

Labor is also determined to ensure our economy stays strong by investing in a skilled workforce that businesses in northern Tasmania need to stay competitive and to create local jobs. For example, this government has invested in vocational education with four trade training centres in my electorate. This includes investment of \$3.5 million for the two George Town training centres, \$3.4 million for the Dorset trade training centre, and \$986,000 for the Saint Patrick's College trade training centre in Launceston. Students at the Tasmanian Polytechnic in Launceston enjoy a fantastic tourism and hospitality training facility thanks to an investment of \$5.8 million from the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund. The Teaching and Learning Capital Fund also invested in the Green Skills Centre of Excellence at the skills institute's Alanvale campus. This facility provides training for a combination of construction, furniture making and allied trades and is the base for training apprentices and upgrading the knowledge and skills of experienced tradespeople.

Labor is committed not only to creating a skilled workforce but also to creating jobs in northern Tasmania. I recently announced that \$50,000 from the government's flexible funding pool would be provided for an employment allies project in Launceston to assist newly-arrived migrants and humanitarian entrants to overcome barriers to employment and to enter the local workforce. This month I attended the Australian government's job and skills expo in Launceston, where over 300 jobs and training opportunities were on offer to local job seekers by a variety of businesses and training organizations.

I am also extremely proud of the fact that Labor has invested more money than ever before into Tasmanian health. The Gillard government's Primary Care Infrastructure Grants, for example, have significantly expanded the services that local doctors offer to the northern Tasmanian community. Patients have been provided with greater access to new health professionals such as more GPs, diabetes educators, mental health workers and physiotherapists through this investment of over \$2 million in several of the GP practices in Bass. The Labor government has invested \$4.7 million to refurbish the John L. Grove Centre in Launceston, making it northern Tasmania's only public rehabilitation facility.

Furthermore, an investment of \$325 million into Tasmania's health system directly benefited northern Tasmania with initiatives such as increased elective surgery, better palliative care, a walk-in centre for minor illnesses and injuries in Launceston, and the sharing of an innovative new health sciences precinct. Just this week I announced the federal government investment of \$4 million for the redevelopment of the Northern Dental Centre to deliver improved dental services for patients and dental training in northern Tasmania. I was also pleased to be able to announce

last year that the Labor government had invested \$6.8 million in the St Giles Society's northern paediatric allied health and disability service for redevelopment and the implementation of their e-health infrastructure.

The federal Labor government has also offered unprecedented support for farmers in Tasmania to encourage a \$400 million investment in irrigation schemes and the Sense-T project, which provide jobs for Tasmanians, give farmers the confidence to invest and will have significant economic benefits for our rural communities.

Labor is also investing in Australia's future and ensuring that communities are not left behind with the rollout of the National Broadband Network. This is in stark contrast to the Liberal's 'fraudbrand' plan, which will see a significantly slower 'copper-to-home' internet connection, costing families and small businesses up to \$5,000 to connect.

The rollout of the NBN in Tasmania is on track and will be delivered in all of the north-east of the state by 2014 and to 2,600 homes in Launceston. I could go on about the Scottsdale DSTO's \$18 million, and many other investments. Labor's record of investment is an impressive one and it is designed to meet the future economic challenges of northern Tasmania.

Defamation

Mr SCHULTZ (Hume) (16:40): I rise to record my utter disgust at the attempted character assassination of a very dedicated, committed and concerned rural resident, a lady of outstanding credentials. This is a lady who established a rape and sexual assault centre in outback Australia, was the general medical practitioner liaison for regional mental health, operated an Aboriginal healthcare centre, was an examiner for the Royal Australian College of General Medical Practice, was a committee member of the South Australian branch of the Australian Medical Association and is a cancer survivor; whilst her husband is a public health dentist operating in remote Aboriginal communities. However, this lady is not without error as she has in the past openly voted for the Greens, an error she confesses will not be repeated.

You may wonder how this lady is being repaid for her outstanding community efforts and social contribution. Currently, a significant orchestrated attempt to assassinate her outstanding reputation and undeniable credibility is underway, assisted and promoted through left-aligned media outlets. This is a campaign strongly suspected of being led by the non-medically accredited Professor Simon Chapman of the University of Sydney, a person who obtained his PhD from the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, a self-proclaimed expert in marketing and public manipulation via media sources. He is a person who is not lawfully permitted to conduct any form of medical research or study in relation to human health.

