

## GRIEVANCE DEBATE

### CHILD ABUSE

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** I was very pleased to see the Premier today table the Anglican Church's report into the handling of claims of sexual abuse and misconduct within the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide. As the Premier said, this is a full and rigorous report. It has prompted further public debate, and I am sure it will continue that public debate. This report shows the failure over decades—not just the last few years—as well as neglect and cover-up. This has been an absolute breach of trust by people who should be beyond reproach, whether it is the Anglican or Catholic Church, or any other persons or bodies that hold themselves out to be leaders of the community—people who dictate or try to dictate the way in which we should be conducting ourselves. They should be beyond reproach.

What we have seen here is an absolute breach of trust. People and organisations that cover up or perpetrate any acts of sexual abuse or misconduct, particularly against children but also against others, should be exposed. They should be condemned and further scrutinised. As the Premier pointed out, this is not a government inquiry. This is a church inquiry and it is an independent inquiry. It was carried out by very esteemed people in our society. The board of inquiry comprised former Justice of the Supreme Court, the Hon. Trevor Olsson, and Dr Donna Chung of the University of South Australia's School of Social Work and Social Policy.

I congratulate Archbishop Ian George on having the document tabled in this house. I know that Archbishop Phillip Wilson will enable the report from the Catholic Church to be tabled in this house. I did write to the Catholic archbishop a number of months ago, with the encouragement of the Premier, to seek the Catholic archbishop's assistance in exposing all the wrongs of the past. I look forward to receiving a reply from the Catholic archbishop. I have not yet received a reply. I did get a letter from Monsignor David Cappo advising that the archbishop was at the Vatican and that he would reply. I have not yet received that reply, so I do not yet have on record that the Catholic Church is willing to put its report up for scrutiny.

Questions have been raised with me by people who have attended Catholic organisations, particularly St Ann's Special School. A number of parents have approached me about problems that they have been having and about the perpetrators of those dastardly acts, such as the bus driver, Perkins. Some have been caught and some have been exposed, and some of them are being punished now, but it is very important that we do not look at this inquiry and stick it on the shelf. The Anglican Church's report contains a couple of very salient comments in the first couple of pages. On page one, the fourth point states:

At various stages of the Inquiry the board was told that there was limited knowledge about child sexual abuse and that not much was known amongst parishes and church organisations until recent times. It was said that this prevented abuse from being identified and an appropriate response implemented. Whilst this is a reasonable statement to make in some instances, it was at times made in referring to events occurring in the 1990s.

This abuse goes back many years. The Premier said today that they have removed the statute of limitations pre-1982—and so we should. Everybody who has been involved in these contemptible acts should be exposed and punished. It is not

the church that I am after, and it is not the organisation. I have been accused of that. In fact, there was an interjection today about bashing the Catholics. It is nothing to do with that at all. It is to do with catching people who do horrible things to the most vulnerable people in our society—children. At least the Anglican Church has tabled its report, and I look forward to the Catholic Church's report. Further into the Anglican Church's report, it states:

The evidence that has been presented to the Board indicates that past pastoral responses often emphasised forgiveness and concern for the person who was the subject of the complaint, at the expense of the complainant. There was an emphasis on the complainant needing to 'forgive' and to 'understand' the perpetrator's motives.

I cannot understand the perpetrator's motives. What I want is, not an eye for an eye; I want the perpetrators of these acts to be caught and exposed, and for the system to be corrected, to ensure that no further corruption or disgraceful acts such as these are ever perpetrated upon the most vulnerable in our society.

### RECONCILIATION WEEK

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey):** I acknowledge that this parliament stands on Kaurna land, and that we meet here in both the upper house and the lower house on the land of the Kaurna people, so I pay my respects to the traditional owners and thank them for their care of the land. Reconciliation Week has seen many activities and I would like to make mention of an event that I attended in Victoria Square last week. Victoria Square is a traditional meeting place, and many people came from all over Adelaide for the entertainment and to catch up on news and hear all the latest about their family groupings. It was wonderful that they had this opportunity to join together on that day. Lots of children came through in school groups—indigenous and non-indigenous children alike—and they visited the various displays and enjoyed the sausage sizzle. When I arrived, the Kaurna Plains School was performing several of the songs from their repertoire. I am always happy when I see them at functions, and I enjoy their performances because of their enthusiasm, which is a credit to their school and to their teachers, particularly Cherie Watkins, who is always with them whenever I see them.

