

I am sure the honorable member for Carrum will support the building of Frankston hospital.

**Mr Cathie**—I do, but your Government has cut off the money.

**Mr WEIDEMAN**—I have not been informed of that. I assume that the honorable member has been given that information: I have been told that there is a building programme priority. I understand that in 1981–82 funds will be made available.

**Dr COGHILL** (Werribee)—My predecessor as the member for Werribee, Mr Nelson Hudson, D.F.C., was unable to contest the election because of ill health, which commenced some twelve months ago during his term of office. He served in this Parliament for three years as the member for Werribee. Prior to that, for some fourteen years he made a high-quality contribution to local government in Werribee. What may not be so well known is that early in his life, during the second world war, one of those tragic events in human history, he distinguished himself greatly and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. I record my regret that Mr Hudson's career has been interrupted by ill health and I am sure all honorable members would share that sentiment.

The Werribee electorate includes several of the suburbs that lie to the west of the Maribyrnong River. A social and economic collapse threatens those suburbs unless the Government accepts its responsibilities and obligations to act urgently and in a concerted manner to assist the area. Residents of the suburbs include very fine people and the area covers some of the finest environments in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

However, unfortunately, the area has the highest level of registered unemployed of any region in Victoria. The economic base of the area is actually shrinking in the face of this problem. Transport and transport planning in the area are appalling by any standards. The educational level of the school leavers would be a disgrace to any advanced, wealthy State such as Victoria.

I have prepared a series of tables that outline some of the facts to which I shall refer during my contribution to the debate. The first table shows the local employment figures as at April 1979 for each Commonwealth Employment Service district and compares those with the figures for the metropolitan area and the whole of Victoria. The source of the data is the Commonwealth Employment Service. The second table shows Commonwealth Employment Service office transactions for the same period, for the same offices and with the same comparisons. The third table shows the employment of residents by occupation, expressed both as a number and as a percentage. That data comes from the 1976 census. The fourth table shows the employment of residents by industry, again expressed in both numbers and percentages, with the data once again coming from the census.

The fifth table shows the work place of residents of the region, broken down according to municipality. The source of that data is the journey-to-work analysis of the 1971 census, and those are the most recent figures available. The sixth table shows the employment in manufacturing within the region, broken down by municipality and showing figures for the period 1971–77. The source of that information is the manufacturing establishments small area statistics published for the periods 1975–76 and 1976–77.

Table 7 sets out various matters affecting women's employment and that information again is broken down by municipality. The final table shows the highest level of qualifications obtained in two Federal electorates. Once again, the data is based on the 1976 census figures.

I seek leave to have these tables incorporated in *Hansard*.

**The SPEAKER** (the Hon. S. J. Plowman)—Order! I advise the House that the honorable member has checked the documents with me, as he is required to do, and they are correct.

*Leave was granted, and the tables were as follows:*

TABLE 1  
EMPLOYMENT FIGURES—APRIL 1979

Commonwealth Employment Office	Unemployed			Unfilled vacancies			Ratio unemployed to vacancies			Total		
	Adult	Young	Female	Total	Adult	Young	Female	Adult	Young		Female	
Altona ..	374	303	295	677	23	2	3	25	16.2 : 1	151.1 : 1	98.3 : 1	27.1
Footscray ..	1 671	645	905	2 316	103	27	36	130	16.2 : 1	23.9 : 1	25.1 : 1	17.8
Newport (including Werribee) ..	1 080	859	773	1 939	66	6	21	72	16.4 : 1	143.2 : 1	36.8 : 1	26.9
St Albans (part City of Sunshine) ..	801	500	500	1 301	15	4	5	19	53.4 : 1	125.0 : 1	100 : 1	68.5
Sunshine (including Melton) ..	1 870	1 371	1 373	3 241	43	9	12	52	43.5 : 1	152.3 : 1	114.4 : 1	62.3
Yarraville ..	354	162	220	516	29	11	10	40	12.2 : 1	14.7 : 1	22 : 1	12.9
Total ..	6 150	3 840	4 066	9 990	259	59	87	338	23.7 : 1	65.1 : 1	46.7 : 1	29.6
Metropolitan Area ..	47 335	25 538	28 814	72 873	3 489	1 077	1 479	4 566	13.5 : 1	23.7 : 1	19.5 : 1	16 : 1
Victoria ..	63 680	39 974	41 732	103 654	4 641	1 438	1 924	6 079	13.7 : 1	27.8 : 1	21.7 : 1	19 : 1

Source : Commonwealth Employment Service.

