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Madam Speaker Purick took the Chair at 10 am.

VISITORS
Nightcliff Primary School and Charles Darwin University

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise of the presence in the gallery of Year 6 students from Nightcliff Primary School, accompanied by their teacher, Greg Hauser. Welcome to Parliament House.

Members: Hear, hear!

Madam SPEAKER: Also in the gallery are the Charles Darwin University preservice teachers, accompanied by their lecturer, Janice Crerar. On behalf of honourable members, welcome to Parliament House.

Members: Hear, hear!

ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION BILL
(Serial 25)

Continued from 16 August 2017.

Mr McCONNELL (Stuart): Madam Speaker, I support the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill. First, I will address a comment that was made during the welcome to country speech during the opening of this Thirteenth Assembly by Dorrie-Anne Raymond. This was her expectation of us as parliamentarians:

We don't expect miracles. We do not expect all the difficulties in the Territory to be solved by the current elected representatives. But representing us in parliament is a sacred duty, one entrusted to you by us, the people of the Northern Territory. To fulfil this duty, you must bring us with you, hear us when we speak, act in wisdom and foresight and above all, do no more damage.

The previous government caused damage, withdrawing the BDR overnight without any system in place to replace it. It was irresponsible. It was literally done overnight. I know there were people in the community talking about the inconvenience of showing their ID because they were not problem drinkers. That story was told on many a bar stool and at many a barbecue ...

Mrs Lambley: And will continue to be.

Mr McCONNELL: I pick up on the interjection. What I find really interesting in that statement by Dorian Raymond is 'do no harm'. That did harm. The evidence is there that it caused harm.

I thank the minister for presenting this bill. Changes in the way Northern Territory policies affect alcohol consumption will affect all communities in the Northern Territory, including communities in my electorate, which have raised this with me on numerous occasions during the campaign.

During the campaign, the alcohol policy of the Territory was raised many times regarding people having concerns about being treated differently because they appeared to be Aboriginal, yet other people who appeared to be of other races went through and did as they liked. They were concerned because people in Darwin and Palmerston were treated differently to people in Tennant Creek, Katherine and Alice Springs. Is that what we expect of a government? Is that fair enough? No, it is not fair.

I did not come to this place to see policies like that stay in place. Alcohol is dangerous; it causes a lot of damage in the Northern Territory, most noticeably in alcohol-related vehicle accidents, domestic violence and things that happen on Mitchell Street. Alcohol is a big problem in the Northern Territory.

I note that no community member in the Northern Territory has spoken to me about open slather approaches to alcohol. Communities are aware that alcohol abuse leads to increased health problems and is linked to increased rates of interpersonal violence. Everyone I have spoken to agrees that access to alcohol must be managed. However, the message of controlling alcohol must be fair and equitable and should not place police in situations where they are racially profiling people, which is considered a 'necessary evil'.

First, we must acknowledge that we, in the Northern Territory, drink too much alcohol. This sometimes but not always leads to further harm in our communities through violence and crime. In addition the overuse of alcohol has enormous individual health implications.

It is often an unhealthy lifestyle promoted through sponsorships, or lack of alcohol-free events, or media portraying that it is necessary to be on the grog to have a good time. We need to get over our casual endorsement of drinking alcohol as part of our Australian identity.

That has begun to change, but we need to do more work through education and health promotion in changing the idea of what a healthy Territory lifestyle is. I often hear that reference to 'Territory lifestyle'. It seems to be a very urban-centric Territory lifestyle—people living in our larger cities and towns and going out on the weekend to do a bit of boating and have a few tinnies, or go out and do a bit of pig hunting and have a couple of longnecks. We need to think about what that real emphasis on alcohol has on this place.

I am not saying everyone does it. A lot of people go out and do other things that do not involve alcohol, but it is too often the case that we talk about the grog.

To have a good hangover almost seems to be a badge of honour. That is a problem, is it not? Alcohol is something we should all get the opportunity to enjoy, but when we talk in the wider community about being 'grog sick'—'head crack' is often used where I come from—it is a real worry.

The BDR will not fix everything; it is not a magic bullet. The name of the bill is Alcohol Harm Reduction. It does not say, 'Solved; fixed; let's move on to the next thing'. It is the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill. The BDR is an important part of that bill.

We all have a responsibility as Territorians to make sure the way we manage alcohol is fair to everyone, regardless of race and geographic location. That is what people expect of us in this place. We have to do that. I understand and agree with people that it will be an inconvenience to show your licence, but I agree with the many speakers before me who have said that you usually have your credit card and your rewards card out already. If showing my licence when I buy takeaway alcohol stops one woman from getting bashed, I will do it for as long as I need to. If it stops one person from dying in a car accident, one bystander from having to be the first responder to an accident, or to a domestic violence event in the streets of Darwin fuelled by alcohol, I am happy to do it.

Please, I beg my fellow Territorians and people who come to live here, stick with the government on this one. It will not work perfectly; it will need some time to roll out; you cannot change things overnight. The policy has been developed over a year. It will need some refinement. It will get independent evaluation. All those things will be done. This is a responsible measure of government. It is not irresponsible. It is not an overnight fix. What will we do? We will have to effectively abuse the previous Labor government policy of POSIs, police at the front of bottle shops, when it is appropriate during sporting events. We will have to pick that up and just do it in Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek. That will keep our constituent base happy. They will be fine with that.

The effect that has had is concerning to me. Having police permanently placed outside bottle shops is a policy that I agree with aspects of. We need to be adults about this and talk about it. We have sworn police officers wearing all the equipment they should wear as police officers, including firearms, standing at the front of bottle shops for long shifts. I cannot believe that. Is that a realistic use of police resources? Is it really what those police officers thought they would be doing when they went into the police force? 'I will get the chance to stand in front of a bottle shop.'

Police are not enjoying it. It is a measure that needs to be used from time to time. It is a measure that will continue to be used. I will support the continued use of police in front of bottle shops when it is required. I will strongly advocate the reasons for that with the people of my electorate.

The thing that will be different about police in front of bottle shops, with the reintroduction of the BDR, is that everyone is showing their driver's licence anyway. The racial profiling component is taken away.

Imagine what it is like to be a responsible person who wants to buy alcohol in Alice Springs—an Aboriginal person who goes to the bottle shop and gets waved over by the police. Do you know what the police do when they are asking you for ID because you appear to be Aboriginal? They ask for their ID, look at the address and try to figure out if that address is in a place where alcohol consumption is prohibited. They want to know if you live in a public housing property that is declared dry under legislation, or if you live in a town camp or other prescribed community, like one of the many bush communities I represent in my electorate.

They look through that and decide if you are eligible to buy alcohol or not, based on geography and race. Is that fair? Is that what we come into this place to talk about? It is not fair. That unfairness affects the way people think about the wider community at times.

I can give you an example, and I have given this example to other people in this House, including ministers. I have a friend who is an Aboriginal person who I have known all my life. This is a person who was a night patroller for many years and is an ordained pastor. He had an opportunity, the other day, in which he could have helped police. The police were looking for somebody. He could have helped them, but he chose not to. Do you know why? Because most of the time people are talking to him about how they are being treated based on their appearance of race at bottle shops. This is a problem that needs to be fixed.

We are fixing it. I am going on about this for a while because it is important. We need to consider this. You cannot have any policy in isolation. You cannot have reactive policy. 'We will announce this today because that will fix this problem.' That affects everything else. That is why the people elect experienced people to this place, to make sure we consider those things when we pass laws, especially important laws like we are hopefully about to pass this afternoon.

We need to think about these things. We need to think about all the implications of these things. If the government is to make some fundamental change—do not do it with an administrative practice; actually change the laws and do it properly. Go through the proper process. Go through the scrutiny committees. Actually look at doing these things the proper way. That is what we should do. That is what people expect of us. They want to see us do these things properly—duly considered.

What will we have after the Banned Drinker Register comes back in September? We will have reinstated a considered policy that was proving to be effective in some ways before it was taken away overnight. We will deal with the problem of having police spending long hours in front of bottle shops.

I want the Member for Braintree to be assured she has my support in what constituents will come to her with. We still need police out the front of bottle shops in Alice Springs for a period of time. She has my support, and the government has my support, for that to be done. We have to continue to do that; we will need to do it in Tennant Creek and Katherine also. It is important; we cannot have that light switch changed. I can explain that to my constituents who dislike this policy because of the work of the Attorney-General and her team on the reinstatement of the BDR—when everyone showing their driver's licence is fair to everyone.

I support the Member for Braintree and assure the Member for Araluen that we will not be suddenly taking police officers off of bottle shops. I am not saying the member is doing this, but there is no need for anyone to watch to see if the police are still there. 'Is Labor lying to us? Have they been taken away?'

Do not waste your time doing that. You can be assured that this is a responsible policy coming from a responsible and progressive government. What else do we have to do? There are all of the issues with how the BDR will work, who will be referred to the BDR, how to get off the BDR and how self-referrals work. All these things will take time to explain to the community.

It is incumbent on every one of us in this House to assist the government in explaining the complications of this policy. Let us not turn this into a political debate; let us not turn this into something that we will use on local radio in Alice Springs, Darwin or anywhere else.

Let us work together on this, we are all willing to acknowledge Aboriginal people during welcome to country; we are all willing to go to the Wave Hill walk-off; we are all willing to talk about the land rights that we have in the Northern Territory, but we need to remember that we have to be responsible in the laws we make in this place.

I was having a yarn with the Speaker, talking about policies that have been enacted in the southern US post-recognition of Native American people and African American people. What happened in some southern jurisdictions in the United States of America was they passed numerous laws that are referred to collectively as the Jim Crow laws.

Do people know what the Jim Crow laws are? They are a group of laws, normally passed by state jurisdictions, to deny minorities in America their rights that had been duly won. They are small town politics, little, manipulative things that on the face of it look like they are affect everyone, but they do not. They affect only some members of the community.

I argue that we still have one of those on our statutes in the Northern Territory; it is referred to as the two kilometre law. I believe the two kilometre law—which makes it illegal to consume alcohol in a public place within two kilometres of a licensed premises—stands up to the scrutiny of being called a Jim Crow law.

In Alice Springs, interestingly, there is one place that you can drink in public within two kilometres of a licensed premises. It is the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, where white people drink. Aboriginal people are really comfortable there now, by the way. There has been some great work done and that is good.

If we go back to the age of the two kilometre law, it was a specialised law designed to look at the people drinking in public places within two kilometres of a licensed premise—they were Aboriginal people. Will it disadvantage many of the people who vote for me? Probably not. They own their own home; they are welcome in the pub. They will be right; they have somewhere to drink.

What we do to Aboriginal people is not only declare the places that they live dry and make them unwelcome in pubs in many instances, which is a fair thing to say, but we also make it illegal for them to drink the alcohol they purchased within two kilometres of any public place. Really? Is that responsible? What do you think people will do?

You can go to the drive-through bottle shop or walk-in bottle shop and buy alcohol. You cannot drink it at the house you stay at because it is declared dry; you cannot drink it in a public place because of the two kilometre law. You buy takeaway alcohol because you do not feel comfortable in the clubs and pubs. What do you think you will do? 'I've got a motor car; I will drive somewhere outside of the two kilometre law.' That is a good idea is it not? 'I will get it to the car and drive. I am thinking responsibly and will not drive back in to town after I have had a few.' Does that happen?

Alcohol reduces our inhibitions; we know that. People end up driving back in to town. People drink with their family, and with their lowered inhibitions there might be family issues that are being managed while they are sober that then become an issue when they are a little drunk. Then you have some instances of domestic and family violence. Where are these people? They are on a roadside two kilometres outside of town. How will the first responders respond if these people are even within mobile coverage? How will they get there?

In many cases these people choose to drink in a place that is very remote, restricted and difficult to get to. Sometimes people drink in very isolated spots that are within two kilometres but where they are hidden away, such as on the side of the sacred Anzac Hill. A lot of people drink there. If there is a domestic violence incident or some other violent incident, it is very difficult for the police to get to them, and almost impossible for the ambulance to get to them. That is not responsible law; that is—to use a Pitjantjatjara word—*rama rama*, which is 'really, really silly'.

We need to think of better ways of doing that. The name of this bill is the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill, and it has various other measures in it other than what I have concentrated on, which is the BDR. They will need to be further refined and developed. That is the responsible thing to do to bring this legislation before the House and, I expect, to law.

The message from the Gunner Labor government, the then opposition, was very clear that this policy would be introduced. Most Territorians were very comfortable with it. People who will be affected by the introduction of changes to the way they operate their business and even people who will be slightly disadvantaged by having to show their licence understood that we must manage alcohol differently in the Northern Territory, so they supported it.

We have now gone from one idea, platform and policy to what will now be a law. It will need to be refined. There will need to be work done on it. Let us be collaborative and cooperative. I do not put out a challenge; I respectfully request that we all work together on that. No one has more responsibility to work together than us. Please, let us work on this together.

On the government's side—if there are issues with the implementation then let us make sure we address them. Let it not be, 'Well, now we will talk about it in a different way and put a spin on it'. On the cross bench and opposition's side—if there are legitimate things being brought up about the implementation or the operation of the laws then please refer those concerns to the minister or the department. Let us work on this together.

I sincerely hope that the Michael Gunner team and I have played some part in starting to travel down the long road of making alcohol something that people enjoy, not something that destroys people's lives, costs the taxpayers a fortune, affects the liveability of our communities and affects our tourism industry. Let us work on these things together.

I look forward to seeing these changes and seeing how the system will operate. The most important job for me, as the Member for Stuart, is to make sure that I sell this policy well in my electorate. I will do that. I will sell this policy as hard as I can.

I am really passionate about this issue. It was the number one issue in the electorate of Stuart when I travelled around for a number of months during my campaigning. It was not, as there might have been some accusations made, that people want access to alcohol. That was not the issue. Traditional old ladies, who had never had a drink in their life, said they did not think it was right that their families were racially profiled.

Pastors said they did not think it was right that young people were paying \$20 for a bottle of wine out of the boot of a taxi. That bottle of wine would be \$9 or so, but in Alice Springs it was over \$20 because it is referred to as a private sale. Those private sales were out of control. Now that can be managed with the reintroduction of the BDR. There are measures in there to look at that private sale issue.

I would like police to have the time to shut down private sales and have those people prosecuted if they have broken laws, rather than have police sitting in front of bottle shops.

This is an exciting day. To see this law passed is one of the reasons I came to this place. It is one of the reasons I decided to seek the support of the constituents of Stuart, who then gave me that support. The Attorney-General and Minister for Health has done a good job, as have her staff. I thank them very much for all that work. They work tirelessly on making sure these things are the best they can possibly be. The minister's team will respond to changes that may need to be made going forward.

Let us all work on this together. I commend this bill to the House.

Mr KIRBY (Port Darwin): Madam Speaker, I also speak in support of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill, but also the broader alcohol strategy. It needs to be an entire strategy because there is no one single and easy fix to this problem. It is generational. Alcohol use and abuse is entrenched into the Territory's history. It has been a wild upbringing for the Northern Territory, and unfortunately the use and misuse of alcohol has been a part of that for many years.

It is fair to say it is unlike any other jurisdiction in the nation. That struck me as soon as I moved to the Territory 20 years ago. Some of it was in good fun, having the social beer after footy training, or two larrikin mates fining each other a carton when something went wrong at work. If you had a minor mishap there were cartons to be paid. There was also the heavy-drinking mentality of the mining sector, influential FIFO workers and others with highly disposable incomes. There were high levels of drinking associated with that.

The high-level social problems, which we have concentrated on over the last few days in this Chamber, are unlike any other state or territory I have visited before, and it probably hardens us. We take it almost for granted once you have been in the Territory for a while. Some of those long-standing problems are just the way things are.

Over the last few years things have changed a lot in the Territory. I will go into the reasons for that in a minute. When we began campaigning as a team, every member was getting the feedback that enough was enough and that we need to do something about it. For people who have lived here for some time it is easy to take it for granted, but even those people recognise that things have changed for the worse. Even if this one action will not fix all our problems, it is a step in the right direction.

The problem we face is a long-standing tradition in the Territory. It is intricately woven into the history of the Territory, perhaps because of its very warm climate and very wild past. There are a number of reasons that contribute to it. We understand the pain caused to the community over recent years and seek to put sustainable, long-term plans on the table to tackle the issues and problems we face now, but we will also improve things in the future. In the longer term we will concentrate on education changing some of our long-held myths and habits around alcohol use and abuse.

In the previous administration there was a theory that cuts to services, restrictions, monitoring and auditing programs were unrelated to an increase in the problem. Most Territorians found it unbelievable that complaints about increases in alcohol-related crimes and antisocial behaviour from the previous administration were made without comprehension that they had helped create it.

Telling people to p-off back to their country, thinking that would solve the problem, is where we found ourselves in 2017, trying to rectify some of those problems.

We are embarking on a strategy and we are a long way behind the eight ball. We acknowledge that. We have listened to the public. It has been repeated to us from every level of society. We will continue to listen to the public. We will debate the best way forward and then make some of the tough decisions to set things in the right direction.

At times it will seem like we are turning the *Titanic* around using plastic paddles, the job in front of us is that big. But it will not stop us from our direction. We will make those decisions and set the journey, understanding that we may need to adjust our course along the way. We have no problem with listening to the public and adjusting our course.

One of the most startling approaches I can remember in 2016 during the campaign was another candidate in Port Darwin trying to make some mischief—I pricked my ears up, being the other candidate—purporting that if elected, a Labor government would introduce lock-out laws for pubs and clubs across the Territory. This highlighted to me a couple of things in particular. There is no doubt the CBD was hurting following a range of cuts to various social and support services and mechanisms that had been enacted by the previous administration. The Banned Drinker Register was removed with nothing to take its place.

To be honest, I acknowledge the few on the other side of the Chamber who have now recognised that it was a huge mistake. There is no doubt that we have lost so much ground over the last few years and it is a long way back. But we will start on that journey and keep headed in the right direction, adjusting as we need to along the way. We recognise that the mandatory alcohol treatment program was like a host of other programs introduced by the previous administration, which our government is now trying to rectify, as it was poorly considered and rushed in its inception.

For the previous administration to blatantly suggest during the campaign that Labor would introduce lock-out laws highlighted to me a number of things. Those members did not understand the connection between our candidates and how intricately we were conversing with the public so that we had a very good understanding of what the problems were. They did not understand the problems with alcohol in communities, because that was not one of the things people were screaming about. They were screaming about a number of things, but it was not about lock-out times. It had never been discussed by the Labor opposition or this Labor government. It was never on our radar.

That highlighted to me that there were some games being played, mischief made and cheap political points being scored, but also that the problems which were created by the amount of takeaway alcohol consumed had not been recognised at all by the previous administration.

This government has not introduced lock-out laws but has listened to the community and is taking strong action to try to curb alcohol-related problems through the community. Problems drinkers are a massive concern through all walks of life in the Territory. There is no doubt about that.

With the number of takeaway outlets through the CBD, there would always have been a high likelihood of problem drinkers making their way into Darwin. That is what has happened over a period of time. It has been discussed in the House over the last few days. The Member for Barkly highlighted that the extra presence of police drove some of the problem drinkers from their home towns, up the track to Darwin. I have witnessed some of the antisocial behaviour that has been created by this. There is no doubt that the crime related to alcohol issues were very well reported in the first six months of our tenure. As much as people knew things would improve through the Dry Season, the community had been extremely clear with us that they had had enough and it was time for some change.

I take the opportunity to congratulate the Minister for Health, her team and the department for the mountain of work they have done. It has been an extensive body of work. We are a small jurisdiction as far as being able to change things as quickly as we want. There is a mountain of change happening through the Northern Territory. At times I understand it is frustrating that those changes cannot happen as quickly as we would all like to see. But they need to be well-thought-out, well-documented, well-regulated and well-legislated, and that is the path we are on.

Long-term Darwin residents and businesspeople recognise that the people who were in town and living rough were not traditionally from the Darwin CBD. They knew those people were from communities and other areas throughout the Territory. There were a range of reasons they had found themselves in Darwin and why they could not get back to their communities. We recognised that very early in the piece and have repeatedly heard those comments from members of the community and from Darwin businesspeople, who were at the forefront of some of the antisocial behaviour.

There was a convoy of people who made their way to Darwin from the regions and communities around the Territory, but not only from the Territory, from closely aligned communities across our borders as well. We simply cannot regulate every alcohol outlet in the greater Darwin region. It is not possible.

Some of the people who have come to Darwin under those circumstances, it would be fair to say, do not have a connection with the people or the community in and around Darwin if this is not their home. This can lead to greater than normal antisocial behaviour, and in Darwin and Palmerston that was the case. We were facing a raft of problems from the moment we came to government last year.

This led our government to invest extra funding and focus on the Return to Country Program and other programs that will help people who have found themselves in this situation for a range of reasons. It might be people who have come in for health treatment. Their flights might be booked for early in the morning and they might have some shopping to do or family to visit. There is a range of reasons that people do not make their flights or other transport back to their homelands and communities. We need to recognise that people sometimes get stuck in Darwin and once they are, sometimes that leads to ancillary problems.

As a government, we have put extra focus and funding into the Return to Country Program, but also into support services. We have to make sure people have every opportunity to get back to their communities.

Some long-term Territorians are of the opinion that the time has come for discussions on regulated alcohol access in some communities. That may not be something I subscribe to, but it may be a conversation we need to have in future. There are some communities doing it very successfully, but some communities would not tolerate that. We need to be mindful of that and cognisant of the impacts of any changes in the communities we are having these discussions in. We need to ensure we involve families and elders from those communities because they will feel the brunt of these changes. They are the people who understand their communities, and it would be ridiculous of us to think anything else.

The number one thing we need to do is stem the flow of the unfettered access to alcohol to problem drinkers. We can make this as hard or as easy as we want. There is no doubt there will be tough decisions to make and tough times ahead. In its essence, that is the problem we are dealing with; people are not checked at all. If they are, it is by staff at outlets who take it upon themselves, sometimes to great risk, to check people's ability to cope with more alcohol.

Some may argue and some across the other side of the Chamber have argued that this may cause a host of ancillary effects, and to be honest, it may have some other detrimental effects, we will not know, but what we do know is that we cannot stop that from making us head down this path.

We have to head down this path; we have to put in every regulation we can to stop problem drinkers from having easy access to alcohol, and if that creates other problems then we will adjust our strategy along the way. This is the first step that needs to be taken, the first step that we promised to Territorians we would take, and we are taking that commitment.

Some of the stats around alcohol abuse are startling and mindboggling. They are a stark reminder of why we need to make these considered decisions. While alcohol is a major part of many Territorians' social and recreational lives, we have to acknowledge that the rates of alcohol-related harm, violence and crime in the Territory far outstrip the national averages and have to be addressed.

Over 50% of all assaults are alcohol related and up to 65% of domestic and family violence incidents are alcohol related. This means nearly 12 000 domestic violence incidents per year. That is unacceptable.

A total of 40% of road fatalities involve illegal blood alcohol levels. I do not think there is anyone in the House who has not been touched, at some stage, by a road fatality. If there is anything we can do to curb that statistic and the devastating effect that our road toll has on all Territorians, then it is up to us as the decision-makers to try to make sure that does not happen, as 40% of road fatalities involving illegal blood alcohol levels is a devastating statistic.

That results in around 1000 emergency department presentations that are alcohol related each year. The strain this puts on our entire society is measureable, but it is immeasurable when you try to take into the account the impact it has on health and support services right through the Territory.

Alcohol attributed deaths are double the national rate for non-Aboriginal Territorians and nine to 10 times the national rate for Aboriginal Territorians. Nothing can describe how sad those statistics are. As the previous

speaker mentioned, if the only thing we can do is stand up in this House and support this legislation, then I encourage everybody to do so.

These figures are unbelievable and unacceptable, and that is why we are taking this action to try to minimise the harm that alcohol abuse causes right through the Territory.

This government has made significant commitments through Budget 2017–18, with \$15m for the Department of Health for therapeutic pathways, a BDR registrar, clinicians and an additional \$1.7m for the Attorney-General's department to reactivate the BDR systems.

As with everything, you have to pay something forward. There is a substantial cost involved in re-enacting these systems that were wrongfully removed by the previous administration. We have to admit that this is where the Territory has to head and we need to invest that money. We have invested the time and the work that needed to be done to make sure we get this legislation right. We will vote on that later today in this House.

With the BDR being scrapped without having anything to put in its place, alcohol-related harm spiked at that time. The previous administration then rushed through the ineffective and costly system of alcohol mandatory treatment. I acknowledge some of the defence of that system from the other side of the House over the last couple of days, but it was, by all admissions, an ineffective and rushed body of work, as were a lot of the previous bodies of work. We have promised Territorians that we would stop that failed AMT and that we would bring back the BDR. We are living up to our election commitments.

The BDR will operate across the Territory from 1 September. It will block problem drinkers from buying takeaway alcohol and will assist to redirect them into rehabilitation.

Mission Australia has been selected through an independent open-style tender process as the preferred provider of a facility at Berrimah. That will include a 40-bed sobering-up shelter, residential rehabilitation services, and specialist alcohol assessment and withdrawal services.

From this government's perspective, we are not just enacting some swipe cards into alcohol outlets. It is a much deeper suite of changes, and there is much more emphasis being put on support and rehabilitation services that every Territorian will be able to access if they need to.

We are entitled to feel safe and enjoy a safe and vibrant community. There is no better example of rebuilding a vibrant community than the work that I have had the pleasure of being involved in over recent months with the Minister for Tourism and Culture and the Chief Minister. For example, A Night in the Mall, which has been a resounding success. That is a great example of how to remove antisocial behaviour by activating spaces, not just through punitive measures.

Antisocial behaviour on the Esplanade has been a concern that people have brought up with me since 2016, when I began speaking to people about the trouble the Territory was in and how we would be able to work our way out of it. If there is anybody in the House who has been by the new playground on the Esplanade—if you have not had the opportunity yet, I urge you to when we leave the Chamber tonight. There will be lights on and families playing there at 8 pm tonight. There is no antisocial behaviour around there anymore because it is filled with fun, light, activity and families. I commend the council for making the brave decision to put that playground there.

A big part of the Territory is the heat that we endure. That space being well lit at night so families can enjoy it at that time is a fantastic addition to helping remove some of the antisocial behaviour along that strip of the Esplanade. These types of measures will continue to improve and revitalise our spaces around the CBD. Improvements must be in conjunction with the right regulations and legislations and support systems. As a government, we are doing our best to tick all those boxes.

