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Madam Speaker Lambley took the Chair at 10 am.

VISITORS
Sanderson Middle School

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise of the presence in the gallery of Years 7, 8 and 9 students from Sanderson Middle School accompanied by their teachers. On behalf of honourable members, I extend a warm welcome to Parliament House.

Members: Hear, hear!

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Member for Nightcliff

J DAVIS (Johnston): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 224, I move that the Member for Nightcliff be granted leave of absence from the Chamber today because of illness.

Motion agreed to.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (POLICE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS) BILL
Serial 39

Mrs FINOCCHIARO (Police): Madam Speaker, I present a Bill titled Police Administration Amendment (Police Public Safety Officers) Bill 2025, Serial 39, and table the explanatory statement.

I move that the Bill be read a first time.

This Bill is the first tranche of changes to operationalise this government's commitment to a significant law and order reform that will target antisocial behaviour in public places, on our transport network and around public housing.

This government is revolutionising frontline responses to antisocial behaviour by consolidating what are currently separate government frontline resources into one centralised workforce. This workforce will be a brand-new rank of police officer called police public safety officers.

The police public safety officer rank will consolidate resources currently spread across various agencies—namely, frontline police auxiliaries, including police auxiliary liquor inspectors; public housing safety officers; transit safety officers; and private security resourcing—to provide a centralised and highly visible response to issues impacting public safety in the Northern Territory.

The need for police public safety officers is directed towards the future of policing. The community is best served by having both experienced and highly trained police focused on criminal investigations, complemented by another highly trained cohort of police engaged in policing support and antisocial behaviour responses.

The establishment of police public safety officers within the *Police Administration Act 1978* will improve efficiencies across our bus networks, public housing assets and public spaces. It will streamline operations and consolidate workflows, providing a safer and stronger Northern Territory, aligning with the government's pillars of reducing crime, rebuilding the economy and restoring our lifestyle.

Police public safety officers will be equipped with the same knowledge and skills through standardised training programs. This will promote uniformity in performance and delivery whilst creating a flexible workforce that can be deployed across the community to combat antisocial behaviour and safety concerns in a targeted and structured response.

This Bill is only part one of the necessary reform. This Bill will simply amend the *Police Administration Act 1978* to legally establish police public safety officers as a rank of the Northern Territory Police Force. This Bill is a necessary precondition for the determination of relevant industrial relations matters—namely, determination of eligibility requirements for applicants and determination of the terms, conditions and remuneration of police public safety officers.

The establishment of the police public safety officers is a key reform to reducing crime and restoring the Territory lifestyle. This government is committed to progressing this initiative for the benefit of all Territorians in a timely fashion.

It is imperative this Bill be passed on urgency to allow statutory preconditions for recruitment to occur. It is expected that the recruitment campaign for the police public safety officers will commence in October 2025.

This Bill will be enhanced by a second Bill to be introduced during next month's sittings of the Legislative Assembly. This second Bill will be a more substantive Bill that will make amendments to the *Housing Act 1982, Surveillance Devices Act 2007* and *Public Transport (Passenger Safety) Act 2008* necessary to reflect existing powers being undertaken by police public safety officers.

I am pleased to commend this Bill to honourable members.

Motion agreed to; Bill read a first time.

Mrs FINOCCHIARO (Police): Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill be declared urgent.

As I outlined in my explanatory speech, this legislation is simple in its form and does not contain any of the substantive components of what a police public safety officer will do, their pay and conditions and all those other things. It is necessary to simply establish the rank. As you will see in the Bill it is straightforward.

The *Police Administration Act* is the legal document that creates the police force in the Northern Territory. Currently the legislation provides for Aboriginal community police officer and police auxiliary, and this will add police public safety officer. This will be the empowering tool for our police force to conduct the important work of the formal component of consultation with the Northern Territory Police Association, which then works through all the conditions. This will then allow for the resolution of all the terms and conditions once the formal consultation commences, which cannot commence without this happening first. We have to create the position first, then the formal consultation regarding industrial relations and terms and conditions will happen. Once that is finalised we can recruit for the positions and tell people what they will be paid, what they can do and all the things you would expect. We cannot undertake a recruitment campaign until we have all the details about the job.

You can see that it is a clear process. We have to, first, create the position; second, undertake the formal consultation and land on the details; and then we can open up recruitment, get our first group into the college for their training and graduate them. We have a timeframe in which we would like that to happen; it would be fantastic to see our first lot of recruits this year and to start that recruitment in October.

Time is of the essence. We do not want to delay what will be an important reform for the Territory. We have already done extensive change management with our public housing safety officers and transit safety officers. Our police did an excellent session a couple of weeks ago for everyone to have more information about what it might look like going forward. That work has to continue in the background to support them through this transitional phase. We have had a significant number of people expressing interest, from within government and externally, to move into this new role.

This new role is a significant change to policing in the Northern Territory. It will free up our constables to do crime investigations and respond to 000 calls. It will allow them the opportunity to do that work whilst we have a separate stream of police doing the important public-facing work. Although our transit officers and our housing officers have been doing a great job they, by their very nature, are limited in what they can do. By bringing in this coordinated approach we will have a far stronger response.

We briefed members of the opposition and the Independents yesterday. It is a straightforward piece of legislation; it is a precondition to do the next important tranche of work. We look forward to passing it today so that next week we can commence the important next steps and move towards that timeframe so that in the first half of next year our first police public safety officers will be graduating.

This is not a reinvention of the wheel, as other jurisdictions have PPSOs. It will make a huge impact on frontline policing and community safety for Territorians.

Ms UIBO (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, before I contribute to the Chief Minister's motion, I give a big shout-out to the Sanderson Middle School students and one of my former colleagues. I was a proud Sanderson student in the high school days before we changed the system. It will go back to being a high school, but I give a big shout-out to all the mob at Sanderson, which was my old high school.

The Chief Minister has continued to show her lack of leadership in getting her house in order and showing Territorians that the CLP is fit for governing. Time and again in just 12 months—you can either say 12 short or 12 long months, depending on how you view it—we have seen the lack of leadership, organisation and

respect from the Chief Minister and her CLP team, who do not care for any rules. They do not think that the rules apply to them when it comes to making good law for the Northern Territory.

Westminster system processes have been established over time—many years before any of us were in this place—to have governments that are fit and proper. That is now debatable for the Northern Territory, unfortunately. These processes show that there is a good way of making law for the Northern Territory. Time and again, the Chief Minister and her CLP ministers have shown disrespect to this place, these processes and to the Territorians whom we serve in this House.

Thirty-eight pieces of legislation have been brought to the House. Only eight have been sent to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee. The CLP made a big song and dance about bringing back scrutiny to this parliament and saying, 'Look, the scrutiny committee now exists', but only eight of 38 Bills have even had a whiff of scrutiny. The CLP is going back to its DNA and not respecting Territorians who want to have a say on the laws that govern the Northern Territory which we all have to abide by in and outside this House.

From the Tiwi Islands to the desert and from east to west, Territorians deserve to know that parliamentarians are doing their job with every law they make. The leader of the government, Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro, is not doing her job. She crowed about this for eight years in opposition, but in the first sittings this CLP government threw process and care for scrutiny out the window. Of the 38 pieces of legislation introduced only eight have been to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee. There have been eight Bills on urgency, including this one, because the government cannot get its house in order to create strong, robust, carefully considered and, dare I say, evidence-based law for Territorians. That is our job.

Why do we get elected? It is to be a good local member. One of our jobs as a member of parliament is to make laws for the Northern Territory. The opposition and crossbench are not even afforded the respect to do our jobs. We get a last-minute invite for a briefing and the government says, 'We are not sure whether it will be urgent'. We did not know that this Bill would be on urgency until about 6.30 last night. I did not get a call from the Chief Minister. Thankfully, her Police adviser is a good man and did his job. I did not even get a call, message, text or email from the Chief Minister or the Leader of Government Business to say, 'By the way, we are doing this and it is really important because of X, Y, Z'. We were not afforded the respect to do our jobs properly.

A big part of this—forgive me for being concerned and suspicious—is that we do not think that this legislation will come back in October like the government said it would. We do not support the urgency motion.

Mr MALEY (Agriculture and Fisheries): Madam Speaker, I am eager to respond to the nonsense that we heard from the Leader of the Opposition about a lack of leadership. This is true leadership …

Ms Uibo: Doing things last minute.

Madam SPEAKER: Opposition Leader!

Mr MALEY: This is about making the rules and laws that are best for the Territory when it needs to be done to ensure that it is a safer place.

Under the previous Labor government, the Territory went to rack and ruin. It went downhill quickly. Perhaps one of the reasons I stood for election is that I felt the Territory lifestyle and safety had been eroded by the previous Labor government. That is probably why I am here today.

The Leader of the Opposition went on to say that for some the rules do not apply. These are the rules. We are following standing orders; we are not changing the standing orders. We are simply following the rules as set out in the rule book of parliament. We are following the rules to a tee to do what we were elected to do, which is keep the community safe—something the others failed to do.

Ms Uibo: I hope you do not believe your own rubbish. If you say it enough, then it becomes truth, hey?

Madam SPEAKER: Opposition Leader, you are on a warning.

Mr MALEY: Then she mentioned the scrutiny committee, which the Labor government scrapped when she was a minister. She has no credibility to talk about the scrutiny committee because Labor cut it; there was no chance to send anything to it. When she talks about integrity, she needs to look in the mirror. There would be no reflection whatsoever if she did that.

This matter is urgent. It is about making sure that we protect the community. Community safety is the number one priority. We need to get this legislation in urgently to allow those negotiations and the consultation to begin. The previous government did not consult, but those opposite say that we are not consulting. This is the first step to allow us to consult with the relevant stakeholders to make sure we get this legislation right. This is not about how it operates and the functions of the role; this will simply create the role so that we can negotiate and consult on how it will work and the terms and conditions.

The previous Labor government stuffed up community safety. In Labor's 19 years of leading the government in the Northern Territory, crime went out of control and the economy sank to the lowest level possible. People were driving all the way to God's country in Howard Springs to go shopping because Casuarina was too dangerous.

Mr Edgington: What about the land of opportunity?

Mr MALEY: The land of opportunity.

Imagine if we had these community safety officers back then and could control the community and make it safe to go shopping instead of people having to drive 30-odd kilometres to God's country to buy a loaf of bread.

This is about making sure we get things right. It is on urgency because this really is urgent. We want to start consultation, negotiating and setting up the terms of how these positions will work so that we can keep the community safe. We were clearly elected to do that.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about not consulting on and rushing through 38 pieces of legislation. We took our policies to the election, and we had a clear win. We consulted with not just one or two people; we consulted with every Territorian. They voted and put 17 people on the government side of the Chamber. The Leader of the Opposition talked about the lack of consultation, but you could not get better consultation. These 38 pieces of legislation deal with issues throughout our plan. The Member for Karama talks about our plan regularly. Those pieces of legislation are putting our plan in place.

The leader, Lia Finocchiaro, is showing leadership. We promised to do it, and we are doing it. Those opposite do not like it, and that is probably why they are on the other side of the Chamber.

We are all out and about in the community. The positive feedback we are getting about being safe in the community, the economy picking up and businesses turning around shows that the leadership of Lia Finocchiaro is working. We are here to make the community safe, which is why this legislation is urgent.

Mr PAECH (Gwoja): Madam Speaker, the government does not have a plan for police public safety officers. The government talks about a plan, but let us be clear about this. The government announced this on 19 June, and we are in September. The government had months to prepare for this and get ready. Government members did not talk about this at the start of the week when they put up all their social media tiles and said what they would do in parliament. There was no mention of this Bill on urgency.

The government is doing this because the Attorney-General is so incompetent that she could not deliver the anti-discrimination Bill to this parliament, and it is scrambling for things to do. The government would have had a whole day in this parliament without a single Bill before the Assembly, so the Chief Minister ran back and screamed at people, 'We need to have something ready for parliament. We need to do something.'

Members of the police force last night said that they were blindsided that the government would do this today on urgency. That is directly from police. They said, 'We had no idea this is what the government would do'.

It is important to acknowledge there are things that will need to be done on urgency, as there have been traditionally for all parliaments. However, the government sneakily did not even talk about it. If you knew this had to be done, you could have told the opposition and Independents at the start of the week that you would do this on urgency, but you waited until 6.30 last night. Even when members of the government were asked what was going on, they said, 'We haven't decided whether it will be on urgency. The Chief is still thinking about it.' Last night we saw members scurrying around like headless chooks because they had no idea what was going on.

It is bad for the parliament when the opposition and crossbench do not have an opportunity to look at it. Whether there are big or small legislative changes, members need to understand them. They need an opportunity to look at it and to go back to their communities and talk about it. Yes, this might be a small thing,

as the Chief Minister said, but when we do not even see the Bill until this morning, we do not know whether that is the case. We do not know whether the Chief Minister is lying, because we did not even have a chance to see the Bill until this morning. This is worrying people.

Territorians are asking questions: will this parliament get to debate whether transit and public housing safety officers will carry guns, or will that be done by regulation? People in our community want answers to those questions. We could not even tell them until this morning what is in the Bill because we had not seen it. That is not good lawmaking or parliamentary process.

I look forward to hearing more from the government about these changes. I acknowledge that industrial negotiations will take place, but the government already said that these police public safety officers would not be deployed until 2026, so there is time to go through this process. We should not be rushing these things on urgency, because if the government knew that there had to be industrial negotiations and negotiations with the hardworking Northern Territory Police Association and the police force, it has had time since June when it made this announcement to do that work and have those negotiations. We could be debating something that had been given ample notice and opportunity for people to understand.

We are concerned. We ask the government to stop bringing in Bills on urgency that do not need to be. Eight pieces of legislation, including this one, have been done on urgency. They have not been referred to the scrutiny committee.

Let us be clear that we are debating this today as a direct result of the incompetent Attorney-General's failure to bring on for debate an anti-discrimination Bill because she did not consult properly—she shut out Territorians—and the government is scrambling for legislation. I dare say we will see something in October on urgency because the parliamentary schedule is looking pretty empty. That is what you get under this government; it does not have a clear plan or legislative agenda. If you ask every Cabinet minister, they cannot tell you what is on the agenda.

Mr YAN (Treasurer): Madam Speaker, I do not think those on the other side of the Chamber understand what we are doing this morning. I listened to the input from those opposite. We are dealing with a specific administrative matter that needs to take place to create a position so that we can have police public safety officers.

There is an administrative task that needs to happen so that the position can be created. The thing is if we delay that then we, in effect, delay the appointment and putting those people on the ground where they are needed. We need those people on the ground. Police public safety officers are about improving the effectiveness and response capability of our police and creating career paths for housing and transit safety officers who will transition across as well as other people looking to move into the police force.

The whole change—which is not what we are debating today; we are debating only the administrative part of creating the position so that the consultation work can take place—creates flexibility and efficiencies for our police force. We need to create the statutory preconditions for that employment. It is a simple piece. The opposition is trying to conflate what we are doing today with something that is different. We need to establish the rank under the *Police Administration Act*, and sooner rather than later so that all-important work can take place.

Through my department there have been numerous discussions with public transport safety officers about what their roles, pay and conditions will be. That has been difficult because without creating the position, you cannot determine the pay and conditions. A number of people within my agency want to transfer across, but they need to know what their pay and conditions will be. This legislation we are bringing on urgency allows that discussion to take place and not delay it; otherwise, we will delay putting these people on the ground for months, and that is to the detriment of Territorians.

Yesterday I was asked by the media about legislation, what goes to the scrutiny committee and what we bring to this House. I said, 'We will pass matters on urgency when they are of benefit to the safety of Territorians'. When we need to provide for the safety and security of Territorians, I make no apologies for bringing Bills on urgency to this parliament and passing them. That is what this legislation is about; it is about dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour at a lower level so that we free up our police to do their all-important work, hopefully be proactive and start to reduce crime.

I listened to the Leader of the Opposition talk about disrespect. The Leader of the Opposition needs to look in her own backyard and at Labor's track record on how it respected Territorians. Territorians had their say on how Labor respected them just 12 months ago.

The Member for Gwoja spoke about there being no plan; I do not think that is correct. We have been clear with our plan, particularly for the police public safety officers. We have been clear about that plan and the work we are doing to bring these people online. This Bill is work to make that happen.

We are doing it on urgency because we do not want to delay it. We know the importance of bringing these police public safety officers online quickly. They have to go through training, and we have to advertise the positions. We are doing this small piece of administrative work to create the position so that consultation can happen and when people apply for these jobs they will know the terms and conditions. If Labor had its way, we would not be passing this today; we would be waiting many months, which would delay the implementation of police public safety officers for many months. That would be to the detriment of the safety and security of Territorians going about their everyday lives. We want to do what we need to do and we need to do it safely. This helps do that.

J DAVIS (Johnston): Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned by the way this government is using urgency powers over and again.

Everyone knows that I am new to this parliament. I am learning and studying what I can about the way the Westminster system is meant to work. I did research on how urgency powers are meant to be used. I have a series of quotes, but I will just quote from Melbourne Law School:

'Urgent powers are used to pass laws quickly in exceptional circumstances such as natural disasters, war or serious public health crises where ordinary legislative processes are too slow to respond to immediate threats to public safety or the state's integrity.'

That is not what we are seeing today or what we saw through the eight pieces of legislation that this government has pushed through on urgency. That is a misuse of the democratic process, and it makes our job meaningless. It makes a mockery of having people elected by their constituents to contribute to the democratic process.

This Bill came into our inbox 10 minutes ago, with no time to look at it and understand what it means. We had a briefing at nine o'clock last night. There was no time to consult with the people in our community about what this might mean. We are being told, 'Do not worry; there is nothing to see here.' Forgive me, CLP, it is difficult to trust that, looking at what has happened over the last year.

I do not understand the rationale that consultation can begin only once this law has passed. That does not seem to have happened with any other laws that this government has brought through. I heard the Chief Minister say that this is the first tranche and there will be more legislation coming. I am unclear what powers this law will be giving to these new PPSOs …

Mrs Finocchiaro: None.

J DAVIS: None—my question is whether we will be coming back to parliament to articulate those laws and changes, or will that be done through regulation? Are we making that decision today? I do not know. I do not have that information. I asked that last night in my briefing; I did not get the answer …

Mr Edgington: You should listen.

Mr Maley: Why don't you listen?

Mr Edgington: You heard it this morning.

Madam SPEAKER: Silence, please!

J DAVIS: This government also reintroduced the scrutiny committee. I applauded that. However, it is shameful to refer a matter like the container deposit legislation to the scrutiny committee when no Bills about human rights have been referred to it.

Mr Maley: Containers have rights.

J DAVIS: That is not the purpose of the scrutiny committee. The scrutiny committee is there for this government to be properly informed about what the implications might be of the laws it is bringing to this Chamber which will affect people's human rights across the Northern Territory. To refer legislation about

bottle caps to that committee when you do not refer the anti-discrimination legislation or any of the justice laws to that committee …

Mr Young: Sacred sites.

J DAVIS: You did not refer the sacred sites Bill or any of the Bills that have a fundamental impact on people's human rights. It is a misuse of parliamentary resources.

I strongly oppose this Bill being brought through on urgency. I feel like it is preventing me from doing my job to represent my constituents in this Chamber.

Ms BOOTHBY (Attorney-General): Madam Speaker, I support this Bill coming on urgently, as the Chief Minister outlined. Many of my colleagues have spoken about it this morning as well.

This is of the utmost urgency because we went to the election saying that we needed to reduce crime. Territorians overwhelmingly said that they too saw reducing crime as the number one priority. Guess who is on the front line to help reduce crime and deal with the baddies on our streets? It is our police. Our police asked for this legislation to go through today on urgency …

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Be quiet!

Ms BOOTHBY: … so that they can go through the processes to start looking at the college, what needs to happen, the industrial conversations that must go on and how it will all work. This process allows that to happen. If we delay this and wait until October, we would push everything back for our police by another six months. Therefore, it is urgent.

I will respond to the comments about the scrutiny committee. The legislation we are sending to the scrutiny committee is about things that we have not ventilated in the community during the previous 12 months and campaigning for the election. All the things we have brought forward on urgency have been about our election commitments. That is more consultation than ever before. It is common sense how that works. We will continue to represent Territorians by putting forward the plan we said we would do by implementing legislation.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition talked about the 38 pieces of legislation that we have brought into this parliament in only one year. That is extraordinary. How much did Labor put forward in four years? It was probably not that much. Labor was really slow. I am proud of the 38 pieces of legislation that we have brought into this House in 12 months because that demonstrates—those opposite want to talk about process—we are delivering on the promises that we gave Territorians. Territorians wanted us to deliver, and we are doing that.

A former Attorney-General, the Member for Gwoja, tries to throw stones at us, but Territorians know that he was the worst Attorney-General the Territory has ever experienced. He single-handedly watched over and let a crime crisis go through the Northern Territory, not caring one bit about victims, allowing the place to go to rack and ruin over eight long years. That is a disgrace, and it is why he is no longer the Attorney-General. It is why the Labor government is no longer.

I do not know how long it will be before Labor members find themselves again and work out who they actually represent because it certainly is not all Territorians. They blindly come into this Chamber and throw pot shots all the time, accusing us of misrepresenting Territorians, but we are delivering what we said we would do. It is that simple.

Going back to those 38 pieces of legislation, we had five Bills in three days. That is an enormous agenda to get through. The CLP government is proud of that work.

Ms Uibo: That was a normal week for Labor.

Mr Mackay: I think you supported all of them.

Ms BOOTHBY: They did support all of them; thank you, Member for Goyder.

This Bill allows that one small change to the *Police Administration Act* to ensure that we have the role titled so that police can do their important work to continue the process with the negotiations, industrial relations,

terms and conditions, roles, powers and all those sorts of things. The Chief Minister said that there is more to come next month to explore all those other things. Obviously, we will talk about that in the media, as we do with everything else, leading up to that point.

I pick up on the fact that the opposition is upset that it had to work past 6.30 last night. Guess what? We work day and night. We will continue to work day and night to bring legislation to this parliament to make a better life for Territorians because that is what they asked for and that is what they deserve.

Mr YOUNG (Daly): Madam Speaker, this is not about the Bill; it is about the process in this parliament.

Members in this Chamber, including me and the Members for Wanguri and Fong Lim, late last year went to Melbourne to represent this Assembly at the legal and constitutional affairs conference to look at good and proper process. I can tell you that all the people from around the country and New Zealand who were there representing their jurisdictions would be shaking their heads at what is going on here. As the Member for Johnston outlined, legislation should be put on urgency only for emergencies.

This is not an emergency. The government has known about this since 19 June, so to pretend that all of a sudden it is urgent is nothing but a lie. I did not see any member of the CLP government put out to the public that this legislation would be put forward this week. There was not one piece of information from any member of the CLP government to let Territorians, the opposition and the crossbench know that this legislation would come forward.

We know that it has come forward because the Attorney-General has been incompetent. She was unable to bring forward her Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill because it needed further scrutiny and consultation, yet she has not even put that Bill through the scrutiny committee to get feedback and consult various groups.

You want to sling mud about our Attorney-General apparently being the worst Attorney-General in history, but I do not believe that. You are the worst Attorney-General that we have seen because you could not even bring on your Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill, which we know has been going on for some time. You could have put it through the scrutiny committee, so you are the worst Attorney-General in the history of the Northern Territory. I am proud of the Member for Gwoja and the legislative reform that he put through.

Mr Mackay: For ruining the Territory.

Mr YOUNG: No; he did not ruin the Territory. He put good, solid social policy through this parliament.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr YOUNG: They are all upset because the Attorney-General could not even get her anti-discrimination Bill before us. That is what is shameful. What is incompetent is the Attorney-General.

This is not good proper legislation. We worked past 6.30 last night. The issue we have is that you told us at 6.30 last night there was a briefing and this would come forward.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! We will have order while the Member for Daly is speaking.

Mr YOUNG: It was 6.30 pm yesterday when we were told that this would be coming through today. We had no detail and hardly any questions were answered. You still cannot answer some of the questions that the Leader of the Opposition and the Members for Gwoja and Johnston asked. I hope someone will get up next to answer those questions because there are administrative details that we need to know whether we support it. We do not trust you with legislation; you cannot be trusted. Our role as the opposition is to scrutinise legislation, go through the detail and ask important questions on behalf of Territorians.

This is an admission from the CLP government that it has failed Territorians.

Mr EDGINGTON (Health): Madam Speaker, in response to this debate about urgency, it is interesting that we constantly hear that those opposite have not had an opportunity to read this Bill, yet they have wasted 45 minutes talking about urgency. They had the briefing at 6.30 last night. Not only did they get the briefing …

J Davis: It was 9.30.

Ms Uibo: It was 9.30 for the crossbench.

Madam SPEAKER: Silence!

Mr EDGINGTON: It has been explained over and again—I do not know how many times—that the clauses today will include the position of police public safety officer in the Act. Those opposite say that they do not understand or have not had enough time, yet they have wasted 45 minutes talking about this.

It was interesting to hear the Member for Johnston say that she did not understand what this was all about, because on 18 June we made it clear that this is aimed at reducing crime and restoring the Territory lifestyle. We made it clear that the police public safety officer stream would be created to better deploy frontline resources. Therefore, to suggest that there is little information about this position is not only misleading but also goes to show that they are not listening to what is going on in parliament because this has been spoken about in the Chamber and the media for months. Go back and look at the intention of this legislation. It seems to me that no-one on that side wants to listen.

For eight years the Labor government failed to make important changes which would reduce crime in the Territory. I listened to the young Member for Daly and the Member for Gwoja—who failed to put in any safe liquor laws after the cessation of Stronger Futures—but we know how much they failed to reduce crime.

We are moving ahead. We were elected last year to reduce crime, rebuild the economy and restore the Territory lifestyle. That is what we are getting on with; it is what this legislation is all about. The Chief Minister has made it clear that this is about creating a position of police public safety officer. There is nothing more, nothing less.

We will include the position in the legislation and then to commence the important consultation with the NT Police Association to determine the conditions of service of that position. Once that goes in the legislation, we have strong solid grounds to commence negotiations. Getting police public safety officers in place will provide a consolidated response to the antisocial behaviour we are seeing in public housing, as will bringing transit officers into the fold and some of the police auxiliary positions. This will create an opportunity to commence that negotiation and get on with the job of reducing crime in the Northern Territory. That is what it is about.

We heard about scrutiny. The former Labor government did not have a Legislative Scrutiny Committee. It is disingenuous for those opposite to talk about scrutiny when they know, after eight years under their government, not only was there no scrutiny but also they did not even have a scrutiny committee. They paint a picture that the CLP is somehow doing things wrong, but we are getting on with the job.

It is urgent to get this position into the legislation so that we can move ahead and have the necessary industrial relations consultations with the Police Association. Everybody wants to see this position. Labor is opposed to reducing crime, which is why it did nothing over the eight years it was in government. It had the opportunity. The Attorney-General failed to introduce legislation …

Ms Uibo: Stop lying! You are a minister.

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 31; imputations and improper motives. I have consistently heard the Opposition Leader and other members of the opposition calling out and using the word ‘liar’ in their contribution. It is highly unparliamentary and unacceptable up until this point in our parliament. I cannot remember in my 13 years ever hearing that word being used as flippantly, carelessly and improperly as I am hearing it now. I seek your ruling on this, Madam Speaker, because, quite frankly, it is unparliamentary at a minimum and offends the standing orders in the extreme.

Madam SPEAKER: Chief Minister, you are right. To accuse members in this parliament of lying is unparliamentary, but there has always been a certain amount of latitude given to the context in which it is said. It is disorderly and unacceptable to call someone a liar, but to say someone is lying has often gone through to the keeper.

I agree with your sentiment. It is unparliamentary to make those accusations across the Chamber. I have not pulled it up because, over the years, it has been allowed to some degree. However, I will not allow interjections of that kind. If you want to say that someone is lying, get up on your feet and execute that argument. The

process normally is to suspend standing orders and argue, basically through a censure motion, that someone has lied. You can use a debate to do that.