TABLE 2  
COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT OFFICE TRANSACTIONS APRIL, 1979  
UNEMPLOYED PLACE PLUS APPLICATIONS LAPSED

	Total adult		Total young		Total female		Total	
	Number	per cent	Number	per cent	Number	per cent	Number	per cent
Altona ..	173	56.5	75	24.4	227	45.9	249	34.2
Footscray ..	425	27.5	134	23.1	250	28.5	559	26.3
Newport (including Werribee) ..	371	34.8	193	21.8	211	27.4	564	29.0
St Albans ..	414	51.6	150	30.0	250	50.0	564	43.4
Sunshine (including Melton) ..	332	18.4	307	20.4	166	12.1	639	19.3
Yarraville ..	186	60.4	75	46.9	119	54.8	251	53.6
Total ..	1 901	31.2	935	23.6	1 223	30.1	2 836	28.2
Metropolitan area ..	16 017	33.6	10 299	37.9	10 491	34.8	26 316	35.2
Victoria ..	20 696	33.2	14 246	34.4	14 012	32.9	34 942	33.7

TABLE 3

## EMPLOYMENT OF RESIDENTS BY OCCUPATION NUMBER/%

	MUNICIPALITY							Total
	Altona	Footscray	Melton	Sunshine	Werribee	Williamstown		
Professional .. .. .	787	1 281	531	1 915	1 193	1 060	6 767	
Administrative .. .. .	5.7	5.3	9.0	4.9	8.7	8.8	6.3	
Clerical .. .. .	478	1 678	357	1 074	525	480	3 592	
Sales .. .. .	3.5	2.8	6.1	2.8	3.8	4.0	3.3	
Farmers, etc. .. .. .	2158	3 435	1 342	5 762	2 146	2 085	16 928	
Miners, etc. .. .. .	15.7	14.3	22.8	14.9	15.7	17.3	15.7	
Transport, etc. .. .. .	810	1 346	460	2 168	811	755	6 350	
Process workers and labourers	5.9	5.6	7.8	5.6	5.9	6.3	5.9	
Service, Police, etc. .. .. .	75	124	250	207	900	71	1 627	
Armed Forces .. .. .	0.6	0.5	4.2	0.5	6.6	0.6	1.5	
Other .. .. .	12	10	6	44	10	6	88	
Total .. .. .	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
	680	1 230	388	2 723	623	723	6 367	
	5.0	5.1	6.6	7.0	4.6	6.0	5.9	
	7 101	12 251	1 835	19 523	4 063	5 214	49 987	
	51.8	50.8	31.2	50.4	29.7	43.3	46.2	
	790	1 721	355	2 698	749	889	7 202	
	5.8	7.1	6.0	7.0	5.5	7.4	6.7	
	71	97	73	560	2 059	68	2 928	
	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.4	15.1	0.6	2.7	
	746	1 927	293	2 059	597	679	6 301	
	5.4	8.0	5.0	5.3	4.4	5.6	5.8	
Total .. .. .	13 708	24 101	5 889	38 733	13 677	12 031	108 139	

Source: 1976 Census data.

