

Tuesday 18 September 2018

The President, **Mr Wilkinson**, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Mouheneenner people and read Prayers.

QUESTION UPON NOTICE

The following answer was given to a question upon notice:

4. ARTHUR-PIEMAN CONSERVATION AREA - COMMERCIAL FILMING AGREEMENTS AND DRONES

Mr DEAN asked the Leader of Government Business in the Legislative Council -

- (1) How many commercial filming agreements have been -
 - (a) applied for; and
 - (b) approved by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment/Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service for operations in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area from 1 January 2013 to 21 May 2018?
- (2) How many applications to operate unmanned aerial vehicles/remotely piloted aircraft - drones - in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area have been -
 - (a) applied for; and
 - (b) approved by DPIPWE/Parks and Wildlife from 1 January 2013 to 21 May 2018?
- (3) How many commercial filming agreements have been -
 - (a) applied for; and
 - (b) approved by DPIPWE/Parks and Wildlife, for operations in FPPF land lots 5 and 14 from 25 September 2014 to 21 May 2018?
- (4) How many applications to operate unmanned aerial vehicles/remotely piloted aircraft - drones - in FPPF land lots 5 and 14 have been -
 - (a) applied for; and
 - (b) approved by DPIPWE/Parks and Wildlife from 25 September 2014 to 21 May 2018?

Mrs HISCUTT replied -

- (1) (a) 16.
(b) 16.
- (2) (a) 9.
(b) 9.

- (3) (a) 0.
(b) 0.

- (4) (a) 0.
(b) 0.

BUILDING LEGISLATION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 2018 (No. 27)

First Reading

Bill received from the House of Assembly and read the first time.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Setima Talo

Jack Magnota

University of the Third Age

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members, this week the Tasmanian Parliament is hosting a number of visitors from the Samoan Parliament. Members would be aware that the Parliament of Tasmania has a strong twinning relationship with the Parliament of Samoa. Setima Talo is with us in the Chamber this morning. Setima is the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. He is here to learn about our parliamentary security procedures this week. He has spent some time with the House of Assembly's Sergeant-at-Arms and will have some time today with the Usher of the Black Rod, Mr Stuart Wright. Setima's fellow colleagues will be joining us later today. We warmly welcome him to the Chamber and wish him well with his study this week.

We welcome Jack Magnota to the Chamber. Jack is a year 10 student at the Launceston Big Picture School who is undertaking work experience with the parliament. He has a keen interest in politics, how law is made and how parliament works. He will be here for the next three days and will be observing proceedings in both Houses, as well as observing committee processes, and meeting with the Leader's Office and other areas of the parliament. We hope Jack has a valuable learning experience and enjoys his time here, and we welcome him.

Last, but not least, I would like to welcome representatives from the University of the Third Age from Glenorchy. We welcome you here in the back of the Chamber. We hope you enjoy your time here. I know the member for Elwick was anxious I recognise you - which we always do - welcome.

Members - Hear, hear.

SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS

Women in Parliament

[11.10 a.m.]

Mr FINCH (Rosevears) - Mr President, I am sure the member for Windermere would remember a song many years ago by Harry Belafonte called *Man Smart, Woman Smarter*. The

main theme went something like, 'Since the world began, women have been smarter than man in every way ...'

I am not going into a discussion about brain equality. We know the cognitive abilities of the sexes are equal, but gender equality, or the lack of it, in Australian parliaments has become a hot issue. I am watching the debate with interest. During the 100th anniversary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I was fortunate to go to Westminster, where I made a speech on women as agents of change. I took part in a lengthy discussion program and some of my notes come from the speech I presented there.

In society, while remuneration is probably one of the biggest inequalities, there are numerous other problems. One of them was highlighted in federal parliament and it might be opportune to look at that first. There is little representation of women on the conservative side in the House of Representatives and there are a number of reasons for that. Others might have different adjectives they might like to contribute in their own mind. As we have seen overnight, with the speech in federal parliament, incidences of bullying and intimidation are hardly going to help recruitment. It will be interesting to see what resignations occur in the near future and how many women are actually diminished or leave parliament because of the circumstances. To focus on the Tasmanian Parliament, we can be proud both Houses are way ahead. We have had a few cases of bullying, but very few compared to what has been happening in federal parliament.

Looking at the representation of women in the wider community: Tasmania has women represented across all sectors of society. When I was a journalist with the ABC, it was newsworthy if a woman was appointed to a senior role in society. It is no longer newsworthy, it is *de rigueur* - it is what we do. Our state Governor at the moment is a woman; Sue Smith, the first female President of the Legislative Council. The list goes on. In the antechamber outside this room are photographs of women showing the roles and elevation they have been able to succeed to in the Parliament of Tasmania.

The present situation has not been the norm. Women did not enter parliament as members until 1948, the year Margaret McIntyre was elected to this House, despite the fact in those days almost all electors were male property owners. It was not very democratic.

It is worth noting a speech Margaret McIntyre made in Launceston in 1948 when she was elected. She said -

As the world has been run by men for so long, and they do not appear to have made a very good job of it, isn't it time we women tried to use more influence in national affairs? It is no use just sitting back and bemoaning the state of the world and thinking how helpless each of us is to alter it. Everyone can do some little thing to help, mothers and teachers especially.

That was a speech that this House recognised, and it was history in 1948. Unfortunately, Margaret only served for about a year before she died in a plane crash.

Mr Dean - Could you start again?

Mr FINCH - I will send you a copy of a video recording of the speech, member for Windermere. It took until 1953 before two women were elected to the House of Assembly. Prior

to that, Dame Enid Lyons was elected to federal parliament in 1943, which was a great breakthrough.

We elect women to all tiers of government as a matter of course now. A major factor that affected the role of women in Tasmania was greater access to education. Women now far outnumber men in University of Tasmania enrolments and have done so for more than a decade. This suggests that the next generation of community and business leaders could be dominated by women because they will be the majority in the highly trained sector of the population.

In a small community like Tasmania, the starting point for many political careers and community activism is local government. The expectation is that female involvement at this level is increasing. I might give a shout out to our mayor of the West Tamar, Christina Holmdahl, who has been doing a terrific job as mayor. I am not part of her re-election campaign, by the way - do not get me wrong.

It is my argument that voters are beginning to trust women candidates more than men, and I am talking about voters of both genders. That gives me hope for the future, but, as I said earlier, let us not be complacent - we must encourage more women into politics and elsewhere in the Tasmanian community where important decisions are made. We are doing well, and we can do even better.

Tamar Valley Writers Festival 2018

[11.17 a.m.]

Ms ARMITAGE (Launceston) - Mr President, the Tamar Valley Writers Festival is a festival based within the magnificent Tamar Valley in the member for Rosevears' electorate, but with contributors from all over. It was held this past weekend at the Aspect Tamar Valley Resort in Grindelwald. This biennial three-day event, previously known as the Festival of Golden Words, has gained a reputation for attracting high-profile writers and presenters from across Australia.

The event secured \$180 000-worth of funding from Events Tasmania to grow the festival up to 2022. The West Tamar Council also supported the festival with a \$20 000 grant. The festival is for readers, writers, friends, family and tourists wishing to participate in local activities and be part of the community event. Organised entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers led by the amazing Mary Machen, the Tamar Valley Writers Festival offered master classes, panel discussions and Q&As covering all genres of writing around the theme 'Tasmania on the global page'.

Over 60 nationally and internationally recognised authors featured in the festival line-up including *New York Times* bestselling author Amie Kaufman; Melbourne barrister and human rights advocate Julian Burnside AO QC; award-winning actor Glynn Nicholas; Launceston's own Logie award-winning scriptwriter and producer Vicki Madden; one of the world's best known parent educators, Steve Biddulph; and multiple ARIA award-winning singer-songwriter Monique Brumby.

The festival program was designed to attract people with a range of interests - everything from crime, sport, history, genealogy and romance, through to a session intriguingly entitled 'The Bard & the Bottle', and speed dating for book clubs to engage with avid readers. The festival's organising committee were particularly proud of its free schools program for students from middle school to year 12. The schools program was part of the festival's commitment to promote reading,

contributing to the literacy of local children and inspiring a passion for books. Over 500 students met authors and illustrators, discovered exciting new literacy voices and were able to have books autographed.

Special events during the festival included an official opening cocktail evening, which featured Longford lad and television personality Neil Kearney as MC, nationally acclaimed comedian and playwright Glynn Nicholas, and singer-songwriter Monique Brumby.

The festival program also included stories and stars at a sunset barbecue and a breakfast event with Launceston-born, ABC TV *Landline* presenter Pip Courtney, speaking about life and landscape.

This year a new initiative was introduced: *Spring into the Tamar* - I do not think literally, for the member for Rosevears. This is a marketing campaign developed and driven by five festivals working in collaboration to promote the Tamar Valley region as a travel hotspot. The marketing campaign, designed to bolster visitor numbers to Launceston and the Tamar Valley, received \$25 000 in funding through Events Tasmania under the auspices of Tourism Northern Tasmania.

September to November is regarded as shoulder season in Tasmania's tourism industry. Collectively, the five festivals anticipate tipping over the 20 000 attendance figure in 2018. The five festivals in calendar order are Junction Arts Festival, Tamar Valley Writers Festival, the Artentwine Sculpture Biennial, Blooming Tasmania Flower and Garden Festival, and the Farm Gate Festival, which will be held in late November.

In conclusion, Tasmania has a high rate of local publishing output with up to 100 new books released each year. The Tamar Valley Writers Festival provided a wonderful opportunity to feature some of these books and their authors. The festival is recognised as one of Australia's premier regional writers' festivals. It provides economic benefits to the region and places Tasmania - and particularly the Tamar Valley - on the radar for national and international visitors to our state.

I commend the work of the committee and wish them continued success with future festivals.

Big hART Projects - Wynyard

[11.22 a.m.]

Ms FORREST (Murchison) - Mr President, the mission of Big hART as stated on its website is -

'It's harder to hurt someone if you know their story.' Our work sheds light on invisible stories, bringing hidden injustice into the mainstream. These stories make it harder to hurt someone - on an individual, community and policy level. Our work demands best practice, and we strive for generational change.

The work of Big hART has been far-reaching. I wish to use this brief contribution to highlight a small snapshot of that work and the impact of Big hART and seek members' support for some upcoming events.

Big hART was set up 25 years ago on the north-west coast by 2018 Tasmanian Australian of the Year, Scott Rankin. It was established as an innovative experiment to find new ways of dealing with disadvantage and was motivated by the closure of the Burnie pulp and paper mill.

Big hART began working with the local community, creating high-quality art to transmit and share people's stories. This effective model began the journey that has seen the Big hART model taken to over 50 communities nationwide.

Big hART delivers a range of projects; however, all are focused on Tasmanian-based activities. Project O, as I have spoken about before, was successfully piloted into a federally designated family violence hotspot on the north-west coast of Tasmania, predominantly Wynyard, my home town. It was subsequently rolled out to Cooma, New South Wales, and then to Roebourne, Western Australia, and Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

The financial support provided by the Tasmanian Government for Project O in Wynyard is acknowledged and appreciated. This project backs young rural women to help prevent family violence and drive generational change using a primary prevention approach. It engages young women, increases their sense of agency and provides them with the skills to deliver events in their own communities and change attitudes and denormalise violence.

Success has been immediate, is evidence-based and has led to awards, such as the Human Rights Comments Organisation Award 2016. The 20+20 program has been developed as a legacy program to Project O and backs young rural people to succeed in transitioning employment in the employment marketplace. The 20+20 program is a preventative unemployment program, primarily delivered within the school curriculum, ensuring that young people stay at school while developing practical, technical and personal skills that encourage a passion for careers, not just jobs. In this way, 20+20 is a unique approach to driving generational change in communities where high unemployment is an issue.

This is so important in the area of high youth unemployment where I live and the very real challenge we need to address of intergenerational unemployment.

The Acoustic Life of Sheds is a science-specific musical work set in the sweeping landscape of north-west Tasmania. The project combines sound artists, communities and farming families in celebrating the culture and acoustics of their working sheds

It premiered at the Ten Days on the Island Festival in 2015 and was so well received the festival commissioned another five sheds for the 2017 festival. Big hART is currently negotiating collaborative sheds projects internationally. In 2017, the Acoustic Life of Sheds partnered with the Big hART 20+20 project. Working alongside community businesses, participants from 20+20 worked with artists staffing each location, managing audiences and collaborating on production, publicity and promotion of events.

All members who live in rural and regional areas know and appreciate sheds on farms are beautiful and take on lives of their own. The Acoustic Life of Sheds seeks to engage leading composers and musicians to repurpose these sheds as instruments or soundshells celebrating these spaces by bring together musicians to reimagine them for the audiences in the landscape.

Farmers are adaptors, inventors and innovators who respond to the challenges of nature, globalisation, markets, new technology and climate change, and these sheds are part of this. Big

hART seeks to locate four distinctly different sheds in a 40-kilometre rural area and work with farming families, composers, musicians and sound artists to explore the sheds, creating science-specific works based on the acoustics, history and current use. In doing so, they capture the spirit of past and present owners and symphonies of secrets for audiences to enjoy in the sheds.

Big hART has plans to expand the Acoustic Life of Sheds across the state in 2019, sharing the stories of 12 farming families in virtuosic music and art. This is very exciting news. The Acoustic Life of Sheds recently won the national 2018 APRA/AMCOS Art Music Award for the best regional event. Not only does this recognise a great event in Tasmania, it is being recognised on the national stage.

Big hART is asking businesses working in these rural communities to help Big hART and Ten Days on the Island expand this beautiful project by sponsoring a shed. This involves receiving exposure for their businesses in the lead-up to and during the Ten Days of the Island Festival in March 2019. I am happy to provide any members with further information about how they can engage with and support their local communities and businesses to see the success of the Acoustic Life of Sheds shared around the state.

Glenorchy University of the Third Age

[11.27 a.m.]

Mr WILLIE (Elwick) - Mr President, I welcome to the Chamber members of the Glenorchy University of the Third Age. It is a pleasure to host their visit to Parliament House. They have come from question time downstairs, so I am sure they are enjoying the ambience of the Legislative Council.

As we know, the more we use the cognitive functions of our brain, the healthier and happier we remain both mentally and physically. In Tasmania, our seniors are celebrated and recognised as making significant contributions to our communities. As individuals, as we age it is a challenge to ensure we maintain an active mind through learning and social inclusion. The U3A model is well placed to fulfill the educational and social needs of our ageing population. It is a unique model operating right across the world to encourage seniors to keep their minds and bodies active by sharing and learning specialised skills. U3A offers members several valuable experiences through a vast range of courses and mental and physical exercises, the chance to socialise and make new friends.