The Chief Minister is right; it is unparliamentary. I have not ruled it out because there has always been this grey area, to my mind. That has always been my perspective on that type of behaviour, but it is unparliamentary and I urge people to desist in using that language. As I said, if you are of the mind that someone is lying, take the bold step and debate it through the suspension of standing orders and other mechanisms at your disposal.

From this point on I will be calling it out as unparliamentary. I have been reluctant to do so because it often means that the debate, like at present, is interrupted and distracted by that. Everyone is on notice from this point.

Mr EDGINGTON: In closing, after eight years of Labor putting offenders first, we want to put victims first. We want to ensure that the unacceptable levels of antisocial behaviour are brought under control. I urge that this legislation be passed today.

Mr BROWN (Arafura): Madam Speaker, this is another example of the government making things up as it goes along. It is basically just showing us this Bill and then asking us to trust it. We need proper process.

I pick up on what the deputy said. He said, 'We bring the Bill to the House and we will take it out for consultation'; it was along those lines. That is a back-to-front process. You are meant to go out and consult first. I am gobsmacked by that. There was nothing in the CLP plan that said there would be no consultation and no engagement outside and that it would start from the inside and go out.

I am struggling to let my constituents know about all of this. There are Aboriginal people living in housing complexes who take the bus every day. The Member for Karama and the two Palmerston boys, we have a huge Aboriginal constituency in our area. We want to do our job properly to let them know. I ask for a bit more respect for us so that we can let our people know that this is coming.

There was no forewarning—yesterday at 6.30. Only the Member for Arnhem went up for the briefing because the rest of us had to be down here. Why did we not get the mention yesterday? If it is so urgent, as the opposition Whip, I would like you to let me know on Tuesday so that I can let my team know so that we can debate it properly.

Obviously, because other legislation is not being pushed through this week, the government had to push up this Bill. We understand that, but we need proper consultation, input and scrutiny on everything we do in this House as representatives. This is not what Territorians expect of a good government. It is not what they expect of us as well. As an opposition, we want to tell our people about what is coming. I want to go out there and say, 'This is coming up in October. Do you want me to have input on it?' I cannot get that chance with this process.

Mr O'GALLAGHER (Karama): Madam Speaker, I heard clearly from the Member for Daly that we have not been consulting with people about this. I picked up that the Member for Arafura also talked about consultation.

I can tell you that I put the press release about the police public safety officer model in planning in my July newsletter. I hand-delivered that newsletter across the whole electorate. The constituents read it and gave me feedback. I will look at a couple of elements of what it said. The heading was, 'Police Public Safety Officer model in planning':

> *The Finocchiaro Government is embarking on significant law and order reform to target antisocial behaviour in public places, as part of our year of action, certainty and security.*
>
> *Aimed at reducing crime and restoring the Territory lifestyle, the Government and Northern Territory Police Force are developing a new Police Public Safety Officer (PPSO) stream to better deploy frontline resources across key public spaces …*

It went on to say that it would cover transit officers and definitely public housing officers, which is relevant to my electorate.

I seek leave to table that page.

Leave granted.

Mr O'GALLAGHER: It went through the description of all this. The last paragraph said:

> *A structured changed management process will support affected staff and guide the transition. The first intake of PPSOs is expected to commence training in December 2025, with officers operational in early 2026.*

That is the timeframe we told the community. I have had many people in my electorate come up to me and say, 'We need this, but, Brian, we need it quicker. You are not doing it quickly enough.' They would like it this week. They probably wanted it last week if they had the chance. However, you have to go through a process.

This is enabling legislation to start the process, to get the descriptions finalised and the positions created so that we can go on with getting the powers and all that sorted out and then getting the recruitment process going. We need to get this started.

I do not think my constituents want us to sit back and say, 'Let us lay this on the table for another 30 days and go to the scrutiny committee'. They want it; they do not want to hold back on this. They know that this is what they want. Sure, we can debate the details when the further legislation comes through; that is fine, but they want this happening. It is a change they have been demanding, and they are conscious of it.

I understand normal concerns about urgency, but I heard about it being eight pieces of legislation. Do not forget that early legislation we brought in was in our plan, as the Deputy Chief Minister said. We said that we would do all the stuff about bail reform in week one of parliament. We went to the election on that. We consulted with the whole of the Territory. People wanted us to deliver what we said, and that is what we did. Likewise, this is urgent for my electorate. My constituents want it.

I commend the Bill.

Motion agreed to.

VISITORS
Sanderson Middle School

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I draw your attention to more students from Sanderson Middle School in the gallery. Welcome to Parliament House, on behalf of honourable members.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs FINOCCHIARO (Police): Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr HOWE (Drysdale): Madam Speaker, the police public safety officers are extremely welcomed in the community of Drysdale. In fact, this cannot come soon enough. Public disorder and antisocial behaviour have been a major issue throughout the electorate, particularly in regard to buses and housing.

Unfortunately, about two years ago antisocial behaviour hit such a point that most people would no longer use the bus network in Palmerston. Seniors stopped using the bus network about two years ago. This means they are relying on family members to take them to doctor appointments and are not going out and visiting friends because they do not feel safe hopping on the bus. That is a real tragedy and takes a toll. It means seniors are not as connected as they could be. The adult children of those seniors say that they know their mum or dad feels like a burden on the family and do not ask to travel as much as they would like.

I took up an offer from Ralph Sinclair, a bus driver in my electorate—he is a long-term Territory bus driver, a great man and a good advocate for his fellow bus drivers—to take the route 71 bus from the Palmerston depot on a Friday. It was the last run.

It was a horrendous experience, to put it bluntly. When I arrived at the bus depot there were fights breaking out everywhere. Security staff were attempting to de-escalate; however, they were severely limited by the powers they had. Whilst all this drunken violence was going on throughout the bus depot, I saw kids from Gray Primary School with one of the mums, trying to go see a movie at Gateway. They came up to me all happy and waving. My heart sank in that moment because these children were being exposed to this degree of violence, drunkenness and antisocial behaviour as they went to see a kids' movie on a Friday night.

We had a discussion about urgency, which I will not go back to, but I relay that it is urgent for the people in my electorate that we act on this. It is genuinely a matter of safety. It is about how we honour our seniors and the kind of world we want to bring our children into.

I thank Sarah and Daniel, a 16 and 14-year-old brother and sister who catch the bus to school. They came up to me with their mum at an event in Gunn and wanted to know what I was doing about bus safety, because they had a knife pulled on them that day at the Palmerston bus depot. They were obviously rattled. Their mum is a teacher; they are a great family. She brought the children to ask me what I would do to ensure their safety to and from school. I talked through a number of reforms with them, particularly focusing on police public safety officers, of which they were huge supporters. If we are to listen to our young people, listen to Sarah and Daniel who wanted this yesterday, because they want to go to and from school feeling safe and not having a knife pulled on them on their simple commute.

It will also make a huge impact on housing. Housing is the largest root cause of crime in the Drysdale electorate. There is a huge facet—reasons—that feed into it. Allowing public safety officers to have real powers to intervene in antisocial behaviour and crime in public housing premises will make a massive difference to the overwhelming number of struggling community members. I will talk about some of them. They include neighbours such as Kristin Kent, Janet Lepoidevan, Charles Wright, Giles Smith, Daniella Finocchiaro, Roslyn Maff, Quinton Ottley, Katy Pritchard and David Drew.

To show why this government is acting with urgency and doing these measures, I regret to inform the House that one neighbour I mentioned, Katy Pritchard, was sexually assaulted on her run on Monday morning. I have spoken to Katy. I took a call just after we started business and spoke to her on the phone. She was running through Gray—she is a single woman about my age who is big into her fitness—and out the front of the 'Sin City' flats on Victoria Drive, a man came and grabbed her in the most depraved and indecent way. She wished she had OC spray, but she was unable to get it yet.

This is why I support the actions we take and the urgency in which we deliver them because a woman like Katy should never have to endure such an attack. If we had greater law and order within those flats, with public safety officers being able to control antisocial behaviour and manage tenants who are doing the wrong thing, it could have been a pre-emptive measure to stop that attack.

My heart truly goes out to Katy. She has asked me to call her again today, and I will. I have her permission to talk about her case because she wants people to know what it is like being a woman by yourself and the crimes that are committed in the Northern Territory against vulnerable people. She does not want to be silent. I commend Katy for that. Katy, I will do everything I can, including supporting this Bill, to make Drysdale that little bit safer. I hope that we have fewer victims moving forward.

Many struggling housing tenants speak to me. Last week a senior was in my electorate office for about three hours, crying. She did not feel safe to go back to her residence. The police came, and we contacted Housing. It is heartbreaking that a woman in her eighties who has lived in her property for 40 years does not feel safe. She is an incredible woman with a huge heart. She grew up in community, came to Darwin in the 1970s and is proud of what she achieved in her life. She has a beautiful grandson at NORFORCE and is proud of her family and what they are doing. For her not to feel safe enough to return home on Emery Avenue breaks my heart. What am I to do in this position? I will support laws like this. I will support anything I can do so that she feels safer in her home.

Nola Austral; Elmar; Briand Shadfort; Barry Young; Rohanna and her beautiful daughters; Aaron Driver; Martina Parry; Didi; and Ian Gordon are all residents who are struggling with the antisocial behaviour going on in their Housing residences. They know the police are busy, but we need the resources so that residents can get emergency help when needed and we can do things before the antisocial behaviour tips into a crime. That is what these public safety officers will do. They will help tackle crime and antisocial behaviour on the buses and in public housing before it becomes an emergency, and this will free up our police to continue policing. I will be a strong advocate that they have strong powers because I want to see them truly make Drysdale safer.

I speak to all my Housing residents who reside at a number of areas, including Victoria Drive, Cornwallis Circuit, Wright Crescent, Emery Avenue and Essington Avenue where a huge number of people feel unsafe in public housing. They put me here to make change. I do not flinch in pushing Bills through; I am proud because I will not go back and tell them that I slowed down any measure to keep them safe. They want this and know it is coming, and I look forward to seeing police public safety officers in the community.

I hope by passing this today we can get the wheels in motion on the administration side and get the negotiations sorted. I hope the negotiations make it an attractive role for individuals who want to fulfil it and that we will have a genuine uptake of individuals to step into the police public safety officer role. It will be a position that can make real meaningful change in our community, no matter where it is, but particularly in Palmerston. It will make a difference for people like the Gray Primary School kids who are going to a movie. Those officers will be able to help children live a normal life and go to the movies with mum and an aunty on a Friday night. They will help our seniors catch a bus to see friends at a local cafe, go to doctor's appointments and not feel like a burden. Our seniors are not a burden; it is our job, and we must honour our elderly. We have a responsibility to look after them, and ensuring a safe bus network is part of it.

I took the time to see our bus network at its worst. It is a shame. I have travelled to some pretty crazy parts of the world, but I had never seen public transport with such a complete breakdown of behaviour. I have not seen it in anywhere in the world. That is our reality.

Some might say that this legislation is rushed and extreme, but this is the reality of the problems we are facing. I will not apologise because I am here for the people of Drysdale. I will ensure that they have the safest housing and buses. Doing that will free up police to be more proactive in the community and get to more of the cases they receive every day. I thank them for their hard work.

I sincerely look forward to welcoming the police public safety officers when they come into our community. I ask anyone who wants to make a difference in the Northern Territory's future to take up that role. I look forward to the minister's work to make that the most attractive role we can.

Ms UIBO (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, we have heard that this legislation is urgent, but apparently it is just an administrative change. I am not sure at what point the CLP government members start to question their leader about the lack of organisation and structure in the regular parliamentary process.

I understand that Lia Finocchiaro, Chief Minister of the CLP government, has been in the parliament for a few more years than me. She is much more experienced in parliamentary process. She often criticised the former Labor government about processes when she was in opposition, but—poof!—apparently processes do not mean anything to her now that she is in government.

I also remind CLP members that the teacher for your leader, Lia Finocchiaro, was former CLP Chief Minister Adam Giles. Look what happened to that government. People wrote a book about how bad the CLP government was under the former CLP Chief Minister Adam Giles. Guess what? She is the only member of the current 17-member CLP Northern Territory Government who was in parliament when he was the leader. The Chief Minister learned from the worst on how to disregard community, experts, advocates and lobbyists—unless they are lobbyists who you want to meet with and are probably friends with. That is about the only community engagement we have heard is cutting through to the CLP government.

It is at the point where the Attorney-General has stuffed one of the most important pieces of legislation that we were expected to debate this year in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. She cannot even get community consultation, expert consultation and advocacy right for changes to the *Anti-Discrimination Act*. She made big promises and commitments for whatever reason to whoever; we do not know because the lobbyist register is a little scrap of paper that is hidden away somewhere on the Chief Minister's desk. Apparently not everyone who is a lobbyist even needs to register on the government's lobbyist register.

We do not know any of that information. I highly doubt that the CLP government members will share it—definitely not with us or with the public, the Territorians for whom they took oaths and affirmations to serve in this House. It is outstanding and not in the positive way.

We have heard the crowing from the CLP government about the dates—'Everyone should have known that police public safety officers were coming on board in June'—but the CLP government should have known too. This is an administrative change. You are saying it is a simple change to insert the PPSOs into two sections of the Act.

We understand simplicity—we are not stupid—but we do not understand why, how and whose responsibility it was for the last three months to do that job to get it ready, make sure it would be available to do the recruitment and everything else that comes with those technicalities of inserting that position into the *Police Administration Act*. Whose job was it? I think it would be the Police minister's job to do that, know that and get that information. Oh, wait—that is the Chief Minister. It was her simple job to insert four words, yet here we are, on the last day of the September sittings, and we have seen—as the Member for Johnston said in the urgency debate earlier—an abuse of power by the CLP government to do the seemingly simple task of

making a few changes and inserting some words into the *Police Administration Act* (PAA), and it cannot even do that in a timely and orderly fashion under the normal processes of parliament.

This should have been a no-brainer for the CLP. It has known since 19 June, in its publicly celebrated announcement, about the PPSOs. The government forgot to do the simple work, and we are suspicious.

In the July sittings the *Youth Justice Act* amendments were debated on urgency and shoved down our throats, with less than 24 hours for any type of process regarding the Bill. We had an 'urgent' briefing on the Monday of that sittings. The actual legislation was not introduced until the Wednesday of that sittings. We did not even see the laws that we would be debating, scrutinising and—god forbid—supporting, or not supporting. We did not get the opportunity to do our jobs as members of parliament. Less than 24 hours later we were to debate an important Bill, not just a couple of words like this, on the future of youth justice in the Northern Territory.

A week later we heard that the changes to the regulations that govern OC spray sales and retailers were gazetted. Those changes to the *Weapons Control Act* were about the public having a prohibited weapon available.

There was not even a whisper of this change happening during the parliamentary week. CLP members like to celebrate everything for themselves. When it comes to scrutiny and answering simple questions—god forbid complex questions and questions that deserve a proper response—the CLP has shown that in the 12 months of governing so far, it has learned nothing from the past. The Chief Minister has repeated some of the costly mistakes of her former CLP leader Adam Giles. She has learned nothing about what not to do and how not to govern.

A book was written about the last CLP government and how bad it was. All I can say, 12 months into this government, is that I look forward to reading the sequel to *Crocs in the Cabinet*. This government is in charge; it is responsible for the Northern Territory. I look forward to reading about all the characters in the Chamber, the horrible things they have done so far and how badly they are leading the Territory down the drain.

Get your house in order; that is what we are asking. If you cannot even get yourselves organised as a government to change four words in the *Police Administration Act*, months after an announcement, and you are now doing it on urgency on the last day of sittings, what does it say about your Police minister? She cannot even do a simple task. How is she fit for governing the Northern Territory? Surely at some point one of the 17 government members will say, 'Jeez, this is pretty embarrassing. We can't even do simple legislation.' We are most concerned about the way in which it was handled this week.

To correct the Attorney-General, who likes to throw mistruths around the House, we are not scared of time or work in this place. I have nowhere else to be. I am up until midnight or one o'clock in the morning. I remember when we were debating the Territory Coordinator Bill, which went through until 1 am and everyone was saying, 'Oh my gosh, I am so tired'. I was fine; that is my time to shine, early in the morning. If you want to get into the bad practice, we will be here to do the hard work. Attorney-General, I can assure you that 6.30 pm is when we are just getting started.

If you want to start shoving down urgent legislation and offering us briefings at 6.30 pm—unfortunately we heard the crossbench had 9.30 pm—that is not the way to do government in a good way. This is not good governance or parliamentary practice. It is not good practice for seemingly small but important changes to Northern Territory law. This is not what Territorians expect.

However, we will still be here to do our jobs because we are hearing time and again from the Territory public, stakeholders and even business and industry leaders that the way this governments acts, behaves, speaks, ignores, attacks, targets, diminishes, deflects—pick what word you want in the thesaurus because we have heard every word under the sun to describe this CLP government, some of which I will not repeat on the *Parliamentary Record* because they are not for the *Hansard*. We have heard every type of description of the way that this government is mishandling the Territory.

I said from the start that through my leadership as the Opposition Leader for the Territory Labor team I will be constructive in the way I work. I still have that mindset, despite the lack of reciprocal, constructive and positive ways to work with government. I get the way the system works; the government has the numbers and will shove through anything. However, government members are not even pretending to care what Territorians think, what evidence and data they need or whether they are making decisions based on some type of evidence or process. We have seen today that they do not even care about the parliamentary process.

We have quotes, which were read out in the last sittings, from Lia Finocchiaro when she was the Opposition Leader about how dangerous it is to put urgent legislation through without the time for proper scrutiny. I think she has become a huge hypocrite or has some type of memory loss. I am not sure; maybe it is both. She is not governing the Territory in the way she said she would. For eight years her messaging has been a fabrication because now that she is the Chief Minister she is doing things her way. Members of her team are probably too scared to call her out because they will probably have a consequence or punishment for speaking out about how bad her leadership is, how badly she is governing the Territory and how she is ignoring the Territorians whom the CLP claims gave it a mandate to govern.

Guess what? The tricky thing when you get into government is you actually have to govern. Despite all the rhetoric about having a mandate and 'Territorians voted for us so we will do whatever we want'—no. We understand and acknowledge that Territorians elected a CLP government, but the government still has to do its duties in governing the Northern Territory.

The government is supposed to be there for all Territorians. We are seeing government, for its own political purposes, shut down scrutiny, ignore advocates, pander to certain lobbyists—not all, of course—and stall legislation because of that and push through and cut through parliamentary processes that have been established through the Westminster system. That is not how good law is made in the Territory.

That will be its downfall. I am calling it out now. It will be up to government members to call themselves out. If the government is so blind and arrogant to its own practices and bad behaviour, who in the CLP team will call out its bad behaviour?

CLP members are great at pointing the finger at Labor, but guess what? The CLP has been in for a year. Everyone is asking, 'What is the CLP doing about it? What is the CLP doing that we would like to see?' Some elements have been achieved, but it is almost like you have run out of ideas. You shoved it all in the first three months last year and now you say, 'Whoops, we have four years to govern. Now we have three years left, so what will we do? Let us come up with something and shove that through too.'

It is astounding, and not in the positive way, that 12 months in the CLP government has run out of ideas. Even with the Territory Coordinator, what is your big process? What is your big star around rebuilding the Territory's economy? 'We will make the Territory Coordinator figure all that out.' A total of $21m spent to date on that office being established and not one project of significance. You heard me correctly; not one project has been declared with the Territory Coordinator office.

Guess what $21m could do if we put it into the DV sector to support the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence? Guess what $21m would do in education? It would probably get us a huge number of support staff for our kids with complexities. Guess what $21m in health would do? It would probably get us some specialists, allied health workers and pharmacists—who are on industrial action—and support the work that our hardworking health professionals do in challenging and complex situations across the Northern Territory.

I will just have some water.

Mr Edgington: Take a breath.

Ms UIBO: Take a breath, yes. There is not enough time, Member for Barkly. I have too much to rattle on about for you, so do not worry about that.

The Chief Minister has been a member of this parliament for 13 years. It will be 16 years when we get to the next election in 2028. She should know the basic processes of parliament.

The Attorney-General likes to skite about how hardworking government members are—'We have just done four pieces of legislation'. That is great; we supported those four pieces of legislation. She will have her work cut out for her if she has already run out of ideas for the legislative schedule.

For anyone who does not know, the process of parliament is controlled by the government of the day. Every so often we may have a private member's Bill, but predominantly, it is the government's job to run the scheduling of parliament. On days like today—when important legislation has fallen over because of the government's incompetence, when an urgent Bill which is administrative and shoved in on urgency because the government could not do its job—we would not have seen a single piece of legislation go through the parliament.

If the Attorney-General wants to talk numbers, in the eight years that the Territory Labor team was in government there were 260 pieces of legislation. For anyone who is interested in what that means in days,

on average we sit for 31 days of the year. We have big electorates that we must get out to as well to do our job as members of parliament. That is an average of 248 days of sittings in eight years of the former Labor government, which is 260 pieces of legislation in 248 days. For the Attorney-General, who is probably not good with numbers, at 31 days per year—which we averaged, if you want to break it down—that is 32 pieces of legislation per year under the Labor government. The CLP government has a bit of catching up to do.

We will continue to do our job to scrutinise the work that the government is doing—or the work that it forgot to do, like today. We are keen to keep a close eye on the government's numbers, particularly its legislative scheduling. It looks like, even with a team of 17, the CLP is incapable of completing seemingly simple administrative legislation without having to backtrack and shove it through on urgency because someone, who happens to be the Chief Minister, forgot to do her job because she was out talking—actually, she was not even out talking; she gave her first press release on Monday after seven weeks of being too scared.

The Chief Minister is running scared of the media, too frightened to answer tough questions about her integrity and leadership. She hides, runs and drives away—we have seen that video—too scared to do her job. Imagine what it must be like within the CLP government when your own leader is too frightened to do their job but is a tyrant in frightening the other team members not to speak out and do their jobs properly. It will be a rocky couple of years for them. I am glad I am not in their team, as it will be uncomfortable in their Caucus.

In regard to the police public safety officers, the Treasurer commented, 'Now that we are doing this urgent legislation today, we will go out and talk to the NT Police Association about what to do'. It has been three months since the announcement on 19 June. This administrative legislation, which apparently changes four words, is now on urgency, so now we will talk to the NT Police Association about what the rank and credentials of the PPSOs should look like. I am concerned that the government is not doing what Territorians expect of it, such as the basics in getting the expert advice through the NT Police Association to work with the government on PPSO powers under the *Police Administration Act*. It is a huge concern, so we will wait and see.

We will have our conversations in the community, but we are already receiving questions such as: the PPSOs, who will be recruited and trained, will have guns in public spaces, but what is the determinant to being able to use that prohibited weapon? We do not have that information, and I do not think the government has it yet. I implore the government to do a full body of work on the recruitment and powers the PPSOs will have.

We are sceptical of the government's track record. Will the PPSOs' powers be put into the Act or the regulations? The OC spray changes were made through regulation and not highlighted by the government. We found out about the gazettal second-hand and third-hand. What information will the government provide to police officers, to people who are interested in becoming a PPSO and to housing officers and transit safety officers who may transition into these roles? What support will they have in these positions? Will there be a tiered system of officers or will it be a straight ranking? We are not sure because we have not been provided that information. If you have not received that information, please let us know when you do so that we can share it.

These PPSOs could be commissioned by the Acting Police Commissioner, because the government sacked the last Police Commissioner six months ago and is still waiting to employ a new one. Will the Acting Police Commissioner be commissioning these PPSOs, and under what ranking? How will that then interact with the other positions in the NT Police Force? There are some key elements of public servants and people looking to be placed in those roles. How will that interact with the other duties they have?

The Member for Drysdale spoke about housing. How will that work if housing officers all become PPSOs? Will someone checking up on a person's house in regard to public order and safety have guns in holsters when they rock up? Will they be pseudo police?

We do not understand the duties that would take a PPSO to a public house, if it is under their jurisdiction. I believe the Chief Minister said that the PPSOs will be responsible on the bus network, in public housing and in public spaces. I heard Casuarina shopping centre given as an example of a public space, even though it is a commercial retailer.

How will PPSOs interact when there is a housing issue? What are the guidelines or training that will be used if someone is carrying a gun and they are dealing with a housing issue? I want clarity on that. I do not think the government has that yet, and I acknowledge that. In October, when we hope the government will come back for bite two at this legislation, the information in relation to housing will be a concern. As I mentioned in

a speech earlier this week, 40% of Northern Territorians who rent are public housing renters, so how will that be transferred? Every person in this Chamber has public housing in their electorate, so how will that interact?

What processes will be followed in the operational sense to call a PPSO, or will they be through 000 calls? We heard some mention of that. Will it be an intervention-style position or a general engagement role? They are the types of things we are being asked by the public. We do not have an answer because we are not the government. The government does not have an answer because the position has not been created yet; we understand that.

We implore the government to provide some type of frequently asked questions fact sheet so that we can direct anyone who has questions to it. We will be able to articulate as local members to our electorates what these changes will mean and what these positions will do. More clarity on that will be much welcomed.

We understand from the briefing late yesterday evening that further work will be done on the *Police Administration Act*. That timing would be helpful; you now have about five weeks to do some work.

Let us hope more of that work is done on the processes of informing the public, recruiting the PPSO roles, the ranking and how they will be commissioned, as well as their processes of duress when PPSOs are on duty—for the public and the officers. We want to make sure that the PPSOs are supported in their work health and safety as well. If they are commissioned by the Police Commissioner, what type of entitlements will they have? Will they have the same entitlements? Will PPSOs be in regional centres or only Darwin, which is where the majority of the government sits? Will the CLP govern for the rest of the Territory or only the northern suburbs? We want those responses for the October sittings. There are people upstairs probably making comments.

Maybe the Chief Minister can provide that information. If she does not, we acknowledge that, but at this point, because of the last-minute urgent Bill before us, there could be some good work done on that between now and the October sittings.

Our Territory Labor opposition remains constructive, but we will do our job and be critical of the government when it is not providing information, answers, consultation or engagement with Territorians. We will continue to ask the questions that we are asked. We will continue to put pressure on the CLP government to answer those questions. If the government is moving to make changes, we will make sure that they are thought out, not rushed and not done on the run, which is what we are seeing time and again from the Chief Minister.

Mr O'GALLAGHER (Karama): Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to speak in support of the Police Administration Amendment (Police Public Safety Officers) Bill 2025. I echo the sentiments expressed by the Member for Drysdale. They are similar to those in my electorate.

Like him, I am proud to be a part of this united government team that has taken great steps to reduce crime, rebuild our economy and restore our lifestyle over the last 12 months. Although we have taken some great steps, we all acknowledge that there is much more work to be done. This is not a time for complacency; rather, it is the opportunity to build on the growing confidence and optimism of Territorians to make a better future for all.

I will talk more broadly about that growing confidence and optimism within our community because the introduction of this Bill is an important part of our overall strategy to get the Territory back on track. It especially links to our commitments to reduce crime and restore our lifestyle.

As mentioned previously, I base my judgements on the direct feedback from people in my electorate of Karama, a community I am privileged to serve. I do not know where the opposition goes, but I connect with members of my community. I consult with them. I have just put out my newsletter in which I listed the description of what we will do with public safety officers. The feedback from that community is, 'Do it. Do it quicker.' When people ask, 'Have you consulted?', I have. I do not know how many members of the opposition consulted with their communities, but I did.

Talking about optimism and confidence, I fondly recall—on the Sunday straight after the election—walking around the Karama shops, being approached by many residents and local businesspeople expressing their heartfelt thanks that the new CLP government had been elected and were hopeful that we would get the Territory back on track. Some openly stated then that they had been planning to leave the Territory, but because we were elected they decided to stay.

As I said, I stay connected with my community, and although we still have important issues to address—including public housing reform, which I my colleagues and I have talked about before, and we are working

on it—the majority of my constituents confirm that they feel more confident and optimistic than they did some 12 months ago.