TABLE 4

## EMPLOYMENT OF RESIDENTS BY INDUSTRY NUMBER/%

	MUNICIPALITY							Total
	Altona	Footscray	Melton	Sunshine	Werribee	Williamstown		
Agriculture, etc. .. .. .	34	24	220	84	764	18	1 154	
Mining .. .. .	0.2	0.1	3.7	0.2	5.6	0.2	1.0	
Manufacturing .. .. .	18	26	15	114	26	36	215	
Electricity, Gas and Water	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	
Construction .. .. .	6 137	10 379	1 580	16 145	3 124	4 278	41 643	
Wholesale and Retail .. .. .	44.8	43.1	26.8	41.7	22.8	35.6	38.5	
Transport and Storage .. .. .	289	359	89	505	435	281	1 958	
Communications .. .. .	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.3	3.2	2.3	1.8	
Finance .. .. .	866	988	384	2 248	756	639	5 881	
Administration and Defence	6.3	4.1	6.5	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.4	
Community Services .. .. .	2 116	3 555	1 125	5 739	1 188	1 937	16 355	
Recreation and Entertainment	15.4	14.8	19.1	14.8	13.8	16.1	15.1	
Other .. .. .	712	1 382	408	2 954	642	780	6 876	
Total Non-Government	5.2	5.7	6.9	7.6	4.7	6.5	6.4	
	168	330	126	575	178	237	1 614	
	1.2	1.4	2.1	1.5	1.3	2.0	1.5	
	674	1 080	491	1 799	763	646	5 453	
	4.9	5	8.3	4.6	5.6	5.4	5.0	
	532	939	380	1 992	2 710	592	12 145	
	3.9	6.9	6.5	5.1	19.8	4.9	11.2	
	785	1 660	538	2 671	1 307	1 211	8 172	
	5.7	6.9	9.2	6.9	9.6	10.0	7.6	
	350	773	177	991	375	460	3 126	
	2.6	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.8	2.8	
	1 027	2 608	355	2 935	714	917	8 556	
	7.5	10.8	6.0	7.6	5.2	7.6	7.9	
Total .. .. .	11 194	19 506	4 496	30 704	8 512	8 543	82 955	
	81.7	80.9	76.4	79.3	62.2	71.0	76.7	
Total .. .. .	13 708	24 101	5 889	38 733	13 677	12 031	108 139	

Source: 1976 Census data.

TABLE 5  
WORKPLACES OF RESIDENTS

Municipality of residence	Municipality—Workplace				Region					Total		
	Altona	Footscray	Melton	Sunshine	Werribee	Williams-town	Western	Central (inc. CBD)	Northern		Eastern	Southern
Altona ..	2 941	2 410	5	1 094	294	1 595	8 334	2 395	271	74	143	12 422
Footscray ..	744	9 740	437	2 907	201	1 444	15 037	6 071	858	156	369	25 385
Melton ..	65	290	11	407	21	1 444	1 262	421	222	16	15	2 228
Sunshine ..	687	6 148	15	10 855	320	724	18 745	8 084	1 485	218	411	32 556
Werribee ..	565	804	15	457	4 946	353	7 130	1 498	139	55	58	9 721
Williamstown ..	696	1 865	1	499	122	4 288	7 471	3 577	270	83	215	12 898
Total ..	5 698	21 257	459	16 215	5 904	8 446	57 979	22 046	3 245	602	1 211	95 210
All areas ..	7 301	31 580	506	24 832	6 527	12 026	82 772					

Source : Journey to work data based on 1971 census

TABLE 6  
EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING

	Altona	Footscray	Melton	Sunshine	Werribee	Williams-town	Total
1971-72	4 633	19 233	89	22 576	2 055	9 696	58 282
1972-73	5 315	18 681	161	22 904	2 226	8 671	57 938
1973-74	5 517	18 684	186	22 958	2 194	8 283	57 822
1974-75	5 546	17 643	141	21 872	2 016	7 793	55 011
1975-76	5 671	17 015	156	21 315	1 883	7 550	53 590
1976-77	5 500	14 811	108	21 525	1 914	7 730	51 588

Sources : Manufacturing establishments : small area statistics 1975-76, 1976-77.

TABLE 7  
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT

	No.	Altona	Footscray	Melton	Sunshine	Werribee	Williams-town	Total
Women in manufacturing establishments (1976-77)		856	3 963	87	3 938	475	764	10 083
		15.6	26.7	80.5	18.2	25.0	10.0	20.0
Resident women in workforce 1976		4 701	8 475	1 968	13 145	3 244	4 128	35 661
		34	35	33	34	31	34	33

There were jobs in manufacturing establishments in 1976 for only 28% of local women in the workforce, compared with jobs for 57% of local men in the work force.

Sources : Manufacturing establishments : small area statistics 1976-77 and 1976 Census data.

TABLE 8  
 QUALIFICATIONS—HIGHEST LEVEL  
 OBTAINED  
 (15 years and over)

Level	<i>Kooyong</i>		<i>Lalor</i>	
	%		%	
Doctoral, masters degree	1.3	} 26.4 (Women 20.8)	0.1	} 16.5 (Women 7.1)
Graduate diploma	1.2		0.1	
Bachelor degree	6.0		0.6	
Diploma	7.1		1.8	
Technicians certificate	5.4		2.6	
Trade certificate	5.4		11.3	
Level not applicable	2.2		1.1	
No qualifications	57.7		70.7	
Not stated	13.6		11.7	

Source: 1976 Census data.