The government also funds a range of therapeutic services to assist with alcohol and other drug misuse across the Northern Territory. There will be a suite of changes to support the BDR and support people affected by alcohol and other drugs. There is a variety of community-based supports available, as well as residential rehab facilities through Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine.

Every member of our team has received huge support from the public as far back as the 2016 campaign. That does not mean we believe the BDR alone will solve the Territory's alcohol problem. We are not naive. We know that is not the case, but we also know it is a major step in the right direction. The problems with alcohol throughout the Northern Territory run much deeper than this one isolated piece of legislation.

However, the BDR's return on 1 September will be a significant step in the right direction. It will be a combined range of legislative and social improvements that will eventually make inroads into this type of generational problem. We have a long way to go. We have a long history of fighting alcohol abuse and its associated harm. I believe we have the right team in this Chamber to tackle those problems. We are hoping, with some goodwill from across the Chamber, that we will get this legislation through to ensure the BDR is up and running on 1 September.

From 1 September more than 1000 problem drinkers will be automatically included on the BDR. This will increase by up to 500 a month in the initial stages. I understand we had some problems with the old BDR system just before the previous government scrapped it. It was almost at a stage where it could not have coped with additions to the register. That is why it has been a costly and time-consuming exercise to ensure we have the right infrastructure in place to cope with the number of people who will, unfortunately, make their way onto the register over the coming months and years.

People can be included on the BDR from September if they have any combination of three alcohol-related protective custodies or alcohol infringements in two years, they commit two low-range drink-driving offences in three years, commit a single mid- or high-range drink-driving offence, if they are the defendant in an alcohol-related domestic violence order or they have an alcohol prohibition condition or a court order, bail or parole order. They will be placed on the BDR if referred by an authorised person such as a doctor, nurse, child protection worker or family member.

There are a number of ways people will find their way onto the Banned Drinker Register. Some will be immediate. Some may be on there for a short time and some may be on there for a long time. The harms caused by these people have been at the forefront of the decisions made by this government since we came into this House. I have witnessed shop staff having to make a decision on somebody's ability to cope with more alcohol. It puts these people in a terrible position to have those confronting discussions. They have to ask how much the customer has had that day and if they are okay to cope with more, and then they deal with the range of events if the customer is denied alcohol. It is often confrontational for these staff. They are welcoming this legislation because they have another level of support and layer of protection in their battle at the front line.

The Territory Labor government will also waive the fee for a few forms of ID in preparation for the return of the Banned Drinker Register next month. Birth certificates and evidence of age cards will be waived from 21 August so Territorians can prepare ...

Ms MOSS: A point of order, Madam Speaker! Pursuant to Standing Order 43, I seek an extension of time for the member.

Motion agreed to.

Mr KIRBY: This government has recognised that some people may not have identification cards, which may cause problems in the early stages. We are doing all that we can. The cost of birth certificates and evidence of age cards will be waived to ensure that all Territorians can be prepared for the BDR in September.

It will make our communities safer by blocking problem drinkers from buying takeaway alcohol and redirecting them to appropriate treatment and rehabilitation. We understand it will not solve all our problems.

The BDR will return on 1 September, and all Territorians and visiting tourists will need to show an approved form of ID to buy takeaway alcohol. I have no doubt there will be some pushback by members of the community. We heard it last time the BDR was introduced. Some people said they should not have to show identification. 'I have never had a problem with my drinking. It is not my problem. Why should I have to?' I am sure everyone in this House understands the broader problems we are up against. Realistically, while you have your wallet out to pay for the takeaway alcohol, to present your ID to prove you are a fit and able person and can deal responsibly with alcohol is a very small price to pay when you look at the cost and the devastating effects of alcohol misuse across the Territory.

There are some in the Territory, including senior Territorians I have had discussions with, who admit there are some people in the Territory who do not get to learn from their parents how to drink responsibly. It is not as common as you might think. My parents were not big drinkers. They enjoyed a red wine with dinner or a social beer after sport, but they taught me to drink responsibly. Unfortunately some views of our community members are related to misuse and abuse, either of alcohol or of other people. Some people, unfortunately, do not get to learn otherwise throughout their upbringing like a lot of us in this House have.

The Minister for Education spoke about the importance of education and schooling in all these approaches. I have had the pleasure of visiting schools with the minister and listening to her passion in explaining to children the importance of getting to school every day. If we can weave that into every fabric of our society throughout the Northern Territory, some of these learnings will become a part of nature for people and they will understand the appropriate uses of alcohol and a host of other issues throughout society.

A Labor government first introduced the BDR in the Territory. Police describe it as the best tool they had for tackling alcohol-related crime, violence and antisocial behaviour. Police are looking forward to making sure this comes back in. Any tool they have to deal with some of the horrific problems and issues they see caused by alcohol abuse—they will gladly have another avenue to deal with some of those issues.

The Territory Labor government promised Territorians to bring back the BDR and scrap the AMT, and that is exactly what we are doing. Acceptable forms of ID for the BDR include Australian and most international driver's licences, evidence of age cards, Australian and most international passports, NT Ochre Cards and Australia Post Keypass cards. There are a range of ways for people to show they are fit and proper people who can be trusted to use alcohol wisely.

We understand some people may have lost their ID, and that is why we are offering some free services. We will put a six-month waiver on birth certificates, including name changes, from the NT office of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and evidence of age cards from the MVR. Scanning of IDs will start in six regional communities as early as next week to make sure the scanning devices work properly.

I am looking forward to the inception of the BDR and having it remain in place this time to fulfil developments and opportunities, and to ensure there will be benefits for Territorians. We are fulfilling some of our earliest campaign commitments prior to coming into government. We will continue to address the challenges and changes we need to make along the way. It would be naive to expect we will get it right at the first attempt. There will be more to do. The Chief Minister has been very clear in his explanation that we will head down this road and make any adjustments along the way.

This alone will not solve all of our problems, as we know, but it will go a long way towards improving many lives across the Northern Territory.

One of the things that has struck me from the start of these discussions and detailed conversations we have all had is that people point out that this may create secondary problems. Maybe it will create people trying to access it, either through black markets, secondary points of supply or some of the cash markets that have been explained in the House. The BDR will have the ability, if those people are caught, to deal with that. If people are looking towards other access to alcohol or other drugs that are illegal, they have to be dealt with by police. We cannot use fear of what may happen to stop us from heading down this path.

The other thing that has struck me in all the debates we have had, but more so in the conversations I have had with people and leaders in community—if not the BDR, then what next? What is the next biggest piece of artillery in our arsenal to try to help this problem? That is where we run into trouble. There are no solutions or suggestions from people about what we can easily do to fix this problem. People have recognised that it has to start with the BDR and that whilst it may not solve all of our problems, it will go a long way. It will be a fantastic start down that line. We have some generational and long-standing alcohol-related problems through the Northern Territory.

I commend the leadership of Michael Gunner and the government for having the courage to head down this line, for saying very early in the piece that this would be an election commitment and for following through with that as quickly as we possibly could.

I reiterate what I mentioned earlier about the hard work that has been put in by the department, the Minister for Health and all the hard-working staff in her office. The frenetic pace they were running at, at times, with some of the key legislation they were working on makes me extremely proud to be a part of the team. I am also proud to see how proficient those people are in making sure the legislation is right.

I urge all members to support the reintroduction of this very important initiative, and I reiterate the comments over the last few days by members in the House that this is one of the most important pieces of legislation we will introduce this year.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Minister for Health for her fantastic work, and I am very proud to commend the bill to the House.

Ms MOSS (Environment and Natural Resources): Madam Speaker, I commend the Member for Port Darwin for his important words on this. I support the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill, brought forward by my colleague, the Minister for Health. Like other members of our team, I applaud the minister, her team and the Department of Health for what is an immense amount of work in bringing this about in the first year of the Territory Labor government, fulfilling a key commitment we made to Territorians. Equally, I commend my government colleagues for continuing to advocate for this important measure in combating alcohol harm in the community.

This is about building healthy, safe and vibrant communities. It goes to the heart of many of the pillars of our government. It goes to the heart of putting children at the centre, restoring trust and doing what we said we would, building strong and safe communities across the Northern Territory.

It is well known that alcohol harm costs our community \$642m a year, according to a report by Menzies in 2009. It has been cited by this parliament during this debate, and the number is likely to have changed in that time, but it is one of the best indicators that we have of the cost of the issue in the Northern Territory. How do you measure loss and grief? That is almost impossible to measure, but it is harm caused by alcohol in the Northern Territory.

Like some of my colleagues, such as the Members for Brennan and Arafura, this is a policy area I am familiar with. I do not claim to be a medical expert by any means, but I have worked in the area of health policy and promotion, particularly with young people. I recall, very strongly, a stat we used to talk about in our workshops; if the NT were a country it would be the second highest in the world in alcohol consumption. That is appalling.

Another report from Menzies in 2009 stated that we consume about 15 litres per capita of pure alcohol per year. One of our esteemed publications at the time celebrated that fact. I remember discussing that when it looked like it was decreasing. There was a push in the community to get people into the pubs to make sure we did not lose our spot. The Member for Sanderson touched on this; we need to assess the way we talk about alcohol in the community and the messages we put out about our relationship with alcohol.

Alcohol is an issue that is damaging our families every day, and it is causing irreparable harm in our communities. We have high rates of suicide in the Territory, and the Minister for Health and the Member for Karama are working hard on the strategy to address that. We have shameful levels of domestic and family violence in the Northern Territory. I commend the Minister for Territory Families and the Member for Katherine for their incredible work on that issue.

I understand that 65% of domestic violence incidents involve alcohol in some way. Many Territory children are in care or at the attention of the Department of Territory Families, and alcohol is often a factor. This issue requires our full attention.

When I discussed the issue of antisocial behaviour on Friday with the Member for Blain and Brad, the Director of the CLP, I said that I hope this receives broad parliamentary support, because addressing the issue of alcohol in the community is one of the best tools that we have in addressing many other issues. This is a key component of that.

In 2014 the issue of alcohol harm to our children became such that a select committee in the 12th Assembly of this parliament was established for the preventable disability of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. I acknowledge that a number of members of the 13th Assembly were on that committee.

FASD can be incredibly difficult to diagnose, and this issue continues to be seen in families and schools across the Northern Territory. We have to struggle with a generation of children who have been damaged by alcohol use. That is across the Northern Territory. We have to address that as a government and as a community. These are issues we need to deal with.

Let us be clear and responsible, as my colleagues have been, in stating that there is no silver bullet to addressing this issue. The Opposition Leader has used this term, as I have in the past: no one is under any illusions about this. If there was one program that would solve this issue overnight, we would not still be talking about it in parliament today. It would not still be one of the biggest issues in the Northern Territory.

Another thing we need to be clear about is that alcohol remains the substance of greatest concern in the Northern Territory. It is not an illicit substance; it is alcohol. It is important that we work together on this issue and that we continue to put pressure on in any way we can, as a government, while also working with the non-government sector and the community.

Reducing supply is only one part of the equation. Harm minimisation takes a range of measures in reducing supply, harm and demand. Each one of us in the community, businesses and non-government organisations has the ability to make a difference in one or many of those areas.

Alcohol is a community issue and it requires a community response. However, the Banned Drinker Register has been recognised repeatedly as a powerful tool for police in addressing alcohol harm in terms of the duties they are tasked with. It is a tool that can potentially assist us collectively with the burden on our emergency services and on Territory families.

One thing I have learned from working this area is that police will tell you that the stats show one thing about how much of their work involves alcohol in some way—what is recorded in the system—but it is much higher than that. You might have a break-in that is recorded as a break in, but a number of break-ins happen because of wanting to get grog. That is the reality. Our police are dealing with this issue all the time, as are our hospitals and families.

I am pleased to have heard the broad support for this bill. The Leader of the Opposition made the point about the importance of evaluation. It must not have had much clout in the former CLP government, as they scrapped it without doing that important work.

Mr Higgins: That is very outspoken. You were not around at the time, like a lot of other people in here.

Ms MOSS: The former CLP government did not evaluate the Banned Drinker Register before it was scrapped. I pick up on the interjection. It was never done, and that is the point that I am making, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Higgins: What have you done with fracking? What have you done to replace those jobs?

Madam SPEAKER: Order, Member for Daly!

Ms MOSS: I pick up on the interjection. We are talking about the important issue of alcohol harm in the community—and we are talking about election commitments. I am very proud to stand here today while the Minister for Health, the Attorney-General, delivers legislation that will put in place one of major election commitments that we made to Territorians, because we deliver on our commitments.

Mr Higgins: And so did we.

Ms MOSS: We will implement evidence based-policy. If you want to talk about evaluation, we will continue to measure its effectiveness to make sure we continue to act in the best interests of Territorians, which we did not see for four years, particularly in this area of policy. It is unfortunate this was based on politics rather than evidence.

As the Minister for Territory Families stated, the CLP government left in its wake a policy vacuum. Knowing that alcohol can be a factor in domestic and family violence, and knowing that alcohol misuse is a factor in many child protection contacts in the justice system, the CLP left a policy vacuum.

This government can be proud that it made and kept the commitment to Territorians that we would not do that, but they would see the policy and have confidence in the implementation before it was replaced by another, and we would not do 180s for the sake of it and without a plan. We are talking about people's lives.

I want to reflect on what the Member for Blain raised, the former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, who played a key role in dismantling the BDR the first time round. The former CLP government kept a commitment; it scrapped the Banned Drinker Register based on politics.

Given the importance of the issue the Member for Blain raised, I was disappointed that he did not provide a greater contribution. He is correct; we have to deal with the reasons people drink—the demand reduction part of harm minimisation. I encourage the Member for Blain, as I would every member of this parliament, to continue to talk to people in the community about their experiences and to then feed this back into what is an evidence-based policy. That is our job.

I appreciate what the Member for Blain was saying yesterday. I did not hear additional solutions, but I encourage every member of this House to be a part of—as the Member for Stuart said, as we refine this policy we will find opportunities to improve it. That is part of being a mature government; you refine as you learn more and evaluate. I encourage people to continue to work with government on ensuring this works.

There is a plethora of reasons people drink at harmful levels, and a number of them have already been discussed during this debate such as the example your family sets, the attitude of the community, thrill-seeking, risk-taking and self-medicating, which is something people have spoken about in great detail.

It is important to state again that the BDR does not, nor should it, operate in isolation of other measures or supports, and that this government does not act alone in this space. We are a government which respects the voice of the non-government sector and its role in meaningful policy debate and development. There is a lot of work yet to be done in a range of areas. Valuing that relationship is incredibly important to alcohol policy and health policies being effective.

The People's Alcohol Action Coalition and the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education noted the importance of the re-establishment of the Banned Drinker Register, including ID scanning, as a key part of their 2016 election platforms to members of this Assembly.

We must continue to see the broader issues, the importance of ensuring there is good mental health support across the Territory when it is needed; that we are addressing the issue of homelessness and are creating safe communities; that we are supporting meaningful jobs and education opportunities in urban, regional and remote areas; that we are supporting positive activities that encourage healthy lifestyles, like the arts and sport. The answers do not only lie in a health or justice response. They lie in healthy, vibrant communities where people are able to have choice and control over their lives, and have healthy relationships.

The Member for Barkly is working on the most ambitious housing program in the history of the Northern Territory. It is a \$1.1bn housing program. Page 32 of the Evaluation of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Program notes the challenges of waiting lists for housing. The Member for Barkly has a huge job ahead of him. Housing underpins solutions to many of the issues we face as a community. It is vital to providing health support to Territorians who need it, whether it is mental health or chronic illness support. Housing is a key factor. The work the Member for Barkly is doing is more important than most people appreciate. It is an underpinning factor to so much of what we are doing.

We often speak in a deficit model when speaking about this issue. We need to start looking at what our communities already have and how we can continue to build on the strengths of our communities, because there are so many. We can support our communities to build and nurture their strengths.

The Member for Port Darwin spoke about Live Darwin and Live Alice Springs; I have spoken a lot about sports and culture across the Northern Territory. While it is hard to incorporate into a conversation about alcohol, we are talking about a strong, vibrant community. That is how we will address some of the broader issues we experience.

In my electorate of Casuarina in the northern suburbs, like many of my colleagues who represent northern suburbs seats, alcohol harm is something we see all the time in our parks and outside shops. I have spoken about it in this House over the entirety of my term, particularly last Wet Season when a lot of people were drinking in public places and there was a lot of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. We were talking about how many people were visiting town. People were coming here for access to alcohol.

We need a Territory-wide measure. We need to stop creating policies about us and them. We need our approach to be Territory-wide and ensure that we address this problem. It is occurring everywhere, behind the four walls of people's homes and in our streets, and the harm is at an outrageous level in the Northern Territory.

I distinctly remember having a conversation in Casuarina with a gentleman who had not supported the BDR the first time around when it was implemented by the former Labor government. He stressed to me that he supported its return. What he once thought as an inconvenience, showing your ID and having it scanned, however minor—he realised that the benefit for the community was enormous. He saw what happened when the BDR was scrapped. That is something I hear anecdotally around my community all the time. People noticed what happened when the BDR was scrapped.

This is something that will be welcomed in my community. As the Member for Wanguri—my electoral neighbour—mentioned, it provided a tool for those who work in our bottle shops and outlets to assist them in the refusal of alcohol where they know they should be refusing people. They are familiar with the problem drinkers.

Before the BDR was scrapped alcohol was restricted for around 2500 people who were on the register. That is significant. There was another fact the Minister for Health pointed to in her second reading speech:

Over 16 400 sales to problem drinkers were declined in the first year of operation.

This is a significant statement when we are talking about addressing the supply side of alcohol harm.

Importantly, an individual can receive a banned drinker order in a number of ways: being involved as a defendant in a domestic violence order where the police issue was alcohol-related; being charged for an alcohol-related offence if the penalty for that offence is imprisonment for six months or more; or being taken into protective custody three times within two years. We know there will be around 1000 people on the Banned Drinker Register when that is implemented.

The minister spoke about a number of other ways in which an individual might be on the Banned Drinker Register. I will focus this morning on the strengthening of provisions relating to secondary supply.

Secondary supply is where another individual purchases on behalf of or supplies alcohol to another individual. I commend the minister and the department for strengthening action in this area. It is an ongoing concern. It does not only exist when the Banned Drinker Register is in place. The more we can do to address secondary supply the better. There are now penalties, including entry onto the register for having reasonably known you were providing alcohol to someone who was on the Banned Drinker Register.

I would like to speak about the policy implemented by the former government that eventually replaced the Banned Drinker Register. I support the comment made by a number of my colleagues that forced treatment when an individual is not thinking about change is ineffective. It is mentioned in the evaluation that people were often receiving that treatment when they were in the pre-contemplative stage of behaviour change. It is a real challenge. Like the Minister for Territory Families, I believe it would be entirely wrong to continue with that kind of policy knowing, that it is ineffective.

I do not proclaim to be an expert but one of the first debates I had in this House was about alcohol mandatory treatment. I spent a lot of time trying to find that debate this morning in the *Hansard*. My main question to the then Minister for Health was about what the measure of success was for alcohol mandatory treatment. I was so troubled that there was no satisfactory response to that. That was in November 2014. The alcohol mandatory treatment program had been in place since July 2013, so it was almost 18 months.

I have the quote here. At that time there were only a few case studies available, but the follow-up on those case studies was minimal. The Member for Araluen, the then Minister for Health, said:

We do not have all the empirical evidence the lovely new member for Casuarina ...

Thank you very much:

... very clearly articulated in her speech. She will be very disappointed this afternoon that I do not answer all her carefully crafted questions around the empirical data she expects from this program.

After 18 months I was really shocked at how dismissive I felt that was, and how the government at the time did not necessarily know what it was measuring. A number of us have come from community services or worked in health services. I was shocked, particularly given some of the criticism that had come from the former government members, when they were in opposition, about the BDR. It was a very interesting time and an interesting debate for me.

I know the ethical side of it was raised and debated. That was an ongoing debate. As I came into contact with community services and health workers nationally, this policy was raised with me not only in regard to whether it was effective or not, but about human rights. I had some very interesting conversations with people.

We are talking about a program that costs about \$23m a year. If you add the capital expenditure on top of that, we are probably looking upwards of about \$100m. The results we were getting for that amount of money, compared to what we should be doing in the community to address alcohol harm—I can appreciate that the Member for Araluen and others are defending this policy, and I expect them to. They were part of a government that implemented this policy. I do not believe for a second that people do not want to do something about this issue. We all acknowledge the harm it causes in the community. But we need to move on to a point whereby we all agree that we need to continue to evaluate and work on something that is effective.

Four years later, the recommendations from the evaluation of that program go to the heart of completely changing the system. That is very telling. There are quotes in the evaluation that are interesting. There were

about six people who talked about their view on health improvement and the alcohol mandatory treatment's long-term impact not being established. They had positive things to say which was great. However, the long-term impact was not established.

I want to talk about a number of things in that document. It is an interesting read. In light of the debate I just referred to, it says on page 78 under Evaluation Limitations:

The short timeframe in which the AMT program was implemented, the fact that the program is possibly the only system like it in the world (as per the literature review), and the changes to the system once implemented presented challenges for evaluation. Without a clearly articulated program logic, baselines for quantitative data and defined anticipated outcomes, it is difficult to measure changes over time ... for people who participated in the program.

That is exactly why I was asking that question as a relatively new member of this House; it is important to know why we are embarking on a policy in the first place. I digress a little.

The therapeutic support for individuals on an order will be available from the issuing of that order, and those on an order for six months or more are encouraged to undergo assessment by a clinician.

The order becomes a trigger with which a therapeutic intervention can be made at a time in the behaviour change cycle that a Territorian might be more likely to actually make a change over the long term. That is not to say anything will be perfect; if you look at the behaviour change model you will see that people will relapse. It happens with things like smoking and a range of other issues. But you need to think about encouraging people to make that change for themselves; it is much more effective.

Those who wish to seek help without being on the register should still be supported to make that change and can request a voluntary assessment. The comprehensive assessment is one of the positives that came out of the Evaluation of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Program. The parts of the alcohol mandatory treatment program that worked, as the Opposition Leader talked about, are not unique to the alcohol mandatory treatment program.

For those on the register, reductions in time of their BDO may be considered when there is a successful completion of therapeutic programs and participation of the available support is undertaken. I am pleased that we will see a 30-bed sobering-up shelter at the Stringybark Centre. I am sure we all agree that greater capacity in our sobering-up shelters is a must, and wraparound services to support Territorians struggling with alcohol use are essential. Twelve beds for withdrawal and a 40-bed treatment facility in the same place will assist in the better management of treatment and therapeutic pathways.

It is positive to see the roll-out and testing of the BDR technology across the Northern Territory, and 1 September will be another major milestone for this government in the implementation of alcohol policy.

Members: Hear, hear!

Ms MOSS: As you can hear, government members are very excited about it. I am looking forward to 1 September and my electorate is welcoming this move. I have been very clear that the government wanted to bring this policy back and that has been very well received. It continues to be one of the greatest conversations that I have at my mobile offices and while doorknocking. People wanted to know when it was coming back.

Mr SIEVERS: A point of order, Madam Speaker! I request an extension of time for the member, pursuant to Standing Order 43.

Motion agreed to.

Ms MOSS: I have so much more to say about this great policy. The review into legislation and policy, led by the Minister for Health continues, and I wholeheartedly support this process.

It is an issue that requires a combined approach. You can look at it from a punitive point of view or from the view of criminalising this behaviour, as I believe the former government did, but I think there is a better way. We will do this the better way, in a way that is hand in hand with the community.

I was pleased over the last week to welcome the Northern Suburbs Liquor Accord, which was finalised last week. I always encourage outlets, retailers and community organisations to look at what they can do now and into the future to address supply harm and demand.

This is not just an issue that government should deal with; we are all members of this community and we all have an obligation to do our bit. That is why I am a supporter of the Northern Suburbs Liquor Accord. There has been one in Darwin city for some time, and over the course of my term I am pleased to have provided support to the development of a similar accord in my electorate, and that has broadened out to incorporate the northern suburbs.

There are a number of aspects to that liquor accord, but one thing that fits in really well with what we have said about the Banned Drinker Register is information-sharing in relation to suspicious purchases or suspected secondary supply. It seems obvious, but the more we can get people talking about these issues the more we can get agreement that it is something that as a community we need to deal with. The better information-sharing we have the better we will be able to target our responses to these sorts of issues.

It is a difficult issue that police need to deal with. There have been concerns about black market sales of alcohol. Having all of us be a part of that conversation, sharing information and addressing these issues, is important to all of us.

I welcome the conversations that I have had with the Members for Sanderson and Brennan regarding the role of alcohol at our junior sports events and how appropriate it is. I welcome that conversation. It happens because government members are active members of their communities, as we all are, and we question the role alcohol plays not only in the antisocial behaviour we see in our electorates, but in the message we are sending our young people—how we are shaping our next generation to address and be equipped for these issues.

The Northern Suburbs Liquor Accord also looks at implementation of crime prevention through environmental design and restricting supply of some types of alcohol. I look forward to monitoring how that works in my electorate. I could not be happier that the Banned Drinker Register is coming back.

Like many others in this Chamber I do not feel good about the fact that when I hold a mobile office on a Saturday morning at 9 am there are people drinking nearby. I am having conversations with people who are keen to have some food and sit and talk, with somebody severely intoxicated at that time in the morning—or they know things are about to kick off. People want help with this issue. This is an important first step.

Alcohol-related harm does not just occur in our streets. It occurs equally, and perhaps more often, behind the four walls of people's homes, in many cases causing irreversible damage to families. We all have an obligation to do something about minimising the harm. I will stand with my colleagues and with the Minister for Health on 1 September. I note again that this is something which will be supported by the operational decisions of police to allow them to make the best decisions relating to the location in which they are serving. That is important. It is about improving lives and strengthening families and communities.

We have so much left to achieve. We are under no illusions. This will not solve the issue overnight. We have a big agenda. That agenda goes to the heart of building strong communities.

I encourage everybody to be part of this discussion. The opposition has talked about taking a bipartisan approach to these issues, and I am glad the opposition supports the Banned Drinker Register, as the former government did not. It was removed before the government had a chance to evaluate it. It is great that the opposition wants to be part of this solution. That is important.

We will not be leaving any more alcohol policy vacuums. There is the family violence framework that the Minister for Territory Families was talking about, and that fits into this. We can look at the strengths of our communities better.