On Saturday evening I had the chance to address local residents at the final Malak Community Markets, of which I am a major sponsor. I was joined by my northern suburbs colleagues and the Member for Port Darwin. I will talk more about that and acknowledge the volunteers in an adjournment speech. It is worth noting that one of the leading businesspeople in Malak got up and addressed the audience.

In addition to thanking all the volunteers, he took the opportunity to publicly congratulate the CLP government on the work undertaken to grow the Territory. He openly acknowledged the positive growth in optimism and confidence over the last 12 months. He has seen the local business sector and the wider community feeling a lot safer. That was one of the comments: they are feeling safer. He received strong applause from the audience. That was unprompted by any one of us, but that is the feedback that we are getting from the community, so do not say that we do not consult with the community, because we do.

I also got similar feedback when I was at the Cyprus Food and Wine Festival later that night. I was in the queue trying to get a souvla and people came up and said, 'You guys are doing a great job, but keep going. Hold the course. Don't get distracted by the bleatings of Labor and others. Get on with it. You are doing a good job, but there is a long way to go.' I agree with them. I take great comfort in that.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Johnston. Their doom-and-gloom rantings about what we are doing and what we will do made me reflect. What was the alternative scenario that could have happened 12 months ago? The nightmare result could have been that we had a Labor–Greens–Independent coalition. Just think of that; this is the alternative, going back. Imagine if we had to suffer such a government. We would have had a government of instability and inertia. Move over, Freddy Krueger; imagine who would have been Chief Minister within 12 months of that nightmare coalition. I predict it would have already been up to our third Chief Minister. We have stability; those opposite would have been fighting. The Member for Gwoja would have been looking to get in there. If Eva Lawler had got in she would have been dumped. It would have been all over the place.

Mrs Zio: They have already had a reshuffle.

Mr O'GALLAGHER: Yes, a nice little reshuffle, too.

It would have been a government of instability. We have to think a little further.

Could you imagine what would have happened if the Greens and Independents manipulated that shambolic government with, let us say, the Member for Johnston as the Minister for Corrections and Police. Think of that! Under that scenario, we would not have more than 600 offenders off the streets and behind bars. We would not have had genuine bail laws designed to protect our community. In contrast we probably would have had even more offenders released on bail, ready to offend the next day with no consequences for behaviour. That is what we would have been faced with. Sure, those opposite would have said that prison numbers are low, but that is because they would all be out on the streets. The community would not have felt safer.

Thankfully, people in the community would not go down this nightmare path, and they voted for us. They wanted a government that listened to them, heard their concerns and was willing to act on their behalf. They wanted a government that had a clear plan to reduce crime, rebuild the economy and restore lifestyle—and was willing to deliver that plan. We have a plan, and we are delivering it. Some of those things had to be done on urgency because we already foreshadowed that is what we would do. That is what the people wanted us for.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition going back to the book, *Crocs in the Cabinet*. She may forget that I mentioned this in my maiden speech. I said, yes, it was a shame there was a bit of a shambolic government then, but the pity was that the Gunner–Fyles–Lawler government, instead of learning from that, took it as a manual of operations. That became the way it operated. It was Labor's guidance of how to do it.

I do not know where the opposition members have been; they seem to forget this. They say, 'We did 32 pieces of legislation', but none of it was scrutinised because they did not have a scrutiny committee. They come at us. Imagine the shambolic Labor government with the Greens that we might have had. Labor probably would have held sway and said, 'No, we won't have a scrutiny committee', so in this term we still would not have a scrutiny committee. There would have been nothing to bleat about because it would not be there, so do not come at us. We are the only ones who introduced it, and we are pushing it along.

I am getting worried about those opposite. They do not seem to listen to the real community, which all our members do. The Members for Drysdale, Blain and all the others know that we need public housing safety officers with police powers. This is a welcome development in our community. We need to address the issues of extreme vandalism in public housing. The antisocial behaviour is 25 times a night every month. That is what the community wants us to address. This allows it. They are not using them; it is a bit like saying the police will interfere with every citizen. They will not. If people do not do the crime, they will not be impacted at all. This is only because of the bad behaviour, and we are addressing that. We put the community, their neighbours, first and foremost.

I do not know where the Labor opposition caucuses. I think those opposite caucus under the shade structure because they are obviously a bit sunstruck and their memories are going; they cannot quite remember their shambolic activities. They keep coming at us about scrutiny. They did no scrutiny at all. If they had got in, they probably would not have reintroduced the scrutiny committee. The Greens and Independents may have pushed for it, but given the makeup they would have said, 'No, we can't have that. We can't let the CLP come at us. We need to park that to the side.' Those opposite would have done their shenanigans.

We have been open and honest, and we came with a plan. We said that we needed to put these bail laws through on urgency and we will, as we committed to do that. We stayed true to what we told the community.

I will give you some advice on elections. The electorate will come back and say, 'Do we pick a government that told us what it would do and it did that? We may not have agreed with everything, but give it credit because it told us what it would do and did that.' Or would you pick a Labor government that said, 'No, you can't do that', and nothing happens?

Those opposite say that we are not for all Territorians. What do they mean by that? We are for most of them, because they voted for us. Those opposite tell us to deliver legislation for all, but what about all the people who voted for us? You are ignoring and neglecting them. They will remember that neglect, and it continues. I wish we had a constructive opposition which holds us properly to account, because that is okay and we could discuss the Bills, as we do.

Do not go off at us for delivering what we promised the community. I hold that to my heart. I am proud of it, and I am proud of our government and our whole team.

Mr GUYULA (Mulka): Madam Speaker, where is everyone? They should be here at the table. This is a big joke. Guns, guns—look how many people are in prison now, and who has the highest number? Black people. These guns will target our people.

The Police Administration Amendment (Police Public Safety Officers) Bill has been plucked from thin air. What are you people talking about? What are we talking about, please? I am not just talking about this government or the opposition, but the system of government. You need to recognise that there are other people like me. I come from the Yolngu Indigenous government. We have our law, and we never ceded.

One minute we had the anti-discrimination Bill coming up, which has been on the Notice Paper for 30 days, but yesterday this Bill magically appeared. It is a busy week, and I have been in meetings this morning and I have not had time for a briefing on this Bill. At 10 this morning we saw the Bill. I do not know whether this Bill is the only opportunity we will have to discuss transit officers becoming police officers and carrying guns on buses. With no information before me, I assume that it is.

Debate suspended.

The Assembly suspended.

QUESTION TIME

Police – Retention Bonus

Ms UIBO to MINISTER for POLICE

At the recent Northern Territory Police Association conference we both sat in the same room as NTPA President Nathan Finn, who described the retention bonus as nothing more than a lottery that leaves almost 90% of our hardworking police officers with nothing. At that same conference, the NTPA put a simple direct question to you which you refused to answer, so I will ask you again. How should our police officers feel when they see a handful of colleagues pocket the retention bonus while hundreds of others who have served

longer, sacrificed more and faced the same dangers on the front line are left empty-handed with your broken promise of a retention bonus?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, it is great to finally see the Opposition Leader rock up to a Police Association conference because I have been going to them for a decade.

If there is one thing you know about them it is that the NTPA likes to put all its cards on the table at that conference. It is an important time for delegates to come together from across the Northern Territory, flesh out the issues facing policing and make sure that decision-makers are there at the table so that we have the opportunity to hear from them and they can hear from us. I value it highly. Everything I heard was that it was an excellent conference, as they always are.

If you go back a couple of years when it comes to this discussion about the retention bonus—maybe the Opposition Leader is trying to be mischievous or she does not know because she has not had anything to do with police before; maybe I should give her the benefit of the doubt. I know that in the middle of last year the NTPA called on both the government—in which the now Opposition Leader was a minister—and the opposition to deliver a police retention bonus, which the CLP subscribed to immediately, whereas Labor did not. I find it a little ironic that the Opposition Leader can ask this when her government flat out told police to their faces, 'No'.

We worked with the NTPA. We rolled out a retention bonus. What that would look like was clearly articulated in my press release. It clearly said that it would be a 12-month trial—a 12-month retention bonus—because we were dealing with the immediate loss of police. Under Labor attrition was up at 11%. Under the CLP it is back down to 5.95%, which is a huge reduction. Part of that is 100% delivering on the commitment we made. Police are being paid that retention bonus as promised. We engaged with the Police Association upon coming to government about what the next steps could look like.

On top of our election commitment which we are fulfilling—all will be paid out by the end of the year—I committed $3m over four years to go to a retention bonus. Consensus was not reached on what that would look like and the NTPA told me, 'We would rather it went on the base to give all police more pay', and we have now delivered the best pay deal in 20 years. That is the words of the NTPA, not mine. We have delivered our commitment.

Mischief only creates mischief, Opposition Leader. That is the story and history of the retention bonus, as I have been saying for many months. We back the blue, unlike Labor.

Rebuilding the Economy – Defence Industry

Mr HOWE to CHIEF MINISTER

The 12-month anniversary of the election marks a year since the government's plan to rebuild the economy began. One of the five priorities of that plan is growing Defence industry because of the important role it plays in creating local jobs, increasing investment in the Territory, supporting our businesses and strengthening Australia's national security. Given how important Defence industry is to our future, can you update the Assembly on how the government is backing the Territory as an allied Defence partner of choice?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Drysdale for his service to this country and putting up his hand to serve. Member for Drysdale, not many people have the courage to do that, but you did. I thank you very much for that. That is why you are so passionate about the role the Northern Territory can play in the defence of this nation and peace in our region. I reflect on your service and the honour and courage you took to that role. I thank you for being part of our team to continue your service to our community.

Defence is critical, and it is part of our five key focus areas for rebuilding the Territory's economy. When Defence spends money in the Territory it stays in the Territory. For every dollar about 92c goes to local contractors. The investment and the profound impact it has are real. That spend is putting food in the mouths of Territorians. That investment is key to our economy and growing our population.

It is also key for us to play our role in this nation. We have an indisputably important and strategic location in the Indo-Pacific, and what greater lesson do we have to learn than when war came to Darwin in 1942. We

know we have a critical role to play to support our nation in its preparedness and making sure we are strong for our allies and our region. We have seen that through the Marine Rotational Force in the Territory.

Next week a delegation of local businesses, supported by Defence NT, will travel to Pearl Harbor. They are going to the important Indo-Pacific Regional Summit hosted by the Society of American Military Engineers. It is about the awarding of USD15bn as part of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative Multiple Award Construction Contract; it is huge. The delegates are there to put our best foot forward and to get in front of the major proponents who will be making decisions about who they use for local content and contractors if the Territory is lucky to get that work. They will put our best foot forward because we know it makes an impact on our economy and those allied relationships.

Next week I will travel to Japan—we are having a two-pronged attack next week—where I will meet with senior Defence officials and senior government officials about the Japanese Self-Defense Force rotation in the Northern Territory to solidify our ties with one of our closest allies in Japan and make sure that the Territory is put first.

I remind those who might tease the fact that I am going to Japan—I can anticipate it already—that David Crisafulli from Queensland is there now trying to get Queensland's fair share, so we must be at the table if the Territory is to benefit. I will be there next week to make sure that we do.

Senator Price's Comments

Ms UIBO to CHIEF MINISTER

Yesterday on television your colleague Senator Jacinta Price made outrageous and unfounded claims that migrants from India are being let into the country in high numbers purely for the federal government to gain political advantage. The CLP senator's comments are a slap in the face to our Indian community and Territorians from across our diverse multicultural community, particularly at a time when social cohesion in this country is at risk from far-right extremist fringe groups. Do you support your federal colleague's views and, if not, why have you not publicly condemned her divisive comments?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I did a press conference this morning and was asked all about that. Senator Price has retracted those comments, which was the right thing to do. More importantly, look at my team, Opposition Leader; look at this side of the House because I do not think there is anything to worry about.

The Northern Territory is a multicultural melting pot of rich and diverse cultures from around the world and Aboriginal people who have been here for 60,000 years. It is what makes everything about the Territory great. I gave a speech earlier this week at the Bush Summit, where I said, 'Where else in this country do people eat laksa for breakfast?' It is here. We are proud. As someone from a migrant family myself—my grandparents migrated to Darwin 70-odd years ago—I am grateful that they chose to make Australia home and, more importantly, the Territory home. I would not be here if it was not for them.

When I look at my team I see amazing people with strength and diversity—diversity of religion, background, experience and profession. We have two Indian members of parliament, migrants themselves, paving a way for a future for their families and making this country and this Territory a better place.

My colleague, the Member for Sanderson, is the first minister of Indian descent in any parliament in the country. I can tell you he is like a rock star back in India for what he has achieved. It is wonderful, and we are so proud. Our hearts are full when we sit as a team and look at each other and think how amazing our contribution is. I told the media that today, Opposition Leader. I said, 'When you look at the parliament'—I have long said this—'you should see a cross-section of the Northern Territory. It should be like walking down Mitchell Street or going to Casuarina shopping centre.' That is what you get in the Northern Territory because we are a special place of great multicultural history. We have been built off the back of waves of multiculturalism for hundreds of years, and that will not change for us.

The opposition is clearly out of ideas and things to talk about. Those opposite are back in the gutter where they love to play because they cannot have a solid debate on policy.

We on this side have plenty to talk about. We are proud to be Territorian, delivering for our people and getting runs on the board. Twelve months in we are revved up and ready to go for the rest of the term. We love this

place more than anything in the whole wide world, and we will fight to the bitter end to make sure we leave it as a better place than what you did, which was to trash and burn it.

Senator Price's Comments – Supplementary Question

Ms UIBO to CHIEF MINISTER

Today, in line with the CLP's mandate of not being an apologist, Senator Price said that she has nothing to apologise for regarding the comments that she made yesterday. Do you support her comments and, if not, what reprimand will you put on her since she is part of your party?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I am not sure why the Opposition Leader thinks I would be reprimanding anyone. I do not know how the Labor Party works. I will leave that one for you and let that marinate for people listening at home.

These are entirely matters for the senator. She has withdrawn it from the parliament. Perhaps if the Opposition Leader is so intrigued, she could ring the senator and ask her. I am not sure how the Labor Party operates, but that is not how the CLP works.

Cavenagh Street Shade Structure

Mr O'GALLAGHER to MINISTER for LOGISTICS and INFRASTRUCTURE

As referenced in my speech this morning, Territorians are sick of paying for Labor's incompetence, but it is a far too common theme. We inherited a legacy of irresponsible chaos from the previous government. Look at the Cavenagh Street shade structure: the project promised lush vines in 2018, but eight years on, just like Labor's legacy, we have stunted plants, endless excuses and taxpayers slugged a bill in the millions. We cannot continue to let this slide. How will the CLP stop this deplorable endless waste?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I still have to wear a hat when I walk under the shade structure, otherwise my head gets sunburned.

I agree with the Member for Karama that the irresponsible fiscal management of the Labor government is more than disappointing; it is a disgrace. Territorians deserve better than to keep paying for Labor's failures, and there is no better symbol of its incompetence than the Cavenagh Street shade structure. The only thing shady about it is the government that failed to deliver it.

Those opposite sat shoulder to shoulder at the Cabinet table that built Lawler's Labor legacy. They have forfeited every ounce of credibility. In 2018 Labor told Territorians with great fanfare to expect lush greenery and cool shade by 2020. What did we get? Eight years later we have been left with stunted vines, patchy shade and a bill that is already over $5m. Territorians do not call that shade; they call it a sham.

The excuses have been endless—pruning, weather and disease. The truth is that Labor ignored expert advice and planted the wrong vines, then spent years blaming everyone and took not one shred of accountability for its failure. There were constant refusals to admit their failures, with Labor members trying to distance themselves from their appalling track record. What should have been a simple project to deliver was fumbled as soon as Labor got its hands on it. It is just like the economy we inherited from the former Labor government—badly managed and failing to deliver.

Year after year taxpayers have been bled dry keeping half-dead vines on life support. With hundreds of thousands of dollars already wasted and $130,000 a year ongoing to maintain those dead and dying vines that will never cover the structure, it is a multimillion-dollar project that delivered less shade than a pub umbrella. Although the list is long, Labor's vanity shade structure project will go down in the annals of NT history as one of the great white elephants of Darwin.

The CLP government has made the call to cut our losses. The vines will be removed. The lighting features will be restored to create a modern streetscape that does not cost a fortune to maintain ongoing. We are putting an end to this ongoing waste, showing Territorians that only the CLP can be trusted to manage the Territory's finances. We are focusing on projects that deliver for Territorians.

Ms Uibo: You are talking about vines.

Madam SPEAKER: Opposition Leader, you are on another warning. There will not be any others.

Regional Road Projects

Mr YOUNG to TREASURER

I hope the Treasurer does not go off his speaking notes this time and can actually answer the question.

Your first budget took the knife to regional roads, cutting works and upgrades to the Central Arnhem Road, Mereenie road, Katherine East works, Phelp River crossing and Stuart Highway. Your cuts have meant the usual pipeline of work has dried up for our civil contractors and thrown them into uncertainty when it comes to their workflow and workforce. We have heard from many contractors that they are in danger of losing workers interstate where there is plenty of work, rather than the stagnation and uncertainty they are experiencing here. Do you acknowledge or even understand the flow of impacts your cuts are having on businesses and industries across the Territory?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, my young friend, the Member for Daly, is trying to rewrite history and he continues to do that in this parliament.

Madam SPEAKER: Minister, referring to members of parliament by their age is not appropriate. Although it might be done with the best of intentions, it is not appropriate.

Mr YAN: Madam Speaker, I take that on notice.

The member is trying to rewrite history. I will go back to the previous government's infrastructure program, with $5.2bn on the list. The infrastructure program was being managed by press release and not by delivery. To deliver that $5.2bn infrastructure program, which already had $2.2bn on program—in this financial year at the end of the previous government's budget and when we were starting this one—the former Labor government had budgeted $235m. That was about $1.8bn short of what was required to deliver that program.

We had to make some hard decisions. We had to make difficult decisions about how we would deliver that program. When you specifically look at the $5.2bn of items that the former government had, you see that a lot of this stuff was five, six or eight years old. The costings for those projects were old. That is reflective of the issues that we are dealing with from Labor's infrastructure program. It put out all these press releases years ago, had a bit of planning done and when it went to deliver these projects found out that a project costed at $100m would now need $200m. The former government never went back and did the work to understand the real-time costs of delivery.

That is the same with our roads. If Labor was serious about investing in our roads—I spoke about it earlier in the week. Let us look at the cost blowouts on some of Labor's projects. There was nearly $100m on the Tiger Brennan Drive overpass, $30m across the harbour at Mandorah and $80m to $90m on the State Square art gallery. That equates to a bit over $200m. I can tell you that $200m would deliver 200 kilometres of road. It costs $1m to $1.2m per kilometre of road.

We are delivering roads. We are delivering the Carpentaria Highway; stage 2 was just completed, and stage 3 is commencing. We are delivering the Tanami, working towards getting the next stage past Chilla Well underway. There is work taking place on the Barkly Highway to make repairs that were under the previous government. We will continue to deliver on roads because they are the heart and connection of our Territory.

Recreational Fishing Grants Scheme

Mr MACKAY to MINISTER for AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES

Territorians love their fishing. In fact, one in five Australian adults participate in recreational fishing every year, improving wellbeing and contributing 100,000 jobs and $11bn to the Australian economy. Recreational fishing in the Territory directly generates $144m annually for the local economy. Although we often see anglers in our picturesque rivers and waters, we know that many people in the Territory rely on land-based fishing to catch their prized barra. Can you tell the Assembly how the growth of recreational fishing in the Territory is being supported through the Northern Territory's Recreational Fishing Grants Scheme?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the Member for Goyder is a passionate rural boy and loves his fishing. In fact, I am sure he has a few fish in his home zoo in Bees Creek.

We all know that recreational fishing is a huge drawcard for tourists and locals, and it brings a significant amount of money into the Territory economy. Many people in the Northern Territory go fishing, whether it is land based or from a boat. It allows people to go out on the water, relax, spend time with the family and unwind from their busy lives. The Member for Goyder is correct; it injects literally millions of dollars into our economy directly and indirectly.

The Territory government is proud to continue to support rec fishing across the Northern Territory because we know how important it is. One way in which we do that is through the Recreational Fishing Grants Scheme. This scheme allows local groups and organisations to apply to the government for grants to do fishing-based projects across the Territory. Round 1 has just shut, where you could apply for grants between $15,000 and $100,000. Round 2 can go up to $225,000 and is open. It closes on 5 October. If any organisations are interested in land-based fishing, please look on the website and make an application. We want to spread this money far and wide because we want to support fishing. Fishing supports the community and, more importantly, family.

An example of where this money has been spent already is the Katherine Game Fishing Club's hosting of the 2025 Kids Fishing Fun Day. The Member for Katherine and I went to the low level with the Katherine fishing club, and we spoke to the club members about what they are doing and how passionate they are to get young kids out fishing.

Mrs Hersey: They do a great job.

Mr MALEY: They do a great job. We all know Katherine is a great area with the river there.

The Council on the Ageing has the oldies—who are older than me—go out fishing. It had 150 seniors participating in land-based fishing and chartering. It goes to show that fishing can be for young and old and the whole family.

The Palmerston Game Fishing Club hosted the Buddy Day. The Treasurer and I took my boat. I had a deckie with me, and we went fishing with other people. I think I have spoken about it before. The joy that a lady had on our boat was amazing. She caught a few fish, had a good time and even had a little nap on the boat, from memory.

That is what fishing is all about in the Northern Territory. We support locals and the community.

Gardens Oval Upgrade – Election Commitment

Mr BROWN to MINISTER for PEOPLE, SPORT and CULTURE

Prior to the election, the now Member for Fannie Bay promised major upgrades to Gardens Oval. Why has there been no mention of this promise since the election?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, for the last three days the opposition members have been so interested in our election commitments that 17 members on this side made, but one thing they keep forgetting is it is an election commitment …

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause, please, minister. I cannot hear what he is saying. Please be quiet and pay him the respect he deserves.

Mr CHARLS: When it comes to the election commitments, they clearly know that it is for the term of the parliament, which is four years. We are working on that. We have already done a few of them. Recently I went along with the Members for Nelson and Goyder and announced the Norbuilt one. When I was driving past the other day, we saw that the light pole is already there.

Along with that, the Member for Fannie Bay is actively working with me as the Minister for People, Sport and Culture and with the Treasurer on the election commitment for her electorate. We are working on a timeline, and I can assure the Member for Arafura he will see that happen before the end of this term.

Do not worry too much about our election commitments. I strongly suggest to the members of the opposition: work for your community, come up with a project and try to work with the government so that you can actually deliver something for your community at the same time.

In the last 12 months I have not seen one letter from any member of the opposition saying what they want in their electorate. It would be better if they focused on what they want to do for their people—the people who elected them with good faith that they hopefully will do the right thing. I strongly urge those opposite to work for their community.

The Member for Fannie Bay is doing an excellent job in her community. We can see the number of people using her community room, for example, on Saturdays. That place is bursting, and that was a seat held by Labor for many years.

Mrs Zio: Twenty-seven.

Mr CHARLS: More than two decades.

It clearly shows how passionate she is, and she is working for the electorate. She is an assistant minister proudly working with me as a team. We will make sure this commitment is done.

Sporting Events – Territory Lifestyle

Dr RAHMAN to MINISTER for PEOPLE, SPORT and CULTURE

This Dry Season, as you would be aware, we have had a blockbuster for sport in the Territory. We have seen the long-awaited return, after 20-odd years, of international cricket. Those two T20 international matches were some of the best games I have been to in person for many years. It was wonderful to see so many people there. We had the AFLW Dreamtime last Friday night. We have international hockey—I have seen you, minister, with a hockey stick this week—at the Oceania Cup next week, plus we have the Motocross GP coming up at Hidden Valley in my own wonderful electorate of Fong Lim. These events are not only great entertainment; they also showcase our Territory lifestyle to the nation and the world, inspire our future generation of athletes and provide a huge boost to our local economy.

Can you outline what our government is doing to deliver these elite sporting events and the infrastructure to back them to restore our Territory lifestyle?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I know how passionate the Member for Fong Lim is about sports, especially cricket. I saw him spend his time watching the whole game, whereas some of us wandered around trying to meet people. He makes sure that he watches the whole game.

Twelve months ago Territorians said loud and clear that they want their lifestyle to be restored, and that is exactly what the CLP government is delivering. As the Member for Fong Lim said, two T20 international cricket matches were played in Darwin. The catch by bush pilot Harry Gill, as I mentioned in this Chamber, will be played at international venues for a long time. That story of the Territory will promote the Territory untold times in the future.

I thank three of my colleagues who played a significant role in making sure we got the T20 cricket back to Darwin—that is, the Chief Minister as the leader of the government, Minister Boothby and Minister Cahill. I thank them for their collaborative work.

We clearly saw what the Territory is about, and we saw the crowds. The tickets were sold out for the first game three days before. We all received many phone calls in the three days leading up to the cricket from people asking whether they could get tickets. We basically said, ‘We told you earlier to get your tickets because they were limited’. That is what we sadly saw.

I thank Gavin Dovey from NT Cricket and Joel Morrison from Cricket Australia for working with us to make sure that we could deliver this to Territorians.

This Dry Season has shown how TIO Stadium can be a multisport venue. There was cricket and, within two weeks, an AFLW match between Essington and Richmond was played in the same venue. We saw how capably the stadium could adapt. Close to 6,000 people were there cheering at the AFLW game.

As the Member for Fong Lim mentioned, the Oceania Cup is starting this weekend. That is an international hockey event that will happen in the Territory after eight long years. The special thing is that Territorian Jeremy Hayward is the Kookaburras captain. A young person who grew up in the Territory and played hockey has taken it to the international level and is leading Australia. It is a proud moment for the Territory.

There are many more things to come, such as the MXGP in two weeks. Thanks to Ministers Boothby and Yan for their proactive work done in the last 12 months.

The light poles at Freds Pass are already there. We will see that shortly.

Mining Project Approvals

Ms UIBO to MINISTER for MINING and ENERGY

Earlier this week you spruiked that the mining sector was going gangbusters under the former Labor government, creating jobs and opportunities, supporting local suppliers and driving economic growth across our regions. Your government is reaping the benefits of that. Given your acknowledgement of Labor's legacy in supporting the Territory mining sector, can you name a project that has been greenlit by your CLP government that was not already underway or approved formally before you came to power?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I can answer that quickly: the APA pipeline, which we announced today …

Ms Boothby: All of a sudden you are back into mining.

Ms Uibo: I have the biggest mine in my electorate.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you just asked the question. Why would you sit down and commence yelling across the Chamber? Please be quiet.

Mr MALEY: I love talking about the mining industry. We know that the mining industry pays for the health system, police and schools. Without the mining industry in the Northern Territory we would not have a health system, police looking after us and people educating us in schools. That is super important.

The previous Labor government failed the Northern Territory. It neglected the schools, police, health system and Corrections. That is why we came to office with the clear message that we would keep the community safe, rebuild the economy and restore our lifestyle. They are three simple things that are working because the community feels safer. The mining and resource industry has a lot to answer for that because it is paying the bills.

Going back to the member's question, what about Nobles Nob at Tennant Creek? There is a new mine. In fact, I was there for its first gold pour.

Mr Edgington: So was I.

Mr MALEY: As was the Member for Barkly. We held the gold in our hands.

Ms UIBO: A point of order, Madam Speaker!

Madam SPEAKER: His answer is not up for debate, Leader of the Opposition. What is your point of order?

Ms UIBO: It is Standing Order 110; conciseness. The question was specifically about projects not underway or already approved prior to the CLP coming to government. Obviously, Nobles was approved before …

Madam SPEAKER: Opposition Leader, take your seat. His time is not even halfway expended, so please give him the opportunity to answer the question as he sees fit.

Mr MALEY: I was speaking to the owners of Nobles Nob at Resources Week. While I am talking about Resources Week, I note that 800 people were promoting resources in the Northern Territory, getting to know each other, building relationships, networking and, more importantly, working out how to spend their money in the Northern Territory.