I am of the firm belief that Professor Chapman is close to the author of this anonymous letter of baseless and faceless complaint made for no other reason than a seedy attempt to salvage his fast-dwindling reputation as a credible, reliable and balanced source of information. Professor Chapman, with his nose in the public trough—through the apparent never-ending funding of the NHMRC—for bewildering reasons unbeknown, other than regular speaking engagements at industry conferences and committees, has connected himself to the insidious industrial wind turbine industry.

Through his joint authorship, misleading to the extent of being potentially fraudulent, publications such as the highly criticised 2010 *Rapid Review* of selective literature, provided the wind turbine industry with support whilst placing many rural communities in peril. As the evidence mounts in relation to the potential corrupt behaviour of this industry and those associated with it, both politically and professionally, it is of no surprise to me that those deepest entrenched in this fraud against the Commonwealth, the Australian energy consumer and rural residents of Australia will stop at nothing to protect their personal and professional interests—in this case, the deliberate self-motivated instigation of serious allegations against a lady of high regard.

It is not the allegations that are of concern, as they will be defended and proven baseless. It is the matter of the anonymous letter of complaint being provided to several media outlets prior to the alleged offender being notified of the details of the anonymous complaint. Coincidentally, these media outlets appear to be all associated in many ways with both Professor Simon Chapman and the initial recipient of the complaint, the Public Health Association of Australia CEO, Mr Michael Moore.

This outrageous document was clearly provided for no other reason than a further seedy attempt to assassinate the good standing and character of Dr Sarah Laurie. These allegations will be proven baseless and defamatory; the so-called 'anonymous' author of the complaint knows this, as does Mr Michael Moore, otherwise why is the complaint anonymous? As they will be proven baseless, the author would be exposed for what he truly is, and face potential criminal defamation charges. Does anyone truly believe that a genuinely anonymous letter of complaint would be referred from a trusted association and then, astonishingly, receive attention from relevant bodies if the anonymous person were not well known to them?

Professor Chapman, you are devoid of any decency and courage. If you truly believe an offence has been committed, put your name to it and stand accountable for the baseless claims within. Michael Moore, by your grubby unprofessional actions you have destroyed all

credibility of the association you control. If you genuinely believe the allegations to be true and had no involvement in the production of the defamatory document you should publically disclose the identity of the so-called anonymous author or resign for your own despicable actions. Dr Sarah Laurie, as you know, is well above your levels of gutter public manipulation and only deals with the truth; you should take a leaf out of her book and do something good for the community in which you reside—for free.

Climate Change

Mr MURPHY (Reid) (16:44): There can no longer be any question that a leader of a political party should have at least a basic understanding of the science behind the many complex problems that confront today's policymakers. On Tuesday during question time, the member for Lyne sought clarification on the climate change science policy positions of both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Of course, the standing orders do not permit the Leader of the Opposition to respond at that time, but yesterday, during a motion put by the member for Lyne, the opposition hid behind the mechanisms while expecting all to believe the bald-faced assertions that they really accept and embrace climate change science. But where was the Leader of the Opposition?

It is quite apparent that the Leader of the Opposition is running away at the speed of light—dare I say—from fully accepting the science on climate change. Why? That is an important question that goes unanswered by the Leader of the Opposition. Does he fully understand the science? Or is he ignoring it simply for political expediency?

We can ignore the science and continue to believe that the earth is flat or we can accept the overwhelming scientific evidence that says quite the opposite. The overwhelming science supports that there are man-made impacts on climate change and yet the Leader of the Opposition prefers to duck and dive when it comes to global warming and climate change—simple political expediency. The Leader of the Opposition has repeatedly distinguished himself as a person who, as we witnessed in this place this week, is being dragged, kicking and screaming to the issue of climate change.

In any case, the Leader of the Opposition's inability to understand the details of science based issues is not a recent development. Even during the time that he was the Minister for Health and Ageing, he managed to make a number of misguided policy decisions that he was subsequently forced to reverse following an outcry from health scientists and the medical profession. In particular, during the bird flu crisis in 2005 the then Minister for Health and Ageing, against the best expert advice, locked up supplies of antiviral drugs, despite the policy being condemned by, amongst others, Graeme Laver, Professor of Biochemistry and