Seniors in the northern suburbs community are fortunate to have Glenorchy U3A encouraging positive ageing. Since its inception in 2007, Glenorchy U3A has offered teaching and learning over a wide range of subjects by enthusiastic volunteer teachers. Glenorchy U3A classes are diverse and have something for everyone, from intellectually demanding language classes to self-relaxation classes and music. Also popular are the tasters classes, featuring guest speakers from our community.

While class subjects vary, one thing remains firm: Glenorchy U3A is a place to find a friendly face and a good conversation. When visiting Glenorchy U3A, it is hard not to notice the welcoming atmosphere and the sense of camaraderie among its members. A successful organisation needs good governance and the committee at the Glenorchy U3A is dedicated to the needs and wellbeing of its members. Anneke, Glenorchy U3A's secretary, usually visits my office. I was assuming she was going to join us today, but she is notably missing. In her role with U3A she also fulfils a

teaching role. Anneke is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of Glenorchy U3A and its members. I have seen firsthand Anneke's dedication and determination, particularly in recent times, to speak up for Glenorchy U3A and to ensure its members are treated fairly and their needs are met.

While she is not here today, Jean Walker, U3A's president, must also be recognised. Some of the members present may recognise Jean in her former role as the president of the Australian Education Union. Jean knows about fairness and the rights and welfare of Tasmanians. Under Jean's presidency, Glenorchy U3A has recognised its position as one of influence. Its members support our community and help out where they can - for example, with the Glenorchy U3A award, a bursary scholarship to a year 10 student at Cosgrove High School, which Glenorchy U3A currently operates from.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Glenorchy U3A, with exciting opportunities for learning and valuable membership on the rise. I wish them many more years of service in our community. Again, I welcome U3A representatives to the Legislative Council and I thank U3A for providing a valuable service to the treasured seniors of our community.

Members - Hear, hear.

Tourism

[11.31 a.m.]

Mr VALENTINE (Hobart) - Mr President, my matter of personal interest this morning is on the well-ventilated subject of tourism and its management, for which our lord mayor has been getting into a little trouble of late in the press. Tourism is something that is also close to the heart of the member for Rosevears. I want to read an article published in the *Mercury* on 23 August 2018 by Dr Kevin Kiernan, a Tasmanian scientist with experience as an academic in the forest industry, environmental advocacy, parks planning and cave tourism. He has an interesting background. I do not necessarily agree with everything he has to say, but the article provides an interesting perspective for us to ponder. The article is titled 'Turning the double-edged sword of tourism', in Talking Point -

Whether tourism is good or bad is up to us, writes Kevin Kiernan.

An old axiom cautions that tourism is like fire, because while it can cook your food and keep you warm if managed properly, if poorly attended it can also burn down your house. Whether good or bad is delivered depends on the degree to which the natural, cultural and social values present are recognized; any risks to those values are properly understood; the decisions made concerning permissible activities and visitor numbers; and the professionalism and diligence brought to bear.

Obtaining informed consent from host communities, ensuring that local people benefit to a proportionate degree, and ensuring benefits are shared fairly among them are all important considerations when seeking to secure and retain a social licence for a tourism enterprise. Should a developer simply exercise sufficient political clout to ride roughshod over local feelings, attempts to obtain a social licence are unlikely to bear fruit.

The wisdom of regarding tourism as an economic panacea rather than seeking to build more self-reliant communities as a long-term economic strategy is very much open to question. Some will undoubtedly earn worthwhile profits or income from tourism, but such benefits are not evenly distributed.

The higher prices that tourists are prepared to pay for meals, accommodation and services lead to general price increases. These must then be paid by the host community as well, a large proportion of which is thus delivered an increasing financial burden by tourism rather than enhanced well-being. As increasingly expensive restaurants proliferate, other more modest cheap cafes feel compelled to upgrade to stay competitive. While the well-off among the host community may be able to bear the cost, many more cannot do so.

Workers drawn by employment opportunities must pay the prices demanded of them for accommodation. Hence, rents and property values rise for everybody, further disadvantaging uninvolved locals and displacing them from what was previously their home. Services essential to residents may be displaced as shops and other premises are taken over by enterprises catering to tourists. When a large proportion of the money generated is removed from the local economy such benefits as the host community might otherwise have theoretically enjoyed, are further reduced.

The people of Bali were never consulted when its Dutch colonisers began to promote the island as a holiday retreat. Tourists now consume 65 per cent of the island's water resources, marginalising local farmers who are also continually being displaced from their lands by increased property values around tourist nodes. About 1000ha of agricultural land has been lost annually over the last 20 years. In some cases, tourism is effectively another wave of colonialism with those who move in seeking profits progressively outnumbering those whose home they have invaded.

There is increasing resistance worldwide to the phenomenon that is being termed 'over-tourism'. In Venice, local residents have long been voicing their objections to the crowds of tourists that impede them as they seek to go about their everyday business; the tourist shops that are pushing out merchants who supply domestic necessities; and soaring rents that have priced all but the richest out of the housing market. Since 1966, the population of Venice has almost halved. The city that once ruled an empire now contains fewer citizens than the northern suburbs of Hobart. The people of Venice want their city back. In Barcelona some citizens have taken to posting signs that leave tourists in no doubt that they are unwelcome.

Notwithstanding tourism having played a major role in Iceland's recovery from its 2008 economic crisis, support for it is in pronounced decline. There is more intense environmental pressure; infrastructure is suffering; real estate speculation has run rife; an excessively economic focus has taken an increasingly severe cultural toll; and criminal behaviour such as evasion of taxes related to home sharing through such mechanisms as Airbnb has eaten into Iceland's social fabric.

The behaviour of many of the tourists who now flock to Bali demonstrates contemptuous disregard for the cultural sensitivities of many Balinese. Hints of a similar disregard are contained within the complaints of some advocates for the construction of a cable car on kunanyi/Mount Wellington -

It is getting a bit closer to home now -

When they decry the time taken for its approval to be obtained, on the basis that other places have been able to establish cable cars more quickly. Their complaints show no recognition of the possibility that the people of Hobart may value their mountain more highly than those who have allowed more rapid development elsewhere, or that others may simply have had development imposed upon them irrespective of their wishes.

The tourism culture that discounts those whose home it has moved into is also likely to in some respects discount the tourists themselves, treating them largely as a commodity. Setting prices according to the value of the product becomes overtaken by pricing that is more geared to what visitors are prepared to pay. Any perception of poor value for money or simply of being ripped off, further erodes the potential social benefits for both visitors and host community alike. Any fair comparison of the value for money currently being provided for tourists in some other places with the grasping of every available opportunity that is now so evident in Tasmania, would suggest that without some significant changes in attitude, the goose responsible for laying Tasmania's golden tourist eggs may be not long for the cookpot. Tourism is also especially exposed in the event of economic downturns. The global economic crisis of 2008-09 bit most severely in developed countries that were the principal source of tourists. Arrivals declined worldwide, the only exceptions being a handful of developing countries whose tourist source lay outside Europe and North America. Is it really wise for Tasmanians to run the risk of putting all their economic eggs into just one potential basket-case?

As climate change bites deeper, tourism will also be affected by changes in seasonal weather patterns and increasingly frequent and intense weather events. Disruptions and costs will arise in relation to maintenance and replacement of infrastructure or assets that were never designed to cope with the climate that they must begin to endure. Social tensions are likely to intensify should host communities be expected to pay for the installation and maintenance of infrastructure if its main function is to allow those entrepreneurs benefiting from mass tourism to maximise the profits they take away to their shareholders.

If Tasmania is not to ultimately suffer a similar fate to the Balis, Venices and Barcelonas, then at the very least it must adopt a model of connoisseur rather than conveyer-belt tourism.

I think members would have to agree that is an interesting perspective. Whether he is right or is wrong in some of those aspects is something for us to ponder, Mr President.

Mr Dean - That's a relief - I thought it was about the Melbourne Football Club.

Mr VALENTINE - No, that will come next week.

Parkham Community

[11.40 a.m.]

Ms RATTRAY (McIntyre) - Mr President, a few places in the electorate of McIntyre would appreciate some of those tourists going around other places, but not too many. After the redistribution of 2017 for the Legislative Council, I am now the member for McIntyre and I am getting to know new communities. Heading from Launceston on Sunday, I turned right after the Elizabeth Town Café and found Parkham. I had been to Parkham once before on a social visit, not at an event.

The Back to Parkham day featured the official opening of the amenities block at the Parkham Hall by Guy Barnett. The Government had made a generous donation of \$50 000 to Parkham Community Inc.

Mrs Hiscutt - I saw your Facebook post.

Ms RATTRAY - They were very appreciative that a small rural community received a grant. When I googled Parkham before I came to the lectern, it said 'near Launceston'. I would like to walk it -

Ms Forrest - It depends where you are starting from.

Ms RATTRAY - It said near Launceston. I wanted to share a little from their community newsletter about the Parkham Community Hall and the church they recently purchased.

The Parkham community built the church and hall over 100 years ago, on land donated by the community - this is not unique and often happens around Tasmania - with donated wood, and paid for entirely by donations, community fundraising and growing potatoes. It is a rural community and they are still growing potatoes in the fertile area where the soils are a rich red colour.

The Parkham community has also good governance arrangements in place and they have a committee; its president is Kaylene Aylett and its vice president is Greig Morice. I know Greig and his wife Debbie; they were part of the north-east community for many years and then moved back to Parkham where they have been now for 16 years.

Second vice president is Nathan Aylett; the secretary is David Lewis; the treasurer is Deb Morice; and the members are Tane Bennett, Troy Ainslie, Paul Walker, Ron Aylett and Hannah Grace. I had the pleasure of meeting the grants and public officer, Sharman Lewis, who is currently working on a grant application to the Tasmanian Community Fund. The auditor is Troy Atkins.

The community recently purchased the hall and the church due to the Anglican Church selling off some of its assets, as we know, member for Prosser. The community raised the money from donations to purchase the church which sits right beside the community hall. There is no cemetery attached in this case. The community was able to secure the building but both are in need of some external repair work. The inside of both the church and the hall are fantastic with beautiful unpainted timber as good as that on the inside of this Chamber. They had the church open on

Sunday for everyone to go in, and everything there, including the beautiful sandstone font, is absolutely magic.

A lady was playing the organ in the church. The afternoon tea - you might think I had most of it, but I did not - was exceptional.

Here we have a strong community working together to put in applications, doing the hard yards and organising events. I will give them a plug: on 22 September there is a country music festival at the hall, starting at around 1.00 p.m. They have organised a large raffle with a ride-on lawnmower as the first prize. They will have a Christmas event as well.

I was thrilled to be able to join in the community celebrations, particularly the opening of the amenities block, which is obviously integral to any community facilities. I particularly want to thank Deb and Greig Morice for making sure that I was aware this event was held on Sunday because that is how I am going to learn what is happening in a lot of the new parts of the McIntyre electorate. I thank them and I especially congratulate the Parkham Community Inc. group, which is doing a great job. It is a wonderful community and I am proud to be their elected representative.

TERRORISM (RESTRICTIONS ON BAIL AND PAROLE) BILL 2018 (No. 20)

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL 2018 (No. 12)

Third Reading

Bills read the third time.

MOTION

Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize

[11.48 a.m.]

Mr DEAN (Windermere) - Mr President, I move -

That this House once again confirms its support for the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize aimed at ensuring our future generations recognise the importance and sacrifice of our service at Gallipoli and the Western Front during World War 1.

I bring this very important matter back to this Chamber first to reinforce the significance of the activity and second, to thank this Government for its support in accepting my application to be a part of this memorable occasion. I lost count of the times I made a similar application to the previous government for the experience, but obviously persistence pays off.

Ms Rattray - It was your turn, honourable member.

Mr DEAN - Either persistence pays off or a change of government assisted me.

I thank the Government for giving me the opportunity to experience a trip of a lifetime as a recipient of the 2018 Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize, and for giving another six students a similar lasting experience. It was extremely emotional and provided all of us with a better

understanding of the events of and circumstances around World War I. We learned about some of what our Diggers had to put up with.

I am a returned serviceman, having seen active service in the Indonesian Confrontation and also similar service as a peacemaker with the United Nations in Cyprus. As well as having known Frank MacDonald, visiting him at Ulverstone with my father-in-law and Frank's brother a number of times, I always had a burning desire to visit the Western Front and would have done it privately had this opportunity not come up.

In August 2013, I made a speech to this House on the significance of this event - the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize - and what it means to this state and country. We are the great country that we are because of the events of World War I, World War II and the other wars that, sadly, we have been involved in.

World War I was the setting of why we are the great place and great country we are. The loss in World War I to Australia alone was immense. This loss of life, the tragedy of this war, becomes stark when you visit the Western Front. Two hundred and ninety-five thousand Australians served on the Front and over 60 000 of those soldiers did not return home.

Mr Valentine - It is a lot of lives.

Mr DEAN - It is. I am not sure if I can cover it here, but about 5000 Australian lives were lost in one short battle over a matter of two to three hours. That puts it into perspective when you start looking at it.

Ms Forrest - There is more Australian blood in that area than there is anywhere else in the world.

Mr DEAN - It was an incredible situation.

Many soldiers who did return, sadly, did not live to old age and suffered, in many instances, agonising existences because of those experiences. That should never be forgotten. We remember those who gave their lives; we should also remember those who came back and suffered immensely as a result of what they had experienced. They were damaged.

The member for Rosevears has been selected for this prize next year. Well done! You will gain much from it. You will really enjoy it and the students you will be involved with will gain a great deal from it.

Mr President, I briefly want to touch on the preparation of the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize. It was quite intense and full-on with meetings and briefings to attend, and with visits to Anglesea Barracks, Soldier's Walk on The Domain in Hobart and at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. That was an experience our six students were able to gain. In my view, it would be great if all students had the opportunity to be a part of this prize. That cannot happen, obviously, but it would be a great experience for them. The students who went are talking to the other students at their schools and have already given a number of lectures and briefings in relation to their visit, which is great.

