

Speaker; Dr Geoff Gallop; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Bob Kucera; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mrs Cheryl Edwardes; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Bernie Masters; Mr John Hyde; Mr Mike Board; Ms Sheila McHale; Mr Arthur Marshall

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## **BALI BOMBINGS**

*Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr F. Riebeling): I ask members to stand in their places for one minute to recognise the recent events that have occurred in Bali.

[Members stood in their places.]

### *Condolence Motion*

**DR G.I. GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Premier) [2.03 pm]: I move -

That this House records its outrage at the bombings which occurred in Bali on Saturday, 12 October 2002 and expresses its deepest sympathy to the victims and their families.

On the night of Saturday, 12 October 2002, the world changed for all Western Australians as a result of a cowardly bomb attack that shattered the tranquillity of a favourite holiday destination for many generations of Australians. Official advice from the Indonesian authorities is that 181 people are confirmed dead, with 309 injured. The number of Australians confirmed dead is understood to stand at 20, with 220 Australians currently unaccounted for. No names have been officially released at this stage. Many of the victims of this barbaric act are Western Australians. None of us can underestimate the extent to which this event will affect our community in the days ahead. Only just about 12 months ago, we stood in this Parliament to express our solidarity with the people of the United States and our outrage about the events that occurred there on 11 September. We noted at that time that the world had changed. However, I do not think any of us realised it had changed that much or that tragedy would come so close to home.

When we think of Western Australia and the community that makes it, we have a clear sense of our own identity - easygoing, fun loving, adventurous, very forward looking and full of hope. The events in Bali have the potential to undermine the Western Australian way as a significant number of our citizens have experienced what can only be described as the horrors of war. They experienced those horrors in what was expected and assumed to be a very peaceful holiday destination. For some that will be a direct experience. Many people saw the horrors and the terrible consequences that flow from such a barbaric bombing incident. Others will be coming to grips with the death and the serious injuries that have been caused to their loved ones, including members of their family, their friends and their colleagues. Even if the experience is not as direct as personal contact, many of us in this House - if not everyone in this House - will know someone who was in some way affected by those horrific events on Saturday night. In this important sense, all of us in Western Australia are involved. This will unsettle many people. It may even disillusion us, and affect our view of the wider world and the opportunities that the wider world offers. We will need to work together as a community to assist individuals and families cope with the consequences of this tragedy. These individuals and families need a helping hand as they work through their loss, grief and anger. This is the meaning of community and friendship and it is what is required in Western Australia today. We will also have to renew our commitments to each other, despite the many differences that exist between us, be they racial, religious, philosophical, ideological or political. The time has come for us to renew our commitment to our common purpose as a society, a democratic society that respects the rights and interests of all of the individuals within it.

In expressing my sympathy to all the victims and their families today, I assure the House that the Government is doing everything possible to assist them in the aftermath of this tragedy. Western Australian teaching hospitals have been placed on alert to receive victims, and elective surgery for yesterday and today was cancelled. The hospitals will remain in this mode for a further 24 hours before the situation is reviewed. If no further patients are expected to arrive, the hospitals will more than likely resume normal operations on Thursday. Western Australia has received 34 patients, some critically ill, with mostly burns and shrapnel wounds. I congratulate the hospitals for their response to this national tragedy. The response is an indication of the high level of skills, commitment and care available in Western Australian hospitals today.

Also, from 5.30 pm on Sunday, the Department for Community Development has operated a 24-hour telephone counselling line for metropolitan and country callers to assist victims and their families and friends. This service will continue while it is needed. The department has also arranged for two teams of counsellors and additional family support staff to attend at the airport and receive passengers returning from Bali and other locations. This collaborative effort with the Australian Red Cross and the Salvation Army is assisting travellers and their families to deal with the shocking events of the past few days. Departmental staff are handing out brochures on normal and abnormal reactions to trauma, and providing contact details for telephone counselling services. Face-to-face counselling services are also available to assist victims to cope with the devastation they may have

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witnessed and with the effect it has had on them and their loved ones. The department has also provided counselling and other staff services to the family and friends of the Kingsley Football Club as they await further news and come to terms with this catastrophe. The department remains available to assist in any way it can. The Western Australia Police Service has reassessed security arrangements to protect Western Australians and Western Australian infrastructure that was put in place following the September 11 events of last year. Police will strengthen these measures where it is considered to be necessary. Western Australian police officers have also flown to Bali to assist Indonesian authorities with the task of victim identification and are prepared to provide any other assistance if a request is received.