The crowd was also treated to a spectacular vocal performance by a young lady, Catherine Sumner, who I understand auditioned recently for *Australian Idol*. If audience reaction is anything to go by, she is in with a very good chance of not only making the show but having a very good career afterwards. One of the stands held a display about the Colebrook Home that was part of so many Aboriginal children's lives. One of the women who lived in that home is now an author. Her name is Doris Kartinyeri and she lives locally, very close to the Florey electorate—

*Mrs Geraghty interjecting:*

**Ms BEDFORD:** Yes, she is a constituent of the member for Torrens. Her book, *Kick the Tin*, is well worth reading. Doris, was also involved in the production of a children's book, which I raced off to purchase straight away. I commend it to all members. It is called *Bush Games and Knucklebones*, and it is about the games that the Colebrook kids played and how they kept each other company, having been taken away from their families—entertaining themselves while forging the lifelong friendships that so many of them have maintained after living in often harsh conditions.

to the question, this government has preserved 100 per cent of the open space at Lochiel Park. In doing that we have saved it from the deprecation of the previous Liberal government, which had intended building on 70 per cent of that land, leaving 30 per cent to the local community. The Hon. Mike Rann's intervention prevented that occurring. As to the value of the land to which the member for Hartley refers, that is, the 4.25 hectares of land on which buildings formerly stood and where new buildings will stand, as members would know, we have talked in the past about making that a model environmental development. We are still in the process of putting that together.

I can say that it will be a model development for people to follow. I would say that the final nature of the development will dictate the value of the land. However, one of the things I can guarantee is that the protection we have given to that wonderful open space, our commitment to an urban forest and our addition to the Linear Park means that that piece of land is valuable, because it is in one of the nicest parts of South Australia which was saved by this Labor government.

**Mr SCALZI:** As a supplementary question, my question related directly to the increasing value of that 4.5 hectares since 2002. Will the minister give me the increase in valuation?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I am not sure whether it is a supplementary question or a repetition, but, since the honourable member did not understand the answer, I will say again that, off the top of my head, I cannot give the value of the land. What I can indicate is that I would expect the value of that land to have increased because we have preserved the open space around it. We are committed to planting an open urban forest. We have added to the Linear Park. Why would someone not want to live there? We have saved one of the most beautiful parts of the member for Hartley's electorate. That was something the honourable member could not do under the previous government—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** We have saved it for the people. Why would it not be of more value?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** When I can give the honourable member a solid answer about the increase in value, I will bring it back to him.

#### SCHOOLS, HECTORVILLE PRIMARY

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services advise on the cost to taxpayers of managing and maintaining the former Hectorville Primary School site in the two years up to the recent sale to the South Australian Housing Trust as confirmed by the former minister for education and children's services on 23 February and also in terms of the loss of salvageable infrastructure, such as evaporative airconditioning units? The former Hectorville Primary School site was declared surplus to requirements at the end of 2000, and the Land Management Corporation commenced with disposal in accordance with government regulations. The process was delayed several times. Meanwhile, the abandoned site was subjected to repeated vandalism, which necessitated ongoing repairs—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is now clearly engaging in a debate, which is, again, statement of a grievance. The minister for education.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I cannot give that information to the honourable member now, but I will bring it back to the house.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Kavel

*Members interjecting:*

#### FIRE BLIGHT

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel):** You've got it! Will the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries explain what contribution this government is making to the work being carried out by Buyer Security Australia in the assessment of importing New Zealand apples and the resultant threat of the introduction into Australia of the extremely serious disease of fire blight?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, off the cuff, no, but I pledge to you and the house that I will get it.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** An interjector said 'Why?' The answer is because I do not know, but I will find out.

#### CHILD ABUSE

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** Having tabled the Anglican Church's Board of Inquiry report into the handling of claims of sexual abuse and misconduct, will the Premier now ensure that the Catholic Church also tables its report at the earliest moment?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier):** I can reveal to the house that I have made the offer to the Catholic Church to table its report when it is ready. I certainly made that offer. I cannot force anyone to take advantage of the facility, but I have made the offer. The honourable member asked me to make the offer. I responded and made the offer—a fact which he already knew before he asked the question.

#### INSURANCE, PUBLIC LIABILITY

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** My question is to the Premier. What steps are being taken to develop a comprehensive public liability insurance cover for volunteers in South Australia? In the Volunteering SA annual report, it states that their public liability insurance has risen from \$3 850 to \$16 907.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier):** As the house well knows, we have been dealing with issues of public liability for the best part of 18 months. From memory, two bills have passed the house. We have more bills on the way to provide a comprehensive response to public liability issues. Also, of course, we have assisted at the margin some areas where we have felt it appropriate. I understand the honourable member has that question on the *Notice Paper*, and we will get an answer back to him as soon as we can.