did not exercise a free vote because it had been bought or because they did not have the intellectual capacity to exercise their views through that vote. That is also, I would suggest, delusional.

I will briefly speak on the rules we have been under for recent elections. Of course they are rules that are prescribed at a national level so they are, to be fair, consistent with what happens nationally and with what happens in previous election campaigns, including those in which the Labor and Labor-Greens governments were elected. After those election victories for Labor and the Greens I do not recall them ever coming in here and complaining about the rules. I do not recall a serious attempt to change the rules.

Ms White - What about 2013?

Mr HODGMAN - The Leader of the Opposition suggests Labor seriously attempted the donation laws in 2013. Yes, there was a move in this area but it begs the question why nothing happened up until that point. As very respected commentator, Kevin Bonham, said in an interesting piece - and I will quote him because it sums up the point to refute the Leader of the Opposition's claim that they have taken action in this space - in one of his blogs on Friday 2 March in the run-up to the election campaign, that there have been references made to failed attempts to reform campaign donations in the last days of the previous Labor-Greens government, with Labor simply saying the Liberals blocked them. He said, 'I thought I would refresh my memory and that of anyone reading concerning what actually happened there', and he concludes:

So Labor and the Greens in government had abundant opportunity to do something serious about donations and disclosure laws in the 2010-14 parliament, chose to leave it til the final moment when it had been under consideration for more than a year -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. This is an extremely serious matter. I expect respect around the table. Let the Premier finish his contribution.

Mr HODGMAN - I will finish the quote -

So Labor and Greens in government had abundant opportunity to do something serious about donations and disclosure laws in the 2010-14 parliament, chose to leave it til the final moment when it had been under consideration for more than a year and couldn't get it through upstairs, when *nobody at all* (not just the Liberals) seemed to want it to be rammed through in time for the election.

To say the Liberals blocked it is false. Though it is true they voted against it, the bill, especially given its timing, was at best half-baked and a flawed effort and the Legislative Council rightly, and apparently by consensus, did not want to rush it through without sufficient scrutiny. This is a great example of the Labor Party being too cute by half. They fooled Tasmanians by trying to rush through donation laws at the last possible minute, presumably sensing defeat. It did not secure the support apparently of a single member of the Legislative Council. It certainly did not fool Tasmanians. It was reminiscent of the other farcical scenes we had where Labor recalled Parliament to have their silly fake split with the Greens and claim they would never do a deal with them again. Tasmanians saw through that and they will see through it again because that is the track record by which members opposite stand.

In terms of doing something in this space, Labor had no credibility at all and I believe even during the election campaign there were demands of them to suddenly release all of our donations at some stage before election day during the election campaign, but when push came to shove and they were asked if they would do it, they said they would not. Again that highlights the double standards of the opposition party with respect to this and doing anything about it.

I note the hypocrisy of the Greens as well. The single largest political donation in our country's history, I am told, is the \$1.6 million given to the Greens by Mr Graeme Wood in 2010 to continue to support the job-destroying ideology of the Greens, along with donations of \$500 000 to the

Victorian Greens and \$130 000 to the Tasmanian Greens during the recent federal election. There was no disclosure by the Greens. Presumably they abided by the law as it is and as it was. The ABC revealed this. The Leader of the Greens told the ABC I saw in a quote that 'while the system is loose, money comes in that is designed to buy influence is a recipe for corruption'. That is their view now but back then apparently it was not, unless the Leader of the Greens was corrupted. Again there is the hypocrisy of all that. We saw the impact of it in Tasmania with the influence in the Triabunna Mill debacle which unfolded. When you look at what the Greens say about donations and the impact, you wonder why they speak with such authority on this subject and why the Leader of the Greens says it does lead to corruption, because in that case I think a case was clearly made. There was influence alive and well in the Greens but I can assure members of this House and the Tasmanian public that we are not bought, nor indeed are Tasmanian votes with respect to what is part of a democratic process and that is the right for people and organisations to make donations and to disclose them in accordance with the rules under which we operate. That is exactly what will occur with us.

It is convenient for parties - particularly if they are sensing electoral defeat - to suddenly want to change the rules at the last possible minute. It is easy too for members opposite to demand of us things they did not do, or would not do, when they were in government and that is a matter for them to defend. One thing I will defend is the right for organisations to freely express their views and to be part of a democratic process. If somebody, a parent of a family or some young Tasmanian who works in the hospitality sector, somebody who has come off an unemployment scrap heap under Labor and the Greens that has a new job opportunity in the hospitality sector says 'I want to stand by the one political party that is defending my job', they should be able to do it. If their peak organisation believes that they should defend that position and the people who work for them, so they should.

For those unions who donate money to the Labor Party - and it is perfectly fine for the Labor Party to accept them on behalf of the workers - I say that same thing applies to the workers of the Tasmanian hospitality industry. For those whose jobs were threatened directly by a policy of the Labor Party and it is very easy to have sour grapes -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. This is really eating into the time for this debate, so I ask again to control yourselves.

Mr FERGUSON - Point of order, Madam Speaker. I invite you to ask the member for Denison to withdraw her unparliamentary language, not just now. She used a word which is not acceptable in this House except by substantive motion. I draw your attention that that is not part of her substantive motion.

Ms O'Connor - Do you want to tell Madam Speaker what the word is?

Madam SPEAKER - Yes. I apologise for that, Leader of the House. I did not hear it.

Mr FERGUSON - Lie.

Madam SPEAKER - I beg your pardon, that is very unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw that.

Ms O'CONNOR - I withdraw the word 'lie' and insert instead 'misled'.

Madam SPEAKER - You have to withdraw it unequivocally, unreservedly.

Ms O'CONNOR - Madam Speaker, I withdraw the word 'lie', even though I believe in it.

Madam SPEAKER - You have offended our Leader of the House, so please stand and give an unequivocal apology. I am asking nicely.

Ms O'Connor - I withdraw the word 'lie', Madam Speaker.

Mr HODGMAN - In concluding on this point I will say unashamedly that this Government and the Liberal Party will continue to support Tasmania's hospitality sector - the industry that employs over 22 000 Tasmanians. They were left in the lurch by a Labor Party that deserted them, that placed their jobs at risk with little care for their working families. We will defend them and we will support them with additional policy commitments which we announced, publicly released and spoke about at media conferences and in a media release, which recognises the importance that this Government places on the hospitality sector and I am its minister. To us it is an important backbone of our visitor economy and one which we will continue to support, as we will their right to express a view when political parties put up policies that are going to directly impact on them and their livelihoods.

With respect to the matters of disclosure, I did say after the election campaign that out of any campaign and election process there will be matters that arise as a subject of concern, and that was indeed the case here. As methods of campaigning change there is often a need to revisit our laws and to see what we can do to improve them where possible. Again, notwithstanding the cries of sore losers trying to blame others for their losses, let us be clear that donations are a part of our democratic process. They certainly do not buy our policies. All sides of politics take them and there was none of this chatter or talk when GetUp! put millions into the federal campaign in Bass and Braddon. It was perfectly all right then. No problem at all with those donations to the Labor Party.

All sides of politics fought this election on existing laws. They are the same as national donations laws. We will disclose our donations in accordance with these laws and where we can make improvements, not only with respect to donations or disclosure laws or the laws contained within the Electoral Act, we will do so. To that end, it will be that the Department of Justice, with the Department of Premier and Cabinet providing assistance, will review the Electoral Act and associated election laws. We hope and expect an interim report to be available within six months, a final report in 12 months or so. We would like to be governed by two principles: that is, least cost to the taxpayer and also protecting freedom of speech. There are some opposite who are advocating for public funding of election campaigns. We would like to reform our laws and improve them without asking Tasmanians to have to spend millions of dollars in public funding of election campaigns, but that policy position is for the Leader of the Opposition and anyone else to justify.

We believe in freedom of speech. We are its strongest defenders. Members opposite pick and choose when it suits them and often want to deny certain groups in our community the right to free speech. We believe particularly in an election environment, they should be able to do so. This is a responsible action following the state election and it will ensure that our democratic processes are contemporary and in line with changing expectations and technology.

Work is already under way with respect to a number of matters under the Electoral Act which the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General could speak further to, and we recognise that if improvements can be made, they should. We will be a government that leads the way on that front, rather than talk about it for years and then try to do something at the last minute in the shadows of an election and be called out not only by us but by the upper House.

With respect to gaming policy, this is something the minister can speak a lot more to. We released our policy parameters, our guiding principles, two years before the election campaign. To suggest there was a sudden departure from our position or an unwillingness for us to engage in this policy space is completely and utterly unfounded. We recognised that it would be a subject of interest for Tasmanians in the run-up to the election. Notwithstanding the fact that the timing of the agreement which was struck by the Labor Party would not require us to do so, we laid out for Tasmanians to understand what we thought were the right principles for gaming policy into the future, and we stood by them. Tasmanians had plenty of time to absorb that and to understand us. We were scrutinized in this place as to the detail of our policy and its implications.

Any suggestion that our policy has been influenced by the election is farcical. Our policy was outlined two years before the election. If you cannot outline your policies two years ahead of an election and then be accused of somehow trying to be influenced by donations which occur in the run up to or during an election campaign, at which point can you do so?

In our view, Tasmanians have expressed a view on this matter as well and we will be endeavouring to pursue and progress our agenda on all fronts, including on gaming policy during this term of government with the mandate that we were given by the Tasmanian people and which we have been entrusted to deliver our policies and delivery outcomes.

While the political game playing started immediately, and as the member who interjects constantly, delightfully and gleefully tweeted last night 'the game is on' he thought. Politics is not a game. The businesses of this parliament is not a game and government is not a game. Whatever you have been doing for the last four years might have been but it is not a game to people to take solid, strong, stable government and the interests of the state seriously. That is what this is. Although they say it is stunt I have no doubt they are going to participate in it.

Time expired.

[12.30 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Madam Speaker, there can be no question that vested interests played a big role in this Tasmanian election. The evidence was clear to see. If you looked around at those pubs where they have poker machines, there were banners adorning those premises and some included Liberal Party members' headshots. It was clear to see the level of collusion between the industry and the Liberal Government. There were full page advertisements, commercials on television, radio advertising and mailboxes full of material. Vested interests that received money for nothing from poker machines were intent on doing everything they could to protect their cash cows.

These machines take \$110 million from the Tasmanian community every year. Every dollar spent on poker machines creates three jobs. Every dollar spent in retail creates 10 jobs, and every dollar spent in hospitality creates 20 jobs. It is a much better economic proposition for us to invest in areas of job creation such as hospitality and retail and not poker machines. They do not create

jobs. They are machines and it is foolish for you to think they were the job creators the industry fooled you into believing they are.

These machines target the most vulnerable. They are deliberately located in suburbs and towns where some of our poorest citizens live. The Government does have a responsibility as a regulator to make sure we protect our citizens and to provide for laws that allow for good consumer protection practices, and ensure people are not subject to products that harm their health. This is a health issue. It affects the health of thousands of Tasmanians. It affects the health of our economy when that \$110 million churns through a poker machine rather than going into the local businesses and the local community clubs, supporting the creation of jobs in those areas. This is about the health of our communities, the health of the people in those communities and the health of our local economies.

The Premier does not seem to know how his policy works. He made a fool of himself in the Sky News debate. He could not explain his policy at all, did not understand the direct licensing model, did not realise - even now, in making his contribution today - that the parameters they set out two years ago are distinctly different from the direct licensing model they took to the election. It is quite different. It is a gift of \$250 million to the industry. No wonder they are your best friends, Premier. Wake up. In your own office, Premier, there is now a staffer who was formerly an employee of the Federal Group. This shows how cosy that relationship is. You cannot tell this parliament you act with impartiality when assessing these public policy decisions. You are influenced by the industry. Your policy is a direct carbon copy of the submission made by the industry to the parliamentary inquiry for a direct licensing model.

I would like to talk about troll accounts. The Premier might laugh but he should hang his head in shame and be embarrassed about the way he sanctioned staff in his own office to use troll accounts to influence the public debate.

Mr HODGMAN - Point of order, Madam Speaker. You may not be aware the Leader of the Opposition will often use this place to dishonestly assert things without foundation and she has done it again. The people of Tasmania recognised that during the course of the campaign, that the Leader of the Opposition cannot be trusted, but I ask you to urge the Leader to stick to facts and truth, to be honest.

Madam SPEAKER - Please proceed.

Ms WHITE - If the Premier feels so sensitive about it - prove it did not happen. You cannot. Let us look. Think about Alice Wood-Jones. Does that name sound familiar? Alice Wood-Jones commented the day Labor announced this policy. Alice Wood-Jones, who was later found to be the senior media adviser in the Premier's own office said, 'There goes my brother's job.'. That was a lie, because Alice Wood-Jones did not exist. How could that person be making that comment? That person was later found to be the Premier's chief media adviser. What a disgrace. The lengths this government went to to influence public debate and manipulate public thinking about this issue and others knows no bounds, going so far as to threaten an individual's job. The deception and manipulation of the public was astounding.

The secrecy of the Liberals about how much was donated by whom and for what purpose is a matter that deserves further investigation. The state needs state-based donation disclosure laws. It is pleasing to hear the Premier has indicated there will be a review of such opportunities to reform our state-based donation disclosure laws within the next six months. What we need from that,

Premier, is for you to introduce legislation into this parliament that reforms our political donation laws in this state, so that there are caps on expenditure and so there is disclosure about who donated, and when, in a timely manner.

We will not know who donated to the Liberal Party during this election campaign until February next year. The people of Tasmania deserve to understand if there has been undue influence, whether that money bought a policy outcome. It is a fair question; \$250 million is on the line. The parliament deserves to see those reforms this year. This should provide confidence to the people of Tasmania that every member who was elected to this place is here because they are the best person to serve their community, not because they have the fattest cheque.

There is much stench around this Government. They are the best Government money can buy. When the Greens indicated before the election they were -

Mr Ferguson - We've got a new Greens leader.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Ms WHITE - going to move a motion of no confidence, the Labor Party and I stated clearly we would not be supporting it. It was a stunt. It was done in the last few days before the election. It was done by the Greens because they were failing to gain much media attention at the time. It is true.

Ms O'Connor - I know, but that's not what it was about.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Ms WHITE - There are questions this Government and the Premier should answer, because their conduct during the election campaign and their willingness to adopt the industry position on this, despite views held by the Premier himself on this matter, need scrutiny. I remind the House and the Premier, if he has forgotten, about the statements he has made about poker machines. Will Hodgman, on a 2008 report from the Tasmanian Gaming Commission, said -

It found that problem gambling is a significant issue in Tasmania, the number of problem gamblers is underestimated, and there are a range of potential strategies available to government.

From a Will Hodgman press release in April 2008 -

The Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, has called on the State Government to be open and upfront about the impact of gambling on the Tasmanian community.

New Labor Leader, Kevin Rudd, has openly spoken of his hatred of pokie machines and has flagged tough new measures to reduce the harm associated with problem gaming.

The State Labor Government, on the other hand, appears happily addicted to pokies revenue.

Sound familiar, Premier? It sounds as if you have switched positions.

From a Will Hodgman press release July 2008, titled, 'Labor lacks the courage and conviction on pokies', the Premier said -

The State Government doesn't have the courage or the conviction to tackle problem gambling in Tasmania.

The government is paralysed by fear on the pokie machine issue.

From a Liberal press release in March 2009 -

In his Agenda 2009 speech yesterday, Mr Hodgman put the issue of pokies and problem gambling firmly on the Opposition's agenda. He said it had been left in the too hard basket by Labor for too long.

From a Will Hodgman press release in October 2009 -

The Tasmanian Government has its head in the sand on pokies, with the Treasurer claiming today that they only cause social problems from 'time to time'.

What changed, Premier? You are in the privileged position of being Premier of this state. You have the ability to make decisions about the laws of this state that improve the welfare of people everywhere. You have a decision, with the deed coming up for renewal, to make a decision that reflects your values and the things you truly feel about the impact and the harm the poker machines cause. What changed? Why have you adopted the industry's position on this matter? These are the sorts of questions the parliament deserves answers about. Your policy even goes against the advice of the Liquor and Gaming Commission submission to the parliamentary inquiry. You only have to look at the Social and Economic Impact Services report that was finally released in January this year that the Government tried to hide that demonstrates that poker machines continue to cause harm in our community and are negatively affecting the health of individuals and our economy. We know from the SEIS report that 18.6 per cent of the Tasmanian adult population played poker machines in the last year and that figure has not changed since 2013; it has not gone down.

We know that whilst Tasmanians are gambling, the same number are using poker machines and slightly more of them are problem gamblers. We know that one in three of those using poker machines are categorised as a problem or at-risk gambler. One in three of the people in Tasmania who use poker machines are categorised by your own study into the economic and social impacts of problem gambling as at-risk or problem gamblers. That is a startling statistic that cannot be ignored.

We also see very concerningly that young people are using poker machines at a consistently higher rate than the general population, with 24.3 per cent of young people using a poker machine compared to the general rate of population of 18.6 per cent. This is a problem that is not going away. It is concerning to me that more young people are choosing to use poker machines. I honestly thought that would not be the case. I thought younger people would choose to use other forms of gambling products but that is not the case reflected in this report. Of those who participated in gambling in the past year, 31.9 per cent used poker machines, which is slightly up from 2013.

We are moving in the wrong direction under your Government, Premier. Despite the changes that have been made to the mandatory code, it is not enough to reflect change in the community. We know that poker machines are the highest risk and cause the most harm which we know from what we see in our community and what we hear from our community organisations who work on the front line supporting people affected by the harms caused by gambling addiction.

The other concerning fact that was revealed in the Government's own SEIS report is that hotels and clubs are the locations in which people most frequently use poker machines and where the most harm occurs. We know from this survey that half of the total expenditure on poker machines in Tasmania come from at-risk and problem gamblers. Half of the \$110 million every year that is lost on poker machines comes from people who are at risk or who are harmed by poker machine gambling. How can you possibly say that is sustainable for the health of our communities and those individuals and their families who are directly impacted and hurting because of gambling addiction? How can you use the revenue gain from people with a problem addiction to poker machine gambling to prop up your budget?

We know the impacts of problem gambling and the effects they have on people. Relationship impacts are most common, some quite severe. Emotional impacts are also extremely common, such as distress and shame about their addiction to gambling. They are angry about their lack of control and hopelessness. Financial impacts are also relatively common, some quite severe. We know that responses to the SEIS survey indicate that about 5 per cent of the Tasmanian population have been adversely affected by another's gambling. That is 20 543 individuals who have been adversely impacted by somebody else's problem gambling behaviour.

This parliament still has an opportunity to reform our gaming laws in this state, to listen to the evidence, make a difference and ensure that the values you have, Premier, and the concerns you raised previously about the prevalence of poker machines in our community can be addressed. You have the power to do something about this and you know the majority of Tasmanians want you to. When you look at this issue when it is surveyed in isolation, the majority of Tasmanians across the state want poker machines restricted to casinos. Not in just one or two electorates, but every electorate wants them restricted to casinos.

I urge you, Premier, to listen to the evidence, listen to your own conscience on this matter and do something about it. We understand that the direct licensing model proposed by your Government is the worst possible.

Mr Brooks - Why did Scott support it?

Ms WHITE - He did not support it. This is where you do not understand your own policy, Premier. The submission made to the parliamentary inquiry by the Federal Group and the THA that proposed the direct licensing model was never considered by the committee of inquiry because it was made too late. They did not factor it into their findings and recommendations. The committee never deliberated on that issue because the submission was made too late. If you read the report you will see that in black and white. Scott and other members of the committee never voted on the direct licensing model. The Government adopted the position of the industry in contrast to the recommendations

I urge the Government to consult with the people of Tasmania and this parliament when it comes to this policy. I remind them again of comments made by the Treasurer, the member for

Bass, Mr Gutwein, in May 2003 when he said in this place in relation to the current deed that exists on this issue:

I am a new parliamentarian and I thought politics was about democracy. But it is not about democracy; it is about stealth, secrecy, about a government not wanting to be transparent or accountable, looking to ram their legislation through this House, not caring whether the members on this side of the House are fully informed in respect of the legislation that they are going to be debating.

I want to return to the reason that the upper House referred it for investigation to the PAC. For clarification, he is referring to the deed associated with Gaming Control Act. He said:

They wanted to look at its return to taxpayers. That is a very sensible thing to do. We are talking about a 15-year deed with a five-year option - 20 years. I will be 58 years of age before we get an opportunity to make changes to this once this Parliament signs off.

That was Mr Gutwein in 2003 - déjà vu, Madam Speaker. As I stand before you, there is potential for the Government to sign a deed until 2043 to extend poker machines in our clubs and communities. I will be 60 years old before we can have this debate again. I feel a little bit like Peter Gutwein did in 2003. We have an opportunity right now to prevent what happened then happening again. I urge the Premier and the Treasurer to heed their own cautionary tale and bring any legislation to this Parliament that changes the Gaming Control Act. He needs to consult widely with the community and listen to their concerns and hopefully restrict poker machines to pubs and clubs.

We will not be supporting the motion of no confidence but it is quite clear that there are a number of questions the Government needs to answer when it comes to the cosy relationship they have with the industry and the amount of money that flowed during the election to the Liberal Party from the pro-pokies industry over this issue. I challenge the Liberal Government to present legislation to the Parliament and not to do a deal behind closed doors. Indeed, they should heed the recommendation from the Treasurer that the Public Accounts Committee be invited to scrutinize any deed or any change before one is made to ensure it is in the best interests of the taxpayer and the Tasmanian community.

This is a murky issue. It is a dark chapter in the Liberal Party's history. It was an election where we saw a record amount of money spent and there can be no doubt there are many questions people have. Waiting until February until we have disclosure of the donations that were received by the Liberal Party is what is required under the current law. I encourage the Government to introduce state-based donation disclosure laws so we can have greater transparency and improved confidence of the people in Tasmania in our democratic processes.

[12.50 p.m.]

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Deputy Leader) - Madam Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on this no confidence motion today. I did not expect to get to my feet first because the three leaders were offered 30 minutes each to speak on the motion today, a very serious motion of want of confidence in the government and, secondly, I would have thought that the Greens member who should have been on her feet very quickly, in fact quicker than me perhaps and obviously that highlights the fact that the Greens -

Ms O'Connor - We want to hear you defend yourselves.

Mr ROCKLIFF - do not have their heart in this motion at all. It is a stunt and I have been prepared for this debate for a number of months because the member who moved the motion was so desperate for relevance in a very lacklustre Greens campaign that she chose this card in the campaign to try to get some relevance of which -

Ms O'Connor - It is what our members who supported us wanted.

Mr ROCKLIFF - The result would show that it did not work because the voters, the previous voters of the Greens Party, fled the Greens in 2018. They ran a mile.

Ms O'Connor - Tell us about the voters who ran away from you.

Madam SPEAKER - Order, I remind the member for Denison, Ms O'Connor, to show a little respect in the parliament and let the Deputy Premier finish his debate.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Madam Speaker. We know that Ms O'Connor flagged this no confidence motion before the election in February. It was a disaster of a campaign for the Greens Party - desperate for relevance - which is why they played the card and even then when they played the card the Tasmanian public saw right through them then, as they still see right through the Greens. No substance whatsoever. All about games and the Labor Party is complicit in those games as well as they are hypocritical. Ms White can quote members of the other side of the House all she likes but the fact is the Labor Party has clearly changed its position when it comes to gambling and poker machines in this state. I look no further than the shadow treasurer on his position when it comes to poker machines. I quote Mr Bacon:

They see it as a social outing. They can get some benefit from a recreational activity that they enjoy. There is room in our society for people to make their own decisions about how they spend their leisure time.

In parliament on 28 August 2013, I quote Mr Bacon:

There is no doubt that Tasmania has been seen as a leader in harm-minimisation measures to address problem gambling for many years now. This has been backed up through independent research by consultants who have undertaken the second social and economic impact study into gambling in Tasmania.

And I believe, it goes on to say, that harm minimisation measures currently in place in Tasmania are evidence-based, sensitive to context and part of a comprehensive strategy and that Tasmania does in fact lead other states and territories.

Well there you go. That is the Labor Party position back in 2013. And while the Greens are so wild and why also they play games again today with a no confidence motion they, in fact, flagged back in February is because they are so angry that Labor actually stole their policy on poker machines in some desperate attempt by the Labor Party to try to gain relevance with respect to the Tasmanian community.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - I respectfully ask that the members of the Greens stop interjecting in such a rude manner and allow the Deputy Premier to continue this debate.

Ms O'CONNOR - On your ruling, Madam Speaker, one of the problems is that when members of the Government are up they are inciting interjections by laying out falsehoods and being abusive. That is how this happens. I apologise for my role in disrupting the debate but it is because Mr Rockliff was inciting interjections.

Madam SPEAKER - I think we are all a bit more grown up than that, thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - The member can protest all she likes, but the fact is if the Greens had their heart in this no confidence motion, if they wanted to play games - and they are playing games - then the honourable member for Franklin, Ms Woodruff, would be on her feet right now. The fact is she could not even be bothered to get to her feet to speak on the very motion of no confidence that the Leader of the Greens put forward. I did not expect to be on my feet either because the Opposition Leader was given 30 minutes to discuss this no confidence motion and fell 10 minutes short, so it is very clear.