Preparation was professionally attended to. I take this opportunity to commend Judy Travers, of the Department of Education, for her professional and caring approach and knowledge in

ensuring the team was well prepared for this historic event. While Judy told us what to expect, I think the emotions felt by the team during the Western Front visit surpassed that which we were prepared for. It catches up with you to be there, to relive it and to understand it - it is amazing. The member for Rosevears will very well appreciate what I am saying when he is there next year. He will also get to know Judy Travers well and understand much of her experience and what she has done.

Mr Valentine - Do each of the students have a connection through a relative?

Mr DEAN - They do, and I will touch on that in a moment. They do a pilgrimage. They do many presentations here and on the Soldier's Walk, Queen's Domain. We had to select a soldier who was remembered on the Soldier's Walk and the students had to do a study on that soldier and present it while we were on the Soldier's Walk. It was extremely interesting.

This visit was possibly more memorable than those of other years because this year is the Centenary of the Armistice, the end of hostilities of World War I. We visited the area and viewed the replica carriage in which the signing of the Armistice occurred. Some members here would know the original carriage was deliberately set alight and destroyed by the Germans. It has been rebuilt and replicated. Most of us bought a replica small carriage and brought it back with us as a souvenir.

Mr President, I would like to mention the students who accompanied us on this trip this year. They are Francis Munro, Taroona High School; Macy Charles, Taroona High School; Jordan Moss, St Patrick's College; Molly Woolcock, Launceston Church Grammar - some here would know Bill Woolcock, Molly is his granddaughter; Nicole Patrick, Launceston Church Grammar; and Joshua Brennan, Rose Bay High School. The adults are Sam Davis, our tour leader; Melanie Murphy, a teacher from Burnie High School; John Bennett, from Kingston High School; James Austin, RSL representative; and myself.

I also take this opportunity not only to acknowledge all tour members for their commitment to this event and their good friendship, but I specifically want to acknowledge the great work of our team leader, Samantha Davis from the Department of Premier and Cabinet - DPAC. She is an absolutely phenomenal person and a great leader, an inspiration to all and someone who demonstrated the attributes of a seasoned and strong leader. Sam took on Emirates and won. We had quite a heated debate when we were leaving Paris. They had overbooked the aircraft and it was a matter of moving a lot of us into business class. They wanted to leave one or two of the students in economy class. Sam said she would not stand for that. She took them on at great length for some time; that is leadership. Her seating had been moved to business class. Sam said 'I won't go there unless all of my students follow me.' She won and they upgraded us all and it was great.

Ms Rattray - Did you hold the flight up?

Mr DEAN - No.

Sadly, this was Sam's last trip. She will be replaced by another person from DPAC who will be going in 2019.

Mr Finch - Kristy Broomhall.

Mr DEAN - Yes. A lovely person, but she has a lot to learn and big boots to fill. No doubt she will do that. Sam was an inspiration to us all. Sam's partner Joel was also with us as well as my wife, Anne, who attended at full cost to us. I want to make that clear. It was full cost to Sam and Joel as well. We met Dr John Greenacre, our tour guide, and Claude, our coach driver, at Brussels Airport. Dr John was an exceptional guide. Possibly what made him so good was the fact that he served in the British regular army for a long period - his knowledge of World War I was backed up by his own practical military experience and he had done an honours degree on World War II. His experience and background was absolutely incredible. The member for Rosevears will experience this during the 2019 tour.

We flew into Brussels. It was a two-hour coach ride to Ypres, which was known as 'wipers' to our Diggers in World War I. Ypres is a beautiful old city, with cobblestone streets and squares, quaint properties and old buildings. It is the home of the Menin Gate.

Day 2 was a coach ride to Bayenwald where we were able to reconstruct living conditions on the front line and reconstruct the German trenches. It was an eerie feeling to walk in those trenches. The area was flat and the ground between the Germans and the coalition forces was open and had no cover. Having experienced some of these issues - nothing like this - it was not an ideal fighting position.

The members for Montgomery and Murchison have done this trip and I am not sure who else has.

Mr Finch - The member for Derwent.

Ms Rattray - The member for Montgomery.

Mr DEAN - I mentioned the member for Montgomery. It was great for the students, who were full of questions. They were year 9 and 10 students at the time and they continually asked questions and you could see the emotion they were confronting at the same time. They wanted to learn and cram as much information in as they possibly could.

I am not going to cover everything, but on this day we also visited the all-Australian Toronto Avenue Cemetery. Extremely sad, as many graves have the 'Unknown Soldier, Known only to God' epitaph. Many soldiers in the World War II are known only to God as shown in the Australian cemetery in New Guinea.

I did my pilgrimage at Lindenhoeek Chalet Military Cemetery; my soldier was Private Matthew Venn. All members had to do a pilgrimage and provide a five-minute discussion on their selected soldier who served and died on the Western Front.

A number of my relatives fought and are buried there, but I was asked by the Venn family if I could look at one of their family.

Private Matthew Venn came from the Pipers River area in my electorate. There is a river named in the Pipers River area after him. The family and I left crosses at his gravesite.

We visited the famous Menin Gate, where we watched the nightly ceremony of laying wreaths and listened to the playing of the Last Post. Most people here would be very conversant with some of these names. Our focus was the Battle of Fromelles, Australia's first significant action in France

where 5500 men of the 5th Division of the Australian Imperial Force became casualties in a very short period of time.

Visiting Cobbers memorial was a surreal experience. I had read and seen photos of the Digger carrying a wounded soldier across his shoulders, but here on this battlefield with these students touching and photographing this statue, we were teary-eyed and emotional.

The next day saw us studying the Battle for Messines Ridge, which ended on 6 November 1917 at Passchendaele - all significant names which the member for Rosevears will be looking at closely when he visits some of these places.

The well-known Australian battlefield Polygon Wood again involved the 5th Division. These parades first commenced in November 1919 and have continued every night, and on one night we participated in the ceremony at the Menin Gate. Our team looked great in their suits, and their Akubras stood out. Many people wanted to take our Akubras and approached us to write to the Premier to tell them they needed to wear Akubras because of the stand-out message. It was quite unbelievable.

Mr Finch - So they were given to all in the party?

Mr DEAN - Yes, everybody had an Akubra and there is a special uniform you have to wear. The importance of it and how it stands out is remarkable. I think as many Australians were there at this time as there were here. Australians were all over the place because of the centenary year and wanting to be a part of Villers-Bretonneux on Anzac Day. The numbers were incredible.

The parade master approached me and asked if I would recite the Ode of Remembrance. I was taken aback. I wondered why he would approach me. I do not think he would have known who I was or where I came from. I certainly have a number of medals, which I was wearing. They identified very clearly that I was a returned serviceman and veteran. That might have been the reason but he would have known we were Tasmanians so maybe that was another reason I was expected to do the Ode.

To recite the Ode at Menin Gate among the battlefields of World War I and in front of several thousand people was, to use the students' word, 'awesome'. They were laying wreaths as did I and the RSL member. To see the students walking forward and laying their wreaths was an amazing sight - just 'awesome'.

The students were all at the forefront of this. The activities and the participation rate were of a high standard. We were there for 14 days and not a barney the whole time - everyone got on so well and supported one another at a couple of difficult times. There was absolute total support; it was an incredible situation.

On Saturday, 21 April we walked in the footsteps of Frank MacDonald MM and the all-Tasmanian 40th Battalion to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war grave in the world. Here our tour leader Sam told a story of Frank MacDonald. Throughout the following days our students and teachers all spoke of servicemen who had paid the supreme price on the Western Front. Following a luncheon and celebratory drinks - it was someone's birthday - we visited the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres. It was a great experience and added significantly to the events of World War 1. There are some beautiful museums there. Once again, to see what our students

were getting from these museums to bring back to Tasmania to talk to their peers and others about is just great.

We then moved on to Amiens in France. That was a four-hour drive. We visited a number of cemeteries on the way. Most of them are pristine, with white headstones set out all very straight and symmetrical. It was unbelievable - 42 000 French soldiers are buried at Notre Dame de Lorette Cemetery alone and 44 833 German soldiers are buried at Neuville-Saint-Vaast Cemetery. This gives you some perspective of the great losses of life during this war. It was absolutely amazing.

A visit to the tunnels in the city of Arras was interesting. We walked through the tunnels, which date back to Roman times. There was more digging done by the British Army during World War 1. They moved into those tunnels for safety and to do business in those tunnels. To be able to walk through those tunnels is just incredible.

On 23 April we studied the significant Battle of the Somme. We hear a lot about that. It began on 1 July 1916. This day was the most costly day in the history of the British Army. It suffered 60 000 casualties, with 20 000 killed in one day.

We visited Bullecourt - it is pronounced two or three different ways so it depends who is saying the word. This was a village destroyed by the fighting. I was interested in this town because my son lives in Bullecourt Street in Newcastle. I wondered why the streets around that area in Newcastle all have World War I names from France and from Belgium. It is interesting to go through the city. I sent him back quite a lot of information in relation to it.

Mr Finch - Is there any other link as to why those streets in Newcastle would be named after those World War I locations?

Mr DEAN - That is the airfield in Newcastle - what is the name of it? I should know it. My son is there now as a chief engineer and responsible for the new F-35 joint fight strikers. It is an air force area where these street names are. They lease all the properties in this area; it is a military-occupied area and that would be the reason for it.

That day was also a special day because I visited the gravesite of Sergeant John White in Queant Road Cemetery. His family members are here. You would know, member for Rosevears, as some other members would know, he was a relative of Lou Clarke. His family, when they realised I was going there, asked if I would visit his gravesite and if I could leave some things behind on their behalf. Sergeant White is interesting. He was missing for 77 years until his remains were ploughed up in a field, which is common and still happens - and his dog tags were still attached to the remaining body parts, which is how he was identified. He was buried 77 years later at this site and Lou's mother was there as a part of that ceremony. She had been taken across there by the military. It was a great thing.

Our visit to Pozieres on 24 April was interesting. We all went on a shrapnel find. There is still shrapnel all over the place in the ploughed fields where produce was growing. Our guide, Dr Greenacre, was the first to show us what we were looking for. It was just all around you and I brought some back. I intend to get it mounted and will be donating it to the George Town RSL Sub Branch; they are looking forward to getting it.

One of our members, schoolteacher Melanie Murphy, even found live ammunition. She was extremely disappointed that of course she could not bring it back, as we all were, but there are

obvious reasons why you cannot bring live ammunition back on an aircraft. That is what you find - 100 years on, it is still there. The member for Rosevears will have the opportunity to do something similar. Over there, several people each year, farmers in the main, are killed by ploughing up and running into undetonated bombs, shells and whatever.

I will touch on Anzac Day; it was a special day. The day commenced at 1 o'clock in the morning for us with a coach ride to the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. Negotiating security was tough: it was tougher than airport security. You were given the third degree to get through and then, of course, the walk to the Dawn Service point past thousands of graves.

Anne and I sat at the front with the other dignitaries, so we had a good view of activities a short distance from the speakers and so on. It was bitterly cold and keeping warm was nigh impossible. I laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Tasmania as the Tasmanian parliamentary representative. It was an incredible atmosphere and there was an aura about it that I had not previously experienced in my life. It was just an amazing feeling to be there and be a part of it. There was an attendance of 8000 people at that ceremony, the largest ever, and obviously because it was the centenary of the signing of the Armistice.

Within about 10 minutes of the end of that ceremony, the rain bucketed down. It spared us, but there was some control lost by the parade master, telling people to sit down and listen to the rest of the parade. It was toward the very end of it.

It was a memorable occasion and will be a lifetime-lasting memory for our team, particularly the students, who also laid a wreath, as did our RSL member.

We met Malcolm Turnbull, our prime minister at the time, and the students were delighted with that, taking selfies with him. They got a lot of enjoyment out of it. He spoke to them and knew that we were probably from Australia -

Ms Rattray - The hat would have given it away.

Mr DEAN - It did. When we told him we were from Tasmania, he welcomed us and talked among our group, which was great.

The next day was also a memorable day, when we returned and visited the new Sir John Monash Centre, which had only been opened the day before. That is a brilliant site and building, built at a cost of €56 million, which at the time was equivalent to about \$125 million, a big cost.

Mr Valentine - It is not a small amount.

Ms Forrest - It was paid for by Australia, not Europe.

Mr DEAN - That is what I said. It was a great commitment and building. It is a brilliant museum and a centre of excellence in the way it tells the story of World War I and Australia's involvement. It was an eerie feeling. To then sit at the end of this in a large enclosed room and experience the war going on around you - that is part of the museum - to experience explosions, gunshots, screaming people and smoke demonstrated with some realism the conditions our Diggers, the coalition forces and the enemy had to fight and live in.

The students raised some issues, including that that we should never forget the enemy, Germans. They were there because their country required them to be there, not because they wanted to be there. They went through some tragedies and tragic experiences as well. Their main cemetery is not as pristine as ours, the Commonwealth coalition graves, sadly, but there is one cemetery devoted to the German losses. They are just a cross and marked accordingly, but not in the same upkeep as our own coalition cemetery is.

We also visited the grave of the Unknown Soldier. Some of you here would know about that. It is a grave that a family can attend if their loved ones were lost in that World War I and were never recovered or located. They can go to this grave of the Unknown Soldier and believe that the person there is their loved one. That is the significance of it. They can be there and consider their loved one to be there and can do what they want to do to feel more comfort and pass on their respects to their loved one. That is what it is about and it has a great effect.

The sacrifices made and the heroics and tragedies of our Diggers are the reasons we can never forget them. That is why Anzac Day can never cease and why the RSL must continue to be supported by our governments - and they are very strong reasons for the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize to continue in the long term.

The grade 9 students have to enter an essay competition in relation to World War I, and selections are made from that process by a special team. Schools make selections and they are then selected by a team put together by the parliament or the government. That is how selection is done.

This was a lifetime experience for our students, and how they changed in a short time with their eagerness to cram in as much knowledge of this enormous tragedy of World War I was plainly evident. The team was a magnificent group, well prepared by Judy and Sam with other assistance.

I speak on their behalf in thanking all involved, including the Education department, the Tasmanian Government, the parliament and parents for giving us the opportunity to participate in this amazing adventure to the Western Front.

This whole experience was a legacy of former Tasmanian premier, the late Mr Jim Bacon. In 2003 after the death of Frank MacDonald, Tasmania's last World War I veteran, Jim Bacon and the then-Tasmanian RSL president Ian Kennett discussed creating an essay competition for year 9 students, giving prize winners the opportunity to visit significant World War I landmarks and battlefields. This was designed to ensure the commemoration of Frank MacDonald and all his comrades. The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize is now an initiative of the Tasmanian Government which is supported by the RSL Tasmania.