In regard to the broader issue, we need to think about how we are talking about our young people, how we value our young people and recognise that issues like alcohol harm and abuse are not owned by youth; they are issues that impact all demographics of our community. Speaking about the strength of our young people is also important, building their resilience and connecting them with meaningful activities. Even for those who are not engaging in risky behaviour themselves, they are often in homes with people who are. Building their resilience and making sure they are well engaged but safe should be at the forefront of all of our minds.

I have talked at length about this today and will have many more opportunities to do so as I go around my electorate. I hope this passes through today and we will be able to go to our electorates over the weekend and let them know that we care deeply about this issue. We have heard what the community has said to us not just in Casuarina, but in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and everywhere in between.

We need a Territory-wide solution. That is the commitment we made to Territorians and what we are delivering today. That is something we should all be proud of. Regardless of what side of the Chamber you are sitting, be part of this solution. Let us make a difference for families in the Territory.

I am very proud to be part of a government that is delivering on its election commitments and can see this in the broader context it needs to be seen in. I appreciate the contributions of all of the members who have spoken so far. I look forward to hearing more and seeing the passage of this bill in the House.

Madam Speaker, I commend the bill to the House and look forward to further contributions.

Mr COSTA (Arafura): Madam Speaker, bringing back the Banned Drinker Register was a clear campaign promise to all Northern Territory constituents, which meant Territory Labor was serious about fixing the problem of alcohol abuse throughout the entire Northern Territory.

With the election result being what it was, our government has a mandate from the people of the Northern Territory to deliver on our election promise and fix the problem of alcohol abuse in the Northern Territory for all Territorians.

Alcohol abuse is a huge issue in the NT for all Territorians, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. We know too well the harm that alcohol causes families and the enormous cost to people's lives, taxpayers, police, courts, corrections, healthcare providers and hospitals. The cost of alcohol abuse to children, families and women through domestic violence is devastating. It is important to go to the source of the problem: alcohol misuse.

The previous CLP government axed the Banned Drinker Register without any evaluation. In its place it introduced alcohol mandatory treatment, which provided incredibly limited value or results for the enormous investment it made to the program. People who are affected by alcohol abuse want to have the right to participate in treatment; it cannot be forced upon them in a punitive manner. The CLP's failed system treated people like criminals, not as people who had addictions and health issues.

I will talk about the time when I worked on the Tiwi Islands in various roles and committees. For the past 20 years I have witnessed firsthand the effects alcohol has had on the islands and other communities and remote towns of the Northern Territory. I can recall under the Henderson-Lawrie government, when the BDR was first introduced in 2011, we welcomed the policy, as this meant that at a local level we could then develop a more localised plan regarding how we addressed the four communities on Tiwi.

We developed the four skin groups which involved all the clan groups on the islands. There were four skin groups with two or four representatives from each of those skin groups. They would call skin group meetings with the whole group to bring people together so they could talk about alcohol abuse and drug abuse or any other issues that affected their skin group or the communities. That worked well.

We had some fairly strong leaders and elders who participated. I remember one meeting where one family skin group in Nguui, or Wurrumiyanga, had about 80 or 90 in that group. About 70 people turned up because they were sick of the alcohol abuse and the fighting in the community. I think we need to look at local solutions in regard to how we fix issues in communities.

One thing we looked at in relation to working with police was that if someone was banned from the club the family member would talk to the leaders of the skin group and the police, and there would be penalties in place. Just say there was domestic violence fighting; that person can be banned from the club from two weeks to six months or until further notice. That worked. It helped the community have a sense of relief instead of the family being humbugged and that type of thing.

We also put in place alcohol management plans for communities so that people understood what the measures were. As part of that we worked with the local authorities on putting systems in place around the communities and in the clubs. But we found that when a person was banned on the island or in another remote community, that information was not being sent to the towns in the urban or major cities. One thing we looked at was to become more effective in how we communicate with police and clubs on the islands or in remote communities to make sure that was in place. We still have a bit of work to do, but we will get there.

We also looked at referral services, such as CatholicCare and Red Cross, in regard to AOD programs, a role in which one of our members has been before. In the four-and-a-half years I worked in health they were the things we would look at in regard to how we can stem the flow of alcohol into communities or going to other areas.

If there were court orders referred by the police or magistrate, those people would have to do a course in alcohol management. If they wanted to go back to the club or if they lost their licence they had to do a program. When I was working in Health I noticed there was a huge increase in alcohol misuse, especially involving renal disease and diabetes. We tried to set up a pathway in regard to how the referral system worked. A client would come in needing mental help, for instance after coming out of prison, and we tried to send them to different areas so they could get treatment for their issue.

When our government was elected we looked at getting people back to country. I have some figures here. The Members for Blain and Nelson were talking yesterday about countrymen. There were 469 people who returned back to country. The Chief Minister talked about it also. Out of the 469, 129 came from my electorate. I go out and speak to my mob sitting in the parks. It is not only for alcohol that they are here in Darwin. As other members have said, it is for shopping, they get stuck or family is humbugging for money.

We need to look at solutions in regard to how we fix the problem, and we need more educational programs or projects in the community. Like other members here, I am passionate about renal dialysis. I have seen in my community and elsewhere that a lot of our countrymen refuse treatment, which is sad because we do not know what will happen.

Many of my friends have passed on from kidney failure, and I want to work with our minister to try to address that issue so we can try to get dialysis units back on country and in communities where people can have a healthier lifestyle.

That means family can go hunting for them and feed them the proper dietary food, bush tucker. Whereas when they are in Darwin, rent is so high—some of these mob are only on a pension or only have a BasicsCard. They are eating fatty, fried food, the wrong food.

Some of my fathers and my uncles are out at Lake Leanyer and go to dialysis treatment in Nightcliff. As soon as they finish they go back to the long grass and drink. That hurts me because they ring and then I go looking for them and buy them a feed so they get a good feed into them.

Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for reintroducing the BDR bill for Territorians.

Debate suspended.

The Assembly suspended.

VISITORS **Nungalinga College**

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise of the presence in the gallery of students from Nungalinga College, accompanied by their teacher, Annette Anderson.

On behalf of honourable members, welcome to Parliament House. I hope you enjoy your time here.

Members: Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT **International Travel**

Mr VOWLES (Primary Industry and Resources): Madam Speaker, while there is no business before the House, I want to speak about our key platform to restore trust in government by creating an open and transparent government.

One of our key initiatives and policies is to be open and accountable about our international travel. Under the Labor government when we travel overseas, as you will know, before we go we release the full cost of the trip and who is taking the trip. A major part of that policy is that at the following sittings, whoever travels overseas must report back to parliament. That is what I am doing now.

I headed over to the People's Republic of China from 23 to 30 June 2017. It was my first trip to China as the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, and I was supported by my Primary Industry adviser; two senior staff from my department, including my chief executive; and a staff member from the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, who provided much-needed, almost life-saving, Mandarin language support.

People always bag out politicians for their travel, but anyone who has been on a ministerial trip, or any overseas trip as part of delegation, knows that there are very early starts, 4 am most mornings, and late finishes throughout. It was very successful.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my departmental staff for their organisation of this trip and professionalism, and for their above-and-beyond support during the trip. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Lorraine, Alister and Belinda; they are truly dedicated to the Northern Territory.

The purpose of this trip was to confirm existing relations, create new relations, explore investment opportunities and ensure that relevant investors have no doubt that this government is open for business.

I was grateful to receive a comprehensive briefing from Australian Embassy staff in Beijing, including the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and the Austrade staff prior to my first meeting in China. It is so important.

A little side note—one of the embassy staff went to school with Minister Moss in Casuarina. His parents live in Jingili in the fine electorate of Johnston. They have a reasonably good member, which is me.

I was pleased to see the productive relationship and high level interaction between my departmental staff and Commonwealth Government staff in China. They are professional and know what they are doing on these trips.

The main purpose of the trip was to meet with a range of stakeholders in mining and agriculture. I met the following organisations: the China Mining Association, which is working with us to match investment interests with Territory mineral reserves; the China National Nuclear Corporation, which is keen to explore the opportunities for a range of investments in the Territory, including renewable energy and uranium; Sino-Australia Top Beef, a large beef importer, which is keen to expand its business interests to include barramundi, live cattle and mangoes into China; the Shandong Provincial Government; and Rizhao city officials, who have a strong relationship with the Northern Territory and are looking for more trade and investment opportunities to complement their already strong relationships.

Interestingly, the Shandong province has 159 000 square kilometres and 100 million people. The Northern Territory has 1.2 million square kilometres and 245 000 people. We understand our significance, but we are rich in resources in everything else, as the Member for Nelson knows.

I met with the Landbridge Group, which is an important stakeholder with the lease of the port. They are developing the new hotel and are keen to continue investing in the Northern Territory.

I met Dong'e Ejiao, which is the largest ejiao manufacturing business in Shandong province with donkey breeding and processing facilities.

I met with Shanghai CRED, our newest Territory investor, being part of the Hancock Prospecting partner in the Kidman pastoral projects.

The range of follow-up actions, the outcomes of the trip, include a departmental delegation to the China Mining conference in September. We are facilitating introductions between members of the China Mining Association and NT explorers to promote investment discussions. We are refreshing the cooperation framework with China Mining Association to underpin our future work together in the mining, oil and gas sectors.

We are providing information to the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation on uranium deposits in the Northern Territory, commencing work on a memorandum of understanding for future work in the Territory.

Discussions have already been conducted with the Landbridge Australian office about other investments including opportunities presented by this government's priority to establish Katherine as the agribusiness and logistics hub.

Department researchers will attend the first International Symposium on Donkey Science in Shandong province from 15 to 17 August to learn more about the industry and scope research strategies for the Northern Territory.

I have drafted a letter to the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, to highlight the importance of concluding market access negotiations with the People's Republic of China regarding export of donkey products, which I believe is a real opportunity for the Northern Territory.

From this report it can be clearly seen that my first trip to China was a success. There is a lot of work to be done, as all governments know.

ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION BILL (Serial 25)

Continued from earlier this day.

Ms FYLES (Attorney-General and Justice): Madam Speaker, I thank all members for their contributions to this debate, and for their understanding of the necessity to introduce strong measures to make our community safer and significantly reduce the harms of alcohol abuse in the Northern Territory.

The abuse of alcohol, the antisocial behaviour and crime, is the biggest social issue we face in the Northern Territory and, as a parliament, it is a challenge for all of us to work together to put in place measures that protect Territorians and make our community safer.

I believe this legislation is of critical importance to Territorians. To some extent we all see and feel the impact of problem drinkers in our communities, homes, hospitals, prisons and shelters.

We heard from members in the House about the fact that, sadly, we see the abuse of alcohol just a few hundred metres from Parliament House. We see it on a far too regular basis. This government believes all Territorians have the right to feel safe and expect their homes and businesses to be secure. They are entitled to enjoy safe and vibrant cities, towns and communities in Central Australia or here in the tropical Top End.

We are tackling the cause of crime and social dysfunction through a plan to combat alcohol abuse and appropriate rehabilitation strategies.

I thank the Chief Minister for his leadership in supporting me to bring this legislation to the House.

The majority of Territorians do the right thing within our community and they drink responsibly most of the time. We acknowledge that alcohol is a part of our social and recreational lifestyle, but we cannot ignore the cost we all bear because of excessive or irresponsible alcohol consumption in the Territory. The rates of alcohol consumption in the Northern Territory are the highest in the nation and among the highest in the world.

I am a proud Territorian, born and raised here. I am proud of many things in the Northern Territory, but I am not proud of that figure. I am not proud that we have the highest rates of alcohol consumption in Australia and some of the highest rates in the world.

The social cost of alcohol to the Territory is over \$642m per year. That figure is from 2009. That equates to over \$4000 for each adult in the Territory, compared to only \$950 nationally. There is a liquor licence for every 353 adult Territorians. Over 50% of assaults are alcohol related and up to 65% of domestic and family violence incidents are alcohol related. That means nearly 12 000 domestic violence incidents per year.

Forty per cent of road fatalities involve illegal blood alcohol levels. About 1000 emergency department presentations are alcohol related each year, and alcohol-attributable deaths are double the national rate for non-Aboriginal Territorians, and sadly, nine to 10 times the national rate for Aboriginal Territorians.

These figures are unacceptable and we need to take strong action to stop the harm and put an end to these figures. We are doing that today in the Northern Territory parliament. This bill is a demonstration of our commitment to the health-based approach to reducing the social and physical harms of excessive drinking and its impacts on our community, through the Banned Drinker Register.

We came to government last August with the strong commitment to reintroduce the Banned Drinker Register. I am pleased to deliver for Territorians on that commitment. We have carefully reviewed the Banned Drinker

Register from its operations in 2011–12 before it was scrapped by the previous CLP government. We have refined and strengthened it to make this BDR more effective and efficient for Territorians.

In the 14 months of operation, which was not Territory-wide, the BDR declined over 16 500 sales of takeaway alcohol, and 6000 people experienced being on the Banned Drinker Register—16 500 times people who abused alcohol were stopped from purchasing it. At the time the CLP recklessly turned it off, immediately 2500 people who were on the BDR were able to access alcohol again. We saw an immediate increase in alcohol-related harm in the Northern Territory.

The Australian Government's Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs, led by the Liberal Member for Murray handed down a report in June 2015 titled Alcohol, hurting people and harming communities. The report found that alcohol-related hospital emergency admissions rose by 80% in the 14 months following the ending of the BDR in the Northern Territory. Substantial analysis by the National Drug Research Institute has shown there was a reduction in alcohol-related harm in Alice Springs as a result of the BDR. They recommended that the Northern Territory Government reintroduce the Banned Drinker Register and set up a comprehensive data collection and evaluation program which monitors criminal justice, hospital and health data.

That is what the former CLP government failed to do. Reintroducing the Banned Drinker Register is what this government is determined to do. We are doing that through the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill in the House today.

Before I turn to comments that were made during this debate, I thank the many offices in the Department of Health, Attorney-General and Justice, police and the cross-agency steering committee for the months of excellent work they have dedicated to the development, consultation and progress of this legislation.

We cannot underestimate the task that was at hand. Many people have asked me over the last few months where the BDR is and when we are bringing it back. I can assure Territorians that this group of hard-working public servants have been working as hard and efficiently as they can to ensure we get the Banned Drinker Register in place.

I recognise that the job is far from over, as we now continue the roll-out of the BDR, the orders, implementation of therapeutic pathways, and information resources for Territorians. I am sure every member of the House will join me in thanking those hard-working public servants for what they have done to put in place a measure to protect Territorians.

I also thank the businesses and licensees for their participation in the BDR, with the installation of equipment and their upcoming role in refusing sales to people who are on the BDR.

We can all play a part in this, with us passing this legislation today—public servants working on putting the BDR in place and those people who run businesses and serve takeaway alcohol to Territorians. I thank them.

I also thank and sincerely acknowledge the efforts of Parliamentary Counsel for their tireless efforts in drafting this bill.

The debate we have listened to over the last two-and-a-half days has been interesting. There have been a number of very important points of view raised by members. The Chief Minister described our approach as tough but fair. This is the opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of many Territorians in a positive, non-discriminatory way. The BDR is a complementary tool to police and the Chief Minister, as the minister for Police, supports them in the job they do to fight antisocial behaviour and crime every day in communities across the Territory.

The BDR supports police to do their job. The Chief Minister said he is looking forward to the day when alcohol policy legislation and regulation supports public health, community safety and other businesses. We all share that sentiment.

The Deputy Chief Minister reconfirmed the positive difference the BDR will make in improving the lives of Territory children. This is an essential value to our government. It will create the environment that supports children to grow and learn in safe houses and safe communities.

The Member for Drysdale raised how important alcohol harm reduction is in supporting children in getting an education, from helping them to attend school every day and reducing the incidence of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

The Member for Braiting knows too well the undeniable link between alcohol and unacceptable rates of domestic and family violence, as the former director of the women's shelter in Alice Springs.

The Member for Sanderson highlighted that our attitude to alcohol has to change to reduce the harm we face. I wholeheartedly agree with her. She shared a very personal story. I know having her support in bringing this legislation and tackling the issue of alcohol abuse is very important.

The Member for Katherine acknowledged that the suite of programs and therapeutic pathways will provide a long-term, sustainable strategy that will protect Territorians.

The Member for Namatjira raised the benefits of the self-referral for his communities to reduce the risk of elder abuse, domestic violence and being able to tell others that they are not able to purchase alcohol for them.

I have worked closely with the Member for Johnston on this issue across our adjoining electorates. He raised the issue that unlimited access to alcohol for people who have a problem and do not know what to do is an extremely serious concern.

The Member for Fong Lim said the BDR will commence the process of addressing alcohol-related harm in our communities.

The Member for Brennan, someone who is very passionate about this topic, reflected on his experience in the alcohol and other drugs sector, and acknowledged that this strategy is welcomed by the dedicated and hard-working frontline services he knows too well.

The Member for Barkly sees this bill and the supporting therapy pathways as another tool to support housing strategies, public housing safety officers, tenants and police in doing their jobs of keeping our public housing properties safe.

The Member for Arnhem identified the BDR as a fair tool for everyone. It removes the issue of racial profiling when it comes to the purchase of takeaway alcohol. The Member for Stuart reiterated those concerns.

The Member for Karama has found strong community support for the BDR reintroduction, something I have heard about from the community I represent as well as the broader Territory community. She talked about people feeling that it was frustrating to produce their ID when the BDR was in place previously, but that small inconvenience of showing your identification is nothing compared to the drunkenness and public nuisance that those who abuse alcohol cause in our communities.

The Member for Port Darwin supports our view of the big picture to address alcohol abuse and the positive impact this will have on the vibrant CBD of Darwin, part of his beautiful electorate, which he is proud of.

The Member for Casuarina acknowledged the support from key stakeholders to the reintroduction of the BDR.

The Member for Stuart highlighted that reducing alcohol harm will help people to live a healthier lifestyle and that safe drinking is supported, as well as voiced his concerns regarding racial profiling.

The Member for Arafura said local solutions supported with the BDR will result in safer, stronger communities.

I sincerely thank all members of the House who have contributed to the debate on this bill. Concerns were raised by some members regarding some aspects of the bill, which I will now address, but first, I acknowledge and thank the Opposition Leader for his indication of support of the bill.

I also wish to clarify a misunderstanding by the Member for Daly regarding the BDR scanning equipment and reassure him that new machines are being installed in all locations. We have listened to the concerns of stakeholders about needing the best possible technological solutions. This equipment is being rolled out and tested in six regions from 19 August, and we are confident we will be able to work through any technological glitches by the go-live date Territory-wide on 1 September.

In addition, we are rolling out a portable solution for use in the 28 drive-through outlets in the Territory. This came up in consultation. In recent times, since the previous BDR was in place, portable technology for payment has moved forward, and there are portable machines for people to tap and go with their credit cards.

It was important for us when working with and supporting businesses, which are supporting government and community by rolling out this measure, that we provided a portable solution in those 28 drive-through outlets.

This early scanning, from 19 August, will only stop people who are already prohibited from buying alcohol under section 31A(2) of the *Liquor Act*. These are people with court or parole restrictions.

We talk about evidence a lot in this Chamber. It is very important to me and to the Chief Minister. We believe the BDR will make a difference. We can point to comments from police and the support of community, but it is very important that in the final roll-out of the BDR we have a monitoring and evaluation plan. I am pleased to update the House that we are in the final stages of preparing the Banned Drinker Register monitoring and evaluation plan.

The plan has been developed by a cross-agency group and will ensure monitoring of BDR activities is available at the commencement. The plan includes regular updates on the number of individuals on the BDR, declined sales, breaches of bans, assessments for therapeutic supports, undertaking treatment, number of appeals and reductions of bans. The plan includes a short- to medium-term outcome evaluation measure. In addition, a formal independent research grant application is being prepared to the Australian Research Council for an evaluation of the Banned Drinker Register.

The research team, made up of eminent researchers from a range of leading universities will use health, law enforcement, child protection, domestic violence, alcohol consumption, liquor licensing and operational data from the Banned Drinker Register to undertake a quantity review over the four years of the success of the BDR. This data will be gathered through key interviews to consider perceptions of the policy, alternative routes of supply to people on the BDR, the effect of the policy on different segments of the community, displacement of drinkers to other states, and areas of improvement.

The proposal stems from a proposal by FARE and PAAC to build on a current ARC grant being utilised by a similar research team that is evaluating measures introduced in Queensland. It is very important regarding the evaluation and monitoring of this scheme, and we will be sure to provide further information to the House and the community.

Despite claims by the CLP and the Member for Araluen, the alcohol mandatory treatment evaluation did not show that the extremely expensive program was a great success. The AMT program did not achieve what it intended. It was hugely expensive and restrictive. It focused on a certain cohort of people with practices of depriving a person of their liberty for up to three months for treatment and eight days for an assessment process.

A formal evaluation was conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers Indigenous Consulting and was completed in January this year. The report showed that there was a high percentage of clients who cycled in and out of the program. It failed to reach the numbers anticipated, and the cost of the treatment was three times greater than community residential treatment. AMT did not provide the flexibility to address the clients' alcohol abuse and associated harms.

The Member for Daly quoted the statistic of 18% of AMT patients not being subsequently apprehended by police for protective custody as a sign of the AMT's success. That is 40 people. To say this is a direct measure of recovery from alcohol addiction is a quite a stretch of the imagination.

The stats also show that over 50% of patients had more than three further police custodies and 13% had 10 to 15 police custodies after AMT. The evaluators stated, and I will quote:

The evaluation found that participation in the AMT program has no impact on restoring or increasing capacity to make decisions about alcohol use ...

The report concluded that there were some health benefits in the short term while the patients were in AMT. There was, however, no ongoing benefit and no statistically significant difference between AMT people and the comparison group.

Recommendations from the AMT evaluation were taken into consideration for the design of the therapeutic pathways of the BDR; however, we are not introducing any mandatory components to assessment or treatment with this bill.

There is no conclusive evidence that mandatory treatment has long-term benefits to reduce harmful drinking. All evidence supports treatment when a person is in a state of change and are prepared to contemplate and voluntarily act on the behavioural change required. This is world-wide evidence.

I do not doubt the Member for Nelson's passion and commitment to this issue of curbing the abuse of alcohol in the Northern Territory. He raised concerns about the government delivering on our election commitments. Our clear commitment to Territorians was to reintroduce the BDR and cease alcohol mandatory treatment. This was endorsed by the Northern Territory community at the election last year.

In our first few days of government we reassured Territorians this would occur by September 2017. We are delivering on that commitment here today. We are doing so in recognising that the BDR is not a silver bullet. It is one tool in an overall approach to alcohol control, but it is an important one given that 70% of alcohol sold in the Northern Territory is takeaway alcohol.

The alcohol legislation and policies review is considering the big picture of comprehensive alcohol reforms in the Northern Territory. I reassure the Member for Nelson that the BDR is not a punitive approach. There are incentives built into the BDOs to encourage people to actively participate in treatment to reduce their problem drinking.

It encourages people who care about the person who drinks excessively to help them deal with their drinking by reducing their capacity to access alcohol through the BDR. It keeps our communities safer not by locking up problem drunks but by helping these people to stay off alcohol for significant periods of time and have the best opportunity to address their problem-drinking behaviour.

I sincerely thank all members for their comments on the bill. It is an issue we talk about far too often in this House but not without reason.

I will be outlining some consideration in detail amendments, and I have provided those to all members of the House. They are technical amendments. I am always hesitant to move amendments but with such a complex bill we needed to provide them. We have briefed the opposition and Independent members ahead of time. I have spoken to them and we have provided them electronically as well as formally circulating them.

The bill provides a framework for reducing alcohol harms, registering problem drinkers on the Banned Drinker Register and providing pathways for assessment and treatment. The bill establishes a system for the police or the BDR registrar to issue a banned drinker order, prohibiting the person from purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol for a prescribed period of time.

Banned drinker orders, or BDOs, commence at three months and if contravened will escalate to six and 12 months by police or the registrar. Police may make a BDO for an adult in relation to alcohol-related offences if a defendant is on an alcohol-related police domestic violence order, taken into alcohol-related protective custody, given an alcohol-related infringement notice, or a combination for a third time in two years.

The act also empowers alcohol-related prohibition conditions placed by the court and parole board under various acts to take effect in the BDR; for example, domestic violence orders, bail, parole, child protection and family responsibility orders.

The act establishes the BDR registrar to make a BDO for a person who self-refers or for a person referred by family or authorised workers. The BDR registrar may also make income management orders in relation to welfare recipients who are subject to a BDO, a banned drinker order, for 12 months.

The act provides the NTCAT with a jurisdiction to review decisions made under the act as said in Schedule 1 of the act. The act provides that it is an offence to supply alcohol to a person who is on the Banned Drinker Register.

A person who supplies alcohol to a banned person may be charged with an alcohol-related offence and may be issued a BDO by police. On a finding of guilt by the court, the penalty for this offence is up to 20 penalty units, about \$3000, and they are automatically banned from purchasing alcohol for 12 months. This is registered with the Banned Drinker Register.

The *Alcohol Protection Orders Act* will cease and any current APOs will transfer to BDOs. The *Alcohol Protection Orders Act* will cease on 1 September and those people will transfer onto a banned drinker order for the remaining duration. Any person with a current APO will receive a notification that they will now be on the BDR and will continue to be prohibited from alcohol purchase consumption and possession.

Similarly, any person with a current court or parole order with alcohol conditions will receive notification that they are on the BDR effective from 1 September. We expect that approximately 1000 people from these sources will transfer onto the BDR from 1 September.

The Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act 2013 is repealed in its entirety. AMT orders do not continue beyond the commencement of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Act. In making sure people are notified, the registrar will write to people and try to make telephone contact.

We are working to commence the act on 1 September following assent and gazettal, along with the go-live of the Banned Drinker Register by switching on photo ID scanning equipment in all takeaway liquor outlets in the Northern Territory; starting the count of people's triggers for entry onto the BDR; enacting the BDR registrar's powers; and ensuring treatment options are widely available.

To support Territorians, we are ensuring they have acceptable forms of photo identification for the BDR. The government has announced a six-month waiver of fees for birth certificates or change of name records from Births, Deaths and Marriages, and evidence of age cards from the Motor Vehicle Registry. People can have the appropriate documentation access for free and for six months can access that. It will come into effect from Monday 21 August. We have a six-month window, particularly noting the remote context of the Northern Territory, and people can access that paperwork when they next visit town if they live in remote areas.

Therapeutic pathways are an important aspect of the Banned Drinker Register. The banned drinker order provides guidance to seek treatment and successful completion of the recommended treatment can lead to a ban reduction as an incentive.