Try as the Greens might to drum up issues through what is really their game play book, and that is kooky conspiracy theories, they simply have not had the backing of the Tasmanian people. The Tasmanian people on 3 March spoke loudly and very clearly. They voted very clearly for the Liberal Government. They were decisive in abandoning the Greens as well. That is why we are having internal Greens inquiries into the most disastrous election campaign ever for the Tasmanian Greens.

Ms O'Connor - That is a lie.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Absolutely not a lie. You cannot ignore the fact that we are here today debating a motion because of the disastrous campaign the Greens had. They were not relevant to Tasmanian people. They were desperate for an environmental issue and did not have one because of the good stewardship of this Government. Desperate for an issue and all they could come up with -

Ms O'CONNOR - Standing Order 45, Madam Speaker, it goes to relevance. The Deputy Premier is really keen to get to his feet to fend the Premier for the next two years and he has not yet said a word about why we should have confidence in our temporary Premier.

Madam SPEAKER - Thank you, Ms O'Connor. I am sure he will get to it.

Mr ROCKLIFF - The Tasmanian people had very clear confidence in the Premier and this Government because it is the first time since the 1970s that any political party topped 50 per cent of the primary vote for a second election in a row. It is the first time since 1912-13 for a conservative party in fact. In two party terms it was a landslide, and I quote Kevin Bonham when he says 'the Hare-Clark equivalent of a 56-44 pasting at a federal level'. This motion is because those opposite will not accept defeat. You are bitter and you are twisted and there is no greater example of it than the Green themselves.

I will tell you why it was such an historic win for the majority Liberal Government. It is because the Tasmanian people remember the Labor-Greens government. They have long memories and they remembered 10 000 jobs were lost between 2010 and 2014 when they played games for

four years just so they could keep in government at the expense of hardworking Tasmanians. They know full well, which is why they have confidence in this government, that 11 800 people extra are now in work as a result of the good, solid work of the majority Hodgman Liberal Government over the last four years. There are more nurses in our hospitals, more teachers in our schools and more police on the beat. That is why the Tasmanian people had confidence in the Premier and the majority Liberal Government on 3 March 2018. That is why they still have confidence.

Time expired.

The House divided -

AYES 2

Ms O'Connor
Dr Woodruff (Teller)

NOES 22

Ms Archer
Mr Bacon
Mr Barnett
Dr Broad
Mr Brooks (Teller)
Ms Butler
Ms Courtney
Ms Dow
Mr Ferguson
Mr Gutwein
Ms Haddad
Mr Hidding
Mr Hodgman
Ms Houston
Mr Jaensch
Ms O'Byrne
Mr O'Byrne
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Ms Standen
Ms White

Motion negatived.

Sitting suspended from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Madam SPEAKER - Honourable members, I welcome the young ladies from St Marys College, joining us in the gallery.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mr HODGMAN (Franklin - Premier) - I also take the opportunity to welcome the students today.

CONDOLDENCE MOTION

Anthony John (Tony) Benneworth OAM

Mr HODGMAN (Franklin - Premier) (by leave) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 10 March 2018 of Anthony John (Tony) Benneworth OAM, a former Chairman of Committees from 1996 to 1998, and member for the Division of Bass from 1992 to 1998, and places on record its appreciation of his service to this state, and further, that this House respectfully tenders to his family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

I express sincere regret at the untimely death of Tony Benneworth on 10 March this year at the age of 67. Tony was born on 12 December 1950 in Launceston. From that day on, it could be said he was a proud, passionate and, perhaps, parochial northerner. He was an active member of the Launceston community, a talented and enthusiastic sportsman and avid biker, a journalist at *The Examiner*, a sports commentator, and member for Bass in this parliament.

Tony was elected in 1992 and served until 1998, including as Chairman of Committees from 1996 to 1998. His love of our state and advocacy focused on its north was often on show via his contributions in this place and in the community he well represented. Tony maintained his commitment to the extent that, after serving in this parliament, he stood for the Liberal Party in the 2001 federal election in the seat of Bass.

I imagine Benny was equally vocal and interested in current affairs and the political events of the day when he was running the Charles Street Central Newsagency, and amongst his many friends and sporting rivals at the Riverside Cricket Club or the Trevallyn Bowls and Community Club while debating the fluctuating fortunes of his beloved Carlton Football Club.

Tony was a very passionate lover of many sports and a very talented sportsman. He was a member of the inaugural Tasmanian Cricket Team and a member of the team that won our first Sheffield Shield game in 1978. He was a key part of the magnificent Gillette Cup winning team, which I and many others watched with delight in 1979.

So respected by our community, he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014 for service to the community of Tasmania, particularly through sporting organisations.

I had the great privilege of seeing a lot of Tony Benneworth, first as a kid around this place and then later when I became more involved in the Liberal Party. I always knew I was in the presence of a sporting giant and a giant personality. For the whole time I knew him, I was well aware he would never shy from expressing an opinion and very directly. On the rare occasion he might have felt he had pushed things a little too far, he typically would be back quickly to cover things off and always do it in a way that made it clear he wanted the best thing for our party, our government, which he worked for for a period of time, and always for our state.

On a few occasions I have been summoned to appear at what is known as the Legends Lunch, which includes a number of prominent and respected Launcestonians who love a long lunch to solve the problems of the world and to grill an invited guest, much for sport it seemed. I thought of those gatherings, and with the greatest respect to all members of the group who are clearly not shrinking violets given the name they have given themselves, it could be said there are varying degrees of accomplishment amongst them. With Benny, you knew you were in the presence of a deadset, genuine legend.

Our state is the poorer without Tony Benneworth in it. Tony was farewelled at a funeral service attended by hundreds of mourning members of our community. It was a very sad occasion and the hundreds there, as well as the thousands who could not be there, were very much thinking of Linda and the family. The service contained an appropriate level of humour, which Benny would have wanted. He even managed to insert himself into the proceedings with a message he left us: he would also want his death to have some meaning and a positive purpose. Father Ross conducted the service exceptionally well and captured that, saying that his manner of dying was 'cruel, unfair, painful and meaningless'. He said Mr Benneworth's family wanted others to learn from his death -

If someone, somewhere, dons a working lifejacket because of the events of this week and it saves a life, we may not hear that story, but Tony's death will have saved a life.

We mourn his passing and we place on record our appreciation of his service to the state and respectfully tender to his family, his wife, Linda, his son, Simon, and stepchildren, Holland and Fiona, our sincere sympathy at his bereavement.

[2.37 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Madam Speaker, this side of the House offers its condolence to the family of Anthony John (Tony) Benneworth OAM. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Tony. My colleague, the member for Bass, Michelle O'Byrne, will make a contribution next and will convey some more personal anecdotes about Tony and his life and the character I understand he was, as the Premier has described.

I acknowledge his contribution to Tasmania and to the Parliament of Tasmania. I acknowledge he was elected to the House of Assembly as the Liberal member for Bass on 1 February 1992 until he left parliament in 1998. Tony held a number of parliamentary and government positions, and was quite busy in the six years that he was in this place. He was the chair of committees, deputy speaker, the deputy chair of committees, the chair of the subordinate legislation committee, the chair of the select committee on grocery, markets and prices, a member of the dairy industry select committee, parliamentary secretary to the Cabinet, assistant minister for state development, and parliamentary secretary for small business.

I echo some of the sentiments shared by the Premier regarding his contribution to sporting life in Tasmania and congratulate him for the wonderful way he engaged many Tasmanians in the sport of cricket. He was a member of Tasmania's inaugural Sheffield Shield cricket team in the 1977-78 season. I have some statistics here that might be of interest to some cricket buffs. He was the first Tasmanian cricketer to take five wickets in an innings in a Sheffield Shield match, achieving the feat when taking 5 for 115 against South Australia in February in 1978. The Premier mentioned that he was a member of the Tasmanian team that won the 1978-79 season Australian domestic one-day competition in the final against Western Australia, which was played at the TCA ground here in Hobart on 14 January 1979. Tony took 3 for 14 off 8.2 overs, which is an impressive feat in a final and made a huge contribution to the Tasmanian team's win.

He was a member of the team that won Tasmania's first ever Sheffield Shield match scoring 42 runs in the first innings and 75 in the second innings in defeating Western Australia at Devonport in January 1979. He finished his first class cricket career with 580 runs at an average of 23.2 and 26 wickets at an average of 38.92 from 15 first class matches. He is a player, a life member and Hall of Fame inductee at the Riverside Cricket Club and at times held the positions of club patron, president, first grade captain and coach.

There is no doubt that he will be sadly missed by his family and those people in his life close to him. It was tragic circumstances in which his life was taken. I too hope that with his death there can be lessons learnt and people may wear a life jacket who may not otherwise have done so and through his passing will save the life of another.

I convey my condolences to his family.

[2.41 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Tasmanian Greens I pass on my deepest condolences to Tony Benneworth's family, to his widow, son and step-son, and to acknowledge a huge life.

What an amazing life Tony Benneworth had. I did not know Mr Benneworth personally. I knew him as a journalist and reporting on Tasmanian politics, but he was always a big character very direct in his communications. When you have a look at the breadth of Tony Benneworth's life he had a huge appetite for life and for achievement.

Ms White talked about his sporting prowess and achievement. That is extraordinary in itself yet he was also a member of the Tasmanian Parliament, and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014, which is a clear sign that he made a very significant contribution to the Tasmanian community and to public life.

I acknowledge that Mr Benneworth probably would have spent more time as the Liberal member for Bass in the Tasmanian Parliament, but he was one of the members who lost his seat when the numbers were cut in 1998. The cutting of numbers is a matter that this House now regrets and that we will need to address at some point before too long.

I pay tribute to a big life, a colourful character, a big heart, enormous drive and love of this island and its people. This is a matter that goes well beyond politics because someone who gives that much of themselves to this island, to sports, to the community, deserves all our recognition for a life well lived and a massive contribution.

On behalf of the Tasmanian Greens, I pass on our love to Mr Benneworth's family and acknowledge that the manner of his death was shocking to his family, but also to the wider community and other people who knew and loved Mr Benneworth. The Premier and the Opposition Leader have made the point that there is undoubtedly a lesson to be learned in the manner of Mr Benneworth's passing, but I do believe that Tasmania is a poorer place for the loss of Tony Benneworth.

Mrs PETRUSMA (Franklin - Minister for Sport and Recreation) - Madam Speaker, I rise to express my own sense of sadness on the loss of Tony Benneworth OAM.

Tony will always be remembered for being a passionate, committed and great advocate for northern Tasmania, in particular for his electorate of Bass which he represented in our state parliament from 1992 to 1998. Over the years, Tony has also been a great member, friend, colleague and mentor to many in the Liberal Party; a man who never lost his touch with everyday Tasmanians.

Today, I will speak briefly on his friendship and connection to my own family and, on behalf of my family, to express our condolences to Linda, Simon, Holland and Fiona.

I too grew up in the electorate of Bass and, for that reason, Bass will always be my second most favourite electorate after my own great electorate of Franklin. Growing up I spent many weekends at the Riverside Cricket Club. Tony and my father, Barry Harper, were great mates as Tony's contribution to Tasmania went far beyond politics. Tony was a former first class cricketer with Tasmania, president of the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association, a former board member of Cricket Tasmania, and was also the president and board member of the Trevallyn Bowls Club, a division one selector and the president of Bowls North since 2008. Before my father passed away, Tony was a lifelong great friend and teammate of my father at the Riverside Cricket Club. When Tony first arrived at the club in the late 1960s, my late father, Barry, was the club captain at the time. Both Tony and my dad, as well as being past captains, were also presidents and life members of the Riverside Cricket Club, members of the club's Hall of Fame, state cricketers as well as being state cricket selectors and life members of the NTCA. They were great lifelong mates and when my dad passed away, Tony did the eulogy at my dad's funeral.

My mum, Pam Harper, told me that my dad stated that Tony's talent as a cricketer was evident from the day he first walked in the door at Riverside Cricket Club. However what my mum remembers most about him was that Tony was always a true gentleman to everyone who he met and was around. My brother, Grant, remembers him as his coach and he said that he was a great coach of the cricket team and a great and wonderful personality both on and off the oval. For me, growing up as the eldest of four kids and probably spending a bit too much time in the clubrooms - and I have probably said, when I was very young, in the men's change rooms as well - it was interesting because, to me at a younger age, Tony was what I always imagined Santa Claus would have been. He was always jolly and happy and always had a joke. He did dress up on occasions, but I always thought that he would be the ideal Santa Claus.

My mum also vividly remembers a conversation that she had with Tony's mum, Freda, at the cricket one day. We kids were all racing around the clubrooms and oval. Freda told mum to enjoy her time with us as kids because soon enough we would be grown up. My mother always reflected on how right Freda was. As I stand here today following in Tony's own footsteps as a member of parliament, talking about his all too brief life, I also reflect on how quickly time does move on and it can move on too suddenly.

It was with great sadness that my family and I found out about the sudden loss of Tony in March following a boat accident at Ansons Bay. My mum and brother were up at Ansons Bay at the time. My mum has a shack there and it is usually a beautiful place where I have stayed nearly every year of my life but, sadly, that day my mother and Grant were out in the boat when the accident happened. The sudden loss of Tony has hit us all very hard. It was very hard to process that someone who was larger than life has now moved on.

Tony certainly was larger than life and that is why he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014 for his service to the community of Tasmania. He was also a former sales

manager, a commentator and a journalist. Most importantly, above all else, he was a family man - a husband to Linda, a father to Simon, and a stepfather to Holland and Fiona.

Men like Tony do not come along every day and Tasmania was very fortunate to have Tony, as northern Tasmania, and sport especially, is a better place because of his presence.

Today, though, my family and I remember him as a dear family friend. I pass on sincerest condolences from me and the Harper family to Linda, Simon, Holland and Fiona on the loss of a truly great man. Rest in peace, Tony.

[2.49 p.m.]

Ms O'BYRNE (Bass) - Madam Speaker, I have just discovered that we must have been hanging around the same clubrooms, Mrs Petrusma, and that has disturbed me no end.

I also rise to speak on the life of Anthony John Benneworth - Tony or Benny as most of us knew him as. There is something about old-school politicians like Tony Benneworth who would create great friendships across the Chamber. I have to say that whilst we are quite pleasant to each other across the Chamber now, those friendships that used to form are no longer necessarily a feature of politics in the way that they were before.

I received a text from Benny a couple of days before the accident, just after the election, saying, 'I know we are on different sides but I was really happy to see you elected last Saturday. Congratulations on the win and on the work you do in the community - Benny'. The thing is that you often received texts from Benneworth saying how he felt about an issue or how he felt about how you dealt with an issue. They might have been saying, 'I think you could have done it differently', but generally from Benny it would be something very positive and nice. He was genuinely a friend to people on both sides of the House.

Because of the time constraints we are all under given the nature of today's proceedings, I will be the only other member speaking but I am speaking on behalf of my colleagues but also both my brothers who grew up playing cricket at the Riverside Cricket Club. He was absolutely larger than life at that club. It was a phenomenally good and strong club and he was one of those bigger characters of the game when he was out there.

My older brother, Michael, who played state cricket and who Benny was incredibly supportive of then, said that when Benny would walk out onto the NTCA the entire crowd would lift. There would be a physical reaction from people because he was out there and they knew something special would happen, not necessarily that he was going to get the best score or the best wicket but that he would put absolutely everything into the game he was playing.

My brother, David, has a story as well. This is a story the family is quite familiar with. David was pretty confident about his cricket ability as a young fellow I think it would be fair to say, and Benny was always great with the kids at the club. He would always give them a bit of a go and support and engage with them. For some of the younger players he would give them a bit of a test at the NTCA and would bowl at them. David remembers his first experience of that. Benny bowled one up, David felt good, got a bit of stick to it, and felt pretty happy with himself - he was still there, quite a good player. Benny smiled and bowled the second one. David had no chance of touching that ball. It was way too fast. It was probably nowhere as fast as Benny could have gone because he was such a phenomenal bowler, but then he would give his little smile and that wink and in that way only Benneworth could say - and anyone who knows him can hear him saying these words -

'There you go, young fella, that's how it goes'. That was the reaction most of the young kids had with him.

Every organisation Tony was with he really pushed into the leadership positions. Whether it was the Riverside Cricket Club, Trevallyn Bowls Club, Bowls North, NTCA, he always took on those significant leadership roles and all of those club members have adored him over the time.

As has been said, he played in the inaugural Sheffield Shield win in the 1977-78 series, and what it meant to have a Tasmanian team in the Sheffield Shield and players of the calibre of Tony Benneworth was a phenomenal shift for cricket in Tasmania and he was very much a driver of that. The Gillette Cup win, 3 for 14 at the TCA ground - that was in the days where, at the TCA ground, if you stood on the edge you might not necessarily see the whole pitch. It was a bit rough, but he took 3 for 14 and the crowd absolutely loved him.

Chatting with people about him I have been thinking how Tony Benneworth would have adapted to BBL if it had been around then. He would have been the absolute crowd favourite. He would have gone out and people would have been singing 'Benny, Benny, Benny', because he was that kind of player even before BBL existed. I could only imagine how we would have smashed it and what a great performer he would have been.

Most of the people I have spoken to who played cricket with him said one of the things they most remember is that he made them want to be better at what they were doing. He made them want to play better and to be better team participants. That was the way he did everything. Every single thing in his life he threw himself totally into, and particularly when he got diagnosed with diabetes, his campaign to get himself and other people well was just as phenomenal and intense as his campaign when he played cricket. He was passionate about life, about his community, about sport and about family. When he had a newsagency he was passionate about newsagents. Everything he did he was full on.

I cannot imagine his last moments and I think of the words his father said that his death was just a stupid waste of life and his method of dying cruel, unfair, painful and meaningless. It must be the most difficult time for Linda and the family, for the kids and all his friends. I believe that this House collectively puts our arms around Benny's family as former people who served with him, all the people who have been in the community with him but also just people who were incredibly proud to have known such a great Tasmanian.

I will not end up by saying rest in peace but the message I want everyone to have is to please ensure that when you go out on the water you have a working lifejacket.

[2.55 p.m.]

Mr GUTWEIN (Bass - Treasurer) - Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of knowing Tony Benneworth, like others in this place, for a long period of time. I still cannot believe that he has gone and the circumstances that he left us. It is a testimony to how well he was liked and loved across the community that on that night when the rumours started to run, texts were flying from all sorts of people saying, 'Have you heard the news, is it true, can you find out?' and 'Is it Benny?'.

I was personally extremely shocked and saddened by what happened. I want to start where I want to finish and that is to pass on my personal condolences and those of other members of this place to his wife, Linda, and family. It must have been a dreadful period of time and very difficult circumstances they had to endure.

Thinking back to what to say about Benny today, interestingly enough, he is the only person I have worked with whose photograph I had on my wall as a boy. When the 1979 Gillette Cup grand final was on I was in grade 9 and I recall when the Gillette Cup came back to the NTCA ground. They presented the players that had won and I was one of the kids who lined up to receive one of those Gillette Cup souvenir photographs of the team. We stood there and had all of the players sign it as they went past and Benny was one of them who signed. I was a young cricketer at the time with South Launceston Cricket Club and one of the few people in this place who has not been associated with the Riverside Cricket Club. As an outlier, I was a great fan of cricket at that time and of Benny. As to what Michelle said in respect of how popular he would have been in the short form of the game today, he would have been up there with the best of them and a crowd favourite.

Interestingly, I remember listening to that Gillette Cup game on the radio and he broke down and did not finish his last over. If you look back at what happened, I cannot remember who it was bowled by but he hurt his leg and failed miserably with the bat as well. He got a couple of runs. He went in at first drop on that day and everybody was expecting huge things. In terms of delivering to the team he certainly did that with the ball. As a boy I used to go to the NTCA Ground and watch the Tasmanian team play. The team at the time was led by Jack Simmons, Gary Cowmeadow, Roger Woolley -

Mr O'Byrne - Phil Blizzard.

Mr GUTWEIN - Docking was playing as well. They really forged the way. In taking the step up with the Sheffield Shield, but also importantly in winning the Gillette Cup, that cricket team put Tasmania on the map and he was a part of that.

Throughout his life he made a significant contribution to our community. Other members have spoken about bowls and other activities he was involved in but my one takeaway about Tony Benneworth is that whatever he was involved in he gave 110 per cent. He had good mates and was liked by everyone. The only thing I do know about bowls was when he was brave enough to carry through the policy with bowls where men and women would play together.

Ms O'Byrne - Yes, he did the gender mix.

Mr GUTWEIN - He did, and he was strong enough, as the president at the time, to initiate that. There was a lot of feedback on that particular issue at the time but he stayed the course and as president he would be fondly remembered for his actions across a number of years.

I want to say to Linda and family that none of us in this place could understand the grief you go through losing someone such as Tony, somebody that was so loved in the community as well. I, along with everyone here, I am sure, have thought about Benny and times that we had with him on many occasions since that tragic day, whether in this place or as a boy asking for his autograph at the NTCA ground. He made an indelible mark on people's lives. As a community, we thank him for that. I am thankful for the time spent with Tony. Again, my condolences to his wife, Linda, and to the rest of the family.

[3.01 p.m.]

Ms COURTNEY (Bass - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Madam Speaker, Tony Benneworth had made his wishes clear that he wanted a family-focused funeral. However, there was a strong gathering after the funeral at his home away from home, the Trevallyn Bowls and

Community Club, where many in the community joined to reflect on his life. I was asked by his family and friends to make a short contribution, so I will share this today.

In some ways I feel a little like an imposter at today's event, given I have only known Tony for a fraction of the time that many of you in the room have known and loved him. However, that was the thing about Benny. His ability to make you feel, as an individual, worthy and important, was incredible. Indeed, the reason he made such an impact on each of the relationships in his life was because his interest, care, warmth and support was completely authentic. He would ask you how you were because he was genuinely interested in the answer.

Photograph 688 in the Long Room of Parliament House shows Anthony John Benneworth. He served as the member for Bass in the House of Assembly from 1 February 1992 to 29 August 1998. However, rather than provide a history lesson of his political career, which would all be hearsay, I would like to briefly comment on the impact Benny played for decades as an active supporter of the Liberal Party and of candidates.

Having experienced the high of election and the low of defeat, as well as the ordeal of being an unsuccessful candidate, he truly understood what happens to you and your loved ones when you put up your hand to stand as a representative in your community. He also understood that supporting someone or a cause meant a lot more than just giving advice from the sidelines. It is far, far easier and far safer to just recite platitudes or give ideas in private than to actually commit to action, and in doing so back another with your own reputation.

I have only been an MP for a term, however, during that time Benny has become a friend, mentor, advocate and selfless volunteer. Benny's personality wasn't just all sunshine and roses, and indeed it was Benny's honesty and the passion with which he would articulate his views, while at times confronting, was one of his great strengths. We seem to now live in a society where we are often hesitant to say what we really think, lest we offend somebody. While this dulls conversations and greatly limits meaningful discussion and contests of ideas, this is what made Benny so interesting to be around.

Benny would liven up any conversation or event. He would genuinely engage with everyone in the room and would indeed make it his business to ensure that those fringes were embraced and included. It was impossible to not have your spirits lifted upon seeing his face break into a smile upon seeing you and remarking loudly, 'Hello mate, how's it going?'.

Having someone like Benny in your corner is incredibly inspiring, but also very humbling. I very much wanted to, and will continue to try to be worthy of the advocacy and support he generously gave me. The traits I am talking about today are not unique to my relationship with him, indeed they are shared by everyone in the room. Each of us had a special bond with the man built on different experiences and events. Every relationship he had was special. Indeed, that has been what has made the last week so surreal, sad and yet inspiring. People kept stopping me in the street to share with me their story about Benny. In the end he

was loved by so many because he loved so generously and with so much authenticity.

The night of my re-election was no exception, on my couch with my closest friends and a glass of red wine toasting our victory. There will only ever be one Benny and I am thankful that I had the opportunity to have had him in my life. Goodbye Benny, you will be missed.

[3.05 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Minister for Health) - Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity the House gives to us to remember fondly people such as Tony Benneworth, and I respect what I have heard from my colleagues in the Liberal Party, the Greens and the Labor Party. It says a lot about Tony that we are all in very different ways able to speak to his big heart and his kind spirit in reaching out to people and being kind to them, and saying what he believed as well. On that, he was a real community guy, a great community man and a family man.

He was a real believer in the northern community and, as a member of this House, someone who understood the need for the north to be represented. In the years after being a member of this House he became, as the Premier talked about, a member of the Legends Group, which I believe is a self-styled northern parliament. He and the other members of that group, who I am sure shall remain nameless, kick around the decisions that we have been making here and canvass over them like the third house of review, every Friday. Long may that continue. I respected in Tony that he was a true conservative and a plain speaker. That is a dynamic coupling of attributes, I would say best enjoyed on the ABC Friday Forum. He had a great dislike for fakery. As I have said, he wanted to make sure that the community of northern Tasmania was given its best representation and support by the government of the day.

It was a tragic event that led to the loss of his life. I acknowledge and pay my respects to the family of Tony Long, his very good friend, who passed in the same tragic event. Tony deserves accolades and endorsement in a separate way, I suppose, but I would like to pass through this motion our condolences to the family of Tony Long, and in particular his lovely wife of more than 50 years, Lynne.