I have also asked the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth to activate the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund to assist Western Australian victims and their families who face financial hardship as a result of this shocking attack. I am pleased to say that this has been activated. It is a way for all Western Australians to donate help and to demonstrate to those who have suffered from this attack that they are with them in their thoughts. To commence this appeal the State will contribute \$100 000 and we encourage WA businesses and everyone throughout Western Australia to contribute.

These events have such a wide-ranging impact on everyone in our community that people are seeking a way to express their sympathy and support. Following a request that I received not long ago, I convened a meeting with you, Mr Speaker, and the President of the Legislative Council. It was agreed that the front steps of the State Parliament would be made available for people who are seeking to lay wreaths or flowers as a public display of grief or sympathy for the Bali victims. This is the people's House and it is appropriate that our precinct be available to the public of Western Australia to express their grief in that way.

Mr Speaker and all members of Parliament, I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone in Western Australia when I indicate our sympathy to all the victims of these horrific events and their families. More importantly, it is a time for all of us to realise that the implications of this event will work throughout our society. A helping hand will be needed for many individuals who will experience extreme trauma and distress as a result of what has happened. I know that the people of Western Australia will rise to that challenge as we provide a helping hand to those who need it in the days ahead.

**MR C.J. BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the Opposition) [2.14 pm]: On behalf of the Liberal Party and all Liberal members of Parliament I support this motion. Few people, if any, in Western Australia have not been or will not be touched in some way by the tragedy that occurred in Bali on Saturday night. That terrorist attack will be forever with us in the history of this State. Bali, which is known as the Island of the Gods, will probably always be thought of differently from now on. That island and its people are dependent on tourism and visitors from elsewhere, nowhere more so than Australia, particularly Western Australia. Last year around 80 000 Western Australians alone visited Bali. One in five Western Australians who travel overseas make their destination Bali. It has been estimated that at any given time around 20 000 Australians are on the island.

Over the past quarter of a century there has been a special association with and a unique relationship between this State and Bali. Most of us, in one way or another, have come to regard Bali as something of our own. The first overseas trip of many children with their parents is to Bali. So many young people, including, unfortunately, many of those who have lost their lives, would have been on their first trip overseas or out of the State by themselves as young adults. Many people in this State will be more familiar with Bali than with Rottnest Island. It has been part of our backyard and it has been our playground. This terrorist attack was an attack on Australians, on the people of this State and, more particularly, on its young people. It has shattered our sense of safety and isolation and, for many, our sense of innocence. The number of casualties, as shown by the statistics that continue to emerge, is terrifying. Some 183 bodies have been recovered, 20 of which have so far been confirmed as being Australian. We all know that that number, tragically, will increase. Some 160 Australians are still unaccounted for, of whom a great many are Western Australians.

The attack at the Sari Club took place on Indonesian soil. Many Balinese also lost their lives in the streets and while working in the cafes, restaurants and bars. However, the attack was directed at us and our young people. It was brutal and cowardly, and it was planned and premeditated. Many of us might have thought in the past that terrorism was something that happened elsewhere; something associated perhaps with a local political event, a border dispute, an ethnic, religious or racial dispute, or whatever it might be. Since September 11, we have been conscious that terrorism is now global. I do not think that we ever thought it would impact upon us so directly and so close to home. We can now never take our security and safety for granted, if we ever did before. We must be more conscious of our personal safety, the safety of family members and friends, and the safety of the community at large in public places and at public events.

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Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy must now be with those who have lost their lives and those who have suffered severe injury, and also with their families, friends and loved ones. Invariably, we cannot find the words, especially for those people who still do not know whether they have lost a son, daughter, other relative or friend. Many may perhaps never know. We feel for them as they cling to that last piece of remaining hope. As I have said, we must always remember that the Balinese people are going through exactly the same experiences as people in this country.

At a time of tragedy there is always some room for admiration and thanks. In that sense, the Australian spirit can never be diminished. At the time of the blast, there were many accounts of young people going back into that nightclub to search for, find and help others, comfort them and stay with them, and no doubt hold some as they died. We are indebted to the medical teams in the hospitals, the doctors, nurses and volunteers in Bali and Australia, and in particular in Western Australia. We are also indebted to the armed forces, evacuation teams and people at home in Australia, and in Western Australia, who have donated medical equipment or blood, or simply provided comfort and support.

