



**PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF DEBATES**

**Tuesday 24 August 2021**

**REVISED EDITION**



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**Tuesday 24 August 2021**

The President, **Mr Farrell**, took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

**TABLED PAPERS**

**Public Accounts Committee - Report**

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - I have the honor to present a report of the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts in relation to an inquiry into the Government's Economic and Health Expenditure Response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr President, I move -

That the report be received and printed.

**Report received and printed.**

**Government Administration Committee A -  
Impact of the Commonwealth Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation System**

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, I have the honour to present the report of the Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A on the Inquiry into the impact of the Commonwealth Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation System, as assessed by the Commonwealth Grants Commission as it applies to Tasmania's expenses and delivery of services. I lay upon the table a copy of the evidence taken by the committee. Mr President, I move -

That the report be received and printed.

**Report received and printed.**

**Government Administration Committee A -  
Special Report - Roy Fagan Centre**

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, in accordance with Legislative Council Sessional Order No. 514, I have the honour to present a special report of the Government Administration Committee A in relation to an inquiry initiated by the committee of its own motion. Mr President, I move -

That the report be received.

**Report received.**

## **STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT**

### **Medical Assistance Acknowledgment**

**Mr PRESIDENT** - My thanks to all the members here for their well wishes and concern during my recent publicity stunt. Special thanks to my colleague and personal medical staff, Dr Bastian Seidel, and nurse, Ruth Forrest, along with the first aid assistants here, Craig Thorpe and Kimbra McCormack. I must apologise to Sandy Phillips for causing some concern and not following her initial advice to call an ambulance; and to Lee for interrupting her game of golf.

To my new colleague, the member for Windermere, I was not here for your inaugural speech but I did, however, watch it online from my bed in the short-stay surgery ward. I found it very informative and very entertaining, and I am sure it was because I was on some fairly wonderful medication at the time, which made everything enjoyable and entertaining.

I also thank the tremendous people from the Ambulance Tasmania Service, the paramedics. The nursing staff and the doctors at the Royal Hobart Hospital were also fantastic. I promise you that I will try to stay in the Chamber for longer than 20 minutes today.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS**

### **Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre**

**Ms WEBB** (Nelson) - Mr President, we are all very pleased to have you back in the seat.

**Mr Valentine** - Hear, hear.

**Ms WEBB** - Mr President, it is my pleasure to speak today about the Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre and its valuable work supporting local businesses.

Tasmania has nearly 40 000 businesses across the state and over 95 per cent of those are small businesses with fewer than 20 staff. These small businesses are resilient. Tasmanian businesses, compared to other states and territories, have the highest survival rate, with almost 70 per cent of businesses operating in 2016 still operating in 2019. According to Business Tasmania's statistics report, in June 2019 the Kingborough local government area had 2554 businesses, of which 2499 - or 98 per cent - were classified as small businesses. You can see why the Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre plays an important role supporting our community.

In talking about the enterprise centre I also want to particularly make mention of the two people who sit at the heart of the support that it provides - advisers Scott Dufty and Kerry Muller. Under the stewardship of Scott and Kerry, the Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre is like a local business partner.

The enterprise centre is run by a board of directors with representatives on that board from businesses, local government, and the community sector. It is supported by the state government and the Kingborough and Huon Valley councils, so it can offer a free service to local businesses or intended businesses.

It is designed to help with key decision-making and maximising their potential. Advisors Scott and Kerry are independent, resourceful and experienced business people who understand the nature of running a small business in Tasmania, from starting a business, through all the aspects of running a business, to helping existing businesses reach their maximum potential.

Scott and Kerry are happy to jump in at any stage of operations with advice on planning, financial forecasting, government support programs, and compliance requirements like GST and insurance. They do not just support businesses. On many occasions Scott and Kerry have assisted my office with constituent queries and their advice is invariably comprehensive, professional and on-point. Mr President, the importance of staying connected has come to the fore during COVID-19, and facilitating connection in the local business community is something that the business enterprise centre is well placed to do.

The centre hosts business networking events and workshops in Kingston and Huon throughout the year, and it has been my pleasure to attend a number of these in recent months. In March, I joined the sold out International Women's Day dinner hosted by the enterprise centre. More recently, I attended Transforming Kingston, an event that was co-hosted by the enterprise centre and the Kingborough Council, outlining plans for the revitalisation of Kingston's central business district.

In May, I joined the networking evening hosted by Rob Mollross and Kelvin Markham at Island Curries where, as an added bonus to networking, we were able to sample their excellent produce. This is just one of a longstanding series of regular networking events supported by the enterprise centre. So many small businesses in Tasmania are owner-operators with little opportunity potentially to connect with peers. These events are important in giving local businesses the opportunity to talk to other business operators in a relaxed, social environment about how they are managing and innovating through change.

Scott and Kerry in the enterprise centre have been particularly busy with support for business during the COVID-19 pandemic. In every newsletter the centre has provided updates about available training and support, as well as specific information on accessing and complying with COVID-19 government grants and funding such as JobKeeper. Personalised support has been provided to businesses looking to adapt in response to changing COVID-19 restrictions.

For example, the enterprise centre worked with a local restaurant where sales exploded when they adapted from exclusively dine-in to takeaway and local delivery models. The business needed guidance to set up online ordering and delivery systems and required more staff for their expanded operations. The centre helped them to connect to a similar business that chose not to pivot, and so had excess staff who were able to help fill the gap.

Scott and Kerry were also able to help a successful market-based business build an online store, when COVID-19 restrictions had first closed their opportunities at Salamanca Market. With a little guidance and the centre pointing them in the right direction, that firm changed the way they ran their business and were up and going. In the past, they were importing products from Melbourne but they decided to set up their own home-based workshop manufacturing their own products. The business also set up a successful website and now has plans to extend their workshop and their online store.

Mr President, I am going to end with a quote from another business helped by this service which sums up the value of the Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre and the value it holds for our community.

Having a capable person via face to face then phone to direct us to the solutions we need has been invaluable. The knowledge that someone is there when we need direction really helps us to cope in a pandemic.

I thank the board of the Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre and the dynamic duo of Scott Dufty and Kerry Muller for everything they do to empower local businesses and to help the Kingborough and Huon communities to thrive.

### **Allison Bassano - SheShed Launceston**

[11.21 a.m.]

**Mr DUIGAN** (Windermere) - Mr President, it is great to have you back. No disrespect to Madam Deputy President who did a very good job in your absence, but nice to see you back. I hope you are feeling well.

Thank you, members, for the opportunity to share the details of one of the many stories I have come across since beginning my new role.

I am sure everyone is familiar with the concept of the Men's Shed, a place where blokes get together to do blokey things, build a table or to fix a bike, have a laugh. It is a place where men with time on their hands get to do something meaningful with that time and often with those hands. The Men's Shed.

**Ms Rattray** - And morning tea starts at 10am and finishes at 3pm.

**Mr DUIGAN** - A little bit like here. The Men's Shed has some generally accepted health and wellbeing benefits, connecting with friends, producing things, contributing to the community, keeping an active mind and body. Across the state, across the country and indeed across the world, the Men's Shed is a standard stitch in the fabric of community. There is, however, one glaring omission from the Men's Shed model and that is of course women. Nature abhors a vacuum and Allison Bassano is a force of nature. South African born and a teacher for 51 years, Allison recognised the benefits the local Men's Sheds were having for the blokes in her community and decided to apply the concept with some tweaks and come up with something similar for women in the area, thus the SheShed was born.

In a quiet street in Invermay, flanked by an impressive rose garden and a driveway lined with mosaics is a green colorbond shed, a shed which has become over the past few years an oasis of calm and creativity in the lives of many Launceston women. The ladies who attend the SheShed come from all walks of life. Some may have or are experiencing difficult domestic situations, some may be coping with loss of a partner, some are just looking for a place to come, to belong. No one is judged and everyone is welcome. Art is one of the principal SheShed activities, the walls covered with works often of surprising quality and often produced by artists who had no idea such a talent lay within. The opportunity to sit down and create had never before been offered, there had never been time and never before been a priority. As an opening



contribution, everyone who joins the SheShed is asked to create a small mosaic which is then hung on the fence to join the others and thus begins the creative conversation.

Allison as I mentioned is of no-nonsense South African stock and hates to see waste so all the SheShed art and craft supplies are sourced from schools which at the end of the year throw out half-used bottles of paint and half-used sketch books. Plates, ceramics, feathers and textiles come from the Launceston tip shop. It costs the women who attend the SheShed nothing to join or participate.

Although I know her son Christopher - an Australian champion fly fisher - pretty well, I was introduced to Allison by the member for Rosevears during the election campaign and the SheShed became a bit of a drop-in for me. A cup of coffee, sometimes a biscuit while you are out and about and during one of the visits we got to chatting about what I could potentially do to repay that hospitality. Allison mentioned they had struggled to come up with a decent outdoor covered space. Three or four Bunnings-style gazebos had come and gone, blown away or collapsed, and we devised a plan to build a more permanent structure. A grand three-by-three treated pine and laserlite type shelter, and with the help of colleagues Jo Palmer, Bridget Archer and Wendy Askew we raised the money.

Originally, I had hoped to outsource construction to the Ravenswood Men's Shed but unfortunately, insurance culled that idea. We did get a professional quote, but in the midst of a skills shortage and building boom that blew the budget out of the water. The only option was to look in-house. Holly, one of the SheShed regulars, said she would be keen to have a crack at the construction. With the help of one of her kids and YouTube, she had it up to a very high standard in a couple of days. If you are ever in Invermay, please drop in for a cuppa. I am sure Allison would be thrilled to show you around. The SheShed is one of those little gems in our community and I feel most fortunate to have been invited in. I had hoped to have Allison here in the room with a couple of SheShed attendees but unfortunately, she had a fall and is resting at home. I hope you are feeling better.

**Ms Rattray** - How many days a week can I drop in?

**Mr DUIGAN** - I will take that question on notice. I think three, thank you.

### **Ariarne Titmus - Tribute**

[11.25 a.m.]

**Ms ARMITAGE** (Launceston) - Thank you, Mr President. Had I realised the member for Prosser had her motions earlier, I could have incorporated my special interest speech. My speech today is about Launceston and Tasmania's golden girl, Ariarne Titmus, whose achievements at the Tokyo Olympic Games give an entirely new definition to the term Olympic.

Riveted to our seats when Ariarne was competing, I am sure most were aware Ariarne was selected to represent Australia at the Tokyo Olympics and won two gold medals for the 400m freestyle and 200m freestyle events. In the 400m freestyle, not only did Ariarne win the gold, she edged out the world record holder, American Katie Ledecky, by less than a second for a final finishing time of 3 minutes and 56.69 seconds, a Commonwealth record. Not completely done with her achievements, Ariarne went on to set an Olympic record for the 200m

freestyle with a time of 1 minute and 53.5 seconds, again, taking the gold with a tremendous final push in the last lap.

We, along with many others including her mum, Robyn and dad, Steve, were on the edge of our seats cheering Ariarne on and were left with absolute elation when she brought it home. Ariarne joined only two other Australians to achieve this feat, Shane Gould and Ian Thorpe - what an absolutely elite trio.

For anyone who has not seen it, I would recommend looking up the reaction of Ariarne's coach, Dean Boxall, at her win. I would be surprised if anyone has not seen it, but it was one of the classic viral reactions of our age. There is nothing that could better express how we all felt for Ariarne in those moments. Aside from her wins in the 200m and 400m events, Ariarne also won the silver medal in the 800m freestyle and was a part of the relay team that took the bronze in the 4 x 200m relay event. What an absolutely incredible young woman.