On the day that accident happened at Ansons Bay, I was enjoying a few days off on the east coast after the election. I thought about taking the boat out that afternoon, looked at the weather forecast and it was a beautiful day. It was perfect boating weather. The Great Oyster Bay was as flat as this table and it was a lovely, calm day. It was sunny and there was not much breeze. Ansons Bay is a little further north. I do not know exactly what that forecast was like, but when the news came across in the afternoon and in the evening, before we had even known that it was our good friends Benny and Tony, I had been talking to my children, my teenage boys, about how it just goes to show how treacherous it can be out in the boat, on the water, and how important it is to recognise that even though it looks so good. The next few hours and the next day revealed that it was our good friend. As hard as it is for the families of our two deceased friends and Father Richard, who explained the opportunity to find something good in this tragedy, we can all impress upon our community the dangers on the water and of outdoor activities. We must always make sure we have done everything we can to be safe.

It was an honour to be with many from this Chamber with, perhaps, 1000 at the Church of Apostles gathering and the special commemorations that happened privately outside that church. It was a wonderful day of tributes to a man who had lived a full and satisfying life, a man who always

wanted to give and who, as the Premier said, had always been very direct, if not blunt, in the things he wanted to say, but always full of feeling and a passion for what he was expressing.

To hear what he had said to our political opponent, the member for Bass, Michelle O'Byrne - it also should be said that Tony and Michelle ran against each other in 2001 in the federal election - to think that 17 years later that Tony might send Michelle a message like after her re-election is really lovely and something we should all learn from and do more of. Tony sent message like that to me. I make this point to add to what I have said.

What a great bloke. Long may he be remembered and with gratitude for the kindness and support he provided to me and my family starting when I first ran against Michelle O'Byrne in 2004 and ever since. It has always been genuine, kind and constant. It has come from that big heart, so may he rest in peace and thank God for his life.

Members - Hear, hear.

Motion agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

Motion by **Mr Hodgman** agreed to -

That a copy of the foregoing resolution together with the transcript of the debate be forwarded to the family of the late Anthony John Benneworth.

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Dr Vanessa Goodwin

[3.12 p.m.]

Mr HODGMAN (Franklin - Premier) (by leave) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 3 March 2018 of Dr Vanessa Goodwin, the former member for Pembroke from 2009 to 2017, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for the Arts and Leader of Government Business in the Legislative Council from 2014 to 2017, places on record its appreciation of her service to this state and, further, that this House respectfully tenders to her family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Madam Speaker, today at the first opportunity of the first sittings of the Forty-ninth Parliament of this state, the first since the election of a new government on 3 March 2018, the day Vanessa died, we express our deep regret at her passing.

We appropriately farewelled Vanessa at a state funeral that was very well attended. It was a fine, albeit very sad, celebration of a life cut way too short, not before a very brave fight against a cruel disease, a fight which I know Vanessa and all of us close to her believed she just might win. As hard as it was on an election day of all days, I did feel it was a fitting day on which to say goodbye. Vanessa loved the occasion of an election.

Her accomplishments have been very well covered. The respect she had across our community is obvious and will endure. I know she will be remembered as a most positive, enthusiastic person. She looked after her own health with the discipline of a frequent visit to the gym or a de-stressing on Howrah Beach with her beloved dog, Sophie. She was also the possessor of a very sharp mind, conscientious, diligent and very bright, and often a bit quieter than most of us in this line of work. Some foolishly mistook that as being the demeanour of a person lacking confidence, resolve or strength of character. Vanessa had all those attributes in spades and especially when it mattered.

She was a confidante and a colleague I could always rely on and trust. She was a lifelong friend I will forever miss.

[3.15 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Labor Party I convey our condolences to the family and loved ones of Dr Vanessa Goodwin. I knew Vanessa to be kind, intelligent, thoughtful and a thoroughly decent person. She was highly regarded by all sides of politics and all members of this House and the other place too. She was highly regarded by those in the legal fraternity she worked with as Attorney-General of Tasmania. She was highly regarded, respected and indeed loved by her electorate of Pembroke.

Vanessa was the type of person who could speak to anyone. She was humble, she listened with intent, and she was always compassionate. I thank her for her advocacy on matters regarding women's rights and the human rights of vulnerable people. For those matters I know there are many people who thank and remember her.

Vanessa did have a quiet manner but I have no doubt she was always confident, as the Premier described. To me it appeared that her approach, particularly to politics, was deliberate and considered, and even in question time in this place there was a different way that she stood and answered compared to other members. She did not let things get to her. She was calm and measured, she never raised her voice and even when we did not agree on a policy position I could not help but feel admiration for the way she conveyed her answer.

I cannot help but remember her mum, Edyth, when remembering Vanessa. I am sure there are many of us who remember the two of them together, particularly at race meets, where they would be dressed up, making friends and generally being the life of the party together. Vanessa was widely admired and loved by many from all walks of life and I know she is deeply missed.

She is gone way too soon and it is a great shame for our parliament, but mostly it is a great shame for our community.

[3.17 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, this is a hard debate. Vanessa Goodwin was beloved. She was beloved across politics, within her electorate and across the Tasmanian community. She was beloved by people who do not always love the Liberal Party and its values, such as people in the community sector and the Women's Legal Service. It was always quite striking how many people from how many fields of life and how many different sections just loved Vanessa and admired her.

Vanessa was deeply kind, extremely thoughtful, conscientious and clever in a way that was not manipulative or designed to do anything other than get a good outcome. I agree with what Ms White was saying about how Dr Goodwin would answer questions in this place. There was an unflappable

calm and a really refreshing honesty about the way she answered questions in her portfolio. It was always good to see Vanessa in the Chamber, even though she had to leave early quite often because the bells would ring upstairs.

It is a bit hard to take in that it is not much more than a year since the Premier rang both Ms White and me to tell us the devastating news about Vanessa's illness. What made it even harder to bear was that Vanessa had only quite recently said goodbye to her beautiful mum, Edyth, and had been through all of that caring for her mum and being at Edyth's bedside watching her mother step through. It just made it seem so terribly unfair, but no-one ever said that life was meant to be fair.

I sent Vanessa a card after Edyth died and in typical Vanessa fashion received a beautiful, very kindly worded card. Edyth and I got on very well and I know there were lots of people who got on well with Edyth, but if you crossed her that was probably pretty much it. Edyth was such a character and had such a potty mouth and a really big heart and this total love for animals. That is the love for animals that she passed on to Vanessa. I kept the card of the service from the state funeral. On the back of the card is a beautiful photo of a small person, Vanessa, and she is surrounded by a big dog and the dog's puppies. It says a lot about Vanessa Goodwin and why she was so dearly loved.

For the record, because it is so poignant, I will read into *Hansard* her letter to Santa Claus, which says a lot about Vanessa:

Dear Santa Claus

All I would like for Christmas is whatever you give me. The only thing I want in particular is a large Snoopy sailor suit, but not the biggest Snoopy but the biggest one that can wear clothes. Have a happy Christmas and a nice New Year.

Love Vanessa.

What kind of kid writes that letter to Santa Claus? Mine was just a shopping list - no, that is not true.

The parliament is the poorer for the passing of Vanessa. Tasmania is the poorer. My first real encounter with Vanessa was in the Lauderdale Hall during a community meeting about the Ralphs Bay proposal. Vanessa came, sat and listened very carefully and was very open to conversations with the members of that wider community. She had not been elected, it was 2004, but she was considering running as a candidate in Franklin. I found her to be a lovely person. Within a very short space of time, she became one of the people that the Ralphies knew that if we needed help, we could go to Vanessa. I know that she had quite a green heart. She recognised that Ralphs Bay, and Lauderdale and that beautiful coastline, was better left as it is. She was thinking about the birds and the Pied Oyster Catcher. She was there for all the right reasons. She went into politics for all the right reasons.

I really miss her. I extend my deepest condolences to everyone who loved Vanessa. I know it hurt you, Will. It was a devastating blow to you and the wider Liberal family and I am very sad for all of you and I am very sad for Tasmania.

On behalf of the Tasmanian Greens I pass on my condolences to everyone who loved Vanessa.

[3.23 p.m.]

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Minister for Education and Training) - Madam Speaker, it was with the greatest feeling of loss that we recently said our goodbyes to our dear friend and colleague, Vanessa Goodwin. We lost one of our own and we lost Vanessa far too soon. It is a loss that many Tasmanians across the community felt deeply, both here in our world of parliament and politics, and so many more outside this place as well.

Vanessa's farewell in Hobart, with so many people from all parts of the community attending, was a very fitting tribute to a wonderful person who made such a significant contribution to the world of public life here in Tasmania, and also to all the individual constituents and people she represented in her time in parliament.

As her dear friend, our Premier Will Hodgman put it so eloquently at the service, Vanessa Goodwin was a very special person: kind, clever and dependable, and indeed she was. She was a very special person and I still feel that loss very keenly today.

I, and many others who met Vanessa, were drawn to her kindness and her very pleasant nature. That did not mean that she did not have the resolve for things that she passionately believed in - she did. Vanessa had enormous resolve and I saw that on many occasions - the issues, the constituents and the ideas that Vanessa believed in.

She was a member of parliament set apart from many others. She earned the love, respect and confidence across the political divide as has been demonstrated here today, and in many parts of our community that otherwise a politician might not have expected to be thought of in such ways. Her kindness did shine through in primary school breakfast clubs, neighbourhood houses, crisis shelters and, indeed, in prisons. She truly lived her calling to help others as a leader in her community in every way that she could. She was a very real human being in that sense - a friendly and gentle soul who was never too far removed from the real world to say hello to her constituents at the gym, the coffee shop, in the streets, or walking her beloved dogs on the beach. That is why so many people just loved her.

She was clever and dependable. She was intelligent, a very clear thinker, and a very hard worker. Her office desk was always packed with ring binders and coloured folders typical of someone who was able to consume masses of written material with ease and always managed to be across the range of current issues and briefs. Her ability to remain calm and measured, often in the face of pressures from different quarters, was one of her greatest personal attributes. She was in that sense utterly respected by her colleagues in the Legislative Council. Personally, I was in awe of the amount of work she could get through in her role as Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. She would be across all the legislation that eight or nine ministers in this House take and argue as individuals to this House; Vanessa argued all that legislation herself in the upper House.

Even more than all of that she was a loyal Liberal, a trusted friend, parliamentary and Cabinet colleague to me, a friendship I most valued. I caught up with Vanessa on a number of occasions since her diagnosis. The first time I met Vanessa after the diagnosis, I cannot remember a time when I felt so sad, but also a time when I so greatly admired her resolve in the face of what was extreme adversity. Vanessa made a huge contribution to our parliament and to our community.

She is a great loss to all of us and my sincere condolences to all of Vanessa's friends and family. We miss you, Vanessa, but we will never forget you.

[3.29 p.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, I pass on my condolences to Vanessa's friends, colleagues and family. They have gone through the most difficult of times. Sadly, I was not able to attend the state funeral. I was attending a close friend's mother's funeral on the north-west coast. Whilst we were coming together as friends celebrating a long life well lived, it was not lost on me, and I reflected that the state was mourning the death of a person and a life of someone whose life was taken far too soon. That adds to the incredible sadness and the tragic circumstances around the passing of one of the most highly respected people I have ever come across in public life over my time.

During 2010 and 2014 we overlapped a seat in the seat of Pembroke and in the seat of Franklin. I would regularly cross paths and join in the work in the kitchens of neighbourhood houses, rolling up sleeves and being told what to do by the local coordinators, serving food and cleaning up. Volunteering with Vanessa was an absolute pleasure. Regardless of what circumstances we found in that kitchen, she would be smiling that beautiful smile and doing the work. She was usually the first there and invariably the last to leave in neighbourhood houses. In the services clubs, in Rotary and Lions, she was there working the barbecues, talking to community members, working with them in a genuine and positive way. She was a genuine community leader and someone dearly loved by all she came across. I do not think I have ever heard a cross word said against Vanessa. As a politician, as the member for Braddon reflected, you rarely have those circumstances, but Vanessa was one of those people.

I did not have the benefit of seeing her as minister in this House in my time away, but watching her performance through the media and through public life, you could see she was someone who commanded enormous respect from all stakeholders and all people she worked with. She was considered, articulate, intelligent, and she was passionate about making Tasmania a better place. Within her portfolio area she was passionate about how we could make, within government, the circumstances better for the people impacted by her decisions. That is an example for all of us in this place and the other place, about how we should conduct ourselves in public life.

I cannot imagine the circumstances in which the Cabinet and her close colleagues on the other side of the House found themselves when they heard the news, but I am sure they would have been inspired by the way she conducted herself. In one of the last public photos there was a public event, she was surrounded by her friends and Liberal colleagues. You could see that smile and that spark in her eye. She was still passionate about the work the Liberal Party and the community was undertaking.

It is with tremendous sadness I pass on my sincere condolences to Will and his team and all of those, as well articulated by the member for Denison, Cassy O'Connor, who loved Vanessa. She was genuinely loved and Tasmania is a poorer place for not having her here.

[3.32 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Minister for Health) - Madam Speaker, Vanessa Goodwin was such a good friend to Tasmania, such a true believer and a friend of the Liberal Party, and a real contributor to the Tasmanian Parliament through her Legislative Council and our House. She was a visitor to our House for many a question time. We really grieve to lose a loved friend. It is a tragic death. The cancers cut short her still young life. It is so cruel. To lose Vanessa at such a young age is entirely too young.

Her illness, as we know, was very aggressive. I know that her treating medical team sought to treat her disease equally, but sadly that was not enough. For those of us who had the honour of

spending time with Vanessa in hospital when she was going through her treatment, it was wonderful in the sadness of that room to see the optimism Vanessa had for her future recovery. She really believed in the treatment. She was giving it every possibility of the power of positive thinking and she was looking forward to coming back to work, I have to tell you. She was adamant that she would return to her work. In this respect I say thank you to those members of the Opposition and members of the Legislative Council who joined her in being patient and giving her all the space and time she needed as she worked through whether she would return. I value that and I respect it.

Vanessa was a greatly respected member of our community, particularly in the south, as Mr O'Byrne shared. I too remember going to a breakfast club at Risdon Vale with Vanessa and making vegemite on white bread toast and about three scoops of Milo in warm milk, arguably not the best breakfast that you could have. There was a lot of love for Vanessa amongst those children and their teachers. Jacquie Petrusma, my colleague from Franklin, and the Premier were there as well. It is not something you can simply turn up and generate. It was clear she was a regular. That can only come from a wellspring of genuine belief and wanting a better future for those children.

Vanessa was also an acknowledged academic, having obtained her doctorate through the University of Tasmania. All of the eminent law minds in our state have a connection to her, her learning and her postgraduate studies. Her fight for many causes is well and truly on the record. She believed in social justice. She believed in a happier, freer society. She fought for free speech as well. She fought for the right of people to have freedom of belief and to associate.

I want to briefly speak about one of her, perhaps, lesser known campaigns. Very late in 2017, this parliament passed the Neighbourhood Disputes (Vegetation) Bill 2016. We grin because this bill was many years in the making. Vanessa brought this to our party room when we were in opposition. She had picked up, while doorknocking for one of her many campaigns, the issue of what she called spite hedges, where neighbours who were not getting on would go to the garden store and purchase fast growing pittosporums or some other inappropriate eucalyptus species to plant along their boundary. Vanessa took that from a doorknocking complaint to a party in opposition, to a commitment to the people, to a Cabinet table, through the drafting process and its consultation phase, which I remember was extensive, through our House and through her own House. Sadly, she was not here to see its final steps through our parliament, but she was still alive to see it come to law. There was a great tenacity that sits with that, as one example of the character of Vanessa, to honour a commitment she had made to one of her constituents, the proof of which now sits on our statute books.

Vanessa did a marvellous job in all her portfolios and, as the Deputy Premier has outlined, a stellar performance as Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. I will not go on, the Deputy Premier has outlined that beautifully, except to say that she negotiated in detail, extensively and successfully.

I first got to know Vanessa as a federal candidate in the 2007 election, where I was the member for Bass and she was the candidate for Franklin. As we all forget things at times, the then Prime Minister, John Howard, momentarily forgot her surname but made her all the more famous for it as he went over and above to make up for the infamy of forgetting her name on live radio. I think it was with Tim Cox. Is that right? I was in Launceston at a lunch, where John Howard had come on a campaign visit, and as soon as he arrived in the door he was not interested in any of his sitting members at all, me or Mark Baker, he was straight onto, 'Where is Vanessa Goodwin, I know she is here.' She was diagonally opposite what is now the Cataract Bistro in Paterson Street, he made

a beeline for her and it was an embrace, a kiss on the cheek and the warmth was genuine as he continued to campaign for her. We all have our own stories.

Vanessa was a wonderful friend to all of us. We feel her loss very deeply and we are mindful and send our love, prayers and best wishes to those she was closest to, her close friends and family, and to assure this House that she will be greatly missed, greatly appreciated and never forgotten.

[3.39 p.m.]

Ms ARCHER (Denison - Minister for Justice) - Madam Speaker, I also pay my deep respect to my colleague and dear friend, Dr Vanessa Goodwin. I do so on behalf of my husband, Dale, who was also extremely close to Vanessa.

Vanessa was born the only child of Grant Goodwin and Edyth Langham and she was a loving and dutiful daughter who was a source of incredible pride to her parents. Much has been said about Edyth already and I would like to add that Vanessa was very much a mix of her parents. She was quiet but also formidable - a perfect mix.

Her achievements in life, including in her academic pursuits, were also remarkable. Following her undergraduate studies in Arts and Law at the University of Tasmania she gained a Masters of Philosophy in Criminology from the University of Cambridge, returning to Tasmania to complete her Doctorate in Philosophy.

I had the great fortune to attend university with Vanessa and also the legal practice course before we were admitted to practice as barristers and solicitors. I also did that with the Premier. We all finished together.

Through Vanessa's passing on 3 March 2018, she certainly left a lasting legacy on the Tasmanian landscape in the people whose lives she touched and the laws that she shaped, as well as with the Liberal Party membership and in her family and friends who survive her. The outpouring of love and respect from the Tasmanian community on her passing is testament to her character.

Those like me who were fortunate enough to know her well feel an enormous loss and will continue to feel this loss. It is also clear that this loss has had a profound impact on the broader community, so much so that prisoners would have liked to have paid their respects at her funeral. When I visited the prison prior to Vanessa's passing, there were quite a lot of inmates who expressed that I pass on their best wishes to Vanessa. It is quite remarkable that they took the time to come over to me and say that.

Vanessa was also well liked and loved across the political spectrum, as we have heard here today. First and foremost she was a very proud, dedicated and dignified member of the Liberal Party. Our members, and certainly my colleagues behind me here today, knew her as a person of integrity, intellect and compassion, whose commitment to the party was unflinching.

Her contribution to public life was also exemplary, including through her active membership of Rotary. I am trying to mention some things we have not already mentioned about Vanessa's enormous community service. Rotary's motto is 'Service above Self', which encapsulates Vanessa's approach to life. She was a proud member of the Rotary Club of Howrah and volunteered her time to the club and its various community activities. In the little spare time she had as a minister, she could often be found at the local Rotary sausage sizzle manning the barbeque. This was also a

wonderful opportunity for her to continue to engage with her local community which she loved so dearly.

She was a true local member in the absolute sense in her own beloved electorate of Pembroke, where she worked tirelessly to achieve positive outcomes for all her constituents, whether they be residents, local businesses or community groups.

My colleague, the Leader of Government Business, mentioned spite hedges. Vanessa also undertook a similar process from the start, taking it to the party room in opposition and saw it through to its fruition and that is the position of custodial inspector in all of our custodial services. That was something we all knew she took from start to finish and took a number of years in the making because it was an opposition policy that we took into government and achieved.

She also fought tooth and nail for her constituents and got results for them. She was truly driven to make Tasmania a better place. I reflect on her inaugural speech when she entered the Legislative Council in 2009, which gives a true insight into the values that drove her personally. She said:

As someone whose career has until now primarily been in aspects of justice, crime prevention and the law, I am particularly keen to see Tasmania return to a place where trust is restored in government decision making.

She also said:

Without transparency and accountability, no government can be truly legitimate.

The circumstances of Vanessa's diagnosis and illness in March 2017 was shattering. However with her typical tenacity, she approached the months following her diagnosis with a formidable strength. Vanessa continued to give back to the community right until the very end. Raising awareness and funds for brain cancer research was one of the most significant contributions she made during this time. I am sure my colleagues, the Premier and minister Petrusma, would also take it as a great privilege that we were able to walk alongside Vanessa in the Walk4BrainCancer at Dru Point in Margate in November 2017, and I will treasure those memories forever. It is an honour to follow in her footsteps as Attorney-General and also Minister for Justice, Corrections, and the Arts.

[3.46 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Resources) - Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the Premier and others in this place to pay tribute to Dr Vanessa Goodwin.

Election day, 3 March 2018, was a bittersweet day for all Liberals across Tasmania, particularly for those in the Parliamentary Liberal Party, because on that day she died at age 48, far too young but dearly loved across the political spectrum and across the community. The words I have associated with Vanessa as I have thought about my contribution are 'dearly loved, kind, gentle, astute and determined'. I share that for a range of reasons, but I want to say that I feel a deep sense of loss and a sense of grief for all those members of her family and her friends - not just those in the Liberal Party - and those in the Legislative Council who so enjoyed working with her in a cooperative, sensible and caring way, as well as those across the political divide of the House of Assembly and across politics.

She was at school at Collegiate and then an Arts/Law graduate from the University of Tasmania and at that time was great friends with our Premier, Will Hodgman. The sense of grief and loss for our Premier is certainly acknowledged and noted. Gaining a PhD in Criminology through Cambridge highlighted her sense of astuteness and her sharp mind when coming back to work with the police department and contribute so well.

Her achievements in the political world were quite significant but I first came to know her when I was a Liberal senator and she was a Liberal candidate for the electorate of Franklin. She worked hard but was not successful in that campaign. My colleague, Michael Ferguson, referred to that campaign when the then Prime Minister was so supportive of her candidacy, but she was ultimately successful in the Legislative Council seat of Pembroke.

As a Liberal senator I enjoyed getting to know her and working with her. She was dogged, determined and campaigned very hard and well. She related and connected with her local community, as has been remarked by members across the Chamber here this afternoon. Of course she followed in the footsteps of her mum and dad. I knew, together with so many other Liberals around this Chamber and elsewhere, her dear mum, Edyth Langham-Goodwin. She was a Liberal stalwart who worked like a Trojan. She loved her horses and she loved the Liberal Party and was a great friend and colleague of the late Michael Hodgman. The love of horses and animals certainly flowed to her dear daughter, Vanessa, and we all know of Vanessa's love for horses, dogs and cats. That showed her caring, gentle and kind nature and she demonstrated that in so many different ways.

It was great getting to know Vanessa and building a friendship over many years. In 2014 the Premier appointed her as Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, and also Minister for the Arts.

It was interesting that following her resignation I was appointed as Acting Minister for Corrections and soon after visiting Risdon Prison and being involved in the corrections space I got to know the stakeholders who knew Vanessa well and, of course, just shared their love and admiration and high regard for her in that role. Such high regard they had for her in so many different ways. It was a real honour to be following in her footsteps and trying to do it to the best of my ability and to fill very large shoes. On one of my visits to the prison a number of the prisoners would say 'how is she, how is she getting on?' and just ask about her health and welfare. I did have the chance to visit her at her home when she was very unwell and even during that time she demonstrated her clear interest in my colleagues in the Parliamentary Liberal Party, what was going on in the politics of the day, how is it going and prospects for success at the next election. She was very interested and she cared for people in this party that was like a big family to her. She loved us and we loved her.

I want to share her involvement and wonderful support for the Diabetes Tasmania Pollie Pedal. Every year - year in, year out - it was fantastic to have Vanessa's support. We have been doing this for 13 years and she had been doing it for nearly eight years - I am not sure if it is seven or eight years - but she was dedicated, committed to three days on the push bike, up hill, down dale and she would be there through the thick and the thin, through the rain and the sunshine. Whatever was happening she would be supporting the Diabetes Tasmania Pollie Pedal. That was together my colleague, Mark Shelton, who is a very regular, Greg Hall MLC, and well supported across the community. I know Caroline Wells and the people from Diabetes Tasmania would want to associate their condolences and sympathies and pay a tribute to Vanessa as well.

It is almost one year to the day that we had the Diabetes Tasmania Pollie Pedal last year, almost to the day that she actually passed away. She did that Pollie Pedal and we all started at Hadspen, we rode to Cressy and then we rode up Poatina Hill. Did she just do it and come last? No she did not - I think she might have beaten Mark Shelton and me up the hill. She did so well. She was a tough nut, she was terrific and she showed that determination. We stopped at Poatina half way up the hill and when we got to the top of the hill we all celebrated because it was quite a feat for all of us. It was all for a good cause to raise awareness and money for people with diabetes in Tasmania. She was dedicated. We stayed at Miena that night. She was not feeling great. I think she had a massage, as did some others, and then from Miena down to New Norfolk through Bothwell the next day. That was a lot of down hill so that was pretty good but it was a tough Pollie Pedal for Vanessa. Some of us were scratching our heads thinking it has been particularly tough but in hindsight you could see she was not well. Soon after that she went to the doctor and there was a diagnosis following the successful completion of that particular Pollie Pedal from New Norfolk to Government House where we all celebrated with Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner and Mr Warner. That is a Pollie Pedal to remember and whenever I think of Poatina Hill and whenever I am driving up Poatina Hill I do think of Vanessa.