Dr John Greenacre recommended us to read *Storm of Steel* by a German soldier Ernst Junger, which tells exactly what it was like in the trenches and fighting for a German soldier who was wounded a number of times.

Mr Valentine - Twenty-five nurses died in active service during World War I.

Mr DEAN - On the Western Front?

Mr Valentine - I do not know if it was the Western Front, but during the course of war on active service.

Mr DEAN - They died in active service. Thankfully, it was only a small number, but it should not have been any.

Mr Finch - A book is about to be published in Launceston about women who trained at the Launceston General Hospital and served in World War I.

Mr DEAN - Guy Barnett and I entertained our six students and other members of this year's Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize at a dinner in Parliament House. To hear the students again talking about their memories, what they took from it and the fact they were being poached for lectures or presentations was great. This was a great initiative of Guy Barnett, who asked me to participate and go halves with him in this.

Mr Valentine - They were very enthusiastic students.

Mr DEAN - It is a great prize and something we should never let go and keep going forever. Lest we forget.

[12.24 p.m.]

Mr FINCH (Rosevears) - Mr President, I thank the member for Windermere for putting this on the Notice Paper and discussing his experience. It has heightened my joy at being honoured with the opportunity to go on this trip. As to your comment about the previous government not sending you there, as a returned man you have been able to savor the experience of being with the young people it is focused on. I am looking forward to the trip because as the member for Rosevears, I am involved quite strongly with the Exeter RSL. We have two strong RSLs - the other is the Beaconsfield RSL. Exeter called on my services, maybe 15 years ago or more, to help them with their presentation on Anzac Day. I have been doing that ever since. This year I will be doing Remembrance Day on 11 November. I am looking forward to that very much. We try to encapsulate the spirit of the intention of the RSL and of those in our community who want to remember the people who served Tasmania and Australia. I always enjoy the opportunity to try to create that environment and that atmosphere.

Throughout my life we have had an involvement with the armed services. My dad was a returned serviceman; he came back damaged from World War II. He was a 12-year navy sailor. Also national service and cadets were alive and well when I was young. I went through cadets; my older brothers did national service. When the Vietnam War came about, because of the propaganda and the way we were taught then to think about the defence of Australia and defence against communism, I was quite prepared to put myself forward if my number came up. The younger ones here would not remember that it was all a ballot of numbers that came out in a lottery. If your number came up, you went away to do national service, which generally led to service in Vietnam.

I missed that ballot and because of my deafness in one ear I would not have been taken on anyway. I have an older brother, Peter, who went to Vietnam. He served there as a sergeant and came back as a warrant officer; he developed a career in the army. He retired as a major some years ago. He, too, is damaged. Through my heritage I have an intrinsic link to the sacrifice that people make on behalf of their country. I am looking forward to saluting that when I make the journey. Also it is an opportunity to work with young people, to guide them, help them, probably inspire them, and mentor them.

Every year at the Exeter RSL, I go to the Exeter High School and do a program on Anzac Day. I also do a public speaking training course with the outstanding leadership group at Exeter High

School. Every year they amaze me with how proficient and attentive they are, and how keen to understand our conflicts and be presenters at the Exeter RSL. On Remembrance Day for the first time we will have a couple of young speakers from Exeter High School. The principal is very keen to have them represent. He knew of two students who really jumped at the opportunity to be speakers. I will be encouraging that school, if they have not before, to submit the names of their students. I am sure that if they managed to snag the prize, they would be terrific representatives from our community.

I thank the Government for allowing me to be the Tasmanian parliamentary representative on this tour. I am looking forward to it very much.

Mr Dean - It is a great honour.

Mr FINCH - Yes.

[12.29 p.m.]

Ms FORREST (Murchison) - Mr President, as a recipient of the trip in 2013, I concur with the member for Windermere when he said that it is a wonderful opportunity and experience. I note the Government's ongoing support. It was an initiative of the late Jim Bacon. It was a great thing to establish and it is good to see subsequent governments continue to fund it.

It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these young people. They are a terrific group of students who are selected through a very rigorous process, which is important so we are getting some very smart and engaged young people on these trips, as I am sure those other honourable members who have been on it would vouch for.

It is always important when we talk about this program, as it is a year-long program for the students and honourable members who engage with it, that we avoid the glorification of war in any way. We all know the tragedies of war. When you go on this trip, particularly to the Western Front, you see the land on which it was fought, which was quite small sections of basically flat land; a hill, for any side to gain ground on, was only a matter of what we call a bit of a rise - it would not even be a hill. They would fight for days and make a hundred metres of progress. The bloodshed that went with that was just extraordinary and very sad.

I reflect on the trip I was on, acknowledging the important work that continues to make these trips and the programs happen. It is a learning experience for all, and it takes a really combined effort to achieve that. The member for Windermere mentioned Judy Travers, who has put an enormous amount of effort in. She has retired from this role, so I do not know that she will be as involved in the program next year that the member for Rosevears will take part in. Judy has put an enormous amount of effort in. There was an event organised at the Lindisfarne early learning centre earlier in April this year -

Mr PRESIDENT - And last year.

Ms FORREST - Yes, but this year they did one to recognise the work of Judy. She did not know what was happening and she was given an award that night for her work. Also, John Greenacre and his family were out for an extended visit to Australia and spent quite a bit of time in Tasmania as well, and many of us spent some time with them while they were here.

Aside from the work Judy and her team did, there are the teachers who travel with the students. They take on an enormous responsibility. You are going to areas around the world where there are certain security issues, particularly with the gathering of large crowds on Anzac Day - it is always a challenge. The teachers have an enormous role and responsibility but they are fabulous, and there are different teachers each year. They have all been great people on the trips. DPAC staff were mentioned. DPAC has a rolling program where one staff member is the lead and the other person is the assistant, if you like, or the leader-in-training, and the next year that person is the leader and you have another one coming in. They have all done a fantastic job and they have all had to have their own battles. On one trip, one of my constituent's daughters was on the trip and she became so sick, she had to be hospitalised in France. DPAC staff have a responsibility for that as well, so they all have to do their bit.

There is also an RSL representative who attends the trips and it is a great experience for them as well. I remember one member who came from Scottsdale, Bruce Scott. I do not know how old he was, but he raced some of the kids up the escalators in the London underground and I thought, 'Oh no, he is going to have a heart attack at the top of this', but he beat some of the kids and they were fit kids. He got to the top and I said, 'Don't do that again please, Bruce, we don't need to do resuscitation.'

Ms Rattray - And he took no notice.

Ms FORREST - No, he took no notice and did it again. He was great and really enjoyed the trip; he participated and got on well with the students as well.

Ms Rattray - Michael Willis went on one of them as well. He lives at Scottsdale.

Ms FORREST - A student?

Ms Rattray - Yes, a student I know of, but I am not sure whose trip he went on, which year.

Ms FORREST - It was not the year I went. There has been one every year.

The research done by the students, the parliamentarian, the RSL representative and DPAC staff is really valuable. It builds this body of evidence and knowledge around these soldiers. Many of them were privates who did not get medals, did not lead great battles or anything like that, but they were significant Australians to their own families and to our country. The work done in researching these people adds to that body of knowledge.

I had three relatives and my partner Rob had a great-uncle who all fought in World War I. Three of them died - one came home, my grandfather, otherwise I would not be here. He had a family after he had come home. The bodies of two of them have never been found. It is one of those things. One of them died near the Western Front and was buried at Ypres, and so it was nice that they could go to his grave and contemplate what his life may have been like - impossible to understand, but you can only contemplate how dreadful it must have been.

There was one student in the group I went with who was the very first of his family to visit the Western Front and to visit his great-grandfather, who was buried in a tiny cemetery in the middle of a paddock, as many of them are. He gave a very emotional presentation, reading a letter from his family to his great-grandfather. He was the first of any of the relatives to ever visit. He was a young man from Penguin.

They were very emotional stories but what the students did was amazing in getting to know the soldier they were following. One of them followed a nurse in our group, which was unusual - she was a nurse killed in action on the Western Front. She was right at the Front and she was killed. You take the Digger bear. I am sure other members have had the Digger bear in their group. The little teddy bear that is the Digger bear. We had Nelly the nurse that went on our trip with us. Digger and Nelly spent the whole trip together and one person was always responsible for one of them. You always had photos with Digger and Nelly wherever you were.

It is a shared experience. When I went to the event that John Greenacre attended with his family early this year, even though you do not know all the students, the teachers and the DPAC staff, there is a shared experience. You say, 'What about when we went to Menin Gate ..., when we went to Villers-Bretonneux ..., when we went to Hamel ...', and everyone understands that shared experience.

Not every group goes to exactly the same cemeteries because obviously you go to the cemeteries where the soldiers you have researched are buried; they are slightly different, but you are all in the same area.

Such was the value of the trip I went on that I wanted to go back, particularly during the centenary of when one of my relatives and one of Rob's relatives were killed, which was in 2017, so we made a trip back to the Western Front. We engaged John Greenacre again to accompany us so we could undertake a much more in-depth look at the lives and deaths of our family members. John's such deep knowledge of World War I and the battlegrounds meant that he could take us to the Battle of Pozieres, where our two relatives died, and whose bodies were never found. Their names appear on the wall at Villers-Bretonneux. He could take us to the field and, because we had the dates of their deaths and that sort of thing, tell us that my great-uncle died in the first unsuccessful advance, and that five days later Rob's great-uncle died in the second successful advance.

Even though they both died, the success was there in taking that ground, but the ground itself was just like a small paddock. It was flat as flat and somewhere in that paddock, their bodies are. It is hard to really contemplate. You see the farmers there ploughing their fields and occasionally they find shrapnel and unexploded bombs, or bones, and everything has to stop when that happens until they are recovered.

It is a huge emotional connection. For those who have not been, I really encourage you to take the opportunities that may present, either privately or as a part of this trip. You can do it privately and I certainly encourage you to engage a guide, particularly someone like Dr John Greenacre with his such great depth of knowledge.

I recognise the value of the program - the trip is part of it, but the whole program, which involves, as the member for Windermere mentioned, a visit to the Australian War Memorial, the Soldier's Walk on The Domain and regular meetings. The kids and members give up a Saturday once a month to attend a day where the schools are taught about aspects of World War I. There is the planning for the trip, security measures, getting measured up for your hat and your uniform, and all those important things. It is a very professional-looking group. The Tasmanian group always look really smart and the Akubras certainly add to that.

Mr Finch - I want to look well dressed.

Ms FORREST - That is right. The group is a credit to the state because of that. The students behave in such a way to give full credit to themselves, their families, their schools and the state. It included a service of the lighting of the Eternal Flame at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. I am not sure if all groups have done this. The security is phenomenal around some of these things, as you can imagine.

I appreciate the opportunity to have been on the trip. The member for Rosevears will have a fantastic time during the year, as he engages with the students, teachers and others involved. I hope both the current and future governments continue to support this as a great opportunity to build up the body of evidence and knowledge about the men and women who served our country and gave their lives.

[12.42 p.m.]

Mr FARRELL (Derwent) - Mr President, I support the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize. I, too, have been fortunate enough to accompany a group of wonderful Tasmanian students across the waves to see the faraway battlefields. It is a tremendously good program, not just for the people who participate in the program, but also to highlight that particular area of Europe where there is still such a great connection. The whole story of World War 1 is very interesting and until you go there, it does not really make sense. While you are there, it raises a lot more questions as to what a group of young Tasmanians were doing fighting in the paddocks of a land far away.

I concur with other speakers: Judy Travers is an exceptional educator who puts so much work into these trips; she is one of those genuinely caring educators in the education system who goes above and beyond the role of teacher. She has been the driving force over many years for the groups that have travelled on this program. Another tremendous driving force behind the program is the programs all members attend prior to going to Europe. It is not just a trip away; it is the building of a whole story. To see the growth in the students - and they probably see the growth in the adults who go away - working through the projects, researching soldiers, understanding a lot more about the whole World War I story is a wonderful process.

It may be forgotten that the Western Front was the site of the heartland battles of World War I. I think it makes everyone question more, why and how. Seeing the destruction - complete cities wiped out around that part of France and Belgium - raises an awareness of all the great strains these tragedies put on different communities. This goes on to this very day. You see the pictures from Syria and you think, 'Why haven't we learned?' We were doing this 100 years ago and we are still doing it.

I imagine that every parliamentarian will say they had the best group of students. We probably all did. We had a tremendous group. It is funny how time moves on. One of the students we have stayed friends with on Facebook turned 20 the other day. They were just little kids when we went away. The RSL representative, Robert Dick - who went when I did - and I still catch up. The first thing we talk about is how good the trip was as well as the teachers. Like the member for Murchison, Jan Hunt did a return visit to trace her family.

Ms Forrest - Julie Bird, one of the teachers in my group, went back.

Mr FARRELL - I have always gone to the Dawn Service at Gretna. Are people aware of Gretna?

Mr Dean - Yes, a lovely little place.

Mr FARRELL - It has a cenotaph right on a rocky escarpment that overlooks the River Derwent and the paddocks. It is probably one of the greatest places in the country to have a dawn service on Anzac Day. I would stake my very decent reputation on that. You are standing up there having the service and they are talking about the boys leaving the farms and going off to war and the great unknown. Through the hills, you can see the little lights going on in the little houses. It is almost like reliving it in this wonderful, natural amphitheatre.

Once you have been away and seen it, it all completes the package. It went from small to this great big country but in a very small area again. That was proven to me when we researched a soldier.

Ken O'Brien - 'Tuesday night Ken' who comes to our place for dinner and is a World War II veteran - is in his mid-90s now. Ken had an uncle who was killed in one of the battles. He brought his memorabilia, which included a photo of his father standing at the graveside of his father's brother who had been killed. Just by coincidence we ended up visiting that very cemetery because one of the students had researched a soldier who was killed and buried there. It turned out that Ken's uncle was buried right next to the student's soldier. They were bombed on a gun cart and here were the two graves. We could refer to the photo, which we had brought with us. It still blows my mind a little. You think, 'Here we are on the other side of the world from tiny Tasmania with two Tasmanian boys buried side by side.' No-one in Ken's family, to his knowledge, had been to visit the uncle. He was buried far away. It was incredibly moving.

We went to another cemetery. One of the girls, Julia, sat talking about her soldier and then brought out a bugle and played the 'Last Post'. She had been teaching herself, just quietly over the 12-month period to play the 'Last Post'. It was mind-blowing.