The immediate reactions aside, I can assure you following Ariarne's wins, everyone in Launceston stood a good few inches taller. The absolute pride we have all felt over the past few weeks has been a welcome source of joy in what has otherwise been a reasonably trying year for many.

Born in Launceston, Ariarne is only 20 years old. There has been a great deal of lighthearted conversation online, perhaps concealing a bit of deeper parochialism, about whether Ariarne is Tasmanian or a Queenslander. I think I can guess the sentiment of those in this place. After all, Ariarne was born in Launceston, went to school at St Patrick's College and her parents, Steve and Robyn, have contributed a great deal to our northern community and are themselves greatly involved in sporting achievement in Tasmania and elsewhere.

Ariarne's wins at the Tokyo Games are the product of many years of refining and building her natural talents. She and her family have dedicated a great deal of time and effort into honing her skills. Her medals were not just handed to her, they were well and truly earned. Ariarne's Olympic career has been preceded by competitions at the 2017 World Championships, where she won a bronze medal in the women's 4 x 200m freestyle relay and a fourth place in the women's 400m freestyle. In 2018, at just 18 years of age, Ariarne broke the world record at the Short Course World Championships in the women's 400m freestyle with a time of 3 minutes and 53.92 seconds. That year also saw Ariarne win three gold medals at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in the 400m freestyle, the 800m freestyle and the 4 x 200m freestyle relay. Ariarne also scored the silver in the 200m freestyle at the Commonwealth Games that year.

For many years, this has meant very early mornings and very late evenings. It has meant travelling and competing internationally, and sacrificing a lot of the things that most young women in their late teens and early twenties consider to be normal but that is just the thing - Ariarne is not normal. She is an extraordinary young woman whose achievements will likely signal the start of a superstar athletic career. While we cheered on from Launceston and her family cheered on from Queensland, we could all share in these incredible achievements.

Mr President, I sincerely congratulate Ariarne on her wins at the Tokyo Games, send my warmest wishes to Steve, Robyn and Ariarne's sister Mia and look forward to a stellar career to come.

## Utzinger Wine

[11.30 a.m.]

**Ms PALMER** (Rosevears) - Mr President, today it is an absolute privilege for me to share a story of determination, persistence, sheer hard work and, above all, a relentless passion to reach a goal. When we are not sitting in this place or, indeed, in underground board rooms with no windows working on various inquiries, I have found one of the greatest joys of this job is spending time in our electorates - whether that is sitting with individuals, families, learning from community groups or, indeed, supporting businesses.

That is quite a tough gig, coming from the electorate of Rosevears which runs the entire length of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary - because this is where you will find the largest concentration of wine growers in Tasmania. The Tamar Valley produces approximately 31 per cent of Tasmania's wine, with over 30 vineyards making up the Tamar Valley wineries.

Tasmania is certainly on the map for our cool climate wines. Indeed, total exports of Tasmanian wine by value for the year ending 2020-21 was \$7.1 million, an increase of 44.3 per cent on previous years. But can there ever be enough, Mr President? Today I want to spread the word of a new business which, against all odds, will hopefully be opening its cellar door by December, to Tasmanians and to visitors alike. In 2015 Matthias Utzinger, a winemaker and viticulturalist from Switzerland was, in his words, 'travelling the world in search of the right place to establish a vineyard.'

Whilst in Iran, of all places, his path crossed with Lauren Galea, a young Tasmanian woman from Longford. They ended up travelling for some months together. Their journey took them through Central Asia and China; but it was Lauren's home island, Tasmania, that ended the search for Matthias' 'right place'. Tasmania offered Matthias an opportunity. With our cooler climate similar to Switzerland, it was ideal for quality pinot noir and chardonnay - not to mention Tasmania's affordability, our thriving tourism sector, our environment, our wild places and heritage landscape.

In 2018 they found 45 acres in Legana in the Tamar Valley. They fell in love with the land and this is where their adventure of cultivating their own grapes began. They started planting their very own vineyard - easy to say but not so easy to do. Much of the work was done by Matthias and Lauren, with the support of their family, and while Lauren was heavily pregnant with her second child.

Utzinger Wine is now well and truly on the menu. You will find it at numerous Tasmanian establishments and as you would expect, it pops up with distributors in Switzerland. Utzinger Wines has a great vision for the future, which includes a cellar door opening in the next six months. I recently had the privilege of visiting Matthias and Lauren for the first time, on the building site where, fingers crossed, the cellar door will open to the public by December.

On arrival we saw a lot of mud, mounds of dirt and many weeds but within moments Laura from my office, who was wearing sensible boots, and myself, wearing ridiculous high heels, were transported into the inspiring young couple's vision for this new business. Their enthusiasm was infectious - from the sweeping views of the Tamar Valley, to their care and consideration for complementing our environment.

This is only the beginning. Within the next five years, there is a plan to plant further vineyards with Swiss varieties. The process of getting those varieties through quarantine is already underway and it is quite a complicated process. They want to expand their distribution network across Australia and of course internationally; and then, in their own words, they might try and catch up on some sleep.

I congratulate Matthias and Lauren for their sheer determination. This business is wonderfully complementing this region and indeed our Tasmanian wine industry.

Laura and I had the opportunity to taste some of this fine product. We felt it would be incredibly rude not to partake, and I can assure you it was mighty fine.

### **Cold Climate Classic Touch Football Competition**

[11.36 a.m.]

**Mr GAFFNEY** (Mersey) - Mr President, I rise today to speak about an exciting event coming up on 22 to 24 October, that I hold close to my heart - the Cold Climate Classic touch football competition upcoming. The inaugural Cold Climate Classic will be the first of its kind in Australia, offering opportunities for men's, women's and mixed teams touch football from across Australia to compete in Tasmania's beautiful north-west.

The touch football knockout carnival will be wrapped around a food and wine festival to be held in Meercroft Park in Devonport. Acknowledging the impact of lock downs across Australia, it is still anticipated that 400 people will participate in the competition, generating well over \$300 000 in economic activity for local businesses.

Sport is an essential part of building community through team work and communication, developing skills and pride that may be carried through to all walks of life. Touch football is the largest social participation sport in the country, with 7000 players in Tasmania and 690 000 thousand players nationally. Touch football is a bit of a family affair for me. I started playing touch football in my early twenties, when my sister Vicky represented Tasmania as state captain. She told me to start playing so that I could join her at national competitions. I then represented Tasmania on several men's teams on a number of occasions. I also represented the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland in the national championships in Coffs Harbour in the Masters Australia division, due to Tasmania not having its own team. I hope to continue the tradition by joining in a game or two at the upcoming competition.

The CEO of Touch Football Australia, Jamie O'Connor, said 'this will be the first touch football competition aimed at mixed gender, which is really important to us; it is at the core of our values and what we do as a sport'. There is no better place to display these values to the rest of Australia than through local events that provide an opportunity for the wider community to get involved. The Cold Climate Classic will be a prime showcase of what the Mersey region has to offer. As well as providing an opportunity for the sporting community to showcase a love for the sport, the Cold Climate Classic is being run in conjunction with the Devonport Food and Wine Festival. Together they aim to bring people together over a common love of touch football and good food.

A three-day program will put the finest food and wine in Tasmania on display, with visitors encouraged to explore and tour the unique scenery of the north-west. Between games,

players will be offered the opportunity to explore all that the north-west of Tasmania has to enjoy. The weekend program will be accompanied by a large market that will be open to the public, with plenty of entertainment for adults and games for children. The games at Meercroft Park will be live-streamed onto big screens at the market square, so the public may watch the games as they browse the market stalls and have a wine. The weekend events will close with a finale fiesta and afternoon of more food, wine, bands, performers and art.

After the last 18 months, an opportunity such as this to experience what the Mersey electorate has to offer is a welcome boost to our region. Sporting and community events are powerful platforms to promote our state and the community, culture and activities we have to offer.

Touch Football Tasmania anticipates a three per cent growth of participants each year, with many coming from interstate. The Cold Climate Classic will do more than bring tourists to our town - it will put Devonport on the map for the next three years as the hub of community touch football competition in Australia. It is hoped to generate over \$1.4 million dollars in economic impact for the region over the next three years.

Even if state border closures limit players attending from the mainland this year, the Cold Climate Classic will go ahead as an event for all who are able to attend.

I commend Touch Football Australia and Tasmania, the Devonport City Council and Events Tasmania for their significant efforts in making this event possible. Levels of interest and inquiry into attending the event have been excellent so far, and we anticipate many more to attend in competitions to come.

I look forward to seeing it grow over the next three years.

## **MOTION**

### **Tasmanian Athletes - Tokyo Olympic Games**

[11.40 a.m.]

**Ms HOWLETT** (Prosser - Minister for Sport and Recreation)(by leave) - Mr President, I move that the Legislative Council -

- (1) acknowledges our Tasmanian athletes who represented Australia at the Tokyo Olympic Games;
- (2) pays tribute to their dedication and hard work in realising their Olympic dream;
- (3) congratulates them all on a successful Olympic campaign with seven Olympic medals being won by Tasmanian athletes across a range of sports; and
- (4) recognises them as inspirational role models for our young Tasmanian athletes.

Mr President, qualifying for an Olympic or Paralympic Games is such an incredible achievement and it gives me great pleasure to move this motion and congratulate all the Tasmanians who competed in Tokyo: Stewart McSweyn (athletics), Daniel Watkins (canoe

slalom), Georgia Baker and Richie Porte (cycling), Jacob Birtwhistle (triathlon), Eddie Ockenden and Josh Beltz (hockey), Sarah Howe and Ciona Wilson (rowing), Nathaniel Atkinson (football), Chris Goulding (basketball) and of course, let us not forget, our Ariarne Titmus (swimming).

These amazing athletes are no doubt inspiring many young Tasmanians to strive to follow in their footsteps. I speak for many Tasmanians in congratulating Ariarne Titmus, in particular, for echoing her name into the record books by claiming two Olympic gold medals, a silver and a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics. This amazing feat saw the 20-year-old become the first Tasmanian to win an individual Olympic gold medal, the first Tasmanian to win multiple medals at one Olympic Games and just the third Australian in history, after Shane Gould and Ian Thorpe to win the 200 and 400 metres double. To finish off her Olympic campaign with four medals truly is such a remarkable achievement and a testament to the years of hard work and dedication it has taken for the Launceston-born swimming sensation to get her moment.

Our sport-loving state is so delighted for Ariarne and her family that she has been able to not only live her Olympic dream, but stand on the podium in Tokyo four times with the entire world watching on. Her efforts at the Tokyo games has cemented Titmus as one of the greatest athletes our state has ever produced. I know that Queensland is trying to claim her but she is ours.

After Australia's incredible efforts at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games it is now time to get ready to cheer on our Paralympians on the 2020 Olympic Games beginning today.

Congratulations to Tasmanians Todd Hodgetts (shotput), Alexandra Viney (rowing) and Deon Kenzie (1500 metres) for gaining selection in the Australian team for the upcoming games. This will be Hodgetts' third games, having won a gold medal at the 2012 London Paralympics which saw him awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2014, and a bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

Kenzie will also be hoping to add to his impressive list of career achievements which includes winning the silver medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, along with medals at the 2013, 2015 and 2017 World Para Athletics Championships.