I pass on my condolences to the family and friends and to say a tribute to Vanessa. I remember the service in her honour at St David's Cathedral to celebrate her life. I know that she forged a wonderful relationship with a number of those from the Anglican Church of St David's and I really appreciate that. They showed their care and concern for her and built that relationship over that period of time when she was so ill. It was a wonderful celebration of her life.

I would like to read from her friend and lawyer, Bridget Rheinberger, who addressed the congregation. She said this about her dear friend that she first met in Grade 5 and she said a big part of her childhood was spent surrounded by horse and dogs:

Vanessa was daring, even as a kid. With her horse Honey, she competed in one-day cross-country trials. She was known for often speeding around a course, seemingly out of control. Officials frequently gave her stern warnings that she was going too fast. Exercising her already well-developed diplomatic skills, Vanessa would always smile politely and agree she wouldn't do it again, but she rarely slowed down.

Ms Rheinberger described Dr Goodwin as a quiet, kind and intelligent student who was very clever graduating with top marks and going on to study law. She shared an anecdote about her friend's bad handwriting saying she was once made to rewrite a major exam in final year law as the examiner could not make head nor tail of it as she went on to earn a distinction once the marker could understand. I hear in the background from the Premier 'shocking writing'. He would know, a good lefty. As we know, he is a good lefty in that regard, but wonderful in that particular regard.

Mr Hodgman - It is to underline the point.

Ms O'Byrne - It is all relative though.

Mr BARNETT - It is all relative. A tribute to Vanessa.

[3.56 p.m.]

Ms DOW (Braddon) - Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about Vanessa.

I first met Vanessa Goodwin through my role as the Mayor of Burnie at a dinner here in Hobart. My husband and I sat with Vanessa and enjoyed her company and learning more about her as a person and her roles in the Legislative Council and the lower House. She struck me as incredibly personable and genuinely interested in learning more about others and my municipality. I always felt that she was happy to meet and willing to listen and to do her utmost to assist with any issue. She was always open and straightforward about issues, which I respected.

There are some issues that call on us as others have said to work across the political divide and Vanessa had the distinct ability to bring people together to work through these issues. She was a great friend to the cultural community of Burnie acknowledging the need for more funding and ensuring this was allocated accordingly. It struck me that she valued the arts and their importance in the social cohesion of our community and our local arts and cultural community enjoyed meeting with her on a number of occasions and they conveyed that to me strongly.

I was deeply saddened when I learnt of her sudden illness and her untimely death. I believe public life is all the richer through her contributions to the Tasmanian Parliament and community. Her considered and intelligent approach to decision-making will be sadly missed. Rest peacefully, Vanessa.

[3.58 p.m.]

Mrs PETRUSMA (Franklin - Minister for Sport and Recreation) - Madam Speaker, I know I speak for all of us here in the House of our great sadness and heavy heart when we all found out about the loss of our beautiful, gorgeous, passionate, kind, generous and loyal colleague and dear friend, Dr Vanessa Goodwin.

Vanessa gave so much of her life to advocating for and helping others, from those in the prisons, her constituents, her great love of animals especially her dogs, horses and cats, her love of her parents Edyth and Grant, and her other great passion, the arts and sport.

Whether it was doing her doctorate as an associate for former Chief Justice at the Supreme Court, the Honourable Guy Green, her research with the Department of Police and Emergency Management, being the member for Pembroke, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for the Arts, or Leader of Government in the Legislative Council, Vanessa had a quiet drive in her which touched all who knew her. This drive was evident even before she was elected to the Legislative Council in 2009 in a by-election. Like me, it was Vanessa's third attempt at a seat in parliament after previously running on the Liberal's Franklin ticket in the 2006 state election followed by challenging Julie Collins for the federal Franklin seat in 2007 federal election. On her third go it was an election Vanessa won easily and which she again defended her seat in 2013 winning with 51.1 per cent of the vote.

To all who knew her, Vanessa was a quiet achiever, but the celebrations we had on both of those occasions were joyous very special occasions that I will remember deeply. I will never forget how proud we and her Mum, Edyth Langham, were of her on both of those nights.

It was during 2006 that I first had the privilege of getting to know Vanessa personally while we both campaigned in the 2007 federal election. In 2009 we were both again campaigning hard for election, me for a seat in the lower House and Vanessa for her upper House seat. It was during both of those occasions that I experienced firsthand her ambition and drive, her passion for the disadvantaged in the community, her dedication to her work and her great love of neighbourhood

houses, Rotary and her loyalty to everyone in the party. These were all traits her family and friends already knew well, but traits the rest of Tasmania were to learn more about.

Vanessa was well respected by all who knew her and her work was held in the highest regard. Her work made a real difference to many people. She served her electorate of Pembroke and the Liberal Party with passion and dedication.

I do not think we will ever forget the week when Vanessa first started to show signs of the insidious illness that took her life, brain cancer. During that week, she and I were at a function where I noticed that she was looking around the room and could not focus. I said to her, 'Why don't you go home and I can do the next function for you?', but she insisted that she was just tired from doing the Pollie Pedal. Then on the Tuesday we were about to cross the road to go to Cabinet and she stopped so I went back and got her. Afterwards I told her I was sorry I did not notice things earlier but Vanessa, with her great strength and resolve, said it would not have made any difference.

During those times when we saw her in hospital, at her house, at functions, or at the walk for brain cancer, it was Vanessa's strength that also got us all through. She had great determination that she was going to fight that illness and fight she did, to the very last.

During the two weeks before the election was the last time I had the privilege of seeing her. All she wanted to hear about was the election campaign. She did not want the focus to be on herself at all because by then she knew that the news was not so great. All she was passionate about and driven by was to make sure she was there to see us at the end. She wanted to hear everything about the campaign and how she could help. We told her just her love and support and to know that she was there in our corner was all we needed.

It was a bittersweet day on 3 March when we all got the message from the Premier that Vanessa had sadly passed away. To Vanessa's family and friends, we want to say that she was loved and appreciated by all who knew her. Everyone in Pembroke loved her. I know that when I went around the neighbourhood houses after she passed away they were all so grief-stricken, as well as all her Rotary friends and colleagues. It is testament to Vanessa of the deep impact she had on so many in the community.

Vale, Vanessa. We miss you deeply and we pray that you are resting in peace.

[4.03 p.m.]

Mr BROOKS (Braddon) - Madam Speaker, we as a parliament say goodbye to one of our dearest friends and one of the best parliamentarians I have had the pleasure of knowing and especially working with, even in 2009 when she was first elected to Pembroke. It was a privilege to be able to get to know her then as a candidate myself in 2010 when she came and helped the Liberal team in Braddon.

What was amazing about Vanessa was the care she had for so many people and for so many circumstances that people find themselves in. This parliament and this state is in a worse place without our dear friend Vanessa. I completely understand the pain my good friend, the Premier, has gone through in seeing the loss of his dear childhood friend and colleague. She was also our colleague and friend, who in the party room, Cabinet, parliament, community events, was always passionate and caring but always there for some encouragement as well.

My good friend and colleague, Mr Guy Barnett, mentioned the Pollie Pedal and that she often beat Mr Shelton, who is a very fit person. She did not beat me in the Pollie Pedal but that was because she stopped and waited for me. That was the only time she did not beat me, but that was because she was waiting for me to get up the hill. That is the sort of person Vanessa was. She would put anyone and everyone ahead of herself. She even did that when her illness had become very, very serious. Her care was about her beloved Liberal Party and her colleagues, but also the election and what we were doing.

There are stories of her dear mum, Edyth, who would bail many of us up at racing events, in particular, but any event, especially Liberal events, about not only how well Vanessa was doing, which we all knew, but where we should be heading as a party. It was a tragedy when we said goodbye to her mum.

This parliament is saddened forever because of the loss of our dear colleague, friend and minister and member of the government, Vanessa, and may she rest in peace. Certainly we will continue to miss her and it is a sadder place without her.

[4.06 p.m.]

Ms COURTNEY (Bass - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Madam Speaker, I add my sincere condolences after the loss of Vanessa Goodwin. As a new member of the House in the last term, having Vanessa as a role model was unique and special. Her intellect, her compassion, her work ethic, her integrity, and also her generosity has been touched on by many today, but as a new member trying to find her feet she was always there and willing to offer advice and support. Indeed, as a southern-based minister, the time she actually spent up in my electorate in Bass speaking with members, particularly within the arts community, her absolute dedication to all her portfolio areas and the sincerity that she dealt with people in the community, was astounding.

That was very clearly reflected when we learned that tragic news, and we all remember where we were when we received that text message from the Premier, the outpouring of genuine grief in the community and the messages I received from the breadth of northern Tasmania was astounding. I know she will be sorely missed all around the state. While her death is tragic for those who knew her well and a great personal loss to so many in and out of the Chamber, for me it is the loss for our state of not having a woman like her in public life. Her contribution to the parliament, her contribution to the law, her contribution to the community was meaningful, and for our state to have lost someone of her capacity is very sad.

On behalf of the people of northern Tasmania, and so many asked me during her illness to wish her well and share their love with her and her loved ones, I say she will be missed.

[4.09 p.m.]

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for Human Services) - Quiet, calm, clever, respected - I did not know Vanessa as well or, sadly, for as long as most of my colleagues, Madam Speaker, but she was certainly one of the people who defied the popular cynical view that many have of politics and politicians. By her example, she was one of the people who helped me decide to try my hand at this game.

Vanessa was visiting Burnie in the days before she was diagnosed, meeting members of the local arts community in the Burnie Regional Art Gallery. I was there and as I recall she was not delivering particularly good news to them that day, but when she left after a short address to the

group the conversation was not about what she had said, but concern that something was not quite right with their arts minister. We learned more of her diagnosis over following days.

Vanessa and I shared a birthday, 22 April, and my youngest daughter, Charlotte, knew that. Last year she surprised me on my birthday morning by also giving me a big hug and saying 'Vanessa got another birthday', which I did not know she was properly aware of. Vanessa had a couple of years on me, birthday-wise, but now just one. She was quiet, calm, clever, universally respected and forever young. May she rest in peace.

[4.11 p.m.]

Mr SHELTON (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I make my contribution in this condolence motion to Vanessa Goodwin. I concur with everything people have said in this Chamber. What a lovely person, what a wonderful person Vanessa was. I could sit down now because that sums Vanessa up. She was a lovely and wonderful person. Eight years a colleague, eight years a friend. My colleague, Mr Barnett, has already mentioned the Pollie Pedal. When I was mayor of Meander Valley Council I first started riding in the Pollie Pedal and that is when I met Vanessa and struck up a friendship with her. As Mr Barnett mentioned, when it came to the hills Vanessa simply rode away from us.

She was tenacious, always conscious of her fitness level and always wanted to perform well. A story told at her state funeral - and I think I have this right - was that she had four paid-up gym memberships. Anyone in that situation is working hard. The Pollie Pedal was a special event because you are raising money for diabetes at a special event, when you sit down with people you have met after a hard ride, and colleagues that you have been doing it with for a few years, you have a drink and a meal and you become very close. You talk about what has been going on. It was surprising to me that after last year's Pollie Pedal when we rode around Poatina - and I can still remember one of the hills - if you started in front of Vanessa, you knew that when you arrived at one of the hills and it became tough that Vanessa would ride around you and keep going. She would stay with you for a while as good people do and encourage you and so on, and then as cyclists do they like to get into their own pace and she would then leave. However she would not just simply ride around and keep going, she would encourage all the time. The saying, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going', really sums her up. She was a great person.

I had the privilege at a Christmas function last Boxing Day with a small gathering with Marilyn, myself and some others, of sitting down with Vanessa over a Boxing Day lunch, having a chat with her and spending a few hours that afternoon in general conversation. You could tell she was positive and upbeat about her situation. She did not shy away from it. She was battling with all her might to overcome this terrible hand she had been dealt, but she stayed positive right the way through. That was Vanessa. She will be sadly missed and I can inform everyone who did not know her that we will all be much poorer for Vanessa's passing.

Madam SPEAKER - Honourable members, I will rise too, because I considered Vanessa to be a very good friend and a role model. I have been scouring my brain trying to find an adjective that has not been used to describe this beautiful lady. The only one I could come up with is amazing. Her capacity for hard work in all the portfolios she had was extraordinary.

There were many things to love about Vanessa. As many of you would be aware, my partner suffered a shocking illness that was completely debilitating and left him in hospital, in intensive care, for a year and 105 days. We were lucky to enjoy a couple of brunches with Vanessa and her good friend, Tony. During one of the brunches both Vanessa and Peter were in wheelchairs. We

were racing them around on the eastern shore in their wheelchairs. She was laughing and it was a great, memorable event. After she had taken on this dreadful chemotherapy and all the other treatment, when we had seen her in the wheelchair, Vanessa's body was ravaged with this hideous disease. Some months later, when we saw her again, she was almost back to her old self. She was vibrant, she was talking clearly and she was walking, and so was Peter. We had these two memorable moments of them both being so sick and then being well. To find out she was in so much strife in such a short time was a huge shock because it looked as if she had turned the corner and some miracle was going to happen. Unfortunately, it did not.

I thank the Premier for one of the most beautiful eulogies I have ever heard, as a tribute to his friend. I believe everyone will remember that day. For those people who may not have known the long history of Vanessa, you helped us understand all of that. She has left a legacy. As many of you have commented today, she was able to be a really brilliant politician by being calm and rational and still put her point across. That is something even I would like to learn about.

Members - Hear, hear.

Motion agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

Motion by **Mr Hodgman** agreed to -

That a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the family of the late Dr Vanessa Goodwin.

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Jocelyn Margaret Newman AO

[4.19 p.m.]

Mr HODGMAN (Franklin - Premier) (by leave) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 1 April 2018 of the Honourable Jocelyn Margaret Newman AO, the former Senator for Tasmania from March 1986 to February 2002, and places on record its appreciation of her service to this state and, further, that this House respectfully tenders to her family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Jocelyn Newman was a trailblazer for women in Tasmania, in the Liberal Party and in our nation's parliament. She was a very strong, smart and committed woman who had a firm resolve to make a positive difference in our community.

Jocelyn was born in Melbourne on 8 July 1937 and went on to study law at the University of Melbourne. In 1961 Jocelyn married Kevin Newman and the two of them were to go on together to make an enormous impact on the Tasmanian community. Many members of the House would be aware the Honourable Kevin Newman AA served in the Australian Army, reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, saw action in Malaya and Vietnam, and then served as the federal member for Bass between 1975 and 1984. He also served as a senior minister in the Fraser government.

Following her marriage to Kevin, Jocelyn worked as a solicitor for several years in Canberra and in her family's legal practice in Melbourne. It was an army posting which brought the Newmans to Tasmania. Following Kevin's election to the Commonwealth Parliament, Jocelyn worked on the

family's mixed farm at Kindred, ran a guest house, and refurbished Launceston's Old Bakery Inn into a boutique hotel.

Jocelyn was also a tireless contributor to her local community. She chaired the Launceston National Trust Board, running the Trust's Old Umbrella Shop, was a member of the Northern Regional Child Protection Assessment Committee, the Launceston Church Grammar School board and the Florence Nightingale Association, amongst many other contributions to organisations and the community in which she lived. Jocelyn was also deputy chair of the Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania and worked to establish a women's shelter in Launceston.

She was appointed to the Senate to fill a casual vacancy upon the retirement of Peter Ray in March 1986 and served in the Senate until 2002. In her maiden speech she spoke of the freedom of the individual, lower taxes and government's increasing involvement in people's lives. Mrs Newman said that she believed the main role of the Commonwealth Government was the maintenance of a strong defence system, protection of the rule of law and upholding the Australian Constitution.

Jocelyn went on to serve as a senior member of the Howard government, delivering important reforms to the welfare system as Minister for Social Security and Minister for Family and Community Services. She was an extremely powerful advocate for women in her role as minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women and throughout her life. Former Prime Minister John Howard described Mrs Newman as 'tenacious, forthright and a devoted colleague who will be remembered for her work in reforming social security'.

To make her time in the Senate even more difficult, Jocelyn also survived battles with uterine and breast cancer.

In retirement, Jocelyn was a member of the Australian War Memorial Council and the boards of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, the Breast Cancer Network Australia, the National Breast Cancer Centre, the Advisory Council of Cancer Australia, and was patron of the National Breast Cancer Foundation and Defence Families of Australia. Appropriately, Mrs Newman was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in June 2005.

Jocelyn was another of these characters in my life who I recall from a relatively young age as someone of great intellect, commitment and passion, but also a very strong personality. Whilst it was Kevin who first entered parliament, Jocelyn would have harboured some ambitions to fulfil a similar role. I believe it was inevitable that she would so do, given her intellect, passion and commitment. She was in many respects quite different from Kevin, whom I also recall being one of the team that successfully delivered a clean sweep back in 1975 in Tasmania, along with my father. I have many fond memories of my time with and around the Newman family and indeed, as it happened in recent years, when Campbell Newman, son of Jocelyn and Kevin, as leader of the Liberal Party and then Premier in Queensland and I were often in close contact.

I believe it is a family that is held in very high regard in our state. Although not native Tasmanians they certainly adopted our state with great enthusiasm and made an extraordinary commitment to it. I know there are many Tasmanians who will join with me in extending to Jocelyn's children, Campbell and Kate, and the family, our sympathies and the sympathies of Tasmanians at this difficult time. Our thanks to them and particularly to Jocelyn for her great contribution to our community.

[4.25 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Labor Party I offer our condolences to the family of Jocelyn Newman.

Born on 7 July 1937, Jocelyn served as a senator for Tasmania for 15 years and was a minister in the Howard government. She was a barrister and solicitor before entering parliament and throughout her life had a number of other jobs, including hotelier, farmer and tourism pioneer. Jocelyn was first elected to the Senate on 13 March 1986. In the 2005 Queen's Birthday honours Jocelyn was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. The *Mercury* noted that at the height of her political career Jocelyn Newman was described as the most powerful woman in Australia and the 'minister for courage'. I do not know if you recall that, Premier. That is a fair accolade.

She overcame two major cancer operations, including in 1993 when she had radical surgery for uterine cancer, and in May 1994 she resigned from the opposition front bench following the discovery of breast cancer requiring more major surgery.

Jocelyn spoke passionately and personally against the Euthanasia Laws Bill 1996 which sought to prevent the Northern Territory, the ACT and Norfolk Island from passing laws allowing euthanasia. She referred to her husband's illness by saying:

Someone I love very much will very likely die from choking to death. That thought is with me always and cannot but help influence my views.

In the same speech Jocelyn described her radiation treatment in 1993 as 'excruciatingly painful' and her cancer surgeries 'occasions of deep soul-searching'. She said that if ever she was to be faced with a long and painful death:

I wish to have the right to knowingly choose the time of my death and the circumstances in which I die. Even more so, I passionately want to have that right for those I love.

I never met Jocelyn, but I know she had a reputation as a tough-talking no-nonsense politician. I suspect our political ideology would not have necessarily always aligned, but I do respect the role she played in leading the way for women in the Liberal Party. Her personal philosophy is also worth reflecting on. She said:

You learn to make every moment count. You appreciate the opportunities you have had in the past and still have today. You focus on what is really worth doing.

I also acknowledge her lifelong commitment to standing up for women, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. I read with interest that at one time she applied unsuccessfully for a position as women's advisor in Gough Whitlam's office. She said, 'It was not party political for me. It was simply doing something for women'. Of course throughout her life she did a lot for women. Her legal practice in the area of family law exposed her to the plight of women and children suffering from poverty and domestic violence. It was this work that underpinned her involvement in the establishment of the Launceston women's shelter. She also campaigned against structural inequalities faced by women such as the lack of childcare facilities for young families and the lack of a Medicare rebate for breast screening.

We pass on our condolences to her family on the loss of Jocelyn Newman.

[4.29 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Deputy Speaker, today we are reflecting on the loss of three really quite remarkable members of the Liberal Party. Each of these debates has been very insightful about the enormous qualities of Mr Benneworth, Dr Goodwin and Jocelyn Newman and their incredible contributions to public life and their communities.

As it is with Tony Benneworth my only encounters with Jocelyn Newman were when she was a Liberal senator for Tasmania and I was a journalist and had the opportunity to interview her on a number of occasions. Jocelyn was clearly a searingly intelligent person. She had a very strong will, not in an aggressive way at all but a very strong woman, very sure of herself, confident in her being, a very clear communicator and very clear about the changes that she wanted to see in Australian society and Tasmania's community, particularly changes for women and their children.

I note that not only was the late Jocelyn Newman a lead Liberal senator for Tasmania but she was the last woman on the Liberal Senate ticket. That is a matter of great regret for the Liberal Party because when you can have someone of the quality of Jocelyn Newman leading the ticket for the Liberal Senate team, it is not about gender. It is a real loss for the Liberal Party not to have understood that to have good, intelligent, strong women on the Liberal Senate ticket is not only good for your party but it is ultimately good for the country and good for balanced debates on these issues.

When you have a look at the record of Jocelyn Newman it reminds me in many ways of the late and wonderful Sue Napier, a true small 'l' Liberal woman who believed passionately in the rights of women and children, who believed passionately in progressive social change and social improvement, in people taking responsibility for their actions.

It was Jocelyn Newman's work in the family law area before Gough's Family Law Act 1975 that gave her that insight and empathy into the circumstances of women and children in poverty and drove much of her reformist agenda.

It is an excellent example of a person from the real world having real world experience and going into parliament with the burning desire to make change. That is what Jocelyn Newman was all about. If you think that the Liberal Party is a bit of a boys' club today, in those days it would have been quite extraordinarily so. For her to have been effectively the first Australian minister for women, even though she was the minister assisting the Prime Minister for women, is a remarkable achievement. She was responsible, as I understand it, in large part, for welfare reforms that saw the delivery of Newstart, the youth allowance. Again, it is a matter of great regret that that drive for reform and a fairer Australia has not gone far enough because people who are on youth allowance are living on almost the same amount of money today as they were when this important reform was enacted. That is only enhancing inequality in our community.

On behalf of the Greens I pass on my warmest condolences to Jocelyn Newman's children, Campbell Newman and Kate Roff, the Assistant Deputy Commissioner at the Australian Taxation Office. Also to her four beautiful grandchildren, Rebecca, Sarah, Emma and Samantha, who I understand are four impressive young women who she loved dearly and of whom she would be ever so proud. I am absolutely certain that her four beautiful granddaughters are immensely proud of the legacy left by Jocelyn Newman and her contribution not only to the country but to this beautiful state of Tasmania and her commitment to fairness in our society and looking out for people who are marginalised.

On behalf of the Tasmanian Greens I pass on our love and condolences to Jocelyn Newman's family. Vale, Jocelyn Newman.

Recognition of Visitor

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Honourable members, I acknowledge the presence of a former member of this House, Ms Heather Butler. No doubt she is here to witness her daughter's inaugural speech.

[4.35 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Energy) - Mr Deputy Speaker, likewise, I acknowledge Heather Butler and her husband, Geoff, and other family members. Earlier, I welcomed Jen Butler to the Chamber and congratulated her on her election.

I also associate myself with the remarks of the Premier, the Opposition Leader and the member for Denison with respect to Jocelyn Newman and pay tribute to her and pass on my respects and sympathies to her family and friends.

I had the privilege and honour to represent the Premier, Will Hodgman, on Friday 13 April at Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul at Royal Military College, Duntroon to celebrate the life of Jocelyn Newman AO, who was born on 8 July 1937. She married Kevin Newman in 1961 at the age of 24. Kevin entered federal politics in a blinding success in the Bass by-election with a 17 per cent swing and a watershed result that presaged the Liberals return to power under Malcolm Fraser. Kevin sadly passed away on 17 July 1999.

They met on a blind date at an army ball at Puckapunyal and they had a love and support for the defence community big time. Kevin was an army officer who served in Malaya and Vietnam before rising to the rank of colonel. They had two children, Kate and Campbell. Campbell was Premier of Queensland from March 2012 to February 2015. The link of the Newman family with the Hodgman family, not just our Premier, but the Premier's father, the late Michael Hodgman, is clear for all to see and is well noted.

At the celebration of her life at the Anzac Memorial Chapel, I did learn that she not only received a bachelor's degree in law at the Melbourne University but at the University of Melbourne she was Miss University of Melbourne. That is something I was interested to hear about. She was certainly distinguished and capable in so many ways. She had an incredible resume. She was not just a smart lawyer, but a hotelier, a farmer, she was a founding member of the Women's Shelters in both Hobart and Launceston, and she was a member of the State Executive of the National Trust. My father served on the National Trust Board, as did she. Jocelyn was a member of the Federal Executive of the Australian Garden History Society and deputy chair of the Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania. She was on the board of the Launceston Church Grammar School, which is my old school, and my father likewise served on that board and was chairman of that board for a number of years.

