

representing young people in the Northern Territory over the past two years.

I take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to the 2010 representative, Tim Reilly. Tim is an active member in the community and he has played a representative role as a keen sportsman, a volunteer for Camp Quality, and currently travels to remote communities in his role with surf life saving.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who has been involved to make National Youth Week 2009 such a success.

Mr STYLES (Sanderson): Madam Speaker, I thank the member for Arnhem for those good words about Youth Week. I also attended many of the functions and events that the member for Arnhem mentioned, and was very heartened to see the events that occurred for young people around the Territory.

I have a couple of issues in relation to Youth Week. It appears that the government is very good at putting on great events during Youth Week, however, there are 51 other weeks in the year. I see that there are still many youth slipping through the cracks.

I note the sad lack of services occurring around the Territory and that the Territory is failing our youth in relation to drug education and putting good role models into schools. I note that school-based police officers are still struggling to get into classrooms and give these young people a balanced view of what is occurring in our community. I also note that there is a problem with school-based nurses who are there to support young people and to give them information they will need to conduct themselves in a way most of us in the community see as a fit and proper way for young people to grow up.

I ask that the government reconsider a number of the issues that face youth, and look very carefully at reinstating some of the programs that have suffered in recent years, and give our youth the chance they deserve: for a good education, and a balanced view of what the community expects of our young people as opposed to just a one-eyed version or, in fact, no direction and guidance at all.

Ms MCCARTHY (Young Territorians): Madam Speaker, I thank the member for Sanderson for his comments. I remind members opposite of the terrific amount of work that is happening with youth across the Northern Territory.

First, I highlight to the member for Sanderson that the work of our school-based constables is

important. I know we have pushed to place them in our regions, and we have police in those regions that make an effort to be a part of the school structure, so that our students and youth can grow up knowing they can relate to police officers in an environment where they can have confidence.

The Clontarf Program is going across the Northern Territory, which is an outstanding example of encouraging our youth to not only be fine young men and women in society in the Northern Territory, but also to encourage them to finish their schooling. This is what the government is committed to: wanting every single child to have access to opportunities that were not there for those remote regions where our kids are now graduating in Year 12.

Reports noted pursuant to standing orders.

LAKE EYRE BASIN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BILL (Serial 31)

Continued from 16 February 2009.

Madam SPEAKER: I remind you, member for Brennan, that I will ask you to resume your seat at 11 am.

Mr CHANDLER (Chandler): Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for a very well-arranged briefing, and for providing a very good understanding of what the agreement is setting out to do.

Basically, this agreement puts into place an arrangement that does not necessarily bind each of the states and territories involved, but ensures that any development which occurs in any of these states or territories which may have an impact on Lake Eyre, will need to be considered. In that light, it would be fair to say that if we were going to develop anything in the Todd River - this is just an example - that may have an impact on Lake Eyre we must consider Lake Eyre in any action that a developer may take.

We also understand that the agreement does not bind the Territory in any way to masses of funding. I believe it is about \$50 000, \$10 000 of which is in cash.

It is fair to say that, had our river systems in that area of the country - the southern area of the Northern Territory - been lush, tropical flowing rivers of the north, perhaps there would be more of a reason to be concerned about what future development may have on the Lake Eyre area.

The only question this side of the House asks the government is - and I am sure this is so - that