We are all about building the Northern Territory in not only Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs but also the remote areas because that is where these mines are situated. For example, the Beetaloo is basically in the middle of the Northern Territory.

The Nolans project just north of Alice Springs is coming online. This will be a game changer for the Northern Territory, with over $1bn spent in our community.

We are here to support the mining industry. Resources Week is a classic way to do that. We intend to make it bigger and better each year. I have not yet mentioned the economic summit that was here earlier. People from overseas are coming to the Northern Territory with money in their pockets and a big fat chequebook ready to spend their money. That is what we are talking about.

The APA pipeline is another project. It will connect the Beetaloo to the Amadeus pipeline and be able to put gas up to Darwin to keep the lights on and send gas to the …

Ms UIBO: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110; relevance. With 22 seconds remaining, can the minister name a single project that his government greenlit?

Mrs Finocchiaro: He just named two; there is another one coming.

Ms Uibo: No—one that was not already approved before you came to power.

Madam SPEAKER: Do not debate on the floor of the Chamber during Question Time. The minister will answer the question as he sees fit.

Mr MALEY: I am not sure what universe the Leader of the Opposition is in, but I can assure you that the APA pipeline—the 37-kilometre Sturt Plateau Pipeline—was not approved until last week. I am not sure where her timing comes from.

We back the mining and gas industries. We want to support the Northern Territory as best we can.

School Attendance Rates

Mr KERLE to MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING

The 2025 Term 2 school attendance stats were recently released, showing overall attendance rates slightly down but green shoots where school attendance officers are working. I was pleased that Moulden Primary School in my electorate achieved an attendance rate of 76% for Term 2. Let us see whether we can get above 90% in Term 3.

The Northern Territory had eight years of declining school attendance rates under the former Labor government, falling from 80.8% in 2016 when there was a CLP government to 71.7% when Labor was thrown out in 2024. Can you outline to the Assembly what actions the Finocchiaro CLP government is taking to improve school attendance rates across the Territory?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I applaud Principal Sylvia Gregory at Moulden Primary School for her hard work, along with the many other schools, principals and teachers who are working hard across the Territory to get kids back to school.

The Opposition Leader was one of four Education ministers in the previous government that saw school attendance rates, literacy and numeracy plummet. What they left us with is a shame on them.

On this side we are delivering our election commitments. We said that we would bring back school attendance officers, and we have 18 working across the Territory. Working alongside them are 22 engagement officers. They are doing a lot of hard work across the Territory to ensure kids are getting back to school. They are

engaging with families. I have said many times that I have been out with the attendance officers and seen their hard work and the engagement they have with families.

The Chief Minister and I were at the education precinct in Katherine a couple of week ago talking to the attendance officers. The best thing about them is, no matter what region they are in, they are local. They know families and have the connections. Most of them are born and bred Territorians—whether it be Jono and Toohey in Alice Springs or the many officers in my electorate in the Big Rivers region. Across the Territory, whether they are going to schools in the Barkly or at shopping centres, school attendance officers are out there making sure they engage with parents, children and get them back to school.

If we do not have kids in schools, there is no meaningful pathway for them to a job. We want kids to finish school and get into a job. I applaud the work of Principal Sylvia Gregory at Moulden Primary School and many other across the Territory who are doing this hard work.

As the member said, we have had green shoots in attendance rates. In Timber Creek, we have seen an increase from 31.2% in Term 1 to 67.9% in Term 2. That is a considerable increase, and it is because of the hard work of attendance officers in the Timber Creek region working with families, the school and students to ensure they get back there.

We will continue to do that work across the Territory. I applaud and thank the attendance officers, engagement officers, teachers and hardworking staff in the education system.

Child Deaths Review and Prevention Committee

J DAVIS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Yesterday I asked a question of the Minister for Child Protection on the Child Deaths Review and Prevention Committee. I understand it is your portfolio. I will correct my statement of yesterday; there have been 21 child deaths since October last year.

The Minister for Child Protection said yesterday that this committee has met twice this year. Can you confirm when these meetings took place and outline who is currently a member of that committee?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the member is correct. She asked how many meetings it has had and it was two, which my colleague helped you with. I do not have that specific detail of the exact dates when they met. You could put it in a written question or get a briefing from my office—I could get it to you, put it that way.

The child death review committee has been around for a long time. Its work was in addition to what the Coroner was doing in regard to the deaths of children. The work it has been doing has been the same work that the Coroner does in terms of investigations into child deaths.

We are doing things differently. We are looking at it and working out whether that is a duplication and whether it is needed. If it is a duplication, as in there is another body or person doing that work, there might not be a reason to have two organisations doing the same kind of work. I am looking into that now. We are going through the legislation involved with that. I look forward to seeing the outcome to ensure that all the public servants we have working across the Territory are doing meaningful work that will make the Territory a better place.

J DAVIS: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110; to clarify, I asked …

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Johnston, the minister has completed her answer. You have left it a bit late.

Treehouse – George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Mrs ZIO to MINISTER for PARKS and WILDLIFE

The opposition seems to be keen on talking about my amazing electorate of Fannie Bay, so let us keep that ball rolling for a little while, shall we?

Territorians value our parks and community spaces as part of our unique lifestyle. Families and school students across Darwin have been calling for one much-loved feature at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to be brought back to life—the iconic treehouse. The treehouse would have been destroyed if Labor

had remained in government, but not under us. We are in a year of action and have saved the treehouse. Can you update the Assembly on how the CLP government has listened to the community and delivered this project during our first year in office?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the Member for Fannie Bay's constituents must know—I must tell them—that she is constantly pounding down my door, calling me on the phone or coming to find me so that she can fight for her Fannie Bay constituents. They are wonderful people who have a lot of great ideas and they go to her with challenges that they want fixed.

As she outlined, the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens has an amazing treehouse structure that kids have loved to play in for many years. Under Labor it sat there broken—I think it was since 2023—for a long time. Member for Fannie Bay, schoolchildren came to see you, groups who love the little restaurant there …

Mrs Zio: Even Michael Gunner wrote to me.

Ms BOOTHBY: There we go. Everybody loves the treehouse.

When the member raised this issue with me, we had to do some digging to find out what happened in the first instance and that was it had been left to rot under Labor, which seems to be its legacy. We moved heaven and earth and got local contractors in. Wurrba Pty Ltd worked pretty much day and night—a lot longer than the Labor Party likes to work—and brought it to life in just a few months.

It was a fantastic announcement to deliver. The Member for Fannie Bay was there with those students. She was able to get photos with them and watch them playing in the treehouse. Jason Hanna from Eva's Cafe was excited. He said, 'Everyone is excited by the opening'.

The gardens have always been free and this kind of reopening keeps that tradition alive. A total of 450,000 people visit the botanic gardens every year, which is an extraordinary number.

We are true to our word when it comes to restoring our Territory lifestyle. The treehouse is a symbol of that lifestyle. Children love to go and play there. The gardens are beautiful, and Parks and Wildlife does a fabulous job to upkeep them. We needed to find the money, and I thank the Treasurer who helped me do that. We prioritised it because 450,000 people love that park and the treehouse. Students from Larrakeyah Primary School and across the Fannie Bay electorate went to see the Member for Fannie Bay, as did the Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens. She told me about that.

It is not only the botanic gardens; it is also the purchase of Silkwood and the reinstatement of permits to keep crocodiles. There are so many things about the Territory lifestyle that we are serious about returning, and we are already delivering.

I should also mention—my colleagues will head there shortly—that we promised to extend Limmen Bight Marine Park, and that is exactly what my colleagues will talk about.

Protests and Rallies

Mr PAECH to MINISTER for MINING and ENERGY

At a reception you hosted in parliament this week you told those at your gathering that those outside protesting, speaking out against racism, were not welcome. You have had nothing to say about the so-called March for Australia rallies held over the weekend. What is it exactly about the Territorians who were peacefully protesting racism out the front that you found so offensive? Why do you not think they belong in the Territory while you have stayed silent on the rallies that have had clear racial overtones?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, what I will say—I think the Chief Minister said it before—is if you do not enjoy our Territory lifestyle, back the community and back rebuilding the economy, you are not welcome here. Go home. We are about the community, restoring our lifestyle, rebuilding the economy and keeping the Territory safe. If you do not want to fall in behind one of those pillars, what are you doing in the Northern Territory? Go and live somewhere that is cold, wet and drizzly—whatever you want to do and wherever it may be.

We are about making the Territory a better place. That is why we are all here; it is what we were elected for. I got into politics because I could see that over the many years the previous Labor government managed the Territory's lifestyle and economy that it was going downhill on a slippery slide. Instead of sitting back and doing nothing, I decided that I would try to make a difference and put up my hand. Thanks to the leadership of Lia Finocchiaro we are making a difference. We are making the Territory a better place.

Mr PAECH: A point of order, Madam Speaker!

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Gwoja, the minister is answering the question. It might not be what you want to hear. What is your point of order?

Mr PAECH: It is Standing Order 110; it was a pointed question. Minister, you told Territorians who were peacefully protesting racism that they are not welcome here. What is it that you found so offensive about their peaceful protest?

Mr MALEY: I am about backing the Northern Territory. We are about backing the Northern Territory. We do not support people who deny the Territory its lifestyle. We want people who will commit to the Territory, make it a better and a safer place and spend their money here.

That is why I am supportive of the mining, resources and gas industries. As I said, those industries pay the bills. They pay for education, the police and our health system. I support these industries. I encourage Territorians to back the Territory. Spend your money here, go out and start a small business. If you work for the government, work hard like they all do. I give a big shout-out to the public servants, especially in the agencies I look after. They do a great job. Without them working tirelessly, we would not have approvals and the new gas pipeline coming through. We would not have the Beetaloo up and running where it is without those people behind the scenes doing the hard work, working overtime and doing their thing to make sure that those approvals are put in place and the environment is protected. They do a great job. I give a big shout-out to the public servants. You do a great job. Thank you for all your time and effort.

Those people back the Northern Territory. They are here to make the Territory a better place. That is what I am here for. We are all here to ensure that the Territory can move forward and not move backwards as it did year after year under the previous Labor government. Crime was out of control, rehabilitation programs were not working, people were being locked up and there was no breaking of the cycle of offending. We are here to make the Territory a better place.

Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Centre – Opening

Mr PATEL to MINISTER for PEOPLE, SPORT and CULTURE

The Northern Territory is renown for its vibrant and diverse art scene, which plays a vital role in our lifestyle and economy. I understand you recently to Gapuwiyak to officially open the new culture and arts centre in the heart of east Arnhem Land. Can you update the Assembly on the importance of the centre for the community and for arts as a whole?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I was incredibly fortunate to travel to Gapuwiyak recently to join the official opening of the beautiful culture and arts centre. I acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Arnhem, was there. I missed the Member for Mulka who was there during the day. I heard from the Member for Arnhem that he was there in the evening with family, which was great to hear.

Art centres in regional areas and remote communities are one of the drivers of jobs and opportunity. The Gapuwiyak centre is the main driver of jobs and opportunities in that region. For many community members, it is the primary source of non-government income. These art and culture centres pass on knowledge and strengthen the community.

I acknowledge the Yolngu traditional owners who warmly welcomed us with a wonderful ceremony. Emmanuel Yunupingu welcomed us all there. The centre's board, artist Johnny Malibirr and Trevor Van Weeren all played a role over many years to make sure that the centre was completed and could be officially opened.

That art gallery was not the only one I visited last month. I was fortunate to visit more than 10 in the last month alone, and many were a part of the Darwin Festival. I thank James Gough, CEO, and Kate Fell, artistic

director of the Darwin Festival. They both did a fantastic to make sure we had a packed two weeks of the festival. The Member for Fong Lim talked about a few of the shows in the last couple of days in this Chamber.

During the festival I officially addressed the Australian Performing Arts Exchange (APAX) with hundreds of delegates from Australia and New Zealand. It was a wonderful gathering of people coming together and enjoying our beautiful Dry Season in Darwin. Most were from down south where it is probably, as the Member for Nelson mentioned, cold and desolate. They enjoyed it and talked warmly about how beautiful Darwin is. It was good to hear that from people from interstate.

I announced the winner of an APAX IMPACT Award, which was Corrugated Iron Youth Arts. I met the Member for Wanguri's brother, and it was great to interact with him.

On Monday we opened the Arts Grants Program of nearly $8m.

Care Plans – Aboriginal Children

J DAVIS to MINISTER for CHILDREN and FAMILIES

In Estimates you were unable to say how many children in care have a care plan. I thank you for your response to my written question 139, which confirms that every child is supposed to have one reviewed annually. Three-quarters of Aboriginal children in care are placed with non-Aboriginal carers, and the Aboriginal child placement principle relies on strong and active care plans to keep children connected to family, culture and country. How many Aboriginal children in out-of-home care have a care plan in place, and what systems are in place to monitor and enforce compliance?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, as the Member for Johnston has noted, she has the details of the children who have care plans in place. That has not changed at this point in time. Basically, as they approach different points in their care and work their way through the system, the department works with families to see how it can best care for the children and keep them with their families, the situation is always evolving and the focus is that, where possible, those care plans are put in place where appropriate.

Basically, the child comes into care, and there is a reason that happens. There are all the challenges that we have in that place. The focus is to make sure that the best interests of the child are represented, they are kept safe and secure, they attend school and they are fed and clothed. The department works tirelessly with children and families who are at risk to make sure that can be addressed.

I get many inquiries from people about how best they can facilitate the care for their children. We work hard with non-government organisations, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and communities. I have visited a number of our remote communities and talked to the elders in those communities about how we can make this work better and ensure that these children are kept safe and secure and that they are where they best need to be.

As my colleague the Minister for Education and Training has said, the fundamental thing we need to ensure is that these kids are at school, are looked after when they are at home and are not exposed to unnecessary violence or alcohol-related harm because their families are struggling in those spaces. That is where the family responsibility agreements that the Circuit Breaker team work with come in. Our commitment is to make sure that these kids stay where they belong—with their families.

Regarding the care plan process, unfortunately, it is a bit challenging to get real-time data on that which is why the figures that were provided to the Member for Johnston are still the figures that I have available to me. If she wants an update, I am more than happy to provide that to her on notice if that is acceptable.

Suicide Prevention Community Grants

Mrs CARLSON to MINISTER for MENTAL HEALTH

The devastation of suicide is far reaching. Suicide affects individuals, whole families and entire communities. Sadly, the NT suicide statistics are the highest in Australia. With the World Suicide Prevention Day Forum 2025 at Charles Darwin University coming up on 10 September, I am keen to learn about the 2025–26 Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Community Grants and the 28 projects across the Northern Territory

that have been awarded a slice of $258,000 of grant money to deliver culturally informed and community-led approaches to prevention which are indeed essential to enabling more people to access the help they need.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Community Grants are a vital investment in the wellbeing and strength of communities across the Territory. We are proud to support these 28 locally led programs for 2025–26. The grants ranging from $500 to $10,000 empower non-government organisations and community members to deliver vital, locally driven suicide prevention projects across the Territory. Every Territorian deserves access to the best mental health and suicide prevention support, no matter where they live. These projects provide innovative practical opportunities to make a real impact.

As the Member for Wanguri mentioned, the Territory's suicide rates are the highest in the country. In 2023, 44 Territorians died by suicide, which is a rate of 17 per 100,000 people, compared with the national age standardised rate of death by suicide which is only 11.8 people—which is far too many—per 100,000 across Australia. This rate is even higher for Aboriginal Territorians who experience a rate of 30.2 people per 100,000.

In our year of action we are delivering certainty and security for Territorians through a grants program that raises awareness and support to those who are struggling through difficult times. We are committed to empowering communities, foster connections and deliver meaningful change because suicide prevention starts with strong and resilient communities and support close to home.

Projects across all five NT Health regions—Top End, Big Rivers, East Arnhem, Barkly and Central Australia—received funding. This includes the Darwin Dragons Rugby Union Club, hosting a suicide prevention week and family day for the community; Deadly Hair Dude, delivering suicide prevention yarning sessions in Ampilatwatja; Life Education NT, providing social and emotional wellbeing education in my home town of Tennant Creek; Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation is running a resilience first aid program in Galiwinku; Childbirth Education Association is establishing a perinatal mental health peer support group in Alice Springs; and Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation is hosting a men's healing and suicide prevention camp in Katherine. These are only a handful of the amazing community-led initiatives that will raise awareness and contribute to suicide prevention across the Territory.

I thank all those providers that made the effort to put in for this grant funding. It will make a difference. This is what we encourage across the Territory. We are committed to seeing suicide rates reduce in the Northern Territory. I thank everybody involved.

Mr EDGINGTON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I ask that any further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.

PAPER TABLED
Review into the Structural Models for Statutory Integrity Offices Report

Mrs FINOCCHIARO (Chief Minister): Madam Speaker, I table the Review into the Structural Models for Statutory Integrity Offices Report of August 2025 and will provide an update to the Assembly.

In Estimates Committee hearings in June I described the ICAC as an important part of integrity in the Northern Territory. However, since its formation in 2018 there have been well-documented challenges with the ICAC over a number of years. I also indicated, as I had on numerous occasions publicly, that it was timely to examine what is working well and what is not and how we can strengthen our integrity functions so that Territorians can have confidence in these critical components of a healthy well-functioning democracy now and into the future. It is in everyone's best interests in this Assembly, across the public sector and in our broader community to ensure that the Northern Territory's integrity offices are highly functioning. We must also ensure they continue to serve evolving needs and community expectations as well as the complex demands of modern public administration.

With this in mind, in July 2025, following the resignation of former Commissioner Michael Riches and resolution of the long-running inquiry into behaviour of the ICAC, I commissioned an independent review into the structural models of statutory integrity offices.

The review panel comprised Mr Bruce McClintock SC, who is the Northern Territory's ICAC Inspector and Inspector of the New South Wales Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, with significant prior experience in integrity frameworks across multiple jurisdictions, with Hon Graham Hiley AM, RFD, KC, Acting Supreme Court Justice of the Northern Territory, as an independent special adviser.

The McClintock–Hiley review was asked to consider the structural arrangements of existing statutory integrity offices in the Northern Territory and make recommendations on an optimal model to support effective integrity oversight across government. The reviewers were asked to make recommendations to ensure the model going forward is fit for purpose for the Territory's context, aligned with best-practice governance standards and capable of supporting a cohesive and trusted integrity system across government.

The integrity-focused statutory offices included in the review were the ICAC; the Ombudsman, who also holds the dual role of Information Commissioner; the Auditor-General; and the Health and Community Services Complaints Commission. To avoid any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, the Office of the ICAC Inspector—including the inspector's statutory powers, functions, resourcing, reporting arrangements and legislative framework—were explicitly excluded from the review. The presence of Justice Hiley, who is independent of the Northern Territory's ICAC framework, provided an additional layer of transparency and impartiality, and I thank Mr McClintock and Justice Hiley for their important work.

The McClintock–Hiley review outlined the key challenges in resourcing, design, expertise and leadership capabilities across the Northern Territory's integrity offices, impacting their ability to deliver core functions. The report highlights that there has been damage to the public reputation and standing of the ICAC and that public standing must be re-established.

To address these and other issues identified during the review, the report recommends the establishment of a single modern integrity body, called the Integrity and Ethics Commission, which would incorporate the existing functions of the ICAC, the Health and Community Services Complaints Commission, the Ombudsman and the Information Commissioner. Under the recommended model the new Integrity and Ethics Commission would be led by a Northern Territory Integrity and Ethics Commissioner, supported by a chief executive officer who will manage the shared corporate, specialist and administrative staff. The commissioner would also be supported by a dedicated Assistant Commissioner ICAC, Assistant Commissioner Ombudsman and Assistant Commissioner Health and Community Services Complaints Commission.

The recommended model confirms that the Auditor-General would continue as a distinct and independent statutory office but be strengthened through shared leadership support of the CEO and greater resourcing flexibility.

Following recent receipt of the McClintock–Hiley report, the government has considered it and, as it should, will adopt its recommendations in full. As the report makes clear, it would not be responsible to continue with the current model and would lead to suboptimal results. In short, our government agrees that integrity functions must be strong, so doing nothing is not an option.

Additionally, the parliamentary Standing Committee on the ICAC will receive a briefing on the review from the Inspector of ICAC and he will be available to brief the opposition and Independent members prior to the next parliamentary sittings.

I move now to provide greater detail on the model that the McClintock–Hiley report recommends. The recommended model will strengthen the integrity system in the Northern Territory, support sustainable governance structures and improve the capacity of statutory offices to deliver their mandates effectively and independently.

The benefits of the recommended model are outlined in the report at paragraphs 90 to 95 and are as follows:

The first and most obvious benefit is the economies of scale, particularly with a focus on the following:

- *The overall efficiencies which should result from centralisation of all the corporate and employment functions under one CEO responsible for all such functions separately by each of the Integrity Agencies …*

- *The ability to transfer resources across what are now separate agencies when necessary. For example, it may be possible to share investigation resources, and fully utilise positions that exist in the ICAC beyond the optimal staff levels.*

The second benefit is the resolution of the structural issue identified above in relation to the separation of the functions of the Commissioner and the CEO, ensuring clarity in the high-level skillset and experience required for each role.

The third benefit is that it will … attract more suitable and qualitied applicants for the positions in question.

The fourth benefit is that to the extent the jurisdictions of the existing Integrity Agencies overlap, such duplication of functions will be removed.

The fifth benefit would be to reduce competition for qualified staff between the agencies.

There will … be additional benefits that flow from adoption of the model specified.

To support the implementation of the new model a range of legislative reforms and consequential changes will be required. These changes will be phased in commencing from October 2025, with legislation to establish the commission being introduced in the Assembly for consideration.

Hardworking and dedicated staff across the existing statutory bodies will be kept informed as plans are further developed whilst they continue their incredibly important work.

This reform is about improving integrity functions in the Northern Territory. This is not a cost-saving measure but should, in fact, improve the resourcing available to undertake those important integrity functions.

I encourage all members and Territorians to read the McClintock–Hiley report which is also available online.

It is unfortunate that the Territory is in the situation where public standing of the ICAC has been eroded. In accepting the McClintock–Hiley report in full we are confident it will strengthen integrity functions and restore public standing. As the McClintock–Hiley report states, it would be irresponsible to do nothing, so we will act in full alignment with what is recommended.

I inform the Assembly that as of 31 August this year Mr Greg Shanahan PSM completed his time as Acting ICAC. I thank Mr Shanahan for stepping into that position in December last year to give certainty and continuity to the ICAC and for doing an outstanding job in difficult circumstances. He is off to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. I understand he is an excited expectant new grandfather.

As has been done previously, Ms Naomi Loudon, the Deputy Commissioner, will once again act as ICAC while the recommended model is being implemented. Interim appointments in place for the Ombudsman and Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner roles will also enable these critical functions and services to the community to continue while the recommended model is implemented.

All core functions of each office, including substantive powers to investigate, report and act on matters of public interest, will continue unchanged. There will be no formal recruitment to these roles until the recommended model is finalised.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (POLICE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS) BILL
Serial 39

Continued from earlier this day.

Mr GUYULA (Mulka): Madam Speaker, as I said before lunch, this Bill is about guns and intimidation of Aboriginal people on buses and in public housing.

We do not feel safe with more guns, and we were given no notice of this Bill. As members of parliament we have been given no respect to see the Bill before 10 am today. Our communities in Darwin and elsewhere are being given no respect to see the Bill and have an opportunity to say what they think about more guns in our communities. Section 19 of the Act says that the commissioner can give an appointment, which outlines what powers someone will have. This is the power to have a gun and shoot people.

This is not a simple Bill; it is a complicated Bill. It is about entrenched systemic racism. It does not close the gap, does not reflect the Aboriginal Justice Agreement and the Aboriginal deaths in custody inquiry recommendations, does not bring partnership with vulnerable communities and gives powers that no other jurisdiction in Australia has ever had. I feel that it is a gross misuse of parliament to bring this Bill on urgency and pretend that it is simple. This government is making up laws without consultation, without planning and without thinking things through.

What does giving transit officers a gun do? How many times have transit officers needed to shoot someone? If someone is not wearing clean clothes on the bus, does that require a gun?

We can ask the same question of all police: how often do they need to use their guns to shoot someone? Zachary Rolfe did not need to use his gun. He did not need to shoot Kumanjayi Walker three times, yet he did, and now he is dead. My *wawa* did not need to be shot on the beach on Elcho Island because there were elders there who wanted to take care of that situation and care for my *wawa,* but the police shot my *wawa*, and he is also dead.

Guns bring violence and death, and we should be looking for other ways we can work to keep people safe. This government should be doing the hard work of working with vulnerable people and communities to address the underlying issues. I have been calling for that for the last nine years, but it does not seem to go to any ears. Instead, they are handing out weapons like they are lollies. Pepper spray and guns are being thrown out of the Santa sack as though they will fix the problem, but they will create greater problems.

I continue to be disappointed in this government and worried for the future of the NT because the damage done in this past 12 months may be long-lasting. This system is broken.

The government is treating us as though we are nobody, but we are sovereign people. Aboriginal people never ceded our sovereignty to anyone. The government that sits in this parliament needs to respect us. We have authority for our people. We have leaders, and we need to be included in the decision-making.

These Bills are targeting Indigenous people. The government may say that this Bill does not target us, but look at the prisons it is building. The government wants to make safe communities, but who are they safe for? It is not safe for our people because there are no community-led solutions and no real policies to address the underlying issues.

Prisoners in jail are not safe; they are not being helped. I have visited watch houses, and the conditions are not safe. The prisoners should be back in the hands of their people on country. They should be in programs with their elders to bring discipline, help them to find their gifts and talents and be who they really are. We are not being consulted, and we are not being included. Instead, we are being targeted and racked and stacked in prisons, as Barbara Shaw said out the front of this parliament.

This Bill is part of a campaign by this government to cause more harm in the Northern Territory. We need to work together if we want to bring real long-lasting safety for everyone in our community. Bringing serious Bills, like this one, on urgency is not the way to build safe communities when we have not had a chance to look at the changes or talk about more guns and more police, whom we know from experience will unfairly target Aboriginal people.

Our communities need to be included in the discussions about our people, and this is not happening. We are not happy.

This is worrying. It affects me as an Aboriginal leader in this Chamber trying to work with the government, whether it is this government now or another party in government. I have seen that the system here—the Westminster system—does not suit and fit with our Indigenous system, the law of the land and how it runs. I am here to try to say that, no, it does not work together.

We must listen to and help one another to make communities safe and have a life that we will enjoy together. Our culture is all about sharing, helping one another and serving people to make a pathway for the future of our children.

Looking back and seeing where we have been, we have survived for more than 70,000 years on this land and we are still here, but now we have run into a stumbling rock that we are struggling to survive.

J DAVIS (Johnston): Madam Speaker, we have heard a lot about violence and safety. Like everyone else in this Chamber, I believe that no woman should ever have to endure an attack when she is in public and no child should have to fear knives in their community. Every one of us wants safety on public transport, in public housing, on our streets and in our homes.

Like some of the stories we heard, many people in my electorate come to me because they do not feel safe, including women who have been attacked walking home. A couple were attacked this weekend. They were bashed and ended up in hospital with severe injuries on the same weekend as the anti-immigration rallies. They were attacked because of the colour of their skin. There are women and children who are not at safe at home because of domestic and family violence and cannot find a safe place to stay because our refuges do not have the money to repair their infrastructure. There are young people who are not safe when they are

growing up without access to stable houses or support because there is no affordable housing. There are families who are not safe because they cannot get the urgent mental health support they need.

The Member for Drysdale talked about addressing the root causes. Addressing root causes works. When we look to places with extreme violence far beyond what we have here—places like Glasgow and Baltimore—we see that they had incredible success in reducing violence. Let me be clear that this was not by putting more guns on buses or in public housing.

We should also listen to the wisdom from our colleague the Member for Mulka, who has come into this Chamber for nine years to tell us that there are other ways that can and do work which do not involve guns, harm or death. We need to listen to this wisdom.