For now there is little else we can do but wait until the toll tragically becomes finalised. We must support the police, international agencies and investigative teams, and hope beyond hope that they can find those responsible for this cruel act. This tragedy has changed the lives of so many people, and has probably changed all of us in some way. I am sure that all our thoughts, prayers and sympathy are with those who have died, those who have been severely injured, and their families, friends and loved ones.

**MR M.W. TRENORDEN** (Avon - Leader of the National Party) [2.20 pm]: The National Party also endorses the motion moved by the Premier on this very sad occasion. All of us in this Chamber I am sure are horrified by this tragedy. The event is as horrifying as it is incomprehensible.

We all know the enchanted island of Bali as a holiday destination, as it has been for countless Australians for two generations. Seemingly forever, Bali has been a peaceful and smiling place that has lured plane load after plane load of Australians to its lingering sunsets. Yet, on a balmy Saturday evening - a fateful 13 months after the events in New York - a terrifying and cowardly attack has taken so many innocent young people - sons and daughters, friends and neighbours. By the time the heartbreaking task of identifying victims is finally complete, we may all recognise the name of someone who perished or someone who escaped. By the time this task is over, Mr Speaker, we will know them all. We will have mourned the beautiful daughters who were lost and the sons from the Kingsley Cats Football Club who also did not make it. We will have prayed for the girl next door struggling for life in the burns unit at Royal Perth Hospital or Royal Darwin Hospital and we will have inwardly cheered for the boys from the South Bunbury Tigers Football Club who cheated death. We will long be haunted by the graphic pictures of fire and destruction and will grieve with the families of the lost and the missing.

We must now begin to look for meaning and for a shaft of light from the darkness to help us get our lives back into perspective. We all feel a sense of vulnerability, just as we did on September 11. However, this time many of the dead and injured are our beloved young Western Australians. An estimated 20 000 Australians were holidaying in Bali when the terrorists set their deadly trap. Today, as the planes continue to bring home the dead, the injured and the frightened, every Australian knows that the world has become a little darker, as it did on September 11. This is a seminal moment for Western Australia's young men and women who rank among the world's most travel-loving people. The football team from Northam, the netball team from Merredin and hundreds of other sporting teams and community groups around the nation will rethink the concept of celebrating overseas.

The journey to Bali for many young sporting people and families has been almost ritualistic and a part of the Western Australian way of life. Against that backdrop, we must also extend a hand to the gentle Balinese who are also victims. As we feel for those with loved ones still travelling in other parts of the world at this time of heightened anxiety, it is time again to force ourselves to understand that the world has changed forever. Just 13 months after the terror in New York and the live vision of the Twin Towers collapsing, we gaze solemnly into the ruins of the Sari Club and the grim harvest of terrorism on our doorstep.

As we bring home innocent victims, we must implore people of good spirit around the world to unite. We must resolve to overwhelm those who would perpetrate further evil against their fellow man. This act of barbarism must keep us alert until we have found a way to deal with hatred and to tip the scales towards peace and lasting tolerance. We must set our stance wide and face squarely those who intend to harm our loved ones and us. If we do not face the perpetrators of terrorism, the penalty must surely be a life of fear; that is not the Australian way. Until September 11, and until Saturday evening in Bali, Australians had not been victims of terrorism; we had always felt insulated from its grasp. On Saturday evening, Australia's innocence was shattered in its offshore playground.

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On behalf of my colleagues in the National Party, our families and the people of Western Australia, I offer our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the dead and missing.

**MR R.C. KUCERA** (Yokine - Minister for Health) [2.23 pm]: I support the motion. I, like every member in this House, express my great sadness, absolute horror and sense of outrage at what can only be described as a despicable act that was perpetrated in Bali last Saturday night. It was an act of barbarity that has touched all of us. In the early hours of Sunday morning, as I received the first report of what had occurred, it was with an immediate sense of disbelief in that in my previous career I had been in these kinds of situations on many occasions, but never in a situation of this magnitude.

On a more personal note, today there is an empty desk in my office as my secretary waits with her family to see whether her stepbrother who plays for the Kingsley football team will come home. There is a slender bit of hope and we support her absolutely. He and six of his mates have been missing since the blast.

