

Gambling sell-off secret

SA Lotteries spent more than \$300,000 two years ago on a secret report about privatising the gambling operations but rejected the findings, Liberal Party finance spokesman Rob Lucas claims.

He said industry sources had confirmed to the Liberals that as recently as 2008-09, SA Lotteries had commissioned ABN Amro to conduct a scoping study of the national gambling market and options to respond to increasing

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market risk. The Government has strongly denied any report was prepared on a sale. Mr Lucas said the ABN Amro report, listed in SA Lotteries annual report for 2008-09 as "independent

strategic assessment", included a valuation of the Lotteries Commission that was significantly below the levels being speculated.

The Government announced in the last state Budget a plan to sell off SA Lotteries because of growing concerns about future market share. Under the plan, which might reap more than \$300 million, the Government would continue to receive around \$60 million a year in

gambling taxes. Mr Lucas said that as a result of the ABN Amro report, the lotteries board decided not to pursue or support privatisation options. "Nowhere in the annual reports is the total cost of the study referred to or the fact privatisation options had been considered, including valuations of SA Lotteries," he said.

Mr Lucas said Gambling Minister Gail Gago had been asked about the possible sale

of SA Lotteries in Parliament and had said no members of the agency had been involved in any discussions since the election about the potential sale of SA Lotteries. "It would seem hard to believe the agency could spend more than \$300,000 on a major report without the responsible minister being briefed on its contents," he said.

Ms Gago said the report had been prepared at the time of the sale of Queensland's

Golden Casket and was conducted to explore options for future growth. "I am advised that it did not address the sale of SA Lotteries Commission in line with a long-established Rann Government policy," she said.

"It was a strategic analysis of what options SA Lotteries might have to move forward - including business reform, new products and new markets - and it did not address any sale."

New victim of Hendra

QUEENSLAND'S eighth outbreak of the deadly Hendra virus has been confirmed in a horse on the Darling Downs.

Authorities don't yet know how many people could have been exposed to the sick animal, with passers-by and neighbours possibly having stroked it on the Chin-chilla property where it was a pet.

Queensland chief biosecurity officer Jim Thompson said testing yesterday confirmed the horse, which died on Friday, had been infected with the Hendra virus.

Hendra cases now span from west of Cairns to Macksville on the NSW mid-north coast.

Boy, 13, a drink-driver

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy has been charged with drink-driving on NSW's mid-north coast.

The youngster was pulled over by police while driving a Toyota erratically through Stuarts Point Holiday Park on Saturday night.

A roadside breath test revealed a reading of 0.049, police allege.

The boy was charged with drink-driving and driving without a licence, and is due to appear at Kempsey Children's Court at a date to be fixed.

A male passenger, 30, was charged with aiding and abetting a drink-driver and permitting a person to drive unlicensed.



Taking dreams to the streets

CATCHING DREAMS: Seb Humphreys and Scott Harrison at work on the artwork on Festival Drive.

Picture: CALUM ROBERTSON

TIM LLOYD

THE dreams and visions of homeless teenagers are as big, bold and achievable as the rest of the world's.

That's the message that a group of young artists living on the street are delivering on a huge wall of graffiti taking shape on Festival Drive.

Arts patrons making their way to the Festival Centre will be able to admire the mural,

part of the SA Living Artists Festival, from August 5 to 28.

SALA general manager Penny McAuley said she had spent three years establishing a suitable legal space and resources for the artwork.

"In the SALA Festival there has been nothing of graffiti on this scale," she said.

The project is backed by the Adelaide City Council, the Festival Centre and the Service to Youth Council.

Facilitator Seb Humphreys worked with a group of young homeless people to create the artwork. "In our planning sessions one girl said 'what inspires you guys to keep going in the hard times', and they said it was their dreams and their visions," he said.

"So we focused on that, and the Dream Catcher came up as the obvious image."

Scott Harrison, a graffiti artist who had lived for years on

Adelaide's streets, until finally getting a place to live in November last year, said: "I have done homelessness a lot."

He has been making graffiti - and getting into trouble for it - since 1999.

"When you put your ideas on to a wall you feel you have accomplished something. I would do it every day if I could," Mr Harrison said.

Now he has a home, he plans to study visual arts at TAFE.

Check on who is next door

AMY NOONAN
POLICE REPORTER

HOW well do you know your neighbour?

It's a question Crime Stoppers Australia is posing to the community as they release a list of some of the country's most wanted, as part of Operation Roam.

A group of 18 people is wanted by police in states and territories across Australia.

They are either in the country and sometimes frequently move between states, or their whereabouts is known by people in Australia.

Crime Stoppers Australia chairman Tony Carter said community information was vital to catch the rapists, drug

GALLERY
See all of the people on Operation's roam wanted list

adelaidenow.com.au

producers and the fraudsters.

"These people live somewhere. They have neighbours. How well do you know what your neighbour is up to?" Mr Carter said.

"Or what activities they partook in before they moved next door?"

"Did they relocate from interstate and leave a crime legacy behind?"

Mr Carter said it was important anyone who saw one of the 18 wanted people did not apprehend them, but instead contacted Crime Stoppers or local police immediately.

"These people have committed crimes in our community and we need the community to help us locate them," he said.

"Crime Stoppers helps solve a crime every 14 minutes somewhere in the world, thanks to a vigilant community."

Ring BankSA Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au

Parents in call for education ombudsman

SHERADYN HOLDERHEAD
EDUCATION REPORTER

THE state's key parent body says complaints to the education department are often ignored, sparking calls for an education ombudsman.

The South Australian Association of State School Organisations says an education ombudsman would provide an independent official with the power to investigate the public system.



In a recent SAASSO publication, it said: "We may be free to complain, but with no advocacy arrangement, the Government is free to ignore us; and generally does."

Director David Knuckey said it was "the norm" in the developed world to have an independent body parents and teachers could bring their issues to the attention of.

"If you've got a problem with your child's education you can only complain to the education department, which is who your complaining about," he said.

"An ombudsman would avoid that conflict."

SAASSO believes an edu-

cation ombudsman should have the powers of a royal commission and be bestowed with the authority to compel the department and all other education authorities to act.

SA Secondary Principals Association president Jim Davies said he believed issues, especially parent complaints, were usually best dealt with at the school level.

Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire said he planned to reintroduce his Education

Ombudsman Bill to parliament later this year.

He said with the education budget at \$2.66 billion, it would be worth "a couple hundred thousand dollars" to set up an ombudsman's office. Opposition Education spokesman David Pisoni said it was Liberal Party policy to employ an education ombudsman.

Education Minister Jay Weatherill ruled out an ombudsman.

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