If we rush through laws without carefully thinking about what will work, we will not make our communities safer; we will just shift risk from one place to another. This parliament has a responsibility to act wisely. Of course it is urgent to make sure that our community is safe, but this parliament must never accept the argument that because something was spoken about in an election campaign or reported in the media, it can be rammed through this Chamber without proper scrutiny. That is not democracy and it is not how good law is made. It is reckless to rush through laws on urgency without carefully considering the real risks and unintended consequences.

Having had a five-minute briefing late last night and seeing the Bill at 10 o'clock this morning, it remains unclear to me—this should concern all of us—whether we being asked to vote today on only the principle while the actual details of how these officers will operate, what training they will receive, what oversight they will be subject to and how they will be held accountable are worked out outside of these walls. If that is the case, let us be clear that this is not a simple administrative change; this is a profound shift in how public safety is delivered in our community. If that is what we are doing with this Bill, let us be clear and honest about it. If the safeguards are not defined in legislation, if they are left to be decided later behind closed doors, this parliament is failing in its duty to Territorians.

Mr PATEL (Casuarina): Madam Speaker, I stand with one clear message: our community in Casuarina wants safety. This government is delivering safety. We are acting, whereas those opposite slept at the wheel.

Everywhere I go, whether it is Casuarina Square, the Nakara shops, Tiwi bus stops, Dripstone Middle School or Royal Darwin Hospital, I hear the same thing: people just want to feel safe. Parents want their children to walk to school without fear, seniors want to enjoy their afternoon walks without harassment and small business owners want to open their doors without worrying about crime.

This Bill and the reforms we have delivered over the past year are about safety, consequences and supporting the police so that they can support us. This is getting on with the job we were elected to do. This Bill makes a technical change to the *Police Administration Act*. It adds police public safety officers to the list of officers formally recognised so that we can start recruiting for those roles to get on with the job.

That might sound like paperwork, but in Casuarina it means more uniforms on the ground, people in our hotspots, eyes and ears in the community and support for police as soon as possible. If you shop at Casuarina Square, catch the bus at Tiwi or live near the Nakara or Wanguri shops, you know why that matters. PPSOs will be there to step in when antisocial behaviour flares up. They will be visible, deter trouble and back up our police so that police can focus on serious crime. We want them as soon as possible at the scene.

This government has already delivered some of the strongest laws in the nation, and I will repeat them because the people of Casuarina repeat their concerns to me every day.

We delivered Declan's law, the strongest bail laws in Australia. We introduced the mandatory minimum sentences for assaults on frontline workers because no nurse, teacher or shop worker in Casuarina should ever be attacked for simply doing their job. Violent criminals should be behind bars, not on our streets as Labor wants. We created new offences for ramraids and for people who post and boast about their crimes online because crime should never be glorified. We gave police wanding powers to stop knives before tragedy strikes. Hundreds of knives and edged weapons have been taken off the streets, thanks to these measures. These are not abstract laws; these are laws written for the streets, shops and homes of Casuarina and the whole NT. They are laws that mean fewer victims, more offenders facing consequences and safer families.

Our police have new powers to deal with nuisance drinking and new powers of entry. Police public safety officers will step in and ensure …

Mr PAECH: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 9; there is no quorum in parliament.

There is now; they have just run in. There has to be 10. They have run in now.

Mrs Zio: You cannot talk about people coming and going.

Mr Paech: I am just maintaining the rules of the Assembly. I thought you might like that, Member for Fannie Bay.

Madam SPEAKER: It is well in order to maintain the state of the House. Ten members have to be present. Please continue, Member for Casuarina.

Mr PATEL: Police public safety officers will step in and ensure these steps are taken, allowing other police to respond to jobs quickly.

Action requires resources. That is why this government has delivered a record $1.5bn investment in police, courts and Corrections. In one year we have welcomed 146 new police graduates and brought on 199 new Corrections officers. I look forward to seeing the number of PPSOs soon.

Safety is about not only laws and police but also breaking cycles. That is why we created the school attendance officer positions. Already 388 more kids are back in classrooms where they belong—not roaming on the streets, like Labor celebrated. In Casuarina this means fewer kids roaming the shopping centres during school hours, fewer young people hanging around the bus stops and more young people learning, achieving and building a future. We on this side know that education is the most important pillar in creating productive members of our society.

We also delivered the Circuit Breaker Program, supporting 94 children and their families to deal with domestic violence, health and education issues. We put in place 137 family responsibility agreements to restore accountability. In Casuarina these programs mean fewer excuses, more accountability and families getting the support they need to keep their kids on track instead of letting crime take hold.

We cannot talk about supporting police without talking about pay. We have put a new EBA agreement on the table, one that keeps NT police as the highest paid in the country. Constables, senior constables, sergeants and senior sergeants will remain number one, and superintendents will be the second highest nationally. We, on this side of the Chamber, back our police. This is not just about money; it is about respect. It is about telling police in Casuarina: we value your work; we respect your sacrifice; and we want you to stay in the Territory. We want police across Australia to look north and see that the NT is the best place to serve. Thank you to all the former and current members of police across the Territory.

On 1 September we began the OC spray trial. As the Chief Minister mentioned yesterday, in one day alone more than 250 Territorians purchased OC spray. The average age of the purchaser was 47 years, which shows that people are taking this responsibly. Mums and dads in Casuarina have told me that this gives them peace of mind. Seniors have told me that this makes them feel safer walking at night. When a handful of people who were prohibited tried to buy it, police acted immediately and notices to appear were issued. The message is clear: if you try to break the rules, police will find you and you will face the consequences. This is about giving Territorians more choice in their personal safety and backing that choice with police powers to make sure it is safe.

This week we also passed the Transport Legislation Amendment Bill. This Bill gives police the power to issue on-the-spot fines for unlicensed drivers. It means that police can deal swiftly with unsupervised learners and never-licensed drivers. It frees the courts to deal with the most serious offenders. What does that mean in Casuarina? It means safer roads for families, including those driving down Trower Road; fewer risks for students crossing near Dripstone school; and cleaning up abandoned vehicles in our suburbs. As Minister Yan said, the heart of the Bill is to give police more options, give transit officers powers to keep buses safe and give courts stronger tools for dangerous drivers. All this matters for Casuarina families who rely on safe roads and safe buses every day.

I will repeat the message, because it matters: Casuarina families want to feel safe; Casuarina seniors want to walk without fear; Casuarina kids deserve safe schools and streets; and Casuarina businesses deserve safe shopping centres and safe customers. That is why we are delivering police public safety officers urgently.

We made a promise to Territorians that we would take action, deliver certainty and restore safety. We are delivering on that promise, and we will keep delivering because Casuarina deserves safety. In fact, the whole Territory needs safety. This government will not stop until we deliver it. We are getting on with the job.

This Bill is urgent because without it we cannot even begin the industrial negotiations that will set the pay and conditions of this new role. Recruitment is scheduled to commence in October and that can only happen once this rank is formally created.

The creation of the police public safety officer is not just another piece of red tape; it is vital reform for our community. These officers will eventually bring together the work of police auxiliaries, public safety housing officers and transit safety officers. They will have police powers under the Act but with specific instruments of appointment that clearly set out their responsibilities.

In plain language, PPSOs will be visible, approachable and present in the very places that our community needs them the most. They will be forward-facing officers engaging with the public, tackling antisocial behaviour, supporting our public housing areas and making our public transport safer. For Casuarina this means something real. It means more officers at Casuarina Square when antisocial behaviour flares, more support around Tiwi and Nakara bus stops and more engagement in housing precincts to prevent problems before they escalate.

This Bill is about giving our police force the support it needs, our community the safety it deserves and the Northern Territory a model of policing that works for the future.

We promised action, certainty and security. With this Bill, with PPSOs and with every reform, we are delivering. We are keeping that promise for Casuarina and the Territory.

I commend this reform to the Assembly.

Mrs ZIO (Fannie Bay): Madam Speaker, for too long the people of the Northern Territory were let down by a government that promised accountability but delivered the exact opposite. From 2016 to 2024 the Labor government in the Territory failed a fundamental test of leadership, to be honest and transparent and to listen to the community.

Crime in the Northern Territory did not spiral out of control overnight; it was made worse year after year by a government that buried reports, dodged scrutiny and preferred press conferences to plain truths. It chose secrecy over transparency, spin over substance and political survival over the safety of Territorians. When our communities raised their voices, they were brushed aside. When frontline police, community organisations and local leaders offered solutions, they were left out of the conversation altogether. Instead of genuine consultation all we got were decisions made behind closed doors, stitched-up committees and top-down directives with no input from the people who know the Territory best—Territorians themselves.

The tragic reality is clear: crime, antisocial behaviour and violence worsened on the former Labor government's watch, not because we lacked answers but because we lacked leadership willing to face up to the truth. For eight long years the previous Labor government treated crime statistics as a public relations problem to be managed rather than a community crisis to be fixed.

Who paid the price? Ordinary Territorians—families who feel unsafe in their homes, small businesses counting the cost of break-ins and frontline workers stretched beyond their limits. I remember when the former Labor government was approached by small business owners pleading for help after being broken into time and again that all it said was, 'Keep increasing your security. Put up more CCTV. Put up more roller shutters.' There was no action to stop the behaviour. Businesses, families, children and communities were all left behind when the former Labor government stopped listening.

We deserve better than this culture of secrecy and promises without action. We deserve a government that openly consults and works hand in hand with police, service providers, victims, business owners, residents—everyone. Above all, we deserve leadership that puts people's safety ahead of politics. We do not deserve the cherrypicking and twisting of information to suit the narrative of those opposite.

That is the change Territorians demanded and that is what we are giving them. The failures of the Labor government between 2016 and 2024 will not be repeated by this Finocchiaro CLP government. Territorians are strong and resilient, but they should not have to face crime on their own. It is time for a government that puts the safety of our people first and refuses to hide the truth from those it serves.

We have heard time and again from those opposite about consultation, transparency and allowing time to do the work. Did you know that between 2016 and 2024 the previous Labor government in the Northern Territory pushed through a significant number of legislative changes, frequently without thorough consultation and transparency with the public and relevant authorities? During the 13th and 14th Assemblies, the Labor

government's tenure, many Bills were passed covering issues from crime and law enforcement to resource management and social policy. These legislative pushes included major reforms and contentious changes like adjustments to sentencing laws and bail and the overhaul of crime statistics reporting methods, but unlike our changes to date, the former government put criminals' rights ahead of the rights of victims.

The Labor government was known for pushing Bills through parliamentary sessions rapidly, often limiting opportunities for detailed review, community input or transparent reporting on the rationale and impact of changes. The frequency of this style of lawmaking led to widespread criticism from local authorities and the public, particularly on crime-related policy when the voices from frontline services and victims' groups were routinely sidelined. This saw multiple amendments and new Acts related to criminal law, policing and public order often being passed without extensive consultation with the police and the community; it was a process widely seen as lacking in transparency. The absence of genuine engagement on key crime legislation fuelled public frustration and concerns about effectiveness and fairness in addressing Territory crime rates. Three words—pot, kettle, black.

In May 2024 the NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner wrote to the then Attorney-General, the Member for Gwoja, regarding legislative changes being pushed through on urgency, stating that he was disappointed that he was not consulted prior to the Bill being introduced, especially given that those changes intended to exclude the application of the *Anti-Discrimination Act*.

The Finocchiaro CLP government has continual consultation with the NT Police Association. We are continually talking to police and other Territorians. I am talking to people in and around Fannie Bay and the Parap shops. We want these changes.

We are sick and tired of people continually breaking the law and being allowed to disrupt the lives of ordinary law-abiding citizens. These changes will help with that. We will have additional police on the street who can help monitor and control what happens in and around our suburbs. This legislative change is a simple administrative change to allow us to get on with the job of securing police public safety officers.

I commend this amendment Bill to the Assembly.

Mr PAECH (Gwoja): Madam Speaker, I pick up on the Member for Fannie Bay's comments. She clearly worked hard with her mate ChatGPT this afternoon to prepare that speech because I can say, hand on heart, that when I was Attorney-General I met regularly with the domestic and family violence sector, women's legal services, Legal Aid and all the legal sector on all the reform that we did. We acknowledge that we did things on urgency. The difference between us and the government is we communicated with the then opposition members, who are now in government, our intention to pass legislation on urgency and gave them ample time.

We have spoken at length about a government offering briefings at 6.30 pm and 9.30 pm, not giving members the chance to fully absorb what it is in the Bill. This is serious, and there are grey areas. Those areas relate to, yes, we know that this legislation has to be passed in order to allow …

Mrs ZIO: A point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker! The timer has not started. It needs to be started.

Members interjecting.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, that is enough. Continue, Member for Gwoja.

Mr PAECH: Given the short time, I have a question for the government and I seek clarification. This legislation allows Police to start negotiations with the government and the NTPA on the pathway forward—the levels, wages, entitlements and so forth. It is unclear whether parliament will have a debate on whether transit safety officers and housing safety officers will be legislatively able to hold guns or whether Police will determine and commission the level that these transit and housing officers will have when they transfer to the Northern Territory Police Force. That is incredibly important, and we all want to know. It is a bit of a grey area. Will this be a matter that the parliament comes back to talk about, as the Members for Johnston and Mulka have raised, or will it be a matter for Police to determine through regulation that transit safety officers and housing officers are now at this level, and it will make a determination whether they will carry a gun on active duty?

It is important to acknowledge that the Territory is a unique jurisdiction in its makeup; we have a diverse range of Territorians and are culturally rich in population. However, many communities are still carrying the wounds of historical overpolicing and state interventions from even before self-government in the Northern Territory. In many remote and urban Aboriginal communities there are significant mistrust issues with

authorities. We have heard recently from a number of advocacy groups, legal bodies and Aboriginal Territorians that significant work is needed to rebuild relationships and trust with people.

Many of my constituents come into town to access services on a daily basis and stay with family members in social, community and public housing. As a remote member of this Assembly, I worry that introducing guns into housing and transit safety officers' everyday interactions will risk igniting those traumas and undermine years of work to build those relationships.

Imagine a family having an interaction with a housing safety officer who has come into their home to talk and engage with them and has a gun strapped to their pocket. That would be a scary experience for many people, particularly people in the Warlpiri communities who experienced trauma from the shooting of Kumanjayi Walker. Through the evidence in the inquest we know that there is a lot of trauma. I worry that giving people the ability to do that will reopen a lot of trauma and will instantly enable people to feel on edge and could potentially result in conflict. For many families across the Territory, the sight of that will make them not feel safe and it will be intimidating.

I highlight that the evidence simply does not support this move. When we look at practices and what is being done in those areas across Australia, we see that safety, compliance and transit officers—whether it is housing, transport or local government—are already operating effectively without guns. When violence or serious crime are encountered, these officers are trained to step back and call the police who are specialists with the training, resourcing and accountability to handle such matters. We have all seen that here. All elected members have seen officers doing that work. I acknowledge the hard work of the Northern Territory Police Force in these situations.

I believe there are other ways. I accept that politics is a contest of ideas, but there is more work that we can do. Instead of arming these officers, we should be investing to help them with training, compliance, competency and de-escalation skills. These are integral things that we should be working on.

I am hopeful that the new police public safety officers will have to wear body-worn cameras because those communication devices, and strong partnerships with constables and other police officers, will help ensure that we do not get to a situation that escalates beyond scope and there is footage available that can be used as evidence in a conflict situation or if there is recorded dispute. That is incredibly important.

We have heard time and again, particularly in my community of Yuendumu, people saying, 'We do not need guns in our streets and our homes. We need better stronger relationships with our authorities.' That is incredible work that can be done.

A huge volume of work can be undertaken on alternative first responder models, which have been adapted and implemented in parts of the United Kingdom and in New Mexico and Arizona in the United States. The alternative first responders are made up of a unique group of people—local language speakers in those communities, trained psychologists, medical practitioners, experts in de-escalation and, of course, people who are considered to be working in partnership with police, like liaison officers or community-based officers. Places like New Mexico had a huge decline in the number of presentations being reported to police because the alternative first responder model was stood up and people could intervene early before a matter resulted in an altercation or police being called to attend.

Things that we can do to be smarter with our responses and better support the justice system include having mechanisms in place to look at de-escalating conflict and resolving conflict before it starts and addressing mental health conditions and substance addiction. If we get in early, we can address all these things. It is important to look at that.

The introduction of firearms for housing safety officers and transit safety officers is a solution in search of a problem. It risks lives, damages trust and diverts us from what works—that is, prevention, de-escalation and community-led initiatives. Our communities deserve safety. No-one is disputing that, but safety has to be built on respect and relationships, not fear and force.

Chief Minister, you have brought this Bill to the Assembly. I again ask for clarification. Today we will allow those officers to start to be recruited, with commencement late this year and the beginning of next year. Regarding the equipment that officers will carry, will the Police Commissioner and the executive team make that decision in line with the level the officers are commissioned at or is it a matter that will come before parliament? I think you said that it would be in the tranche 2 changes to the *Police Administration Act*. The Members for Mulka and Johnston raised that question.

In some part, bringing transit safety officers and housing officers into a centralised group is meritorious. It will allow that communication to be stronger and for them to work closer together. Housing safety officers in particular have always had a good working relationship with the department of Territory Families in terms of identifying families showing signs of needing additional support. They can get in there early and do so.

I thank the Assembly for allowing me to make my contribution. I look forward to further member contributions.

Mrs FINOCCHIARO (Police)(in reply): Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank everyone who contributed to this important debate. It is a significant reform that we are embarking on, but this is not significantly substantive legislation. I appreciate that everyone is interested in what that reform will look like, but at its core this Bill will create the opportunity to move forward with the rest of the reform.

Powers, remuneration and all those things are not included in the *Police Administration Act*; they are dealt with separately. They will be dealt with by the commissioner in consultation with the NTPA. That is how that process works. It is the same as all the other types of police we have, whether it is our wonderful ACPOs, constables or PALIs. That work has to happen.

There was a lot of discussion this morning about urgency and why we had not already consulted. It is a bit cute to say that because we cannot until this happens, because what are you consulting on; it is not real. We have to create the position so that there can be a proper—this is not consultation like asking the NTPA what it thinks about this or that—industrial relations consultation to develop, build and form an EBA. You can appreciate that is a structured process.

This Bill will create the new position, and we can then move forward with all those other things, including remuneration and what powers they will have. That will be done exactly as those things are normally done.

The next legislation that the Assembly will see about this relates to amendments to the *Housing Act*, the *Surveillance Devices Act* and the *Public Transport (Passenger Safety) Act*. The powers in and of themselves are not in the *Police Administration Act*; they are in an instrument which is separate and they are to be determined by the Police Commissioner, as I said, in consultation with the NTPA. The next Bill about the police public safety officers will be in relation to incorporating the housing, transport and surveillance devices piece that has to happen. We will keep the community and the parliament abreast of the reform process.

We have been clear that the sooner we can move through these processes the sooner we can go to recruitment. You cannot recruit to a position if you do not what people will be paid or even what they will have to do and how they will do it. We must do that first. A clear sequence of events has to happen. I put that in my press release so that everyone could understand it.

I thank members for their contributions. Some of it was so extreme in content that I will not even dignify it with a reply, to be honest. We are not reinventing the wheel; this has been done by the AFP. In fact, the AFP Association President is a PSO. When I met with people from the Victorian Police Association, they said that they are begging their government for more of them. This is a tried and tested system, so we are not reinventing the wheel.

We will have greater support, training and command—all the necessary things to deliver community safety. I am not sure why some members opposite think that there will be transit safety officers wielding guns all over the public bus network, but if you guys want to run a scare campaign and have that narrative, that is entirely a matter for you. It is quite offensive to our transit safety officers and police, who conduct themselves with the utmost integrity, discipline and in line with their training every day, which is why I will not go into all that rubbish.

I commend the Bill to the Assembly. This is an important first step, so let us get on with it.

Motion agreed to; Bill read a second time.

Consideration in detail

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, before we commence I remind all members that consideration in detail is the opportunity for the Assembly to give detailed consideration of the wording of the Bill. Its purpose is to clarify the operation of individual clauses and, with that clarification, agree whether the wording of each clause is correct or should be amended. That is why on each clause I propose that the clause stand as printed. The question before the Assembly is whether the wording of the clause is right.

Members may speak repeatedly to work through the details of the clause. Members may speak to give their views on the merits and operation of the clause or to seek information on the operation of the clause from the minister.

The debate must be relevant to the wording of the clause. This can include how the clause interacts with other clauses.

I also note that when I pose the question that the clause stand as printed, I am inviting members to speak to that question. The appropriate response, I am advised, is not to say no but to stand and seek the call.

Clause 1, by leave, agreed to.

Clause 2:

Ms UIBO: Given the urgency of this amendment Bill, when will the commencement of the Administrator's assent and the declaration occur?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: As is standard with all Bills, I cannot give a specific time because that is entirely a matter for the Administrator. We are highlighting to His Honour how important this is, so we are hopeful that in a week or two it will be done.

Ms UIBO: Will it be when the next Executive Council presents to His Honour and at His Honour's discretion if that is agreed upon, then it will be assented?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: Yes.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3, by leave, agreed to.

Clause 4:

Mr PAECH: Chief Minister, thank you for your closing remarks. When you spoke about the commissioner making the appointment or the rank, is that when the commissioner or the executive officer would make the determination as to whether there would be a ranking and that would determine the kind of equipment that officer would have? I want to be clear. I take your point: I do not want people to be scared and thinking that every housing officer or transit officer will have a gun. Is it the commissioner, based on risk, who will determine the rank?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: Rather than using your words, I will answer your question differently. The police public safety officer Bill creates that rank. The legislation currently says an Aboriginal community police officer, an auxiliary, a police public safety officer—it lists all that—a member of the police force or special constable. That allows the Police Commissioner to create the powers behind the role. All of those are different. That is an existing process and we are just adding another layer into it, I suppose you could say.

This will then allow the Police Commissioner to go to the NTPA and talk about the EBA component which is, obviously, the pay and conditions and those types of things, but also about the powers. It is exactly the same process that happened when Labor created the PALIs; for example, there was discussion about whether they would carry guns, be able to arrest people or have a taser or whatever other types of powers it might. That will be determined and, through an instrument—which is official documentation that the Police Commissioner does when people are recruited—bestow upon them the powers that are in that document.

I am not pre-empting that because that work is to be done. It is fair to say that it will, at a minimum, be what PALIs have. We are looking at that as a baseline, it is fair to say. Then we will look upwards from there for what they need to have. We have been clear that would include firearms—PALIs carry firearms—and a range of other things that police need to have on them. They are a stream of police.

What will be the more limiting factor is, rather than what they have, where they can use it. That will probably be the greater distinction about what a constable does and what a PPSO does. That is how it works in other jurisdictions as well.

Mr PAECH: The determination might be as to when they are on patrol whether they will be required to have that. Thank you for that clarification.

I have another question, if you can indulge me for a second; it might not be relevant. Under this new system can a housing or a transit safety officer who is not comfortable with potentially wearing a firearm decline to do so? I am not sure whether that is a current process, but I want to make sure that if someone does not feel comfortable having it, they do not have to. Is that correct?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: We should not talk about them as transit or housing officers because they will not be anymore. Currently we have public servants fulfilling security-type roles with various powers, and we gave them more the other day. When they sign up and become a PPSO, they will be sworn and have their oath of office. They will go through the training college and will come out the other end as a PPSO, a police officer, and with that will be all the things that a police officer has. You cannot become a police officer and not want to have some of the gear. If you want to be a police officer, you must have police stuff.

Mr PAECH: I thought I would get clarification on that.

Sorry; I know I am moving across a little, but is there still the provision for those who do not want to transition to PPSOs to stay where they are, but for the purposes of everyone else, they have to come under all the conditions that a police officer would because they are now police?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: This is way off the Bill, and it will be my last indulgence. It is our preference that everyone transitions across. We are respectful and mindful that it will not be for everyone. Equally, perhaps not everyone will be eligible, which needs to be considered as well. We are working with those people to make sure that there is continued employment in housing or transit or alternative employment. Our preference and what we are saying to people is, 'Come across. This will be fantastic. You will have great pay and conditions. It will be a strong workforce. You will join an incredible police family and be able to do all those things you wish you could do.' Successive governments, including the previous government, have been back in and out of this parliament to give them more powers, tools and this and that. We can put all of that to bed by bringing these people into the police framework and family.

Mr PAECH: Thank you for the indulgence. I wanted that clarified, and you have answered all my questions.

Ms UIBO: Is there a particular number of PPSOs that will be recruited? Will it be done via a tranche or staged process and, if so, what will the initial numbers be? I ask this to allow the public and us to understand what it will look like on the ground in the community.

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: A normal squad size is 24. We have already had expressions of interest from people wanting to sign up. Obviously, they are waiting for the detail too, which goes back to that urgency. To the Member for Gwoja's point, we have people currently in roles and their roles will change, so we are mindful of the impact on them and their families. The sooner we can put this component to bed the sooner we will be able to go back to our current transit and housing officers and say, 'This is what it can look like for you', which will give them and their families confidence and certainty. That is important to all of us. The size of the squad we can put through the college is about 24.

Ms UIBO: I appreciate your response. Will police public safety officer positions be available across every region?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: Yes, as we build up. At 24 a squad, we are hoping by the end of the year that we have a significant complement, but it will take time to build. It is a couple of years' project to get to full capacity. We do not have limits on what that looks like. It is demand driven. We are keen to make sure that we fill those PALI positions that have gone, because PALIs transferred to being constables, so that our constables are not at bottle shops. We want enough capacity to have forward-facing police across the Territory on streets, in communities and at shopping centres who are able to do the high-vis dealing with antisocial behaviour role, while our highly trained constables can investigate crime, answer 000 calls and all that kind of stuff.

Ms UIBO: Do you envision that these positions will have allocated locations—for example, three in Katherine, 10 in Alice Springs and four in Nhulunbuy?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: Yes, they will be. It will be up the spine—Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Ms UIBO: Would that extend throughout the squad progression, when there are 24 and more? Could they then be located in remote communities?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: Nothing is off the table. We have to build it up. Obviously, you need a critical mass in each location to run the shifts properly. It is not a matter of saying that we will send two here and two there,

because if one is sick or on leave—all those other things—you need multiple people to manage an entire shift for a 24-hour period. Years down the track if we build up capacity, then fantastic.

Ms UIBO: They will be public service positions. Will these PPSOs also receive entitlements similar to the different rankings across the police force?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: That is what the next stage looks like. That all has to be explored, resolved, dealt with and offered.

J DAVIS: In my briefing I was told—it has been echoed in the Chamber—that this is a simple administrative change; it is not a decision about powers, training or use of guns. I understand from what you are saying that when we vote for this today, we are actually voting that PPSOs will have the power to have guns; is that correct?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: No.

J DAVIS: The commissioner will have the discretion to decide that; is that correct?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: Yes.

J DAVIS: That decision will not come back before the House; it will be outside the Chamber in terms of arming the PPSOs. Is that right?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: This legislation creates the rank. I have said it many times; I do not know how to say it any clearer for you, Member for Johnston. Whether this sat on the table for one day, 100 days or 100 years, the equipment that the PPSOs will carry would never come to the Chamber. It is irrelevant to the Bill.

As it is for all our different police—again, I went through it—whether you are a member of the police force, a special constable, an Aboriginal community police officer, a police auxiliary or a police public safety officer, that is a separate process which is entirely operational and a matter for the police.

J DAVIS: I understand that. My question, to be clear and for people who have contacted me with concerns, is that when we vote on this Bill we are voting to create a new rank and that will then be managed within the police force through the usual processes, which means that those decisions will be made within the police force. I think you have already answered this, but I want to be clear: when we vote for this are we saying that the decisions about PPSOs having guns can go ahead without any other input from outside the police force?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: No, that is not correct. I appreciate your desperate efforts to try to stitch me up and set me up for a gotcha moment. You can put it in your newsletter, Member for Johnston; I could not care less.

I do not know how to explain it any clearer than I already have. If you are trying to get something out of me it will not happen. I do not know what else you want us to say, Member for Johnston. You can try to say this as sweetly as you want, your intent is not as pure as it sounds coming out of your mouth.