She was first elected to the Senate in March 1986 and served for some 17 years through to early 2002. When I entered the Senate in February 2002 my office was Jocelyn Newman's office at 11 Elphin Road, Launceston. I had the privilege of moving into that office. Although I filled the

casual vacancy of the late Brian Gibson, I actually moved into the office of former Senator Jocelyn Newman.

We got to know each other well over the years through the Liberal Party and in my role as a senator. Getting to know her was a real honour and a privilege. She did have a passion for defence. She was shadow minister for defence science and personnel from September 1988 through to 1990 and then 1992 to later that year, and shadow minister for defence from 1994 to 1996. I believe it was a disappointment that she was not appointed by the then Prime Minister in 1996 as minister for defence, but she was given a huge amount of credit and undertook substantial reforms to the welfare system when she served as minister for social security for a good many years. She oversaw \$55 billion in the family and community services portfolio and that consumed much of her attention. The Centrelink that we know today was corporatised under her oversight. She took responsibility for paying all federal government pensions, benefits, allowances and affected the lives of six million Australians. It had a lot of teething problems but she met the challenge.

She was distinguished in so many other ways. It is true that at the height of her political career, as noted by the Leader for the Opposition, she was described as the most powerful woman in Australia and also the minister for courage. The minister for courage relates to a range of aspects of her character, but also of her life, and that on two separate occasions she tragically had both uterine and breast cancer. The head of the Breast Cancer Network Australia, founder Lyn Swinburne, said this of Jocelyn -

She was always refined and polite in approach, but her inner strength and determination shone through.

She was passionate about finding ways to make the lives of women and their families better, and she wasn't going to be put off from this.

She had a personal interest in, and passion for, the condition of lymphoedema and making sure the issues for women with lymphoedema were discussed and addressed, and that research in this area was funded.

She was a strong and able advocate, that is for sure. She received that Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2005. The citation for her Order of Australia said -

For service to the community through contributions to the development of government policies in relation to social security reform, as an advocate for women's issues, particularly in the health and welfare areas, and as a supporter of local organisations in Tasmania.

What more would you want as a member of parliament? What a wonderful epitaph. What a wonderful citation in honour of Jocelyn Newman.

There is much more that could be said. John Howard gave a wonderful tribute to her as the guest speaker at the celebration of her life. I was joined by many other distinguished members and former members, Senator Marise Payne, Minister for Defence; former minister Larry Anthony; and Senators Eric Abetz and Richard Colebeck. Many members of the Newman family, Campbell and Kate, and their families were there. She was likened to Dame Enid Lyons as one of the great female trailblazers in our democracy. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said of her contribution to the

Senate, to Tasmania, to the Liberal Party of Tasmania, that it was, 'by all measures, considerable and enduring'.

Our own Premier said publicly that Mrs Newman was a trailblazer for women in the Liberal Party and our nation's parliament. Geoff Page, our state president, gave a wonderful tribute to the family. He said:

First becoming known to many Tasmanians as the wife of Kevin Newman, the then member for Bass, Jocelyn Newman forged her own highly successful career. Jocelyn served in the Australian Senate for 16 years in numerous roles, including as a senior minister in the Howard Government, and was always a fierce advocate for Tasmania.

As a Cabinet minister, she championed the Bass Strait Passenger Equalisation Scheme. All of us in this Chamber and across the state know how important that scheme is to Tasmania and our future, particularly in terms of exports and production in agriculture, mining, forestry and elsewhere. It goes on.

In addition to world-leading welfare reforms, in her five years as Social Services minister, she built a reputation as a very competent member of the Howard Cabinet.

I pay tribute to Jocelyn Newman AO. I pay my respects and pass on my sympathies and condolences to Campbell, Kate and all the Newman family, and to friends alike.

[4.44 p.m.]

Mr GUTWEIN (Bass - Treasurer) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I had the pleasure of working with Jocelyn Newman from 1996 through to 1998, when she was the minister for Social Security. I had been employed in the private sector in the insurance and superannuation sector. I joined her office to look at a project assessing the interaction of the private superannuation system with the public welfare system. We worked through annuities and a range of financial products and worked closely with the financial sector.

Much has been said about her today and I will not go over all of it, but Jocelyn was one of the hardest workers I have ever come across. She was a decent person with strong convictions in the positions she took and what she believed in.

There is one funny story I wanted to share. It was early 1997 and the state government decided with the Commonwealth to set up joint Service Tasmania and Centrelink shops in regional Tasmania. The first of these was to be opened on the west coast at Queenstown. Jocelyn and I had flown out of Canberra into Launceston and we were taking the hop down to land at Queenstown Airport. The weather had closed in, so we could not land at Queenstown and we flew to Strahan. In Strahan, a young fellow who was working in our office in Launceston had driven down to meet us. He raced from Queenstown to Strahan and picked us up and we were racing back to make it to the opening of the joint Commonwealth/state office. The car ran out of fuel and it was pouring with rain. We had Jocelyn's husband, Kevin, in the back of the car. Jocelyn said, 'I have to get out, I cannot have Tony Rundle open this office without me.'. She said this was a joint decision of both state and Commonwealth government, so she had to go to the opening. She parked herself, the federal Minister for Social Security, on the side of the road, pouring with rain and no umbrella, with her thumb out. An HQ Holden pulled up. There was a couple in it with a couple of kids in the back. She explained very quickly that she was the Minister for Social Security and was trying to

make it to an opening and could she please have a lift with them. Off she went in their car, leaving Kevin in the back of our car - this had taken only a matter of seconds. He came back and asked, 'Where is Jocelyn?'. I said, 'She is gone, Kevin. We have to wait here and she will send somebody back with some fuel in a short time.'. We waited by the side of the road while Jocelyn was gone. She made the opening and opened, as I understand it was back then, the first joint Commonwealth/state office in a regional area anywhere in the country. Tasmania was the first.

She was a lady of absolute conviction. Working with her was a pleasure. I must admit, coming from the private sector into the political system, as I am sure many new members in this place experience, it is a completely different way of going about things. She had a desire to be fair, first and foremost. I recall one of the first speeches she gave. She was explaining her view on the social security safety net and how it should operate, and she made the point clearly. She said that social security in this country should be a safety net and not a hammock. As the minister she said that she wanted to ensure those in need of support would receive support, but she said that those who were playing the system would not be assisted.

As a federal minister, she conducted herself with enormous strength and dignity throughout her career. In terms of the new agency, Centrelink, grew from the old department of social security. The reforms she put in place to ensure that agency is able to function across government as it does is a credit to her.

To Campbell and Kate, it was my pleasure to have served with your mother for those couple of years. I know the world is a poorer place for her passing.

Members - Hear, hear.

Motion agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

Motion by **Mr Hodgman** agreed to -

That a copy of the foregoing resolution together with the transcript of the debate be forwarded to the family of the late Jocelyn Newman.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 1 May 2018 (page 20)

[4.50 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Mr Deputy Speaker, due to the timing of events today with the condolence motion and the other activities, I apologise to all those people who are here to hear from Ella Haddad. Unfortunately that main event is not occurring just yet, but stay tuned because it will not be too much longer.

First I would like to acknowledge the events of yesterday. What we saw yesterday is our democracy in action. The result of yesterday's vote is a more democratic, progressive parliament that can truly effect the will of the Tasmanian people. It is a reminder that no government can take the parliament or the people for granted. Being elected is only half the battle. What really makes a difference is being able to govern in the interests of all Tasmanians. The Premier is on notice that

he cannot treat the parliament like a rubber stamp. He must consult genuinely and widely with the community to deliver on his agenda.

My commitment is that the Labor Party will work constructively with the Government to make this a productive and progressive parliament. We have shown in the past that when the Government puts up good legislation that is evidence based and has the support of the community we will vote for it. What drives us is securing good outcomes for the people of Tasmania. To that end, we will not be afraid to pursue our own legislative reform agenda and that will start with a comprehensive sweep of transparency reforms which the Government was unwilling to support in the previous Parliament.

Tasmanians are crying out to see comprehensive state-based donation disclosure laws so that they can see who is buying influence in the Tasmanian political process. Never again can we have an election where the size of your cheque book determines your number of seats in the parliament. We need to see a new code of conduct introduced for all members of parliament. We need to ensure that right to information requests are an absolute last resort because we want a government that willingly shares information and that the process is free from political interference. It is only through openness and transparency that the public can truly have confidence in their elected representatives, and it is only through proper consultation and proving that we make decisions on behalf of the people we are elected to serve that the cynicism people have about politicians can be overcome.

I acknowledge to all those who contributed to the running of the Labor campaign. All of the candidates, their campaign teams, our federal colleagues, our state secretary, our affiliated unions, our rank-and-file members, the hundreds of volunteers, and the staff in my office and all the electorate offices worked tirelessly and with dedication and passion. I thank them so much for all those hours, the emails, the phone calls and the conversations that all helped to get us to where we are today.

To the thousands of Tasmanians who put their trust in us by casting their number-one vote for Labor, thank you for your efforts for helping Labor win more seats in the parliament and achieve a statewide swing in our favour. We were not successful on this occasion, but we can hold our heads high knowing that we campaigned with integrity and with decency. Ours is a collective movement fuelled by dedication and passion of so many who want a fairer and more equal society.

I congratulate the new members of parliament on their election. There are six new members of the Labor caucus and I am thrilled to be working with them, who together with our Legislative Council members give us as many members in this parliament as the Liberal Government. I acknowledge the huge efforts and commitments to their respective electorates of Jen Butler, my colleague in Lyons, Ella Haddad, Jennifer Houston, David O'Byrne and Alison Standen, and I also welcome Sue Hickey to the Chamber. I wish each of you well and know that you are here because you truly care about making Tasmania a better place. We are all here at the goodwill of our electorate first and foremost and act on their behalf until such time as they determine we will not.

On that note I would like to reflect on the departure of the members who were unsuccessful in their election efforts this time - Madeleine Ogilvie, my Labor colleague and former member for Denison, Andrea Dawkins, Nic Street and Joan Rylah. I cannot imagine how it must feel to lose your seat, but I do know what it feels like to lose an election. I pass on my sincere commiserations and hope that you have good support around you from those who know you best and that each of you is looking forward to new adventures.

So here we are, the 25 of us, the Greens diminished and wanting for a cause, the Liberal Government returned but wounded by their actions throughout the campaign with their poor decision-making on critical issues. The Labor Party returned with more members and a reinvigorated team that will hold this Government to account with more tenacity and determination than you can even begin to imagine, because there is much to fight for.

We proudly campaigned on health and it remains our number-one priority. There can be no essential service more important that impacts on more people across our state than healthcare. When I reflect on the stories of the hundreds of individuals who have shared their anguish, the time that their loved ones have waited in the emergency department, the frustration at the lack of available mental health services, the anxiety about ramping at the hospitals, the pain endured due to long waits for an outpatient appointment, the denial of services for women needing a termination in the public health system, and the exhaustion of health workers who are at their wits ends, I cannot but help feel compelled to challenge the Government to do better and to be better.

The health system needs more funding now, not in six years time. We need more beds now, not in six years time. It is the Liberal Government's fault that we are in this position. It is due to their mismanagement and their chronic underfunding of the health system that we are facing dire circumstances in our hospitals.

Think about the loss of accreditation, ambulances ramped, people waiting for days in the emergency department because there are not enough beds. The Labor Party provided a fully costed health policy at the election that was designed to provide relief for those relying on our health system from day one of an elected Labor government. Our policy only included state funding, unlike the Liberals who bolstered their health policy with \$200 million of federal funding and tried to pass it off as their own until they were caught out.

The Liberals' health policy was exposed for its cynical attempt at buying votes by the former chief of staff to the Premier, Brad Stansfield, who wrote about it, amongst other things after the election, in a self-inflated ramble that said:

We were able to gazump at our campaign launch two weeks later with our superior health policy.

So the Liberals waited for Labor to launch our health policy, matched it, added a little extra and thought that their biggest problem was solved. They have no shame.

There are people who have been crying out for years for this Government to listen and provide more resources, and the Liberals ignored them until the eve of an election, and even then it was not their cries for help they responded to, but polling on a Labor health policy. Shame on you, Premier.

The Liberals' cynical brand of politics is everything that people in our community despise. Their shallow rhetoric and poll-driven approach has put lives at risk. People have died because of the decisions made by this Government, but even that was not enough to prompt them to do something about it. They are motivated purely by political self-interest and they are the worst kind of politicians.

Seemingly daily our ambulances are ramped in the hallways of the Royal Hobart Hospital, the 'Hodgman Wing' and the 'Ferguson Wing'. Did you know that they called those corridors after the two of you?

Mr Ferguson - Just as well we opened those beds.

Ms WHITE - As he leaves the Chamber, the Minister for Health, Mr Ferguson, says 'just as well we opened those beds'. Tell that to the ambulance staff who were ramped yesterday at the Royal Hobart Hospital and the 63 patients waiting in the emergency department. It is not just the 'Hodgman Wing' and the 'Ferguson Wing', the corridors in the hospital used for patients on trolleys, but there is a new wing, another corridor, the 'Gutwein Wing' it is being called now, because there are not enough beds.

The arrogance of the Health minister who just left the Chamber making that snide remark, is not lost on those health workers and those patients who are today probably wondering where those beds are that the minister alludes to.

The esteem of the Minister for Health is matched only by that of the Roger Jaensch tent city at the showgrounds, that the minister finally found the location of 16 days after it was first brought to his attention. In case members opposite have missed it, there is now an 'Occupy' movement on the lawns of Parliament House, with tents pitched and homeless Tasmanians living right outside this building because they have nowhere else to go. I am not sure if you have spoken to any of the people camped out the front of this building, but you should. Do not leave it 16 days.

Tasmanians deserve better than a government that employs shallow spin designed to get through the next media cycle. We deserve politicians with courage and conviction. Politicians who live the day-to-day alongside their fellow neighbours, not looking down on them from on high. We want a fair society, we want a quality health system, a good public housing system, a quality public education system, a chance at a job that is secure and meaningful, investment in infrastructure that will set our state up, not just roads and bridges, but renewable energy generation, telecommunications networks and ways to bring people together.

A fairness agenda is a good economic agenda. When governments look after people the economy does better. A fairness agenda is about making sure people can access essential services like health, education, and housing, and get a secure job. Investing in people, investing in what is fair is an investment in a better future. We have a responsibility to tackle inequality, to stand up for the voiceless, to make decisions that improve the wellbeing of our entire community, not just the wellbeing of a few. These are the areas where this Liberal government is failing.

Tasmanians do not want a secretive and deceptive government. Unfortunately these characteristics are the hallmarks of this Hodgman Liberal Government. The deals for mates, the hidden policies, the lack of transparency about who donated to the Liberal Party, how much and what do they want for that donation. The blatant way in which the Liberals act in their own political self-interest and not in the public's best interest. The Premier has earned himself a new nickname, Dodgy Hodgy.

The French President, Emanuel Macron, in his address to Congress last week said:

Without reason, without truth there is no real democracy, because democracy is about true choices and rational decisions. The corruption of information is an attempt to corrode the very spirit of our democracies.

The Liberal Party should reflect upon this and be held to account for the way in which they campaigned in Tasmania, and the way they manipulated information in order to gain political advantage. It is fair to say that this is the best government that money could buy.

Let us talk about poker machines and the blatant attempt by the Liberal Party to scare Tasmanians into thinking that 5000 jobs were at risk if poker machines were removed from pubs and clubs. They lied. To demonstrate the depths of their deception reflect on the Facebook post from Alice Wood-Jones shortly after Labor announced its poker machine policy. Alice Wood-Jones, sound familiar, 'there goes my brother's job' Alice posted. Famously, outrageously, Alice Wood-Jones did not exist. It was a troll profile controlled by a senior member of the Premier's own staff. Make no mistake this practice of government sponsored trolling was orchestrated and widespread. Where is Gary Boake? Where is Brent Smith? Where have they gone now? No election to campaign in they must have - I do not know - gone to work somewhere else. When the Government was caught red-handed it simply swept the matter under the carpet.

The Government's own SEIS Report estimated there were less than 400 direct jobs in gaming and even then there was no tangible evidence presented to say those jobs would be lost in 2023 when arrangements changed. Even Saul Eslake labelled the Liberals claims ridiculous. But they continued to corrupt information and in doing so they eroded the spirit of our democracy. Will Hodgman should hang his head in shame for the way he allowed big business to corrupt the Tasmanian Liberal Party and by extension our community with their lies about job losses, their use of staff, many whom were casuals with no job security and no power to say no to push their propaganda wearing t-shirts, handing out pamphlets adorning their buildings with banners and sending letters to customers telling them how to vote.

Mr Hodgman - You've expressed confidence.

Mr Bacon - Alice Woods-Jones doesn't.

Mr Hodgman - Alice Woods-Jones. We said we wouldn't back the stunt. Said that before the election.

Ms O'Byrne - Doesn't mean we trust you one iota.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order. Members on my left should stop interjecting. Order.

Ms WHITE - The Liberal tactics were deceitful and whilst they might have won more seats they sure did not win respect. This is one issue that is not over yet. Have Government members even read your own SEIS report published in January this year? Another report that was hidden until we called for its release.

It tells a story of an increase in the prevalence of at risk gamblers with no reduction in the number of people playing poker machines today compared with three years ago. It tells us of half of the money being spent on poker machines is from at risk or problem gamblers. Disturbingly, it also shows that for 18- to 24-year-olds poker machines were the most common gambling activity. This is a problem that is not going away but the Liberals continue to deny the truth in favour of pro-pokie rhetoric that disregards the enormous and economic harm these machines cause our community, our families and our friends. The Liberals' gaming policy will make problem gambling worse. The Government's collusion with the poker machine industry and its collusion with vested interests will be recorded as a dark chapter in Tasmanian political history.

Labor was not prepared to ignore the fact that in the last financial year Tasmanians lost \$110 million on poker machines in pubs and clubs. Labor believes this is money that would be better spent in our communities, supporting small businesses and families. I was not prepared to ignore the evidence presented by experts like economics professor, John Mangum, showing that if just half of those losses from poker machines were diverted to other parts of the economy more than 180 full-time jobs would be created. The Hodgman Government, and specifically Treasurer Peter Gutwein, were instead prepared to collude to try to discredit this credible evidence.

We accept and understand that for every person who is harmed by their own gambling seven other people are affected. Labor was prepared to take a bold stance and remove these harmful and addictive machines from our towns and communities and restrict them to casinos. My position, Labor's position, on problem gambling and poker machines has not changed and will not change. We are not prepared to ignore the clear and compelling evidence and do nothing. How many of you opposite can say the same thing.

The desperation of the Liberal Party to win the 2018 election does not stop with their wilful ignorance of gambling addiction. They displayed a stunning lack of honesty about what people were even voting for with 200 policies not even revealed prior to the election. Most significantly of these were changes to the firearms laws only leaked the day before polling day, changes that do breach the national firearms agreement. There is no honesty there and no ability for voters to make rational decisions when they are denied even the most basic of information.

The lack of truth about the fiscal position of the state budget and the ease with which the Premier was happy to dole out taxpayer dollars in the most extraordinary display of pork barrelling with all of the crackling was stunning. I condemn the Government's stubborn refusal to shift from an austerity budget approach when it comes to the wages of teachers and nurses and other public sector workers while at the same time trumpeting the improvements across the economy and regaling such success to your own budget management. Tasmanian's cost of living is going up faster than the Government's own wages policy. In real terms Tasmanians subject to the Government's wages policy will be worse off. With the growing inequality, stagnating wages and difficulties recruiting to fill vacancies the strategies of this Liberal government leave no doubt in my mind that the ability of our state to continue to develop essential services is severely compromised.

After pledging \$2.7 billion worth of promises to the Tasmanian public this election the Liberal Government has a lot of explaining to do. They have woken up with one hell of a spending hangover and their forecast budget surplus is slim and dependent upon raiding GBEs that just last year said such windfalls were not likely. What will they cut to pay for their promises? What essential services will they continue to chronically underfund to hide the fact that they misled Tasmanians about their ability to manage the budget?

Their trickery and deceit is not limited to cooking the books. Let us talk again about the use of troll accounts by staffers in the Premier's own office, on the taxpayer dollar. I remind the House again about the quote I shared earlier. The corruption of information is an attempt to corrode the very spirit of our democracy and condemn the Premier for allowing such a practice to occur and thrive on his watch.

The use of troll accounts was used not just to influence people's opinions on social media by commenting on articles or posts but going so far as to threaten the jobs of people who raise their

voices in opposition to Government policy. Not just any Government policy: the policy that restricts the ability of women in this state to access a legal medical procedure in the public health system. Did the Premier realise what he was saying when he ruled out providing access to terminations of pregnancy in the public health system, ignorant of the fact that they have long been performed there, or was he swayed by the pressure from those in his party ideologically opposed to a woman having full agency of her body? He has been too weak to stand up and show leadership to fix the problem that has resulted in tens of women each week being forced to fly to Melbourne at the most vulnerable time in their life. Shame on you, Premier. How dare you stand in judgment and deny access for women to a legal medical procedure because you do not have the courage to stand up to your Minister for Health, Michael Ferguson, and pull him into line.

The deceit of this Liberal Government is not confined to ideological issues. It extends to mainstream concerns such as education. The audit of TasTAFE remains secret, despite the Minister for Education and Training saying it would be released publicly. Compound this lack of transparency with the other hallmarks of this Government - ignorance of growing inequality and gold medal media spin - and you have the trifecta. While Will Hodgman and Peter Gutwein are happily spruiking Tasmania's economic growth in areas such as building and construction, they are actively ignoring the underlying fact that while the big end of town is enjoying the dividends, tens of thousands of Tasmanians are missing out.

Tasmania has lost 1800 apprentices and training places over the past four years. It is that chronic lack of apprenticeships and mysterious shortfall in the training places they cannot explain and will not talk about. They will not address Tasmania's stubbornly low participation rate and are happy to avoid addressing the fact that Tasmania's youth unemployment remains amongst the highest in the country. They will not talk about the fact that thousands of Tasmanians remain without secure full-time work, and they are doing nothing to restore confidence and create rewarding and secure employment for those Tasmanians. What we have to do is clear. We have to go back to the beginning, to take a serious look at our education and training systems and establish what has gone so very wrong.

To get to the bottom of this situation requires investigation by parliamentary inquiry. A parliamentary inquiry will help us understand why this state is in real danger of falling short of workers within only a handful of years if no new workers are trained. I challenge the Liberal Government to work in a bipartisan manner to establish this inquiry and to help all Tasmanians understand why apprentice positions have disappeared on their watch and to establish where the training dollars have done.

It is all very well to be trumpeting growth in areas such as residential and commercial construction, but serious questions need to be answered about why apprentice numbers have not grown at the same time and have gone backwards. Who is responsible for the enforcement of the building and construction training policy, for government procurement that requires contractors and subcontractors to use apprentices for 20 per cent of the labour required onsite and offsite for work undertaken on Tasmanian government contracts? It is not working. It is not being enforced. If we are to fill the jobs of tomorrow, the only way to understand the mistakes of the past and to rebuild our workforce is to provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to put their statements on public record and adequately plan for the future.

I look at the faces of those opposite and you already look tired. Public life can be tough, but it is for good reason. People want to know you are in it for the right reasons and that your decisions as a government will make their lives better. You have to make a difference and you have to act

with conviction and a good heart. The faces of those opposite look tired because they are going through the motions but they do not believe it. They do not believe in equality. If they did, they would promote equality of rights for women.

You do not believe in fairness. If you did, you would address the growing inequality in our society rather than promoting that divide through handouts to business over services to vulnerable Tasmanians and fair wages to working people. You do not believe in social justice. If you did you would properly resource our child safety services, our hospitals, our schools, public housing and our justice system, so people could receive the support they need, when they need it. You do not truly believe in the important role of the state in helping people. You are caught up in thinking the market will respond and government is simply along for the ride, but it is not the case and that is why you are tired. Your theory is not working in practice, people are hurting and you do not have the answers because your ideology is broken.

Labor, on the other hand, is revived. We are bigger, we are stronger and we are ready to show the Tasmanian community the government they could have. My team is energised and hungry and together we will stand up for our communities and make sure the services Tasmanians rely upon are not further eroded by this Liberal Government. We are here to demonstrate to Tasmanians our brand is worth protecting, the uniqueness that is the Tasmanian way of life is worth celebrating, our competitive advantages in renewable energy generation, agricultural production, aquaculture, caring for one another and our strong sense of community are all things we can be proud of. We can make a difference to the life of every child in our state with a sustained focus on the early years with a keen resolve to ensure every family with a child under five is given every chance to engage, be included and succeed.

We need to take more seriously the risks to brand reputation that come from biosecurity incursions and the risks these incursions place on our primary producers, their ability to access markets and promote Tasmanian grown produce around the world. We need to compete on quality. The best way we can do this is by investing in our people, investing in training and apprenticeships across a range of sectors to help grow the potential of our citizens, to increase the skills of people of all ages who build our houses, greet our tourists, grow our vegetables, cook our seafood, support our community and grow the Tasmanian brand.