Alex Viney's story is inspirational. Having survived a serious car accident when she was 18 years old, which caused impairments to her left arm, Viney began her career as a para-athlete in 2018 and placed second in the PR3 event and finished fourth at the World Rowing Championships in 2019. I wish these three outstanding Tasmanian athletes all the very best for the games and cannot wait to watch them compete.

Our Government recognises there has never been a better time for kids to engage in sports. Not only are we making it easier for them to play, we are also investing in sporting clubs and associations to help build better amenities and facilities across our state. I was very pleased to relaunch our Ticket to Play Program and announce applications for the 2021-22 Improving the Playing Field are now open. We have delivered on our 2021 election commitment to double the value of the Ticket to Play and are providing \$200 in vouchers to help eligible children become involved in sports and activities by investing an additional \$3 million over three years.

Cost is certainly one of the most significant barriers to children playing sport and Ticket to Play is breaking down that barrier, which is fantastic. Participants can use one voucher for a summer sport and another for a winter sport, or use one voucher for a favourite sport and the other trying something new. It has been a great success with more than 14 000 vouchers issued under the 2021 program.

The \$10 million Improving the Playing Field Program also delivers on our election commitment, by supporting sporting clubs with funding to support a new range of capital investments for both sporting clubs and associations, benefiting local communities for years to come. The program provides financial assistance to upgrade amenities and sporting facilities across Tasmania, so they can cater for all participants. Importantly, this program also supports job creation and small business with a pipeline of local work.

Projects should aim to develop or improve functional and inclusive amenities, such as change rooms, toilets and shower facilities, accessibility, lighting, security, fencing and scoreboards. Applicants must contribute at least 15 per cent of the total project cost. Up to \$50 000 will be provided through the small grants stream, and \$50 000 to \$500 000 will be provided through the large grants scheme. Applications for the small stream close on 6 September, 2021 and applications for the large grant stream close on 25 October 2021. Applications for Ticket to Play are open until 31 May 2022.

Playing sport and being physically active when young is a key to establishing lifelong healthy habits. It also improves our mental health, fosters social skills, promotes teamwork and helps to develop leadership skills. The Tasmanian Liberal Government is working to get more Tasmanians active, no matter where they live, what their age or their circumstances.

**Mr GAFFNEY** (Mersey) - Mr President, I thank the minister for tabling the motion to acknowledge the Tasmanian athletes who so valiantly represented Australia at the recent Tokyo Olympic Games. I extend my sincere congratulations to all of our Tasmanian Olympic athletes, officials and administrators. I am not sure if people realise Minka Woolley, from the west coast, is attending her fifth Olympics as an administrator and official, which is quite sensational longevity.

Tasmania claimed seven medals at the Tokyo Games, and as members may be aware, our previous best was five medals. Swimmer, Ariarne Titmus achieved two golds, a silver and a bronze, Eddie Ockenden and Josh Beltz won silver medals in hockey and basketball, with Chris Goulding also bringing home a silver medal. As a proud Tasmanian, I am thrilled with the performance by Tasmanian athletes but we can be incredibly proud of the Australian team result, coming sixth overall in the medal tally, equal to Athens as our best ever.

Many Tasmanians spent hours in front of the screen being entertained by wonderful athletes from all over the world, and cheering on those from our state and their Australian teammates. Although some sports observers may not agree, a couple of the newer or less well-known sports really appealed to me. I witnessed skills that were exceptionally impressive and moves I would never dream of attempting.

**Ms Rattray** - Was that rock climbing?

**Mr GAFFNEY** - Yes - and skateboarding, and the bike. It is wonderful that the talents and abilities of those wonderful athletes involved with more contemporary sports are able to

do be shown on the world stage. The Olympic movement does and should reflect both traditional and modern sports to continue its relevance to current and future audiences.

There would also be thousands of Australians watching a particular sportsperson or sport, taking some pride in knowing them personally or perhaps having assisted with the development of that sport, or fundraising for that individual in their specific sport to help them achieve their goals. It stands to reason that we cannot all be world-class athletes; however, the Olympic Games do highlight the need to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles. Many a younger talent might aspire to compete in future games if they receive support from those around them.

I am also looking forward to the Paralympic Games, with approximately 180 Australian athletes competing. The training and commitment to compete on the world stage in any chosen field is, for me, a true sign of ability, dedication and determination. I can only imagine the trials and tribulations faced by some in reaching the pinnacle of their sporting competition and hopefully achieving their goals.

Any individual winning a medal - gold, silver or bronze - in any Olympic Games or world championship event is usually recognised in local media and in the wider community. I firmly believe that each athlete striving to achieve their personal best and representing their country deserves our heartiest congratulations, regardless of whether they stand on the podium.

Once again, congratulations to our sporting heroes and Olympic Games representatives and to all of their supporters - mums and dads, grandparents and siblings, coaches and training partners. It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a team to make an athlete.

Mr President, I seek leave to adjourn for a briefing.

## **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

[11.52 a.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move -

That the sitting be suspended until the ringing of the division bells.

Mr President, we will come back to this debate but I move that the sitting be suspended until the ringing of the division bells for a briefing on the Supply Bill (No. 3) 2021 and Supply Bill (No. 4) 2021.

**Sitting suspended from 11.53 a.m. to 12.40 p.m.**

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

### **Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts**

**Mr PRESIDENT** - Honourable members, I have received the following message -



Mr President

In accordance with the provisions of section 3(3) of the Public Accounts Committee Act 1970 (No. 54), the House of Assembly has appointed the honourable member for Braddon, Dr Broad, to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts.

Mark Shelton  
Speaker  
House of Assembly  
24 August 2021

## MOTION

### Tasmanian Athletes - Tokyo Olympic Games

**Resumed from above.**

[12.42 p.m.]

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, I will speak briefly on this motion, and thank the minister for bringing it forward.

It is always important to recognise the great achievements of Tasmanians. It is equally important to do so when they have performed outstandingly on the world stage. I acknowledge that the 2020 Olympic Games were deferred from last year because of COVID-19 concerns. We need to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the Japanese people, who had to face massive growth in COVID-19 cases during the course of the games. The games were able to continue, although a few athletes who tested positive were rightly isolated from the other athletes or sent home.

It must have been a very difficult time in Japan, and particularly in and around Tokyo. I know there were calls at times from the Japanese community to cancel the games. There was such a conflict, as there would have been significant financial penalties to Japan if that had occurred. It was also very hard for the athletes who trained so hard and had such an up-and-down period leading up to the Olympics, thinking the games would go ahead in 2020 and then not going ahead until this year. It would have been difficult to maintain their focus and continue to train without any certainty of competing. The Games are only held every four years and some athletes may have lost their opportunity, as in some sports the window to represent their country at that level is short.

We should acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of all athletes from all countries, but particularly our Australian athletes and our amazing Tasmanian contingent who really did the state proud.

All of us would have used the games for some welcome relief from some of the other things that were happening around the world at the time, and it was great to see so much success, particularly so early on in the pool. We always know Australians do well in the pool, but we did an amazing job this year. Our own Ariarne Titmus, as spoken about by the member

for Launceston in the Special Interest Matters debate, really is an astounding champion and all Tasmanians are very proud of her as they are of all other Tasmanian athletes the minister listed.

I acknowledge we had a world first with the initial BMX gold medal won by an Australian man. Watching him was frightening. I do not know how any parent would want their child watching that, thinking their child is going to do that. I do not know how you train for something like that without having really serious injuries. Obviously they do, and skateboarding is the same. Watching his display and him win the BMX was fascinating. Even though he knew he had won it in the gold medal ride, he still did his trademark move - I do not know what it is called - which was very impressive with the bike spinning under him and he does all sorts of amazing things.

**Mr Gaffney** - The different feeling between the athletes in the bike competition and the skateboarding was so nice to see with all of them wanting the other person to do well, to pull off the trick. They were not so focused.

**Ms FORREST** - I think that was in all sports.

**Mr Gaffney** - Yes, but it was lovely, wasn't it?

**Ms FORREST** - We saw elements of that Olympic spirit of cooperation and support for each other on display throughout, even individual athletes from different countries encouraging each other.

In the men's decathlon - I cannot remember the two athletes' names, the Australian team member who knew he could not win bronze spoke in the other's ear as he is almost collapsing near the finishing line, yelling at him to keep going, keep ahead, you have to finish in front of this guy. Looking like a raving lunatic in many respects, he was urging him to go on and he got the bronze medal. That bronze medal rightly belongs to both of them. I feel emotional thinking about it. It was such an amazing thing to watch. What teamwork and spirit to just be there for your teammate to ensure he was aware of where he needed to be, he was basically exhausted but still kept going.

**Ms Howlett** - His name was Ash Moloney.

**Ms FORREST** - That's right, thank you. It really is a true sign of the spirit the Olympics should be about. Yes, it is about competition and winning medals, but when you see true teamwork and support for your fellow athletes - we have seen it with other races when other nations will help a particular athlete across the line, even just to make sure they finish the race. Our own Stuey McSweyn from King Island, what a champion and wonderful young man. We should be proud of all of these people and I know the state and the country are.

The other I wanted to mention was the canoe slalom Jessica Fox won. This is the first year this has been in the Olympics as a women's event because women were never considered strong or capable enough. If you watched her in that final, which I did, she was amazing. If she had been in the men's final, she would have come fourth - so do not tell me women are not strong enough to do this sort of stuff. That final race and the final run home, she was the last competitor, that is how she qualified; what an amazing effort from her and just the most beautiful person you could see with the excitement and so on. This gave many of us such a wonderful boost and lift to see.

Our female swimmers were sensational. I remember watching them have to duck off, finish a race, jump out of the pool, go over for a medal ceremony, come back and swim another race. I cannot even swim the length of the pool. They are incredible. I acknowledge and recognise our Tasmanian Olympians. They will always be part of the legend, part of our sporting history. They are fantastic role models. They give all young athletes something to aim for - even if they never get to be Olympians. To continue to aspire to a fit and healthy lifestyle is absolutely essential in even considering this path, and is very important overall.

As the member for Mersey mentioned, we need to congratulate and watch our Paralympians who will be competing. The hardship and difficulties many of those athletes overcome to get there is astounding, and I am in awe of so many of them and what they can do. They have overcome significant disability at times and barriers to participating generally, as well as being in the Paralympics. I hope they are all celebrated equally when they return, and I wish them all the best in their events.

It does give a lift to everyone - everyone feels part of it. There is nothing quite like watching your own team - Team Australia and particularly Team Tasmania when it is one of ours competing. There is nothing quite like feeling you have been part of that win, even though you have done nothing at all to deserve that feeling. Congratulations to all of them and I thank the minister for bringing the motion on.

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### **Recognition of Visitors**

**Mr PRESIDENT** - I welcome the students from St Patrick's College in Launceston into the Chamber today. We are currently debating a notice of motion that a member has brought forward to acknowledge the recent success of Australians, and Tasmanians more particularly, in the Olympic Games. We are working through that. I believe your local member would be the member for Rosevears. There might be a bit of debate.

**Ms Armitage** - I think it is probably more mine.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - It is either the member for Launceston or -

**Ms Forrest** - They probably share the people who go to the school.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - Yes.

