

Speech

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MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Mr BROCK (Frome) (12:09): I rise to support this motion. No matter who is in opposition, the shadow ministers must get out there, especially in the country. I take on board what the member for Croydon has indicated. Members of parliament get an electorate allowance. That is to serve their electorate itself, and they need it to get out there to understand what their electorates and the people out there are about.

Some country members cover a wide range of areas, and they need to get out there. The electorate allowance not only covers accommodation, it also covers meals, when you are talking to other people. So, that electoral allowance covers a wide range of issues, including donations, sponsorships and things like that. If you are a shadow minister, you need to be able to get out there and cover the whole of the state to be able to get out there to understand and to put pressure on the government of the day.

The motion by the member for Fisher is calling for the provision of allowances to assist those shadow ministers in doing so. He has not indicated whether they would get the same allowance as a member or a minister of the government of the day. He is suggesting that there could be discussion between the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, or whoever it may be, to set up some form of the allowance. The allowance could be used to employ extra staff or resources to do investigative work because, bear in mind, they also need to do investigative work for their own electorate, and shadow ministers also need to undertake investigative work which covers the whole of the state.

I have no issues with supporting this, and I am sure that the communities of South Australia would have no problems with this. It is not as if you are asking for another \$100,000, or whatever the figure may be: you are asking to have some sort of an allowance to cover it. I am very sure that people in this house do their jobs because they want to do their jobs; they are not in it for the money. However, if the shadow minister is going over to the West Coast and are staying overnight, it is costing them extra out of their electorate allowance for accommodation and meals. As I understand, they cannot claim that back.

I have no issues with supporting this. The member for Croydon has indicated that the shadow ministers will become complacent. I do not think they would at all. If you are on the opposition side it is a challenge to get into government, and vice versa. So, I have no hesitation in commending this to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.