We will put people first and make sure those people waiting for health care, public housing or public education have a champion in Labor. Labor will stand up for Tasmania in Canberra. We will argue for our fair share of GST, health funding, education funding, housing funding, infrastructure funding, and make sure that despite there being no Tasmanian around the Liberal Cabinet table, that our voice is heard.

I love this place. It is my home and I am personally invested in making sure my family, my friends, my community and my state is given a fair go. As distressing as it may be to know there is a Liberal conservative government in power, we will hold them to account each and every day.

The last 12 months have strengthened my resolve to advocate for the rights of those who have no voice in decision making and to ensure essential services that underpin our community are properly resourced. The Liberals might have won the election, but they did not beat us. There are more rising up behind us every day because we hope for a better future for our children than what is on offer right now. The make-up of this parliament means we have the opportunity to progress an agenda that is bold, progressive and puts people first. I have never been more determined in my

life to make sure Tasmanians receive the outcomes they deserve, from us as their elected officials, as I am today.

Opposition members - Hear, hear.

[5.18 p.m.]

Ms DOW (Braddon - Inaugural) - Madam Speaker, I begin by acknowledging all Tasmanian Aboriginals, the traditional custodians and owners of our land and the Mouheneener people whose land we meet on today. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

I congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election as our Speaker, and my fellow members of parliament on their election and re-election to parliament. I also thank those members of parliament who were not re-elected at the last election for their contribution to the parliament and our communities. I am looking forward to working with my fellow parliamentary Labor Party colleagues both in this House and upstairs. Together we are the next generation of Labor leaders in Tasmania and we will lead Labor back to majority government at the next election.

Members and guests, please pause for a moment and think about a very special place - a place where the sea glistens blue, there are white sands, rolling green hills, rich volcanic soils, a temperate climate and a wilderness older than we can imagine. In this place our farmers grow the crispiest vegetables, sweetest fruit and berries and rear the finest animals for meat and dairy.

We catch wild fish, distil fine whisky, gin and vodka, and ferment premium wines and cheeses. We create once-in-a-lifetime experiences for residents and visitors alike, walking through our forests, climbing our mountains and taking in the world's best views. We respect our land and have a proud history in primary industries and value-adding, a land we have worked for over 150 years in agriculture, mining and forestry. It is a place rich in minerals and whose mineral extraction comprises a giant proportion of our state's exports year on year.

It is a place where people still say hello to each other in the street, where bright, inquisitive people use their skills to make things, from machinery and vehicle key components to jewellery, joinery and art, and out of both necessity and an abiding sense of entrepreneurialism, create new products for key markets, adapt to our changing world and train and employ our fellow Tasmanians. It is home to proud people with a strong work ethic, people with a passion for involvement in community life through sport, arts and volunteering, and people with a uniquely humble and generous approach to life.

However, it is a place where some have been left behind as the tide of heavy manufacturing and traditional industries ended or changed. It is a place we could all once walk into work where all training was provided on the job. Now quite often locals have to move away to gain skills and qualifications to embark on their pathway to employment. It is a place where our governments at all levels must work together to strike enduring partnerships across industry, unions and community services to address systematic disadvantage, find new markets and seize our future. It is a place with so many competitive advantages and with greater cooperation across our region it has so much potential for growth.

I have lived in this place for most of my life. It is a place that is often underestimated, but there is no doubting the critical role this place plays in Tasmania's economy, its psyche and its future. This place is Braddon and I am proud to call it my home.

I thank the people of the north-west coast, the west coast and King Island, who trusted me with their vote and bestowed upon me this enormous privilege to represent them in this the forty-ninth Tasmanian Parliament. It will be a challenge to work away from home, not just at parliamentary sittings but out in communities across our state, to listen, learn and improve how government works for all Tasmanians.

I am honoured to be included in Tasmania's Labor shadow cabinet as shadow minister for economic and regional development, shadow minister for employment, training and skills development, shadow minister for small business and shadow minister for veterans affairs. It will be a big workload and I say to Tasmanians please knock down my door with your ideas, your concerns and your criticisms.

My family has a long association with Tasmanian industry, large and small, owner and worker. My maternal grandfather had a very successful logging business on the east coast of Tasmania, and my paternal grandfather worked at the APPM timber mill in Burnie. Today, my husband, Rory, and I are involved in agriculture, growing blueberries and seed potatoes near Burnie. My dad, Rex, worked as an electrician at the Burnie paper mill and my mum, Jan, was home caring for me, Luke and Kirsty until her return to work later in life.

In those days Burnie was defined by the plumes of smoke in our air and a red foam drifting on our coastline. It was a gritty, proudly working-class town. My introduction to the Labor movement and the Labor Party was through my dad. I remember vividly the pulp dispute. I remember the picket line when I was just a teenager, and at its height the dispute was so intense that mum and dad sent my siblings and me to stay with our grandparents on the east coast. The pulp dispute instilled in me the need for workers to pull together and that the Labor movement is built on the fight for fairness and justice for all working people.

I understand the importance of secure work because I can remember over the years the uncertainty of my dad's employment and the impact that this had on our family. As industry changed and the company's ethos towards its workforce changed, it was hard then and for many workers it is harder now.

Thank you, dad, for instilling strong Labor values in me, values such as valuing every person, a strong sense of social justice and the importance of equality and always standing up for the well-being of others. Thank you, mum. I inherited your strength, patience and determination and that has set me in good stead to stay focused during challenging times and to always be determined to work collectively towards the greater good. You together have provided a wonderful upbringing for us and have given me tremendous opportunities and made sacrifices along the way to enable me to aim high and achieve, and to you I am forever grateful.

To my brother and sister who are not here today, Luke and Kirsty, and your partners, Chelsea and Rob, thank you for your on-going support and encouragement. Thank you, Kirsty, for door-knocking with me during the campaign, even though I know you hated every minute of it, except when you could door-knock our Nan, which you felt quite comfortable with.

To Rory, my husband and my friend, thank you for your ongoing support for my commitment to being involved in public life. At times it is not easy being the partner of someone involved in public life. The time commitments and public scrutiny is difficult and I thank you for your ongoing support. I am looking forward to sharing this exciting new chapter with you and to sharing in your new endeavours and pursuits and supporting you also in your successes.

To Madeleine, Alexander and Campbell, you are my motivation for being involved in public life and decision-making in Tasmania. You bring us great joy every day and I am very proud of you. I encourage you to aim high and we will offer you every opportunity.

To Dee, a special friend to our family who supports us in our endeavours, we thank you. To my wonderful girlfriends, thank you for your encouragement, support and most importantly, your friendship.

Thank you to the Tasmanian Labor Party, from the campaign team led by Stuart Benson, to the exceptional team of candidates, to our leader Rebecca White and her staff and our dedicated and inspiring branch members and affiliates. Rebecca, thank you for spending so much time in Braddon and packing your days with door-knocking, announcements, community meetings and more. You championed our party, our ideas and our vision for the state and I thank you.

To my campaign team, wow. We worked really hard, knocking on 12 000 doors across our electorate. What fun we had meeting fantastic people, hearing their ideas for how to make our place even better and what important work that is. We took the time to listen to the stories, good and bad, positive and negative. I enjoyed every minute of it, even the day in Queenstown when a little dog got a bit excited and sprayed on my campaign sneakers!

To the amazing volunteers who knocked on those doors, made the calls, stuffed letterboxes, put up signs or had signs in their yard for me, I consider you all my friends and I thank you for your support.

I especially thank Tony, Lesley, Joan, Matt, Donna, Paul and Bianca, Chris, Nigel, Daryl, Amina, Steph, Phil and Alex, Kellie, Sandra, Amelia, Naomi, Miriam and Anna, Ariel, Sue, Sarah, Julie and Amanda, Andrew, Scott, Annette, Justine and Leah, Briony, Lennie, Megan and Georgia for all the door-knocking and phoning - and anyone else I have forgotten. Grassroots campaigning works. To dad, Rory, Mike, Michael and Tony, thank you also for putting up and taking down my signs.

To Bryan Green, a lifelong family friend, I have learned much from you over the years and I thank you for your confidence in me over many years. I am so pleased to be following in your footsteps representing the people of Braddon.

I also need to make a special mention of Senator Anne Urquhart, who is here today. Anne, your confidence in my abilities and encouragement to stand and then your ongoing mentoring during the election is priceless and I thank you.

Finally, to my grandmothers, your generation of women did not have the opportunities to pursue your chosen careers and you sacrificed so much for our families. You are intelligent women with strong determination and courage and I thank you for the values you imparted in me. The fact that my daughters and I are now able to choose to work in our chosen careers is not lost on me.

I must also thank Emily's List for supporting progressive Labor women into politics and my mentor, Mary Anne Thomas. That this parliament is just the second in Australia and the first state with a majority of women elected is a testament to the hard work of so many women and men across all sides of politics. A small fact I was not aware of during the campaign is that with my election, I am the first Labor woman to be elected to the state seat of Braddon, and I am incredibly humbled

by this. I follow Carole Cains and Joan Rylah from the Liberals and Di Hollister from the Greens in this place, and Justine Keay, my friend, the first woman to represent Braddon at a federal level, and Dame Enid Lyons, the first woman to represent the former electorate of Darwin.

Electing more women to parliament is a great start and now that we are here and we are in majority we can and must be a force for change. When I think about other women who have inspired me as a palliative care nurse and in public life three come to mind: Edith Cowan, the first Australian woman to serve as a member of parliament and her work in social reform; Caroline Chisholm for humanitarian work; and Dame Cicely Saunders for her involvement in the hospice movement. These are women who respected the wellbeing and dignity of others, valued education and challenged the system.

I love working with people. In fact I can only think of a few people I have not enjoyed working with over the years. My passion is finding ways to improve our community and our society. This passion naturally led me to nursing and I chose palliative care because it is holistic. It puts the patient and family first and it encourages collaboration between service providers. It taught me much about the fragility of life and not taking yourself too seriously. I learnt about the importance of empathy and listening. I have met some incredibly strong people who were determined to deal with the dreadful cards that they had been dealt. It was incredibly rewarding to provide care and support to patients and their families at their most vulnerable time.

In 2004 I was fortunate to manage the trial of a national palliative care program in north-west Tasmania. The program aimed to improve quality of life and support available in regional Tasmanian communities. Our team trialled a new patient assessment tool which was later adopted by the Tasmanian Palliative Care Service. It was during this time that I became interested in how I could influence health outcomes through politics and if I wanted to make a real change for our communities I would need to put myself up for election. I knew that I must strive to put myself in a position where I could truly influence health outcomes in Tasmania and I am very pleased to be in this position today.

I have come to this place to make changes for my home, the city of Burnie, for Braddon and for this state. At the age of 27 I was elected to the Burnie City Council and a decade later I became mayor. I acknowledge and thank my colleagues at the council and across local government in Tasmania. As an alderman I am proud to have played a role in Burnie's renewal, strongly championing collective impact and further investment in social infrastructure in our city. Burnie City Council is known across the country for our work bringing people together to solve the complex social problems. It takes a whole-of-community approach to addressing systematic disadvantage.

Through Burnie Works and our Making Burnie 2030 Plan we set in place key targets and a work plan to improve the lives of everyone in our city. It is a model that works and it is my intention to integrate this approach in my work in the Tasmanian Parliament. It is my experience that it is only through community engagement, place-based initiatives and meaningful partnerships that we see success stories and create positive change. I would like to see the north-west, west coast and King Island given further opportunities to trial federal and state pilot programs in service delivery so that programs to empower and support disadvantaged Tasmanians are shaped by the living experience of those people and not imposed upon them from afar.

I am a big picture person and I love collaborating to solve problems. During my 13 years in local government Burnie changed a lot but there were still challenges that I believed needed to be

addressed at a state level, including attracting investment to regional Tasmania, our social determinants of health, population growth and providing better services to regional and rural communities. This was a motivating factor for me in standing for parliament. There is no doubt that local government is a very important layer of governance in our state. It is clearly closest to the people and through partnerships with state and federal government we can achieve much more in our local government communities, particularly improved service delivery for regional communities in investment attraction and the provision of better community infrastructure.

It was my great pleasure to serve our city as mayor, deputy mayor and alderman. I encourage more Tasmanians to get involved in local government, standing for election this October, attending meetings and engaging with their elected representatives.

The electorate of Braddon has some of the poorest health outcomes in the nation. As a palliative care nurse I travelled across the region assisting people. I am committed to continuing my advocacy for rural and regional Tasmanians in need of better health services. There is also much more to do to prioritise preventative health and primary health. Labor is committed to this and understands the importance of our people being better informed about their health so we can keep people in their homes, well supported, and reduce the burdens on our hospitals where possible. We need to look at different models of service delivery in rural and remote communities, such as the west coast, Circular Head and King Island, as our population ages and declines in these geographically isolated communities.

Prosperity and economic growth are not mutually exclusive from the social wellbeing of our communities. You cannot have a strong economy without healthy, educated and inspired people. We must invest more in our people through better access to knowledge, skills and training to ensure the growth and competitiveness of our businesses and industries and the development of new industries in our state. I am passionate about ensuring Tasmanians can get a great education, find a secure job and have access to a world class acute and primary health system when they need it. We need a government that invests alongside the private sector and is willing to look differently at how we provide services and plan for Tasmania's future.

We also need a government that will work with industry and unions and not seek to create divisions in regional Tasmanian communities, to grow and develop products that the market wants to buy to ensure Tasmania has sustainable industries today, tomorrow and in 100 years time. It is interesting to note that Labor's policy to establish eight industry advisory councils in key sectors of the economy was based on this principle of working together to understand workforce requirements for the future and to better match the work of industry and our community sector to that of government.

Labor will be inviting stakeholders from across industry, unions, education, community services and all levels of government to participate in a form of these councils to ensure voices are heard and partnerships formed. We want to hear your ideas for growth and workforce requirements, what the challenges are and what infrastructure investments should be a priority for future growth and the best ways to provide pathways to employment for our people.

Like so many of us, my first job was in fast food at Burnie KFC. I then left Burnie to study nursing at Australian Catholic University in Ballarat. I was lucky - I left Tasmania in 1996 because I wanted to. I wanted a new challenge. There is nothing wrong with our young people leaving Tasmania if they choose to do so to gain new expertise and skills. We must highlight to our children that our beautiful part of this island at the bottom of the world is a base they can return to.

Likewise, for those who can learn their skills and work in their chosen vocation, your contribution to our place is immense. However for many that have moved away, it is too hard to return to the north-west to work and raise their family. Together we can and will change that. I am the first and only in my family to attend university. My brother took on an apprenticeship and my sister pursued further study at TAFE. We must ensure each child can pick their pathway, whether that is through our tremendous University of Tasmania, for the tradesperson through an apprenticeship, or directly through TAFE or a vocational provider, and that each child is supported to make decisions about their career - to dream big, to work hard and to take risks and to keep on trying.

In my shadow minister role, I have come to understand quite quickly that we need to further examine funding for apprenticeships and traineeships in Tasmania, wages, the support available for training providers, including TAFE, and the support available for apprentices, businesses and industry to grow our apprenticeship and traineeship numbers into the future. I am enjoying meeting with stakeholders and learning more about the perspectives of all stakeholders involved in skills and training in Tasmania. Education and training will change in Tasmania again as we see the introduction of associate degrees in northern Tasmania aligned closely to key industries, research and development at the University of Tasmania.

Madam Speaker, during my time as mayor, we travelled together to attend a delegation to the United Kingdom and Europe with the University of Tasmania to visit university cities. We visited cities that valued the knowledge economy and where intellectual capital, human endeavour and access to superior technology were priorities to achieving future growth. Members, our state is the most geographically diverse and yet key economic indicators point predominantly to boosts in the south, concentrated on Hobart. We need to ensure that our regions have access to the best infrastructure and services we can provide to stimulate economic development and reinvigorate our small businesses.

As mayor, I advocated strongly about the importance of fibre to the premise NBN being available on the north-west coast. The vast majority of NBN available on the north-west coast is just fibre to the node, while Launceston and the vast majority of Hobart have access to fibre in their home and business. Industries and businesses in Burnie, Ulverstone, Devonport, Wynyard and Latrobe are left behind and I believe this is a wasted opportunity for economic development in regional Tasmania. We should also be striving to develop further centres of excellence in the north-west, as demonstrated by other countries in partnership with the University of Tasmania and TAFE Tasmania. In doing this we need to look not just at our traditional industries but in the emerging industries of primary and preventative health, aged care, tourism, social services and other opportunities that our ageing population and health status offers us.

Madam Speaker, I conclude where I began, thinking about a very special place where the sea glistens blue, there are white sands, rolling green hills, rich volcanic soils, a temperate climate and a magical wilderness. A place that is home to wonderful people, a place that has offered me many opportunities, the place I am now incredibly proud to represent in this parliament. Thank you to the people of Braddon for this privilege. It is a responsibility that I certainly will not take for granted.

Members - Hear, hear.

[5.41 p.m.]

Ms HADDAD (Denison - Inaugural) - Madam Speaker, what an honour to be standing in this place with the opportunity to give my first speech. It might be an honour that I have long imagined, but not one I necessarily thought I would have the chance to fulfil. I start by congratulating all members on their re-election and recognising my fellow incoming members - yourself, Madam Speaker, together with Anita, Alison, Jenna, and Jennifer, and David returning in his role as member for Franklin. To my fellow Labor member for Denison, Scott Bacon, I very much look forward to serving the electorate with you. I also pay tribute and acknowledge Madeleine Ogilvie, who served Denison in the last four years with distinction. I wish her all the very best in her continuing legal career.

Madam Speaker, I believe our parliament should reflect our peers. It should be made up of people from across our communities who have a range of experiences in work and life and who will bring those experiences to their work here. I started working when I was 14 in restaurants and hospitality. Coming from a family in small business, I learned the value of hard work early. I learned the value of always looking for more to do, working hard at every task you have and doing the very best you can. My parents taught me to always have a healthy questioning of authority, not a disrespect, but simply to ask myself what is fair and right and what I could do to make a difference when I saw injustice. They taught me to recognise we each have the power to influence things for the better.

During university and after graduation I worked for the Honourable Duncan Kerr during his time as federal member for Denison. Duncan's was one of the busiest electorate offices in the country, with a steady flow of people visiting us for support each day. Under the training of not only Duncan but also the inimitable Majda Flanagan, I learned that everybody has a story to tell and is to be treated with respect, that there is no person more important or better than another, everyone is equal and has a right to be heard.

Some of the people who came to the office in those days stay strong in my mind. I recall one man who was a regular visitor. In his mid-fifties, he spent most of his time either in Risdon, at Bethlehem House men's shelter or sleeping rough. He was a bit of a rough-around-the-edges character. One day he came in more worked up than usual, shouting, swearing and throwing things at me like his lit cigarette and the fundraising chocolates on the counter. It took some time to calm him down, but when we did it was clear there was in fact a simple problem that we could help with and resolve. Just listening made a difference.

Another regular visitor would use the office as a bit of a home base, setting her kids up to watch a video in the backroom while she went to her appointments with Housing, Centrelink and elsewhere. The office was a safe place for her and her family. Service providers would describe her as someone who touches on all areas of the service system, but despite having a range of difficulties in her life, she was doing pretty well. One day when she was returning to the office to collect her kids after a number of appointments, I heard the police shouting outside the office, attempting to get her into the back of the police car. Once everything had calmed down I learned that in frustration, she had become violent at one of the offices she had been visiting. We asked her why she had done that, considering she never so much as raised her voice in our office. 'It is because you people listen to me,' she said.

I know the system is capable of pushing people to the brink, chewing people up and spitting them out and pushing otherwise reasonable people to despair. That is why we need people in parliament who not only understand these issues but have lived these things that affect so many of

us in our communities. Further still, we need people who not only listen but take these stories back to our roles as parliamentarians and the policy decisions we make here.

I move on now to thank the people of Denison who put their faith in me to represent them. We each have a great deal of power in our vote, especially in Tasmania with the intricacies of our Hare-Clark voting system. I know that just over 5200 people made the decision to put me number one on their ballot paper and for some it was their first Labor vote or their first Labor vote in a while. That faith and trust people have put in me I do not take lightly or take for granted. I know that it is my job for the next four years to show the people that the choice they made was the right one. I pledge to work hard for all the people of Denison to represent them honestly and stay true to values I demonstrated in my campaign.

I am proud to stand here as a Labor member, having joined the Labor Party at just 17 and still in high school. One of my earliest memories of involvement with the party was handing out how-to-vote cards with my parents at the 1987 federal election; I would have been around eight or nine. At around 15 I started volunteering in Duncan Kerr's office. One of my early tasks was to find the clipart images that would be published in the electorate-wide newsletter. That was back when the use of clipart images in a professional newsletter was considered hip and modern. Times have certainly changed.

I remember volunteering on the 1993 federal election, which members will recall was the 'unwinnable' election for Labor which went on of course to be Prime Minister Paul Keating's sweetest victory of all. Watching the election night coverage at the ALP function at the Waratah in Hobart, heavily sunburnt from a day standing on the polling booth, I recall so well the speeches and the feeling of complete elation that night. Mr Hewson spoke first to concede defeat. Standing against the backdrop of the busy yellow and black Intercontinental Hotel Sydney banner, he spoke briefly, thanking his volunteers and family. Then Mr Keating gave his now historic speech. Standing on the stage of the Bankstown Sporting Club backed only by a simple blue curtain with the word 'Australia' emblazoned in white behind him, young and optimistic, the visual contrast could not have been clearer to me.

The values Mr Keating talked about that night resonated with me as a young 15 year old and resonate with me still. He pointed out that the victory was one for all those people who kept faith through difficult times. He said it was a victory for Australian values like cooperation, being decent and of people having regard for one another. He talked about Labor standing for an opportunity for everyone, for the values of access and equity and the policies of inclusion. He said the victory would not go to his head but he would take it seriously, take it thankfully and do a great deal with it.

Those values inspired me that night and they have driven me since. These are the values the voters of Denison can expect from me as their representative, because I know it is only Labor that puts people first and puts people at the heart of every policy decision of government.

To be honest, there have been times when it has not been easy to be a Labor Party member. I am sure everyone in this Chamber, no matter their political allegiances, would agree that there are times when ideas clash within parties and that can sometimes be hard, but what has been most important to me throughout my involvement in the party is not to walk away when decisions were made that clashed with my values, but to stay involved, to stay in the room and to keep turning up to have a voice in those decisions even when mine was a dissenting voice, because I truly believe

you cannot make change without being a part of that change and, indeed, change is only made by those who do turn up. I could not do my best if I simply walked away.

However it is really not that hard to stand by the Labor Party because in our party real change can be made in the rank and file. Just a few weeks ago I listened to a Young Labor member Dana Endelmanis, who is up in the gallery today, who has recently been elected to chair one of our party's central policy committees. In taking up her position, Dana explained that what drove her to join the Labor Party was the fact that as a rank-and-file branch member it is possible and indeed common that we can influence and change the policy of the party. Dana herself has crafted policy around transgender rights and she has taken those policies to our state conference and it now stands as the policy of the Tasmanian branch of the Labor Party. This kind of democratic influence and rank-and-file change I believe is not as readily available or as possible in other parties.

I am proud of my heritage, being both a first-generation and a fifth-generation Australian. My family's story is not an uncommon one. My mum, Anne Ripper, grew up on a dairy farm in south-eastern Victoria, meeting my father, George Haddad, a Lebanese immigrant, in her early 20s and working together in restaurants in Melbourne. With mum one of eight children growing up on a farm, I learned about hard work early from the Ripper clan. My mum's dad died unexpectedly young of a heart attack at 53, in the milking shed, leaving my grandmother and the older children to run the farm.

It was a challenging time, with my youngest aunty only nine. My grandmother Betty is still going strong at 93, living independently in her own home. It has only been in the last few years the family has been able to convince her to stop doing all the work on the property herself, such as clearing the gutters, building chook sheds and fixing fences. I will never forget, when I was a kid, seeing her deliver meals on wheels to people decades her junior.

My dad's family migrated to Melbourne from Lebanon in the 1960s, following a period of conflict in the region. As an officer in the British Army in Palestine, my grandfather did not want to see his sons, including my father, go in for a life in the military. Returning to Lebanon after World War II, my grandfather worked in the public service before applying for migration to the United Kingdom, Canada, the USA and Australia. Australia was the first to write back, so across the seas they came. He secured a job at the Transport Regulation Board in Victoria. My grandparents and eight of their nine children set up home in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

Less than a year into their new lives, my dad's father also died unexpectedly young of a heart attack. This left my grandmother, Rafia, with the tough decision to either remain in Melbourne, where her children could get a good public education and she could live comfortably on a widow's pension, or returning to Lebanon where such supports did not exist. It must have been a tough decision to stay in Australia with limited English and no family support, but I am lucky she made that decision. Her children and grandchildren have gone on to contribute to this country and others around the world, mostly in small business but also in public service and now politics.

I would like to say that I am the first person of Lebanese descent elected to this parliament, however I cannot claim that, as Frank Gaha, who stood in this Chamber from 1950 to 1964, beat me to it, albeit a long time ago. He was also known as Stymie to his friends, was a lovable rogue and was credited with being the architect of the Tasmanian Hospital System. He also had the distinction of serving in this Chamber, the Legislative Council and the federal parliament, too. I am confident I am the first Lebanese since Stymie to serve in this parliament, and certainly the first woman to claim that role!