I wish that every student in Tasmania could go on the Frank MacDonald trip. It is more than just war. These kids work closely with educators and members of parliament. It is a wonderful thing for these kids to do.

Ms Forrest - We also get to hear some of the stories about the French and German soldiers. John Greenacre did such a good job, challenging their thinking about what an Aussie soldier is.

Mr FARRELL - John Greenacre is another gem. Tasmania started early. We must remember that Jim Bacon first came up with this wonderful idea. I am not sure how it generated. I am sure there are many stories. To do this, to take the kids away and to get someone like John Greenacre to teach them is great. Tasmanian groups have been doing it for so long and they are all in their uniforms. They look schmicko and are the envy of the other groups. They say, 'Where are you guys from?' I loved learning; I was never a very good student but hearing the real-life stories of these people and the impact it had on small communities is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

You see the very austere German cemeteries. The scale of cemeteries is amazing. You go to every small town and there are acres of cemetery. The kids we took along will have an edge in their life of having had the opportunity of going. Until you take part in it, you do not really understand. I feel very fortunate I have been on the Frank MacDonald prize. You can read about it, but it is unreal until you are there and you see farmers ploughing up bombs. Everything stops and trucks take the bombs away

Ms Forrest - There is often a stack of bombs on the side of the road waiting to be collected.

Mr FARRELL - Yes. I note the member's motion and I thoroughly support it. I hope it is something we continue. There is an expense attached but the return for investment on something like the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize is pretty amazing.

I fully support it and encourage all members to put their hand up. The member for Rosevears will get a lot from it. I spoke to the member for Windermere when he first got the nod. I said, 'You will really love this, particularly through your military service.' But even without having direct experience myself, it is a wonderful thing.

I support the motion.

[12.54 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, it is a walk down memory lane. During the Government's contribution I will interject with a few of my own personal ones from the trip I took last year.

The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize is an essay-based competition, open annually to all year 9 students to help promote and preserve the meaning of the Anzac spirit in the Tasmanian community.

Originally the competition was essay-based. Mostly academic students apply, but since then there has been the inclusion of audiovisual and ICT presentations, which has opened it up to anybody. Anybody can put something forward to go into this competition.

The prize winners have the opportunity to learn more about Australia's participation in the Great War, by taking a study tour to visit significant World War I landmarks and battlefields on the Western Front in Europe.

Six students and two teachers are selected to participate in the study tour along with a parliamentary representative, a member of the Returned Service League of Tasmania and a Tasmanian government tour leader. Now some of those people have been mentioned before and they do an absolutely marvelous job.

The highlights of the study tour include attendance at the Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux in France. On one of the coldest mornings I have ever experienced, I shed a tear sitting there freezing and thinking of our soldiers in their trenches, wet, cold and worse.

The tour also includes participation in the reviving of the flames ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and involvement in the wreath laying at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres, Belgium. I can tell members it is the best chocolate in the world.

The essay competition for participation in 2019 is now closed and the final entries were due on 24 August 2018. The winners will be selected from around Tasmania, with the successful students and teachers publicly announced at a presentation ceremony in October. It is not long before those students know who will be going.

The core overview information is, as mentioned, that it was set up by the former premier, Jim Bacon, who initiated the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize in recognition of Tasmania's last World

War I veteran, Frank MacDonald, who died in August 2013 at the age of 107. A grand age for this Ulverstone gentleman who had been through so much.

The prize has been awarded annually since 2004 and provides the opportunity for young Tasmanians to link with veterans and gain a greater understanding of the role of Tasmanians in Australian war history and conflicts. There is a serious amount of education for these six young students and those who go along. I cannot commend it highly enough.

The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize is an initiative of the Tasmanian Government and is supported by the RSL Tasmanian branch, and it is jointly administered by the Department of Communities Tasmania and the Department of Education.

The prize is open to all Tasmanian year 9 students from government and non-government schools or students who are homeschooled to a similar level. Students are required to respond to either a topic in an essay format or in an audiovisual ICT presentation. Following the announcement of prize winners, the group attends monthly meetings to complete a learning program that highlights the battles of the Western Front and includes a trip to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Prior to the trip all group members undertake research into the life and experience of a Tasmanian soldier who fought on the Western Front during World War I.

Somebody did ask how they get to pick these people. They can choose a relative or anybody they like. It is scanned by the teachers to make sure it is a person who was there.

One of the girls I went with studied a relative who was a nurse on the Western Front. When students present about their particular person, there is not a dry eye. It is meaningful because this is 'My great-great-grand aunt' or the 'Relative of my friend', and there is a connection.

They do it as a pilgrimage and each member visits the grave or the place of significance of the soldier and this forms the basis of the itinerary. The itinerary is fluid depending on who you pick and where you go and what you do.

I did a presentation on my grandfather who fought and fortunately survived, which is why I am here.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Elleria Solofa-Aiono, Emmanuel Sooalo and Leutu Taupauomalo - Samoan Parliament

Mr PRESIDENT - As honourable members know, this morning we welcomed Setima Talo, the Sergeant-at-Arms from the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. This afternoon I have great pleasure in also welcoming to this Chamber Elleria Solofa-Aiono, Emmanuel Sooalo and Leutu Taupauomalo, who are also from the Samoan Parliament. Elleria and Emmanuel are from the research branch and Leutu is the parliamentary librarian. They are here to learn about research and library and information management respectively. Dr Stait has prepared a program in conjunction with the Parliamentary Librarian, Marijana Bacic.

The study programs have been initiated through the United Nations Development Programme and build on our parliament's twinning relationship with the Parliament of Samoa.

We extend to them our warmest welcome to the Chamber and also welcome Setima back.

QUESTIONS

Private Rental Incentives Scheme

[2.33 p.m.]

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

Mr President, it is lovely to see our Samoan friends in the Chamber today, and also our Derwent Valley Railway enthusiasts, guests of Mr Farrell. It is terrific.

Honourable Leader, following the answer to my question regarding the Private Rental Incentives scheme, and the waiting list priority 1 and 2 - which in my view was not answered in the original response - again -

- (1) What are the numbers on the Housing Tasmania waiting list, by priority 1 and 2? I know they are not exactly called 1 and 2 now, but I know the minister has organised the answer.
- (2) What, in numbers, constitutes high demand?
- (3) Could it be the case that there were no applications for housing under the Private Rental Incentives scheme by those seeking housing because it is a pilot program that is new and may not have been widely known of, which therefore explains the lack of applications specific to the scheme from the question I asked earlier?

ANSWER

Mr President, I thank the member for McIntyre for her question. In examining this information, it should be noted that applicants are encouraged to list as many area and suburb preferences as they would consider for their needs for housing. Therefore, it is difficult to determine what the exact interest is in a particular area or suburb. It should also be noted that the housing register numbers cannot be taken as an indication of demand for the Private Rental Incentives scheme because the pilot program is opt-in. The answers to the questions are -

- (1) Tasmania's housing register is divided into two key types of applicant: priority applicants and general applicants. Applicants are assessed on a set of attributes: how much of their income they pay in rent; if they are homeless or at being at risk of being homeless; if they are safe; and if their health or mobility is affecting their ability to live where they are. Based on their assessment against those attributes, they will be a priority or a general applicant. Given this, 886 applications on the housing register included area preferences for the north of the state. As at 18 August 2018, of the 886, 628 were priority applicants and 258 general applicants; 58 of the 886 applicants indicated Scottsdale among their list of suburbs, and 42 of them were priority applicants and 16 were general.

- (2) High demand is not measured as a specific number. However, it should be noted that the identified demand for Scottsdale is less than the supply of housing.
- (3) Potential tenants on the housing register who are likely to benefit most from this scheme have been invited to participate in the pilot. The pilot has also been supported by an advertising campaign, news articles and website materials.

Government Business Enterprises - Board Membership - Costs 2017-18

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

[2.37 p.m.]

On 11 July I asked a question on notice with regard to board membership. I have received a letter from the Premier providing most of the information. The information I am still waiting on, which I thought would have been available considering that most of these government business enterprises and state-owned company boards would do annual reports, is with regard to interstate members of GBEs and state-owned company boards: what was the total cost of travel, meal and other expenses for board members for the last financial year?

While the Premier gave me the amount for travel for the flights, I would appreciate the amount for accommodation, meals and other expenses. Would it be preferable if I put a motion on the Notice Paper and the Table and the Council debates it?

ANSWER

Mr President, I thank the member for Launceston for her question. I am informed we are waiting on only two GBEs for that information. The member is welcome to do as she chooses but it appears we have most of the information except for those two. We are still waiting on them and I have given them 'a hurry up'.

Ms Armitage - Are we likely to have that by the next sitting week?

Mrs HISCUTT - I can only say 'hopefully'.

MOTION

Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize

Resumed from above.

[2.38 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, these students found it very emotional when they went to the actual place where their soldier had fought and died.

I had to present one on my grandfather, who, as I mentioned before, had been in World War I.

I might just go through what I presented to the group. It is only short. Like the member for Murchison, my grandfather made it home - here I am standing here today. It was very emotional because you are standing in a flat paddock in beautiful pristine countryside - the grass is green, the crops are growing, and the villages in the distance are just absolutely serene. I was standing in the field where my grandfather had fought. My grandfather Private Albert Chatwin, serial number 6553 of the 12th battalion infantry, enlisted on 1 September 1916 in the 21st Reinforcement of the Australian Imperial Force. He was listed as returned to Australia on 18 October 1917. My paper reads -

He lived at Somerset, in Tasmania, during those days and after he returned home he married and continued to live at the back of Somerset near Yolla. He left home for war as a young 19-year-old thinking he would find adventure.

He fought in the battle for Hendecourt with an Australian attack on the German trenches east of Bullecourt village. Operations of this kind were usually supported by a prior artillery bombardment on the German trenches. However, this time they decided to discard the artillery and try to surprise the Germans and they used tanks instead. Most of the tanks failed to reach the German line but still the infantry advanced northwards, with Bullecourt on the left flank, and seized two lines of German trenches.

They were eventually halted by German reinforcements and with the failure of our artillery to fire on the German counterattack, they were driven back to the starting line. It was poorly planned and hastily executed and resulted with loss of over 3,000 men.

I am sitting here, saying this, knowing that my grandfather was among all this -

Needless to say, we believe it was sometime during this battle that 'Chatty', as we called him, was injured.

Chatty spent one year and 54 days overseas. My mother and Uncle tell me he received shrapnel in the right side of his back. In all the smoke, disaster and distress, he was left for dead on the battle field by the stretcher bearers. He was obviously unconscious with a gaping wound.

He eventually regained consciousness and made his way to a medical tent where he received treatment and was sent to England for care ... He evidently didn't talk much about his activities during the war, but my Mother remembers him saying that at one stage, he remembered thinking how wonderful and clean the sheets were [when he was in hospital].

One little story is that while on his way to war, the ship rounded the Cape of Good Hope and he was pleased with himself because he was the only non-sailor who turned up for breakfast on that day. He hung on with one hand and ate with the other ... and 'held it down'.

My Mum says she remembers a patient father who hardly raised his voice at her and her brother. He was very gentle and only had a little drink on Anzac Days with his returned mates.

As a young child, I don't remember a lot of him, as he was in the now defunct Mental Asylum at New Norfolk. My sister says she remembers him with big rubber gloves on because he used to scratch himself to pieces. We would all pile into the car once a month after having our travel-sick pills, to take Nana to Hobart to visit him.

He died while in Hobart aged 73 on 21st December 1970, leaving behind two children and six grandchildren. Thankfully for us, he made it home.

So, while Dr Greenacre was there on that field, he was scraping among the dirt and he came up with what he said was shrapnel. I brought a bit of that shrapnel home and gave one to my uncle who was very thrilled to receive a little token from where his father had fought. My uncle also has the medals which he shares with me on Anzac Day when I request it.

I have mentioned the 25 nurses, and we have often wondered whether the nurse the young lass talked about while we were there, might have nursed my grandfather - all those sorts of connections.

The member for Rosevears also talked about links and connections. I can tell you, as a reservist, my number is F629776. All that goes into the army memorabilia.

Each year the Frank MacDonald Memorial prize winners establish strong bonds and are a welcome presence at the ceremonies they attend. They are great ambassadors for our state and this nation.

The final comment is the cost of the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize, which is approximately \$135 000 per year, and I say it is money well spent.

[2.44 p.m.]

Mr DEAN (Windermere) - Mr President, I thank the speakers in relation to this matter. As the member for Derwent showed, this is a very emotional thing. I thought I could go across to the Western Front where a war occurred 100 years ago and do it with some strength. But I fell apart on a number of occasions, as did other members on that tour. That is how it gets to you - thinking about the memories. To be there is that much stronger. That is the effect it has.

All of us would have had relatives killed, sadly, in that world war. Some of us would have had relatives returning, which was wonderful, but they too suffered as a result. For the member for Murchison's information, it was Frankie the bear, the same bear which we took named Frankie.

Ms Forrest - Every group gets a new one, because the young people get to keep them.

Mr DEAN - I thought this was the same one, but you could be right.

Ms Forrest - They decided on the last night in Paris which young people would get one.

Mr DEAN - Ours was nicknamed Frankie, and we have donated ours to Sam Davis as a parting gesture for the services she has given to the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize. She was delighted to receive the gift. It is interesting to see the names on the memorials throughout Brussels and France. The names Dean and Baker were common throughout; I have taken photographs and intend, as soon as I get an opportunity, to do some research to see if there is a connection.

We had some fun on our trip in a large coach with a coach driver who was a bit of a comedian. I have the police here so I should be careful, but it was in another country so they cannot do anything about it. We had our coach driver pulling into one empty car park and he did a number of doughnuts in the bus. The students found it hilarious doing doughnuts in this big coach.

This is a very important prize and much sought after by our students. It needs to be supported as long as possible. It is well worth the cost involved because of the experience and the information students bring back, which they are able to impart to others.

I have given one presentation and was asked this morning if I could return next week and give another, but I cannot. I imagine other members have had similar contacts.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Consideration and Noting - Parliamentary Internship Project - Drug Driving in Tasmania

[2.48 p.m.]

Mr DEAN (Windermere) - Mr President, I move -

That the Parliamentary Internship Project, Drug Driving in Tasmania, be considered and noted.

Mr President, I seek leave to table a copy of the internship document 'Drug Driving in Tasmania'.