**Mr Gaffney** - It is not Hobart.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - No. It is not Hobart, and it is not Mersey. Welcome to the Chamber. I am sure you will enjoy the contributions by members and we hope you get something out of your visit to parliament and see, hopefully, some democracy in action, because that is what it is all about. It is great that school groups come through and experience parliament.

On behalf of all members, welcome to the Legislative Council.

**Members** - Hear, hear.

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[12.53 p.m.]

**Mr VALENTINE** (Hobart) - Thank you, Mr President. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise on this particular motion. I acknowledge a lack of sleep during the Olympics - I cannot help myself. I am an Olympics junkie, and I have to learn the balance between sleep deprivation and the duties one has to perform during this time.

Like the member for Murchison, I take my hat off to the Japanese. Japan has done a fantastic job in getting this all together. Pulling an Olympics together is not easy at any time, but to do it with COVID-19 facing the world is an outstanding achievement. They need to be congratulated.

I have been part of the corporate fundraising committee for the Commonwealth and Olympic Games for around 20 years. Every time we go into fundraising mode there is a chance to be exposed to the sort of talent that we are sending across the world to compete on our behalf, as a state and as a nation. Some would say they are getting something out of it, they are getting an opportunity. Yes, they may well have an opportunity to achieve but the fact is they are achieving it on our behalf and they make us proud. I thank the minister for bringing the motion forward, giving us the opportunity to note the sheer effort that is required, and to note the people who are involved - including Stewart McSweyn, Ariarne Titmus, Daniel Watkins, Georgia Baker and Richie Porte.

I know what it is like when you are trying to achieve something in life and the amount of effort you need to put into it, simply to be satisfied that you have done your best. It must have been very difficult for the athletes to maintain their focus, not knowing whether the Olympics were going to proceed.

**Ms Forrest** - To have to be in hotel quarantine and not being able to come back and celebrate with your family and loved ones.

**Mr VALENTINE** - It is a gargantuan personal task, to stay focused - whether it is a BMX trick, a skateboard trick, or a marathon - when you are thinking you may not get to compete. We have a group of Olympians as we can now call them - because once you are an Olympian you are always an Olympian, regardless of whether you achieve a medal. You can be proud that you represented your state and your country at the Olympics. They should be proud that they got there, whether they came 20<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in their various events.

I also acknowledge the officials and administrators. I noticed a Brian Roe dealing with false starts in the athletics events. I thought he looked familiar - and I think he is from Launceston.

**Ms Armitage** - Yes, in my electorate.

**Mr VALENTINE** - For many years Ken Reed has been at the Olympics, although I am not sure if he attended this year. The Chef de Mission, Ian Chesterman, was the person responsible for bringing it all together for Australia - a fantastic effort. I add my congratulations to the motion that the minister has brought before us, recognising the Olympians as inspirational role models for our young Tasmanian athletes. I wonder what the parents of the BMX rider were thinking, as he was in midair and let go, then tumbled and grabbed hold of the handle bars. I think he is married and has a child.

**Ms Forrest** - He has, and they were watching. His wife was very excited.

**Mr VALENTINE** - His parents might have been watching, but I am sure his wife had her heart in her mouth as well. The standard of performance clearly makes it an Olympic sport.

Finally, I acknowledge the Paralympians, and the hurdles they face so they can represent the country as well, under very difficult circumstances. I love the Paralympics. I glue myself to that as much if not more than to the able-bodied Olympics. They are just terrific, and you have to admire their focus and commitment.

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

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**Mr PRESIDENT** - Before I start Question Time I would like to welcome to the Chamber Alyce and Kiran Forrest. Alyce is the daughter of the Deputy President, Chair of Committees. A very special welcome to Leela, who is joining us for her first time in parliament. Not so special but a regular guest, Rob Woolley. It is nice to see you, Rob.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Paramedic Staffing - Smithton**

**Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.32 p.m.]

Regarding paramedic staffing at the ambulance station in Smithton, Circular Head -

When was the position of paramedic at Smithton Ambulance Station advertised?

- (1) How many times has the position been advertised?
- (2) Has the position been filled?
- (3) If not, why has the position not been filled and what actions has the department taken to actively recruit permanent paramedics to the Smithton station?

## **ANSWER**

I thank the member for her questions.

- (1) An expression of interest to attract applicants in backfilling two temporary vacant Smithton positions was circulated statewide on 16 July, 2021. It was recirculated on 19 July, 2021 to ensure all staff had an opportunity to apply.
- (2) Prior to the roles being advertised in July, shifts were covered by staff from the branch station officer relief register.

- (3) Interviews occurred on 13 August, 2021 and two applicants have been appointed on a temporary basis while permanent recruitment processes are underway.

### **Electric Vehicles**

#### **Mr VALENTINE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.33 p.m.]

One could say this is an update from previous questions. Can the Government please provide the following data:

- (1) The number of plug-in fully electric vehicles that are currently registered in the state by type (cars, utilities, trucks, buses, et cetera);
- (2) The number of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles that are currently registered in the state by type (cars, utilities, trucks, buses, et cetera);
- (3) The number of hybrid, non-plug-in electric vehicles that are currently registered in the state by type (cars, utilities, trucks, buses, et cetera); and
- (4) The increase in registration of the above vehicle types since May 2019?

There are other components to the question but I believe they will be arriving later, so I will not include them at this point.

#### **ANSWER**

I thank the member for his questions.

- (1) The number of plug-in fully electric vehicles - cars, 413; station wagons, 113; utilities, 2; vans, 5; and motorcycles, 91.
- (2) The number of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles - cars, 45; and station wagons, 59.
- (3) The number of hybrid non-plug-in electric vehicles - cars, 2359; station wagons, 1468; vans, 3; and buses, 4.
- (4) The number of recorded fully electric vehicles has increased by 552 since May 2019. An accurate snapshot of hybrid numbers from 2019 is not available. However, it is noted 50 and 2111 of plug-in and non-plug-in hybrids respectively have a year of manufacture of 2019 or greater.

As the member alluded to, the answer to question (5) is still coming from DPAC.

We do have the answer to question (6), so I will read the question into *Hansard*. The question (6) is: Progress on what the Government has termed the 'high priority Vehicle Manufacturer Data project'. The answer to that is:

- (6) Progress on what the Government has termed the 'high priority Vehicle Manufacturer Data project'. The Department of State Growth regularly utilises manufacturer data to cleanse records within the Motor Registry System and has also developed procedures to accurately record motor power information where this data is not available (from specific manufacturers and for imported vehicles).

Mr President, we will have the answer to number (5). I will let you know when we get that from DPAC.

### **Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania**

**Ms WEBB question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.36 p.m.]

With regard to the fifth Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania (SEIS), the public consultation process as stated on page 132 of the SEIS report, volume 1, and I quote:

resulted in 18 public submissions which are available on the Liquor and Gaming Branch website.

And, further:

There were also 49 individual community submissions which were provided to the researchers.

(1) Can the Government:

- (a) confirm that those 49 community submissions were considered and taken into account by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES) who undertook the research;
- (b) confirm that those 49 submissions were also provided to the Department of Treasury and Finance by SACES;
- (c) explain why those 49 submissions, if they were considered by SACES, are not acknowledged nor published on the Liquor and Gaming Branch website along with the other 17 submissions publicly available on that same website;
- (d) clarify why the SACES report, volume 1, page 132, states 18 public submissions are available on the Liquor and Gaming Branch website when only 17 submissions were made publicly available upon release of the fifth SEIS on Thursday 1 July 2021.

The SEIS website states:

Public submissions were invited to the fifth study through advertising on social media; direct approaches to community, peak body and

industry organisations; the University of Adelaide website this website, and via a newspaper advertisement.

(2) Can the Government:

- (a) detail whether any of the publicly listed 17 submissions on the Liquor and Gaming Branch website were derived from peak body and industry groups' call for public submissions;
- (b) please provide copies and dates of publication of the following government items detailed on the Liquor and Gaming Branch's Social and Economic Impact Study's website in relation to the fifth SEIS:
  - (i) social media advertising and posts;
  - (ii) direct approaches to community, peak body and industry organisations; and
  - (iii) newspaper advertisements specifying the newspapers in which the advertisement was published.
- (c) please provide any departmental or government guidelines regarding public consultation processes and procedures.
- (d) publish as soon as practicable on the Liquor and Gaming Branch website the outstanding 49 submissions, except those in which confidentiality was requested.

I note that I have put these questions through on 19 July so perhaps the answers might reflect answers to the questions at that point and identify changes that have happened since.

## **ANSWER**

I thank the member for her question.

- (1) The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies was contracted to conduct an independent study of the social and economic impacts of gambling in Tasmania. This included the running of a public submissions process, where SACES received 49 submissions from individuals and 18 submissions from the community services sector, local government and industry stakeholders. All of these submissions have been taken into account in formulating the report.

Respondents were provided the opportunity to make a confidential submission and a number of respondents chose to do so. Submissions from community organisations, members of parliament and researchers, local government and industry not marked confidential were uploaded to the Department of Treasury and Finance website on 1 July 2021. There were 17 in total, as one was marked confidential, and requested it not be published. The figures on page 132 of volume 1, referring to 18 published submissions, was an error. Since the release of the SEIS, clarification has been sought from SACES regarding the publication of



submissions provided by individuals, noting that over half had requested some level of confidentiality. SACES has confirmed all 49 submissions can be published with confidential submissions de-identified. These submissions have been uploaded to the Treasury website.

- (2) The conduct of the public consultation process was determined by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES). SACES has significant experience in the delivery of these types of studies. As an independent study, the SEIS was not subject to government public consultation guidelines. Written submissions were invited through a variety of communication channels, including print media, websites (both SACES and the Liquor and Gaming Branch), and direct emails to key stakeholders including those who provided a submission to the 2017 study. This approach was consistent with that undertaken for the 2017 study. In addition, the Gambling Support Program promoted the public submission process through its social media, and peak bodies, such as the Local Government Association of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Hospitality Association, were asked to distribute the paper and promote it to their members. Circulation through a range of communication channels occurred, seeking submissions.

**Ms WEBB** - To follow up, I asked about newspaper advertisements from the government. That was not detailed in your answer. To clarify, the Government, other than a newspaper advertisement, did not publicise it broadly to the public.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I delivered the answers I have. I ask the member for Nelson to please communicate with my office to submit another question.

### **COVID-19 - Small Business Bankruptcies**

**Ms RATTRAY question to MINISTER for SMALL BUSINESS, Ms HOWLETT**

[2.42 p.m.]

How many bankruptcies of small to medium-sized businesses have occurred in Tasmania since the COVID-19 emergency measure period was declared on 18 March 2020?

#### **ANSWER**

Mr President, and I thank the member for her question. We have more than 39 000 small businesses employing over 100 000 people around the state, and we know that small business is the engine room to our economy. One of the key priorities of the Tasmanian Liberal Government is jobs, and one of the key ways to deliver that is by ensuring small business remains the powerhouse of our economy. Under our long-term plan before COVID-19 hit, thousands more Tasmanians have been employed, since March 2014, and even with the impact of COVID-19 our employment participation has returned to pre-pandemic levels. As far as your question in relation to how many small businesses have been made bankrupt, or have gone into bankruptcy, I will have to take that on notice and I will find that information for you. Thank you.

## **TasRail - Runaway Trains and Brake Failures 2018-2021**

### **Mr WILLIE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.44 p.m.]

- (1) How many runaway trains have occurred in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and what were the locomotives involved and the locations?
- (2) How many documented locomotive brake failures have there been in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and what were the locomotives involved and the locations?