Yesterday morning I visited many of the victims in Royal Perth Hospital, as did the Premier. I heard their stories of absolute horror and also of heroism. It was only when a young police sergeant from New South Wales spoke to me only as one copper can speak to another that I realised what had occurred. Only then the true impact of the event came home to me. However, it highlighted also why I wanted to stand in this Chamber today. I feel absolutely compelled to speak about and pay tribute to the men and women from the emergency, military and health services of this nation and our State. I must speak also of their counterparts in Bali.

I have had 25 years of association with the island and with the gentle people whose nation and lives were changed forever on Saturday, yet who have worked unstintingly under absolutely atrocious conditions to give what aid they can to those people who were involved. Many of their innocent citizens also have been killed and injured in this senseless savagery. Their hospitals are not equipped to handle this type of emergency, but they have done everything possible. Some would say that fortunately many doctors, nurses and health professionals were on holiday on the island at the time. In fact, one of our burns registrars, Dr Vij Vijayasekaran, and his wife have worked for almost 72 hours straight to set up a burns unit. He is a burns specialist and has worked tirelessly. Unfortunately, his mobile phone battery gave out the other morning while he was giving information to us directly to ensure that both Darwin and Perth could treat those people arriving in this country and that our staff were aware of what they would have to face. Jenn Fitzgerald, a young nurse from Western Australia - members may have seen her on television last night - Dr David Morgan, a general practitioner from Melbourne, and countless other people simply volunteered and are still there working tirelessly.

It was with a sense of enormous pride that I watched our defence forces and national medical and terrorist emergency response groups swing into action. I spoke to Senator Kay Patterson and expressed thanks on behalf of our State's medical services for the Commonwealth's cooperation. I express my thanks also to Virginia McLaughlin, who coordinated the health response on behalf of the national emergency plan; the Director General of the Department of Health, Mike Daube; Dr Brian Lloyd; Glyn Palmer, the head of Royal Perth Hospital, who has had about four hours sleep in the past three days; Andrew Chuk; and Phil Montgomery. There are a number of people I wish to name because of the enormous amount of work they have done, including John Burns, the chief executive officer, and Dr Fiona Wood and her team from the burns unit, who have made a magnificent effort and are working absolutely tirelessly. For the past two nights, teams headed by Dr David Carbinell and Dr Paul Mark have worked at the airport, and Dr Bill Beresford, Pat Tibbett, the chief nurse from Royal Perth Hospital, and Dr Phil Montgomery have worked at the hospitals to deal with the 34 patients as well as the many people who have come in as walking wounded.

I will advise the Parliament of the current situation. There are 34 people in our hospitals, some of whom are critical. Everyone who has been brought back has been identified for the information of families, yet the other job is still ahead of us for those who are still in Bali. Our burns unit has been magnificent. It has provided world-class treatment. A second team was standing by, together with the Government jet, to fly to either Darwin or Bali if necessary, but that has been deemed not necessary. All our doctors, nurses, administrative staff and emergency people have been magnificent. Our counselling services immediately offered their help. Their work is only just beginning. We are enormously proud of everyone from Kuta right through to Perth, Sydney and Darwin who has helped in any way, and we are deeply grateful for the swift, caring and compassionate response they have given. Finally, the Western Australian community, despite its anguish, has rallied to provide blood and has supported our hospitals by realising that cancelling surgery and ensuring the absolute availability of our emergency services was essential.

As I said, my association with Bali stretches back over some 25 years. We must remember also that some of the Balinese people have lost sons and daughters, and the true hurt is yet to be felt.

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This morning another 14 seriously injured patients arrived at Royal Perth Hospital, bringing the total to 34. Many families - like my secretary's - still live and wait in hope. At lunchtime today a young woman came in from Bali seriously injured. I sat with her three years ago when her husband, Peter Ball - a young policeman - was killed. She was injured dragging somebody out of the wreckage in Bali. My heart goes out to her.

The ongoing work of all our health professionals has just begun. We can be justifiably proud of them. They have risen to the occasion as true professionals, and it makes me feel very humble, proud and thankful to be their minister.

As has already been said, September 11 changed the world, but October 12 changed Australia, because at the end of the day innocence and trust have become the ultimate victims.