J DAVIS: I am trying to understand. I do not have any …

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: No, you are not. Rubbish!

Mr EDGINGTON: A point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker! The Chief Minister has answered the question. This is not relevant to the clause.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I said, we need to stay on the clause. The Chief Minister has answered.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5:

Ms UIBO: Clause 5 also carries on with the extension of the definitions; we understand that. With the ranking system that is outlined in those different definitions—an Aboriginal community police officer, a police auxiliary and a police public safety officer—can PPSOs transition into the other two or the other two into a PPSO? The simple question is: will they able to change rank?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: You cannot just move between them freely. There is different training for each of them. We have a sophisticated college that runs multiple training programs for multiple lengths of time which cover off different processes. What we do at the police college is varied.

Importantly, there are pathways. A couple of months ago 17 Aboriginal community police officers graduated to constable, which was the largest squad we have had. It was exceptional. It is part of the hard work that Leanne Liddle and her team are doing. That is what we want to see. It is lovely to have pathways for people in the force.

Sometimes people do not make it into the constable squad straightaway; it might be due to a fitness issue or something else. Often we see them become auxiliaries or Aboriginal community police officers or just get their foot in the door to learn their skills and craft and then have another go. I have been to many graduations for constables where people have been ACPOs, auxiliaries or even PALIs. Labor created the PALI role and then gave PALIs the opportunity to go on a constable course, so they became constables. If a police public safety officer decides, 'I really like this; I want to be a constable', they can apply to become a constable. They would have to do additional training, and if they passed that, in theory, they could become a constable.

Ms UIBO: Many people admire and respect the Aboriginal liaison officers. Would an ALO have to undertake further training to be eligible for one of these other three rankings in the PAA?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: The reason you do not see Aboriginal liaison officer in there is that it is not a sworn role. That is not to say they are not a critical part of our police force; they are incredible. We do a lot of work with the ALOs to encourage them to become ACPOs and to move up the ranks. That remains the same; it is just more pathways, I suppose.

Ms UIBO: Because of the rankings and the extension to it proposed in this amendment—I understand you have mentioned that the operational details will continue to be worked out. Thinking of my electorate of Arnhem, will PPSOs be eligible for the same entitlements, like police housing and leave, if they are in the eligible ranking of the three positions mentioned in clause 5?

Mrs FINOCCHIARO: All entitlements, conditions and anything you can think of that would be part of their remuneration package is all to be worked through.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

Remainder of the Bill, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the Bill be agreed to.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 17	Noes 6
Ms Boothby	Mr Brown
Mr Burgoyne	J Davis
Ms Cahill	Mr Guyula
Mrs Carlson	Mr Paech
Mr Charls	Ms Uibo
Mr Edgington	Mr Young
Mrs Finocchiaro	
Mrs Hersey	
Mr Howe	
Mr Kerle	
Mr Mackay	
Mr Maley	
Mr O'Gallagher	
Mr Patel	
Dr Rahman	
Mr Yan	
Mrs Zio	

Bill agreed to.

Mrs FINOCCHIARO (Police): Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to, Bill read a third time.

MOTION
Note Report – Silkwood

Continued from 3 September 2025.

Mr MALEY (Agriculture and Fisheries): Madam Speaker, Territorians are a different bunch and by that I mean we are a bit more wild and unruly than the rest of the country, in a good way. There are lots of Territorians, including me, who love to get out in the bush to go camping, swimming, hunting, exploring and just taking the family out for a drive. We do not take our natural bushlands and our heritage-listed parks for granted; we treasure them.

It is not a secret that I grew up in the Northern Territory and am a proud rural boy. I love heading out bush, switching off and enjoying the outdoors, whether it be on my horse or in my buggy, bushwalking or walking down a creek trying to find a pig. That is what I did in my childhood, and I know that many Territorians have done the same. I often bump into people, especially at the boat ramp or at Harrison Dam, and talk about what we do.

A few years ago there was a place called the Tree of Knowledge at Gunn Point where people would go for an afternoon hunt with their family and kids and then go back and solve all the problems of the world. We would have a fire and sit around. I remember spending many nights at the Tree of Knowledge, just going out there and enjoying the bush. These are the experiences that make us proud and lucky to be Territorian.

Labor left our national parks to stagnate, with no vision to grow them or open up new areas for locals and visitors, but our government thinks differently and prioritises what is best for the Territory. We are committed to restoring the Territory lifestyle, and we are doing that by unlocking new places to camp, swim, hunt and explore in the biggest expansion to Litchfield National Park for four decades.

This $7.5m investment is the first park expansion in decades and reflects our promise to provide more opportunities to rebuild our lifestyle with more space for four-wheel drivers, recreational hunters, bushwalkers, birdwatchers and fishers along the Adelaide River. On the Daly River Road, on the other side, there is a turn-off that goes to a little hot springs. I have been going there for many years with my family. It is a great location. You can walk to where the water bubbles up out of the ground.

I thank the Environment minister for bringing this on. This is a great area. We are committed to using it. For many local rural people, as well as people who are born and bred Territorians or visitors to Darwin, who want to travel somewhere relatively close and safe, this is the area. We all know about the Telstra tower on that block of land. There is an old bitumen road up there; it is a great view. I have been up there many times. I am happy for this to go ahead.

There is no doubting that I am a lifestyle boy, and this will help me and my family. I can take my kids and, hopefully, grandkids out there and explore. That land will be locked in for Territorians and visitors, so we can move forward. This is a fantastic achievement, led by our leader, Lia Finocchiaro. It will be used for Territorians and southerners who visit us. There are waterfalls, gorges and hot springs and four-wheel drive tracks. I cannot wait to go and check it out more.

Mr EDGINGTON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to; debate adjourned.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – NOT SUPPORTED
Santos Methane Leak

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received correspondence from the Member for Johnston as follows:

I propose for discussion this day the following definite matter of public importance: that urgent action must be taken to ensure that Santos immediately addresses an ongoing methane leak at the Darwin liquified gas

plant in order to protect our environment and to ensure all companies operating in the Northern Territory are accountable to our community and environment.

The letter is signed by the Member for Johnston. Is discussion supported? Discussion is not supported.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr EDGINGTON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Dr RAHMAN (Fong Lim): Madam Speaker, I am delighted to talk about the year in review, which everyone had an opportunity to do in respect of the government's agenda. For my constituents of Fong Lim, I specifically wanted to draw attention to some of the things that I have worked hard, in partnership with others in this place, to deliver over the course of this year.

Nothing happens in this place without working with other people. I do not, for a second, lay claim to having achieved anything by myself without the help of others. It is the case that we represent individual constituencies, and it is extremely important that we let our members know what we have delivered for them across our wide and diverse electorates.

My electorate, as I have pointed out before, is made up of 12 remarkable locations which all require attention in different ways. It is not just about worrying about my boutique suburbs of Bayview and Stuart Park; it is also ensuring that I look after Charles Darwin National Park and people in The Narrows and Berrimah, fledgling new places. To my constituents across the electorate, I want to draw out a few things to give an indication of what I do when you do not see me like this in a suit, if you like, giving speeches in parliament.

Whilst I am on the topic of parliamentary contributions, it is important that members of the Assembly function as good local members, are out and about in the community and are good parliamentarians. That means making a proper contribution in the parliament. I am pleased to say that I have given close to 50 substantive speeches in the House in my first year, across a range of topics, and all those subjects and speeches I give are freely available on the digital office that my hardworking staff in my electorate and I have created. If you want to know what I have to say about the economy, police, housing, health or the arts, it is all there transparently for you to interrogate.

Beyond the innumerable events that we attend, representing ministers, parliamentary contributions and our community engagements, I will talk about a handful of specific things that I have managed to deliver for my electorate in my first year as the elected member.

Before doing so, I recognise a handful of ministers whom I have had the opportunity to work with closely to try to deliver specific outcomes. I also have had the opportunity to represent the Chief Minister on a number of occasions; the Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations in her multiple capacities in overseas engagement; the Minister for Arts on frequent occasions at festivals and artistic endeavours; and the Minister for Major Events. I am grateful to those ministers for the opportunity to fly the flag for the government and make a presence known at all these things. We are a team that shares the workload in that regard.

I have spoken about some of these things in small, but not exhaustive, detail. I have only a limited amount of time, so I will not go into forensic detail. One of my top 10 achievements for this year is the buses for Berrimah Northcrest. For five years children did not have buses to get from Berrimah Northcrest to any of the public schools in the northern suburbs, and now they do. I probably get more love, attention and fan mail from little kids regarding those buses than just about anything else. It warms my heart.

Security upgrades for Stuart Park Primary School—the minister for Education was good enough to help me on short notice to solve a problem which had been unsolved for a long time. Critical locks and doors had not been fixed as part of minor works upgrades. I got $50,000 worth of that sorted at the beginning of this year.

Council affiliation for Berrimah Northcrest—for 10 long years we have been waiting, and people are paying lump sum rates, not getting their garbage collected, cannot chip and tag their dog and cannot go to the tip. I worked with the government to get a commitment in Question Time when the minister committed to resolving this issue by the end of the year. In the meantime, I have surveyed the electorate, collated the data and presented it to the minister. If and when our council ever figures out who is in charge—the various councils in the election are in some sort of limbo—I am confident that the minister will act decisively and swiftly, using the information I provided.

With the Fong Lim Fanfare Festival I delivered in one year a festival that actually moved gross state product. It did not make billions of dollars, but it made hundreds of thousands in three days. It contributed to the arts in a new way, and I look forward to continuing that commitment. I want to expand that next year, Member for Karama, to include other electorates so that we can support our fledgling community arts and band programs.

I have plans drawn up for the revitalisation of the Stuart Park high street and had modelling done for it. We are at the consultation and costing stage. The government has been good enough to hear me out to this point and believes in the integrity of the project. The government is looking at how we will revitalise the Stuart Park high street, because it will be good for all of us, I promise you. The return on investment will be high and it will reinvigorate Stuart Park and The Gardens in my neighbouring electorate of Fannie Bay. We can create a precinct, a gentrifiable area, which the Territory has failed to do in the CBD, because the CBD is choked of blood flow. We have to get that area free-flowing, and it will have a huge knock-on effect for everyone else.

In the background I have been working with the Minister for Health and the Minister for International Education, Migration and Population on brokering new workforce pipelines in healthcare. Watch this space, because more is coming soon. We know how critically we need healthcare workers in the Northern Territory, and you will all tire of me next year; that becoming my new theme, if you like. Watch this space, it is coming.

The Narrows, I have not forgotten you. I know people have been looking at that hole in the ground in Shiers Street for years, and I have a straight answer; it is not good enough. I will hold my government to account to make sure that there is more than a hole in the ground there. I will also put pressure on the federal government to work with us to build aged-care living in The Narrows. It is the perfect place to build a retirement precinct. The money is available federally to do it, and in partnership with the federal government, we can do that. It is something we could work on together. It is unacceptable that sitting in the middle of this prime location is unused land because we do not have a better plan to get the money or make sure the site is ready to go. I will be fighting that corner.

I have not forgotten about you in Woolner. I am working with the Waters Ward Councillors to make sure that we turn Brian Chong Wee Park into a park that is usable, not just a strip of land in the middle of a beautiful place with a tonne of kids but no toilets, running water or amenity. I will make sure that, as soon as the council figures out who is in charge, Brian Chong Wee Park becomes the next destination and one of the venues I use for upcoming festivals.

Bayview has not been finalised for all these years, and I will, in partnership with the minister for Lands and Planning, ensure we cauterise that wound and have no more question marks about whether there will be a stage 3 and where or when it will happen. We will ensure there is finality to that project so that everyone in Bayview knows what will be there and what it will be good for. There is a small strip of land where the developer has an entitlement to build. That has been the case for decades, and we will resolve that issue. My constituents in Bayview—I have been talking to them about it for a number of months—know that is coming to you soon, publicly.

I am proud of my electorate staff. I thank my loyal electorate officer, who hates the limelight, James Perrin. He helped me set up my office. I not only have a physical office; I am proud to have a digital office. I am goading all my colleagues in the House; you should all have a digital office. In this day and age, everybody should be able to access the services we provide online. Tanzilrahman.com is where all the constituents of Fong Lim can find everything I do. I am accountable to you; you know where I am and what I am trying to deliver for you.

I had the opportunity, through the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, to attend the Scrutiny of Legislation Conference and to try to shepherd resolution of the voluntary assisted dying inquiry in partnership with my hardworking colleagues.

That is a little of what I have achieved in my first year, as well as being selected as a McKinnon Institute Advanced Political Leadership Scholar, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

I thank my constituents in Fong Lim for my first year. I look forward to working hard.

Mr O'GALLAGHER (Karama): Madam Speaker, I will highlight a couple of celebratory events I have participated in over the Dry Season.

First and foremost, I thank those involved with the Malak Community Markets. The final markets for the Dry Season were held last Saturday. Madam Speaker, for your benefit and that of other members, I am a major sponsor of that. I thank Minister Charls who provided funding support through government grants.

These markets are up and going again. It is a smaller community market compared with everywhere else, and it has a totally different flavour. Families come in for the food stalls. There is different music entertainment every week. On Saturday we had the City of Darwin Brass Band playing. There was even an open mic event, when about 10 different people put up their hands to perform. It was a bit like 'Karama and Malak Have Talent'. Some acts were spectacular, while for others you probably wanted to put in the earplugs, but they gave it a crack and that is the main thing. It is an enjoyable and beautiful community market.

I acknowledge that the Leader of the Opposition has been there. The Member for Barkly came with his daughter one time and had a great time. I had great support, of course, from my northern suburbs team—the Members for Sanderson, Casuarina and Wanguri. We often go there collectively. We are working hard at not only the Malak markets but also the Rapid Creek Markets and Little Nippers.

I acknowledge the other CLP teams. The Palmerston team goes to their markets. The Member for Fannie Bay goes to the Parap markets. The CLP is a big supporter of these community markets.

I thank the organisers of the Malak Community Markets, particularly May, Sachi, Dennis and Kenishi, and the many other people involved. These volunteers put in a lot of effort. I thank the stallholders and sponsors and Henry Yap, who owns the Malak Shopping Centre and is a big supporter of the markets. Most of all, I thank the patrons who come in the evening.

The markets are a great way to connect. They activate that place and bring in people. Often the markets are competing with bigger festivals such as GleNTi that are on at the same time, but people still come, particularly locals from my electorate and Sanderson who are probably within walking distance. Even if they cannot stay, they will buy food to take away. They might take it to go back and watch the football.

While I am talking about the football, it is the Magpies versus the Adelaide Crows tonight. I am going for Collingwood.

I thank all those involved in the Malak Community Markets.

As I alluded to, after we went to the Malak markets, the northern suburbs team and I went to the Cyprus Food and Wine Festival. We sponsored the face painting. You should have seen all the kids coming in. When we put up the corflute of the northern suburbs team I thought, 'Do not start doing graffiti on these faces. There has been enough done on council corflutes; they do not need to do it on our faces.' They did not, and they enjoyed it. It took about 40 minutes to get through the queue for my souvla, but I took the opportunity to talk to residents. A lot of them come up to say to us, 'You guys are doing a great job; fantastic.' Thank you to the Cyprus community.

The third event I will talk about has been referred to by the Deputy Chief Minister and the Attorney-General—that is, the Top End Gem & Mineral Club Open Day held the other Saturday. It was fantastic. Lots of people came to it in Knuckey Lagoon, which is in my electorate. The Member for Brennan is the patron. I was a major sponsor because this has now come into my electorate. I took my wife there. There was so many activities for people to do.

I sought your permission, out of courtesy, Madam Speaker, to bring this into the Chamber to give people a little idea of it. I purchased this rock at the open day, but what do you do with a rock? You can cut it, and it is like a rough diamond. What you see inside becomes much better than what you see on the outside. It took a long while. I had the glasses on and the water going through as I cut it. It is hard pushing it, but if I get time I will go back—the club is open every Tuesday morning—and start polishing the edges. This will be a paperweight, a pride and joy, in my office. That is what I am doing.

Having said that, many professional groups were there. They make the most fantastic jewellery, and you just never know what will be there. There is gold panning and all that. I was the key sponsor; I did the lucky dip and all that stuff.

So many people came who did not know what it was about, but when they got there they said, 'Wow!' Many people go because it is social. They can learn how to make jewellery and all that stuff, and it is a fantastic way to network.

The other event I give credit to is the Knit and Natter club, which is held at Karama Library every Monday morning. About 30 or 40 seniors go there. They keep telling me I have to start knitting with them. I tell them that I only do crochet, not knitting, but we will not get into the technicalities of that because I am probably not telling the truth. I do not know how to do crochet, but it makes them laugh, anyway. I go and sit down and listen to them, though.

Once again, it is about getting people together, talking to each other. I sponsor the mail bags because when they finish their quilts, they send them off to people and post them out. It costs about $24 each time they post these quilts. I see that as my contribution to them. It brings in people from not only my electorate but across town. They are predominantly from my electorate. I am pleased with that group. It has been fantastic.

I looked forward to the Malak Community Markets. We had to get them going again. We want them bigger and better next year. I heard what the Member for Fong Lim said; maybe we can start getting bands and music involved in it.

Dr Rahman: Let's do it.

Mr O'GALLAGHER: Why not bring it all together.

This is the last sittings for September. Everyone stay safe, and get out to your electorates.

Mr PAECH (Gwoja): Madam Speaker, while we are talking about good things happening across the Territory, on Sunday in the beautiful heart of the Territory, in Alice Springs, we saw the premiere of the film, *Kangaroo*. It was a fantastic day to celebrate. I got to see the premiere with the minister for Environment, who brought along his little daughter. Many kids and family members from across Alice Springs came together for the premiere of *Kangaroo*.

It is a great story, inspired by the life of Chris 'Brolga' Barns—we all know he is called Brolga because he is tall and skinny like the bird—and his beautiful wife, Tahnee Passmore-Barns. It is a great film. When you watch it, you are heartened, and your breath is taken away by the sheer beauty and majesty of the Central Australian landscapes. On the big screen it looks brilliant—sensational. It is a show reel for tourism promotions of the beautiful Red Centre.

Amazing productions like this cannot happen without an amazing team. I acknowledge the team who helped make this event a success: StudioCanal; Bunya Productions; our very own Central Australian company, Brindle Films; Rachel Clements; and the amazing deadly superstar Trisha Morton-Thomas, who featured on the big screen, talking about the film.

When Trisha was on the stage talking before the movie kicked off, she said something that resonated with me. She said that when films are made in Central Australia and you put out the call to Central Australians, they turn up to be in the film and to support the film. That was a powerful thing to say. As we were sitting there with projections of country on the big screen, we saw familiar faces—Territory kids running around on the big screen, having a good time, playing their roles and characters. It was amazing.

I encourage everyone to see it. For everyone who has not seen the film, which is pretty much everyone other than me and the Member for Braitling, this weekend in an Australian cinema near you the movie is being screened for free, so go along and see the film. You will not be disappointed. It is a brilliant heartfelt film inspired by the amazing life of Chris 'Brolga' Barns—a man who we are proud to call a Central Australian, as is his wife, Tahnee, who ran the bush bus, which is another fantastic service in Central Australia. Jump on board and have a look.

It also celebrates the anniversary of the Kangaroo Sanctuary that inspired the film. It is important to remind all members, and it would be remiss of me not do so, that Brolga always talks about his journey and being a tourism operator, driving those roads between Alice Springs and Yulara, and people would never stop for kangaroos who had sadly fallen victim to a car accident. I remind people that if you see that on our Territory roads, please stop and check that there is not a baby joey left on the side of the road without a mother. If you check and there is one, reach out to the amazing Territory superstars like Chris 'Brolga' Barns. He has committed and dedicated his life to looking after the Territory's kangaroos. We owe it to him and to the Territory wildlife to do that.

Next week in Central Australia is the event of all events for us in the arts world in September. It is Desert Mob, a celebration of art, culture and community. I acknowledge this year's curators, the one and only amazing

Hetti Perkins and her niece, another amazing woman, Aspen Beattie. They had the hard job of sorting through thousands of artistic creations and works for the Desert Mob exhibition.

Desert Mob kicks off on 11 September with the opening ceremony at Araluen in Alice Springs.

On the Friday there are artists talks. Come and hear from an amazing Territory artist who will talk to you about the story behind the creation, the masterpiece. Hear their lived experience, their journey and what drives them to create such amazing art here in the Territory.

The important date to remember, folks, is Saturday 13 September which is when the Desert Mob Marketplace opens. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to see the marketplace in Alice Springs, you need to put it on your calendar for next year. It is amazing and huge. It is like the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, only this one is out in country around the Araluen Arts Centre showcasing amazing works that have come in from every corner of the desert, and you can take home one of those treasures. I encourage people to check it out online at desertmob.com. If you want more information, it is all there on the website.

I give a huge shout-out to Desart, which is the peak body for the southern region of the Northern Territory's community art centres, led by none other than the talented Philip Watkins, who has done an amazing job over many years to build capacity, build up our art centres and support them to continue to create amazing works of art.

Please, honourable members, check it out if you get the chance. If you do not get the chance to get there this year, jump online and look at the Desert Mob website. It already has amazing videos of artists sharing their story. There is a symposium and other events. Being there on the opening night and on the marketplace morning, you get the sense of community and can see the amazing faces from our community art centres coming together to celebrate the best of the arts in Central Australia. It is a great event. I have had the privilege for many years to pick up an amazing piece of work every year.

We must not forget that every piece of art is a creation that tells an important story. Art, by its definition, is supposed to be controversial, provoke discussion and be a piece of work that you can hang on your wall at home or in your office or gift to a loved one. I encourage everyone to check it out. If you have not already, chuck it on your calendar for next year. There will be live music and speeches at the opening night on 11 September. I shout out to all those involved.

This Sunday is Father's Day. I shout out to all our amazing fathers and caregivers who look after our children. Happy Father's Day to everyone; have a great day. If you want to take your dad out for a treat, take him to the cinema to see *Kangaroo*; you and he will not be disappointed.

Mr BURGOYNE (Braitling): Madam Speaker, I will talk about the incredible early childhood educators in the Braitling electorate.

Yesterday was Early Childhood Educators' Day, and the Braitling electorate office delivered sweet and savoury treats to the many centres around Alice Springs and more specifically in the Braitling electorate.

Braitling Neighbourhood Centre with Miss Laura is one of the many centres in the Braitling electorate which is close to my heart. It has been through ups and downs over the years, with Dolly the turtle being stolen before finding her way home miraculously. It warms my heart to say that the centre is on the up, like many organisations in our beautiful town, with new educators being hired and the number of children increasing.

Braitling Preschool, built next to my old school of Braitling Primary, has incredible early childhood educators. Mrs Heleena O'Sullivan leads an incredible team with Miss Niki, Miss Lilly and all the educators joining together to support the learning of our young minds. Thank you for everything you do. Your work does not go unnoticed, and the children learn and grow each day thanks to your tireless work in this space.

Lil' Antz childcare centres across Alice Springs, run by the incredible Holly Seeley, have assisted parents ensuring children are supported through their early years. I have experienced firsthand their incredible dedication and support for families across Alice Springs.

Rowie from my office also dropped off thankyou packs to the OLSH Early Learning Centre, the YMCA Early Learning Centres on Sadadeen Road and Grevillea Drive, along with the Alice Springs Child Care Centre in our CBD.

This evening I recognise your work and tireless dedication to educate our next generation of leaders. I thank everyone in the Territory who works in early childhood education.

Ms UIBO (Arnhem): Madam Speaker, it is interesting that our adjournment started at 4.39 pm. I think that is a record in the last nine years that I have been in parliament. The Attorney-General said that there was a full agenda of government work this week, but we find ourselves with what would be an early mark in anyone's working day, with parliament to finish before 5 pm on the last day of sittings. I hope that the next sittings will be robust and fulfilling, hopefully with nicely timed legislation with good processes so that we can all do our job. I am keen to find out whether 4.39 pm is a record; it is close to public servants' finishing time. I do not think I ever saw it in my time in government, but there is a first time for everything.

The Member for Katherine is scowling. Obviously, the Member for Brennan is afraid of hard work past 6.30 pm, as she tried to infer about the opposition. We know that is incorrect. As a minister, you would think she would take more responsibility for telling the truth and making sure the record is correct, not telling mistruths, peddling incorrect information and trying to make up mean-girl stories in the way that she talks about the opposition.

I will speak about an issue that has become quite a topic, particularly this week. Like many Territorians, our Labor team was concerned to hear about the methane leak at the Darwin LNG plant. We spent eight years in government and to learn of this news only within the last few days has been concerning. The community is right to be concerned. This is a matter that has undoubtedly raised many questions that need to be answered about how this issue was handled by regulators. It is an important issue.

We recognise the importance of the economy and industry, social licence, the environment and community expectations. This is an unfortunate and bizarre example of where all of those things have been at loggerheads. Hopefully, we will never again see this type of situation in the Territory.

I am aware that this matter has also been discussed in federal parliament. I understand that the federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, has already taken action in light of these recent revelations. In June this year Minister Bowen established an expert panel to look at the atmospheric measurement of fugitive methane emissions in Australia. This is being led by Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley. Minister Bowen ordered a review as part the government's broader efforts to strengthen environmental monitoring and reporting practices across our industries. I understand Minister Bowen has asked an expert panel to look at the Darwin LNG matter as part of its deliberations. This is an appropriate action, and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of that important work.

The oil and gas industry has played and continues to play an integral role in our Territory economy. Santos' Barossa project is a critical piece in our economic landscape. It is a $6bn project that will deliver hundreds of jobs and an enormous economic flow-on benefit to small businesses across the Northern Territory, with the opportunity for skills and jobs training, as well as service delivery.

Our Territory Labor team has always been proud to ensure that industry operates well and that the oil and gas sector is regulated well in the Northern Territory because of the benefit it brings Territorians. Unlike the CLP, we support investment in the transition to renewables. However, oil and gas continues to play a critical role in that transition, so the energy mix needs to be recognised. We also need to ensure that industry is supported to have robust guidelines and, in this case, communication about regulation.

In line with the clear expectations we have heard already this week from Territorians, our team strongly believes that our oil and gas and mining sectors should continue to be well regulated and that the communication about regulation is critical. That is why we overhauled and strengthened our environmental protections when Labor was in government. We implemented the 135 recommendations of the Pepper inquiry into the onshore gas industry. We listened to people in the community and understood what they wanted. We ensured there were strong safeguards in place to manage environmental risks transparently.

Our Territory Labor team has backed economy-boosting industries for many years. We will continue to advocate for development to occur in a sensible, sustainable and regulated way.

Yesterday we spoke in the House about climate change and managing our emissions, including methane. It is critical in terms of reducing the impacts of climate change into the future.

This matter highlights how concerning the CLP's attitude to environmental protection and regulation is. In the past year we have seen the CLP government start to chip away at important protections, scrapping third-party merits reviews, winding back sacred sites protection, handing unchecked power to the Territory Coordinator

to override a host of important laws, secretly watering down regulatory and safety requirements for our oil and gas industry and scrapping renewables and emissions targets. The list goes on.

We face a CLP government that does not care about managing the impacts of development on our communities despite the wishes of Territorians. The revelations about the Darwin LNG methane leak highlight how important it is to have a strong and robust regulatory environment for development in the Territory. Without this, there can be no social licence.

I strongly urge the CLP government to work with Santos on the necessary steps to address and minimise environmental and community risks at the Darwin LNG plant. It is important. This issue is clearly on the minds of Territorians. It is unfortunate we have not seen or heard much from the CLP government. The CLP likes to think it has discovered gas within the last 12 months, but the government is clearly not listening to and engaging with Territorians about their expectations for the environment.

I turn to a celebration in the great Arnhem electorate. That was the phenomenal work at the end of last week by the people at RAAF Base Tindal where events were held over three days. The family open day for 75 Squadron enabled all the people who work on the base to invite their families to a special day to see the jets and a helicopter winching display. It is the home of the F-35 Lightning II jets, which are impressive.