**Dr COGHILL**—As at the closing date in April, there were 30 registered unemployed for every vacancy in this western suburban region. That is almost twice the Melbourne metropolitan average and it is 50 per cent above the Victorian average figure. It is a clear indication of the high level of unemployment in the region.

For young people the situation is even worse. There were more than 120 registered unemployed young people for every vacancy at four of the six Commonwealth Employment Service district offices in the region. There is only one other Commonwealth Employment Service office in Victoria that records such high levels, and that is in nearby Moonee Ponds. The four offices were St Albans, where the ratio was 125:1; Newport, where it was 143.2:1; Altona, where it was 151.5:1; and Sunshine, where the ratio was 152.3:1.

Duration of unemployment data confirms the seriousness of the situation. One-third of unemployed tradesmen, production workers and labourers in Victoria are unemployed for more than six months. Almost half of the resident workers in this region fall within that category. In April only 28.2 per cent of those registered as unemployed in the region found employment, compared with 33.7 per cent for the whole of Victoria.

Among young people, 23.6 per cent of local young unemployed found employment, compared with 34.4 per cent for Victoria as a whole. Among women,

the employment trends in the area are particularly serious. In April, of those registered as unemployed, only 30.1 per cent of women found employment, compared with 32.9 per cent for the whole of Victoria, and 34.8 per cent for the metropolitan area. Those dramatic differences show the seriousness of the situation.

Women have a particularly difficult job in finding employment in manufacturing in the area. There are jobs in manufacturing for men equivalent to approximately 57.7 per cent of the resident male work force, but the figure for women is only half that, 28 per cent. Again, a dramatic difference is evident.

Among Werribee shire residents involved in full-time domestic duties—and presumably most of those people are women—half would take full-time employment if it were available and 14.6 per cent would take part-time employment if it were available. Those figures make it evident that there is a very high level of what is termed “hidden unemployment”.

The range of jobs available in the area is also grossly unbalanced. The number of jobs in manufacturing is equivalent to 47.7 per cent of the resident work force. That is twice the Victorian average. In other words, the number of jobs in manufacturing in the area is double the rate prevailing in Victoria generally. Of the local work force, 38.5 per cent is actually employed in manufacturing and there is a total of 46.6 per cent involved as tradesmen, labourers or process workers. Many of these people are shift workers and that is a matter I shall touch on in a later debate.

So, not only is there a great imbalance, there is a high dependence on the declining sector of the Victorian economy—the manufacturing industry. The number of jobs in manufacturing industry is falling steeply. The number of jobs in the manufacturing industry in the region fell by 11.5 per cent between 1971 and 1977, while the population of the region boomed, particularly in Deer Park, Melton and the township of Werribee, all of which are parts of the Werribee electorate.

That precipitous decline has occurred each year, regardless of the prevailing economic circumstances. There has not been one year during that six-year period in which employment in local manufacturing establishments has grown. In every year it has fallen.

If ever there were an example of free enterprise utterly failing the community, this must be it. The population of the area has grown, and grown dramatically. The needs of the area have grown. The work force in the area has grown. More encouragement has been given to investment, but jobs have disappeared. Indeed big business has greeted the re-election of the apostles of so-called free enterprise by closing another factory and sacking its 150 workers in Deer Park.

The problems do not stop merely in manufacturing. Many small retail businesses have been driven to the wall because of the unrestrained growth of huge shopping complexes. The feather-bedding of big businesses which has allowed huge shopping complexes to grow unhindered threatens to destroy many small shopkeepers in Deer Park and many small shopkeepers in Werribee fear the same fate. They are threatened by the prospect of new shopping centres that are about to open or are under construction in those areas.

Decent public transport to other areas of employment may alleviate the effects of unemployment, but again, free enterprise has not provided the answer. Electrification of the Werribee railway line that will benefit the many commuters and would-be commuters in this area has been delayed by one year every year by the Government. Work stopped abruptly on the Deer Park railway line electrification. Indeed, services are so bad that a mere 10 per cent of Werribee Shire residents use a bus or train or a combination of both to travel to work. Virtually no public transport is available for shift workers. Almost every shift worker travels to work by car. Consequently, many families must maintain two cars if they are to stay in the work force. Increases in fuel costs and dwindling fuel supplies will wreck family budgets and isolate and cripple

*Dr Coghill*

the area unless the Government vastly and markedly improves public transport services.