**MRS M.H. ROBERTS** (Midland - Minister for Police and Emergency Services) [2.31 pm]: Mr Speaker, the tragic events of the weekend Bali bombings have shaken us all. I take this opportunity to echo the sentiments of the Premier and my parliamentary colleagues and to express the deepest sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones. As well, we extend our support to those who have been injured and traumatised by this heinous act and to those still waiting for news. I cannot express how difficult it must be for all the families who have been affected by these cowardly attacks.

I also take this opportunity to inform the House about how this event has impacted upon the Western Australia Police Service, as well as what police are doing to assist the investigation and the work they are doing to ensure the security of our State, as part of the national counter-terrorism plan. Like many Western Australian families, the Police Service has been anxiously checking on the whereabouts of police officers who are known or believed to be in Bali. I am pleased to advise that four police officers, who were known to be in Bali, are reported to be safe, although in all cases not well. First Class Constable Kylee Smith of Bunbury police is in Royal Perth Hospital, being treated for her injuries sustained in the bombing. Senior Constable Adam Matson, who was in the night club and is reported to have assisted in helping other victims to safety, received some injuries during the explosions, but is safe and has also returned to Perth, where he is being treated at Royal Perth Hospital. First Class Constable Tim Britton, who is understood to have been nearby the scene at the time of the explosion, immediately went to the Sari Club, where he was reportedly involved in assisting others, is also safe and has returned to his family in Perth. Counselling support is being provided to these officers, who, like the many others injured in the attack, have been deeply traumatised by these events.

As we speak, the Police Service is still checking on the whereabouts and wellbeing of one other police officer and a civilian who were understood to have been on holiday in Bali, but who are, as yet, unaccounted for. Hopefully they are safe and well, and our hopes and prayers are with all those families still waiting for news. Another police officer flown to Perth to be treated for injuries sustained in the attack is New South Wales Police Sergeant Joel Murchie, who has also been admitted to Royal Perth Hospital with burns injuries.

I take this opportunity to commend the police unions of the Northern Territory and Western Australia, which have been providing accommodation and various support for the families of victims in Darwin and Perth. This is a shining example of how the police families work together at such a desperate time.

I now turn to how Western Australian police are assisting with the aftermath of the bombings, as well as how they are ensuring the safety and security of Western Australians. The Premier and I have been kept fully informed by the Commissioner of Police about all the steps that have been taken in Western Australia in the aftermath of this heinous event, as well as the security measures that have been put in place. The Western Australian police have been working closely with the Australian Federal Police and other agencies in the intensive investigation that is now under way. We are working directly with our national partners under the direction of the Australian Federal Police to help with disaster victim identification. Four police officers from our forensic division have flown to Bali to assist federal police with that difficult task. Those officers are Sergeant Julie Hansen, Sergeant James Hofstee, Acting Senior Sergeant Kim Limbrick and Acting Sergeant Michael Prosser. Two of Western Australia's medical examiners will also join our police officers. They are Western Australian Chief Forensic Pathologist Dr Clive Cooke and forensic odontologist Dr Stephen Knott. Police investigators are also involved in interviewing people on their return to Perth from Bali.

On matters of state security and the national counter-terrorism plan, the Commissioner of Police has advised that Western Australian police are working closely with the federal police and other agencies; security at all vital installations around Western Australia has been stepped up; and the appropriate level of security is being provided to all personnel in places considered to be potentially at risk.

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Finally, I emphasise that as a Government, we will not tolerate reprisal attacks against any Muslim institutions or Indonesian interests. These people did not have anything to do with the attacks in Bali, and police will take decisive action to deal with any such occurrence.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those whose lives have been impacted by this truly dreadful event.

**MRS C.L. EDWARDES** (Kingsley) [2.36 pm]: I similarly rise to express shock and sadness at the attack that occurred in Bali on Saturday. Much human tragedy has resulted and will continue to result from that cowardly attack. Last Saturday night, many lives changed and many dreams were shattered. People from other countries, Bali, Australia and Western Australia have been caught up in this tragedy. Our prayers are with each and every one of them and their families and friends. Our condolences go to those families who have lost loved ones. Those injured have our best wishes for a speedy recovery, and our thoughts and prayers are with those who have returned home and who are yet to return home as they attempt to overcome the trauma of that night.