Leave granted

Mr DEAN - Mr President, in talking to this motion, I understand this document was provided to all members at an earlier stage. It has been available for a period of time to other members. In moving this motion, I acknowledge the author of this document, Maddison Higgs. Maddison is with us today in the Chamber and it is great to see Maddi here, as she is known. She has given up time from her studies to be with us today. This was done as part of her university studies.

Maddi is in her third year of an Arts and Laws degree at UTAS, with a desire to work in either criminal law or policy development. She wishes to work in an area where she can make a difference and effect change in society. From what I have seen, we will hear a lot more about Maddison Higgs in the future.

Internships are an important part of the study program for university students. I urge members to always consider input by way of identification of subjects when Dr Bryan Stait makes that approach to us. Please give some consideration to it. I have had four or five interns who completed research on my behalf. All their papers have been of great value and some papers have been acted on and have made some changes. It is important we look at those programs closely.

As a result of this study, Maddison received a distinction for this work, but I was told by Dr Stait this morning that it was at the very high end of distinctions, which puts it into another

category. That is the value of the work completed by Maddison Higgs. Well deserved and congratulations to you, Maddi.

The intern gets a lot from it provided we make their work available to other organisations. Hence the reason I tabled the document here today and the reason I provided a copy of it to all members as well. To get the best and most from it, we should consider that. Furthermore, it is advantageous if we can discuss those reports openly after bringing them to this Chamber so that members have an opportunity to consider that work and have some input. I will be interested to hear the response of the police and the Government to this matter.

Why drug driving? Members in this Chamber would remember that I have raised drug driving on many occasions. I raise it at most of the budget Estimates sessions, and I always raise it during the noting and consideration of the police annual report. It is a very important matter.

Everyone in this place would be interested in ensuring that our roads are maintained at a high level of safety and that dangerous and irresponsible drivers are removed from the roads before innocent drivers are caught up in the carnage that is caused by irresponsible drivers. We all want the safest possible driving conditions; we all want to be confident our law agencies are giving appropriate attention to the causes of unsafe roads and that attention is being applied to remove recalcitrant drivers from those areas. We want to be assured of all those things.

For a decade and longer I have been raising this issue. You only need to look at the police annual reports over the past five years to get an idea of the impact of drugs on driving. There is much evidence in relation to alcohol and driving. There has been, in my view, not the attention given to drug driving that there should be.

In 2016-17, only 3726 drug tests were done for a result of 2055 - that is, 56 per cent - of drivers confirmed to be driving under the influence of an illicit drug, whereas with alcohol there were 505 445 tests for a return of 2187, a 0.4 per cent return. I know the police will say they target drug drivers; I know what the answer is there. I still do not believe that police are addressing drug use on our roads appropriately. Why, you might ask. It is probably a failure to accept the reality, the impact, of drugs, both licit and illicit, on our roads. Clearly, the cost of testing and the processing time is having some control of the testing of these drivers. It is an impediment.

These are just some of the reasons I have selected drug driving in Tasmania as a topic for a parliamentary internship project.

We will now have a look at what intern Maddi Higgs has to say about the issue and whether there is information to support some of the claims I have been making for 10 years, and whether there are reasons police ought to be giving more attention to drug driving.

The executive summary of the report show drugs other than alcohol are involved in as many as 40 per cent of road fatalities. That is an extremely high number of drug-impacted drivers. That leaves 60 per cent to share among all the other causes where drugs are not involved.

Mr Valentine - That is a lot.

Mr DEAN - A huge number. I accept it is not saying all those people had been drug-impaired. If a drug is present, it is not necessarily saying they were drug-impaired to the extent that it actually caused the accident.

Mr Valentine - That is a good distinction.

Mr DEAN - That is right. Perhaps alcohol, speed, inattention, negligence and dangerous driving et cetera were involved. You could probably say a drug in their system might have caused them to drive erratically, so it is difficult to judge at times. The police can normally do that at the scene of an accident and for witnesses who have seen persons driving et cetera.

The other point here is the deterrent value of convictions and sentencing for drug drivers is currently unclear. If sentencing is not a deterrent, perhaps we should be looking at - dare I say it - stronger and mandatory sentencing. The reasons for sentences are not just about punishment for the offenders but also about deterring others from committing these crimes. It is a far more serious offence.

This report supports what I have said many times. Victoria is considered to be the leader in road safety, particularly with drug driving. We in Tasmania should be the leader.

The key findings from the research undertaken are - and I quote the findings on page 1 of the report for members who have a copy -

- The current oral fluid testing method used by Tasmania Police has limitations.
- That drug drivers are not deterred at present as there is no fear of apprehension through random oral fluid testing.
- Current penalties are not an adequate deterrent from re-offending.
- Tasmania uses confirmatory blood tests as evidence to charge an offender under the legislation. This method is unique and has its limitations in comparison with mainland jurisdictions.
- Drug driving is not given enough attention in the media and campaigns around road safety to deter drug drivers.

They are the findings. If we go to the recommendations on pages 1 and 2, they are -

Recommendation 1 - Introduce random oral fluid testing of road users as occurs in other Australian jurisdictions, most notably Victoria.

Recommendation 2 - Review of the *Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970* and associated guidelines. In particular, investigate whether the current approach of alcohol testing drivers as a primary step and not proceeding with a drug test if this returns a result above 0.05 is the best option for deterring offenders.

I will talk about that more in a moment - that is where, even if drugs are present, the alcohol reading is taken as the offence exceeds 0.05. It does not matter how much drug they have in their system, the alcohol takes priority.

Recommendation 3 - Further investigation of sentencing of drug driving offenders be undertaken to determine its effectiveness in deterring recidivist drug driving and general deterrence.

Recommendation 4 - Improved education regarding the impact and danger of drug driving.

That is certainly needs more attention.

Mr Valentine - A very important recommendation.

Mr DEAN - Yes, recommendation 4 certainly is.

Four quite strong recommendations. I will be interested to hear where Tasmania Police see those recommendations and what their views are, in due course.

Page 5 of the report is the introduction page. Reference is again made to the fact Victorian research reveals drugs are a factor in more deaths and serious injuries than alcohol in Victoria - statistics that are likely mirrored in Tasmania, if the whole extent was known.

If the police were to accept this fact, what would we expect to see happening? These are rhetorical questions.

I suggest, as pointed out by way of the recommendations, that a review of our testing processes should be a starting point. I suggest removing the focus on alcohol testing and replacing it with the drug testing of drivers. I am not saying remove random breath testing at all - we need it - but emphasise the drug testing side more.

It was appalling that over the last Christmas period, alcohol testing was publicised almost to the exclusion of drug testing. I cringed every time I saw the advertisements. Go back and check the advertising if you want to on the stations I was watching - over the Christmas period almost all of it was about alcohol. That is what it was about. I was pretty upset about that and I thought it was just not good enough.

I am not saying there was too much alcohol advertising or not to drive, I am simply saying no mention was made of drug driving, which there should have been.

Mr Valentine - Given its prevalence in accidents?

Mr DEAN - Yes, absolutely. It is no surprise to me that we have a recommendation here that we need more education and more publicising of the drug side of things.

We go to the heading 'Method'. It is important that in putting this work together research by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies was relied on quite significantly. Much other material was considered also which I think gives this research work credibility.

Tasmania Police and the Government would do well to closely consider this document, not sticking it on a shelf somewhere and seeing it gather dust. They ought to look at it and go through it, and take a position from the document. We do not want any more lip-service given to drug driving.

Going to 'Scope' on page 5, I want to refer to this subheading because it points out that time, in this case, limited the research. In addition to that, I asked my intern, Maddi, to specifically consider and emphasise areas for the research arm. These interns are only given a certain period of time to

do this research work in. They are also given a word limit. Very clearly, there are areas when they are doing research that they cannot take further for that reason. That is referred to in this document in a number of places.

To research the matter of drug driving as a complete study would occupy much more time than Maddi was allowed. We would have seen a document much much larger than the one we have here today if you looked at all the other areas.

I urge the Government and Tasmania Police to consider the further areas for review as referred to because the results of the further studies would better inform law enforcement on the real issues and extent of drug driving and how best to combat it. For example, the research here was unable to consider the impact of licit drugs on driving. It was not able to go down that path and I asked her not to go down that path. I wanted her to stick to the illicit drug side of things.

On page 10 there is a reference made to another area: the impact on heavy vehicle drivers. A number of other areas have been identified for more research through this document.

I want to go to page 7 of the document. I will quote a passage on drugs and driving and the law in Tasmania -

In Tasmania, the Securetec DrugWipe 5S is used by police to conduct oral fluid tests for cannabis (tetrahydrocannabinol or THC), methylamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

Mr Valentine - Methamphetamine.

Mr Dean - Thank you.

A confirmatory blood test is then conducted, and any charges are based on these results. The blood test can detect not only the three drugs found by oral fluid tests, but also 15 other illicit substances, including cocaine, heroin, GHB, ketamine, LSD, morphine, PCP and magic mushrooms (LRRCS, 2018, page 255). This is unique to Tasmania, since other jurisdictions in Australia do not conduct confirmatory blood tests. Because only THC, methylamphetamine and MDMA can be detected by the oral fluid test, this report primarily focuses on the detection of these drugs. They are also the more common drugs used in Australia.

So I learned something from this. Poly-drug use, I learned, is a combination that covers a position where a person is impacted by more than one drug and it can include alcohol, tobacco, illicit and prescribed drugs. I would be surprised if a combination of a drug and alcohol was not a problem on our roads - how do police select the most appropriate charge? I will tell you more in a moment, but right now, I can tell you how they do it - alcohol has priority.

A bad combination is cannabis and alcohol. Both are depressants and impact the brain and body functions. I quoted from 'Detection' on page 12 of this report -

It is stipulated that an alcohol test must be conducted as a first step and if this comes back positive then an oral fluid test will not be conducted as it is unnecessary (Prichard et al, 2009, p 81). This is a major flaw in the guidelines as it enables persons under the influence of both drugs and alcohol to only be

prosecuted for alcohol, and therefore be charged with less offences and receive a lighter penalty. This is a further reason why drug drivers do not fear certain apprehension.

It is an interesting quote. It needs fixing and needs more attention in that area, because the drug side of this mix could be far more serious than the alcohol part. The impact of drug-diminished drivers on our roads would be greater and may be far greater than police statistics reveal, without a doubt, if it were not for the fact that drugs give way to alcohol.

I am not sure why that is the case - a driver could exceed 0.05, their driving not impacted by the alcohol side, but the drugs impact could be greater. Certainly not to the stage of driving under the influence of alcohol, because that requires further tests and is a more serious charge. I am concerned we still run with this. It might be common throughout the mainland. I did not have time to check and I do not know whether Maddison did either.

I quote from 'Penalties and Punishment' on page 14 of this report -

According to Prichard et al, the penalties for drug driving under the *Road Safety, (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970* (the Act) are lenient when compared with drink driving (2009, page 28). For this reason the TILES report recommended merging the drink and drug driving offences (s6 and s6A respectively) into one. This recommendation has not been implemented but this report recommends that this issue be reconsidered.

Tables are attached to the paper. Members will see from the tables setting out alcohol and drug driving offences and penalties that the penalties for drug driving are pretty lenient. For drugs and driving there is no test regarding impairment. The presence of drugs in the system is all that is required to commit the offence of driving under the influence of drugs. That is a significant difference. With drug driving, if you have drugs in your system - and I am not sure whether there is a capability to identify to what extent you have drugs in your system; I suspect there probably is. With alcohol, of course, you can have a few beers and providing you do not exceed 0.05, you are okay, but with drugs it is a whole different story.

Mr Valentine - It is interesting. For people who consume a lot of alcohol, over time the impact it makes on their reaction time can be vary between people, can't it?

Mr DEAN - Yes, it can vary. It can depend on circumstances - on size, on food and on how people themselves are feeling. A lot of things can, as I understand it, play some part in the impact on particular people. You are right: one person having drunk seven beers might be quite capable of driving, no problems at all. But somebody else might be absolutely impacted and could be charged with DUI.

We go to page 19 of the report -

Drink driving laws are based on extensive research indicating the relationship between blood alcohol and the risk of having an accident, unlike drug driving laws. It is argued that the laws act as a more of a regulating mechanism for drug use rather than a road safety solution, which 'makes a mockery of road safety laws' according to Dr. Kate Seear of Monash University (LRRSC, 2018, p. 253) Dr. Seear's comments can be contrasted with those of Deputy Commissioner

Wendy Steendam, whose evidence to the LRRCS report focused on the evidence that the risk of driving with an illicit drug in your system is increased and legislation is designed to acknowledge this risk and alleviate it by taking a zero-tolerance approach (LRRCS, 2018, p. 253).

That backs up a bit of what I have been saying.

Page 20, under the heading 'New Approaches' says that research identifies we should be following Victoria's approach to drug driving and, among other things, should increase random drug testing -

It is not a simple solution, but a pilot program of roadside random drug testing based on the method used in Victoria may be suitable pending further investigation of its feasibility

I realise there needs to be some more work done on some to these things.

'Education and awareness of drug driving', referred to on page 21 of the report, states -

In addition to legal solutions, it is necessary to look at the broader social reasons behind drug driving and consider their role in prevention. This involves stakeholders in the health, community services, education and road safety sectors to work collaboratively to ensure that drug abuse in Tasmania is addressed holistically.

The Road Safety Advisory Council in conjunction with Tasmania Police and the State Government produce road safety campaigns targeted at Tasmania audiences. It is suggested that a greater focus on drug driving in combination with drink driving be implemented by these groups to increase awareness of testing among the general public and increase the deterrence.

In closing, it is a good report. It is researched well within the limitations given to the interns. It raises many important issues - issues that, given consideration by both the police and the Government, will see changes in the law in due course and changes in the practical approach to the enforcement of drug driving. Clearly we really have no idea of the number of road users out there who are driving with drugs in their system.

Further research is necessary in some areas and if we are at all serious about road safety, it should be undertaken. It may be a project for another intern. I will probably consider that for some of the areas Maddison has identified in this report as needing further investigation.

The recommendations are sound and should be seriously considered by the authorities. I look forward to any other contributions that might be made here today. I look forward to the position of the Government and the position of the police on the report.

Again, I thank Maddison. It was a pleasure working with her, she is a lovely lady, albeit I went missing at times. I am sorry about that; I had a few other things on. I wish her well with her further studies. I have no doubt that she will do well with her future employment, and will enjoy her life at Midway Point.