On that note, I reflect on the increased number of women in this parliament and how proud I am that women now outnumber men in the Labor Caucus Room, and the numbers across parliament are almost fifty-fifty for the first time ever. This is a significant step in our democratic history. While women achieved suffrage in Tasmania in 1904, we did not achieve the right to stand for election until 1921. The first election of a woman followed sometime later in 1948, when Margaret McIntyre was elected to the upper House, and 1955, when Millie Best and Mabel Miller were elected to this Chamber. It was not until 1980 that the first female minister, Gill James, was appointed. The first female premier, friend and mentor to me, Lara Giddings, the first female Speaker of the House, Elise Archer, held these positions only in the last two parliaments. Now, Madam Speaker, you hold that position in this parliament.

I go into this history simply to show that while change does happen, it is often slow and it does not happen by accident. I have been involved for a long time with an organisation called EMILY's List. The main aim of this organisation is to ensure that progressive Labor women are pre-selected to winnable seats. Our motto is that when women support women, women win. Never has that been truer than in my election campaign. I was very lucky to have many amazing women mentors and supporters. Part of the role of EMILY's is to assign a mentor from within the movement to newly pre-selected candidates. I was very lucky to have Tara Cheyne, member for Ginninderra in the ACT parliament, mentor me throughout my campaign. Tara's advice and support was always warm and generous. She had the unique ability to say exactly what I needed to hear, right when I needed to hear it. I look forward to continuing to work with all my EMILY's sisters, including Tara, and Michelle O'Byrne, our Tasmanian EMILY's List Chair, who has also been such a mentor and support to me over many years in the Labor Party.

While increasing our number in parliament is important, there is still such a long way ahead for true equality between men and women. There is still a significant gender pay gap, in particular in female-dominated industries, such as early childhood education and cleaning. I recall, when I returned to work as an adviser after the birth of my first daughter, being told by a senior colleague that jobs in politics were not suitable for young mums and I should work elsewhere. While the comment was not really a surprise, we all know mothers have long faced discrimination in the workplace. What surprised me was that my partner at the time had an almost identical job, was the same age as me and was father to the same child. Nobody seemed to be giving him advice to work elsewhere.

Juggling work and family is a constant challenge for any parent and one I learned all too well in the six years I spent as a single mum. During those years I could not have survived without the support and love of my mum and dad, my sister, as well as the family we adopt, especially my dear friends Olivia Montgomery, Astrid Tiefholz and Rachel Midson, Robin Black, Kathryn Wakefield and Hilary Smith.

In those years I found myself unable to rent or buy a house and was fortunate to have the support of my mum, who I returned with my daughters to live with for some years. I was lucky to have that support because many of us are not. During my campaign I met so many people affected by Tasmania's housing crisis. We have people sleeping in tents on the parliament lawns right now. I met adult children living at home, as I was, with no prospect of finding a place of their own, with insecure work often contributing to their situations. That is why I support secure working conditions for Tasmanian workers. For too many of us, especially in casualised industries such as hospitality, in which I used to work, people are stringing together multiple part-time jobs with instability in hours simply to pay the bills.

Volunteering has always been an important part of my life. I am proud to have served on the boards of several community organisations, including TasCOSS, tasCAHRD, Tasdeaf and Women's Health Tasmania. These organisations and hundreds like them have the vital role of helping Tasmanians who need social services. As we have seen in recent months in the media, these services are no longer only dealing with emergency support. They are finding people of walks of life who need ongoing and enduring support. It is a personal passion of mine that we see secure funding for Tasmania's community sector, including more flexible funding models that allow silos to be broken down in the interests of people. There are barriers to supporting people who needs span things such as mental health, alcohol and drug issues, homelessness and child protection, simply because each is wrongly seen as a separate and independent need.

It is working in these areas, in the community sector and more recently in the Department of Health and Human Services that has given me so much fire in the belly to run for parliament and to do my part in trying to improve things. I pay tribute to the many highly professional, passionate and hardworking people I worked with in the DHHS, to my own team in the CSRU and others I worked with closely, I learned so much from you and will miss working with you.

Madam Speaker, I finish by thanking my team and my family. First, my sister, Alexandra Haddad, a better sister nobody could find. We are lucky to have each other. Thank you for being a firm friend to me and an aunty to my girls. To my partner, Simon Beaton, and the fantastic Beaton and Rippon clans he brings with him, thank you. Campaigns are not easy on family life or relationships and I thank you, Simon, for your patience during the campaign, support, both emotional and practical, to me and the girls, keeping the household running and being a sympathetic ear when I needed it.

To my beautiful, smart, funny, wonderful, loving daughters, Charlotte and Lucy, thank you for being mummy's biggest supporters. Charlotte, your passion for this campaign means that you probably have a better understanding of Hare-Clark than any other 12-year-old and many adults in our community. My favourite part of the campaign was when, Lucy, you told me you were glad I was running for parliament because, in your words, 'Somebody needed to get rid of that Donald Trump guy.'! They say politics is full of surprises so you never know. Girls, you light up my life. You teach me far more than I ever hope to teach you and I love you both dearly.

When it comes to parents I have two of the absolute best, Anne Ripper and George Haddad; you shaped me, you taught me my values and my work ethic. You always made my sister and I feel we had a voice worth hearing, an opinion worth voicing, and that our ideas were valued and valuable. I can only hope I am raising my daughters with the same independence and respect. The fact you have forged such a strong and loving friendship through 20 years together and now 20 years divorced is a rare and beautiful thing and one that makes all our lives richer.

To my amazing dedicated campaign team, thank you. Thank you to Natalie Jones for being the most organised, supportive campaign director. Your advice was always spot on and delivered in a calm, patient way that put my mind at ease and calmed me down. To Claire Vickers, your incredible skill in field campaigning speaks for itself in our success in this campaign. You planned the most comprehensive direct field campaign I have ever seen and I count myself lucky to have been the candidate who benefited from those skills and I am thrilled we now get to keep working together in my office. Thank you to Ben Dudman for joining me every day from January to climb the hills of Hobart suburbs, knocking on doors when you could have been enjoying your university summer break. To Kester Takayama and Stephen McCallum, thank you for your ever presence and

hard work in continuing to recruit and train volunteers and keep our field campaign on track. Stephen, my waistline is still suffering from the pizza you organised every campaign night and Kester, thank you so much for your amazing skills in data which border on the savant.

Thank you, Michael Fitzgerald, for your awesome social media skills and for pushing me in directions I may not otherwise have gone. To Scott Plimpton, thank you for being the fastest and most organised poster team manager. People were so impressed at how courteous we were with our posters and that they were almost all removed on the Sunday after polling day. Thank you to the rest of the poster team - Phil, Dave, Paul, Colin, Ben and Don - who with their hammers and posts literally put the blood and sweat, but hopefully not tears, into the campaign. To Liam Carswell and Jamila Fontana, thank you for your media advice on strategy. I loved working with both of you and I learned so much which I will continue to put into practice.

To Jade Barker, thank you for your dedicated friendship and loyalty to the paths I have gone down. Thank you for your creativity and spontaneity. To Terry Aulich, indeed the elder statesman of our campaign team, thank you for your key advice and support in the lead-up throughout and since the election. To Jannette Armstrong, Rebecca Flanagan and Jessica Sanders from United Voice; thank you for recognising the value I brought as a candidate and for having the confidence to back me in. Thank you to Madeline Northam and your colleagues from the CPSU for supporting me with time, energy and good humour throughout the last weeks of the campaign. I know that you know I will continue to be a strong voice for working people in this place.

To all the mentors I have had throughout not just the campaign but over my involvement in the ALP for 23 years, thank you to Duncan Kerr, Terry Aulich, Carol Brown, Michelle O'Byrne, Stuart Benson and especially to Lisa Singh, who is here today and who stood in this Chamber before me and was an amazing practical and personal support to me throughout the campaign and since. Thank you.

I was lucky to have so many dedicated people supporting me on my campaign team, but also a huge volunteer base. People who I have known and campaigned with for years or in some cases decades and while I have spent my life volunteering for others, it was a different feeling indeed to have people give up their time for me. I was lucky to have people who had the confidence to back me in as a candidate worth supporting.

Just a few examples of people who joined our team. One is Janice. Janice came to the campaign because she was so pleased with the Labor policy to remove poker machines from pubs and clubs. A retired public servant of over 30 years, Janice had never volunteered with politics before but felt moved to do so this time because of that policy alone. Janice became an absolute stalwart of the campaign and a key member of our doorknocking and phoning team. Or Bronte, a first time voter not long out of school. Bronte, whose family is more supportive of members opposite, took the bold move to get in touch with the Labor campaign to come doorknocking with us. My former housemate and dear friend, Daniel Richardson, who travelled from Sydney for the final week especially to campaign with us.

Along with that team I thank everyone else who spent anything from a few hours, to a few weeks or months volunteering. It was a unique strength of this campaign that we managed to recruit and retain such dedicated volunteers and for this I will always be grateful. This win is as much theirs as it is mine. Thank you to Alex, Ali, Allison, Amanda, Amy, Amy, Angela, Bec, Bee-Ean, Bella, Ben, Brian, Bruce, Celeste, Chris, Chris and Anne, Christian, Clair, Claire, Craig, Dale, Daniel, David, Dean, Derek, Dianne, Dominic, Don and Linda, Eleanor, Elli, Emma and Eloise, Fiona, Flick, Grace, Heidi, Henry, Hillary, Innes, James, Jason, Jen, Jess, Jessica, Jooles, Josh,

Kathryn, Katinka, Kirsty, Kok-Yee, Kylie, Kylie, Lauren, Levi, Liam, Lisa, Louise, Mandy, Martin, Matt, Maureen, Michael, Michelle, Mark and Henry, Millie, Morris, Nigel, Pat, Rachel, Rhiannon, Robbie, Rosie, Saffire, Sam, Sam, Sam, Sarah, Sheree, Stephen, Tahnee, Tammy, Tim, Tim, Thomas, Trina, Uppi, Virginia and Zac. Also the 200 people who hosted a poster and I am not going to mention them by name!

Starting out in the campaign I concede I was not seen as much of a chance. However I knew I had a unique opportunity to be a candidate for the Labor Party and I will take that opportunity with both hands, apply my values of hard work and dedication and do the very best I can in that role. Now I have the privilege to fill one of these 25 seats my attitude will not change. I will approach every task with hard work and dedication and the values I hold - integrity, respect, equality and fairness. I intend to make a difference in this Chamber and the work I will do as a local member. I want to make sure I am part of a parliament, a party and eventually a government that addresses the root causes of entrenched disadvantage.

Generally, I do not like the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff analogy but it works here. For so long we have spent time, effort and state budgets on addressing the results of inequality like poor literacy and health literacy, homelessness, ill health and mental ill health, violence and crime. I want to do what I can as a member of this House to advocate for policies that address these issues early, that invest in early intervention in education, health, social services and criminal justice. Only when governments invest in prevention not just cure will we see social outcomes improve and healthier communities across our beautiful state flourish.

Thank you to our party leader, Rebecca White, for including me in your shadow cabinet in portfolios where I can tackle these issues.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I borrow again from Paul Keating's words in 1993:

My success in winning this seat will not be taken for granted. I take it seriously,
I take it thankfully and I intend to do a great deal with it.

Members - Hear, hear.

[6.06 p.m.]

Ms BUTLER (Lyons - Inaugural) - Madam Speaker, first I thank the electors of Lyons for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me to represent them for the next four years.

I am honoured to be here today addressing my peers as a member of the forty-ninth parliament and the new member for Lyons. I have a strong understanding of the importance of this role and the responsibility members of my community have placed in me by electing me to represent them. It has not been an easy journey. I have had to fight for this role which will keep me humble and dedicated to serving the people of Lyons.

I will start by thanking my beautiful husband who I think is outside; he is up there with Alexander. Thank you for your strength, your constant backing and belief in me. Thank you for caring for our children and holding together our family whilst I have been campaigning and chasing this lifelong dream. We share the same values of hard work, learning, compassion, integrity, courage and the pursuit of happiness. To my beautiful children - Madelaine who cannot be here tonight, she is working, Archie and Alexander. Thank you for being so understanding of the time

I spend away from you. You will always be my greatest inspiration and reason for wanting to make the place you live better.

Thank you to my amazing parents - Geoff Butler AM, former President of the Tasmanian Labor Party, and Heather Butler AM, former member for Lyons. I consider myself to be fortunate to be blessed with you both. Mum and I made history as the first mother and daughter to serve in the Tasmanian Parliament. We are also the third mother-daughter to be elected to parliament in Australia. For your tireless work during my campaign and advice to stay with the people and ignore the negativity, I thank you.

I found my passion for politics and leadership at a very early age. I was inspired by chance meetings with dedicated Labor Party leaders such as John Cain Junior and Bob Hawke. Branch meetings were often held around my family's kitchen table. My first campaign was at the ripe old age of six when my father ran for local council. Letterboxing was mandatory and fierce debate about local issues and social justice were the norm. We held an annual vigil on the anniversary of Gough Whitlam's dismissal which, according to my family, was and still is an injustice to democracy and freedom of expression. The dismissal resulted in my father becoming a fierce pro-republic advocate. I was granted a chance opportunity to meet Gough Whitlam in 2006. My now 13-year-old son, Archie, was placed on my hip and I approached a seated Mr Whitlam and introduced my son to him. Mr Whitlam looked up to my son's face and said, 'So this is the future'.

This is my base. This is where I come from, and now it is time for me to make my own mark and to do important things that matter, but to never become too important. I raised Madelaine and Archie as a single parent for many years. It was a difficult time and I struggled with the balance between parenting and full-time work. I relied heavily on day care, school, before-school care and after-school care. Madelaine and Archie never complained about always being the first to be dropped off and the last kids to be picked up. They have always understood that mum had to work so we could have a house and food to eat. It was as simple as that. It was a vulnerable time. I became resilient and developed a thick skin.

I also had the back-up of a strong family unit. To my brother Scott, sister Kirsty and brother-in-law Adrian, I thank you. I began to understand and consider how it must feel for single parents that do not have that back-up or the educational start I had, who are undertaking low-paid positions and have the same obligations and pressures that I experienced without the dream of a career or support networks. How do unemployed, homeless or people living with illness cope under the same conditions? I will go out of my way to help vulnerable people. I will work tirelessly in the hope that one day everyone will be given the same opportunities that I have had. We are all similar and we are all vulnerable but some of us are just given better access to means than others.

Lyons is the biggest of our electorates, from Nubeena to Ouse to Sheffield with Mt Roland in the misty distance to the magical clean brilliance of Wineglass Bay. I married the love of my life near Binalong Bay on the Gardens Beach. We have the most amazing agricultural plains. We are the backbone of Tasmania's economy, where the food comes from, where the bulk of the dams that produce our power are located. We are one of the main bread baskets of Australia. We have some of the highest disadvantage indicators in Australia as well as some of the most out-of-date infrastructure such as the Bridgewater Bridge. We have families without a home to live in who cannot afford food and young people who cannot access mental health services.

Lyons is made up of the most brilliant artists, workers, farmers, poets, scholars, social workers, teachers, parents, scientists, cleaners and academics in the world. It is a diverse community and

landscape. Community connectivity is the strength of Lyons. I will work with these communities to retain this.

The centralisation and rationalisation of services from rural areas to the cities is a policy which Tasmanian governments have focused on for far too long. I have watched the policy makers implement closures of government services in many of the remote areas of Lyons with some dire consequences. Economic rationalism has its merits, however our policy makers must consider the impacts these policies make on smaller communities and the people living in these regional communities. Sometimes a short-term cost saving results in a long-term expense, especially in areas such as health training, education and basic government services.

The progressive closures of online access centres is a perfect example of city-based - often southern - policy makers rationalising a government service to minimise budget expenditure. The problem is that sometimes these policies do not consider the importance of a service to a small community. Online access centres provide access to information in areas of Tasmania with the highest social disadvantage indicators. Online access centres and volunteers provide instruction and assistance to people with poor literacy, MyGov assistance, census forms, passport applications, TAFE courses and other services. These centres are largely cost-neutral. Most online access centres produce quality publications, gazettes, directories and newspapers, accessing every single person in Tasmania. Despite this evidence, online access centres are again threatened for closure next year. Internet access and accompanying services are unaffordable or inaccessible to many people in these communities. I will fight to have the voices of smaller rural communities heard. That is my pledge.

There will be many contentious issues raised in this forty-ninth parliament. A significant topic will be the legalisation of assisted dying for the terminally ill. I am a firm believer that nobody should die an unnecessarily painful death. I am therefore open to discussion on this most serious of issues. I was raised as a Christian and believe that life is a precious thing and we have an obligation to help other people in our community to the best of our ability. I do not believe in placing our judgments upon others.

The journey to the point of election was difficult for me and I would not have found success without the assistance of a small team of people. If the House would indulge me, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank them now.

To Michael Polley, former Speaker of the House and the longest ever standing member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly, thank you for sharing your amazing wisdom and knowledge with me over many years. You have taught me to focus, learn, and stay in touch with the people, to listen and to work hard. I consider Michael a part of my family and will always appreciate his advice and wisdom. Thank you to Kim Polley for being gracious and patient over many years of continuous campaigning.

I also pay homage to the Honourable David Llewellyn AM for the many years he represented the people of Lyons for his vision in relation to irrigation, agriculture and tireless work to open Tasmania to the world.

I thank Christina Sharpe and her family for their incredible support and ability to make me laugh when the going is tough. We have experienced life together, the good and the bad, and I believe we make an incredible team.

I thank my dear friends, Kim and Michael Salharni, for providing a safe, generous base of support. Thank you for your wisdom and philosophical approach to politics and insistence on quality research, debate and justice.

I asked former member for Franklin, Daniel Hulme, to assist me in my campaign. Thank you Dan - we had the odds stacked against us and we managed to get there. Also thank you to my long-term friend Senator Catryna Bylik, who showed me kindness during my campaign.

To my beautiful brother and sister-in-law, Andrew and Jo Palmer, thank you for your advice and belief that as long as I stayed true to myself and was real I would win this election. I promise I will continue to always put family first - as Andrew says, 'Believe that something wonderful is about to happen.'

Thank you to my parents-in-law, Kevin and Karen Palmer, for supporting my family for such a long time now. To Anna Cuthbertson, Angela McCrossen, Emily Boxhall, Kea Matysek and Jade Hedges, you are extraordinary women and my best friends. I am blessed to have such a strong base of support as we navigate our complex lives.

To Edan Davey and Sandra Fielding, thank you for managing my social media and correspondence during the campaign. Also for your love and absolute support of me and my family. Thank you to Irene and Kelvin Semmens, Glenn McGuinness, John Hortle, Harry Jager, Neville, Lenny Miles, Laurie Gregson, Bill and Eilien Fry. East Coast people really do know how to look after each other.

Thank you to Kevin Midson, Ian Wakefield, Robert Flanagan and Kade Wakefield for your support over many years. Also thank you to Matt Haney and his shearing team in Bothwell for allowing me to run around the shed and paddocks to film my ads. Thank you to Tim Medhurst for taking me under his wing, for your friendship and your wise words. Thank you to Robert Tatnell and to my old friend Tony Bennett.

I am fortunate to spend a lot of time with the former federal member for Lyons, Dick Adams, and his partner, Dee Alty. Thank you for sharing your amazing history and knowledge of Lyons with me, for reminding me to stay real, to be humble and to listen. I doubt there is a person in Tasmania with a better knowledge of the electorate. Dick is also related to half of Lyons and went to school with the other half. I really appreciate their time and assistance.

Thank you to Senator Helen Polley and Elliot Bell for your dedicated support in my campaign. We set the pace early against great odds. Thank you to Margaret and Dennis Oates. Margaret is an extraordinary person, prepared to sit in the cold selling raffle tickets and attending functions whenever I asked, without question. Also to Dennis, for pulling around the trailer and always being there.

Thank you to Vicki and Kerry Wood from Carrick. I appreciate your friendship. To Ted Carter, who letterboxed the whole of Deloraine twice over without complaint. To Steve and Dierdre from the Carrick Post Office, thank you for weathering the storm.

Also to Moya Jefferies who continues to represent the good people of the Brighton Municipality with integrity and honesty. Thank you to Helen Manser, Chelsea Barnes, Shiney, Shirley Moss, Wayne and Lin Garlick and Chrissi Gimblett. Also to Lynda and Christine Sturzaker

for loving Riley so well. Thank you to the ladies from the Magra CWA for being such strong advocates for the people of New Norfolk. I will not let you down.

These are only some of the people who have made a mark on me and I endeavour to repay them by being 100 per cent committed to the people of Lyons. I will do my utmost to fulfil their aspirations and always put them first. It is a diverse electorate. Its best years are yet to come and I will do my utmost to not let them down and to earn their respect. A wise woman once said, do important things, make profound judgments on profound issues, on things that matter, but never become too important. To three people I will always simply be Mum, and they will keep me grounded and focused on what is right.

Members - Hear, hear.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Anzac Day Commemorations

[6.24 p.m.]

Mr BROOKS (Braddon) - Madam Speaker, I appreciate having the opportunity to speak on the adjournment. There are many issues I would like to discuss, MPIs, over the next few weeks, as we have been away for a little while, but this is very important. I will read an important speech.

Madam SPEAKER - Mr Brooks, we will wait until we have order in the House. Order. There is too much noise. It is difficult to hear the honourable member for Braddon speaking.

Mr BROOKS - Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A wonderful young veteran called Cameron Stewart made an amazing contribution to the Ulverstone Anzac Day commemoration. I asked Mr Stewart if I could read his speech into *Hansard* because it is a very important speech and a very telling message from a modern veteran. Mr Stewart is an IAD specialist for the Bridge program in the north-west for the Salvation Army. His speech reads:

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Cameron Stewart and I am a local veteran. My speech today is about what it's like to be a younger veteran however veterans of all ages would be able to relate to this type of information.

What is it that makes a defence person a veteran? While there are many different definitions, I would like to share one. A veteran, whether on active duty, discharged, retired or a reserve, is someone who at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank cheque made payable to their country for an amount of up to and including his or her life. In short, if you have served, you're a veteran.

As a younger veteran I have often heard remarks such as; Are they your Grandfather's medals or some of my fellow female veterans have been asked, Are they your husband's. For many years women have been working alongside men within all services and most recently women are now allowed to serve within the

Infantry. Both males and females are able to join the defence force at age 17 and are eligible to serve overseas at age 18. We become veterans at a very young age.

As a veteran it has been over 15 years since I served overseas, I find others' perceptions and views about what a veteran looks like interesting. Recently I was told by a fellow veteran that I looked too young to be a veteran. I had a conversation with this gentleman about his service and I found out that he was 19 when he served overseas and discharged just before his 21st birthday. I replied, 'So you became a returned veteran when you were 19?' He replied, 'Yes'. I pointed out (at the time) that I was 35, 16 years older than when he had served. His reply to this was a surprised realisation that he too was once a young veteran.

What this represents is the natural phenomenon that as we get older we forget how young we were when we did things. Remarks like 'You're too young to be in high school', or 'That lad is too young to drive' - we all go through this yet sometimes forget to reflect on this.

When young veterans discharge from the service it can be difficult to understand how they feel or how they connect with others. I would like you all for a moment to experience how this may feel and briefly close your eyes and think of a place where you belong most in the world, whether it is your loungeroom with your loved ones or spending time with your mates. Now imagine how you would feel if you felt or were told you don't belong or don't fit in. For many individuals, both male and female, leaving the Defence Force feels exactly this way.

One current form of creating connection is the Australian Defence Medal, which is the red and white medal that you see veterans wear. This medal was released in 2006 to recognise those who have served in the Australian Defence Force. However there are still veterans, perhaps some even present today, who are unaware they are even entitled to this medal. For others they may feel uncomfortable wearing their medals for fear of what others would say.

The significance of this medal has allowed former Defence members to reconnect with fellow veterans and to signify they have served in the forces. For this reason I ask other veterans to wear this medal with pride.

We rightly mourn the loss of veterans killed serving their country overseas. However the battle of service life continues for many years after leaving the forces. In 2017 alone, 84 known Australian veterans lost their lives through suicide. Like the pain of losing a veteran serving overseas, the staggering numbers of veterans we lose at home drive a large stake through my heart.

I now personally have the privilege of working in the community with people who are affected by addictions and mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, with many being veterans.

Unfortunately, while working with people, many would take a long time to disclose they are ex-Defence Force. For this reason, asking if they were ever in the Defence Force is now one of my first questions. However, a response that I would often get from veterans is, 'I only did this in my service. I can't get any support.' They are surprised to learn that there are now many new services and

support available for all veterans. The fact that many veterans are unaware of such support highlights the importance of community education but most importantly, anyone who has served in the Defence Force.

Since I left the military and relocated back to Tasmania I have discovered that many veterans relocate to hide or escape the pain of their service life. However when this is the case, in most instances there is a desire to speak of their service or connect with like minded people.