I would like to specifically talk about a very special group of people; that is, the Kingsley community and the Kingsley Football Club. Geographically, the Kingsley community is much broader than the suburb of Kingsley. Most of the players and members of the Kingsley senior football team came through the Kingsley Junior Football Club, and they went to schools in not only Kingsley but also the adjoining suburbs. As such, the whole community has been caught up in this tragedy, to which many of the parents of the boys who travelled to Bali will attest. They have been blessed by the very strong support and traipsing through their houses of the many school friends and neighbours. The Kingsley community is probably the most severely and directly affected community in Australia. Twenty members of the team travelled to Bali last Saturday. Two have been medically evacuated, and 11 have stayed in Bali to look for the seven members who are missing. This has had the greatest consequence on the community and those team members who did not go to Bali for one reason or another. The Kingsley community, probably like many communities in times of tragedy, has united in a way that is absolutely overpowering in terms of support and kindness of spirit. That will result in a much stronger community. After listening to some of the young boys last night, I think it will also result in a much stronger football club. That can be sensed from the strong determination of the remaining members, under the leadership of coach Simon Quayle, to stay behind to look for their missing mates. They have been very brave and courageous in their endeavours. Our hearts go out to Simon and the other members of the team. On behalf of the families, girlfriends and mates who are here, we cannot wait for everyone to come home safely. We want to give everyone a big cuddle. They stayed behind without consideration for their own safety. Despite the shock and injuries they are suffering from, their first thoughts were to stay behind and rescue their mates.

To the family and friends of the seven missing members of the team, we know that you are waiting anxiously for news. Our prayers are with you and for seven miracles. To the team members of the club who did not travel, the families left waiting are very appreciative of the strong support they are receiving. We are talking about your mates; we all feel for you. To the other members of the club, particularly the president, secretary and other club executives, it is clear that you have done a fantastic job in information gathering and distribution, and providing support for the families. To Norelle Quayle, young mother and wife of the club coach Simon, has fallen the job of keeping parents informed through Simon on the ground in Bali. She has done a fantastic job and shown tremendous courage when all she would probably like to do is to have Simon home. She has behaved in an undaunted way in keeping families informed. Her work has been very much appreciated by the families.

I know many members of the club and their families, including some of the seven members still missing. The Kingsley community is like a big family. Whilst we share in the tragedy, we cannot imagine how the families and close friends must be feeling. We can offer only our support, comfort and prayers to all.

I would also like to say thank you on behalf of many people in Kingsley to those in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including Hon Alexander Downer and his staff, as well as Hon Chris Ellison and his staff, the Department of Health, the Australian consulate in Bali, and the many volunteers who have helped in Bali with recovery and rescue, and in the hospitals. Thanks go to members of the consulate, who have kept family members informed in Australia. Thanks also go to the Australian Ambassador in Indonesia, Qantas, Garuda Indonesia and Kerry Stokes. There are many people that I should name. They have all worked tirelessly and unselfishly for the families. The families in Perth very much appreciate their efforts. A big thank you goes to the Department for Community Development and the counsellors in the district region for the work they have started to do with families in Perth and what can be expected when the boys come home, and for the work that lies ahead in the months to come. I also thank the Premier for his early morning telephone call on Sunday; it was much appreciated by many in the community and me.

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Once again, terrorists have targeted innocent people. They have killed many and left others with physical and mental scars that they will carry for the rest of their lives. In bringing their message so close to home these extremists have only underlined how vulnerable we are and how much we need to be on our guard. The comment most made is that we always think it will happen to someone else. We all want a world without terror in which we can all live in peace and future generations can live in harmony. Unfortunately, there are those who would deny us this simple wish. The Kingsley community, with its positive attitude, will not allow them to succeed.

**MR M. MCGOWAN** (Rockingham - Parliamentary Secretary) [2.44 pm]: I support the motion moved by the Premier and supported by members of this House. It must be the greatest torture known to lose a child. It is certainly the greatest fear of any parent to lose a child. We in Western Australia are most likely to be confronted by dozens of parents in the unimaginable and horrific position of losing those who they have raised and loved more dearly than their own lives. As a community, we must join with the families that have lost their children and who have suffered as a result of this immense tragedy; we must provide them with as much support as possible. It has been said that this tragedy is similar to a wartime situation. People have been terribly maimed, burnt and injured. During wartime, families came together to provide support to those people who suffered the loss of their sons and daughters in far away countries. I urge all members and the community to provide whatever personal support they can to the people they know - I am sure we all have a connection with someone who has suffered - and to help them deal with this terrible tragedy as best they can.