### **ANSWER**

I thank the member for his question. Where you asking that on behalf of the President?

**Mr Willie** - I am asking that as the shadow minister for transport.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I thought this was a very interesting question, because I was actually at a railway crossing, waiting for a train to pass - and that was the runaway train. However, the answers are:

- (1) Based upon the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (the Rail Regulator) definition of 'runaway' TasRail had one instance in that period in question, and this occurred in September 2018. The incident remains under investigation by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau; however, TasRail can confirm that a TR class locomotive (TR11) was involved and the incident occurred at Railton. Since the 2018 incident, TasRail has invested \$2.89 million dollars in engineering controls to prevent the uncontrolled movement of trains from where they are stabled onto the network. The investment in runaway protections includes the location of the 2018 incident.
- (2) TasRail has had six instances where a locomotive has experienced a failure of a brake component in service (as per the Rail Regulator definition of braking system failure). Five of these events resulted in equipment 'failing safe' or failing in a way where stopping ability was not reduced. One of the six events is currently being reviewed by the relevant component supplier. All events were immediately addressed through infield repairs and/or rectification in the workshop after the safe completion of the service.

TasRail has not experienced a complete failure of locomotive braking ability in the period in question. TasRail is committed to achieving a zero harm workplace and one of its core values is safety. The minister is pleased to report that TasRail's mainline derailments are at a record low. 2020-21 was TasRail's first ever mainline derailment-free financial year. As of the 19 August TasRail is 774 days mainline derailment-free.

The Tasmanian and Australian governments' record investment into the state's rail network combined with TasRail's focus on safe operations, including a healthy reporting culture when issues are identified, is responsible for the record safety performance.

**Mr Willie** - And the locomotives involved?

**Mr PRESIDENT** - The locomotive involved was TR11 from memory.

**Mr Willie** - No, that's for the runaway brake failures.

### **Funding for Mental Health Services - Circular Head**

**Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.47 p.m.]

Regarding the \$300 000 funding promise by the state Government for mental health services in Circular Head, has this funding been provided and if so, which organisation or programs have these funds been allocated to and how will the outcomes from this funding be measured?

#### **ANSWER**

In the lead-up to this year's state election a commitment was made to the Circular Head region to provide mental health counselling and outreach as well as suicide awareness and prevention with a focus on young people.

In line with our first 100 days implementation plan we committed to begin the recruitment of a locally based mental health specialist for the Circular Head region and this commitment has been delivered.

Staff from the Department of Health have met with local stakeholders., including the Circular Head Council, local community sector organisations and statewide mental health services to discuss the new service and the needs of the region especially for young people. Department of Health staff also attended the recent Burnie youth mental health forum to discuss mental health needs in the north-west. The Department of Health is working to finalise the service model, including the scope of service and referral pathways and accommodation options to ensure easy access to services for young people.

We are negotiating with a provider for the service, and details in relation to the provider and the service will be made public once negotiations are finalised. Outcomes of this funding will be measured against key performance indicators established during the finalisation of the funding agreement with the provider.

### **COVID-19 - Moreton Group Medical Services Vaccinations Program**

**Ms WEBB question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.49 p.m.]

(1) What measures has the state Government put in place to identify and inform any Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who do not access Specialist

Homelessness Services, including youth aged 16 and above, about the Moreton Group Medical Services COVID-19 vaccinations program?

- (2) Do Tasmanian youth over the age of 16 years who are experiencing homelessness require a caregiver to provide consent before being allowed to receive COVID-19 vaccinations?
- (3) What measures are in place to facilitate the likelihood of people experiencing homelessness returning for their second vaccination dose?
- (4) How long is this program to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to Tasmanians experiencing homelessness expected to run?

## **ANSWER**

I thank the member for her question.

- (1) The state Government has partnered with Moreton Group Medical Services to deliver vaccinations at common gathering points for those experiencing homelessness. This includes those sleeping rough, at risk of homelessness and in long- and short-term emergency accommodation. Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who do not access specialist homelessness services are being targeted by clinics on the street, visits to caravan parks and a collaboration with the Department of Communities for all brokered accommodation.

The street homeless populations are being appropriately engaged by collaboration with the Salvation Army 'Street to Home' program in the south, and the Doorways emergency relief programs in the north and north-west.

- (2) Tasmanian youth are able to give consent if they are deemed a 'mature minor', also known as having 'Gillick competence'. Immunisers can use their clinical judgment to determine if a young person is able to consent. This involves the young person having sufficient understanding of what the vaccine is for, the benefits of the vaccine, the risks of the vaccine, including consequences if they do not receive the vaccine.
- (3) Due to the itinerant nature of this cohort, it is difficult to guarantee all people who receive a first dose will return for the second. Moreton Group has processes in place to track who does and does not receive a second dose. They utilise repeated site visits and work with facility staff to identify and opportunistically target people needing second doses at times they are in the facility.

Vaccination cards are provided to people at first dose which has the date of first dose, when a second dose is due and the Public Health hotline number on it. It is accepted that in this population there will be some loss to follow up, and that one dose will provide some level of protection, even though two doses provides the best protection.

- (4) The Moreton Group Medical Services have been contracted for 15 weeks.

## Metro Bus Services - Anti-Social Behaviour and Timetabling

### Mr WILLIE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.53 p.m.]

- (1) How many reported incidents of violence and antisocial behaviour have there been on Metro buses in 2021 and in which suburbs have they occurred?
- (2) What is the daily average of dropped runs via Metro during the peak period? How are these determined?

#### ANSWER

I seek leave to table a document.

**Leave granted.**

Mrs HISCUTT - I should have said to have it incorporated into *Hansard* as well.

**Leave granted.**

- (1) Question 1 is tabled.

As of 17 August 2021, there have been a total of 143 incidents of violence and/or antisocial behaviour on Metro buses across three networks in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie during 2021.

INCIDENT	HOBART	LAUNCESTON	BURNIE
Aggressive Person	46	10	4
School Bus - Misbehaviour	35	19	2
Inappropriate Behaviour	10	6	1
Assault on Passenger	4	1	
Assault on Driver	4		1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>

HOBART NETWORK					
	#		#		#
Rokeby	18	Howrah	2	Goodwood	1
Hobart City	16	Clarendon Vale	2	Lutana	1
Rosny Park	9	Moonah	2	Clarence	1
Glenorchy	8	Montrose	2	Risdon	1
Bridgewater	5	Gagebrook	2	Bellerive	1
Lauderdale	5	Rosetta	1	Unknown	1

New Town	4	South Hobart	1	Taroona	1
Kingston	3	Lenah Valley	1	Risdon Vale	1
Springfield	3	Sandy Bay	1	Brighton	1
Claremont	3	Old Beach	1	Chigwell	1

<b>LAUNCESTON NETWORK</b>					
	#		#		#
Launceston City	6	Hospital	1	Rocherlea	1
Kmart	6	Mowbray Shops	1	Youngtown	1
Kings Meadows	1	Ravenswood	1		

<b>BURNIE NETWORK</b>					
	#		#		#
Burnie City	5	Brooklyn	1		

Going on to question (1) also, safety and security are at the forefront of Metro's business. To ensure the safety of all bus operators and passengers, all buses are fitted with CCTV. The organisation also has a close working relationship with Tasmania Police to minimise crime and antisocial behavior on bus services.

Under Metro Tasmania's Customer Service Charter, all passengers are required to comply with Conditions of Travel in order to ensure bus services are safe. Passengers must not threaten, abuse or assault any customers or bus operators, or create a nuisance or a disturbance. Failure to comply with the Conditions of Travel may result in a passenger being directed to leave the bus or the more serious sanction of being banned.

- (2) From 1 January 2021 to 17 August 2021, during peak times, which is 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., the average of dropped trips per day was 0.8. This was determined by the number of dropped trips during that time divided by the number of days, including weekends.

### **Rural Health Funding**

**Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.55 p.m.]

Regarding funding to Rural Health Tasmania:

- (1) What is the total amount of funding provided to Rural Health Tasmania?
- (2) What is the breakdown of this funding by state funding and federal funding?
- (3) For each of the above funding amounts, please provide a breakdown for each area of service delivery/care provided separately, including mental health.
- (4) How are the outcomes from each area of service delivery monitored and reported on?

## ANSWER

I thank the member for her question. I will read the answer into *Hansard* and there are some things I am checking on it so if it is not correct I will correct that when hopefully I get those. At the moment I have:

The state Government provided Rural Health Tasmania \$2400 in 2020 as part of the Healthy Tasmania Neighbour Day Challenge. The minister understands that the federal government also provided Rural Health Tasmania funding to undertake a range of programs. Any questions on federal funding should be directed to the Commonwealth or Rural Health Tasmania.

The Healthy Tasmania initiative aimed to help create social connections and address loneliness in Tasmanian communities. All recipients under the initiative were required to report how the funds were spent based on their original proposals.

### **National Drivers Licence Facial Recognition System**

**Ms WEBB question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT, referred to DEPUTY LEADER, Ms PALMER**

[2.56 p.m.]

In October 2020 in response to the Legislative Council e-Petition No. 33, Transfer of driver licence photos to National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution, and in relation to the Commonwealth legislation to support implementation of Face Matching Services, the Premier said that:

Until this has been passed and I receive advice that Tasmanian legislation fully supports the use for the purpose reflected in this bill, Tasmanian data that is currently in a segregated partition of the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition system will not be available for use by any other agency or jurisdiction.

- (1) Is the Premier's statement supported by any written assurance from those responsible for the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition system (NDLFRS) to the Tasmanian Government or elsewhere that Tasmanian data in the segregated partition will not be available for use by another agency or jurisdiction?
  - (a) If yes, please provide a copy of that assurance.
  - (b) If no, what is the basis for the Premier's assurance?

The Premier also said that he understood, I quote:

The Australian Government is proposing to introduce legislation later this year, i.e, 2020, to support implementation of Face Matching Services.

- (2) Is Tasmania continuing to provide Tasmanian driver's licence data to the NDLFRS despite the fact that no Commonwealth legislation has been passed?
- (3) Has any Tasmanian driver's licence data been used in the 'limited (low volume) trial' of the Face Matching Service (FMS) by the New South Wales Police Force?
- (4) Has any Tasmanian driver's licence data in the segregated partition of the NDLFRS been made available for use by another agency or jurisdiction since the Premier's assurance?

## **ANSWER**

I thank the member for her question.

- (1) Commonwealth legislation has not yet been passed to enable the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition system. Tasmania has not, and will not, enter into a Participant Access Arrangement with any agency for access to Tasmanian data until Commonwealth legislation has passed.
- (2) The provision of Tasmanian driver licence data has been temporarily paused due to system upgrades initiated by the Department of Home Affairs. I am advised that this system upgrade is planned to be finalised by the end of September 2021. The delay in the passing of Commonwealth legislation is deferring Tasmania's access to improved identity protection from the rollout of the FMS.
- (3) There has been no access provided to Tasmanian driver licence data. In relation to the use of FMS, the NSW Police article referenced in this question confirms 'specialist NSWPF officers have limited access to the FMS using facial images from Commonwealth agencies'. For example, photographs of passport and visa holders issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- (4) The Tasmanian driver's licence data in the segregated partition of the NDLFRS has not been made available to any other agency or jurisdiction.