The sunset dinner, part of the Cancer Council NT fundraising event, hit $50,000 on that evening. I give a big shout-out to Rhys and his team for getting that fundraiser up and running and all the generous people in RAAF Base Tindal who supported it. The money will go to the local community for cancer treatment service provision in Katherine so that people who require treatment can stay closer to home.

It was followed by the rival rugby game at Tindal Oval between the 17 Squadron Hawks and the 75 Squadron Magpies. The juniors do a display match from Katherine, the under-10s and under-12s, as well as the women's team, which was a touch rugby team, and the men's team. I cannot be biased towards a team because I am the local member and have to barrack for both the Magpies and the Hawks, but it was fantastic.

I believe that this week RAAF Tindal hit $65,000 in fundraising for the NT Cancer Council. Well done to the people at RAAF Tindal who serve and protect, defend Australia and help the local community. I am a proud member. Congratulations on a stellar couple of days of fundraising.

Mr CHARLS (Sanderson): Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the many events I have been invited to and hosted.

I start with three key arts events I attended—that is, the Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, the National Indigenous Music Awards and the National Indigenous Fashion Awards. All three events showcased the great artistic Indigenous talent across the nation and brought the spotlight to the Northern Territory as a must-travel destination.

The Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards is in its 42nd year, celebrating the incredible quality and diversity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art scene, with several Territory award winners on the night. The event was electric on the MAGNT lawns at Bullocky Point. Thank you to the Member for Blain for coming and supporting this event. All the finalists' works are on show at MAGNT from now until 26 January 2026. I encourage everyone to go and experience that art.

The National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs) was another great Dry Season event with many Indigenous Territorians receiving awards. The main standout of this event was when Jessica Mauboy was inducted into the NIMAs Hall of Fame.

The sixth National Indigenous Fashion Awards not only celebrates artistry but also creates real pathways, connecting designers to global opportunities, economic empowerment and cultural recognition. I thank all the Territorians who participated and received awards.

As the Minister for Veterans it was an honour to host a parliamentary function for our Vietnam veterans on Victory in the Pacific Day. The Northern Territory, which experienced conflict firsthand, remains home to a strong veteran community dedicated to lasting peace. As a nation we honour the more than 60,000 Australians who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1973. Too many endured not only the horrors of jungles, mountains and guerrilla warfare but also the pain of indifference and mistreatment on their return. I thank the Members for Drysdale, Fannie Bay and Goyder for joining me on that occasion.

I was privileged to represent the veteran community at the Vietnam Veterans' Day ceremony at Reg Hillier House in Bees Creek. To every Vietnam veteran and to all who have served, we express our deepest respect and gratitude. Thank you to the Members for Drysdale and Goyder for their attendance at this event.

As the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, it is an honour to attend many cultural community events throughout the Territory. I was delighted to join the Cyprus Community of the NT for its food and wine festival last weekend. It was a wonderful celebration of culture, food, music and tradition. I congratulate the organisers for bringing our community together in such a vibrant way, especially Alexandra Magriplis and her team. I thank my colleagues the Members for Karama, Wanguri and Casuarina for being there and supporting this event.

It was inspiring to see Melaleuca Australia and Refugee Legal NT join forces to provide vital legal support for refugees and migrants at the Refugee Legal NT launch. This service will make a real difference in people's lives, offering fairness, hope and support when it is needed. A huge thank you to everyone involved with this.

I enjoyed the Indian Food Festival in Palmerston, which was coordinated by the Tamil Society. I represented the Chief Minister at this event. I enjoyed the vibrant celebration of Indian culture and food, with delicious cuisine and captivating performances, all in a welcoming Dry Season family atmosphere. I thank the Member for Blain who attended as the local member and supported the event.

I was honoured to join the celebration of 137, the holy birth anniversary of Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra, enjoying the warmth and generosity of the Satsang Oceania community. It was a wonderful reminder of the Northern Territory's rich cultural diversity and the way that festivals like this bring people together in mutual respect and appreciation.

Another great event I attended was the Pacific Islands Council of Northern Territory's culture day. It was a great honour to represent the Northern Territory Government at this colourful and wonderful celebration of Pacific Islander culture. I thank the Member for Wanguri for attending and supporting the event.

It was wonderful to join our vibrant Darwin community to mark India's Independence Day on 15 August, a celebration of courage, sacrifice and unity. As an Australian of Indian origin, it was a privilege to celebrate the values we share—freedom, democracy and the hope for a better future for all. I thank the Members for Karama, Casuarina and Fannie Bay for being there with the community. I thank the Darwin Malayalee Association for hosting the Indian Independence Day celebration and flag hoisting for the Padippura children at the Darwin Languages Centre in Ludmilla.

I was delighted to join the Nepalese community for the Teej celebration, a joyful festival honouring Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The event was filled with music, dance, tradition and the strong spirit of immense unity and cultural pride.

Another great event was the Ferragosto party at the Italian Sports and Social Club. It was a fantastic evening filled with traditional Italian food, live music, tarantella dancers and a special celebration with Italian solar car teams. It was great to join the celebration with the Chief Minister.

I was delighted to join the Gujarati Cultural Association of Darwin in celebrating Janmashtami. It was a wonderful evening honouring the birth of Lord Krishna and the values of love, righteousness and triumph of good over evil. I thank President Hiranch Patel and Secretary Dharmendra Patel for their warm invitation. I was pleased to see how our government's ongoing support helps our community share its rich culture and traditions. Thanks to the Members for Wanguri and Casuarina for being there and generously supporting this event.

Last Saturday I was delighted to join the Telangana Association of Darwin for their Ganesha Chaturthi celebrations. It was a joyful occasion that brought the community together in honour of Lord Ganesha, and I appreciated the warmth, devotion and cultural richness on display.

Following this, I was thrilled to join the Filipino community for the Barrio Fiesta 2025. It was a celebration filled with music, dance and delicious food, showcasing the rich culture and warm spirit of the Philippines. Thank you to the Filipino–Australian Association of the Northern Territory for organising this event.

For my electorate I held Pizza in the Park on 30 August. It was great to see the community come together and support the event. I engaged with the community. I share my special thanks to police Superintendent of Casuarina Police Station Kirsten Engels and the co-response team for being there and engaging with the community.

On 30 August my office collaborated with Wagaman Primary School to host a Movie Under the Stars evening on the Wagaman school oval. All Sanderson constituents were invited to attend this family-friendly movie night with the animated movie *Migration*. More than 130 people attended and enjoyed sausages, soft drinks, free entry, free popcorn and Zooper Doopers.

Thank you to Assistant Principal Dane Russell for ensuring the evening ran smoothly and Principal Mandy McKinnon for providing the wonderful venue. I give a massive shout out to parent and volunteer Fran, who cooked the barbecue while ably assisted by the teaching staff Ms Darnette, Ms Jasmine, Ms Melinda, Ms Vavlas, Ms Colling and Mr Tom, as well as school council members. Wagaman Primary student Cassius and his friends Harley and Cecil proved to be outstanding young gentlemen by offering their help to set up our marquee and popcorn and Zooper Dooper stall.

Recent NAPLAN results at Wagaman Primary School are well and truly above the NT school average. Principal Mandy McKinnon and her teaching staff should be exceptionally proud. It is a great achievement for a school where 50% of the students have English as their second language. I congratulate the school on this achievement.

I had the privilege to give back to our early learning centre staff on 21 July when celebrating Lamington Day with the provision of the iconic but also tasty coconut-covered wholesome treat. I did it again yesterday for Early Childhood Educators' Day. The first five years are the most significant in a child's life, and I thank all early childhood educators for the extraordinary work they do with our young children.

I give a huge shout-out to the principals in my electorate for the support they provide to all the primary schools and Sanderson Middle School, as well as the general support they provide to students, many of whom need additional support.

I pass on my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Delma Swan, who passed away tragically and unexpectedly on 16 July while visiting her daughter and grandchildren in the US.

Mrs FINOCCHIARO (Spillett): Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate everyone involved in bringing the sixth annual National Indigenous Tennis Carnival together at Marrara from Wednesday 6 August to Saturday 9 August. It was a privilege to be the first Chief Minister to ever attend that event, and I was delighted to do so in the company of my colleague the Minister for People, Sport and Culture. The Northern Territory Government was proud to support this event with funding of $25,000. That helped with team travel and cultural activities throughout the carnival, which was wonderful. Sport is a way to have healthy bodies and minds, and we were proud to support it.

The National Indigenous Tennis Carnival is the main event of the Indigenous tennis pathway program in Australia. That four-day event brought together kids from across the Northern Territory, which was fantastic. There were more than 160 young Aboriginal players from across Australia, and 60 of them were Territory kids. It was wonderful to see. We had kids there from Nhulunbuy, Laynhapuy homelands, Groote Eylandt, Jabiru, Tiwi Islands, Woolianna, Jilkminggan and Arlparra, and they were having a great time.

This carnival would not have been possible without the Evonne Goolagong Foundation, Tennis Australia and Tennis NT. It was great to meet Australian sporting legend Evonne Goolagong Cawley, who is a former number one and 14-time Grand Slam champion. She was a rock star. The kids loved having the opportunity to speak to her.

I congratulate Nhulunbuy and Laynhapuy homelands which put in a big team of kids this year, which was terrific. The carnival went well and we look forward to seeing it again. Congratulations to Jacob Groves who was the Territory winner of the Deadly Awards at the carnival.

What an incredible 10 days we witnessed with the Top End T20 Series in Darwin. It was a jam-packed schedule of events. On Sunday 10 August I had the honour of being part of the opening of the Top End T20 Series coinciding with the men's T20 international series match 1, Australia versus South Africa. We were proud to bring this event to Territorians, and they came out in droves to support it. We are backing international cricket in the Territory all the way.

I have a 'furbulous' tale to unleash on the parliament this evening with a tribute to retiring police patrol dog Fitzy. This brave pup has had a distinguished career, being deployed countless times, leading numerous criminal apprehensions and playing a vital role in keeping our community safe. His exceptional skill, courage and unwavering commitment has set the standard for operational excellence. Now at eight years of age,

Fitzy hangs up his harness and retires from duty, leaving behind a proud legacy of loyalty, dedication and service. Our Police Dog Operations Unit is 'pawesome' and has conducted many successful operations.

As well as Fitzy's retirement we celebrated the graduations of Jax and Axe. Both Axe and Jax have undergone extensive training since their arrival in the Territory in February last year. Jax is replacing Fitzy and Axe will work in the southern command.

Two pups were presented; they are sons of police dog Drax, and they will be operational and on the beat by early 2027. I got a huge kiss on the cheek from one of them. The Member for Drysdale and I were thrilled to be a part of that special day.

The commissioner also presented a commendation to Matt Unwin who has been promoted to training sergeant as part of the dog operations unit. In 2019 Matt became a patrol dog handler with police dog Wedge; they are a successful duo. He has made an incredible contribution to the Northern Territory Police Force. I congratulate Matt on his work, dedication to duty and service to the people of the Northern Territory.

On behalf of the Northern Territory Government, I congratulate our Police Dog Operations Unit. We are 'pawsitively' proud of all of you.

I acknowledge an incredible young athlete from the Northern Territory, Taleisha Kirk, who represented Australia at the Hungarian Kickboxing World Cup in June. At just 17 years old, Taleisha is already making a name for herself on the global stage. This was not her first time representing Australia. In 2022 at the age of 15 she made her mark at the Junior World Kickboxing Championships where she earned an impressive fifth place ranking in the world.

This year Taleisha once again competed for not only the Territory but also Australia at the prestigious Hungarian Kickboxing World Cup. This year's competition also commemorated a special milestone, the 30th jubilee of the event, marking three decades of showcasing the best in kickboxing. The Hungarian Kickboxing World Cup is held annually by the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO), and it is considered the most challenging and prestigious kickboxing event in the world. Only the national champions from each country are selected to represent their nation, a reflection of the elite calibre of the competition. In fact, more than 3,970 athletes from 129 clubs and 50 countries will compete this year, further underscoring the intensity of the event.

What makes Taleisha's achievement even more special is that she is the only athlete from the Northern Territory selected to compete at this esteemed competition. Congratulations to Taleisha. She has made us proud, and it speaks volumes about her talent, discipline and her determination to reach this elite level in sport. The competition took place in Budapest from 12 to 15 June. We were thrilled to see Taleisha represent the Territory and Australia on the world stage.

It was a privilege to support her journey so that she could travel and compete at this high level to represent the Territory and her country. Taleisha, we are proud of you. You are an impressive young woman. We look forward to watching your kickboxing journey.

I have the honour of speaking about two incredible young athletes from the Top End. Kailee Rykers and Grace McDonald represented Australia at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Wyoming this July. This prestigious competition is one of the largest rodeo events in the world, featuring 1,700 competitors from 43 US states, as well as participants from Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Canada. It was an exceptional opportunity for these young women to showcase their skills on the international stage. I had the opportunity to support them with their efforts to go over. I met them a number of times at Coolalinga Tavern where they were busy selling meat raffles, and I supported them through that.

Kailee, who is 17, and Grace, who is 18, earned their spots on the Australian team by placing in the top four for pole bending at the Australian High School Rodeo Association Finals in January. Kailee secured second place overall in the pole bending competition, impressively competing across three challenging rounds. Grace placed 13th overall in the high school barrel racing and third in the pole bending competition.

Grace has also been selected to participate in the youth rodeo in Oklahoma, where she will compete in both barrel racing and pole bending. It is all in the family for Grace. Her 16-year-old brother, Darcy, will also be joining her at the rodeo in Oklahoma, where he has been selected to represent Australia in the junior bull ride, which is fantastic. What an incredible journey for both of them. We wish them all the best.

Of course, after competing they will be returning to finish Year 12, which is an unbelievable effort to balance all their pursuits in life. They have worked tirelessly, and they deserve every accolade they can get. We are proud to have helped send them to the national stage. They have represented the Territory with distinction.

On Monday 18 August I had the pleasure, along with Cabinet colleagues, to be in Katherine where we held a Katherine regional business network at Katherine Outback Experience, thanks to Tom and Annabel Curtain. Tom and Annabel are multiple Tourism Excellence Award winners, representing the core of a family business that celebrates the Northern Territory's rich pastoral history through real horse training and working dog demonstrations, entwined with humorous bush tales, of which Tom has a few.

The regional business network event was an open and frank meeting with more than 100 participants representing more than 60 local businesses. We heard their concerns, suggestions, issues and solutions, and we listened closely, because this region was previously ignored for a long time under Labor. We were delighted to be joined by so many from the area. We know that small business and family business are the backbone of our economy. The government is a strong supporter of business and industry and an even stronger supporter of the regions. We know that the Territory's growth is in the regions, so it was wonderful to spend time in Katherine and across the region, connecting with people in a range of industries and businesses.

Friday 19 September is National Family Business Day, and we will again recognise the role that family businesses play in creating jobs, driving innovation and supporting the economic strength of the Territory. I thank all the family businesses across the Territory, particularly those in the Big Rivers region, for their incredible contribution.

J DAVIS (Johnston): Mr Deputy Speaker, I had hoped to use this time to celebrate wonderful events and people in my electorate like Cynthia Last, Pauline Tauschke and Nikki Charlesworth Canning, who were all nominated as Seniors of Excellence this year and whose work to strengthen community inspires me. There are many other people and amazing events in the community that I am so lucky and privileged to work in and be a part of. I will return to that another time, though, because instead I need speak about an issue that I had planned to raise as a matter of public importance—one that has been raised with me this week by so many people.

Dr RAHMAN: A point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker! Under Standing Order 28 you cannot make reference to a debate of the same session unless it is relevant to the matter under discussion. This is an adjournment debate. Matters of public importance were a separate matter that were resolved in an earlier debate. You cannot use an adjournment debate to prosecute something that has already been resolved in the same session. It can be brought on at another time, but under Standing Order 28, I ask that we set this protocol; otherwise, the rules of our debates are starting to break down in this place.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Fong Lim. I have taken advice on this …

J Davis: Can the clock please stop?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The MPI did not actually come on. The MPI is a discussion, not a debate …

J Davis: Excuse me, can the clock please stop?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we stop and reset the clock, please?

Although I understand you are looking at the standing orders, my advice is that it does not apply in this case. The Member for Johnston can continue.

J DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker …

Dr Rahman: That is incorrect, but …

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made the ruling; sorry.

J DAVIS: When it comes to climate and energy, opportunities to act swiftly and decisively are rare. The methane leak at Darwin LNG is one of those moments. Now, while the tank is empty, the NT EPA can require Santos to fix the leak as a condition of renewing its environment protection licence before 18 September. There is no better time to act, and that is what I want to discuss with the Chamber.

On Monday, like the rest of Territorians, I learned that just seven kilometres from this parliament a massive gas tank had been leaking up to 184 kilograms of methane per hour for nearly 20 years and that the NT EPA, the NT Government and the federal government have known about this for years without ordering Santos to fix it. Since then I have watched each of these government entities pass the political football to one another. It is four days later, and still no-one has taken responsibility and ordered Santos to fix the leak.

The NT EPA says that the emissions are insignificant and it will be too expensive for the billion-dollar company Santos to fix it or replace it, so we should not worry about it. NOPSEMA says that it may have approved it but leaks are not its problem. The CSIRO said, 'Sorry, we were worried about risking future contracts with gas companies, so we did not want to say anything'. The federal government said that it is only a moderate climate change risk and not to worry about it.

This whole time no-one is accurately measuring how much methane is being leaked, and there is no plan to measure or stop the leak in future. Even if this leak is only a fraction of Santos' total emissions that does not make it acceptable; it actually highlights the scale of the problem because small percentages from massive pollution sources still cause major harm to our climate, economy and reputation.

The issue is not only the leak size but also the lack of transparency, delayed reporting and the lack of urgency to fix it. If regulators and companies dismiss a nearly 20-year leak of unknown scale, what else are they ignoring? What is the point of an environmental protection agency that does not regulate, a national science body tied to the gas industry or a minister for Environment who is not taking a major leak seriously?

People in my community are saying that this is unacceptable and unnecessary. The NT EPA can act now and make Santos fixing the leak a condition of its licence renewal. It could do so tomorrow.

Let us be clear that this is not a small leak. By American measures, anything emitting more than 100 kilograms per hour of methane is considered a super emitter event that requires an immediate response. The best estimates—from the tank's previous owners, ConocoPhillips—put this leak at nearly double that threshold, at 184 kilograms an hour.

Methane is a major driver of climate change. As Professor Melissa Haswell from Queensland University of Technology explained, methane drives about 30% of global warming. Although it does not last as long as CO_2 it traps heat far more effectively and is about 86% more harmful than CO_2 over two decades. Bushfires and backburning already pollute Darwin's air and the INPEX LNG plant also releases toxic substances into our environment. Methane worsens this by reacting to form harmful ground-level ozone which contributes up to 1.4 million deaths worldwide each year from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

We have an air quality problem in Darwin. We heard yesterday that this government understands that the Northern Territory is being affected by climate change. Here is a clear example.

What is more, when the NT EPA says things like this leak is a concern because it contributes to Darwin LNG's overall greenhouse gas emissions profile but is not considered to pose a risk to human health or the environment at the level of current emissions, it exposes a fundamental flaw in how the NT Government is thinking about climate change—that climate change in and of itself is not a risk to human health.

That could not be further from the truth. If we stay on this path the NT and much of northern Australia will become unliveable, not just uncomfortable but deadly. In extreme heat, especially in humid climates like ours, the human body is unable to cool itself and people die. This is already happening during heatwaves. It is deeply concerning that the Environment Protection Authority suggests that climate change is not a serious threat to human health.

What can we do now? What needs to happen for this leak to be fixed? What should happen to Santos? Who is responsible? Ultimately, the NT EPA controls Santos' licence renewal. It could say, 'Santos, your licence renewal is coming up on 18 September, but we will not renew it until you fix the leak'. That is simple, but the NT EPA has not done that. The Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment must hold it accountable to the public. It is not good enough for the minister to minimise this super-emitter event, likening it to cow farts, when he could be calling on the NT EPA to add a simple condition to the renewal of Santos' licence. This is not the leadership we need on a matter as serious as this. It is not the leadership that I know the minister can show.

The role of our parliament is to hold executive government agencies to account. We are elected to keep an eye on regulators exactly like the NT EPA in situations exactly like this leak so that the public interest is always served by its government. That is our job.

The buck has to stop with the minister before 18 September to fix this leak before the tank is refilled; otherwise, we face another decade or more of preventable methane emissions. Santos has been granted a licence to extract and process gas until 2050. Do we really want 30 more years of super emissions from an additional leak that we could stop today with no cost to taxpayers?

Santos is a multibillion-dollar company, currently worth $25.37bn and growing. It has billions in profit from gas that it extracts for free from Australia. It is absurd for the government to question whether Santos can afford to fix this leak. Santos can and must fix the leak as a cost of doing business here. If repairing the tank is unsafe, it must replace the tank. There is no reason not to make Santos fix the leak or replace the tank. It is simply the cost of doing business.

Failing to act on this leak goes against many concerns I am hearing from people in my community who asked me to raise this. Parents are worried about their children being unable to live here safely. Grandparents are saying that it is unacceptable that no-one is taking responsibility. A 10-year-old told me that he is scared about the future because he is hearing about things like this that are not being addressed. People want to trust that their government and its regulators are protecting them. When I talk to people in my community about this, I tell them we can have a government that looks after us. There is no reason we cannot have that. We can have a government which stands up for us, takes our trust seriously and protects us. It is possible.

I call on the government and the minister to use this as a chance to show people that they listen to concerns, are here for them and act for them. Urge the NT EPA to make the renewal of Santos' environment protection licence conditional on something as simple as a repair of a leak that has been leaking into our environment for the last 20 years. It is an environment protection licence after all, and it is our environment that Santos is damaging.

Mrs CARLSON (Wanguri): Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate the Cyprus Community of the NT on the success of its Cyprus Food and Wine Festival 2025 on Saturday 30 August. This annual celebration not only showcased the rich cultural traditions, food, wine and music of Cyprus but also reminded us of the way that multicultural communities in the Northern Territory contribute vibrantly to our social fabric. The festival was a wonderful success, with families, friends and visitors from all backgrounds. Events such as these do not simply happen; they are the result of months of planning, countless hours of preparation and the goodwill and dedication of an extraordinary community.

A highlight in the lead-up was the making of the sheftalias on the Monday night before the festival. Dozens of volunteers came together to prepare thousands of these traditional Cypriot delicacies. I was delighted to be a part of that. I am pleased to report that I was promoted this time. Last time, during GleNTi, I had to make the size of the rolls; this time I got to roll them. It was fantastic. I am working my way up; I will get the recipe soon, ladies. It was a privilege to share that hard work and have a laugh with the *theias* (aunties).

I acknowledge the leadership of the new president, Alexandra Magriplis; vice president, Patricia Patsalou; treasurer, Andrew Savvas; secretary, Evana Andreou; and committee members, Andrew Ioannou, Savvas Kyriacou, John Ioannou, Nancy Iannou and Evan Fitirikkos. Your commitment to preserving and celebrating Cypriot culture in Darwin is commendable.

I also thank the many volunteers who worked tirelessly in the lead-up, on the night itself and the next day, ensuring everything was cleaned and restored. Among them were Andrew and Androulla Kazamias; Harry Andreou; Harry Michael; Andrew Michael; Peter and Irene Mairou; Michael Evan Fitirikkos; Michael Stelios Fitirikkos; Nomiki Magriplis; Magda Ioannou; Chloe and Harry Yiannitsaros; Anthoula Spyrou; Athina Kessaris; Eleftheria Tsakrios; Vaso Loppas; Rena Kolokasis; Theo and Agnes Charalambous; Chris Andreou; Soulla Loukataris; and Nomiki Vapori. Their dedication and presence further strengthened this festival.

I recognise the contribution of the leaders from other community associations who gave their time and spirit, particularly Michael Koulianos, President of GOCNA, and Nicholas Theodorakopoulos, the secretary of GOCNA, who volunteered and supported the festival. It is wonderful to see associations working together across the multicultural community.

I thank my northern suburbs team members, which includes you, Mr Deputy Speaker, as the Member for Karama; the Member for Casuarina; and the Member for Sanderson. We heard earlier in the week that the community needed funding for the face painter, so we did a great service to provide CGee for the face painting at night. The Members for Sanderson and Casuarina, Lisa Bayliss and I saw the queues were hundreds deep. I thank them for getting behind with me to serve the food with the community.

I thank the government, Minister Charls and the department of Multicultural Affairs for providing the grant so that the community could have a successful event. These are the events that embrace our Territory lifestyle.

While I am on the theme of multiculturalism, I acknowledge the Pacific Islands Council of Northern Territory, led by President Haloti Kailahi and the committee who recently hosted their Pacific Islands Night at the Kalymnian hall. This event brought together people from across the Pacific region, including Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua, New Caledonia, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, showcasing music, dance and cuisine. It was a joyful evening and a true celebration of Pacific culture with powerful drumming and graceful hula dancing as well as other traditional dances and an incredible array of food. I was privileged to join the leaders of each of the Pacific Islands in the cava welcome ceremony. The event highlighted the diversity of the Pacific Islands communities and the commitment and contribution they make to the Territory.

Finally, I recognise a community member in my electorate and the celebration of creativity and community at the opening of the Territory Quilts exhibition held at the DoubleTree Hotel on Wednesday, 13 August. That exhibition brought together some of the Territory's most talented quilters, whose skill, patience and artistry were on full display. I am especially proud the overall winner came from my electorate, Christine Garrett who won for her outstanding cityscapes quilt. I admit that I stood too close to the quilt to start with and really did not understand it; I saw only a lot of different and beautiful colours, and I appreciated the work she did. When I stood a couple of metres back I could see that it really was an exquisite quilt showcasing the skyline, which is what the title was, 'Cityscapes'. Christine won the small quilt professional section with that quilt, which also took out Best in Show, winning the prestigious Bernina prize. Her work captured the beauty and complexity of urban life through fabric and design. It was a worthy recipient of that top honour.

Christine also picked up a number of other awards, but the only one I saw on display was the winner of the miniature section with her red-collared lorikeet. That was spectacular as well. I will have to reach out to Christine and borrow them to hang in my office for some colour.

Events such as Territory Quilts reminds us that culture comes in many forms, through music, dance, food and traditions. It is wonderful to continue to live in the Territory and be honoured to attend these events.

Mr EDGINGTON (Barkly): Mr Deputy Speaker, I will speak about a few recent events held in the Barkly electorate.

While in Borroloola I had the pleasure of attending the Borroloola Show and the Bushmans Carnival where I launched book 3 of *Borroloola Shared Stories* at the old Borroloola Police Station. *Borroloola Shared Stories* is a remarkable collection of writings from 11 authors sharing their experiences, knowledge and history of the Gulf region of the Northern Territory over many years. This third edition continues the tradition of generosity, with all funds raised going towards the preservation and maintenance of the Northern Territory National Trust Old Borroloola Police Station precinct. My sincere thanks go to Eddie Webber and Janet Leather from the Gulf Branch of the National Trust for inviting me to launch the new book.

It was fantastic to attend the Borroloola Show. After a hiatus over the past couple of years, it returned to delight the community this year. The weather was perfect and it was wonderful to see families enjoying themselves, exploring the stalls and taking part in a range of fun events, including the always entertaining watermelon eating competition. I congratulate President Joyce Smith and all the members and volunteers of the Borroloola Gulf Show Society for delivering an outstanding community event.

Presented by the Borroloola Amateur Race Club, the annual Borroloola Bushmans Carnival held every third weekend in August continues to showcase local talent through campdrafting, rodeo and gymkhana events and the much-loved race that stops Borroloola. This year I had the privilege of sponsoring the five to eight-year-olds poddy ride, a highlight of any rodeo and a right of passage for aspiring young bull riders. My thanks to President Tim Keegan and all the volunteers for delivering another fantastic carnival.