What has been lost is the veteran's sense of connection of and belonging. So what does all this mean? I have witnessed utter despair and loss of all hope in many veterans and dare I say, some were knocking on death's door. Veterans of all ages, without acceptance and inclusion, do not have a voice. From the first day of recruit training veterans are trained tough, however sometimes the ability to accept help can be even tougher. All it takes is one person to reach out to a veteran to bring a sense of connection and belonging back into their life. If this is what one person can achieve, imagine what a whole community could do.

On 25 April 1915 the legend of Anzac was born and we rightly come together to give our respect 100 years later. We have a continuing number of veterans within our community, both young and old. If I can leave you with one last thought for all of today's veterans that is 'Don't forget me, cobber'. Thank you.

Shadow Portfolio Responsibilities Neville Bingham OAM - Tribute

[6.32 p.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I am very proud to be returned as a member for Braddon and hope to represent my constituents with all my best endeavours.

After the election I was very fortunate to also be given shadow portfolios. I retained primary industries and water and on top of the mining portfolio I gained forestry so I am looking forward to some debates on that issue. Also I was very proud to be given the shadow responsibilities for police, fire and emergency management.

Mr Barnett - Do you support the TFA then?

Dr BROAD - Let us talk about police, fire and emergency services.

Ms O'Connor - Talk to your alleged not minister for climate about the TFA. You are talking up net zero emissions that are all the result of the TFA.

Members interjecting.

Dr BROAD - I have an important contribution here recognising the public service of a long standing community member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order. Dr Broad has the call.

Dr BROAD - I was very fortunate to be given responsibilities for police, fire and emergency services and my first official function was to attend the Volunteer Emergency Services Award presentation sponsored by Northern Tasmanian Broadcasters, which includes 7AED and SeaFM. This occurred at the Melrose fire station, which is not a terribly big building but the fire trucks had been taken out and the place was absolutely packed to recognise the dedicated service of Neville Bingham OAM. Neville Bingham is a volunteer at the Melrose fire brigade and his service to the community is extraordinary. I will read into *Hansard* some of the things Neville Bingham OAM has done and you will understand why he was awarded the emergency services award for the north-west coast.

Mr Bingham has been an active member of the rural fire brigades in the Devonport municipality since 1968. Prior to that he was involved in the local fire suppression service under the fire warden system, rural fire brigades, country fire brigades, Tasmania Fire Service, and then he was deputy captain of the Melrose Fire Station from 1970 to 1983. He was elected group captain in 1982 of the Devonport group which changed to group officer of the Barrington group to include the volunteer fire brigades of Forth, Leith, Tarleton, Melrose, Turners Beach, Barrington, Wilmot, Cradle Mountain and Devonport volunteers over four municipalities. It has been an active volunteer association since 1973. He was north west chairman for 12 years, a delegate to state council for 25 years and state vice president from 1993 to 1997. He was awarded life membership in 1995. He was awarded the Tasmanian volunteer firefighter medal in 2000. He was a delegate to the Australian Fire Assembly and Fire Brigades Association between 1991 and 1994. He was awarded the National Medal in 1985 plus bars. He was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 1993. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2002 for his community work. He was Devonport Citizen of the Year in 2011 and a member of the Devonport Local Fire Committee from 1972-1995 before it changed to be the member and chairman of the Barrington Fire Management Committee from 1995 to the present. He has been a member of the Mersey Fire District Committee from 1998 to 2004.

Basically this man has spent most of his life in the Fire Service. He has been an extraordinary mentor to not only to the Melrose Fire Station and the people who have worked through there, but also he has been a mentor and helped to bring young people into the Volunteer Fire Brigade and also been an active member during fire incidents. There were numerous incidents over that span of time that he has been involved in. He received his service medal for 15 years and he has also been awarded three bars, so that means he has been in the Fire Service for a total of 45 years. That is 45 years of community service in the Volunteer Fire Brigade which is an extraordinary level of community service and an extraordinary level of mentoring countless other fire volunteers in that time and deservedly was awarded the Volunteer Emergency Services Award. It was fantastic to be there on the night. This is a very well-respected man and a deserving winner.

Anzac Day Commemorations

[6.37 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Energy) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I first congratulate the member for Braddon and Royal Australian Navy veteran on his remarks in terms of the importance of Anzac Day and associate myself with those remarks and thank him for a terrific contribution. I want to speak about Anzac Day and what an honour it is to be the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. It is a dream role and I wanted to note that this is the centenary of Anzac - it runs from 2014 to 2018. It represents one of the most significant commemorative events in Australia's history and during this

period Australians will commemorate 100 years of service and sacrifice by Australian service men and women in all wars, conflicts and peace keeping operations.

This year, 2018, marks the 103rd anniversary of the original Gallipoli landings and the birth of the Anzac story in 1915. These stories helped forge the Australian identity and character of our nation, the attributes of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice. They are still very relevant today. In fact more so than ever before.

I had the honour of being in four special places across the state; in Bicheno, organised by Doug Renshaw and the Bicheno RSL and spoke there at the dawn service and then to Perth for the 9.00 a.m. service. Well done to Brian Harper and the Northern Midlands RSL for that service. It was really special indeed and it was a great honour to speak and share some remarks. Then on to Longford and Geoff Leech, well MC'd, and the Northern Midlands RSL. In the afternoon at Nunamara, Peter Gutwein gave an excellent contribution.

I had the opportunity to speak in honour of Harry Murray VC - Australia's most highly-decorated soldier who was born and bred in Evandale. The guest speaker at that event was Cheryl Murray and the previous week I was able to host her in Evandale with the Evandale History Society to promote the memory of Harry Murray VC. There is a statue in Evandale in his honour. Thanks to Laurie Wotherspoon and all the volunteers who helped organise that particular event.

The RSL advises my office that there were an estimated 129 services: dawn, 11 o'clock and other services during the day on Anzac Day at 82 separate locations around Tasmania. How fantastic. The advice is that the numbers were up and I know many members in this Chamber and across the Parliament of Tasmania would recognise that and note it. We feel very proud.

I welcome back the members of the Frank McDonald Memorial Prize winners who participated in northern France and Ivan Dean MLC, honourable member, and a good colleague and friend - we walked the Kokoda Track together in 2008 - but he was a member of that group and Sam Davis who led the group on behalf of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. To all the students and teachers who were involved, I followed them on Facebook and what an experience, because they attended ANZAC Day service at Villers-Bretonneux and together with the Prime Minister and thousands and thousands of others. It is the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux under the leadership of Sir John Monash, and the Sir John Monash Centre was opened at that time by the Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull.

It has been a very special time indeed for so many Australians. This particular Anzac Day and this particular year we have 100th anniversary of the Battle of Hamel, again led by Sir John Monash, one of the most famous battles. He estimated 90 minutes to win that particular battle and it was 93 minutes. It was absolutely mind-boggling and highlights the distinguished nature and acumen of such a wonderful military leader. That was on 4 July 1918. The 100th anniversary of the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918; the 75th anniversary of Hellfire Pass and the Thai-Burma Railway, and many other anniversaries, and of course the 100th anniversary of the World War I armistice on 11 November 1918. There are many anniversaries this year.

Speaking on Villers-Bretonneux, the school at Villers-Bretonneux bears the simple message on the playground wall, 'Never forget Australia'. They have a special national memorial there for those who fell in the conflict and it stands just outside Villers-Bretonneux and now the Sir John Monash Centre, as I have indicated.

Many people have a family link to those veterans across the country and in Tasmania and likewise I am one of those, a grandson of H.S. Barnett and happy to tell the story. He joined the Australian Flying Corp 100 years ago. He lived here in Hobart and was based in England. He flew a biplane. It was little more than canvas, wood and wire. He was nicknamed Butcher Barnett - not for what you are thinking. In fact, during his training, he landed on a flock of sheep and obtained that name as a result.

My wife's grandfather and great uncle both trained in the Tasmanian Light Horse at Mona Vale near Ross with George Henry Bramich serving in Palestine from 1916 to the end of the war in 1918. We just had the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba on 31 October last year outside the front of Parliament House with the Tasmanian Light Horse regiment. It was a fantastic occasion and congratulations to the Tasmanian Light Horse regiment.

16 October 2018 is the 75th anniversary of the work of Australian prisoners of war at Hellfire Pass. We have heard quite a bit about that in recent weeks - Hellfire Pass in Thailand and the completion of the Thai-Burma railway. My great uncle, Laurie Fine served there as a POW in squalid and brutal conditions under the Japanese for more than three-and-a-half years, and he survived. Many did not. I had the honour of being there at Anzac Day at Hellfire Pass with my wife Kate in April 2010 and it is one I will never, ever forget. It was very special indeed.

I pay a tribute to our veterans, 10 500 around Tasmania - and their families. It is fantastic what they have done for us and for our sake and to ask the question, what can we do in response? Lest we forget.

Time expired.

Dover - Proposed Woodchip Facility

[6.45 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, I rise to speak today for residents in the Dover community, for families and tourism business operators, for single people and for organisations who are at the moment living in fear of a proposed woodchip export facility. This is a major deviation from the future Dover residents were expecting. This is a complete departure from the sustainable jobs industry they have been working hard to create over the last five years.

Anyone who knows the history of Dover knows it has been through tumultuous times with many different industries that have come and built up to massive proportions, such as the abalone industry. One woman whose whole family has lived for 60 years from the abalone industry talks about the bottom of Port Esperance once being a carpet of abalone where people used to simply dive down and pick them up. There is nothing to be seen of that industry these days.

Similarly, other people have spoken to me about the history of the logging industry in their area and the terrible divisions and the dark, dark place they were in towards the end of the period of the logging industry there. They talk about the hope of often women who have tourism businesses, but men too, who have turned the corner and understand that the future of Dover rests in its extraordinary wilderness and its incredible wild places. It is on the brink of the World Heritage Area. It has tourism businesses which are thriving now on nature-based tourism that are building their name on the clean beauty of Port Esperance.

Into this space, this state Government is wilfully supporting a woodchip export facility which is not the small-scale facility it claims to be. Instead, it is setting itself up as a massive southern woodchip port. It will be the base to restart the native forest logging industry. It is planned on a scale which is impossible to believe that it can be contracted to a tiny woodchip facility. Instead, the evidence from the proponent himself, who spoke to the Dover community where more than 200 people turned up before Christmastime to a public meeting, admitted the scale of the forestry operations that will be required. The radius of 180 kilometres where wood will be taken from clearly makes it the case that wood will be being sought from the hills around Cygnet, from the Tiers of Derwent Valley, from the hills of Mountain River and Crabtree, and the Snowy Mountain Ranges. These are the places that are now vulnerable - private properties as well as public forestry lands.

The Huon Valley Council which will make this decision has just one person sitting in the role of an administrator, a woman who has admitted on the public record that she supports a southern port and supports the logging industry.

People ask reasonable questions about this Liberal Government, about why they took the Glenorchy Council to an election in January and did not take the Huon Valley Council to the same election. We have no elected representatives to speak for the Dover and Huon Valley residents who want to make their voice known about this incredibly serious large development that will go any day to the Huon Valley Council for its deliberation.

The future that the people in Dover talk about is one of nature-based tourism that is sustainable. They want industry based on the future, not on a logging industry which is about automation, a decreasing number of jobs, logging native forests and releasing carbon dioxide. None of these things are a plan for the future. A plan for the future is enhancing jobs in a tourism sector which is rich in jobs if we give it the love and planning and intervention it needs. There has been no support for any of the businesses that have established in Dover in that tourism area, none whatsoever. They have done it from their own hard work. These are the people that the Liberal Party should be supporting. These are the people who this Government should be standing up for, people who have small businesses that are employing people right now. People in the fishing industry down there are concerned about massive biosecurity threats as these huge ships come in, dock in Port Esperance and have to release bilge water.

This is hugely concerning and we have a situation where residents not just in Dover but throughout the valley are looking at a huge increase in logging trucks. This has all been hidden. We are led to believe from the developer that they will just be wandering through the back forestry roads around Geeveston. Well, maybe the trucks with the woodchips that are going to come from Ta Ann to Port Esperance will go on the back roads, but all the trucks that will be taking trees to Ta Ann, to Southwood, are going to be travelling all the roads of the Huon Valley and the Derwent Valley, over the Plenty link road where the money was spent to upgrade the Plenty link road. For what purpose? Not for tourists but for a special deal.

The people in Dover and the Huon Valley want to know what this Liberal Government is subsidising this company for. What subsidies are being provided? What roads will be used? What forests are going to feed the maw of Southwood and woodchip to go in the back of trucks to head down to Port Esperance and to sit in a massive pile which will obscure the beauty of Port Esperance and be a blight on a landscape that could be the beauty tourists come to see?

Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania: Making a Difference for our Communities

[6.52 p.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to make a contribution regarding today's launch of the Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania: Making a Difference for our Communities evidence of the impact report, which was downstairs in the reception room. It was a magnificent launch. Houses from across the state were represented and we heard a number of individual stories about the impact that Neighbourhood Houses are making across our community. No-one who has had anything to do with a Neighbourhood House network or house in their community would be in any doubt as to the contribution that are made by these houses. In all of the communities that they are operating they are the glue that holds people together. They deliver really good quality services in a way which no other organisation could. Large government departments have a manner of service delivery which sometimes is very difficult to endorse in local communities, but the Neighbourhood Houses do a magnificent job.

Most of us know intuitively how important and significant the role and the work of Neighbourhood Houses are. We did not really need the stats, but it is good to have them. It is good for Treasury and it is good for the Neighbourhood Houses of Tasmania to be able to point to a significant range of stats and figures that have been released today in the Making a Difference for our Communities report. For those members who do not currently have one I urge you to get yourself a copy of one. It is fantastic reading. Not only are there really good solid stats but there are also some wonderful inspiring stories of people's connectivity and how they are coming together improving not only their lives but the lives of their family and also their communities.

The goals of the Neighbourhood Houses strategic framework is really around building communities, supporting people and families, and enhanced participation choices in local governance and management, and I think the report shows that on all of those goals the Neighbourhood House network is doing a magnificent and wonderful job. If I can point to one stat, each house for the full year of 2016 and 2017 on average has over 23 500 contacts with people in their community. That is significant in terms of eating with friends, bringing community together to share a meal, service delivery, provision of childcare services, counselling, learn to drive, language lessons, essential community infrastructure that brings people together and gives people the opportunities to have a better life.

When you look at the statistics, and I do not like to be statistic-heavy in any contribution, but this is a remarkable outcome of the work of Neighbourhood Houses. Ninety per cent of participants completed the program service and activity, 80 per cent of partners report improved collaborative practice, 94 per cent of programs were completed on time and as planned. Ninety-five per cent of participants reported satisfaction with the design and content of programs, 96 per cent of partners and organisations reported satisfaction with the way the program was run.

Ninety-eight per cent of partners reported satisfaction with their relationship interaction with the house, 97 per cent of participants reported their engagement with the house provided information and support relevant to their situation which is crucial and 87 per cent of participants per activity were from target or priority groups. This is a stunning example of amazing work that the Neighbourhood House Network does across our state.

In the great seat of Franklin, the houses across the length and breadth of Franklin are amazing centres and hubs of activity, of people who genuinely care about others in their community and provide an amazing opportunity for them to come together and have an opportunity for an improved life.

The launch today was tremendous. We heard from a number of people who gave individual stories. John Hooper, the Executive Officer of Neighbourhood Houses gave a very emotional speech about the work that he sees across every house in his role. To quote Mr Hooper and others who gave speeches, Neighbourhood Houses in Tasmania do 'rock'. They do a tremendous job and I commend the report to members and those interested as a stunning example of the work of Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania and how we really do bring our community together to provide them with an opportunity for a better life. I congratulate the Neighbourhood House Network.

Neighbourhood Houses Save the Tasmanian Devil Program - Ambassador Program

[6.57 p.m.]

Ms ARCHER (Denison - Attorney-General) - Madam Speaker, I will make a short addition to the member for Franklin's contribution, Mr O'Byrne, on the basis that all members would agree in this House. We all attend these and have spent a lot of time in our local Neighbourhood Houses. It shows the significance of the work they do with the additional money the Government has committed for each house, along with the addition of a new house on King Island, Phoenix House?

Mr Ferguson - Yes.

Ms ARCHER - Thank you. It is now in the network and being funded. It always existed. It is good recognition to come under the banner of Neighbourhood House Network.

The member of Franklin ran through a list of services some of the Neighbourhood Houses provide. In addition to that, there is now a Migrant and Refugee Service at West Moonah Community House, which we funded. There was also the significant capital infrastructure upgrade that happened in the last term of government for a lot of the community houses, which is making an enormous difference to them, particularly in relation to installing disability facilities. So much so, there are quite a lot of toilets at West Moonah Community House now. There has also been the addition of much larger eating with friends areas and other services. Wonderful service that they provide. It was also a good opportunity at lunchtime today to catch up with everyone in the one room.

The main purpose of my contribution is to inform the House and all Tasmanians of the success of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program's Ambassador Program, and that yesterday we sent two Tasmanian Devils to the Auckland Zoo as part of a program that aims to raise the awareness of the plight of the species.

Smiley and Levi - I had nothing to do with the names, although when I became Minister for the Environment last year we had a naming competition and some very interesting names were put forward. It was similar to the cranes, Craney McCrane-face, it is a bit of an old joke now, so it is hard to find a sensible name. I really like Smiley and Levi it has a ring to it. They left Launceston yesterday to join Herod. I do not know where that came from either, but it is wonderful. He is another ambassador devil in the strangely beautiful Australia exhibit in the Auckland Zoo in New Zealand. They are accompanied on their journey by a specialist liaison to ensure a smooth transition into their new enclosure in New Zealand. Their impending arrival follows months of preparation with both state, federal and international government organisations.

This will be Auckland Zoo's second transfer of devils under the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program's Ambassador Program after having received four back in 2012. There are currently 45 Tasmanian devils held in 14 ambassador zoos around the world, including America, Europe and Japan. Denmark is one of them as well, with that close link we have with royalty over there. It is a wonderful program and offer thanks for the tireless work by all of those involved with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program and the Ambassador Program. They have done outstanding work in producing really successful results. I wish the devils a very safe journey abroad.

Anzac Day Commemorations Rural Youth Organisation and Agfest 2018

[7.01 p.m.]

Mr SHELTON (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about rural youth.

Before I do, as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs is not here I acknowledge to the House that most people are connected to someone in the First World War. Unfortunately, I had a great uncle who was fighting for Australia and is in an unmarked grave around Villers-Bretonneux. He never made it back. Roy Shelton went over with his brother, Lionel. Lionel made it back. Roy was killed in that battle we are now commemorating after 100 years. He did not make it back 100 years ago. Most people in Australia can recognise someone in the family affected through World War I, with so many lives lost.

However, this evening I want to pay tribute to the Rural Youth Organisation and mention that Agfest starts tomorrow. I mentioned traffic jams, Oaks Road was closed and the exhibitors were trying to drive in this morning before the gates opened. There was a significant line up of vehicles. We all know how large Agfest is nowadays, because I am pretty sure there is nobody here that would not have been to Agfest at least once.

Agfest 2018 officially commences tomorrow and runs over three days. It showcases the best rural Tasmania can offer. It caters for the rural environment and for everybody who attends. You can always find something. It probably might take you two days to go around it and it is a fantastic event. It started 35 years ago at Symmons Plains near Perth. There were 111 exhibitors and about 9000 patrons attended that event. I do not believe I have missed one in that 35 years, but there could have been. Ever since they shifted to the Agfest site on Oaks Road I have not missed one, involved in local government as mayor of that area. They moved to the Carrick site in 1987, with 203 exhibitors and 23 000 patrons. Nowadays, there are 700 exhibitors and approximately 60 000 patrons are expected to go through the gates. That depends on the weather, as we know, but it is a huge event.

The Rural Youth Organisation has only four paid employees; the rest is done by volunteers. When I get to the gate on Friday morning because I will be volunteering out there at 6 a.m., I expect to see some familiar faces on the gate and they are a long way away from being Rural Youthers. The volunteers and the ex-Rural Youthers turn up to make this Rural Youth Agfest site work and it takes a significant amount of volunteers to turn up. The profits of course go into running the Rural Youth organisation but they also put plenty back into the site and over the years they have built toilets and roadways and upgraded the site, powered up the sites and so on, and have made it into one of Australia's significant agricultural events.

Agfest takes great pride in offering something for everybody to see, whether it is a new bit of machinery for agricultural purchases, a new vehicle, there is the historical display if you wish to see that and with Mother's Day on Sunday there is always the craft and arts area so you can go up into the big sheds and buy dear old mum a present. Hopefully my wife will do that for my mother and my daughter typically does it for Merrilyn. That is where Mother's Day gifts are acquired from.

If you wish for something to eat you can always go to the Betta Milk unique Taste of Tasmania pavilion, or where I will be in the morning at 6 a.m., cooking egg and bacon muffins for the Bracknell School, and they have a significant number of orders that come in for the patrons and workers of the place that get there early. Agfest is not only about the event but it is also significant for those schools and volunteer organisations to make some money out of the crowd. I know all the service clubs from Launceston are there, the Hagley Farm School, Bracknell School, and I find that when you get there you need to buy a little bit from this one to eat something and then go to the Hagley Farm School to buy lunch.

It is great for the area. In fact for 50 kilometres around that site and in all of Launceston this weekend, accommodation is booked out. I have seen that little city growing for the last fortnight with marquees being put up and trucks coming in and out, so it generates its own economy and it is fantastic for our area. I am pleased that Rural Youth decided in the original days to come into that part of Meander Valley and promote that area.

I congratulate the organisation but in particular this year's chairman, Owen Woolley. I congratulate him on the work they have put in and wish him and his volunteer team all the very best and the best of weather for this weekend and I am sure Agfest will be another success.

Anzac Day Commemorations Lilydale - Memorial

[7.08 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Minister for Health) - Madam Speaker, it was special for me as a local member representing our wonderful community of Bass in northern Tasmania to be able to slow down, stop and pay my respects on behalf of the community at various Anzac Day commemorations that have been held in recent days.

I thank the wonderful volunteer community around the George Town RSL sub-branch and the local council, who worked so well to put together the dawn service and the Anzac Day 11 a.m. services in George Town. I was pleased to be able to attend the Dawn Service, as is my custom, and then again at Launceston, that wonderful work that is put together principally by the Launceston City Council with the support of service organisations. It was a wonderful turnout. I know that people often tend to talk about the inspiration of seeing so many young people and families but it fills my heart with happiness and satisfaction to see so many schools, young people and youth clubs turning out with many trying to find a way to show their respect, which they did really beautifully.

Just a few days before Anzac Day I had the honour of attending a very moving and gratifying experience at the official opening and dedication of Lilydale's new memorial and renewed cenotaph area. This has been a wonderful project that has been supported by countless numbers of people in the community of the very proud and quite old Tasmanian village of Lilydale. It was also supported by government and volunteers and even landowners. I was honoured to be able lay a wreath to honour the men of the township who served in the First World War and later conflicts and those who did not return to the comfort and the pleasure of their families.

Can you believe that for such a small village - 100 years ago it was quite a new village - and the surrounding district, 300 men left Lilydale in the local district area. I am just talking about the first war, the Great War - World War 1. This new memorial and the renewed cenotaph area has had a special design that honours and recognises just the lives lost from that conflict - 69 from that one war. That is an enormous number. It is hard to fathom the impact that would have. You would have to extrapolate it to thousands of people - tens of thousands of people leaving cities like Launceston, Hobart and Burnie - to try to get it to make sense. There would be the expectation that everybody lost somebody in some way.

To try to represent and remind us of those 69 young lives from that conflict - to try to make it a physical link - the designers of the new memorial, in particular Leon Lange who was the designer, came up with the concept of linking with the Lilydale tradition of poles. Those who know Lilydale and love it will know that it is the town of the painted poles. We have 34 poles, each pole with a series of plaques on them, remembering the people who served and were tragically lost. I went and had a look around and they were in alphabetical order and there I saw Angus Doak. Doak is a well known local name. Angus Doak - 25 years old when he was killed at Pozieres, France when he was serving with the First Battalion Wellington Infantry in 1918. Stephen Doak, same surname, 35 years - killed at Passchendaele, Belgium and each man buried in the country where they fell.

I do not know, but I wondered could they have been brothers? Perhaps. Could they have been cousins? One would think very likely. It is very hard to not be confronted with that enormous loss that was borne by the small rural village and local district and of course the impossible loss borne by loved ones and families. We will remember them. I am comforted to know that we are remembering them and we will go on to continue to remember them. We will not forget.

I pay my thanks to the visionaries, the drivers and the volunteers to get this project completed. They have done a wonderful job, in particular Ann Youl who has been the driving force in part in memory of her own recently lost partner, Gerry Coret who until recently was the president of the sub-branch. This was where the vision came from.

Dave Cleaver, his wife and family - in particular his young son who is in high school, Jayden Cleaver - volunteered weekend after weekend. Kerry Brown, who was very good on the big machine, donated his time and his machine, and I am told a lot of diesel. I am sorry that I cannot name everybody but I understand that these are the people who deserve special mention. I acknowledge and thank Colonel Andrew Herbert and Reverend Ken Box who opened and dedicated the new memorial on 22 April and I pay a wonderful message of thanks and gratitude to our contemporary community people who are determined to never let us forget our history and remind us of the importance of maintaining peace.

The House adjourned at 7.15 p.m.