The BDR makes all levels of therapeutic intervention available to the person to suit their level of readiness to change. The treatment may include alcohol counselling and support; alcohol brief interventions that aim to initiate change in unhealthy or risky behaviour; alcohol motivational interviewing; goal orientated, client-centred counselling for changing behaviours; medically supervised alcohol withdrawal and detoxification from alcohol; intensive alcohol and other drug treatment in a community setting; a structured day program or group therapy; or residential alcohol and other drug treatment.

Other treatment options include mutual aid, for example, the 12-step program, peer mentoring and Recovering Champions. The Stringybark Centre at Berrimah is being repurposed from the alcohol mandatory treatment program. It was established with a capacity of approximately 100 beds, 12 assessment and 78 treatment.

Due to numerous limitations inherent with the AMT model, the service never reached capacity, averaging a maximum 30 clients in treatment. With the BDR model, we are reconfiguring the facility to have 12 to 14 beds for assessment and withdrawal operated by the Top End Health Service clinicians, 32 to 40 beds for the sobering-up shelter, and 40 beds for residential rehabilitation, operated by Mission Australia.

The Darwin sobering-up shelter, which is currently located in Coconut Grove, will move to Berrimah to operate closely with the assessment and treatment centre. Mission Australia is in negotiation with Larrakeyah Nation regarding transport. Co-locations of these services will support early referral and engagement of people with treatment services.

In Alice Springs the Central Australian Health Service is leading a coordinated program of care to support clients through the DASA sobering-up shelter to assessment in town and the withdrawal facility in its current location near the prison. Rehabilitation is available through non-government providers such as DASA and CAAAPU.

No one in this House could doubt our serious commitment to reducing the harms of alcohol and the social costs of alcohol abuse to Territorians. Since coming to government we have imposed a moratorium on new takeaway liquor licences except in exceptional circumstances, such as greenfield sites or new hotels to provide for their clients.

We strengthened legislation in November 2016 to ensure the Sunday trade restrictions remain in place. We limited the floor space for takeaway alcohol stores. We also introduced new guidelines for liquor licensing to allow for public hearings. We were critical of the previous government when it changed the approach from the Licensing Commission to the Director-General. We thought the community's views, which are very important, were cut out.

In addition I have commissioned, with the support of Cabinet and the government Caucus, the comprehensive alcohol policies and legislation review in March and have appointed an expert advisory panel, chaired by former Chief Justice Trevor Riley. The panel has met with communities across the Territory and received over 120 submissions. They are now carefully analysing the vast body of work and evidence before them to know what will work best in the Northern Territory. I look forward to receiving the panel's report and recommendations, and I look forward to the support of those opposite to stop playing politics with the issue of alcohol harm, look at the evidence, and put in place long-term measures to protect Territorians.

We want to have an evidence-based policy initiative to minimise the harms of alcohol to make stronger and safer communities—respecting the right of Territorians to drink responsibly but putting those protections in place.

As mentioned, I will seek leave to move amendments to the bill, as there are some minor administrative errors that have been identified in the final review of the bill by Parliamentary Counsel.

The proposed technical amendments set out in the amendment schedule are to amend clause 10(1)(a) to provide that police may issue a BDO when a person is arrested and charged, or issued with a summons or notice to appear in court.

Currently clause 10(1)(a) of the bill provides that police may issue a BDO when a person is charged with an alcohol-related offence. This would result in a technical process issue and delay the issue of a BDO to a person who is not charged at the time of apprehension but issued with a summons or notice to appear.

The proposed amendment resolves the process issue by providing that police may issue a banned drinker order when a person is arrested and charged or issued with a summons or notice to appear in court. That just clarifies that.

The second amendment I propose is a contravention notice pursuant to the *Liquor Act* in clauses 10(1)(c) (ii) and (iii) and (d).

Mr SIEVERS: A point of order, Madam Speaker! I request an extension of time for the member, pursuant to Standing Order 43.

Motion agreed to.

Ms FYLES: I will start that paragraph again because I am not sure where I was up to. The proposed amendment inserts a contraventions notice under the *Liquor Act* into clauses 10(1)(c) (ii) and (iii) and (d) so that such notices count as a trigger for the issue of a banned drinker order in the same way as an apprehension for an alcohol-related protective custody, or issued as an alcohol-related infringement notice that is three incidents in two years.

Section 101U of the *Liquor Act* provides for the offence of consumption of liquor at a regulated place. This offence is more commonly known as the two-kilometre law, as it provides that alcohol cannot be consumed in a public place, or on private property without the presence of the lawful owner, within two kilometres of licensed premises.

This offence is not an infringement offence and therefore was not included in the definition of an alcohol-related infringement notice in the bill. The only penalty for the offence is the forfeiture of alcohol seized under section 101Y(1)(b).

A contravention notice may be issued under section 101Z where police believe the person has committed an offence under section 101U.

The third committee-stage amendment I will propose is to amend clause 23(2)(a) and (b) to replace the word 'for' with the word 'to' in relation to the period of the extension of the banned drinker order.

The intent of clauses 23 and 24 was to enable the extension of the period of a banned drinker order from three months to six months, and six months to 12 months. But the wording 'for a period of six months' and 'for a period of 12 months' meant the intent is not clear, and it seems to mean an extension to nine months and 18 months. We want to make that clear. It then has a flow-on implication for any further contraventions and extensions of banned orders by police or the BDR registrar.

The final amendment we will make is to enable a BDO issued by police pursuant to 10(1)(a), alcohol-related offence, or (b), police domestic violence order, to be revoked on the basis that the charge for the alcohol-related offence is withdrawn and dismissed, and that there is a finding of no guilt on the offence or the police BDO is revoked.

That seems clear in that the amendment provides clarity of what happens to a police BDO in circumstances in which the alcohol-related offence is withdrawn or dismissed, a finding of no guilt is made by police, or the BDO is revoked or otherwise dealt with by the court. A person subject to a banned drinker order in those circumstances has no mechanism for review by NTCAT or consideration of the banned drinker order when the circumstances leading to the banned drinker order are no longer present.

The proposed amendment enables the banned drinker registrar to revoke the banned drinker order. I have circulated those to members of the House and tried to explain to all members what the consideration in detail amendments were. It is not ideal to have them, but Parliamentary Counsel, in reviewing the final bill, recommended that we make those changes. We need to ensure this important piece of legislation passes in the House and is crystal clear to those who we ask to put it in place.

I sincerely thank everyone for their contributions. We know the impact alcohol has on our community. There have been numerous questions over the last few days, as the bill is before the House. I thank the media for its interest and for sharing the message with Territorians.

As a government, we do not apologise for being tough on those who abuse alcohol. We have long-term plans we want to put in place. We want to help Territory kids to have the best start in life. To put those plans in place—to provide children with a healthy start to life, the best education, employment opportunities, further education and training. We know the harm alcohol causes in our community is unacceptable.

Territorians expect us to do something. They were very critical of the former government, which came in and scrapped the BDR, a measure the community thought was working, and put nothing in its place. We saw the consequences of that across our communities, from Central Australia to the Top End.

We believe the BDR is an important step. It is not just the BDR; it is not just having to show ID to purchase takeaway alcohol. There are a range of therapeutic supports behind that, which I have outlined today in the House. There will be other areas in which we will continue to work. We are looking forward to the alcohol policies and legislation review handing down its findings in a couple of months' time so we can continue to tackle the issue of alcohol, an issue that causes so much harm across our community.

I acknowledge that many Territorians do the right thing; they drink responsibly. It is a small inconvenience to ask them to show identification, but the 10 to 15 seconds it takes to scan your ID is a small inconvenience for the protection this provides our community. When you look at the figures—16 500 transactions were declined under the previous BDR. Thousands of people were unable to purchase alcohol.

In terms of Territorians' privacy, the BDR is very simple: people produce their identification; it is scanned; their records are not kept by those businesses but are linked to a database to say if they are banned or not. A red or green screen will appear and the operator will make the decision to continue with the purchase or not. If someone is on the Banned Drinker Register they are obviously aware they need to engage with the appropriate support. The registrar is there and we also have NTCAT to provide oversight for people.

It is a simple measure. We do not keep people's details. The businesses do not have access to that. The computer network is set up to provide the identification back to the database. Are you on that database at that time of purchase—yes or no? It indicates that to the operator.

Alcohol is an integral part of our social and recreational lifestyle, but I believe this significant measure that we are putting in place today will help protect the Northern Territory community. It is a fair, Territory-wide measure. What we saw from the previous government was measures in place in some communities and other communities with no protection. The BDR is fair, Territory-wide, and everyone has to show identification to purchase alcohol. It does not discriminate.

We are providing people with a pathway so they have the appropriate identification. They simply have to show their driver's licence, evidence of age card, passport or Australian Post Keypass. We are putting in place parameters to help people who do not have identification to gain it. There are education campaigns that continue to run as we roll out this measure in a couple of weeks' time.

I thank the departmental staff and the Parliamentary Counsel staff, who have provided input, and the businesses that have supported us in rolling this out. I have had the opportunity to visit many businesses and retailers across the Territory. They are taking this on, on behalf of Territorians, to help provide protection to our community and to stop the supply of alcohol to those who cause so much harm.

I thank all members for their participation in the debate. It is a debate we will continue to have in this House. I believe this government is moving forward. We are providing a measure today, a point of sale supply, and continuing to work on other measures so we can start to turn around the abuse of alcohol and the horrific numbers we see in relation to the harm that alcohol causes—the amount of alcohol that is sold in the Northern Territory.

Madam Speaker, I commend the bill to the House.

Motion agreed to; bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Assembly has before it the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill 2017 together with the Schedule of Amendments No 4, circulated by the Minister for Health.

Clauses 1 to 6 taken together and agreed to.

Clause 7:

Mr WOOD: Some of my questions will be answered quickly, I am sure. Clause 7(2) says:

A first police BDO is a BDO made by a police officer for an adult at a time when there is no other BDO under Division 2 or 4 in force for the adult.

Division 2 is a BDO in force by police and Division 4 is a BDO in force by the BDR. Division 3 is one where someone has put on themselves. I am wondering why Division 3 is not in there, because it has been self-applied. It is not as though someone has forced someone to do it. If they break their own BDO, would that not be a first police BDO?

Ms FYLES: If they self-refer they can take themselves off at any time, so then you would need to override that with the police audit.

Mr WOOD: I thought it was that a first police BDO is one that police put on a person. In this case the BDO has been put on by themselves. The police might find out that the person has broken their BDO and that would then be their first police BDO.

Ms FYLES: If a person puts themselves on a BDO they can take themselves off at any point, but when police look at the system it will show that they are already on a BDO and that is why you need to have the referral back to the first police BDO.

Mr WOOD: From a practical point of view, a self-referred BDO could be for three months, so if that person breaches it what is the extension? Is it a six-month extension or a three-month extension to that referral?

Ms FYLES: If they have an offence it is their first BDO from the police ...

Mr WOOD: So they will get the three months even if they are on one?

Ms FYLES: Yes. It is a contravention, but it is the first contravention.

Mr WOOD: It just might be that a police officer has to deal with that issue. To me it was not clear.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9:

Mr WOOD: Clause 9(3) says:

A BDO is registered, and comes into force, when the name of the adult for whom it is made, and other relevant details, are entered on the banned drinker register.

I raised this during the briefing.

Just say you are out bush; there is some domestic violence on a Friday night; police issue a DVO. Does that mean, due to the circumstances, that this will not be registered until the next Monday and, in actual practice, that person could still keep drinking over the weekend?

Ms FYLES: Yes, in practicalities it means that. We need to have a system that is workable. Police have other means at their disposal if they feel someone else's behaviour is at that level, and they can provide that assessment.

Mr WOOD: Do you think there is a gap in the legislation? Is there a way you can stop someone drinking late at night, especially in cases of domestic violence?

Ms FYLES: Police have a number of powers they can utilise to stop somebody from harming others or themselves. The BDR is a tool, a point of sale intervention, to stop people who cause so much harm from accessing alcohol for a period of time—three, six or 12 months, or a further period. It is a practical tool. If police feel that someone is drinking on a Friday night and into the Saturday will cause harm to the community, police have a number of other resources they can utilise to help protect someone and the broader community.

Mr WOOD: Someone could leave the community, head into town and legally get alcohol simply because they are not on the BDR at that time. Maybe the government should look at whether it can be improved there.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clause 10:

Ms FYLES: Mr Deputy Speaker, there are proposed technical amendments, as I outlined in my summing up speech, and two of them are in clause 10.

I propose amendment 4.1, at the will of the House, to amend subclause 10(1)(a) to provide that police may issue a BDO when a person is arrested and charged, issued with a summons or notice to appear in court.

Currently clause 10(1)(a) of the bill provides that police may issue a BDO when the person is charged with an alcohol-related offence. This would result in a technical process issue and delay in the issue of the BDO to a person who is not charged at the time of apprehension but issued a summons or notice to appear.

The proposed amendment resolves the process issue by providing that police may issue a banned drinker order when a person is arrested and charged and issued with a summons or notice to appear in court.

Further to that, we need to insert ' , or a contravention notice under the *Liquor Act* ' in clauses 10(1)(c)(ii) and (iii) and (d). The proposed amendments inserts insert ' , or a contravention notice under the *Liquor Act* ' in clauses 10(1)(c)(ii) and (iii) and (d) so that such notices count as a trigger for the issue of a banned drinker order in the same way as an apprehension for alcohol-related protective custody or issued alcohol-related infringement notice that is three incidents in two years.

Section 101U of the *Liquor Act* provides the offence of consumption of liquor at a regulated place. This offence is more commonly known as the two kilometre law, as it provides that alcohol cannot be consumed in a public place or a private property without the presence of the lawful occupier within two kilometres of a licensed premises. The offence is not an infringement offence and therefore was not included in the definition of 'alcohol-related infringement'. The only penalty for the offence is the forfeiture of the alcohol, seized under section 101Y(1)(b). A contravention notice may be issued under section 101Z where police believe the person has committed an offence against section 101U.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now move to amendment 4.2.

Mr WOOD: Your amendment fits in with some of my concerns. Whilst I may be critical, I am mostly on the same page. It is nice to be a team of one sometimes.

My broader question is, why are (c) and (d) separate? Why do we not have persons taken into alcohol protective custody—one, two, three? Why have two sections with two different headings, 'Alcohol-related protective custody', and 'Alcohol-related infringement notice'? Why not be clear and state that if you do this and this then you have a BDO? I am confused.

Ms FYLES: The advice I have is that the drafter provided clarity and certainty.

Mr WOOD: I have heard that perhaps alcohol-related protected custody has to do with paperless arrests. Is that correct?

Ms FYLES: It is protective custody, so there is no offence.

Mr WOOD: I am still not sure where we are going there. I found it difficult to know why that is broken up into two sections. It is difficult to read and tends to be repetitive.

Ms FYLES: An infringement is an offence, and protective custody is not. It breaks it up in that sense.

Mr WOOD: All right. Is protective custody part of the paperless arrests system?

Ms FYLES: No. My understanding is that we had protective custody before we had paperless arrests.

Mr WOOD: You introduce in this next section, ' , or a contravention notice under the *Liquor Act*. Are you referring to section 101U of the *Liquor Act*, 'Consumption of liquor at regulated place'?

Ms FYLES: Correct.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nelson, the Assembly is still in session, so please direct your comments through the Chair. We need to keep order in the House.

Mr WOOD: I apologise. Sometimes you can lose the flow by doing that, but I will do my best. If it is referring to section 101U, why was it not included in clause 10(3)(a), which gives you all the alcohol-related infringement notices?

Ms FYLES: Will you repeat that please?

Mr WOOD: Clause 10(3)(a)—all those sections relate to the alcohol-related infringement notice. The section quotes 101V(1) and 101W. They are both similar and say, 'Consumption of liquor at regulated place causing nuisance', and, 'consumption of liquor at regulated place in designated area'. But for some reason 101U, 'Consumption of liquor at regulated place', the two kilometre rule, was not in that section. Is there a reason for that?

Ms FYLES: It a contravention, not a charge. The other sections are charges, and what we are putting in place is that if you have a contravention, you also go on the banned drinker register.

It is not a charge or infringement; it is a contravention, but you should still go on the banned drinker register. We are making it clear. This is a committee stage amendment, because in the final drafting the drafters' advice was to make it crystal clear: infringement; charge; or contravention.

Mr WOOD: So if I read clause 10(1)(c)(ii), it says:

given an alcohol-related infringement notice ...

Then you have added your little bit, which is:

... or a contravention notice under the Liquor Act.

Why could you not just put 101U under the 'definition of alcohol-related infringement notice'? All those things there, as I read it, are part of that section.

Ms FYLES: I have been advised it is a drafting instruction.

Mr WOOD: When all else fails, blame the drafters.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 and 12 taken together and agreed to.

Clause 13:

Mr WOOD: Clause 13 is the consequence of contravention of first or second BDO. Clause 13(3) says:

If a police officer believes on reasonable grounds that a banned adult has contravened a subsequent police BDO:

(a) the police officer may make a further subsequent police BDO for the adult; and

(b) if the police officer does so, the previous BDO ceases to be in force.

The simple question is, what happens if people keep breaking the BDO?

Ms FYLES: It resets to day one of the 12-month ban.

Mr WOOD: I am probably jumping to another clause, but I need to refer it. Further down where you have secondary supply there is a penalty, the only penalty in this whole document. Why is there not a penalty for people who keep breaking the BDOs?

Ms FYLES: We are not criminalising alcohol addiction.

Mr WOOD: Attorney-General, you are criminalising the person who helps that person.

Ms FYLES: Because the secondary supply of alcohol is an offence.

Mr WOOD: My problem with that is it is not a matter of criminalising them in the sense that you want to turn this into a criminal offence, but if someone is given an order by the police and then given subsequent orders by the police, and if you do not have anything to back that up—who cares?

Ms FYLES: Are you talking about the person who is secondary supplying?

Mr WOOD: I was. That is an example. That is the only one with a penalty. Be that as it may, I thought there is not much point if you do not have some punitive—if you want to use that term—end to someone continually breaking the BDO.

Ms FYLES: Sorry. Income management after 12 months—and then at the two-year mark there is intensive intervention.

Mr WOOD: Most of what I see in the income and intervention et cetera, the word ‘may’ pops up. There is no ‘will’.

Ms FYLES: Again, I come back to the first response I provided you. We are not criminalising people who are alcoholics—not criminalising what is a medical condition.

Clauses 13 to 17 taken together and agreed to.

Clause 18:

Mr WOOD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I need some leeway because 18 runs into 19 and 20.

This section here relates to an assessment. It talks about the people who can apply to the BDR registrar—a police officer, child protection worker, family member, guardian et cetera—but what happens if the person refuses to be assessed?

Ms FYLES: The referral is made by the people listed across to the BDR registrar and the registrar makes a decision on the evidence presented to them.

Mr WOOD: There is nothing in here—for instance clause 24 says:

If, despite taking all reasonable steps, the clinician is unable to assess the adult within a reasonable time:

- (a) the clinician must notify the BDR Registrar accordingly; and*
- (b) the application to which the referral for assessment relates lapses.*

Is there anything that forces that person to be assessed?

Ms FYLES: There is nothing that forces them to engage with the BDR registrar, but if they do they can potentially come off the Banned Drinker Register.

While they do not engage they will be on the BDR. If they choose to engage there is the opportunity for the registrar to assess the information shared with them. If they are on it for a 12-month period they can engage with the registrar and show that they have made amends for their behaviour. The incentive would be to come off the BDR.

Mr WOOD: I understand that, but what we are talking about is the first time, so the person is not yet on a BDO, but a family member, the Public Guardian or a police officer has recommended this person. They might be one of the people I have always been worried about, a drunk, who does not really cause any problem.

They might be a nuisance but are just hanging around drunk all day. They have not committed an offence, so for their own health I agree they should be assessed, which is one of the reasons I supported the AMT. But if someone tells the registrar that we recommend this person be assessed and that person says, 'Go jump in the lake', is there anything to make that person undertake an assessment?

Ms FYLES: Alcohol-attributed deaths are so high and we need to take action. In the case of family and carer referrals the BDR registrar needs sufficient evidence that the referred person meets the criteria for a BDO in accordance with the act.

The family carer referral needs to provide sufficient evidence to support the application from their own experiences and possibly supporting evidence from others involved. The BDR registrar will refer the application to a qualified clinician to commence the assessment process.

The clinician must take all reasonable steps to assess the person and would seek their consent to gather evidence from the considerable services, such as a GP. A person referred through a family or carer pathway is expected to attend assessment wherever possible; however, the clinician can also make the assessment if sufficient evidence is gathered. The assessment will consider how the person's alcohol is impacting on their life and asks if they would benefit from being on the Banned Drinker Register. If the person refuses to give consent or engage with the assessment after a reasonable time, the clinician must notify the BDR registrar and the application lapses. This means the person will not be placed on the BDR.

In the case of authorised person referrals, evidence needs to be provided by the authorised person that the person has an alcohol misuse issue and possesses a risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or others as a result.

This may include case notes, police interaction history, health records et cetera. Does that clarify that?

Mr WOOD: In fact, if that person does not want to be assessed they do not have to be assessed? Is that correct?

Ms FYLES: That is correct because we are treating this as a health issue, not through criminalising alcoholism.

Mr WOOD: I never regarded the AMT as criminalising alcoholism; I regarded it as Good Samaritan work. The difference is, the Cowdy Ward is not full of criminals. It is full of people who need to be looked after.

Ms FYLES: Alcohol mandatory treatment was treated as an offence and people were placed there. If they absconded, it became a criminal offence.

Mr WOOD: I do not agree with that, but we will move on because we could be discussing that for quite a while.

Clauses 18 to 22 taken together and agreed to.

Clause 23:

Ms FYLES: I move amendment 4.3 to clause 23. This amends subclauses 2(a) and (b) in clauses 23 and 24 to replace 'for' with the word 'to' in relation to the period of the extension of the banned drinker order.

The intent—I will explain clauses 23 and 24—was to enable the extension of the period of the banned drinker order from three months to six months and from six to 12 months. But the wording 'for a period of six months' and 'for a period of 12 months' means that this intent is not clear and could effectively mean an extension to nine months and 18 months respectively.

There are flow-on implications for any further contraventions and extension of BDOs by police or the BDR registrar, as I explained in my summing up speech.

Mr WOOD: I am just trying to do my maths here. If I read this as it was—someone is on a three-month BDO then they break it, and they automatically get another six months. So if they have done two months but broken it, they would be doing up to eight months.

Ms FYLES: Sorry, Member for Nelson, I missed the start of your question.

Mr WOOD: I was trying to do the maths, because that is what it seems to be about. A person, who is on a BDO for three months, stays on it for two months and after two months the BDO is broken, so the person gets a second police BDO of six months. Is the total then eight months?

Ms FYLES: Yes, that is correct, Member for Nelson.

Mr WOOD: I read that as it is. That is what made sense to me. I do not blame the drafters; I will leave it at that.

Ms FYLES: It is providing clarity in the legislation so those applying it do not inadvertently put people on for the wrong time period. It might seem a bit silly here and now, but some of the interpretations of legislation and the consequences are interesting.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24:

Ms FYLES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I move amendment 4.4, which enables a banned drinker order issued by police pursuant to 10(1)(a), an alcohol-related offence, or (b), the police DVO to be revoked on the basis that the charge for the alcohol-related offence is withdrawn, dismissed or there is a finding of no guilt of the offence, or that the police DVO is revoked.

This amendment provides clarity as to what happens to a police banned drinker order in circumstances where the alcohol-related offence is withdrawn, dismissed or a finding of guilt is made, or the police DVO is revoked and the BDO is not otherwise dealt with by the court. A person subject to the BDO in those circumstances has no mechanism for review by NTCAT or consideration of the BDO when the circumstances leading to the issue of the BDO are no longer present.

The proposed amendment enables the BDR registrar to revoke the banned drinker order.

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

Ms FYLES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I have been advised that I may have unwittingly caused some confusion, so I will clarify that I am amending clause 24(1)(a) to provide that police may issue a BDO when a person is arrested and charged, issued with a summons or notice to appear in court. Currently, clause 10(1)(a) of the bill provides that police may issue a BDO when a person is charged with an alcohol-related offence. This would result in a technical process issue and delay the BDO to a person who is not charged at the time of apprehension but issued with a summons or notice to appear.

The proposed amendment resolves the process issue by providing that police may issue a BDO when a person is arrested and charged, issued with a summons or notice to appear in court.

I have just corrected amendment 4.4.

Amendment agreed to.

Ms FYLES: I also move amendment 4.5, and that clause 24 of the bill is amended so that in clause 24(1)(d) police may extend a BDO issued by the BDR if the adult is issued a contravention notice under the *Liquor Act*.

The need for the amendment is the same as amendment 4.2, providing for relevant contravention notices that were missed from inclusion in the banned drinker order regime. Sorry to confuse the House.

Amendment agreed to.

Ms FYLES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I move amendment 4.6, that clause 24 of the bill be further amended so that in clause 24(2)(a) and (b) the second reference to the word 'for' is omitted and replaced with the word 'to'.

The need for the amendment is the same as that of amendment 4.3 and the use of the word 'for' makes the period that a BDO is extended unclear and has flow-on implications for the ability of police to make any further extensions on an extended banned drinker order.

The intent of clause 24(2)(a) is to enable the extension of the period of a BDO from three to six months. However, the word 'for' would seem effectively to mean an extension from three to nine months. The intent of clause 24(2)(b) is to enable the extension of the period of a BDO from six months to 12 months. However, the word 'for' would seem effectively to mean an extension from six to 18 months.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 24, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 25:

Ms FYLES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I move amendment 4.7 to clause 25. I move that clause 25 of the bill be amended to replace clause 25(1) and insert a new clause 25(1) including new clauses (c) and (d).

Clause 25(1)(c) provides the BDR registrar with the ability to revoke a BDO under clause 10(1)(a) relating to alcohol-related offences in circumstances where the charge was withdrawn, dismissed or did not proceed.

Clause 24(1)(d) provides the BDR registrar with the ability to revoke a BDO made under clause 10(1)(b) relating to police DVOs in circumstances where the police DVO is revoked. This amendment is needed as currently it is not clear what happens to a police BDO in circumstances where the alcohol-related offence is withdrawn, dismissed or not proceeded with, or a police DVO is revoked and the BDO is not otherwise dealt with by the court.

A person subject to a BDO in those circumstances has no mechanism for review by NTCAT or consideration of the BDO when the circumstances leading to the issue of the BDO are no longer present.