As tragic and atrocious as events such as these are, often they bring out the best in us. Yesterday, I had the honour of attending the Royal Perth Hospital with the Premier. We met with some of the staff of the burns unit who have been treating patients from Bali. I spoke with some of the nurses. They were recalled on Sunday and have been deprived of sleep. They have had to deal with appalling situations and have treated some people - many of whom are younger than the nurses - who have burns to 90 per cent of their bodies. A senior nurse told me how recently-trained nurses have been treating people with 90 per cent burns to their bodies, which are swollen. She also told me that infections are setting in; of course, there are consequences associated with that. The hospital medical staff, including doctors, ambulance staff, attendants and nurses, have been dealing with this very trying situation with a great deal of commitment, understanding and effort. I pass on my personal thanks to all of those medical staff. I also thank those members of our defence forces who swung into action so quickly, and all in the community who flooded telephone lines to offer their support by donating blood.

This terrible event has brought out the best in young Australians. We have heard about the bravery shown by our young Australians when they were put under pressure. The reports I have read from Bali show that, again as in times of war, in a shocking and unexpected event, our young Australians have swung into action to support one another. They re-entered a terrifying and dangerous situation to rescue their fellow human beings, regardless of their nationality, and pulled them to safety at great risk to their own lives when they could have just escaped that terrible event. In numerous situations throughout the past century, particularly in wartime, that type of indomitable spirit has been shown by Australians, and it was shown again in Bali on Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The Australian community has been numbed and shocked by these events. I have noted that people are reluctant to talk about it. People seem to be bottling up their feelings because it is too enormous to contemplate that this tragedy could happen to so many of our citizens. Over time, these events will cause anger and outrage to build in the Australian community. I urge our institutions to adopt a determined and steely-eyed resolve to attempt to bring to justice those responsible for such a cowardly and dastardly act. We must ensure that we do whatever is in our power to bring these people to account for what they have done to so many of our young citizens. I pass on my sympathy and condolences to all those affected by this event.

**MR B.K. MASTERS** (Vasse) [2.50 pm]: With regret I advise the House of two casualties of the Bali terrorist bombing who are both from Busselton and have teaching ties to the Busselton Senior High School. One woman is deceased and the other is in the Royal Darwin Hospital with multiple injuries, including burns. I offer my sincere sympathy to the family of the deceased person and I hope that the injured woman has a speedy and full recovery, which I am sure are the wishes of everyone in this place.

The terror unleashed on innocent people in the Kuta nightclubs on Saturday night is a tragedy that deserves the strongest possible response from Australia, Indonesia and the world community. However, while we all share the grief of the incident and abhor its horror, we must also strive to find an answer to the question of why it happened. If we fail to find that answer, I fear we run the risk that similar and potentially worse incidents may be repeated many times around the world. Although we cannot and must not diminish our abhorrence of the human impact of this terrorist act, we must also accept the need to address the issues that have led to this major

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loss of life and caused so much injury. We owe it to those who have died or been injured to do all we can to ensure that their families and friends are never again exposed to similar acts of terrorism.

**MR J.N. HYDE** (Perth) [2.52 pm]: I endorse the messages of condolence already offered in this House. I also wish to express thanks to the nurses, orderlies, grief counsellors, emergency workers and other health professionals living and working in my electorate and throughout Western Australia who have volunteered for extra shifts and undertaken service beyond their job descriptions, such as working on Sunday from the hours of 3.00 am and 4.00 am. The Western Australians still working in Bali and those at Royal Perth Hospital and other hospitals here have put their leave time and personal lives aside in order to meet the needs of those who have and will come to WA to recover physically and spiritually.

Finally, to the Javanese, Balinese and other affected communities who live in WA, many of whom pray at the mosques and temples so close to my electorate office, we share your grief.

**MR M.F. BOARD** (Murdoch) [2.53 pm]: We have all been touched in some way by this event. Unfortunately, many Western Australians will be touched tragically for the rest of their lives. Many people have lost their lives, and the lives of those who remain behind will be scarred by this event.