**Resumed from above.**

## **MOTION**

### **Tasmanian Athletes - Tokyo Olympic Games**

[3.00 p.m.]

**Mr VALENTINE** (Hobart) - Thank you, Mr President, I have completed my contribution to the motion the minister brought forward to Council. I complete my contribution by wishing every Paralympian the best as they perform in Japan. It is probably daunting enough performing on home soil, let alone doing this overseas, especially when you do not have your support networks available. I will be watching the Games.

**Mr DUIGAN** (Windermere) - Mr President. I add my congratulations to those of other members speaking about our athletes' performance at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics which were, by any measure, a resounding success and the best-ever results for Tasmanian athletes and



equal best-ever results for the Australian team. I also echo the words of the member for Launceston. Ariarne Titmus is indeed in rare air. She is, along with Shane Gould and Ian Thorpe as one of the only Australian swimmers to complete the 200m and 400m freestyle double.

As a friend and former colleague of her dad, Steve, I remember when the family made the momentous and really difficult decision to leave Tasmania and relocate to Queensland. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but at the time that was a very difficult call to make.

While it is entirely appropriate to celebrate our athletes, I rise to pay tribute to another remarkable Tasmanian member of the team - the leader of the team, a person the member for Hobart briefly spoke about, a champion of athletes, the champion of Olympians and of Australia's Olympic success. Today I acknowledge the work of Mr Ian Chesterman AM.

**Mr Valentine** - The former member for Rosevears used to tell us about Mr Chesterman.

**Mr DUIGAN** - Yes, indeed, I don't doubt it. I also acknowledge the current member for Rosevears. I am trespassing somewhat. Ian, or Chesty as I know him and as he is widely known, lives in Legana with his wife Kath and three children, Hannah, Lucy and Jack. He is an active member of the local community but also serves as Vice-President of the Australian Olympic Committee.

He has done no fewer than six tours as the Chef de Mission of the Australian Winter Olympic team - in 1998 in Nagano; 2002 in Salt Lake City; 2006 in Torino; 2010 in Vancouver; 2014 in Sochi, and 2018 in Pyongyang. During that time Australia has won five gold, five silver and four bronze medals under Chesterman's leadership. The country has come of age as a winter sports nation.

This time, Ian was asked to take on the Chef de Mission role for the summer games - the Tokyo Games, the pandemic games; arguably the toughest sports administration task ever devised. For many people watching, the COVID-19 outbreak that occurred last year was a traumatic experience as it seemed to travel from place to place and country to country. For our athletes it was double the hit, in the knowledge they were working and training toward a timetable that may never eventuate.

When the inevitable happened and the 2020 Games were moved to 2021, it fell to Mr Chesterman to guide, support and manage the expectations of our athletes. I can tell you, he literally spent two years talking to almost everybody on that team, trying to guide their expectations. He tells a very good story about going to Canberra to visit Nick Kyrgios at Nick's mum's house, to see if Nick would participate in the games. Chesty was the go-to for athletes who were concerned about whether they would get the opportunity to compete. Let us not forget that this was one of our biggest teams ever - around 480 athletes - super-competitive people, counting on the four-year or in this case a five-year turnaround to compete at the highest level.

The 2020 Tokyo games - run in 2021 - saw unprecedented success both for Australia and for our Tasmanian representatives. The games provided a welcome diversion from the ever-present pandemic threat. The Olympic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play were often on display. They were also scandal-free. The Australian team competed magnificently in the

sporting arena and conducted itself with grace and humility away from it, and in my opinion that reflects the leadership of the team.

**Mr Valentine** - I think there was one party.

**Mr DUIGAN** - During and after the games we have rightly celebrated the success of our athletes with the medals they have won for Australia. It is also appropriate to reflect that this success is not theirs alone, but relies on the support and encouragement of numerous administrators, organisers, coaches and support staff working behind the scenes. Ian - Chesty - managed our mission, supported our athletes and truly can be considered to be a giant of the Australian Olympic movement.

**Mr Valentine** - I wonder how much sleep he got?

**Mr DUIGAN** - Not much; he was pretty worked up by the end of it all, but he did a great job. My thanks to Ian and the rest of the team. We are excited about watching the Paralympics tonight.

[3.06 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, it gives me great pleasure to rise in support of this motion moved by my colleague the member for Prosser and Minister for Sport. I viewed the approach of the Tokyo Olympics earlier this year with a degree of trepidation. Would they go ahead in this COVID-19 world and if they did, would it be safe? How would they go without the crowds? Would there be the usual level of audience interest around the globe? What about the risks to athletes and officials? The list of concerns and potential hurdles must have seemed insurmountable at times to the organisers of the Tokyo Olympics, but they persevered and so did the athletes representing all participating nations. I am very grateful that they did so. Any doubts I had about the success of the Tokyo games quickly dissipated, as I sat glued to the TV screen to cheer on our own Ariarne Titmus as she powered through to her first gold medal in the 400 metres - defeating her arch rival the American Katie Ledecky. The tension was increasingly palpable as the race progressed. The cheering and yelling and excitement from myself and others with me in the room as the final lap unfolded, was as enthusiastic as it had been in years gone by.

It was Tasmania's first gold medal in 13 years and a truly momentous event in the history of the sport in our state. It was a victory that catapulted the 20-year-old Tasmanian into Australian sporting folklore. As young Ariarne said afterwards and I quote, 'It is surreal. It is probably the biggest thing you can pull off in your sporting career'.

Indeed, it is; and it was an appropriate and just reward for a lifetime of hard work, determination and endeavour and certainly was richly deserved. It was a victory that clearly inspired the rest of Ariarne's Australian swim team colleagues to amazing performances. Kyle Chalmers, one of Australia's men's freestyle relay team, said later 'you stand and watch Arnie win that gold, it boosts your energy levels. I know it really helped me race well, seeing an Australian winning an Olympic gold medal and beating one of the great swimmers of all time. It is really inspiring to watch and gave me goosebumps'.

It gave me goosebumps too. Ariarne became the first Tasmanian to win an individual Olympic gold medal, the first Tasmanian to win multiple medals at one Olympic games and

just the third Australian in history after Shane Gould and Ian Thorpe to win the 200 and the 400 metres double. Truly remarkable stuff.

Of course, Ariarne was not the only Tasmanian athlete at the Tokyo Olympics, even if she was the most successful from a medal perspective alone. The fact is every single athlete competing at the Olympics and the upcoming Paralympics - which I think is having its opening ceremony tonight - were representing their country, including those Tasmanians who were there. They are an undoubtable success and are inspirational role models for young athletes back home.

It is appropriate to take the time to list our 12 Tasmanians in the Tokyo Olympics individually. Of course, there is Stewart McSweyn, athletics; Chris Goulding, basketball; Daniel Watkins, canoe; Georgia Baker and Richie Porte, cycling; Nathaniel Atkinson, football; Eddie Ockenden, hockey; Sarah Hawe, rowing; Ariarne Titmus, swimming; Jacob Birtwhistle, triathlon; Ciona Wilson, rowing; and Josh Beltz, hockey.

What an achievement it is to represent your state and country on the world stage of the Olympics. It is the pinnacle of achievement and I happily add my voice to the many congratulating and thanking those worthy Tasmanians. I would like to congratulate and thank our former Tasmanian Olympians also. Tasmania has a long and proud history of participation at the Olympic games over many years, dating back to the formation of the Tasmanian Olympic Council in 1911. The rower Cecil McVilly was our very first Olympian at the 1912 Games in Stockholm. Since then, we have seen a multitude of famous Tasmanian names excelling in a range of sports. Names like Bill Barwick; Ron Gower, who was our first dual Olympian; David Lean, our first medallist, with a silver medal in the 4x400 athletics relay in 1956; Danny Clark, of course, the famous cyclist; Wayne Devlin; and Michael Grenda, also a cyclist, winning our first gold medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

If success is only measured by medals, and frankly it should not be, then Athens 2004 was Tasmania's most successful Olympics with five medals among the 10 Tasmanian athletes. Matthew Wells (hockey) picked up gold, Simmone Morrow (softball) and Simon Burgess (rowing) gained silver, and the bronze medallists were fellow rowers Kerry Hore and Dana Faletic. The names go on, too many to list here today. But all of them champions, all of them success stories and all of them truly inspirational Tasmanians. Tasmania really has demonstrated again and again what amazing athletes we can produce and the Tokyo 2020 Olympics are no exception. My colleague, the member for Prosser, has already outlined particular feats of our Tokyo Olympians and it really is an impressive story, not just in medal outcomes.

One of the things about the Olympics is its capacity to unite communities, and athletes are not just representing their countries or their states, they are representing and inspiring the towns and communities where they have lived and trained. Stewart McSweyn is a classic example. Throughout his Olympic campaign, I doubt there was a single King Islander at some stage not keenly following his endeavours. The King Island Hotel even named a drink after him, and the local bakery was selling Go Stewy Go doughnuts. It is that sort of community spirit and pride that make events such as the Olympic games so important.

All of our Olympian athletes are inspirational and I thank them for their efforts. They have truly given us something to smile about and to be proud of during these difficult times, and that was a job well done by them all.

**Members** - Hear, hear.

[3.15 p.m.]

**Mr WILLIE** (Elwick) - Mr President, a short contribution for me because other members have comprehensively covered the topic. There has been a lot of focus on superstars like Ariarne Titmus, but I certainly acknowledge all the athletes and their role in the team. People like Ciona Wilson, who was a travelling reserve for a rowing crew, a very important job. It is an achievement just to make the Olympics and represent your country. A lot of these Tasmanians Olympians are national champions, have won all sorts of accolades along the journey and some are just beginning their careers. Someone like Ciona Wilson I am sure has a long career ahead of her and may go on to achieve great things.

I want to acknowledge the difficult times the Olympics were conducted in and the host nation, Japan, on the extraordinary way they went about that. It gave the world a lot of hope in a dark time. The individual athletes are supported by a team of people, family members, coaches, officials, fundraisers. It really is a team effort to get to the Olympics.

I am happy to maybe test the Floor on this but also happy to hand it over to the sports minister who moved a motion on it. I do thank you for moving a motion, but a number of members have talked about Paralympics. We do have some Tasmanians who are representing us at the Paralympics. We have Todd Hodgetts, who is a shot-putter, Deon Kenzie, who is also a runner and Alexandra Viney in the athletics team. I am thinking if we are going to be an inclusive Chamber we should put the Paralympics into the motion.

**Ms HOWLETT** - I did mention them in my contribution.

**Mr WILLIE** - I understand, but I think the motion should actually reflect some of the debate and the feelings of this Chamber to include it. It would be a simple amendment. I could do the amendment or I could just hand it over to you, I am happy for you to do it.

**Ms HOWLETT** - I am sure I will certainly put forward another motion when the Paralympics finish.

**Mr WILLIE** - We have a commitment there from the member to put forward another motion. I am happy with that. It is very important to also acknowledge that and not omit that in this debate. It clearly is something I and the members feel strongly about acknowledging.

In conclusion, we are all certainly glued to our TV screens. We are very proud of Tasmanians representing us, along with all the Australian athletes. It was a great few weeks of entertainment. I particularly enjoyed listening to Roy and HG on the radio with no footage at all. They are very colourful in the way they describe things and very humourous at times. I enjoyed that for a couple of weeks - particularly driving around in the car in the afternoons, you would hear Roy and HG on the radio, which is always a highlight of every Olympics, particularly the one hosted in Sydney, where they had a bigger role in terms of broadcasting. I would like to acknowledge our athletes and wish them all the best for the future and thank them.