I refer to education. Again, people in my electorate are less well qualified to compete for jobs than people in many other parts of Victoria. Generally, school leavers leave school at a much earlier age and are not as well qualified as those in many other parts of the State.

In a comparison of qualifications of people between the Federal electorates of Lalor and Kooyong, this fact stands out starkly. In Lalor, 16.5 per cent of the people, 7.1 per cent of whom are women, have trade or tertiary qualifications, whereas in Kooyong the figure is 26.4 per cent, 20.8 per cent of whom are women—a three-fold differential. In Lalor, 70.7 per cent of people over fifteen years of age have no qualifications whatever but in Kooyong, the figure is 57.7 per cent—very much lower. Improving the educational level of school leavers and providing retraining facilities for the adult population must be a high priority in the western suburbs.

Probably the starkest example of the problems of the region is Melton. Development of Melton as a satellite city was announced in December 1977, with the promise that services would be provided in advance of demand. It has been suggested that the people of Melton were delighted with the land deals that were supposed to bring them some benefits. The people of Melton made their judgment on 5 May, when 35 per cent of them voted for the Liberal candidate at the State election compared with 48 per cent in the previous election on 20 March 1976. In other words, the support for the Government which was supposed to be doing so much for Melton fell by 13 per cent—one of the largest margins in the State.

**Mr Lacy**—Was the number of candidates the same?

**Dr COGHILL**—Yes. Support for the Labor Party on the two-party preferential voting system on 5 May last was

61 per cent. That is a damning indictment of the Government's performance in the Melton area. The land speculators in Melton certainly got what they wanted, but the people were betrayed. People went to Melton on the promise of jobs, decent public transport, decent public services and amenities. Instead, the value of their homes has depreciated. Indeed, many people who have attempted to sell their homes discovered that the money they invested in a deposit could not be recovered on the sale of their houses. Approximately 85 per cent of the Melton work force must travel outside the town to obtain employment. Public transport is so bad and unreliable that employers are reluctant to employ young Melton people, so they are doubly disadvantaged.

To find entertainment, young people in Melton must travel to the city because there is nothing in Melton for them. But what sort of entertainment can they attend? The last train home from the city on a week-day leaves at 9.30 p.m. What sort of night out can a young Melton person have when he must leave the city by 9.30 p.m. to return home? On a Saturday night, when young people might really want to kick up their heels, they must catch the 6.15 p.m. train home from the city. There is virtually no entertainment in Melton, although it is pleasing to note that the Blue Light Disco has been started up with the voluntary support of off-duty policemen and women.

Capital building programmes for schools in the Melton area are years behind demand. There is a huge backlog in road works. Basic street construction schemes are years behind schedule, and should have been completed. During the recent election campaign, Liberal spokesmen said in Melton that the promises of their party would be honoured. The new Minister for Planning, who is at the table, should ensure that that is done at long last.

The people of Melton and the other western suburbs have the determination, drive and initiative to develop their area, to rejuvenate its vitality and self-confidence and to assure its future. They

lack support and resources. The Australian Assistance Plan, the Western Region Commission and the Area Improvement Plan which formerly provided those resources and that support were crippled by cutbacks. The Area Improvement Plan has been discontinued and the staff of the Western Region Commission, which offered so much hope to councils in the area, has been reduced to one.

In other parts of the Western World, democratic socialist methods have provided the solution to these problems and have successfully boosted regional development. Similar efforts are needed to develop Melbourne's western suburbs.

Sydney's western suburbs face similar problems. Under the leadership of the New South Wales Minister for Planning, Mr Landa, assistance is being provided through the Western Suburbs Area Assistance Scheme. In a three-year programme, that scheme is providing funds to local councils and community groups, and priority is given to urgent needs, such as the alleviation of youth unemployment. The Albury-Wodonga project is an example of the Government's action in a similar type of scheme to boost regional development. Victoria needs such a scheme for Melbourne's western suburbs—State Government services must be boosted and a much broader range of jobs must be provided. The community must be helped to use the existing resources which are available. The suburbs west of the Marybyrnong River are facing a crucial situation and the Government must act.

**Mrs PATRICK (Brighton)**—I first of all wish to congratulate the Speaker on being elected to that very high office. Like other honorable members I am sure that he will carry out his duties with great distinction.

I wish to congratulate the honorable members who moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor and all other speakers in the debate, particularly the honorable member for Ballarat South.