It is important that we, as elected members of Parliament, place on record our gratitude for the support of the professionals who have swung into action. As representatives of the Western Australian community, members should put their feelings on record and note the way in which the whole of the community comes together in times like this. We must also thank the federal Government, the Prime Minister, federal ministers and the federal Opposition for the way in which they have responded. Thanks must also go to the Premier and state ministers, who have responded adequately and professionally, and to the many thousands of public servants in Western Australia, particularly those who are charged with responsibility in a professional sense, whether it be through police emergency services or community services. In my capacity as shadow Minister for Health I note, as did the Minister for Health, the outstanding work of this State's health professionals and, in particular, the specialists, the doctors, the nurses and the allied health professionals who have swung into action in Western Australia, Darwin and Bali. It is important that we recognise how we unite as a community in times of tragedy and stress, and we need to praise those people who have offered their help. There are two fantastic aspects to the Australian way of life. One is the gregarious, outgoing nature of Australians, which Bali represented, and the other is the way in which Australians come together when there is a tragedy. As a community we provide financial and moral support. Our culture binds us together to support one another. Both those aspects have come to the fore in the past few days. On behalf of my electorate and my shadow responsibilities, I thank all those who have supported the people who are in great need at this time.

**MS S.M. McHALE** (Thornlie - Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth) [2.55 pm]: In expressing my deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those involved in this event, and recognising that this tragedy affects us all deeply, I put on record as Minister for Community Development my thanks for the excellent work of the staff of the Department for Community Development who responded so quickly and willingly on the weekend to the tragedy. I also thank specific organisations such as the Australian Red Cross and the Salvation Army for their voluntary assistance with the ongoing response. I also acknowledge the response from non-government agencies and private individuals who are trained in grief and trauma counselling and who also quickly offered their support and services wherever needed. Teams of psychologists have been involved with the department's counselling hotline, which was specifically set up on Sunday afternoon. Teams of trained workers have met the planes that have arrived from Bali, to offer assistance now, or in the longer term. Those workers have been at the airport at all hours of the day and night. The communities that have been particularly affected by this event are being supported through this difficult time. However, the tragic reality is that support will be needed for the foreseeable future, as the full force of this horrific event sets in and families try to come to terms with an immense sense of loss, and start to put their lives back together. We will ensure that trauma and grief counselling will be available whenever needed. I recognise and thank the caring community in which we all live for its superb response.

**MR A.D. MARSHALL** (Dawesville) [2.57 pm]: One area that has not yet been covered in the condolences that have been offered, and which I would like to mention, is the Press. On Sunday I shared a feeling of helplessness with every parent and friend of the people in Bali. I received a call from a father in my electorate whose daughter was missing. He could not get through to Bali. His 22-year-old son had been with his 29-year-old sister in the nightclub. The son had needed to go to the toilet, so he asked an Englishman to look after his sister. That was when the explosion occurred. The son's ears were damaged and he was concussed. He could not find his sister. He had been able to ring his parents, which had created the anxiety. They could not get through to Bali; they could not get an answer. By chance I was in my office at four o'clock on Sunday when I got the call, but then I was helpless. Who do you ring? How do you help these people? I rang a couple of our federal

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members and left messages on their mobile phones. I rang the Leader of the Opposition, who said that he would be home in 10 minutes and would give me the numbers that it might be possible to get through on. He also said that he would ring the person concerned, which he did, and that was appreciated. Then I thought about the newsroom at Channel Nine. I know the newsreader extremely well. I was met with her anxiousness, because two of her friends were missing. I am emotional because I feel the emotions of these people. We have overlooked the Press. We criticise the Press sometimes in this House, but the journalist in Bali got onto these parents immediately, found the lad and took him under his wing. In fact, another journalist from Channel 9 went up there, and is sharing a room with him, helping him. He obtained a pass that makes him look like a journalist, to go through the hospitals looking for his sister. The Press, in this instance under pressure in Bali, was fantastic. We have mentioned all the other organisations in Mandurah - the Department for Community Development, the Silver Chain, and so on - but I would like the Press to be acknowledged for its excellent work. Its members worked as a team, though normally they are in competition, to get the numbers and lists of the dead, injured and missing, checked the hospitals and reported thoroughly on the event while showing compassion. I share the grief of everyone.

Question passed, members standing.

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr F. Riebeling): I advise members that there are pages of a sympathy book in the Speaker's corridor outside the Chamber, if members wish to record their comments. These pages will be bound into a book at a later stage. I will not be calling petitions or papers.