The proposed amendment enables the BDR registrar to revoke the banned drinker order.

Mr WOOD: Mr Deputy Speaker, just for clarification, if we had gone ahead with the existing clause the BDR registrar could have overridden a court order. Section 12 says, 'court orders relating to 'BDO''. The existing clause 25 says the BDR registrar may vary or revoke a BDO if satisfied. The new one says, 'subject to any order made under section 12 the BDO registrar may vary or revoke the BDO if satisfied.' Does that mean that if we left it as it was, technically the BDR registrar could have overridden a court order?

Ms FYLES: No. It is providing clarity that where the charge was withdrawn, dismissed or not proceeded with that they have the ability to revoke the BDO, noting that if for some reason that did not happen NTCAT would not have any jurisdiction. It is providing clarity if any of those three—withdrawn, dismissed or not proceeded with—happens. Remember that the registrar cannot override the court.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 25, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 26 agreed to.

Clause 27:

Mr WOOD: Minister, you talk a lot about no punitive action and having other means to encourage people to go on voluntary alcohol treatment. One of those is income management. Clause 27 says:

The BDR Registrar may make an order that an adult is required to be subject to income management, if the BDR Registrar is satisfied that ...

And (a), (b) and (c) have to be fulfilled. Why is it not 'shall'?

Ms FYLES: Pardon?

Mr WOOD: Why is it not that the BDR 'shall' make an order? I will try to clarify where I am coming from. There is no need to have this in the legislation, because you are saying that the BDR registrar is satisfied that some person fits into—that a BDO will be in force for the adult for a period of 12 months when the income management order comes into force, the adult will benefit from the making of an income management order, and the adult or the adult's partner is an eligible recipient of category H welfare payment under Part 3B of the *Social Security (Administration) Act*.

Surely, if you are putting that in you need to say 'shall', because there is no need to have it. You are telling them that these are the reasons they should have income management, then you are saying, 'Well, maybe not'.

Ms FYLES: There has to be a decision made, so with 'shall' there is no decision—it shall happen. It gives the discretion to look at all those aspects and for them to make a decision.

Mr WOOD: I am saying that there is discretion. You do not even consider this, but if you do consider it and they fulfil all those, then they will be subject to income management. That is the bit I would expect to put a bit of clout into this; otherwise the voluntary still stays voluntary and you do not have anything with which to push people along.

Ms FYLES: Member for Nelson, we are allowing the registrar to make the decision based on the assessments and information they have.

Mr WOOD: I think it is weak as it is; that is all. It could be stronger.

Clauses 27 to 41 taken together and agreed to.

Clause 42:

Mr WOOD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I have a number of questions in relation to this clause. It is a very important part of this bill.

I will start with the clause that I do not understand. Clause 42(1) says:

A person commits an offence if:

- (a) the person intentionally supplies a substance to another person; and*
- (b) the substance is alcohol and the person has knowledge of that circumstance; and*
- (c) the other person is subject to a prohibition mentioned in section 31A(2) of the Liquor Act and the person has knowledge, or ought reasonably to have knowledge, of that circumstance.*

Then it says:

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the person is:*

(a) *an authorised seller mentioned in section 31A of the Liquor Act ...*

Does that mean an authorised seller is excused from intentionally supplying a substance to another person who is on the BDR?

Ms FYLES: I will read the advice I have and you can let me know how you feel about it. The issue of secondary supply has continually been raised. The government has a tough stance on secondary supply. It causes harm and is unacceptable.

We have introduced an offence provision in response to feedback from police, community and local businesses. If a person intentionally supplies a banned person with alcohol and reasonably ought to know they are on the BDR, they are committing an offence. Police can charge the supplier with the alcohol-related offence under clause 10(3)(c), which results in an automatic banned drinker order. If this is a first offence for the banned drinker order, it is for three months.

In addition, clause 42(3) states that if a person is found guilty of the offence of supply by the court, the person is prohibited from purchasing alcohol for 12 months.

There is a penalty of 20 penalty units, which is approximately \$3000 for this offence, which I spoke about in my second reading speech.

The offence of supply of alcohol to a person subject to prohibition requires the prosecution to prove intent to supply a substance; the substance is alcohol, as you have outlined, and the person knows it is alcohol; the person the alcohol is being supplied to is subject to alcohol prohibition; and the first person knows or ought reasonably to have known that the person being supplied is subject to the alcohol prohibition.

In regard to takeaway sales, it is already a penalty in the *Liquor Act*, section 31A, and is followed up in that act. The person goes on to the banned drinker register, and police have provisions to follow up through the *Liquor Act*.

Mr WOOD: Mr Deputy Speaker, that probably answers another question.

Ms FYLES: Can I give you a little more information? Contravention of section 31A(5) is 100 penalty units.

Mr WOOD: As I understand it, this is a clause which does not let someone off. It says if you want to find out where an offence would occur in this case, you would go to the *Liquor Act* to find out.

Ms FYLES: Correct.

Mr WOOD: Am I correct in saying this would also cover if a bottle shop person did not scan a product? Would that also come under the *Liquor Act*?

Ms FYLES: Correct.

Mr WOOD: I raised this question during the debate and I am still interested in how this works. Woolies and Coles are now delivering in the rural area. Someone without a BDO could open an account online, fill in all the forms and pay for their groceries and liquor online. Maybe a few months later they are subject to a BDO, but nobody knows about it. What happens with alcohol delivered from Woolies to a house? Is there any control over it?

Ms FYLES: The Alcohol Harm Reduction Act applies to sales in the Northern Territory, and the sale of alcohol requires a licence. The Banned Drinker Register applies to licences in the Northern Territory, with a condition of allowing sale of takeaway alcohol. The requirement of section 31A of the *Liquor Act* is that the licensee must scan the identification of an individual to determine if there are any alcohol provisions which prevent sale.

If the sale transaction occurs interstate—a telephone or online transaction where a supplier is located interstate—and the transaction is undertaken interstate with alcohol delivered, this act does not apply. The supplier must be licensed to sell alcohol in the jurisdiction where the sale occurs. If the order is placed with a Northern Territory licensee, online or an order telephoned through to a local liquor store, the sale of alcohol by a takeaway licensee cannot occur without approved identification.

Online or telephone sales with home delivery is a developing area of liquor sales nationally, and the alcohol review terms of reference include looking into the modernisation of the *Liquor Act*. This is the type of issue that would be considered. I have personally provided that feedback to the review panel in my meeting with them. I hope I have clarified that in relation to the NT and interstate.

Mr WOOD: I will deal with the online bit first and the interstate section second. Minister, we will introduce this on 1 September. There are people in my electorate—I had better mention Coles so no one thinks there is a conflict of interest between supermarkets. What is the process for a person who lives in the rural area—an older person who does not have a car—to order alcohol online from Woolworths and Coles after 1 September?

Ms FYLES: It is quite complex; online purchasing is an emerging issue. Even though you are doing it through Coles and Woolworths and you feel you are doing it through your local store, the online portal may go interstate and then bounce back to the Territory. It is something we have looked at, and we are developing an online portal, but it is complex because even though a person feels that the transaction for their online groceries may be between them and their local Woolworths, it could bounce interstate.

I provided an explanation of the *Liquor Act* in the Territory, as opposed to interstate. In regard to providing harm reduction measures, the Banned Drinker Register affects 70% of takeaway alcohol sold in the Territory to cut the supply to those people.

Mr WOOD: I understand that, but the law is the law. It is not set up for 70% of the people; it is for 100% of the people buying takeaway alcohol. I am concerned that if the government does not get this section right before it introduces this legislation, companies might be worried they are breaking the law.

There are also private bottle shops or shops that come under a larger chain that advertise home deliveries. This would be a real matter of concern if it is not clarified before 1 September.

I am not trying to be silly, but the reality is many people get their groceries online and you can buy alcohol online. I was hoping that tonight we could make it very clear who is responsible for making sure the law is not broken in these cases.

Ms FYLES: The government's position and the policy we are putting in place by passing this legislation tonight is that a licensee in the Territory cannot make a sale without scanning identification. Online sales complicate things, but I outlined it in my explanation, so I will not go back over that. A Northern Territory licensee cannot make a sale without scanning ID in the BDR.

Mr WOOD: Just say the manager of Woolworths in Coolalinga says, 'I want to see the Attorney-General and ask for advice as to whether my BWS store requires proof of ID for someone buying alcohol from my BWS if we are selling it to the old bloke down the road who has no car. I am worried I am breaking the law and perhaps risking my liquor licence.'

Ms FYLES: The licence is a takeaway licence and they need to comply with that. The BDR applies to specific licences, that is, takeaway licences. They would need to sight and scan the ID to ensure someone is not on the BDR.

Mr WOOD: I am now confused. You said you were not sure in case those orders were made through a southern part, like Woolies down south.

Ms FYLES: I did not mean to create confusion. I was just giving you an example. If the purchase is with a Northern Territory licensee they would need to sight the identification.

I have purchased products thinking they are coming from here, but they actually come from—Apple is a good example. I think I am purchasing it from Apple Australia, but it comes from Singapore.

I was providing that by way of example, but it is clear that with the Northern Territory takeaway liquor licence you need to scan identification, and that is a condition of licence.

Mr WOOD: I am trying to put it so it is in practical terms.

Ms FYLES: We are noting that online liquor sales are emerging and that many people choose to purchase their alcohol that way. We are not simply saying, 'That's it', and turning a blind eye. We are looking at what mechanisms we can put in place to help ensure protection for Territorians is put in place with liquor sales.

I have explained what happens with a Northern Territory licence, and we acknowledge that people making a transaction with an interstate provider—we are looking at what we can do to provide as much protection to Territorians as possible.

Mr WOOD: I will come back to the interstate point. I just want to make sure I understand and that not only the people who buy alcohol, but also the people providing it know clearly what the law is.

You are saying that after 1 September if I did not have a car I would have to get someone else to take me to the bottle shop and show my ID and then I can purchase alcohol.

Unless there is a system which means the truck driver has a scanner, each time people purchase alcohol after 1 September they will physically have to go to the bottle shop. Is that correct?

Ms FYLES: We are looking at options, including the Director-General issuing an instruction that a licensee can enter a person's name onto a system to confirm, but we are looking at those options.

Mr WOOD: I believe the government has an issue here that is cloudy. It needs to be fixed if it can. There are people at risk in relation to whether they are operating within the law.

I will move on to interstate sales, which may also apply to the person taking alcohol to someone's house from Coles. The law is headed, 'offence to supply ...'—it does not say 'sell'—'... alcohol to persons subject to prohibition'.

Ms FYLES: The key term is 'knowingly supply'.

Mr WOOD: I am reading the heading here. It does not say that in the heading. I know it says it further down.

Just say someone buys online from a winery down south and it comes to the local post office or freight company. The parcel rattles and it says 'Fred's Winery' all over it, so it is obviously alcohol. You may have purchased it interstate, but this section does not say 'purchase'; it says 'supply'.

Is the person who delivers that via a truck or the mail—who knows that person has a BDO and knows there is alcohol in that container—liable under this legislation?

Ms FYLES: They would have to know the person is on the BDR.

Mr WOOD: As one of the good members here said, in a small town you know who is on the BDR. In a small post office it is not hard to know. There are some gaps that mean people may unwittingly be caught by this legislation. It does not seem to be clear who is required to make sure a person cannot receive alcohol.

Ms FYLES: The advice I have is that the transport workers would have protection because of the phrase 'knowingly supply'. I am also advised that it would be a matter of secondary supply which would go before the courts. The person would be provided with protection through that process.

It is an unrealistic example, but there is provision through knowingly supplying to someone, and though it is unlikely to occur it would go through the court process and they would be afforded that protection.

We need to target secondary supply in relation to the BDR because we need to turn the tap off to those who cause harm and target those who knowingly supply. We have seen those people operate in our community. I have reported them to police—people who make a lot of money out of people who will be banned from drinking. That is what this element of the legislation addresses.

Mr WOOD: I understand that, but we are going through a technical piece of legislation, and we must cover the areas that could occur.

In most post offices, people get to know people. Word gets around; there is a lot of gossip in post offices.

Ms FYLES: That is the point. Gossip and talk. They have to 'knowingly' know, and then it would go through the court process, and they would be afforded those protections. That is why we have built NTCAT into this, and through the court they are provided protection.

I have responded and provided ample explanation as to why this is worded as it is—in terms of protecting people from the harm of secondary supply and how it would work out in an unlikely circumstance.

Mr WOOD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not agree with what the Attorney-General said, because an important part of this legislation is about who is responsible and liable. But I will move on and let other people decide if that is an issue.

Minster, what happens if scanners break down due to a power failure, or as happened in the rural area a couple of months ago—three times someone stole the copper wire. Does that mean the takeaway sales have to stop?

Ms FYLES: If the power was out then you would assume that sales would stop because the till cannot be opened and the EFTPOS machine will not work. If for some reason the machine was affected, the way the database works is that the machine is updated so it would have information in it to provide that red or green screen. That is the advice I have.

Mr WOOD: The power might be off, but there are ways to get into your till. If those things occurred ...

Ms FYLES: They could also ring through if they ...

Mr WOOD: I cannot imagine that happening at 5 pm. If there is something stopping that system working, does that mean the bottle shop cannot sell grog?

Ms FYLES: The advice I have—technology is failing me right now.

Mr WOOD: That is what could happen at a bottle shop at 5 pm.

Ms FYLES: Hopefully not 5 pm on a Friday. Defence is listed under section 31A—reasonable excuse, and power failure is such.

Mr WOOD: Where do I find that piece of legislation?

Ms FYLES: The *Liquor Act*.

Mr WOOD: Thank heavens for that. Those are all the questions I have.

Clauses 42 to 45 taken together and agreed to.

Clause 46:

Mr WOOD: These will probably be my last words on this subject. It is funny that this bill is called the Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill and we are repealing alcohol mandatory treatment; it seems to be an anomaly. I am disappointed that the government is repealing this and that the minister did not stick with her promise that this bill would be looked at by a committee. That was stated in the *Hansard*.

This would have been the ideal bill to allow people on that committee to look at how the AMT was working and look at the Menzies School of Health Research. We are not just dealing with this part of the bill, the BDR. This bill is repealing two acts; the *Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act* and the *Alcohol Protection Orders Act*. We had very little discussion about the second one, but we had some discussion about the first one. It is disappointing that the government did not take this to a committee as it promised—you only need to look up the *Hansard* from November. I checked it today. I will quote exactly from *Hansard*:

The proposed new parliamentary committees will provide an opportunity for careful consideration in detail of the new legislation by members.

That did not occur. Regardless of my views, the government did not stick to its promise.

There are a couple of other things. I felt that the government had closed this down ...

Ms FYLES: My children have come to visit me.

VISITORS

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, I would like to extend a welcome to the Attorney-General's husband, Paul, and her children, Ollie and Henry.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr WOOD: My criticism is necessary of the BDR. I know when the BDR came in, and at that time I did not support it, simply because it needed a three-year trial. There was nothing to show me it would work but I said I was not opposing it because it needed a trial. It came in and was then scrapped by the CLP, which was a bad move; it was a political move and did not give it time to see if it would work properly.

I overheard people say it did. I say bunkum—not for the short time it was in. It needs more time. I am happy for that to happen. I am not necessarily against what the government is trying to do. If people take this the wrong way then they are not hearing what I am trying to say. If you can try to help people with alcohol addiction, I am in support of it. That does not mean you had to scrap the AMT.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a direct question of the minister? Are you forming the narrative for the question?

Mr WOOD: No, I am putting my case. I am not sure if I get 10 minutes.

I am putting my case as to why it should not be repealed. It is a big clause in the act.

I heard the Member for Barkly say there were plenty of reasons it should be shut down. He mentioned the disastrous management approach to it in Tennant Creek. I agree with the Member for Barkly. It was not the fault of the AMT, though; it was the fault of the people who tried to put it into practice.

Ms FYLES: Mr Deputy Speaker! I ask you to remind the member to ask a direct question. We are in the committee stage.

Mr WOOD: Standing orders do not say that. They say I am allowed 10 minutes on this question, and the question is on the repeal. I am putting forward my reasons why this should not be repealed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member does have 10 minutes as long as questions relate to the bill. Please continue.

Mr WOOD: This is the last time I can put my two bobs' worth about the AMT. The government should have at least said something about the good people that worked there. They have not. I quote from the 2014 estimates when Dr Wright said the following:

One of the most dramatic lessons we learned in implementing this program was just how sick these people were. My assessment is many of the people who were perhaps in their younger days committing offences, going to gaol or being referred to alcohol rehabilitation services, reach a stage where the police do not bother to pick them up and take them to gaol. They do not judge them because they have been doing the same thing for so long and people realise it will not make any difference. Many of the people who enter the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment facility were much sicker and had a much greater demand in health deficit. Most of them had received healthcare only from the emergency department of the hospitals if anything at all.

One of the most dramatic things we have done is run an effective primary healthcare service. During the time people are in assessment they are given acute detoxification therapy and all the things required to safely get them off alcohol. Their health is also comprehensively assessed and we have found people with malignancies, people with untreated cardiac and liver disease, all sorts of issues that, when you start treating people, they feel better, they feel stronger. They look so much better and, up until now, the only mandatory treatment I am familiar with – I was a remote doctor for 22 years before taking on this role – was in gaol. These people were often past the stage where they might end up in gaol. This group are receiving healthcare they would not otherwise receive and they respond to it.

That summarises exactly the reasons you should not have scrapped the AMT. I think you made a bad decision. I understand the AMT had its problems; it was costly and needed some changes. It was young, and anything that is a new program needs assessment and change, if necessary. But you have hit this on the head with a sledgehammer and left people vulnerable who were already vulnerable because this legislation does not have anything in it that will help those people who cannot help themselves.

They will find a way no matter what happens with secondary supply. They will continue to sit in our parks, hide behind trees and bash one another up. There is a time when government needs to help people with some force; you can call it punitive to make it sound as if we are putting people in gaol. We put people in the Cowdy Ward because they cannot help themselves. There are cases interstate where people are put in a place of protection.

It was a good scheme but had poor management in Tennant Creek; no doubt about it. I went down there for a look. I also looked at Katherine. Venndale tried its best. It was a community form of that and was doing what it could.

But when you read what Dr Wright said, someone at the coalface, then you know there was some good coming from that. We have not taken what he said into consideration.

I will not support this legislation because in the bill you have repealed what I am passionate about. I hope the BDR works, but I cannot support it in this legislation.

Ms FYLES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the Member for Nelson's view, but this is a fundamental policy difference. We have an independent evaluation that made 28 recommendations, which we have responded to.

Alcohol mandatory treatment ignored the evidence that treatment for addiction relies on the person's level of motivation and awareness. It cannot succeed through forcing a person into a program, depriving a person of liberty when they are not even aware of their problem or thinking about making any behavioural change. The BDR has a much broader application to the community compared to the AMT program.

Entry to AMT was limited to people who were taken into police custody three times in two months. Many people were excluded, for example, if they had current charges or mental health orders. Who ended up in alcohol mandatory treatment? A highly selective client group: 97% Indigenous; 50% aged 40 years or over; and the majority were welfare recipients who were unemployed; and homelessness was common. They were people drunk in the parks and streets and they were taken away for three months.

The BDR has a much broader eligibility criteria. It is not restricted to people using police protective custody. We all know the alcohol harms in our community are not restricted to Aboriginal Territorians. The BDR is far more inclusive in the system to address all problem drinkers. Go out and speak to the hospital emergency department doctors. Yes, a high percentage are Indigenous, but a high percentage are non-Indigenous Territorians.

The BDR makes available a full spectrum of treatment services to suit the person's needs when they are ready to take the action to best address their problems. This has the best chance to succeed to reduce alcohol harm. It can give people a break for up to 12 months. We have put in extensive resources into providing people with that wraparound treatment, following best practice and best evidence. When people are at their most vulnerable, giving them wraparound support turns their lives around ...

Mr WOOD: We already have that with voluntary ...

Ms FYLES: I have to fundamentally disagree with you. Alcohol mandatory treatment ignored the evidence about addiction, not just evidence in the Territory but around the world.

Member for Nelson, you may have felt that it had some benefit, but I cannot force a person into a program that deprives them of their liberty. That is a fundamental difference ...

Mr WOOD: Even if they die on the street?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms FYLES: It was an election point that was discussed in depth at the election. We are implementing the policies we said we would.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I pay my respects to the Member for Nelson for his comments on alcohol mandatory treatment. What we heard from the Member for Nelson was a truly independent assessment of what happened within alcohol mandatory treatment over the last three years.

I was the minister who introduced the bill, so I do not have that level of objectivity. At the time it was a ground-breaking legislation and initiative that took a lot of courage and effort from a lot of people to get up and running. Because it was unprecedented—there was nothing like it in the world—we took a great number of risks in trying to establish what we thought was caring legislation and a way of addressing public drunkenness and helping people who were, as the minister said, the most destitute people in our society.

You can cherry pick what you want out of this evaluation—and the minister has just chosen to do so. You can take bits and pieces out of it that are critical of our alcohol mandatory treatment. But there is also information in this report that shows it did benefit people. Improvement in physical health was one of the main areas this report focused on in regard to what it did for those people who were put into the alcohol mandatory treatment system.

The report said that staff reported the physical health of clients improved dramatically in treatment at the Darwin and Alice Springs mandatory residential treatment centre. Clients received regular medical checks and medication was regularly distributed.

This program, alcohol mandatory treatment, which will be made defunct by this new Labor government in preference to Banned Drinker Register, picked up the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and sick people in our community. Yes, they were homeless; they were Aboriginal; they were completely debilitated by their addiction to alcohol. We were able to provide these people with a place to sober up and make some good decisions in their life.

I feel very proud of that. Other members of the CLP government, which I was a part of at the time, saw it as a punitive measure to get the drunks off the street and out of the way, which was achieved. During the three years that alcohol mandatory treatment was functioning, the streets of Alice Springs and Darwin—I can best speak for Alice Springs—have been almost free of drunk homeless people, which was a major problem before we came to government.

Instead of people sleeping in the streets and around the river in a poor state, they were scooped up. As the minister said, after three protective custodies in two months they were placed in mandatory treatment and given an opportunity to change their life.

What will happen to those people now? What efforts have you made to address what will be an enormous gap in service?

Ms FYLES: The difference between AMT and the BDR is that the BDR, as well as providing a point of sale intervention Territory-wide, and unlike the patchwork approach of the CLP government—we had some measures in some communities, but other communities were left unprotected.

It will be a Territory-wide supply measure that includes therapeutic supports in a non-mandatory approach. With all due respect, the fundamental policy position of difference—we believe in providing that rehabilitation and that therapy in a voluntary way, providing people with interventions at the point of crisis.

The evidence shows that in helping someone overcome their health outcomes—it is at that point of crisis. If they are in hospital and ill, they are more likely to give up smoking. If they are at a point of crisis with alcohol, they are more likely to give it up. It is providing them with every support. Giving them a case worker, engaging with their primary healthcare provider and providing those wraparound supports is the approach.

With all due respect, the AMT report—we have an evaluation that shows very limited outcomes in the year that the report was provided. Only 225 Territorians in the year of the study were able to access AMT at a cost of \$24m per year, plus infrastructure on top of that. In regard to the Banned Drinker Register—I outlined in my summing-up speech as well in my second reading speech that there is \$15.5m for the therapeutic supports with beds, sobering-up shelters and rehabilitation.

It is a fundamental policy difference; we believe people should be there on a voluntary basis with all supports. We do not believe in a mandatory approach.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Many people who are currently taken into alcohol mandatory treatment will not make the decision to access voluntary alcohol services and rehabilitation, and there is plenty of evidence to support

that. What will happen to those people who do not choose to access voluntary alcohol and other drug services, are sick and debilitated, and will not access any services?

One of the outcomes of this report was that it was established that the people who came to alcohol mandatory treatment are homeless and do not access health services. They choose not to access any rehabilitation or alcohol and other drug services. They neglect themselves and tend to die, literally, on the streets.

Ms FYLES: We cannot address homelessness through mandatorily putting someone into alcohol rehabilitation. A very small client group was accepted into AMT, and this is a challenge for this Assembly. The BDR, the supply measure, the therapeutic supports that go with it—tackling the issue of alcohol and its associated harms is a challenge. That is what we are committed to doing through the policy and legislation review, looking into what parameters we can put in place in the Territory.

We acknowledge the efforts of non-government organisations and departmental staff that provided AMT. It was very challenging for them and they provided the best care they could, but it was limited in the sense of the *Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act*. The mandatory nature of the program ignores the evidence of best practice for alcohol addiction around the world.

Mrs LAMBLEY: You are still not answering my question. It seems there will be a gap in services because you are closing alcohol mandatory treatment, and I understand your position on that. What will happen to the people who are now homeless and drunk on the streets of the Northern Territory?

Ms FYLES: They can still be referred to the services that are available; the BDR has therapeutic services if they wish to partake in it.

Mrs LAMBLEY: So, nothing.

What savings will you be making, in dollars, by cutting AMT and introducing the BDR? What are the net savings?

Ms FYLES: Budget 2017–18 was this government's first budget. We provided \$15.5m to the Department of Health to support the BDR for assessment and treatment services including specialists, non-government organisations and health services. We went to the election and made it very clear that we had a different approach to alcohol treatment in the Territory. We have provided that through the budget. There is \$15.5m for the supports to the BDR as well as about \$1.7m—I do not have the exact figure in front of me—for the roll-out of the technology.

We have provided for the BDR in our budget. There has been a change of government and we are putting our policies in place. That is what the bill today is.

Mrs LAMBLEY: I am asking for specifics. You have been very critical over the last three years that the AMT has been functioning at an 'exorbitant cost'. What savings are you making by scrapping it? Territorians and I want to know.

Ms FYLES: With all due respect, I feel that I have answered the question. I will reiterate again.

We were elected and put our budget and policies in place; we have provided a budget to match those policies. We left AMT in place until we were able to pass this legislation in the House. We were very clear about that and did not want what happened before. We had a period of time without any measures.

We are now implementing our policies and we have provided a budget for it. I will not hypothetically look at if we had been implementing a CLP budget. We have moved on and we have delivered Budget 2017–18, which provides support to the BDR as well as therapeutic supports.

Mrs LAMBLEY: How much will it cost to operate the BDR per annum?