[3.18 p.m.]

**Ms ARMITAGE** (Launceston) - Mr President, what a thrill it is to be able to get up and speak on a motion as universally loved as this one. There is so much we can say about these

inspirational Tasmanians, but I will also keep my comments brief. Nine Tasmanians were selected to represent Australia at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic games, as has been mentioned, Stewart McSweyn for athletics, Daniel Watkins for the canoe slalom, Georgia Baker and Richie Porte for cycling, Jacob Birtwhistle for the triathlon, Eddie Ockenden for hockey, Sarah Hawe for rowing, Ariarne Titmus for swimming and Nathaniel Atkinson for football. In addition to this, Ciona Wilson and Josh Beltz were selected as travelling reserves for the rowing and hockey events respectively. Tasmanian-born Chris Goulding was selected for the Australian Boomers basketball team.

I have earlier this morning spoken about the incredible achievements of Ariarne Titmus and her performance in the pool at the Tokyo Olympics and the work that had gone into her career beforehand. What all the Tasmanians have in common is the hard work that goes on behind the scenes and the endless amounts of support they receive from their friends, family, coaches, sports therapists and teammates.

Achieving wins and winning medals are of course, the ultimate goals of competing in Olympic events, the Commonwealth Games or any other competition. Mental fortitude is just as needed as physical skill. While we laud our winners, I want to ensure that no matter whether you come home from the Olympics with a medal or not, merely being there and performing at a world-class level is, in and of itself, an absolute inspiration. The long hours of training, of doing tasks over and over again to build strength and skill, to get better and become the best, is a characteristic which I feel can be overlooked.

Performance at the Olympics is just the tip of the iceberg of the hard work and endless time that goes on into honing their athletic skill.

I note that the Australian Olympic team also had the highest percentage of female athletes to compete in the Tokyo Games with 53 per cent. To this end, I pay tribute to our own sports minister, Jane Howlett, who does a stellar job at promoting sports, recreation and wellbeing in Tasmania.

Of course, we are so proud of the achievements of our Olympians, each and every one of them. As was mentioned I think by the member for Hobart initially, whether you were in this Olympics or previous Olympics - and I must admit while I have no particular sporting skills, my niece, Donna MacFarlane, is an Olympian and has been to the Olympics. Unfortunately, she did not come back with a medal but was a very talented hurdler and I know the time and effort put in by Donna, all the work and effort to actually get to that achievement.

Who would have thought that we would have such incredible high-flyers competing on the world stage from little old Tasmania? I look forward to the Paralympics. Looking at the competitors from Tasmania we have Alexandra Viney, as was mentioned, from rowing; Todd Hodgetts, athletics. They join Deon Kenzie, athletics, as the three Tasmanian athletes selected.

The Paralympics have already started and, as mentioned by the member for Prosser - I was thinking Howlett and I am thinking 'no'. Looking at the member I was remembering her surname and forgetting the actual area. But I do look forward to another motion coming forward where we can go over and we can look over all the wonderful achievements of the Paralympics.

I am quite sure that many people will be glued to the screens just as we have been with the more able-bodied Olympians, to actually watch those who have been selected. It is a wonderful achievement to be selected to any Olympics, the Paralympics as well, so I am certainly looking forward to those and I certainly note the motion before us.

**Motion agreed to.**

[3.22 p.m.]

**Ms HOWLETT** (Prosser - Minister for Sport and Recreation) - I would like to thank all members for their contributions to my notice of motion.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - We did the vote on it and you did not do a -

**Ms Forrest** - No summing up.

**Ms HOWLETT** - Sorry, I was writing.

**Mr Gaffney** - We have got three years to wait now.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - We will just allow you a few moments just to - yes. You do have the right to reply so, yes, but I just called it. I thought you were happy with the result and were going to move onto the next one. I will slow down next time.

**Ms HOWLETT** - You are a bit quick today.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - I am.

**Ms HOWLETT** - Are you feeling very well?

**Mr PRESIDENT** - Yes, much better now. Yes.

**Ms HOWLETT** - Thank goodness for that.

**Ms Rattray** - You set a precedent, Mr President.

**Ms HOWLETT** - He has. I need to jump very quickly. No, thank you, Mr President, and thank you for indulging me in this. I would like to thank all members for their contribution to my notice of motion. That is the beauty of the Olympic Games: it brings people together no matter what their background or, in this case, political affiliation.

As I stated in my speech, I have no doubt that the efforts and achievements of our Olympians have inspired many young Tasmanians to follow in their footsteps and our Government is working hard to get as many Tasmanians as possible involved in sport and physical activity, no matter what their circumstances or their backgrounds. I thank all members for their contributions and let us have many sleepless nights watching our Paralympians take stage today, so thank you all very much.

**Motion agreed to.**

## MOTION

### Ashleigh 'Ash' Barty and Dylan Alcott - Tributes

[3.25 p.m.]

**Ms HOWLETT** (Prosser - Minister for Sport and Recreation) (by leave) - Mr President, I move -

That the Legislative Council:

- (1) acknowledges the recent success of Australia's world number one ranked female tennis player, Ashleigh 'Ash' Barty, in winning the 2021 Wimbledon Women's Singles title in July and representing Australia at the recent Tokyo Olympics;
- (2) admires her dedication, conduct and sportsmanship; and
- (3) recognises and pays tribute to her as a magnificent ambassador for Australian female athletes on the world stage.

Mr President, there are moments in sport that are so inspiring that they are etched into our memories forever; moments we will be talking about for decades and telling our children and grandchildren about.

Ash Barty's win at Wimbledon back in July was certainly one of those moments. Clinching her first Wimbledon title at the iconic All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, the win was made even more special as it happened on the fiftieth anniversary of Evonne Goolagong Cawley's first Wimbledon win. In that historic moment, Barty became just the second Indigenous woman to win the prestigious title and the first Australian woman to lift the Venus Rosewater Dish in over 40 years since Goolagong Cawley claimed her second Wimbledon crown.

It has been 19 years since an Aussie was victorious at the All England Club. Who can forget Lleyton Hewitt's hard-fought win, which hardly seemed like almost two decades ago now? Showing that fighting spirit the Aussie athletes are renowned for, Barty put on an amazing display of skill and determination to claim victory in three sets and fulfil a lifelong dream 10 years after lifting the Wimbledon girls' trophy as a promising and ambitious 15-year-old.

Barty could easily have been overawed by the occasion, but instead the world number one rose to it and did all of Australia so very proud. I am sure many young Tasmanian girls were inspired by Barty's achievement. I know my daughter, Penelope, certainly was. I am certain for humble athletes like Barty, helping to inspire the next generation of Australian women would mean far more than a title or accolade.

I must also congratulate Barty for her most recent victory. Just a couple of days ago the world number one claimed her fifth WTA Tour title of the year, with a straight-sets victory in the finals of the Cincinnati Open to become the first Australian to win this tournament since Goolagong Cawley 48 years ago.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is committed to increasing opportunities for women and girls to participate in all levels of sport. To support this commitment, we are developing a women and girls' sport and recreation strategy to provide clear and effective strategic leadership for increasing female participation in sport. The strategy will consider all areas of sport, participation, coaching, officiating, support and administration.

While women have higher levels of regular participation in physical activity than males in Tasmania, their participation levels in sporting activities is considerably lower than the male participation rate. This is why our Government has already taken steps to increase women and girls' participation in sport through the Levelling the Playing Field Grants Program, which removes one of the barriers to female participation: inadequate facilities. Under Levelling the Playing Field Grants Program we have invested \$10 million to upgrade sporting facilities for girls and women right around Tasmania, to maintain and build female participation.

Last month's AFLW draft was testament to the growth and strength of female sports in Tasmania. Congratulations to Perri King, Ella Maurer and Meagan Kiely for being selected by North Melbourne and Richmond. This brought the number of Tasmanians in the AFLW to 12, proving that we continue to punch well above our weight as a proud sporting state.

I am excited about the potential growth in female sport here in Tasmania, and across the country. I look forward to watching many more historic moments such as Ash Barty's Wimbledon win in the future.

[3.30 p.m.]

**Ms ARMITAGE** (Launceston) - Mr President, I pay tribute to the exceptional performance of Ash Barty during this year, being Australia's world number one ranked female tennis player, winning the 2021 Wimbledon Women's Singles title in July and representing Australia at the Tokyo games.

At the tender age of 25, Ash's CV of sporting achievements is becoming very long indeed. Excitingly so. In addition to her sporting achievements, Ash's demeanour off the court is something to which we can all aspire.

**Ms Rattray** - She speaks well, doesn't she?

**Ms ARMITAGE** - She does. As a national Indigenous ambassador for Tennis Australia, her promotion of Indigenous participation in tennis has an immensely positive flow-on effect for health, social inclusion and paving the way for others to earn achievements of their own. Ash was the 2020 Young Australian of the Year, emphasising her status as an all-round inspiration for young people. Ash's humble and positive attitude, commitment to improving our sporting communities and commitment to self-care and self-wisdom, are the qualities that make her truly great. As the member for McIntyre said, Ash does speak well and she is a great role model for our young people.

**Ms Rattray** - She is so humble and talks about her team.

**Ms ARMITAGE** - Yes and that is wonderful. We have a long and proud history of sporting achievements in Australia, and to see young people such as Ash bodes very well for our future.



As mentioned by the member for Prosser, it was interesting to see that Ash's dream week ended on a perfect note as she beat Jill Teichmann in the final of the Cincinnati Masters, to claim her fifth title of the year. As the News.com.au article states, the Aussie superstar was flawless as she demolished her Swiss rival 6-3, 6-1 to continue an incredible hot streak in 2021 and become the first Australian to win this tournament since her idol Evonne Goolagong Cawley did so 48 years ago in 1973. Interestingly, the only part that I noticed here that was a little disappointing was that Barty received less prize money than the men's champion in Cincinnati. The women's cheque for winning champion was \$357 000 whereas the men's championship was \$918 000. I appreciate they probably play five sets as opposed to three, but I am quite sure the women would be happy to play an extra two sets. The total prize money on offer for the men increased 14.7 per cent from last year to \$6.8 million while the for the women it decreased 6 per cent compared to 2020, down to \$2.96 million.

In closing, it was a wonderful effort by Ash Barty - a very humble, well-spoken lovely young lady. She is a wonderful ambassador for Australia and a great role model for all our people - female, male or others. I hope that perhaps that some of these tennis tournaments around the world will give equal contribution to the male and female championships. That is something I have noted from reading Ash's latest win.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - I remind members to wipe the lecterns. It is hard to remember after being away from the Chamber for a little while.

[3.34 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I rise to support this motion by my colleague, the member for Prosser, recognising the achievements of Ash Barty. For me, Ash Barty represents all that inspiring athletes should be striving to achieve. She encapsulates a rare combination of skill, determination, professionalism, sportsmanship and humility. It is quite simply a joy to behold. It is not always present in elite athletes of her calibre. I remember following the recent triumph at Wimbledon. A photo was on social media and elsewhere in 2020, of a six-year-old Ash Barty proudly holding her racquet after some junior tournament, smiling impishly up at the camera, clearly dreaming of things to come.