While in Borroloola I was proud to officially open the $11.7m Borroloola Sports and Cyclone Shelter. This critical dual-purpose facility will serve as a hub for sport, recreation and community life while providing a place of safety and resilience in times of emergency. The project was made possible through a strong partnership, with $9.8m from the Northern Territory Government, $1.5m from the McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust and a contribution of $400,000 from the Roper Gulf Regional Council. I thank everybody who joined us to celebrate, including the funding partners, government representatives, local organisations, stakeholders and community members.

August also marked Seniors Month across the Northern Territory, providing a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of our seniors. I was delighted to host the annual seniors lunch for the Tennant Creek Senior Citizens and Pensioners Association at the Sporties Club. It was a joyful occasion to recognise the invaluable role seniors play in their families, workplaces, communities and the town of Tennant Creek.

The Mates of the Murranji held its 2025 muster on 11 August at the Newcastle Waters historic township. Newcastle Waters holds a special place in Australia's history, particularly in the development of our beef industry. The Mates of the Murranji members are committed to preserving the remaining historic buildings and developing a sustainable vision for the future, including tourism opportunities and cultural experiences in partnership with the Marlinja community. With permanent waterholes, abundant birdlife and the chance to share remarkable historical stories, the possibilities for the region are endless.

I put on the record my thanks to Krafty (Wayne Kraft), who has been involved with the Mates of the Murranji from the outset and was one of the founding members. I thank all the Mates of the Murranji for providing a memorable afternoon of history, culture and entertainment. I look forward to an even bigger 2026 muster.

Ms BOOTHBY (Brennan): Mr Deputy Speaker, the 2025 Seniors of Excellence NT Awards was a fabulous afternoon last Sunday. I was joined by my colleagues the minister for Seniors and the Members for Wanguri, Casuarina and Drysdale. We enjoyed the amazing afternoon.

The Seniors of Excellence committee put on a lovely awards ceremony. The Seniors of Excellence NT Awards ceremony has been held since 2014 when the president and founder, Mr Michael Foley OAM, got together with a group of people and decided that it was time to celebrate, honour and acknowledge those in the Territory who are over 65 years old. What started as conversation turned into 12 presentations of Seniors of Excellence NT Awards.

On the day we were hosted by the master of ceremonies Donna James, who did a fantastic job listing recipient by recipient all the accolades and contributions they had made to the Northern Territory, which was why they were bestowed the honour of receiving the Seniors of Excellence NT Award. It was a lengthy presentation because of the number of things these amazing Territorians have done over such a long time. Some of them have made many decades—even half a century—of contributions to the Northern Territory.

I will name the award recipients, but before I do that I should mention that a strong committee of Territorians organise the awards and make sure that nominations are received, trophies are made and the event is planned. The president and founder, Mr Michael F Foley OAM, is a well-known Territorian and a happy-go-lucky man. He is an amazing person to have around. The vice president is Hon Willem Westra van Holthe who maybe was the Deputy Chief Minister at one point …

Mrs Lambley: He was for a while.

Ms BOOTHBY: Yes. Willem is heavily involved in that organisation and doing a fabulous job. He was also at the event.

The treasurer is Ms Jacqueline Dowling FCPA. Mrs Kay Foley, who is Mike Foley's beautiful wife, is the secretary. Thank you to the committee members.

The beauty with these awards is that anybody can nominate a senior. You basically have to share with the committee all the contributions, accolades and the things that this person has been involved with over time. That is read out at the award ceremony.

I will mention the people who nominated and filled in this long story of what these accolades were. It is important to do that because they took the time to recognise those people.

The recipients of the 2025 Seniors of Excellence NT Awards were Dianne Dunphy of Woodroffe who was nominated by Francis Bonfield; Mr John Pudney of Larrakeyah who was nominated by Julie Ann Pudney; Mr John Whyte of Darwin who was nominated by Tracey Wedel; Valma (Val) Eaton of Darwin, nominated by Hon Lia Finocchiaro; Pauline Tauschke of Moil, nominated by Neil Ludvigsen; and Thyra Ou of Darwin River, nominated by Dr Edwin Joseph.

Here is a special one: Christina Boothby of Nakara, who happens to be my amazing mother, was nominated not by me but my colleague Khoda Patel MLA. Thank you, Khoda, for nominating her. She was so cute

receiving her award. She truly has dedicated her whole life to community service in the Northern Territory. Good on you, mum; I am proud.

The other recipients of the 2025 Seniors of Excellence NT Awards were Nikki Charlesworth Canning of Millner, nominated by Julie Ann Pudney; Valerie Wilkie of Howard Springs, nominated by Judith McKay; Elizabeth (Bess) Hart of Katherine, nominated by Mrs Jo Hersey MLA; Jenny Duggan of Katherine, nominated by Ms Jo Hersey MLA; Mr James Alwyn Nicholson of Nakara, nominated by Jeffrey David Mosel; Glenda Wynsome Reid of Gray, nominated by Mr Clinton Howe MLA; Melanie Ann Chin of Parap, nominated by Leonie Melder; Mr Eric J Chalmers of Howard Springs, nominated by Judith McKay; Jennifer Wylie of Casuarina, nominated by Helen Margaret Gledhill; Kerry Thomas of Virginia, nominated by Ms Helen Marris; Mr Gordon Cunnington of Marlow Lagoon, nominated by Ms Helen Marris; Cynthia Last of Millner, nominated by Justine Davis MLA; and, of course, Christopher Nathanael, who we know is no longer with us, nominated by Michael F Foley OAM.

The 2025 presentation was extra special because the 200th award was given out. A fabulous number of Territorians have been honoured over the last 12 years. A special shout-out goes to Jennifer Wylie who was the 200th recipient. In addition to her trophy and the loud applause in the room, she received a wonderful prize voucher, donated by the Member for Wanguri. A big congratulations to all Territorians who do so much for the wonderful place we know to be home.

Mr MACKAY (Goyder): Mr Deputy Speaker, the first thing I would like to do is wish my niece, Miss Lexie Elsie Mackay, a happy birthday for yesterday. Unfortunately, I was unable to join her as I was busy working here, but at two years old she hopefully will not remember that. Her parents, Chris and Tara, are incredibly proud. Happy birthday, Lexie.

While we are on the topic of celebrations, this Sunday marks Father's Day. I love my dad. I will print this out and call it a Father's Day gift to save money. Dad, thank you for everything you have done in my life to support me along the way. Happy Father's Day to Mr John Mackay.

Tomorrow is my mum's birthday. It has been an expensive week for me. Happy birthday, mum, and thank you for all that you have done. You are an incredible woman who turned me into the man I am today.

A lot has been happening in the rural area. I was lucky enough to attend the Women in Welding event held at the Litchfield Community Library. The event, a collaboration between Rana Everett and Weld Australia, had an augmented welding machine, and I saw women from the ages of 10 to 60 having a crack. I also gave it a go. It is about promoting welding as an opportunity for women to enter the trades and get involved, and it was well received. I thank Rana and the team who helped put it together and commend them on the work they do and for volunteering their time.

I also was lucky enough to head out to Goanna Park for the Junior Police Rangers 40th anniversary. Goanna Park is down the Arnhem Highway, approximately four corners from here and probably an hour and a half drive. Goanna Park is part of the old Annaburroo Station, and it was gifted by Terry Baldwin 40 or 30-something years ago. I believe he gifted it after they already started using it.

The Junior Police Rangers started in 1985. It was quite an event to go to because there were people who went through the program 40 years ago and young people who are currently going through it. We heard stories from people who enjoyed their time there. Every speaker spoke of crying on their first camp. There is a lot of crying that goes on at Junior Police Rangers, apparently, but they all said that it helped them overcome their fears and develop as young people.

There was a touching story from Belinda, who went through the program in JPR group 8 some 20 years ago and loved the experience so much that her daughter is now going through it. They both spoke about the incredible sense of accomplishment and how it helped build their confidence and the way they can tackle life. There were a lot of stories of crying, but they all seemed to be positive at the end of it. It was good to catch up with Tim Baldwin, the son of the late Terry Baldwin, because he has had strong involvement over the years. It is an incredible place and an incredible organisation. I thank them for all they do for our young people.

I pay tribute to Early Childhood Educators' Day which was this week. Thank you to the Family First Early Learning centre; Humpty Doo Community & Child Care Centre; Goodstart Early Learning in Bees Creek; St Francis of Assisi Early Learning Centre; and Kingdom Kids Early Learning Centre. All these are great places in the rural area to send your kid. They all have wonderful tireless educators who put in countless hours. I do not have any kids, but I imagine being surrounded by 20 or 30 kids is probably a big day, every day. They do a fantastic job looking after our little ones, so thank you to all those educators.

Tomorrow the magic button will be pressed so we can find out who has won the council elections. I hope the results will be up tomorrow, if not on Monday, when they are declared. I thank every person who put up their hand to run for local government. I know you, Madam Speaker, appreciate the work that goes in. I always joke that in my time on council, no-one would ever ring to tell you that you are doing a good job; they would ring you because there was a pothole at the end of the road.

These people put in effort. To nominate themselves for what is basically a public audition for the job takes incredible bravery; good on them. To the ones who are successful, I wish you best of luck; your successes are our successes. To those who are unsuccessful, I commend you for having the integrity to put yourself forward. Best of luck to everybody tomorrow. I give a special shout-out to Kris Civitarese, who has clearly been elected in the Litchfield Council South Ward, with about 47% of the vote in a two-member seat. He was a bit greedy; he could have stopped at 33%, but he wanted to take more for himself. Congratulations, Kris, and good luck to the new council in Litchfield.

It has been an incredible year representing the people of Goyder in this Chamber. It is an incredible job that I do not take for granted on any day. Although occasionally I will complain about the driving into parliament bit, the rest of it is fantastic.

I love being able to help people. I remember the first person who hit me up the day after the election. I went to Marrakai for the Marrakai Progress Association AGM. Someone pulled me aside and said, 'Andrew, I need help with this crossover road that has been upgraded, the Marrakai track. I have lost my driveway.' I had a look and I have been working hard with the Minister for Infrastructure and Logistics, and this person is getting his driveway back. It is the little things that we can help with that make a difference to people's lives.

A couple of weeks ago a senior who is applying for the senior concession scheme came into the office. He said, 'Andrew, I am in my sixties. I do not know how a computer works. Can you give me a hand?' I went through the paperwork with him and we lodged it. A couple of weeks later he came back to activate his card and he was incredibly grateful. Being able to help people is that part of the job I love the most. It is the best job in the world.

I pay special tribute to the staff in my electorate office, Megan and Sharia. Although I take credit for all their work, they do a tremendous job keeping me on time and well dressed. They remind me to get a haircut before every sittings and make sure I am never too late for something important. They do a great job and are the first port of call for a lot of people. I try to make myself available, but I have only one set of hands. They are incredible staff, and I am lucky to have them supporting me and the people of Goyder.

Thank you to the CLP team and this government. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you over the last year, more so than just during the campaign. Now that I come into town more, it is nice to meet all the Darwin friends I have. Each of them will ring me or I will ring them. We take each other's calls, have conversations and work stuff out. We are here to support each other, and I appreciate that about this team.

I know when I call the Minister for Health or for Housing—the minister for everything over there, the Member for Barkly—he will answer my call and say, 'Andrew, when will we go to dinner?' I say, 'Steve, you are only two corners away. Come on up.' Similarly with the Member for Katherine, I had a great time at the Katherine Show this year and seeing the joys of Katherine. It is a lovely little town. She refers to it as the centre of the universe; I think it is pretty good. It is an incredible team, and I appreciate the fact that if I ring the Chief Minister, she will take my call; if I ring the Deputy Chief Minister, he will take my call; if I ring the Members for Drysdale and Karama they will take my call. Even the Member for Johnston takes my calls, which I always appreciate. You answer my calls too sometimes, Madam Speaker, so I appreciate that.

It is about working towards the betterment of the Territory. We all have slightly different ideas in this Chamber, even across the opposition and the crossbench, but at the end of the day we have all been elected because we want to make the world a better place. Every day I appreciate the people of Goyder for putting me here, and I never take it for granted.

Mrs HERSEY (Katherine): Madam Speaker, on 13 August I attended the Holtze correctional facility. I had been to the old Don Dale previously and I can tell you that this one was a far cry from that old facility. When I was there I was pleased to hear that our government has now staffed it correctly in the education space, which gives the teachers greater ability to deliver education to the young people in the Corrections system.

Previously in an adjournment speech I gave a shout-out to the staff, but one who left a lasting impression on me and the young people in his care is Jone Tuino. He is a big man who reminds me of the guy in the movie *The Green Mile*. He has that stature and is someone who commands respect and gets it.

I caught up with Jone and was made aware that not only was he continuing his great work but also he was humble and assured me that it was a team effort. Jone was grateful to be noticed for the great work the staff do with children who have complex needs. He went on to say that they are trying to make a difference to the lives of young people with the hope that one day the youths will become better and good citizens in their own communities. They are planting the seed and hope that seed will grow in years to come. I was pleased to hear that Jone has been nominated for Australian of the Year for the work he has done in Corrections. I wish him all the best and hope he is successful in this quest because he deserves it.

Another event I went to last Friday night was the 75 Squadron sunset dinner out on the flight deck of the RAAF base in Katherine. It was fantastic to see the flypast of the F-35s, which had a dogfight in the air above us. It was amazing and they were dropping flares. One of the pilots gave me a blow-by-blow description of what was going on, which was fantastic. The highlight was getting up close and personal with the older FA-18s and F-35s that graced us on the tarmac as we enjoyed a beautiful dinner. It was a surreal experience to be dining out there while the sun was setting with millions of dollars' worth of jets surrounding us. I had to pinch myself.

A big thank you goes to Alex Smith, the SADFO of RAAF Base Tindal, and Rhys, who was a great emcee for the evening. The RAAF band who played tunes into the sunset was spectacular. Thank you to Flight Officer Tia for escorting me as my host for the evening.

Another special event, two weeks prior, was when we were in Katherine for Regional Cabinet. The Chief Minister and I had a tour of the RAAF base. We were shown the work that is happening to strengthen the base, with new fuel farms and hangars et cetera. I had a ride in the new fire truck—they called it something specific, but I cannot remember what it was—which was amazing. The technology on display was incredible. A big arm went out the front and pierced a barrel, making out it was the cabin of a plane; it fills the cabin with water to put out the fire, which keeps the firefighters away from the fire. It was an incredible experience to be shown around by RAAF members.

I give a huge shout-out to all the early years educators in Katherine and across the Territory. On Wednesday Jen from my office delivered treats to Stella and Beth at Katherine South Preschool; Wendy at Clyde Fenton Preschool; Rachelle at Little Joeys at St Joseph's; Simone at MacFarlane Preschool; Sophie and Drew at Katherine East Child Care Centre; Jen and Marie at Little Mangoes; Katie, Charlee, Em and Kirsty at Casuarina Street Preschool; Blake at Tindal Preschool; Georgia, Promise, Elijah and Molly at Kintore Preschool; and Caitlin and Tamika at Na Wulg Wulg preschool. These dedicated staff, along with the many across the Territory, do a great job in educating our smallest minds. The dedication, commitment and care you show to all the small people in your care is to be commended. Thank you all for your ongoing work and care.

I recently joined the Northern Territory Learning Commission Coming Together as a Commission event in Katherine at Knotts Crossing Resort. Commissioners from Katherine South, Mataranka and Casuarina Street Primary Schools and Katherine High all got together for their midway point gathering, facilitated by Summer Howarth.

The Northern Territory Learning Commission was established in 2015 in Katherine with just a handful of schools keen to empower students to be partners in their learning. It was started by John Cleary, the then Principal of Casuarina Street Primary School. John's vision and leadership is second to none; he is a leader in his field. It is inspiring to see the growth of the Learning Commission, with 50 schools from across the Territory following in these footsteps.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to share where they are on their learning journey as they prepared for the Pitch to the Minister Expo in November. The added excitement is that this will be the 10th year of the Learning Commission, which is a huge achievement. One of the highlights is hearing about the amazing work commissioners do and to acknowledge their commitment to learning. As the Minister for Education and Training, I reminded them that their voice matters and their ideas have the power to create lasting changes in their schools and communities. I look forward to hearing their pitch to the minister in November.

The Katherine Netball Association held its senior finals recently. The ladies B-grade prize winners were runners-up 2025 season best and fairest, Emily Boalar; 2025 season best and fairest, Kara Morrison; and grand final best on court, Kara Morrison. The Camillas defeated Unexpected 38–20. The umpires were Barbara Sherratt and Sophie Radford.

The ladies A-grade prize winners were runners-up 2025 season best and fairest, Layla Jennings; 2025 season best and fairest, Georgia Creighton; and grand final best on court, Bethany Taylor. The Camellettes defeated Advance Panthers 27–24. The umpires were Emily Boalar and Blake Masters.

The mixed prize winners were runners-up 2025 season best and fairest, Matthew Hudson; 2025 season best and fairest, Joel Foster; and grand final best on court, Tessa Ryan. Tindal's Best defeated Cameltrons 27–5. The umpires were Annette Schefe and Andrea Read.

The umpire prize winners were 2025 most improved, Niew Wright; and achieved C badge, Blake Masters.

I thank all the committee members, parents, umpires and everyone who helps out with Katherine junior netball. It is amazing to see the juniors stepping up into some of those roles and doing the umpiring. We know that volunteers are fairly scarce across the Territory. It does not matter what sporting club you go to or whether it is Rotary or something like that, it is hard to get volunteers these day. I commend all those people who step up at the Katherine Netball Association and volunteer their time. I look forward to seeing them on the court next year.

Mr HOWE (Drysdale): Madam Speaker, I thank the electorate of Drysdale for having me for the first year. It has been truly the greatest honour of my life. We have a lot of work to do. However, I have enjoyed getting stuck into it this year and helping create the vision we all share for Drysdale.

I can say with confidence we have some incredible people who live throughout the electorate. Driver, Gray, Gunn and the CBD are filled with amazing Australians and Territorians. It has been an honour to be invited into the vast range of community groups and schools, getting to know my neighbours in the community. It has been an incredible experience.

At Gray Primary School we are blessed with the entire education team. Principal Donna Westaway continues to amaze me, as does Assistant Principal Rachel Turton. They are running the most incredible operation and it is a great school to be a part of.

I recently attended the school's Book Week parade. I was impressed by every staff member who dressed up. There were incredible dress-ups by staff, parents, volunteers and the kids. I even put on the Hulk mask and hands. However, I recommend to all my peers that picking the winners is not the best thing to do. I upset a vast number of Year 6 kids whom I did not pick. I have learned my lesson. Some even came up and gave me a piece of their mind and told me why they should have been picked. I admire that we are bringing up strong and confident young people in Gray.

The family centre there is incredible, along with the after-school care. They make a cohesive group. I acknowledge Donelle who leads the Aboriginal unit with dedication and care.

Directly beside Gray Primary School, Cheryl, the Director of Gray Childcare Centre has always gone above and beyond. I recognise all her staff and the support they give for the children in their care. They are an incredible team. A highlight is the Christmas play they put on for the Palmerston 50+ seniors club. I look forward what Cheryl and her team put together next.

At Driver Primary School, again it is an incredible team. I thank Jamie McLean and his team for doing exceptional work with our young Territorians, including through their Clontarf Primary AFL carnival, which I had the pleasure of attending. We had boys from all over the Top End come and play footy. It was a great day to be a part of.

The Palmerston Young Writers Festival hosted by Driver Primary was organised by Leah Jones and Tina Carlson. They did a fantastic effort to showcase the talent of our young writers.

After 15 years of service, I sincerely thank Emma Hansen for her leadership as principal and wish her success in her new endeavours. I have lost her to a permanent principal position in the Member for Goyder's electorate. Even though we have lost an amazing educator, the kids out rural will have a real blessing in her.

I acknowledge how fortunate we are to have Acting Principal Simone Timms now guiding the school. I have an amazing relationship with Simone, and she will do great things with her time as acting principal and if she goes on to take on the principal role.

I have spoken to Maisie Floyd this week, and I acknowledge her incredible work at Palmerston College. There is a huge agenda for Maisie with our high school reform, and she brings confidence and has been communicating with local parents. I am impressed by the efforts of Ms Floyd. I thank her for her work.

We have plenty of local businesses in Drysdale. I thank Mr Nam for his longstanding service to our community, particularly through Nam Variety Outlet, Panda Foods and his trusty phone shop which you can always rely on if you have any issues with your phone. Mr Nam is always there to help, and I thank him.

Ahmet owns Ahmet's Kebabs. If you want a good kebab, come to Ahmet's in Oasis, and you will get a damn fine kebab. The Member for Blain and I have been known to drop by and grab a kebab from time to time. I thank Ahmet for his work. He is always there. That man works every day and is a real credit, showing the incredible work ethic in our community.

I thank Tammy from Mellowed Out Greek Take-Away who just celebrated one year in business and did so with a humungous street party in the heart of Gray. For a long time that area has been riddled with antisocial behaviour and crime, yet Tammy threw a big street party. She did it last year just after the election and again this year. We had hundreds of people enjoying themselves in the heart of Gray. It was amazing to be a part of that. It is symbolic of hope and shows us what our community can be. I thank Tammy and her husband for their work.

I will thank some community organisations for their outstanding work. TEMHCO, under the leadership of CEO Karen McGlashan, continues to deliver for people in need.

I thank Terry and Val through Rotary who coordinate sandwich-making sessions three times each term at the Deputy Chief's office in Nelson. I give a big shout-out to Val for her award recognising Seniors of Excellence. She is a worthy winner. That woman puts her heart and soul into the community. Making more than 1,700 sandwiches three times per term is a noble thing to do.

Niki from Autism NT pours her heart into supporting parents and children. I am grateful for her commitment to our community and to children and families who deal with autism. I continue to back Niki in her endeavours.

We have incredible seniors; we are blessed with them. The Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Association President Neville Driver does an incredible job and has a wealth of knowledge about issues facing seniors. I give a big shout-out to Treasurer Sheryl Sephton, along with Gerry, Janette and Glenda Reid. I nominated Glenda for a Seniors of Excellence Award, and I am proud to say she won that, which was well earned. These people work tirelessly to support older Territorians through events, functions and even transport services.

I also tap on the 50+ Tuesday Club in Palmerston, which put in a fantastic effort every Tuesday.

I thank Di Dunn and the NT Breatheasy S.T.A.A.R.S. group who provide seniors support like no other and do incredible work.

I acknowledge our veteran advocates, including Glenn Lang from Young Diggers and his dog, Penny, who support those living with PTSD. Penny has damaged her Achilles, and I wish her the best recovery.

I thank Byrne Haigh and all the committee members and volunteers at the Palmerston Rovers Football Club for their unwavering commitment to youths. I look forward to the upcoming minis presentation for our under-6s to under-11s this Sunday. The club is amazing to have in the community, offering sport in the heart of Gray for everyone, from minis through to senior players.

Thank you, everyone in Drysdale.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Blain, you are the only one left in the room who has not given an adjournment speech.

Mr KERLE (Blain): Madam Speaker, we cannot comment on who is here and who is not.

Madam SPEAKER: That is true; I withdraw!

Mr KERLE: My adjournment speech will cover a number of matters.

I will start with the Seniors of Excellence NT Awards and congratulate Dianne Dunphy on her award. She was nominated by Francis Bonfield. She deserves that award as she works tirelessly for the community. She

started a fantastic program—which I am hoping will spread—where she paints street numbers on people's driveways. When you are walking around suburban streets trying to find a letterbox to see where you are up to, it is handy to have those numbers on the driveways. Well done, Dianne. Thank you, Francis, for nominating her.

A fantastic assembly was held for the Woodroffe Primary School Book Week. The school was smart in asking me to judge the winners. I did not realise at the beginning why, but I realised by the end, and it all worked out.

Each classroom decorated its door, so I had to choose the best door for the upper and lower school. For the lower school, Grevillea 3 was the winner, but special mention goes to Grevillea 4 for putting in a good effort. For the upper school, there was a special mention for Assistant Principal Jacqui Saunders' office door, which was decorated in the style of *Where the Wild Things Are*, which was pretty cool. Another special mention goes to Orchid 1, but Banksia 3 took out the upper school award for the best decorated door.

I judged all the kids from the class groups, and there were some amazing costumes. I know why the school got me to do it, because it was hard to choose. As a way of choosing, I went for those who put together the most interesting costume, because otherwise you just choose who looks the best and, unfortunately, that is rewarding the parents. I ended up choosing two brothers from different age groups, because their parents had built robot costumes out of boxes and the amount of detail was amazing. To those parents, well done.

Well done to Principal Kristy West and the students and staff at Woodroffe Primary School. You did an amazing job. I appreciate your work and look forward to working with you going forward.

This Sunday is Father's Day, so I will take a moment to talk about the importance of fathers. My father passed away many years ago in 2008. He had survived a few heart attacks and about a year earlier was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which is effectively a death sentence. Luckily—you could say—before the cancer advanced to the point where it took away his quality of life and dignity, he passed away from a heart attack.

He was going to visit a friend in Royal Darwin Hospital and was walking in through the front entrance, which in those days was at emergency, when he suffered his heart attack and hit the ground there. He had the best treatment in the Territory within minutes, but he still passed away. I can only say that it must have been his time. The autopsy found that the cancer had spread, so we can say that it was a relief that he passed without suffering.

Fathers are important, and becoming one and watching my boys grow up reinforces to me the value of fathers in this world. Mothers are critical; without them none of us would be here, but sometimes we forget the role of fathers. Sometimes mum gets a bit frustrated when the kids are not listening, and you need dad to come in to assert some authority, send the kids to their room and give mum a break. It is important, particularly for boys, to see the role of a good father who loves, corrects and disciplines from a place of love, not a place of insecurity, anger or any kind of negative emotion but because they love their kids. As a father, being a servant, not to the child in front of you but to the man or woman that child will one day become—and trying to grow them in such a way that child will be the best possible man or woman one day when they grow up.

This Sunday I ask that everyone, if you still have your father with you, tell them you love them and look after them. If you are a father, I hope your kids and family give you some love and honour and cherish you. I hold up the fathers of our society. Families are the rock that our society is built on.

I will reflect on the past year. It has been 12 months, and I must say this is not something that I expected in my early days. I will admit when I was in high school—there is a yearbook floating around—I was voted most likely to be future Prime Minister one day. I do not know where they got that from.

A previous Member for Blain said that it is like driving along a road, seeing a car accident and having to stop and render assistance. That stuck with me because I look at it like that. Under the previous government the Territory was going backwards, and I had an opportunity not just to sit back, complain and throw stones but to step in, put my shoulder to the wheel and do what I could for this great Territory that we all know and love.

People come up to me and ask whether I am enjoying it. It is hard. I think all members understand that there are enjoyable times. My school assemblies are the most enjoyable; seeing the joy on kids' faces lifts me up and lifts my spirit. There are times when people share things with you, and you can be dealing with very—I think I am up to four people whom I have had to visit in hospital because they had been brutally assaulted with edged weapons. That takes its toll, as well as listening to the stories of people who are suffering from neighbours who are out of control with antisocial behaviour and drinking.

You cannot fix all the problems. I have been able to fix a few. There was a small business man in my electorate who was looking at losing his licence. He was a good bloke who was working hard and doing the right thing, but got caught up in a bit of a tangle. I advocated on his behalf, and he was granted leniency to keep his licence, which kept his business on the road. His business is still in action because of my intervention. There are small wins like that.

Every so often there is something you can do, and you can sort it out. I just pick up the phone to the minister or write a letter and get it sorted. They are the little wins that give me hope and fire me up every day, as well as every time we pass laws that keep Territorians safe. I cannot wait for our police public safety officers. I have my speech ready to go; I am raring to talk about that Bill when it comes to this House.

Mr O'Gallagher: You copied it off me.

Mr KERLE: No, I have my own issues to talk about.

I will end on that note. I have a long way to go and am still learning the ropes in many ways, but thank you to the people of Blain for putting your trust in me. I look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Motion agreed to; the Assembly adjourned.