Ms FYLES: The figures provided in the budget are \$15.5m to the Department of Health for the supports, and \$1.7m to the Department of Justice for the roll-out of technology.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Why are you not inclined to give a figure to the savings you will make by scrapping AMT? This is possibly a good news story for the government. What is the net savings? If it is costing \$15.5m for the Department of Health to run it and \$1.7m to roll it out, what is the problem with giving me a figure on the savings, or do you just not know? Is that it?

Ms FYLES: With all due respect, we had a change of government. We have put in place our budget and that budget provides for the BDR. I will not hypothetically compare our budget with what a CLP budget would have put in place for 2017–18.

I can assure Territorians that we are putting in place the policy measures we took to the election and we are providing the budget to go with them.

Mrs LAMBLEY: That is very peculiar for a government, and opposition at the time, that continued to criticise the CLP government for spending a lot of money on a program, and you are not willing to identify savings you are making by introducing something else. I find that extraordinary.

The final figure is a total of \$1.7m for the establishment of the Banned Drinker Register. Does that include the machines and all the IT that goes with it?

Perhaps you could explain what the \$1.7m includes from DoJ?

Ms FYLES: The \$1.7m that has gone to the Department of Justice is for the machinery and the administration to support that machinery. That was the budget allocation. We are rolling that out across the Territory. That is the budget allocation that we believe will provide sufficiently for it, and it has been provided for in the budget.

Mrs LAMBLEY: I find that extraordinary. Can you even remember, as someone who was around in 2011 when you set up the BDR Mark I, that it cost \$10m to roll out the BDR? Are you sure that is an accurate figure—\$1.7m? That is a big difference.

Ms FYLES: I would be happy to answer more specifically. I am not sure what the \$10m allocation was for or if there were any therapeutic supports. I can just say what is in the budget, and I have been advised that will be enough to deliver that aspect, and the \$15.5m to the Department of Health is for the therapeutic supports.

Mrs LAMBLEY: From my recollection, the federal government gave the Labor government at the time \$10m to roll out the BDR, and that was spent on establishing what existed in the Territory for that 12-month period.

Ms FYLES: I would have to take that offline. For example NTCAT—in putting in place the Banned Drinker Register there will be a cost. I do not have line item by line item, but what we have provided for in the budget is \$1.7m in additional funding to the Department of Justice to put in place the Banned Drinker technology systems, and \$15.5m to the Department of Health.

I am happy to come back to you with further information on breakdowns. I do not know how to compare the \$10m figure or what it included. I apologise. I am not trying to deliberately hide something from you; I am talking about the figures we put in our budget of \$15.5m to Health and \$1.7m to Justice to deliver the Banned Drinker Register and the therapeutic supports.

Mrs LAMBLEY: How many machines across the Northern Territory were installed for the BDR this time around, and how many were recycled from 2011–12?

Ms FYLES: These are estimates questions. I encourage you to come to estimates ...

Mrs LAMBLEY: I think it is very important that Territorians understand.

Ms FYLES: In terms of the machines, there are 258 takeaway liquor outlets in the Territory. There are a number of sites that are not trading, have closed or the licence might be suspended. The information I have been provided is that there are 192 sites to operate the Banned Drinker Register, and there is a breakdown of where those sites are located in the Territory.

Mrs LAMBLEY: What was the cost per machine you installed in those 192 liquor outlets?

Ms FYLES: I am sorry I do not have a breakdown of the actual cost of the technology.

We audited the equipment. Some of the equipment post-BDR Mark I was left at outlets; some was returned. The department audited that equipment.

We have put new technology in place across the Territory to help businesses and outlets to ensure it can run as quickly as possible. We have since put in place the mobile technology at 28 sites. I do not have the specific costs of the machinery and software.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am mindful that we are talking about the repeal of legislation. I have granted some latitude with some questions. Member for Araluen, do you have any further questions in relation to the repeal of those two pieces of legislation?

Mrs LAMBLEY: Yes.

There has been a reduction of alcohol rehabilitation beds as a result of the scrapping of alcohol mandatory treatment. Can you tell me the net loss of alcohol rehabilitation beds in Alice Springs and Darwin, as two separate figures, please?

Ms FYLES: That is a difficult question to answer. With alcohol mandatory treatment, a number of the beds provided were never used.

There are 270 rehabilitation beds across the Northern Territory for adults and youth; approximately 170 in the Top End and 100 in Central Australia.

As a government, we are providing the facility in Darwin and Central Australia, working with non-government organisations to provide the therapeutic support to people who wish to be rehabilitated.

Mrs LAMBLEY: You said a number of beds were never used. Were those beds funded under AMT? Could you clarify that those beds were physically never used?

Ms FYLES: The beds were never used because the program of alcohol mandatory treatment was too restrictive.

Mrs LAMBLEY: But they were funded beds? Recognised beds?

Ms FYLES: Correct.

Mrs LAMBLEY: How many of those unused beds are included in this count? Are you saying you are not considering those in the count?

Ms FYLES: I have provided you with the number of rehabilitation beds across the Northern Territory.

The average cost under alcohol mandatory treatment was \$57 700 per episode of mandatory treatment for a bed, which is three times the cost of voluntary treatment with a non-government organisation.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Does 270 include the used and unused beds?

Ms FYLES: No. The figure of 270 is how many rehabilitation beds are provided in the Northern Territory, now.

Mrs LAMBLEY: How many beds were used and unused under the alcohol mandatory treatment program?

Ms FYLES: I do not have that figure in front of me, but I do have the average cost of treatment under alcohol mandatory treatment, which was \$57 700, which is significantly more than the non-government sector.

Mrs LAMBLEY: How much does an alcohol mandatory treatment bed now cost the Northern Territory Government?

Ms FYLES: I do not have that information.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Are you contending that \$57 000 is more or less than the current cost of an alcohol rehabilitation bed that you are paying for now?

What point are you making by saying it is \$57 000 for alcohol mandatory treatment if you do not know the cost of an alcohol treatment bed that you are paying for now?

Ms FYLES: I am pointing out that in rehabilitating those Territorians with an alcohol problem we need to work with the non-government sector. The government is providing for therapeutic beds in conjunction with the Banned Drinker Register.

That figure of \$57 000 for AMT is three times the cost to work with the non-government sector. We need to make sure in providing for Territorians that we work with the non-government sector on bed availability for rehabilitation.

We acknowledge that figure is three times the cost of the NGO sector under the AMT.

Mrs LAMBLEY: But if you cannot tell me the price of an alcohol rehabilitation bed now, what proof do you have? The cost of an alcohol rehabilitation bed now could be more than \$57 000. You are telling me you do not know.

Ms FYLES: That is why you commissioned the evaluation, which is where I believe the information I am reading is from.

Mrs LAMBLEY: But the evaluation does not tell me the cost of a bed now. You are saying you do not know what it is. Why do you not know what it is?

Ms FYLES: I did not say I do not know what it is. I said I do not have that information before me now. What we know is that alcohol mandatory treatment costs three times as much as the non-government sector. That is from the report you put in place and commenced.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am mindful that we are slightly digressing. The purpose of consideration in detail is to consider whether we will approve the clauses or if there is an amendment.

Member for Araluen, do you have any further questions in relation to the clause we are talking about?

Mrs LAMBLEY: Yes. When does AMT cease? Has it ceased already or does it cease as of 1 September?

Ms FYLES: Midnight on 31 August.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Does that mean that people taken into protective custody tonight and hitting that three PCOs in two months trigger will be taken into AMT and assessed and put through alcohol mandatory treatment in Alice Springs and Darwin?

Ms FYLES: That is an operational-based question. We made it quite clear as an incoming government that we would not remove any measures. This is something I have been very insistent about with the department. AMT stays in place until midnight 31 August. Then we have to transition people onto the new legislative changes. People need to be transitioned across to the new Banned Drinker Register therapeutic supports.

The AMT is still in place. It was difficult and we do not support it. We have a fundamental policy difference. But, at the same time, we did not want to see what happened under the previous change with no protections left for Territorians.

Mrs LAMBLEY: The question I have is about the transition. If the legislation is still in place, if people are hitting that three protective custody orders trigger in two months today, are you still processing people through the system?

Ms FYLES: The advice I have is yes. Then we will transition them across to the new legislation that will be in place.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Are the tribunals still functioning?

Ms FYLES: Correct. Up until midnight on 31 August.

Mrs LAMBLEY: What exactly will happen to those people who are midway through their alcohol mandatory treatment program? Will they just be put out on the street on 1 September?

Ms FYLES: Absolutely not. There will be a transition. They will go from being mandatory—the legislation will change. It will be voluntary, but they will still be provided with therapeutic supports.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Araluen, do you have any further questions?

Mrs LAMBLEY: No, I do not have any further questions, but I take this opportunity—as it is the end of an era within the Northern Territory Government and the Northern Territory as a whole—to thank all the people who have been part of the alcohol mandatory treatment system.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Araluen, are you asking a question?

Mrs LAMBLEY: Yes, I am. I acknowledge CAAAPU, which has been amazing in providing a high-quality service under very strained and sometimes extraordinary circumstances. CAAAPU was always on board and supportive of alcohol mandatory treatment. Despite what people in this Chamber might think, that is a fact. I really appreciated their support throughout ...

Ms Nelson: Nobody is saying otherwise!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs LAMBLEY: Minister, regarding CAAAPU, there is a lot of infrastructure left on that precinct, a lot of money. About \$1m worth of infrastructure still exists on those grounds, obviously because AMT is still functioning. I would like to know, as would the people of Alice Springs, exactly what you intend to do with all that infrastructure. There were lots of demountables and funds poured into making it quite an attractive precinct. There are meeting rooms, therapy rooms and all sorts of good facilities. What will you do with all those facilities?

Ms FYLES: The advice I have is that the CAAAPU facilities were put in place for a grant and we are seeking legal advice on the ownership status of those resources.

Mr WOOD: Minister, what arrangements do you have for all the good people who work in CAAAPU and at Berrimah? All those wonderful, experienced people—is there any guarantee they will keep their jobs?

Ms FYLES: The Northern Territory Government had a contract with providers and the people working with those contract providers. There is a new contract provider, Mission Australia, which is starting to put in place the BDR therapeutic measures, and it will provide employment to people to run their programs.

We were very clear in the lead-up to the election that AMT was not the policy we would put in place. We have been very consistent in leaving that in place until our measure was ready to go. It is no different to any other change of government in terms of contract provisions. Contracts are in place; contracts finish; new contracts start.

Mrs LAMBLEY: CAAAPU also provides alcohol rehabilitation to people on parole from gaol, which is a kind of mandatory alcohol rehabilitation program, as it is mandatory; they cannot leave and are under strict conditions. Will that continue at CAAAPU under your government?

Ms FYLES: That is correct. If somebody is placed on parole or a court order, that would continue. The courts will still recommend that people participate in programs and that process will still take place.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Ethically, your government must have a great deal of difficulty with people undergoing mandatory treatment on parole in a government-funded facility?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not to allow that question based on you asking for a position which could be of a matter not related to the clauses of the legislation.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Alcohol mandatory treatment is alcohol mandatory treatment ...

Ms FYLES: I am happy to answer the question. People participating in those programs are doing so at their will in honouring what the courts have advised for through-care to reintegrate into the community. There is a clear difference between somebody on an alcohol mandatory treatment pathway, as opposed to somebody who has committed an offence and has been through the court process where they have worked with the court at their will to reintegrate into the community.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Is that still called alcohol mandatory treatment by your government? Is that the same definition?

Ms FYLES: It has never been called that.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Is it not called that even though it effectively is.

Ms FYLES: It is a court ordered treatment to help someone. They have and are doing it at their will to oblige with the orders the court has provided them.

Mrs LAMBLEY: I do not see any difference. Perhaps I could take it on notice that the difference between alcohol mandatory ...

Ms FYLES: One final point. It is very different. Sentenced criminals are very different to criminalising people who have an alcohol abuse problem.

Mrs LAMBLEY: I also thank Karen Sheldon, who has been providing an excellent service at the Stringybark facility. She went from having a catering company to being a provider of alcohol mandatory treatment services, which was quite an amazing step, in 2015.

How many alcohol rehabilitation beds will be operating from Stringybark as of 1 September?

Ms FYLES: It is not straightforward; there is a combination of beds for different services at Stringybark, and I do not have those exact numbers. I think I read them in my summing-up speech, but I have notes everywhere here.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Perhaps while you look for that, could you tell me what the net loss of alcohol rehabilitation beds is at the Stringybark facility? There will presumably be a reduction; what will that be overall?

Ms FYLES: The AMT was established with a capacity of 100 beds: 12 assessment and 78 treatment. Due to numerous limitations inherent with the AMT model the service never reached capacity, and it averaged 30 clients in treatment.

With the BDR model we are reconfiguring the facility to have 12 to 14 assessment and withdrawal beds, operated by Top End Health Service; approximately 40 beds for the sobering-up shelter; and 40 beds for residential rehabilitation. The last two will be operated by Mission Australia.

Mrs LAMBLEY: If there were only 30 AMT beds operating, or being used—is that what you said?

Ms FYLES: The facility was established, as I am sure you well know, with a capacity of 100 beds. That was 78 treatment and 12 assessment. It averaged a maximum of 30 clients in treatment. The bed numbers I just read out to you total 94. So a very similar capacity will be provided.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Can you explain to Territorians why you have decided to co-locate the sobering-up shelter into the Stringybark facility?

Ms FYLES: To provide integration. It is something we have worked on with NGO experts and police. They feel that location services Palmerston, the city area and the northern suburbs. Most people I have spoken to feel this is a good co-location. You can integrate services and it is at ease for police in night patrol who need to take people there. It provides 94 beds of similar related services at the one location.

Mrs LAMBLEY: In regard to the cost of running Stringybark, if you are co-locating that service with 40 residential rehabilitation beds, the cost of running that service could be higher than the current cost of operating AMT, if you say the average occupancy rate of the Stringybark was only 30 beds. Is that correct? What will the operational cost of running Stringybark be, as opposed to what it is now under AMT?

Ms FYLES: I remind the member that that is very much like an estimates question. We are talking about very different facilities now. Physically they are the same, but mandatory treatment had the security aspect to it, which this will not need.

I do not have the specific breakdown figures in front of me, but I have provided you with those bed numbers. I am happy to provide you with the other detail if you need a briefing.

Mrs LAMBLEY: The two assessment centres—there is one within the gaol precinct at Alice Springs, but I cannot remember the name of it. Can you explain how that will be used in the future, from 1 September?

Ms FYLES: The advice I have is that the assessment will be the ED referrals, the voluntary assessments. So that assessment will take place in that same location.

Mrs LAMBLEY: The assessments that take place there now involve people staying there for up to seven days. Will that continue to be the case? And will they be held there voluntarily or mandatorily?

Ms FYLES: The advice I have is voluntarily for up to 10 days. You would know as well as me, Member for Araluen, that it is quite complex when people are detoxing and then rolling into assessment and rehabilitation. Those times are different for each individual client.

Mrs LAMBLEY: If these people are there voluntarily, it will be very difficult for them to just walk out and leave. The logistics of people travelling 30 kilometres out of town to get there and 30 kilometres into town to get back—what provision will there be to enable people to voluntarily leave?

Ms FYLES: It is a voluntary location. People will be provided with every support to stay there and to help them acknowledge their behaviour and be provided with medical and caseworker support. I spoke about that earlier—engaging with their primary health network provider.

You talked about homelessness. We will look at how we can provide them with that support, but it is a voluntary facility. If people choose to leave that facility, they can do so. How they leave that facility will vary for each and every client; I cannot answer that question.

Mrs LAMBLEY: I do not know if you have actually been there, but it is a secure care facility. To get in would involve a considerable effort, and to get out would involve even more of an effort. What efforts will you make to reduce the security of the former secure care unit?

Ms FYLES: The same safeguards that already exist within voluntary withdrawal services as the NT will operate—the two guidelines and one policy available to ensure patient safety during detoxification. These are the voluntary admission to Darwin addiction assessment services guidelines, the voluntary admission to alcohol assessment services policy, and the Darwin alcohol assessment service patient information and voluntary client agreement.

The agreement includes a statement regarding patients who may wish to leave the facility, including leave against medical advice forms. Clinical decisions will be required on an individual basis at the point in which a patient wishes to leave, regarding the maintenance of their safety at the time. This may include prescription medication, referral to external agencies and other options and supports.

Further to that, a person cannot be kept against their will. AOD clinicians and support staff, as you would know, are trained in a range of methods to provide support and encouragement to people. But if they wish to cease their treatment early—it is voluntary treatment.

Mrs LAMBLEY: Will the staffing of that assessment centre in Alice Springs remain the same or will there be a different configuration? Under the AMT legislation that assessment service was run by a highly skilled clinician and a coordinator of services, who are highly paid.

Who will run it and how will it be run?

Ms FYLES: It is operated by the health services, similar with following the appropriate policies and guidelines that are well established in this space.

Mrs LAMBLEY: In Darwin, could you describe how the assessment service will run there? Will it continue out of the Stringybark Centre? Will there be any changes? Will it be increased in size given that you will have a lot more activity at the centre? Or will it remain the same?

Given the numbers you are quoting for the BDR, I assume you will extend the assessment centres in Alice Springs and Darwin. Is that a reasonable assumption?

Ms FYLES: I have already explained some of the pathways and patient safety. Assessment is not confined to withdrawal, as you would know. That is how the provision will be provided.

Mrs LAMBLEY: In terms of what exists now in Darwin—the assessment service within AMT. I am focusing on the transition from one to the other. Will the assessment service in Darwin remain the same or will it change. Will it be bigger or smaller?

Ms FYLES: The assessment services will be provided following clinical guidelines. It will be similar to AMT and how services operate around Australia and around the world. They will be following clinical guidelines in providing those services.

Mrs LAMBLEY: In terms of the two contractors, CAAPU and Karen Sheldon of Stringybark, and the Alice Springs CAAPU AMT centre, when do those contracts conclude? Is there an overlap? Have they finished already? How have these contracts been wound down, or are they in the process of being wound down?

Ms FYLES: That information is commercial in nature. I can assure Territorians we have honoured our commitment of leaving the AMT measure in place until the BDR measure is in place. That transition will take place at midnight on 31 August.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that clause 46 stands as printed.

The Assembly divided.

Ayes 17

Noes 5

Ms Ah Kit
Mr Collins
Mr Costa
Ms Fyles
Mr Gunner
Mr Kirby
Ms Lawler
Mr McCarthy
Mr McConnell
Ms Manison
Ms Moss
Ms Nelson
Mr Sievers
Ms Uibo
Mr Vowles
Ms Wakefield
Mrs Worden

Mr Guyula
Mr Higgins
Mrs Lambley
Mr Mills
Mr Wood

Motion agreed to.

Clause 46 agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the remainder of the bill be taken as a whole.

The Assembly divided.

Ayes 17

Noes 5

Ms Ah Kit
Mr Collins
Mr Costa
Ms Fyles
Mr Gunner
Mr Kirby
Ms Lawler
Mr McCarthy
Mr McConnell
Ms Manison
Ms Moss
Ms Nelson
Mr Sievers
Ms Uibo
Mr Vowles
Ms Wakefield
Mrs Worden

Mr Guyula
Mr Higgins
Mrs Lambley
Mr Mills
Mr Wood

Motion agreed to.

Remainder of the bill taken as a whole and agreed to.

Ms FYLES (Attorney-General and Justice): Mr Deputy Speaker, I move that bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to; bill read a third time.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT Investing in Jobs – Mining and Primary Industry

Mr VOWLES (Primary Industry and Resources): Mr Deputy Speaker, tonight I deliver a statement about the many activities undertaken by this government to support employment in the primary industry and resource sectors across the Northern Territory.

As the minister for these important portfolios, my key focus is to actively foster the development of these industries to create and maintain jobs for Territorians. Jobs are one of this government's key priorities for many reasons. Creating and maintaining jobs provides income for citizens with many economic multiplier impacts across the Territory economy. Jobs are also one of the key platforms to assist this Territory government in its plan to provide vibrant and safe communities and support the development of remote communities.

In my almost one year as minister, one of my key focuses has been to gain an in-depth understanding of these industries, especially their opportunities and concerns. I do not believe in sitting in my office and learning by reading alone. I have complemented my reading by getting out and about across the Territory, talking to and listening to industry and stakeholders. This is so I can see operations firsthand to show this government's interest in business and listen to people on the ground.

I have been across the Territory to visit a diverse range of businesses including McArthur River Mine; Ranger mine; Mount Todd; the Edna Beryl Mine; Ti Tree Melon Farm; Humpty Doo Barramundi farm; Manbulloo mango farm; and Orange Creek Station, south of Alice Springs, which now has a significant agriculture venture.

Primary Industry and Resources is a critical portfolio for the Northern Territory economy. It covers a variety of industries ranging from aquaculture and commercial and recreational fishing to pastoralism and agriculture to mineral exploration, mining and petroleum. These industries are fundamental to the jobs and development across the Territory, particularly in rural and remote areas.

In 2015–16 the Australian Bureau of Statistics put the value of agriculture, forestry and fishing in the Northern Territory at \$582m. For mining and energy in the same period the figure was \$3.046bn, 12.9% of gross state product.

The Territory's recreational fisheries are world-class with healthy, wild fish stocks, pristine aquatic environments and a vast number of popular species abundant. The challenge for the future is to maintain a high-quality fishery while allowing for increased participation, optimising the social and economic values recreational fishing generates. Recreational fishing is an important part of the Northern Territory lifestyle, a major tourism drawcard and a significant contributor to the economy, with wide recognition as a large and growing industry.

This is shown in the phenomenal success of the Million Dollar Fish competition, a glowing endorsement from Territorians and visitors of the value of recreational fishing to our lifestyle and tourism markets.

Seventy per cent of recreational fishing in the Territory occurs in regional areas, where it is often the primary economic and development driver. King Ash Bay in the McArthur River, Daly River, the Roper River and Dundee Beach are examples of communities where recreational fishing underpins development.

Fishing tourism is also providing impetus for regional development, including on Aboriginal land such as the Tiwi Islands, Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt. There is considerable scope for further controlled fishing activity in these areas, as wilderness fishing experiences are a significant attraction for many anglers.

I am pleased to inform the Assembly that this government is honouring its election commitment to spend \$50m in over five years to improve recreational fishing experiences in the Northern Territory. This funding

provides a significant opportunity to improve fishing access and infrastructure, enhance fish stocks and improve the quality of the recreational fishing experience for locals and tourists alike.

In addition, this investment has a broad range of economic benefits that accrue to the Territory, increase tourism and expand recreational fishing from a bloke's pastime to an activity that will be enjoyed by more families. This is through the provision of a range of amenities at our boat ramps, including toilets, and CCTV to increase security while out on the water.

Any increase in the participation rate for recreational fishing has a flow-on economic benefit to local tackle shops, boat dealers, accommodation providers, restaurants, cafes, fishing tour operators and many other businesses.

Today I will provide some information on the progress to date, including jobs that have been created from this initiative and highlighting future employment opportunities.

At the annual general meeting of the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory on 2 April 2017 I announced the first tranche of projects to be delivered from the 2016–17 allocation of \$6m by 30 June 2018. These projects have commenced in earnest, some providing employment opportunities for Territorians in the civil construction industry, while others are providing employment through the engineering and design consulting sectors.

The following projects are well under way: the sealing of the six-kilometre section of the Corroboree Billabong Road; sealing of the car park at the Middle Arm boat ramp; installing an ablution block at the Dinah Beach boat ramp; and completing the upgrade of the Shady Camp boat ramp.

I am pleased to report that the project to install security cameras at the Dinah Beach boat ramp has been completed.

Further employment opportunities will be provided through consultancies, engineering and design activities that will lead to further civil construction works in the coming years.

The projects that are currently going through procurement include consultancies for the design of artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices; undertaking a scoping study to determine design options and costs for the installation of additional land-based fishing platforms in the Darwin region; and resealing the car park of the Channel Island boat ramp.

We are replacing the Manton Dam containment net, investigating the feasibility of dredging a deeper navigation channel at the Nightcliff boat ramp, and upgrading the parking space at the Dundee boat ramp.

I am pleased to inform honourable members that there has been extensive consultation with the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee about the second tranche of projects to be pursued with the \$5m allocated for 2017–18.

The following projects are at a preliminary design phase:

- We are undertaking a feasibility study on a proposal to transfer the boat ramp and access road to the Stuart Tree Fishing Camp to go into government ownership.
- We are establishing a recreational fishing grants program in partnership with AFANT, which we designed for smaller grassroots fishing clubs, Aboriginal communities and other organisations, to provide access and facilities for recreational fishing projects which will likely provide employment opportunities in remote and Indigenous communities.
- We are investing to fully scope the construction of a new ramp near the mouth of the Howard River. We are consulting on the design of a Territory-wide recreational fishing survey, to obtain up to date data on participation rates, catch composition and effort distribution that will inform further development of recreational fishing infrastructure.
- We are commencing consultation and design associated with the upgrades of Daly River car park and boat ramp. We are installing additional CCTV cameras at the boat ramps, investigating the requirements to upgrade the boat ramp and installing a lighting pontoon at King Ash Bay.

Also exciting to consider is the number of jobs that will be created once the planning and design activities are completed, and the significant funding under this commitment comes into full effect over the life of the program including \$10m in 2018–19, \$11m in 2019–20, and \$18m in 2020–21.

There are more than a million good reasons to fish in the NT. It is an experience you cannot get anywhere else in the world, and this government is making it even better.

The Gunner Labor government is proud that the investment of \$50m offers an unprecedented opportunity for this government to provide a lasting legacy that will significantly improve the recreational fishing experience while at the same time increase the sustainability of fishery resources. That is a key outcome to ensure future generations can enjoy the fishing experience we take for granted, as well as bolster our economy and jobs.

This government is undertaking a range of projects to support industry to develop the Tennant Creek region to become a mining and petroleum services and supply centre.

A pipeline licence was granted to Jemena on 26 April 2017, and I attended the opening ceremony last month with the Chief Minister as well as my assistant minister, Jeff Collins. Phase one of construction, which is the development of Phillip Creek compressor station, has commenced.

The construction of 344 kilometres of the pipeline has been approved, of which 244 kilometres is expected to be constructed in 2017. The project remains on schedule for first gas flow in 2018. Construction of the pipeline will create more than 900 jobs during construction, 600 of which will be for locals and offer up to 100 contracts for local businesses worth approximately \$112m.

Jemena will invest over \$2m in local capacity-building initiatives including the small to medium business enterprise growth program; regional employment plan; Tennant Creek business enterprise; and remote community social investment program. Once operational there will be up to six jobs associated with the operation of the gas processing facility and the pipeline located in Tennant Creek.

