

CORONAVIRUS — FRONTLINE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [12.54 pm]: As we continue our collective response to COVID-19, it is important to recognise those on the front line of this unprecedented health, social and economic battle. Right across Western Australia, a legion of healthcare workers, emergency services workers, social workers and community groups have selflessly dedicated their time and used their skills to wrap around us all. We thank our doctors, nurses, public health workers and administrators, police officers and emergency services workers for their commitment—we have relied on them to get us through these tough times. Volunteers in regional WA have banded together to check on the welfare of our most vulnerable, by making phone calls, delivering food and organising services. They have been ably supported by our local governments and community resource centres, many of which have gone above and beyond to ensure that their communities were safe and informed. Everyone who continued to go to work, including our teachers, allowed the state to keep functioning. Small businesses have been under enormous pressure and have pivoted and adapted where possible. We know that it has been tough. We owe them all a debt of gratitude. The Nationals WA look forward to working hard to make good on these people's selfless and caring approach by supporting and championing a recovery effort that leaves no-one behind. Regional WA will play an important role in recovery—our state's economic and social recovery will depend on it.