[3.16 p.m.]

Mr VALENTINE (Hobart) - Mr President, I found this report quite interesting and informative, so well done on that score. Quite obviously there is a debate to be had and for us to be informed as well by personnel on the ground, including the police and the likes of the Tasmanian Law Society, so we can look at this in a well-rounded manner.

I want to find out about an interesting observation made on page 20 of the report -

According to police data, in 2016-17 3726 oral fluid tests were conducted and of these, 2152 required a confirmatory blood test 2055 of these were positive ... This can be contrasted with Victoria, where in the 2016 calendar year 95 161 preliminary oral fluid tests were conducted and of these, 8941 drivers submitted a confirmatory test ...

But we do not have what the positive level is. Was that something that was accidentally missed? Given there were 2055 positive results in that upper set of figures, what was the number of positive results from the 8941 drivers who submitted a confirmatory test? It is only a question and it would probably round out the observation. It was just something that I noticed there.

Further down, it says -

Deterrence is a key aim of policy, particularly where there is no ability to police the situation and have complete control. Drug driving is an example of this, since it is impossible to test every single driver for drugs and alcohol on the roads. Therefore, it is crucial that drivers think they are going to be caught and therefore are less likely to drive. For this to be effective, the penalty for drug driving also needs to reflect the nature of the offence and its seriousness. Higher penalties increase deterrence, as they inflict a greater punishment on potential offenders which makes offending less desirable.

That is an interesting observation. I am not sure that is always the case. I think when people are taking drugs, the last thing they probably think about is whether they are going to be in a state to drive. It is only after the event that they reflect on it, when they are caught, or have an accident and someone unfortunately is injured or loses their life.

When I was reading this, I thought that the really valid point made was about the education needed - recommendation 4 is really important - so that people are not going into drug-taking without their eyes being opened. It is one of those difficult ones because the more education you give teenagers, the more it might encourage them to get into the drug scene as opposed to avoiding it.

Mr Dean - A number of people involved in the drug scene say, 'Is this the same as alcohol? Can I have a few drugs? Can I smoke a couple of marijuana joints and still be able to drive because I can have four or five beers and still be okay to drive?' And when you explain they cannot, it is difficult to accept.

Mr VALENTINE - It is an interesting issue. Recommendation 3 is equally as important. The recommendation is that 'further investigation of sentencing of drug driving offenders be undertaken to determine its effectiveness in deterring recidivist drug driving and general deterrence'. We all understand data is so important in delivering accurate information to guide our thinking. The more

data we have, the greater understanding from the information the data provides. That coupled with education are two of the important aspects and that is what I took from this report. I found the comment in the executive summary - that drugs other than alcohol are involved in as many as 40 per cent of road fatalities in Australia - amazing. I did not realise this that was the case. Again, how much are those drugs impairing the driver?

Well done to Maddison for putting this together. It is food for thought and there for some other discussion and debate on another day.

[3.22 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Madam Deputy President, the Government would like to thank the member for Windermere for his report and interest in this matter.

The Government especially appreciates Dr Bryan Stait as the convenor and organiser of the intern program run through the Parliamentary Research Service. It is a very valuable program available to us.

The reduction of fatal and serious injury crashes remains a key priority for Tasmania Police, along with making Tasmanian roads safer for all road users. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is one of the fatal five contributors to road deaths, and they are -

- excessive speed
- fatigue
- alcohol and drug driving
- being distracted whilst driving
- failure to wear a seatbelt.

Strategies employed by Tasmania Police with the aim of modifying driver behaviour include -

- an increase in high-visibility road safety activities and enforcement
- focus on public education, including partnership with the Road Safety Advisory Council and leveraging social media
- deployment of eight fixed speed cameras, as well as the two Tasman Bridge cameras.

Forty-six per cent of fatal crashes in 2017-18 had alcohol or drugs as a crash factor. Tasmanian police conducted 478 219 random breath tests and 3936 oral fluid tests in 2017-18, and 2212 drivers were proceeded against for driving with a prescribed illicit drug present in blood in 2017-18. This subject has, sadly, been the matter of public interest following the recent crash in Launceston earlier this month, when one driver was killed and the other driver of the other vehicle allegedly failed to remain on the scene. It will be alleged that by the time the other driver was located by police officers, the legislated time period for him to be tested under the existing Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970 had expired.

A large number of legislative amendments were made to the act late last year. I am not sure whether your intern was aware of these when writing her report. Under current law, police have three hours from the time of an incident in which to take a driver's blood for testing. One of the amendments extends this time frame under the act from three to five hours after the

relevant act of driving. Another significant change to the act removes the need for a blood test after a driver returns a positive roadside test for drugs; using the oral fluid test instead, a further sample of oral fluid will be taken for laboratory testing.

Mr Dean - Are you saying that is being done now?

Mrs HISCUTT - A significant change to the act removes the need for that. There is a little more to come.

Mr Dean - The change is coming, is it?

Mrs HISCUTT - The amendments are yet to be proclaimed and put into effect. A number of processes are to be undertaken prior to the new legislation being proclaimed. This includes the remaking of the associated regulations, the procurement of the appropriate kits for collection of oral fluid samples for laboratory testing and the training of police officers. Tasmania Police is currently finalising the required work prior to the amendments being proclaimed with a likely time frame of the end of 2018.

Prior to 2017, the act was last amended in a significant way in 2009. The recent amendments were extensive and make significant changes to the act. The report makes a number of specific recommendations regarding drug driving, testing, regulations, penalties and education.

Madam Acting President, I will now turn to each of these recommendations.

Recommendation 1 - random oral fluid testing. The report recommends that the random oral fluid testing of road users be introduced as it occurs in other jurisdictions, most notably Victoria. I am advised that Tasmania Police has the ability to conduct random oral fluid testing, and that the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970 allows police to require a driver to undergo an alcohol or drug test in a range of circumstances. This includes what we know as random testing, testing where a driver's conduct may indicate the presence of alcohol or a drug, and testing in circumstances such as the involvement of a driver in a crash.

Tasmania Police conducts random testing operations both to detect offending drivers and to deter people from driving after consuming alcohol or drugs, with the existence of the random testing regime creating an expectation that drivers may be tested.

However, the number of drivers tested for drugs is only a subset of the total of drivers randomly tested. A major reason for this is that the technology used to conduct drug testing is significantly more expensive than the technology for alcohol testing. It is not financially feasible to test every driver for drugs in addition to alcohol. Consequently, police officers exercise discretion as to when they will use a drug test. The decision on when to use a drug test is left to the police officer's intuition and a range of factors may influence this. Through their working experience, operational police officers develop an ability to identify drivers more likely to be affected by illicit drugs.

In addition to drug testing technology being more expensive than alcohol-testing technology, roadside drug testing takes significantly longer. Consequently, police are conscious of not unnecessarily delaying drivers where there is no need to do so.

Recommendation 2 - review of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970. As I have already mentioned and as many members will recall, last year parliament considered and passed amendments to the road safety act. These amendments were made following a review of the Road

Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970 and enhanced the operation of existing provisions that ensure that the legislation remains contemporary. The amendments embraced the many advancements in technology and science associated with alcohol and drug detection since the original act's creation nearly 50 years ago. The amendments are yet to be proclaimed.

Mr Dean - How long ago did they pass it?

Mrs HISCUTT - We did it late last year.

Mr Dean - It is still not proclaimed?

Mrs HISCUTT - They were in the process of nearly developing the regulations. It will be proclaimed very soon.

Tasmania Police is currently finalising the required work, including associated regulations of the package due to take effect by the end of this year.

I am not sure if the author of this report was aware of these amendments through her research. I understand that many of the 2017 amendments address the matters raised in this recommendation.

Recommendation 3 - sentencing of drug driving offenders. Sentencing matters and any reviews of sentencing provisions and court judgments have recently been reviewed by the Tasmania Law Reform Institute. The Tasmania Law Reform Institute recently delivered its final report on responding to the problems of recidivist drink-drivers.

The report makes 37 recommendations. Some of the recommendations may well be relevant to consider in the context of drug driving as well. We will leave that as a matter for the Attorney-General to consider.

Recommendation 4 - education about drug driving impacts and danger. Further education of road users on the risks and impacts of dangerous and unlawful driving is always warranted. The Government tasks the Road Safety Advisory Council with road safety awareness and education. One of the key directions in the Towards Zero, Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2017-2026 is to encourage safer road user behaviour through education and enforcement. Priority actions to achieve this key direction in the Towards Zero Action Plan 2017-2019 include promoting safe behaviours through media campaigns and improving the enforcement of high-risk road behaviours, including drug driving.

The road safety levy and annual fee charged as part of vehicle registration ensures a dedicated source of funding for priority road safety initiatives. It provides the ability to implement initiatives as outlined in the Towards Zero strategy and action plans and to continue the installation of important infrastructure safety treatments with the aim of reducing the number of serious injuries and deaths on Tasmanian roads.

The Government thanks the member for his interest in this matter and for commissioning the intern research project. Again I would like to thank the wonderful services which Dr Bryan Stait from the Parliamentary Research Service brings to the parliament for all of us.

[3.33 p.m.]

Mr DEAN (Windermere) - Madam Deputy President, I thank speakers for their contributions and the matters raised by the member for Hobart, the member for Montgomery and the Leader. Some issues and important points were raised.

When you look at the crash in Launceston the Leader referred to, and that time had expired for the right to test and so on, it really makes you think about whether there should be restrictions on the time limit provided. I am not sure which one the Leader was talking about. Was it about the death of a person in Launceston?

Mrs Hiscutt - Yes.

Mr DEAN - We are talking about a life that has been taken. Yet we have restrictive legislation that requires it be done within a certain time when we know that alcohol will remain in the body, as I understand, for a fairly long time. In fact, people can drink of a night and be tested the next morning and alcohol is still present. It is a number of days with some drugs. It surprises me that we can treat the taking of a life so leniently. I just find it difficult to understand. It was a fact when I was in the job so I have learned about that.

It is great these amendments are occurring. I am not quite sure why we have left these amendments for so long when we look at what is happening on the mainland and where they have gone. If we look at Victoria, they are very clearly the trendsetter in regard to this matter.

I have concerns about the combination of drugs and alcohol. Clearly, alcohol was given the go-ahead where there is combination, because the penalties are more severe in some cases where alcohol is present. The fact the person has been impacted by drugs is forgotten. Alcohol becomes the situation the driver is charged with. Alcohol is the important matter. I am not sure if drugs would be mentioned to the court in that instance because they have been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol exceeding 0.05 - or drunk driving, a DUI. I have issues with this.

My intern did not have the information on the amendments and I was upset when I saw this, and confirmed it a while ago. My intern attempted to get information from the police on some of these issues, and the police refused to give it to her. They would not give her the information she was seeking, and it was disappointing. I am not sure why and I will follow up because I want to know whether it was a police decision. I would not have thought there was anything confidential; no reason why it could not have been provided, but I will make sure I have my facts right on this and come back. It was disappointing as I had said 'Go to the police, they will be open and give you whatever you want, within reason, that they are able to disclose. If they cannot, they will tell you why', but that does not seem to have happened. We will hopefully get to the bottom of it.

We have the proclamation that is going to occur of some of those amendments. Once again, it has been a long time from the time -

Mrs Hiscutt - They were working on the regulations, based on the legislation we passed.

Mr DEAN - Right, based on the legislation we passed a long time ago. Why has it taken so long to go through the process? It is important.

It is great the police and the Government have taken this matter seriously. It has to be heartening for our interns, for Maddi, to understand their reports do mean something and are being actioned in most cases. I commend the motion to the Council.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION
Tasmanian Business Confidence and Economic Growth

[3.38 p.m.]

Ms HOWLETT (Prosser) - Mr President, I move -

That the Legislative Council notes:

- (1) That the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) has reported from its most recent survey that business confidence is at record levels, and that the June 2018 quarter Deloitte Access Economics Report stated that Tasmania's 'Export growth has skyrocketed, bucking the trend seen at a national level';
- (2) That as at September 2018, a record 250 300 Tasmanians are in work; and
- (3) That Tasmania has experienced consistent economic growth over the past four years and is forecasted to continue this growth over the coming years.

More Tasmanians than ever before are in work, according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistic labour force figures. As at September 2018, a record 250 300 Tasmanians are in work. Since coming to government, the Hodgman Liberal Government has made creating jobs for Tasmanians its number one priority, and we are delivering for Tasmania.

During both the state election campaign and my campaign for the seat of Prosser, Tasmanians consistently told my colleagues and me that creating jobs needs to be a top priority for any government, and that they value the work that the Liberal Government has done to grow employment since 2014.

A quarter of a million Tasmanians are now employed, confirming that the Government's long-term plan is delivering and getting more Tasmanians into the workforce. Importantly, the participation rate in Tasmania has grown to 61.3 per cent, 0.7 of a percentage point higher than in March 2014. This reflects the increased confidence that Tasmanians now have when looking for work as businesses take advantage of our strong economy and favourable business conditions.

The unemployment rate has remained steady at 6 per cent, well below the 8.6 per cent unemployment rate in 2013. ABS figures show that 15 300 jobs have been created since March 2014, and the Government will put in place the right economic conditions to create even more jobs for Tasmanians.

Growth in the state's private sector is leading the nation as strong business confidence, a growing population and Tasmania's increasing international reputation is fuelling an investment boom. Private new capital expenditure in the state increased 31.1 per cent last financial year - almost 24 times the national average. Tasmania was the fastest growing state.

The Tasmanian Small Business Council chief executive Robert Mallett recently stated that for a number of years Tasmania had been a basket case and people were not investing in our state. However, for the last three Sensis small business surveys Tasmania has been leading the nation. Looking ahead, the 2018-19 Budget confirms operating surplus this year and every year across

forward Estimates, with record investments in health, education and infrastructure. The building block of economic growth is a strong budget, and that is what is being delivered for Tasmanians.

Joint state and Commonwealth funding has been secured for major projects, including the \$576 million for the Bridgewater Bridge and almost \$90 million for the Cradle Mountain precinct. The Government has reached a historic agreement with TasWater and its Chief Owner Representatives to reform and improve the state's water and sewerage, limiting forecast price increases and accelerating upgrades.