There are a number of smaller deposits around the Tennant Creek region, which may become economically viable to develop if there is access to a shared milling facility in Tennant Creek. Some large tailings of already extracted materials may be able to be milled if a facility is available in closer proximity to them, plus providing potential economic and environmental benefits. The feasibility study will commence shortly.

Emmerson's Edna Beryl mine is one project that would benefit from a shared milling facility. I am pleased to say that recently I was privileged to open the Edna Beryl mine with the Chief Minister, my assistant minister and the Member for Barkly. This project will see Emmerson extracting high-value ore from this site, the first such project in Tennant Creek for more than a decade.

The Tennant Creek region is home to many former mining sites from when the area was a highly productive gold and copper field. Funds from the 1% mining security levy are being used to undertake a range of projects to address legacy issues. These include the following:

- An inventory of legacy sites in the area, which is close to completion.
- Development of a new tourism trail of former mining areas, which would assist in having tourists remain in the area for a longer period of time. A draft of a proposed stage one of a tourism/mountain bike trail is currently under discussion. We are also looking at developing a new fossicking area close to town in consultation with industry.
- An audit is under way into historical mining activities to determine their impact on sacred sites in the area.

The NT Geological Survey is also undertaking a variety of projects in the region, which will provide up-to-date information about mineral prospectivity in the region. This government has recently signed a new agreement with Geoscience Australia totalling just under \$5m to cooperatively fund a number of projects. These projects include a seismic survey of the Barkly Tablelands totalling \$2.8m to allow the survey to be extended from Queensland into the Territory. Data acquisition is currently under way.

To support and market the sector in the NT, I led the Territory's largest contingent to the Australian oil and gas conference in February and represented the Territory at the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association conference this year.

At these events I met with the major industry players as well as separately met with the board of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

As a demonstration of this government's commitment to openness and transparency, when it was detected that under the previous government's policy funds collected under the 1% security levy paid by mining companies had been deposited into the consolidated holding account, we acted swiftly and decisively and did three things: we moved the \$4.5m deposited into the central consolidated holding account this year into the Accountable Officers Trust Account, thus reserving the funds for their stated purpose; we changed the policy to ensure that funds collected under the levy are either deposited into the AOTA or appropriated to the department; and we committed to developing a policy as to how the AOTA is to operate and its funds expended.

We are currently focusing on finalising a five-year strategic plan for the legacy mines program and utilisation of the levy funds.

The ongoing rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle site continues. Despite previous rehabilitation efforts the site has degraded. A total of \$10.048m was allocated to this project in the 2017 federal budget to complete stage 2.5. This stage will allow for verification works to be completed, which will allow for the optimisation of the preferred rehabilitation strategy and provide for repairs and maintenance works to the waste rock dump cover system.

The pleasing and exciting aspect of this funding is that traditional owners have now been properly involved in discussions and there are significant economic development opportunities for traditional owners and local businesses.

I have also worked with the extractive industries to resolve uncertainty around extractive activities in the Howard Sand Plains. I have been able to resolve a common sense where critical sites of conservation significance have been identified and protected from future activities whilst allowing development in less sensitive areas.

I was pleased to recently open the Gulkula mining and training centre and celebrate the approval of a mine management plan for the Gulkula Mining Company when I attended the Garma Festival earlier this month.

This company, owned by the Gumatj people, will mine bauxite and is the first Aboriginal-owned mining operation on land scheduled under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. The associated training centre will train Aboriginal people in the skills required to participate in the local mining industry and provide real mine operational experience. The first round of trainees will commence this week. This project represents great opportunities for the local community. I congratulate all involved in this initiative and wish all the trainees great success in this program.

With an eye to the future I want to talk about exciting major mining projects being progressed, most of which are currently going through an environmental impact and assessment process.

TNG Limited's Mount Peake iron-vanadium-titanium project has the capacity to create a long-term mine in Central Australia with an estimated capital cost of \$208m, mining 8.4 tonnes per year and producing 1.8 million tonnes of magnetite concentrated refiner with an estimated capital cost of \$647m located in Darwin.

Subject to approval, that will create a significant economic footprint across the length of the Northern Territory, with a total of 1700 jobs estimated during construction and 600 ongoing jobs.

Tellus Holdings is investigating the development of an underground salt mine and waste storage facility at the Chandler project. Subject to approval, the mine will have an expected life beyond 29 years, approximately 350 jobs will be created during the construction phase and approximately 180 jobs during the operational phase, and in addition, 540 indirect jobs during the operational phase.

Arafura Resources Ltd is progressing plans to develop the Nolans Rare Earths Project near Aileron. Subject to approval, Nolans has the potential to supply 10% magnet fee demand for rare earths. The project has a potential mine life of up to 40 years and will create 375 full-time jobs over a three-year construction and 250 during operations.

KGL Resources' proposed \$190m Jervois copper-silver-gold project, about 270 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs, has the potential to create 360 jobs during construction over an 18-month period and 300 ongoing jobs once operational.

Finally, if approved, Verdant Minerals \$750m Ammaroo Phosphate Project, located 180 kilometres southeast of Tennant Creek, could commence construction in late 2018 and become operational in late 2019. During construction it is estimated the workforce will peak around 300 and once operational there will be around 160 direct jobs.

These are significant projects and great examples of why the outlook on the mineral sector is so positive. There is potential for economic and social prosperity for many years to come. That means long-term jobs and strong communities for our children to develop in. We have a premium product in the mineral reserves that we know of and a wealth of potential in exploration to expand this knowledge and identify new reserves. Together we can harness this to expand mutual benefit and deliver ongoing prosperity to Territorians.

Another priority of this government is the development of Katherine as a transport and logistics hub, as this will underpin the development of the Katherine region's agricultural potential. I have almost lost count of the number of times I have been to Katherine in the last 11 months to visit and listen to local businesses and industry stakeholders.

On behalf of this government, I signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Japanese ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in January this year in relation to agriculture and aquaculture projects and coal supply chain infrastructure investment.

A draft master plan is being workshopped with NT Farmers and includes agreed priorities regarding soy bean and asparagus trials, barramundi sashimi testing, information exchanges, an agribusiness infrastructure roadmap, business incubation, farming other local fish species, Tiwi Island aquaculture opportunities, robotics in horticulture, protected cropping, freezing technology and food processing. The potential for our agribusiness industry that could stem from this ground-breaking agreement with a Japanese government is enormous.

We are also currently investing in research trials with donkeys. There is a strong demand for donkeys from China, which has a well-established industry. A preliminary trial for donkey farming will be set up at the Victoria River Research Station in the near future once the parameters around a thorough research plan have been finalised. Investor interest is linked to market demand in China for ejiao, which is a gelatine derived from the donkey skin and is used in Chinese medicines, capsule manufacture, cosmetics and foods.

I have already been to Indonesia and China to promote Territory produce and establish links with government representatives and industry groups. Complimentary to these trips, other important international promotion work being undertaken at the moment includes developing country-specific, three-year investment action plans for minerals and energy. Draft strategies are under preparation for the Chinese, Japanese, South Korean and Indian markets—participating with other states of commonwealth in an international promotion of Australia as an exploration and investment destination of choice under the Australian minerals banner. We are developing and distributing information in the languages of host countries to provide information about the Northern Territory resource investment opportunities and to provide guidance on the regulatory environment for investment.

We are supporting growers and exporters to assist mango exports to the US. The project is funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia. For the 2016 mango season, a departmental officer travelled to the US to monitor Northern Territory and Queensland mangoes in market. This was the first shipment of NT mangoes to the United States. Our focus for mango exports is now shifting to Southeast Asia; however, we have learned a number of valuable lessons through the great work of the US project that will be important and highly applicable in opening markets in Asia.

Honourable members may be aware of this government's commitment to the NT Livestock Exporters Association to provide support and continue improvements in the handling and transport of cattle through live export chains. The intention is to have world-class cattle-handling facilities that are also suitable for buffalo.

The grant of \$4.1m was made to the Livestock Exporters Association last financial year, and the first contracts are in the process of being awarded. All of the steel works including fabrication, galvanising and construction, will be done by Territory businesses.

One of this government's key priorities to ensure there is an improved on-farm impact of government research cannot be achieved unless there are very clear and regular channels of communication with industry, overlaid with good governance practices and target investment. To facilitate this, I was pleased to announce in July a series of grants to industry associations over the coming three years. The grants will total \$1.85m over that period.

The purpose of the strategic grant funding program is to provide support for projects undertaken by industry organisations. These projects will assist the development of self-sustaining industry organisations capable of providing high-quality strategic advice and assistance to government, effective representation for their members in industries, while fostering innovation and enhanced industry development, standards and professionalism. The grants are as follows:

- \$1.55m over the next three years to the NT Farmers Association to support and grow jobs across the NT. The funding will provide three jobs: a workforce planning coordinator to assist the NT horticulture and agriculture industries with on-farm labouring skills development, identified as the single biggest issue for the NT horticulture industry, and to assist business delays with the federal government to secure overseas workers under the Seasonal Worker Program; a mango industry business development officer based in Darwin to assist NT mango growers to develop the mango industry; and a plant industry development officer based in Katherine to work with the industry and government to develop the plant-based industry sector of the Katherine region. This plant industry development officer aligns specifically with this government's commitment to grow Katherine as the major agribusiness hub of the Northern Territory.
- \$140 000 in 2017–18 was awarded to the Northern Territory's Cattlemen's Association to support industry development, innovation, adoption and extension.
- \$110 000 over the next three years was awarded to the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory to strengthen governance arrangements, support stakeholder engagement and deliver the NT Government's \$50m election commitment to recreational fishing infrastructure.
- \$50 000 in 2017–18 was awarded to the NT Seafood Council to strengthen communication and governance arrangements to enhance representation of members and the industry.

I am confident these grants will assist these associations to take important steps in leading the development of these industries into the future.

I have spoken at length about the government's support for the recreational fishing sector. However, it is also important to note that the government supports the sustainable development of commercial fisheries and aquaculture and is doing extensive work to support this. Over the past few years, a significant investment has pursued the development of Project Sea Dragon, a large-scale integrated and land-based prawn aquaculture project on Legune Station near the Northern Territory/Western Australia border.

This project is designed to produce high-quality, year-round, reliable volumes of black tiger prawns for export markets. This prawn farm has been awarded major project status and will, within 10 years, produce \$1.7bn in export revenue, 100 000 tonnes of prawns a year, and create 1000 direct jobs. The Chief Minister's department is leading a whole-of-government task force to assist Seafarms Group with this development proposal.

In close consultation with the industry, I have asked for a review of the commercial fisheries with the objective of minimising red tape, increasing investment certainty and realising the potential of the commercial sector as a food producer. These reviews will result in the implementation of contemporary management tools and arrangements, including sector shares and harvest strategies, to provide greater certainty to operators. This is in addition to recent amendments to the *Fisheries Act*, which simplifies and streamlines the licensing system.

A development permit has been issued to trial the use of fin fish trawl gear in the Timor Reef Fishery with the aim of optimising the harvest levels of red snapper. A special permit has been issued to explore the commercial viability of sea cucumber resources outside of the areas of the current Trepang Fishery. Information generated under the permit will inform future management decisions for the fisheries.

The sea cucumber ranching industry is set to expand with a main company involved, Tasmanian Seafoods, investing in the construction of a new production facility. The company is also close to securing land for the construction of a pond-based facility near Channel Island.

A sea cucumber ranching trial on Goulburn Island is under way in partnership between the Northern Territory Government, Waruwi community, Tasmanian Seafoods and Charles Darwin University. This project is investigating the feasibility of sea cucumber ranching and identifying successful social and economic models for Indigenous participation in the industry.

A small-scale trial into tropical rock oyster culture in partnership with the Tiwi Land Council and the Waruwi community on southern Goulburn Island is also underway. Our governances contract to Charles Darwin University to support a trial rock oyster project on the Tiwi Islands. This project employs an Indigenous technician who has previously been an apprentice with the Northern Territory Government.

A revamped Aboriginal coastal licence is now available in assisting Indigenous coastal communities to develop small-scale fisheries to supply local fresh seafood.

A total of 21 licences have been issued to date, 14 of which are current. This also honours one of our government's under the Blue Mud Bay agreements. One of the first big successes in Maningrida has been established, where a local Indigenous fishing enterprise that employs local and provides affordable fresh and healthy fish for sale in Maningrida.

The icing on the cake is that excess catch is sold to the Darwin fish markets, of which the first shipment arrived in Darwin in June. I had the pleasure of meeting with the licence holders Don, Stuart and Jimmy in Maningrida two weeks ago at the football grand final. They treated me with some beautiful locally caught whiting, barbecued fresh from the ocean. I am visiting Maningrida again at the end of August and have accepted an offer from Don, Stuart and Jimmy to see how they run their operations firsthand.

An Indigenous marine training program has been establish in Nhulunbuy with an Indigenous training coordinator employed to link with the high school and the registered training organisation to facilitate the delivery of the seafood industry, business and marine ranger training to Indigenous Territorians.

A total of 47 students have successfully completed the Certificate II in fishing operations course since March 2016. The course provides nationally accredited training in seafood industry skills. Certificate II in Fishing Operations courses have been held twice in Nhulunbuy, Wadeye and recently Maningrida.

Fisheries staff members regularly visit Indigenous marine ranger groups to carry out extensive activities relating to fisheries compliance, monitoring and research, and engaged marine rangers on a fee-for-service agreement.

Scientific measuring and analysis services are an emerging area for Indigenous marine rangers. Rangers are assisting fisheries to deliver projects in aquaculture, stock monitoring and data collection.

A total of 16 Indigenous ranges have completed their Certificate II in measuring and analyses. The course develops a scientific and technical capacity of the ranger programs, which has led to contract being offered for rangers to conduct a number of fisheries research functions on behalf of the department. This training has led to two rangers being employed as apprentices within the department to assist in our overall research capacity.

Marine ranger groups are all involved in research on snapper and barramundi stock monitoring, mud crab monitoring, sawfish survey and aquaculture projects.

Fisheries staff work closely with the NT Water Police to coordinate activities with Indigenous marine rangers. These activities are designed to increase the capacity of Indigenous rangers to conduct surveillance of the NT coastline.

I have only touched the surface of many of the projects and programs that we, as a government, are delivering to provide support to primary industries and resource industry sectors across the Northern Territory, which create and sustain jobs in this magnificent Territory.

The primary industries and resource sectors are critical to the continuing development of the Territory, particularly in the delivery of meaningful employment. This Territory Labor government recognises the importance of these industries and is supporting initiatives that build on existing strengths and identifying the potential for new opportunities.

Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I move that the statement be noted.

Motion agreed to; statement noted.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms MOSS (Environment and Natural Resources): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr GUYULA (Nhulunbuy): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I am certain that every Territorian who saw the images on the television in July of children at Galiwinku were deeply shocked and concerned to see them climbing onto the wing of an aircraft to get avgas to sniff, and then to hear the reports of the elevated blood lead levels of many of the children in that community.

I speak today as an MLA and also as a Yolngu man. They are my people. I assure you that children are not self-harming like that because they are bored. There are much deeper issues going on for those young ones.

In Yolngu culture, we have very clear learning pathways for our children. As they grow, they are given more knowledge and responsibilities to live in a self-disciplined way that shows respect for all around them—people and nature. Our Yolngu systems are still there. We have not lost them, but with the overlay of a dominant modern culture on our age-old culture, our people and communities are under enormous stress.

The children sniffing avgas cannot be disconnected from having grown up these last 10 years, since the intervention, in an environment where the Indigenous population truly believes that the non-Indigenous population does not recognise or value Yolngu law, or what we call Yolngu Rom. That equates to not recognising us as equal human beings. We cannot be separated from Yolngu law; it is part of us.

Our Yolngu law is not just about what you do and what you cannot do. It has a much wider meaning and includes how we understand the world. It includes all of our systems that speak to every aspect of life. We did not create this law to suit ourselves. Yolngu believe that an unseen creator, Yahweh God, created us and from that came the law of our lands. This includes our understanding of creation. Our law is something that goes to the core of who we are. It is a way of being, and we cannot separate it from ourselves.

The wider Australian population enjoys an incredible sense of freedom under the protection of federal, state and Northern Territory laws. This is something Australians all value so much and is a wonderful achievement in this modern world: freedom of speech; freedom to follow a religion of choice; freedom from bullying and many more.

Sadly, Yolngu do not feel that same sense of freedom. One might think that Yolngu have all the same freedoms as Australian citizens, but we are not free to live according to our traditional law. We feel like something that our entire life revolves around, and which connects us to our ancestors, is denied. We feel that as a people, what we believe in, who we are and who our ancestors were, is somehow denied.

I strongly believe that until there is some recognition by the federal, state and Territory governments of our traditional law, there will continue to be an increase in signs of social breakdown in the communities of my electorate. There will continue to be mortality rates similar to the Third World; children self-harming; escalating rates of suicide; mental illness; and imprisonment. With that, millions of dollars will be spent trying to 'solve' these problems.

Yolngu are holding out their hands to the government to work with us, to recognise our law and help strengthen our Indigenous system so we can find solutions to the problems in our communities and homelands, whatever they are. This is what Yolngu of North East Arnhem Land are talking about when we talk about treaty.

On 21 July I joined many Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, community members and members of the Northern Territory Police Force at a thanksgiving service in Galiwinku to give thanks to the late Mr W° Garrawurra for a lifetime of service. This man poured out his life trying to build a bridge between the non-Indigenous mainstream system of law and order and the Yolngu systems of law and order.

The highest ceremony in North East Arnhem Land Yolngu law is where the two moieties of Dhuwa and Yirritja come together as the highest level of our governing body, Ngarra. The late Mr Garrawurra served his people as the chief leader in Ngarra for many years, a position that would be equated to a chief minister role in the parliament where I now stand.

On the day I took oath as a member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. Mr Garrawurra led the assembly of Yolngu leaders into this room.

It was very disappointing for many not to see any ministers of the Northern Territory Parliament at the thanksgiving service to remember Mr Garrawurra's life. It is very important to Yolngu as a sign of their existing mutual respect to see ministers represented at such services to mark the passing of the most senior elders of our people.

Mr HIGGINS (Daly): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I pay tribute to a man whose contribution to Aboriginal people in the Katherine region deserves recognition. The people who knew him are split on whether the legacy of Mr Booth Senior to the Northern Territory is his big heart and generous nature or the large number of children he cared for during his long and eventful life.

Mr Booth died in June, aged 87. He was a proud Warumungu man who was born around Tennant Creek but moved to Katherine when he was 15. He was instrumental in establishing the Binjari community and was a fierce advocate of self-determination for residents of the community.

For many years he was president of the Binjari Community Government Council, where he advocated strongly for dry community status. His respect and influence spread beyond Binjari and Katherine from the Victoria River region through to Kununurra, the Daly River and Jabiru.

Mr Booth worked as an orderly at Katherine hospital and on stations throughout the Victoria River district, and he did all he could to instil his strong work ethic in the Binjari community. He worked hard over many years to deliver decent infrastructure to Binjari. His priorities included providing access to education for children, and a safe place to live free from the negative influence of alcohol.

He staked out Binjari in the late 1980s and in 1990 the federal government excised two square kilometres of land from Manbulloo station to establish the community. In 1995 he received a grant to build the first proper homes in Binjari. This was when Top Camp was established. He purchased tin sheets to build shelters and the former Member for Daly, Tim Baldwin, assisted in securing funding from the then CLP government to build a bitumen road, small office and health clinic.

His three marriages brought seven children, numerous grandchildren and a great-grandchild, but he was about providing a safe haven for other children who, for various reasons, required support outside their own family. He fostered many kids over a number of years. In 2012 he was named NAIDOC Elder of the Year and received a lifetime achievement award for the efforts he made improving quality of life for Binjari residents.

Mr Booth was a man who placed great store in loyalty and decency, and I am sure he is greatly missed by the people who knew and loved him. My condolences to Mr Booth's family and close friends. I thank him for his contribution to Indigenous advancement in the Northern Territory.

Ms WAKEFIELD (Braitling): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, the 50th anniversary of Old Timers Fete was celebrated last week in the Member for Namatjira's electorate, at Old Timers nursing home. It is a great institution and it raised a lot of money. It is also a wonderful community event where many people volunteer. The Member for Namatjira was volunteering, and the Member for Araluen was volunteering on the book store, as she does every year.

I went as a participant with my son. He is a big fan and remembers the fete because of the scones and cream made by the Brownies every year. It is a highlight. The Brownies do a great job. They serve people with their Devonshire tea, so it is a great event for them to learn how to interact with people and not spill the precious scones.

Every year I end up buying a crocheted rug. I have quite a few now. I got there at 10.50 am, at opening time, and there was a line-up at the gate. It is very competitive getting to the jams and preserves first. People stock up for the year. It was a great event, as always.

I note Mary Meldrum who was on the back of the truck with a microphone for most of the afternoon. That is a dangerous thing for most people, particularly politicians walking past her, but she was very kind this year. I also note the former Administrator, Ted Egan, performed. To be 85 and still playing the beer carton xylophone and singing is really extraordinary. It was a great experience. Well done to all the organisers, and I hope it was successful. It is a great community event.

Throughout January I went to some Rotary Club president changeover dinners, which were great events. It was great to catch up with all the Rotary Clubs in Alice Springs. Despite being a small town it has three distinct Rotary Clubs that are very active and raise a significant amount of money for our community and international rotary projects. I welcome all the new presidents and thank the outgoing ones. At the Rotary Club Stuart, Peter Kay is giving up his year of being president and handing over to the very capable and hard-working Denise Brooks.

I know Denise from her work at Holyoake and she will have a great year of fundraising. On the weekend, at the Old Timers Fete, it was great to see the Rotary Club there. My partner, Gary, is a member of Stuart and has enjoyed all those sausage cooking events.

I acknowledge Neil Ross, who has been a long-term member of Rotary in Alice Springs. He gave up his second term of president. I was interested to hear that when he was last president, in early 2000s, he was the first president to introduce women members to Rotary in Alice Springs. He is a great man. He and his wife, Julie, work very hard in the community. They run a great business and contribute much back to the community. They were both pleased to be handing the baton to the capable David Letheby, who is a fireman in town but finds time for significant fundraising. I am looking forward to seeing what they achieve during the year.

The final club is Mbantua. Peter Mostern, a long-time Alice Springs resident, has finished his year and Anjali Palmer is now the president. She will bring a different air to Peter. They are opposite people. It will be a great year continuing that work.

All three clubs spoke about membership and ensuring they are strong, individual clubs. They are three very different clubs. Thank you for all your work, members. I wish the new incoming presidents a great year, and I look forward to working with you.

Finally, while I was at the Mbantua handover there was an occasion for the Paul Harris Fellowship award to be given. It is a very prestigious award in rotary circles and is given to someone in recognition of community work. This year it was given to Maureen York. I could not think of a more deserving person to receive the award.

Maureen has been a long-time fundraiser in Alice Springs. She runs the teddy bear hospital at the Sunday markets and I stand across from her every Sunday at the markets. She works very hard and raises a significant amount of money. Maureen has lived in Alice Springs for a long time and lives a very exciting life. She always has a tale to tell.

She has also had some tough things happen to her. She has been a nurse; she has been a single mum to her son, whom she is very proud of; she has had cancer a couple of times; she knows what it is like to do it hard. That is why she raises money for individual families for specific things. She will raise small amounts of money that make a difference with the little things. She was telling me the other day that she raised money for someone who had an accident for him to get a computer and he is now basing his work around computerised work and film works.

She does those little things that make all the difference and is quite an unsung hero. I thank Mbantua for recognising her and I take this opportunity to publicly recognise her and her work for Alice Springs. Well done, Maureen.

Ms MOSS (Casuarina): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I take the opportunity tonight to speak about my local schools. Two of my local schools, in particular, have done an amazing job fundraising.

I will start with Nakara Primary School, which has welcomed some new SRC members. It was brilliant to be at the assembly to see those new members recognised by the student body and watch the transition kids go through their first full assembly. They were very well behaved and it was very sweet; they did an amazing job.

The school has raised \$17°987.05, which is fantastic, and has undertaken a range of initiatives in order to do that. You cannot go past a good, old fashion Bunnings sausage sizzle. There is a core group of dedicated parents, who are really good at turning those sausages and give up their time to do this whenever the opportunity comes up. I thank those parents who provided those snags to hungry people doing their weekend shopping. I was pleased to support that.

The school also held a community movie night and I was pleased to support that by hiring a gigantic screen for the viewing of *The BFG*. It was a very different version to the one around when I was a kid but was a fantastic movie. It was great to see Nakara school choir in a number of cultural performances and plenty of parents coming along to support the school. A number of parents cooked food to sell on the night. Some of the performers were not current students but came back to support the school, and it reinforces that there are generations of students in our electorates who continue to support our local schools, which is amazing.

There was the fun run, which was a great event, and there is a school disco on tonight. The SRC is selling food and I wish them the best of luck. Everybody has to come dressed for their future job and listen to the music spun by DJ George Koulakis, who is a legend in the electorate and a person who has been very dedicated to that school council over a long period of time. George's service to the parent council has been quite amazing. Well done to Sandra Howland and other members of the parent council; Katherine Harcon; and Britany Roestenburg, who is the principal of Nakara Primary School.

I cannot go without mentioning Henbury School which hosts the corporate school luncheon every year, which many members of this House will be familiar with. Last Christmas Henbury Avenue set out to raise \$80 000 through their corporate luncheon and they raised \$110 000. It speaks to the generosity of our community.

They have purchased a bus for the school and I look forward to visiting them next week with the Minister for Education as they do a big reveal on the custom design of the bus. The school should be so proud. They have won a number of awards. The principal, Carolyn Edwards, has also won a number of awards; she is very innovative, forward thinking and connected to the community to get that support.

They run the Opportunity Knocks Op Shop in Nightcliff, which the Member for Nightcliff would be familiar with. This provides on the job work training for students at Henbury Avenue. I look forward to visiting them next week and they have promised to assist me in picking out an outfit. I am also looking forward to purchasing some clothes from Opportunity Knocks, wearing them in here and proudly telling you where I got them from.

I was pleased to be at the announcement of the \$300 000 for Building Better Schools initiative. Dripstone Middle School was part of the first round of \$300 000 grants government is providing to every school across the Northern Territory. The \$300 000 will allow Dripstone Middle School to upgrade its LAN network and shade structures. This is about stimulating local economy, but it is also about supporting jobs for the future and delivering better learning environments for our kids. That is the most important thing, and this does that for the school.