**Ms Rattray** - And the racquet, if I recall, was about the same size as she was. She was very small.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - Now, almost 15 years later, you can still see that same impression of determination, kindheartedness and pride in her achievements that radiated from that old photo. Only this time she is holding the Wimbledon singles women's championship trophy in her hands, having defeated the Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova, in the women's final this year. Quite a story, and quite a journey for a remarkable young lady. Even at the ripe old age of 25, her list of accomplishments is impressive. She is currently ranked number one in the world in singles by the Women's Tennis Association, and is the second Australian WTA singles number one, after fellow Indigenous Australian player, Evonne Goolagong Cawley.

She has also been a top 10 player in doubles, having achieved a career-high ranking of number five in the world. Barty has won 12 singles titles and even doubles titles on the WTA Tour, including two grand slam singles titles, the 2019 French Open and the 2021 Wimbledon Championship, and won the grand slam doubles title at the 2018 US Open with partner, CoCo Vandeweghe. She is also the reigning champion in singles with the WTA finals.

Ash is also an accomplished cricketer. Late in the 2014 season, Barty decided to take an indefinite break from tennis. She ended up playing cricket during this hiatus, signing with Brisbane Heat for the inaugural women's Big Bash League season, despite having no formal training in the sport. Some people are just born athletes. Fortunately for the tennis and sporting world, she decided to return to tennis and has not looked back since. Barty is obviously proud of her Indigenous heritage. She has Ngaragu ancestry through her father's side, according to Reuters, and serves as a National Indigenous Tennis Ambassador for Tennis Australia. She is clearly inspired by the achievements of the legendary Evonne Goolagong Cawley, who clinched her first Wimbledon victory in 1971, then again in 1980. Goolagong Cawley eventually ended up winning around seven grand slam titles.

In fact, Ash paid tribute to Evonne by wearing a dress inspired by her 1971 Wimbledon outfit. Barty said she reached out to Goolagong Cawley before Wimbledon to make sure it was okay to emulate her outfit. Barty is quoted as saying, 'For me to be able to wear an outfit inspired by Evonne's iconic scalloped dress is really amazing. Before we had put in the process of creating my version of her iconic dress, I wanted to make sure she was okay. I called her and asked her. She was really excited', Barty said, according to Reuters. 'I hope I can make you proud, Evonne', Barty said. Barty added that she hoped her version of Goolagong Cawley's outfit can do the same for the next generation of Indigenous youth coming forward. There is no doubt that she has done so. In fact, she has made us all proud.

The character of Ash Barty, the type of person that she is, is reflected in other aspects of her life other than tennis, in most things that she finds important at a personal level. She is an ambassador for the RSPCA and actively supports them in their efforts regarding the adoption of shelter dogs and ending puppy farms and the promotion of desexing pets. She loves animals and apparently owns a number of fluffy furballs - dogs. She is quoted as saying:

I love animals. Growing up with dogs and cats, animals have always been a part of my life (and treated as members of the family!). Seeing anyone mistreat animals is something I find very hard to bear. The RSPCA Queensland shelter isn't far from my home and when I first visited the shelter I knew I wanted to help.

I hope my involvement, whether helping raise awareness for key issues or giving my time, can contribute in some small way to the great work the RSPCA team do.

In 2020, she pledged to donate her entire prize money from the Brisbane International tournament in response to the devastating bushfires that ravaged the east coast. She says:

I've been sitting down and thinking with my team and my family ... trying to think of ways we can help.

We have come to the decision any of my prize money here in Brisbane will be donated to the Australian Red Cross to go towards the families and homes affected.

You only have to look at these examples, and others, to realise the character of Ash Barty. She is passionate and caring; and she is talented and genuine. She is an inspiration. She is a champion both on and off the court, and it is my pleasure to support this motion.

**Mr VALENTINE** (Hobart) - Mr President, I support this motion brought forward by the Minister for Sport and Recreation. It makes us proud, not only if they are Tasmanian but also if they are Australian. They are representing the country, and it makes us proud.

In my last speech, I omitted to recognise Eddie Ockenden and Josh Beltz. I acknowledge the significant contribution that Eddie, in particular, has made to Australian hockey over the years. He has done a fantastic job. He should be very proud of his contribution, along with his mate, Josh Beltz. Along with Richie Porte, they are not living in Tasmania at the moment, but we can be very proud of them.

Turning to Ash Barty, it is wonderful to see this woman and to read her profile. She has made Australia proud, when you look at how she got to where she is today. She is so well-grounded. She does not let success overtake her. She is so honest and open, including in her dealings with the media. As a nation, we should be really proud of her.

I read on the Tennis Australia website that Ash started playing tennis at the age of five. She won the Wimbledon Girls' Singles title in 2011 at age 15, beating Irina Khromacheva in the final. She made her World Tennis Association debut at the Brisbane International in 2012, securing a wildcard for her first Grand Slam event, the 2012 Australian Open. She won her maiden International Tennis Federation's Future Pro Tour title on home soil in Sydney in 2012, following up with wins in Mildura and Nottingham. She stepped away from tennis in late 2014 as somebody else has recognised. What to do? Pursue a cricket career, playing for the Brisbane Heat in the Women's Big Bash League.

She made a singles comeback in late May 2016 after a 21-month hiatus. She went 11-2 in her first two events on grass in Eastbourne and Nottingham. She came from qualifying to win her first WTA title in Kuala Lumpur in March 2017, and cracked the top 100 on 6 March 2017, at world number 92. She won her second WTA title at the Nottingham Open in June 2018, and won her first grand slam title with American CoCo Vandeweghe in the US Open Doubles in September 2018, won her first WTA Premier Mandatory title at the Miami Open in March 2019, a result that saw her crack the world's top 10.

She won her first Grand Slam singles title at the French Open in June 2019 as previously mentioned by somebody, reached a career-high singles ranking of world number one on 24 June 2019, becoming just the second Australian woman to reach number one after Evonne Goolagong Cawley in 1976.

The fact that they are both Indigenous people, Evonne must have been so inspiring to her. She received the Don Award in October 2019, after being recognised as the Australian sports star who most inspired the nation that year. She also topped the Australian Financial Review's list of the most culturally powerful Australians in 2019.

She ended the 2019 season as world number one, the first Australian female player in WTA rankings' history to top the season ending rankings. Her career goal was to achieve a top 10 ranking. Her favourite shot is the forehand and favourite surface is grass. The person she admires most is world number one Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley, as has been noted many times. She won the Ladies' Singles title at Wimbledon in 2021, becoming the first Australian to do so since Evonne Goolagong Cawley in 1980 and made her Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020 where she won a bronze medal in the mixed doubles competition with John Peers.

Hobbies include fishing, reading and playing computer games, and she loves her pets. What is not to love about Ash Barty? She is a down-to-earth person, humble, just goes out there and does the job. She does not always win. We saw that in the Olympics. She did not get the gold but she got the bronze and was very proud to have done that. We need to hold her in esteem because she has given us all reason to be proud of her tennis performance, cricket performance, individual performance. She can teach us a lot in the way we approach things in life and I congratulate her for her achievements in life.

[3.48 p.m.]

**Mr WILLIE** (Elwick) - Mr President, I too acknowledge Ash Barty and her tremendous win at Wimbledon. Other members have talked about the exemplary role model she is for all Australians, particularly younger Australians aspiring to international sports. It is so refreshing to see someone of Ash Barty's personal qualities in the limelight. We are not always that lucky as a nation. We have had some sportspeople who have grated in their public perception, especially in tennis. Some of the males have been quite polarising I would suggest in their popularity and their personality, I guess you would say, faults.

It is tough for some of those players. I do acknowledge that. They are growing up in the spotlight which is not easy. Not all of us have to grow up with a camera in our face or competing under high pressure situations so I do offer a bit of leniency there.

Ash Barty is in a league of her own in terms of her personality. You can see that in the terms that all Australians value her representing us.

This is similar to my comments on the previous motion, but I think it would be remiss not to mention Dylan Alcott in this motion. I have actually drafted some amendments. I am happy to hand them over to the Sport minister again. Dylan Alcott won Wimbledon in the quad wheelchair event, for the second time. He is also a 14-time grand slam champion and he is off to the Paralympics as well to represent Australia.

I had something drafted up to amend this motion but I can leave it to the Sport minister. I do not want this to be a political thing. I just want this House to recognise achievement across the board. So, it is up to you, I can either move it or -

**Ms HOWLETT** - I will certainly move a motion about Paralympics when it is finished, when it is over.

**Mr WILLIE** - Yes, I am talking about Dylan Alcott winning Wimbledon now, and we can insert that into this motion as well. Move it?

Mr President, I propose an amendment to the motion moved by the Minister for Sport and Recreation -

The first amendment in paragraph (1):

leave out all the words after "Barty".

Insert instead "and 14 Grand Slam quad wheelchair champion Dylan Alcott in winning the 2021 Wimbledon titles and representing Australia at the Tokyo Olympics and the Tokyo Paralympics."

Second amendment in paragraph (2):

Leave out "her" and insert instead "their"

Third amendment in paragraph (3):

Leave out all the words after "tribute to"

Insert instead 'them as magnificent ambassadors for Australian athletes on the world stage.'

I move that amendment with one quote from Dylan Alcott in a recent interview, and I think it sums it up perfectly. He said:

I love the Paralympics. I call the Olympics the warm-up event for the big show.

The 30-year-old said:

For two weeks of the year, people with disabilities around the world, it is the main show. It means everything to me.

I think that sentiment should be captured in this motion.

**Ms RATTRAY** (McIntyre) - Mr President, I might be the only person who stands here today, just in case. I support the amendment to the motion and thank the member for putting forward this amendment. I support the motion by the member for Prosser in her capacity as Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Interestingly, I watched Dylan Alcott in his television program on SBS where he interviews people. He actually interviewed people living with a disability, and only the day before with the member for Pembroke not here, we were members of the Disability Services in Tasmania sessional committee inquiry. It was just so real to listen to that interview, and being interviewed by Dylan Alcott, sharing their stories and being part of that committee just the day before. It seemed exactly the right time to listen to it. The way he interviews people, let alone what he does for sport and those people living with a disability, it is quite outstanding, absolutely amazing.

**Mr Willie** - Yes, through the Chair, I should have said he is of the same calibre as Ash Barty in his personality and how we all look up to him as a person.

**Ms RATTRAY** - Absolutely. Ash Barty is a wonderful ambassador, brilliant sportsperson, and again, we have another brilliant sportsperson. To have them joined in this motion is entirely appropriate, and again I thank both members for bringing the motion forward. I support it.

[3.55 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, speaking to the amendments, I note that I have already spoken, therefore I cannot contribute on Dylan Alcott. I am happy to support the member for Elwick's motion as

proposed. However, I reserve the right to speak about Dylan at a later stage, when the minister for Sport lodges her new motion.

**Amendments agreed to.**

[3.55 p.m.]

**Ms HOWLETT** (Prosser - Minister for Sport and Recreation) - I thank all members for their wonderful contributions to the motion. I note the member for Elwick's amendment, and I thank him for it. I plan to put forward a motion following the Paralympics, to include Dylan Alcott. Thank you for your amendment. I look forward to making a contribution about him in the coming weeks.

**Motion as amended agreed to.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

[3.57 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move

That the Council, at its rising, adjourns until 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday  
25 August 2021.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I remind members of our briefing on the Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Advance Care Directives) Bill 2021 (No.14) tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

**The Council adjourned at 3.57 p.m.**