Work has begun on Tasmania's first trade strategy, and the Premier and minister for Primary Industries have been in Asia this month on a very important trade and investment mission, which will assist Tasmanian businesses to continue to grow exports to Asia. The Government is delivering on the commitment to build the infrastructure our growing state needs with its first-ever detailed 10-year infrastructure pipeline plan. This pipeline clearly maps out planned infrastructure development over the next decade from which medium- to long-term private investment and employment decisions can be made.

To be updated each year, the initial Tasmanian infrastructure pipeline includes 247 vital projects each valued at \$5 million or more, totalling a combined \$13.9 billion over the 10 years of the pipeline. In addition, \$4.1 billion in private construction projects and \$8.1 billion in construction projects by the government sector have also been identified.

These infrastructure projects will help to further underpin the growth of our economy, support thousands of jobs, boost business confidence and support our growing population. With infrastructure expenditure in Tasmania identified in the pipeline expected to hit \$1.57 billion this financial year alone, it is important that we take a long-term coordinated approach. Developed by Infrastructure Tasmania, the pipeline provides governance, investors, developers, employees, businesses and communities with a long-term view of key projects now underway or on the table. It includes economic infrastructure that will help us grow and prosper, such as roads, rail, energy, water and sewerage, irrigation, stormwater and ports. This all forms a basis of our society and communities like public housing, schools, hospitals and prisons.

By the end of the year, Infrastructure Tasmania will also release a 30-year Tasmanian infrastructure strategy based on emerging demographics, social and technological trends to help deliver infrastructure at the right time, in the right place and on the right scale.

The Government recognises infrastructure projects require considered consultation, planning and design, and cannot be delivered overnight, but by taking a strategic approach we can ensure Tasmania remains the best place to live, work and raise a family.

The Government is making the single biggest infrastructure in Tasmania's tourist roads over the next five years, \$72 million for our roads package to support Tasmania's visitor economy.

The Great Eastern Drive, in my electorate of Prosser, is one of Tasmania's iconic touring routes and visitation to the east coast is continuing to build, including a growing number of slower vehicles such as cyclists, caravans, campers and motorhomes. This is why we have committed to invest a total of \$21 million in the Great Eastern Drive and its connections to make improvements like overtaking lanes, courtesy stopping bays, road widening and safety treatments, including entries to popular tourism destination experiences.

The growth in Tasmania's visitor economy under the Hodgman Government is one of the state's greater success stories, with visitors spending more in our communities.

Between 2015 and 2018, Tasmania saw a 52 per cent increase in international visitors, the fastest growing in our country. This rise in tourist numbers has been fostered by the state government's T21, Tasmanian Visitor Economy Strategy 2015-2020. T21 is a partnership agreement between the Tasmanian Government and the Tasmanian tourism industry represented by the Tasmanian Tourism Industry Council. The strategy target is to grow annual visitor numbers to Tasmania to 1.5 million by 2020 and so generate visitor expenditure of around \$2.5 billion a year, which means greater capital investment and more jobs.

T21 has been a remarkable success. According to the annual Tasmanian visitor survey, between March 2003 and March 2014 visitor numbers to Tasmania were almost 1.06 million, with expenditure of \$1.68 billion.

Under the stewardship of the Hodgman Government, these numbers have increased significantly. Between March 2017 and March 2018, visitor numbers were 1 280 000, and their expenditure was \$2.37 billion.

My electorate of Prosser has been a great beneficiary of the increase in tourist numbers. In the year to March 2014, 270 500 visitors came to Tasmania's east coast. In the year to March 2018, this number had increased to 391 100 visitors.

We fundamentally reject some of the recent commentary that suggests we have enough tourists and we should start turning them away. The growth in tourism is being managed sustainably; the benefits are being increasingly spread to regional areas where jobs are being created. It is an insult to people who work in tourism and hospitality to suggest that they might have to lose their jobs because certain people do not want an increase in tourism in certain areas.

The growth in visitors in our state, in turn, has encouraged airline companies to cater to the increased demands for flights to Tasmania. Virgin Australia recently announced it would commence three weekly services between Hobart and Perth from 17 September. The new Virgin Australia Hobart to Perth service will add 54 912 seats annually to Hobart and it will also reduce travel time by up to three hours.

Jetstar commenced direct flights to and from Adelaide in November 2017. The new direct service added 56 000 new airline seats per annum and reduced travel time by nearly two hours.

Tiger Air introduced a seasonal Hobart to Gold Coast service in November 2017. In August 2018 they announced that they will recommence direct flights on a year-round basis operating three times per week.

These increased flights to and from Tasmania will not only encourage more tourists to make Tasmania their next holiday destination but will also make travel interstate significantly more convenient for Tasmanians.

With increased prosperity, employment and revenue to the state comes the opportunity to invest more in essential services. By getting the budget back on track, the Liberal Government has already been able to deliver 370 more nurses, 120 more hospital beds, 2200 more elective surgeries per year, 142 more teachers and 113 more police. It has allowed us to put together a health plan that

will see the Liberal Government commit a record \$757 million investment into our health system over the coming years.

We have also supported Tasmanians with the cost of living. Power prices are one example: we have prices that are now the lowest in the nation because the Tasmanian Government reduced prices when coming into government and intervened to cap power prices at around 2 per cent for the last two years. The Tasmanian Economic Regulator and Energy Consumers Australia have confirmed that both residents and businesses pay the lowest prices in Australia. This is a sharp contrast to the 65 per cent increase in power prices that the state experienced between 2007 and 2014.

The Government is also helping with \$42 million a year in concessions to help those who are struggling with their power bills. We are committed to reducing the cost of living pressures, which is why the Government has a plan to delink Tasmania prices from the Victorian market to remove price distortions.

The cost of living and making it easier to do business in Tasmania are top priorities for the Government. We are delivering on our promises to create more jobs and deliver prosperity for Tasmanians.

Motion agreed to.

CORRECTIONS AMENDMENT (PRISONER REMISSION) BILL 2018 (No. 15)

First Reading

Bill received from the House of Assembly and read the first time.

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL 2018 (No. 28)

Second Reading

[3.55 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council - 2R) -
Mr President, I move -

That the bill be now read the second time.

Mr President, I am pleased to introduce the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018.

This bill delivers on the Tasmanian Government's commitment to participate in the National Redress Scheme and will provide an avenue for justice for those people who are affected by institutional child sexual abuse.

The National Redress Scheme is a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and reflects the commitment of the many people

who have worked towards the provision of an alternative avenue for justice for those who have been affected by sexual abuse as children in institutions.

The royal commission exposed the prevalence of institutional child sexual abuse, the failure of institutions to respond and the lifelong impact of abuse on people's lives. In December of last year, the royal commission released 409 recommendations which will impact many areas of institutional governance, regulation and practice.

In June 2018, the Government announced it had accepted the overwhelming majority of recommendations in the royal commission's final report. The Government's response to the recommendations of the royal commission is available on the Department of Justice website and I encourage all Tasmanians to read the response.

Shortly, the Government will release an implementation plan outlining actions that will be taken over the next 12 months.

The National Redress Scheme is but one of a number of significant steps the Government will take to provide support and justice for people impacted by abuse. In line with the royal commission recommendations the Government will continue to introduce measures to protect children from institutional sexual abuse, to hold perpetrators to account and ensure that victims can achieve justice, including measures to assist people to participate in the criminal justice system.

Shortly, the Government intends to introduce legislative amendments that will: create a new criminal offence for failing to report serious crimes; strengthen existing criminal offences; strengthen alternative processes for the taking of evidence of vulnerable witnesses to reduce re-traumatisation; make changes to sentencing law and practice, including requiring courts to apply current sentencing standards for historic child sex offences; and introduce changes to criminal procedure, such as retrospectively repealing a limitation period that is preventing some people from accessing justice for summary sexual crimes.

The long-term impacts of child sexual abuse can make it difficult for people to call institutions to account through the legal system. The risk of re-traumatisation is a significant barrier for people to engage with justice processes. Disclosure of child sexual abuse often occurs years, even decades, after the abuse occurred.

The Australian Government has undertaken significant consultation and negotiation with stakeholders to develop the National Redress Scheme. This has involved negotiating with the states, territories and non-government institutions as well as working closely with people affected by child abuse, advocacy groups and experts.

Tasmania has been working closely with the Commonwealth and all other state and territory governments to develop a scheme that is survivor-focused, and guided by what is known about the nature and impact of child sexual abuse.

The royal commission's data tells us that, on average, people affected by abuse may take in excess of 20 years to disclose. For this reason, among others, civil litigation is not always an effective mechanism for all people to obtain adequate redress. Society's failure to adequately protect children has created a clear need for avenues through which survivors can access appropriate redress for past abuse. This was the rationale for the royal commission's recommendation that the

Australian Government establish a single national redress scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

The National Redress Scheme commenced on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years. Since July, Tasmanian applicants have been able to access support services and submit applications to the scheme. The enactment of this legislation will enable those applications to be assessed by independent decision-makers and offers of redress made to Tasmanian claimants.

To date, the Australian Government, and the governments of New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT, have commenced participation in the scheme. All other governments have announced their intention to participate in the scheme and will complete the formal requirements over the coming months. For states, this means they must enact laws to refer legislative powers to the Commonwealth. This bill achieves that.

Redress includes the three components: a monetary payment which, under this scheme, will be up to \$150 000; access to counselling and psychological support, the delivery of which will depend on where the person resides; and a direct personal response from the participating institution or institutions responsible to the extent requested.

An intergovernmental agreement underpins the National Redress Scheme and has been signed by states and territories participating in the scheme, as well as by the Commonwealth. The Tasmanian Premier signed the intergovernmental agreement on 31 May 2018. This agreement sets out the governance arrangements for the National Redress Scheme and the respective roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

I now turn to the detail of the bill.

The bill adopts the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 of the Commonwealth (the National Redress Act). The bill also includes an amendment reference to enable the Commonwealth to make amendments to the National Redress Act relating to redress for institutional child sexual abuse.

The amendment reference is subject to specific limitations to ensure that the Commonwealth cannot make any amendments that inadvertently affect state redress mechanisms (Clause 7) such as the Tasmanian Victims of Crime Assistance Scheme. It also includes the jurisdiction of a court to grant compensation or support to victims of crime, including crime relating to institutional child sexual abuse. This means that the limitations to the amendment reference prevents any changes to the National Redress Act that would impinge on the jurisdiction of courts concerning institutional child sexual abuse.

The bill will commence on 1 November 2018.

The National Redress Act provides the legislative basis for entitlement, participation, offers and acceptance, provision of redress, funding liability, funder of last resort and other administrative matters. The National Redress Act was explained in detail when it was introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament. Therefore, I will be brief in my account of the key elements.

The National Redress Act provides that abuse within the scope of the scheme is sexual and related non-sexual abuse that occurred before the start of the scheme on 1 July 2018, when the person was a child and in a participating state or territory.

A person is eligible for redress if they have been sexually abused within the scope of the scheme, one or more participating institutions is responsible for the abuse, and the person is an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

If an application for redress identifies a participating institution as being involved in the abuse, the National Redress Scheme Operator must request that the institution provide any information that may be relevant.

Independent decision-makers consider whether there is a reasonable likelihood, as defined in the National Redress Act, that the person is eligible for redress under the scheme. 'Reasonable likelihood' was the test recommended by the royal commission as the standard of proof for determining applications for redress.

After approving an application, the amount of the redress payment and the share of costs attributable to each liable institution is then determined. The process for working out the amounts, including the application of an assessment framework, is prescribed. This includes deducting any relevant prior payments, such as payments made under the Tasmanian Abuse in State Care Ex Gratia Scheme. A determination made by the scheme is an administrative decision, not a finding of law or fact.

A person who has applied for redress may apply for internal review of a determination. If a person is entitled to redress and wishes to access the counselling and psychological component, they will be referred to the participating jurisdiction where they live. If a person wishes to receive a direct personal response, the participating institution must take reasonable steps to give one. Guiding principles are included in the National Redress Act and a direct personal response framework sets out the arrangements under which institutions will provide those responses.

If a person accepts the offer of redress, they must release particular institutions from all civil liability for the abuse. Applicants are supported to access legal advice, which is funded by the responsible institutions. This is consistent with the royal commission's recommendations.

By agreeing to participate, Tasmanian government institutions including state agencies, schools and service providers of child-related services among others, are participating institutions. Because Tasmania has opted into the scheme, non-government institutions in our state, including churches, charities, independent schools and other organisations, are able to participate. Already a number of these institutions have committed to participate. I strongly encourage the remaining non-government institutions to join so that Tasmanians can have, as far as possible, equal access to redress.

For the purposes of the scheme, a participating institution is deemed to be responsible for the abuse of a person if the abuse occurred in circumstances where the participating institution is primarily or equally responsible for the abuser having contact with the person.

A number of circumstances are relevant to determining that question such as, whether the institution was responsible for the day-to-day care of the person when the abuse occurred, or whether the abuser was an official of the institution when the abuse occurred.

Participating institutions that are determined to be responsible for the abuse of a person are liable for the costs of providing redress. Those institutions are also liable for contributing to the cost of counselling, independent legal advice, and the administration of the scheme.

Some institutions where child sexual abuse has occurred may no longer exist. The National Redress Act provides that a 'defunct' institution can participate in the scheme if it has a representative that acts on its behalf and assumes its obligations and liabilities under the scheme.

Participating government institutions may be the funder of last resort for a non-government institution that no longer exists. This applies only where the government institution is equally responsible for the abuse.

This is an important day for many Tasmanians. I would like to take this opportunity to again acknowledge those people affected by institutional child sexual abuse, many of whom were not previously listened to, not believed or not acknowledged. Their extraordinary bravery has ensured that we will learn from the mistakes of the past, acknowledge the harm and suffering experienced, and work towards prioritising the safety of children above all else.

I commend the bill to the House.

Mr Gaffney - I am interested to know how it works when you have a national scheme like this and all the states have access to that and they go along and discuss it - they have a draft piece of legislation. Does the Government fully accept all the conditions put into the scheme or will the Government provide a paper that questions some of those? That is probably one of the questions that will be asked because you have ticked off on it. I want to know that process.

Mrs HISCUTT - Mr President, I will move to adjourn the debate now, so that we can have briefing on this legislation, during which the member for Mersey's questions can be answered. I believe in light of the time that this is acceptable. You are welcome to ask again when I have the answer to hand.

Mr President, I move -

That the debate be adjourned.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

[4.10 p.m.]

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

That at its rising the Council adjourn until 11 a.m., Wednesday 19 September 2018.

Motion agreed to.

The Council adjourned at 4.11 p.m.