Going there, meeting the kids and watching them build robots did nothing to make me want to return to my giant pile of letter signing I had waiting for me in the office. I just wanted to stay and build robots with them. The coding and the programs these kids are learning is mind-blowing. The robots can pick up the lines on the floor and know which direction to go because the kids have programmed it. They love this stuff! The kids were so engaged. It was really hands on and fabulous to see. This is supported by making sure we can provide schools with the funding and support to make the upgrades they need to provide students with that kind of environment.

I appreciate all the work that Peter Swan, Dripstone's principal, does to provide students with the best opportunities. I thank everyone tonight for giving me the opportunity to speak about my wonderful local schools. I look forward to seeing much more of them once parliament concludes this month.

Ms NELSON (Katherine): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, tonight I speak in honour of my uncle, Francisco Carrascalao, who will be celebrating his 70th birthday tomorrow.

My uncle and his wife, Lola, left Dili in 1975, made their way to Portugal and lived there for a short time until they were granted visas to immigrate to Australia. They arrived in Melbourne in 1977 with their young daughter, Carla, and they have lived in the suburb of Craigieburn since then. My uncle and his wife had worked all their lives until my uncle was forced to stop working in the mid-1980s due to a workplace accident that left him medically unfit to continue working.

My uncle Francisco, or Tio Quico as we know him, is my dad's younger brother. In addition to being brothers, they were the very best of friends throughout their lives. When my father suffered poor health due to complications associated with diabetes the only person who seemed to lift his spirits on many dark days and make him laugh was my uncle.

In addition to being an active and very involved father with his two daughters, Carla and Carol, my uncle—with his wife's support—also committed the last 20 years to help raise his four grandchildren, Carla's children, while Carla and her husband, Joao, worked in Timor.

Tio Quico, although our family has recently lost two of our much loved members, we are so incredibly fortunate to have someone like you in our lives who always makes us feel very loved, welcomed and supports us unconditionally. I take a moment to put on public record—thank you for loving John and me and for supporting us through one of the most difficult times of our lives. I love you very much and it gives me great pleasure to record tonight a little of your life story and wish you a very special happy 70th birthday.

Mr SIEVERS (Brennan): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, today I speak about Step Back Think organisation and its patron, Mr David Hardy, who is a fantastic Territorian and a driver of this campaign in the NT and across Australia.

The Step Back Think is a not-for-profit organisation focused on preventing social violence. The program strives to drive a cultural change to end social violence through education, raising awareness, advocating change and developing partnerships. The Step Back Think advocates against all social violence, including physical violence that occurs in the community, particularly violence in public places and drunken assaults or fights in the street or in schoolyards.

We know many social violence incidents result in serious injury and, sadly, sometimes, death. This is a tragic and senseless event to any individual. We must not forget it has a ripple effect and hurts so many more people, families and communities in social, legal and economic pain, not only in the short term but in the forever term.

I have a story to tell that is close to my heart and, difficult as it is, it needs to be told. In 2014 there was a young man named Joshua Hardy. He is the son of David and Milly, and brother to Rebecca. He was living and completing his tertiary studies in Melbourne and after a valedictory dinner, and a twenty-first celebration, Josh did the responsible thing that night and got a cab back to his college.

Joshua was a very well-mannered and well-respected family member of the Hardy and the local Larrakia Briston family. Joshua was a good-looking young man who would help anyone and often did, from his cousins to his aunts, uncles, nanna, great nanna and basically anyone in need. He had a heart of gold. Joshua grew up in Darwin and led a very outgoing life. He played footie for Darwin Buffaloes alongside his uncles and cousins. He loved family gatherings and was always the happiest kid in the room.

During the trip back to the college, on a night we will never forget, Josh visited a McDonald's café within 100 yards of his old school for a late night meal. While at McDonald's Josh was a victim of a very stupid, random and senseless act of violence by another young man. This cost our young Joshua Hardy his life.

Joshua Hardy was also my nephew. As the days, weeks and months passed after this event, it caused a devastating impact on everyone. I cannot stop the pain it causes his loving father, mother, sister and family. Thankfully, Joshua's passing was not in vain. This incident was the instrument that outraged this nation on the coward punch issue and highlighted the Step Back Think campaign, which I am sure has now saved many more lives. Every life it saves brings some peace to Joshua and his family.

Mr David Hardy has since been relentless in his work to advocate the Step Back Think message. He is an ambassador for their Lace Up campaign, which asks sporting clubs and workplaces to wear orange-printed bootlaces and post it on social media to keep the message strong against social violence. David attended the Gold Coast vs Brisbane Lions AFL game last weekend as a key speaker to players before their game. He has done so much more with local sporting clubs and schools to get the message through.

From Tassie to the Territory, the Lace-Up campaign this year has had more than 30°000 participants from Australia. This includes over 150 sporting clubs, workplaces and schools who wore the orange shoe laces to raise awareness of social violence. I applaud David Hardy and the ongoing work he does to get the Step Back Think message and Lace Up campaign across the nation in his quest to prevent senseless social violence and save more young lives across the nation.

I am honoured to thank David and everyone who has contributed or supported this work. You are the real heroes of this world, and I am sure everyone in this parliament joins me in acknowledging and thanking you all.

Ms UIBO (Arnhem): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, as always, I ran out of time on Tuesday. I will go through the last part of my travels without rushing or the clock counting down. Please bear with me while I finish the adjournment I started on Tuesday.

I would like to share my visit to Numbulwar last week. It is important I put on the record the people I visited and the meetings I had with stakeholders in the community. This was my home for five years and I am lucky to visit as part of my electorate.

On Thursday 10 August I was fortunate to have a morning meeting with several of the Roper Gulf Regional Council staff. Thank you to John Terrapo, the Numbulwar Council Services Coordinator; Sharon Hillen, who is based in Katherine and works for the Roper Gulf Regional Council as the Director of Council and Community Services; and Janine Bullsby, the Area Manager for a large area which covers Numbulwar, Ngukurr and Borroloola communities.

We talked about a range of issues, including an issue I am looking to support as the local member, which is the transition from the current waste facility in Numbulwar to a new site, in order to eventually become the new subdivision for the community. It will be a bit of a process to get to the requirements of having that as a subdivision area, but it is a journey the council will be working on very hard over the next couple of years. I want to support that, as the Member for Arnhem.

It was wonderful to meet with the council, as always, and I wish them all the best with the local government elections coming up at the end of August. They have four nominees for two positions. The Numburindi Ward was one position and now, because of the population, it has grown to two positions. I wish all the candidates well. I know all four of the candidates; I am related to all of them. I wish them the best and we will see what comes at the end of August and who I will be working with as the councillors for the Numburindi Ward.

The next visit was to the police station. The police are always busy so I appreciate the time they took to meet with me. It was Thursday morning, the motor vehicle registry morning. They were open and quite busy with foot traffic in the station, which was great. People were registering their cars and making sure their licences were up to speed.

Thank you to Officer in Charge, Derek Hartshorn, and also Remote Sergeant Jacqueline Lindon for their time. I spent about an hour with both of them and was able to talk about a range of issues about community safety. We also discussed the issue of Numbulwar Police Station being a recognised temporary police station, with the possibility, in the future, of it becoming a permanent police posting.

The next visit was to the Government Engagement Coordinator. The acting position at the moment is covered by Michael Cartinieri. It was my first time meeting Michael and it was wonderful to have his time. I also got to have a quick conversation with the Indigenous Engagement Officer, Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi, my first cousin.

It was good to see Kathy-Anne. She has been in that role for many years. It was great to meet Michael and talk about a range of issues and get to know him and his background and connection to Numbulwar. He has spent quite a bit of time working in Numbulwar in different capacities, as has his wife. It was nice to know there is someone familiar with the community.

After leaving the GEC office, I returned to the council and the great meeting area under the shade. You can see the beautiful coast from there. I bumped into the Numbulwar housing maintenance officer, Jessma Sailor. Jessma talked to me about a range of issues, which I will be passing on to Minister McCarthy's office in his capacity as the Minister for Housing and Community Development.

She talked about some of the successes they have had in Numbulwar with the housing maintenance team of two who do the repairs locally, looking at more training and capabilities for apprenticeships in the community to work on things like plumbing and electrical. It was good to see that foresight and the needs of the community, and what we can do to support local capacity-building with those different trades.

It was a really good conversation with Jessma. She is also the mother of three children, two of whom are at Numbulwar School. I taught her daughter, who is the eldest of her children, and her middle son. It was nice to catch up with her about how they are going. Jessma and her family were one of the three recipients of the Room to Breathe program at Numbulwar, and the works have been completed. It was great to see that they have an extra bedroom now, which has been built onto their veranda.

She also talked about the pressures of being the housing maintenance officer and being one of the first selected for the Room to Breathe program. I reiterate, this is a long-term program. The remote housing package will be rolled out over 10 years, so we are making sure people do not get cranky that they have missed out on the early works. With the new financial year we will see a lot more works in places, like Numbulwar and the neighbouring communities. It will be great to see more houses, families and locals benefiting from that program, which I am a strong believer and supporter of. I will ask her if I can sticky-beak into the rooms next time so I can see what it looks like.

After speaking with Jessma, I went to the Numbulwar School, my old stomping ground. I felt very comfortable and welcome there. It was wonderful to chat with the principal, Cheryl Dwyer. She had just gotten back from some training in Darwin, so it was great to catch her before I left the next day. I got to sit on the veranda, watch kids play at lunchtime and chat to some of the staff in a casual manner. It was a really nice feeling to be back at the school.

I was lucky; the senior students get to have a treat on Thursday afternoons. They do some extracurricular activities such as arts and crafts or cooking and baking. I was there on baking day and I got to have some fresh scones with jam and cream. I am not sure what level they are in comparison with the Alice Springs Girl Scouts or Brownies. It was very nice to have the scones in the afternoon made by the students at Numbulwar.

I visited the outside of the ALPA store, which is under new management. I was interested in the demountable that has now been shipped and put onto pylons at the back of the store by the Numburindi Corporation. This is a project which is supported by the Department of Business, Trade and Innovation and the CEO, Michael Tennant. It has been a long process to get the demountable in that space. Half of it will be used for office space for the business development officers when they visit, and the other part is a retail space.

It is our hope that the Numburindi Arts basket business, which has been running in the school as a community enterprise for the last six years—which I was a part of for four-and-a-half—will be turned into a small business in Numbulwar and run from its own retail space. I am excited about that. Next time I visit, I will talk with all the artists; I think more than 20 ladies make baskets, mats, dillybags, necklaces and placemats. It is wonderful that they will have a place to physically sell from and will not only rely on the kindness and generosity of the teachers, who can only support it when they are there for the school period.

One of the ladies, a good artist—she is in her eighties now—is Yulki Nunggumajbarr. She was the first Aboriginal ordained as an Anglican minister. I gave her a black and white photo of her 40 years ago when she was in Victoria doing basket-weaving workshops. A lady from Alice Springs had passed me the photo when I was there for the show, so it was wonderful to go to Yulki and say, 'Who is that woman?' she said, 'I do not know', and I said, 'That's you!'

I rang the lady—they had not spoken for 40 years. It was very nice to hear them talking. The first thing Yulki said to the lady was, 'Yes, it is me. I am still alive. I am still making baskets.' It was wonderful for Yulki to share that and connect. Hopefully one day they will meet again.

I finished my trip with a visit to the language Wubuy literacy room—some wonderful programs being run through there and congratulations to the Wubuy linguists who are working hard preserving and revitalising the Wubuy language.

Ms AH KIT (Karama): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, tonight I deliver an adjournment in order to celebrate the activities and achievements of schools in my electorate. I will start with Karama Primary School or I should say Karama School from now on.

Last Thursday, 10 August, Karama school hosted round one of the inter school AFL challenge. The competition continues for another four weeks, with tonight being round two. Everyone is invited to make their way down to the school for the centre bounce at 3.30pm. I send my biggest wishes to the mighty Karama crocs.

Last week Karama School students got the chance to participate in the Karama Ninja Warrior competition. I am not sure of the details but it sounds exciting, and I am sure a great time was had by all. A huge congratulations to Shaylee, who won the first competition, and to Keenan, who won the second competition. Once I find out more information, I will be talking about it in the future.

The school also celebrated science week this week with the science fair being held tomorrow. I cannot wait to join in the fun as well. Next week Karama School will be celebrating book week, with a dress up day on

Friday 25 August. I was fascinated by the amazing costumes that talented parents arrange for the children last year, and I am sure next Friday will be no different.

The school will also be holding a Father's Day stall in week five and six of term three and a Father's Day breakfast on 1 September. It was well attended last year and I believe they have entrusted me to help with the snags, so we will see how that goes.

Karama School has amazing gardens; if you ever get a chance to walk around the garden please do so. It is not just foliage, but a garden in which students help to maintain and upkeep as well. One of the good initiatives of the school is that the upper primary school students have not only been watching the tomatoes, eggplants, sunflowers and basil all thriving, they have been able to freshly pick the basil and use it in their scones that they make in the kitchen. The school has a brilliant kitchen. One lesson I learned is that scone dough needs to be worked gently for the best results. The students will be remembering that.

Finally, on the Karama School, the school counsellor has approved a new logo of an eye catching crocodile that is broken up into smaller segments with many different colours. I am glad to see the schools motto is 'Together we achieve'. Congratulations to Karama School principal, Tim Morgan, his amazing staff and school council who work extremely hard to deliver the best educational outcomes, and more, for each student.

Malak Primary School have had a busy term so far. Last week students across the whole school learned about first aid from St John Ambulance. While a lot of fun was had during the training, students were also able to learn some important lessons that could potentially help then save a life in the future. This is a great initiative.

Malak students, in partnership with the Smith Family and Sanderson Middle School, started the students to student partnership, where 10 Malak student have been paired up with reading buddies from Sanderson Middle School. The reading buddies from Sanderson Middle School ring their Malak Primary School reading buddy twice a week to help improve their reading age by the end of the term. It is wonderful to see focused students reading their latest book over the phone, which were supplied by the Smith family. I give a shout out to the Smith family, who work very hard for a number of schools, particularly those in my electorate of Karama.

Students from Malak school are working towards becoming a sun smart school. For the school to achieve this, all students when outside must wear a suitable wide brimmed hat and meet the sun smart requirements. This is a fantastic initiative happening in a number of schools, and one in my electorate. I wish them the very best because I understand how important it is to teach our children about being sun smart from a young age.

Finally, a special book week assembly will be held on Friday 15 August at Malak Primary School. I attend a lot of assemblies in my electorate but I have a feeling that book week will be one of the highlights on my calendar.

The last school I will speak about is Manunda Terrace Primary School. On 1 August, with the help of Heimo Schober from Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT, I had the pleasure of helping the Manunda Eco Warriors achieve their first goal as an eco-school. I presented the school and pre-school students with 15 chicks to be housed in their new enclosed chicken pen.

A lot of time, energy and donations have come in from the school, students and parents and the staff themselves. It has been a wonderful initiative for these children to be a part of something that is really sustainable and important for their futures.

Heimo presented the school with a trophy to use as an award to recognise a class or individual's effort associated with litter control, recycling, saving energy, reducing water consumption and continued improvement towards sustainability. Thank you, Heimo, for that.

The Manunda Eco Warriors' saying is, 'The planet does not need us, but we need the planet. Please do the right thing'. I congratulate the whole school for their efforts so far in becoming an eco-school, and send a special thank you to the amazing Heimo Schober for all his hard work and support for the school to date.

On 4 August Manunda Terrace Primary School had its big bang science show, which was a 60 minute celebration of science, featuring plenty of science experiments. I am told that all students had a great time.

Finally, the school will be holding a community day on 30 August from 4 pm to 6 pm at the school. I encourage everyone from our community to come on down and get involved in joining the fun. There will be a range of activities and workshops for parents and children. Thanks to the amazing Smith family there will also be a bike raffle. For all of those parents and children who come down to join the fun, if you attend a workshop you will be handed a ticket for the draw to win a bike.

I give a special shout out to all our principals, amazing teaching staff and those who sit on the school councils, all the students who are diligently doing what they can to make sure they get the best outcomes of their education. It has been a privilege to be the local member for nearly 12 months. Looking back to my knowledge of the schools when I first started to understand exactly what they are doing today, I could not be any prouder as a local member. Congratulations everyone and I look forward to supporting you all over the next three years.

Mr KIRBY (Port Darwin): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, before I start my adjournment, I take this opportunity to support the Member for Brennan in his adjournment about the Hardy family.

When we first moved to Darwin 20 years ago we spent a bit of time at the St Mary's Football Club. David Hardy was one of those workhorses that was into everything at the club. He was such a genuine, lovely family man and a lovely club man. My older children went through O'Loughlin College with Josh Hardy, and they knew what a beautiful soul that lad was.

To call it a tragedy, what has happened to that family, does not do it justice. I want to assist the Member for Brennan in endorsing that step back program being run, and congratulate David in the way he has carried himself since those tragic events. I wish the family all the best in the future. They are very strong, passionate and beautiful Territorians.

I want to give a quick rundown on an innovative new flythrough released today giving Territorians an idea of what the Chief Minister's vision is for the CBD. I had the good fortune of seeing it some time ago. It will be released to the public on social media to get it out as much as we can. As local member I will speak to as many people as I can about it. It gives some conceptual ideas about State Square and the vision for greening that space. As well as the Museum at the old hospital site. I encourage people to look at it. It is on the Chief Minister's and my Facebook site.

The NT Government has pledged \$100m to invest in the CBD over the next few years, and we are seeking a similar contribution from the federal government's cities deals arrangement when it is announced later in the year. The flythrough shows how the city of Darwin will be transformed in the coming years. It gives people a bird's-eye view of what some of the concepts are—not the exact details—so they can see what the visions are and have a genuine input through consultation over the next few weeks.

We have announced some major projects in the CBD, including a new museum at the old hospital site and we have unveiled immediate initiatives. The Live Darwin Arts program is a fantastic initiative and people will see benefits over the coming weeks and months through Darwin City with live arts programs, murals and other events that will come to life. If people want to have their say, the correct mechanisms for the consultation is through darwincitydeal.nt.gov.au. There they can see the flythrough and all the information they need to have their say.

The revitalisation of Darwin CBD has taken great steps forward recently with the Live Arts announcements, and those will take shape over coming weeks and months. It will deliver arts and creative activities in the Darwin CBD. The first part of the program will run until December 2017. There will be other opportunities for artists to put their name forward.

The aim is to activate the mall and the CBD, as well as vacant shop spaces, with arts and creative activities to entice more people into the city. It will be good for locals and visitors. A good amount of funding was offered by the Northern Territory Government for the first round of proposals.

They had to meet a number of criteria. They had to:

- raise the profile of Darwin's CBD through arts and creative activities
- enhance the Darwin CBD for visitors and locals
- showcase and celebrate Darwin's CBD, the diversity of our community and our artistic talent

- build partnerships between retailers, community groups, the arts and cultural sectors, events and festivals and the community to enliven the CBD.

If they ticked most of those boxes, and focused on the mall and CBD, then they were considered by a panel of people to award the first group of winners. The winners will be announced soon and we will quickly start work to beautify some of our CBD spaces.

I congratulate the Darwin City Waterfront Retailers Association for organising the Darwin City Boutique Markets that have been run so far. As with all new initiatives, it is getting bigger and better each time. From the first couple of events, we could not have pictured how quickly they have grown and how much the retailers have gotten on board with it. Some of the restaurants in and around the end of Knuckey Street made applications to close that part of the street so the mall flows down onto the street. It is very much a festival atmosphere.

The government built on the fourth Boutique Markets by including A Night in the Mall. This was a micro music festival in the heart of the mall. It was a great initiative. There were hundreds of people in the mall for that. As assistant minister for a vibrant Darwin CBD, I am extremely proud of the investment this government is making into the Darwin CBD. It is used as an economic driver, and A Night in the Mall is a good example of how local businesses can work in conjunction with local artists, with the Retailers Association, the NTG and City of Darwin.

A thriving Darwin CBD is important for the entire Territory. We said we would revitalise the CBD, and people scoffed at the assistant minister when that title was kicked off nearly 12 months ago, but it is one I carry proudly. I am happy to see such investment go into it.

A Night in the Mall activated the city's laneways with some of the Territory's most popular food and best up-and-coming acts. It was organised in conjunction with the Boutique Markets, under the direction of Creative Director, Ella Millard, who did a fantastic job pulling it together.

The event was managed by Perambulate and featured a number of acts including Serina Pech, Michael Maher and Stevie Jean. The feature act of the night was Caiti Baker, recent winner of Music NT's Song of the Year, Best Pop Song and Best Blues and Roots Song Awards.

Anybody who has not had the opportunity to see her should because she has a stunning voice. I commend the minister and the Chief Minister for having the vision to bring these exciting events forward. It is a very fun and exciting time to be in the city. As a local member, to see this amount of investment is a fantastic thing.

Mr PAECH (Namatjira): Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I am one of those people who have always said that this place, the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, should be a place that respects the views of all Territorians and I wish I could say the same for the Federal Parliament.

Recently I watched in disgust as the debate endured on the marriage equality plebiscite. I am appalled and outraged at some of the horrific comments that have been made and directed to the LGBTI community of this country.

Furthermore I am deeply offended, yet again, that Territorians who live remotely or live in town camps will either have little or no voice in the Turnbull government's offensive plebiscite or as I like to refer to it as the hate survey. We need to look at people in the bush and how this will affect them. Under this government, it will make it okay to discriminate hate. Community open forum pages on social media will be subject to vile homophobic posts.

Services out in the bush are not equipped. The great people of the electorate of Namatjira who live in town camps, remote Indigenous communities, homelands and outstations and stations in the Northern Territory under this proposal will not have their voices heard. It is disgraceful that the federal government is allowing it to happen.

As a politician and a legislator it is my job, our job, in this Assembly and Assemblies around the country to advocate, lobby and vote on matters on behalf of our constituents. Even when they are hard decisions and when we may hold an opposing view to that of our constituency. So why do we need to outsource this matter?

I am very passionate about military spending, foreign aid, and tax reform. Will I get surveyed on a postal ballot to make sure that those positions are heard? I do not think so. I did not support this postal ballot but

after many hours of self-reflection and gathering my thoughts I thought I would not be doing the LGBTI community the service they need and deserve.

I will not be boycotting it. Imagine the worst case scenario: an energised anti-marriage minority wins the ballot and this is used for propaganda purposes in the future. Yes, the postal survey has serious flaws. It encourages disenfranchisement. But I cannot stand by and allow the anti-marriage equality forces to win by this.

I will not lie to you, this will be one of the hardest and most distressing events in our modern day and age for many. Brothers, sisters, grandparents, parents, aunties and uncles will all be affected. They will all be subjected to public campaigns which, under this government, make it okay to discriminate and hate.

To those who are about to embark on this debacle journey saturated in hate, I stand with you and support you when you are in pain and question why your federal government, our federal government, has said it is okay to marginalise and target you. When our kids are exposed to hate-filled television ads, I will stand with you and call it out. We are not like this. This is not the great Australian way. We are known for our fair go, our cheeky ways, our progressive views on the world, but today we see a Prime Minister who is a slave beholden to a minority view of our progressive country.

I am frustrated that the estimated cost of a postal survey will be a figure of about \$122m. This money could be spent on a range of other things for people in this country. The money being spent on this hideous approach to marriage equality could deliver so much here in the Northern Territory: 120 kilometres of sealed roads to some of our communities which house the most disadvantaged Australians in the country; and over 260 new homes in remote Indigenous communities. But no, we will waste the money on a plebiscite that will come back to the Australian parliament with no guarantee that the views of people will be heard.

I will be supporting the yes campaign and I urge people across the Northern Territory to do the same. Over the last decade, debates around the world about marriage equality and same sex parenting have risen in volume. Countless public figures and politicians repeat the argument that marriage is about having children, and all children need both a mother and a father.

The fear of motherless or fatherless families is disgraceful. Love is love and thousands of children grow up in this country every day without mothers or fathers. The contemporary nuclear family unit has changed and it changed long ago. Even though gay couples cannot marry in this country, at the moment, they have been having children for a long time. In fact, those kids are growing up fast with voices and experiences of their own.

I urge people across the country to watch the documentary *Gayby Baby*, directed by a wonderful person I am proud to call a friend. She is the product of being raised by two women. The documentary follows the lives of four children; Gus, Ebony, Matt and Graham, whose parents all happen to be gay. As they each wrestle with their personal change, the world outside wrestles with the issue of marriage equality and whether or not kids of same-sex couples are at risk.

Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to table one of my favourite posters, which is *There is More to Make a Family than One Way*. It talks about kinship care family units—two dads, two mums, single parents, step-parents—to diminish the view that children cannot grow up in this country without having a mother or a father.

I encourage people across the Northern Territory to check your enrolment because if you live in a remote Indigenous community or a town camp ...

Madam ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is leave granted for the member to table his poster?

Leave granted.

Mr PAECH: Sorry, Madam Acting Deputy Speaker, I jumped the gun. I want to put on the record how I feel about this. I am outraged that 50 years on from the 1967 Referendum, my people, our people, the people of the Northern Territory, are still not going to have the same opportunity, the equal opportunity, to those living on the east coast of this country.

It is clear the only reason the federal government has gone down this avenue of a postal survey is to exclude Aboriginal people and people living in the bush from voting. It is discriminatory and racist.

Thousands of people live in homes in the Northern Territory without letter or post boxes or fixed addresses on the electoral roll. Do not be fooled. If you are on the electoral roll and your mail goes to a PO Box, you will not get the survey. It will go to the address on the electoral roll.

I encourage everyone to get on the Electoral Commission website and check your details if you want to have a say.

Politicians in Canberra need to understand the Northern Territory does not have first class mail services. Mail will go to a remote clinic or a council office; it does not go to a fixed address. It is not unusual for people to go weeks between posting and receiving mail in the bush.

This is something the federal government may need to spend a bit more time on outside of Canberra, out canvassing parts of the country like the Northern Territory, where mail services are not first class, where we need better services and need to build our electoral commissions, not erode them.

I support the yes campaign. I understand that people in my electorate are entitled to their own views, but I will continue to fight that they have their say, regardless of their view. Excluding people because they live outside a capital city or metropolitan area is a disgrace and the federal government should hang its head in shame, because this is what happens when you rush things and do not think about the effects on people's lives.

Thank you. I look forward to the campaign rolling out and to seeing marriage equality happen in the federal parliament soon.

Motion agree to; the Assembly adjourned.