

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — RETIRING MEMBERS

Valedictory Remarks — Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral — Leader of the House) [5.33 pm]: Prior to question time I was commenting upon a number of members who are retiring and I had just made some comments about Hon Kim Chance. I hope in his valedictory address he can explain what it is about the water supply in Doodlakine, because, for reasons that he may be able to explain, three quite interesting and different politicians have come from Doodlakine: Hon Jim Scott who was a Greens member, affectionately known as “Hon Jim Green”; Peter Walsh, a federal Labor minister, whose views on spending money were probably to the right of my views; and Hon Kim Chance, whose character is a mixture of all those.

Hon Kate Doust: Frank Hough.

Hon NORMAN MOORE: Is he from there, too? The point is now well made! There is clearly something about the water in Doodlakine! There may be an explanation for why it has had that effect on politics in Western Australia and, indeed, Australia generally.

Hon George Cash is also a retiring member. Hon George Cash and I have been colleagues and friends for many years, certainly since he became a member of the Legislative Assembly in about 1984, as the member for Mount Lawley. His seat was abolished and he then sought preselection for the Legislative Council and was given the very rare honour of being elected as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council before he actually became a member. That was a very significant reflection of the esteem in which Hon George Cash was held at that time and still is within the Liberal Party of Western Australia.

Over the years we have shared some pretty good moments in politics—some ecstatic events—such as winning the election in 1993, and again last year, and some serious lows when we lost office in 2001, and due to the difficulties during the late 1980s within the Liberal Party. As well as those moments, we have battled our way through many quite fascinating incidents within the political realm in which we find ourselves. It has always been my view that, had circumstances been different, Hon George Cash could have been the Premier of Western Australia. I think he is certainly capable of holding that position, but circumstance did not fall that way. I say that because that is the esteem in which I hold him. Having not been the Premier, he was a very, very capable, efficient, competent member of Parliament in a range of different roles.

Initially, as a member of the Legislative Assembly, he made his mark very quickly in the days of the Burke government. He then became a member of the Legislative Council and Leader of the Opposition. Members who were here in those days will know that he was a very combative Leader of the Opposition and put the government of the day under extraordinary pressure. The battles he had with Hon Joe Berinson, who was then Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, were legendary. Both men, with superior intellects and superior debating capacity, gave us many hours of significant pleasure, although we recognised the barbs that were landing from time to time and the pain they were creating for each other. Hon George Cash then became Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council and a minister in the Richard Court government. I remember those days with great pleasure. He was a very capable minister. He did an extraordinary amount of work behind the scenes on how that government was put together. The advice and support he provided to other ministers was very much appreciated by everyone.

Circumstances were such that he resigned from the cabinet, was cabinet secretary for a short time and was then elected as the President of this chamber. As we all know, those of us who were here during that time, know he was a very competent President and managed the affairs of Parliament and the chamber in a way that we had come to expect of Hon George Cash. Recently, he has been a Deputy President and, again, I believe he provided great support to you as President, Mr President, and, indeed, provided a great deal of mentoring for other members of the chamber in all the roles they are engaged in within Parliament. He has become a champion of this chamber, a person who is prepared to argue the case for second chambers, that we need to maintain a degree of independence as an upper house and that we need to enhance our capacity to do the review work that this chamber is here for. He will be leaving us with a very significant legacy. I have to say that I and the chamber will very dearly miss his wise counsel on so many issues and will miss his very extensive experience in not only government and politics but in the way this house operates. Can I just say in summary that the contribution made by Hon George Cash to the Liberal Party, the state of Western Australia and the Parliament has been nothing less than quite outstanding.

Mr President, can I conclude by making a few comments about you, if I may, Sir. In my opinion you have been a highly successful President. You brought to the position a dignity and impartiality that has enhanced the role of

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

President, and I thank you and congratulate you for that. You have followed a very long line of competent, capable and quite outstanding presidents, and you can feel very comfortable in their company. As a minister, before becoming President, you were in my view an extremely successful administrator and member of the then government. Although we are on the opposite sides of the political fence, when you were a minister I always felt that when you were making a decision you were invariably making the right one. I know how much energy and effort you put into that role and how important you saw that role. You can be very proud of your achievements as a minister. On top of that, having been a very successful President, you can be very proud of the role you played as President of this chamber. As you would know, it is important that the President be held in high regard by members of both sides of the house and all parties. This house functions on the basis of the President being impartial, dispensing wisdom and knowledge to anybody who seeks it, and providing that impartial management of the house that makes every member feel they are being treated equally, and with the same respect and level of dignity. Thank you very much, Mr President; you can be very proud of your political life, and I wish you every success at home cooking the meals that your wife told me you would be doing very regularly from now on. She is looking forward to coming home from work and finding the meal on the table. That is a flippant remark, and perhaps not appropriate for this occasion. However, I wish you well and thank you very much for the great contribution you have made to the Parliament of Western Australia.

I conclude by thanking all the members who have made a contribution over the years. I thank them for the work they have done for their constituencies, their parties and the Parliament. It is a sad occasion, as I said, to be losing so many members at once; a significant amount of intellect and knowledge will be leaving. However, as happens all the time, there is renewal, and Friday will see the swearing-in of the new members. They will come here with a different level of enthusiasm, commitment and understanding. In 20 years' time they will be standing here making a speech similar to mine, and saying that they hope the new lot will be as good as the old lot. If the history of the place holds true, they will be. On that note, I wish all retiring members great success in whatever they choose to do in the future.

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [5.43 pm]: Despite the reputations of politicians in the community generally—we are held in fairly low regard—most of the politicians I have ever worked with have entered public life, and this particular form of public service, because they genuinely want to create a better community and a better society. Where we differ is on what it takes to make a difference, and how we get to the point at which the difference is made. In my experience, it is a rare politician who seeks the glory of being a member of Parliament, or indeed a minister or holder of some other senior office, just for the sake of the glory itself. As we all know, in the positions we may have held in the past or those that we hold now, on some days there is not much glory in it. Nevertheless, I want to add my words to those of the Leader of the House in acknowledging the contributions of the significant number of members who are leaving us this week, some of whom I have worked with more closely than others. Some of that is because we are in the same party, but in the case of others who are not members of the Labor Party, it is because I have worked on committees with them in various capacities. There are some with whom I did not have an opportunity to work closely, but I wish all retiring members well.

I will start where the Leader of the House concluded; that is, with you, Mr President. You have been a member of Parliament since 1993, serving the Labor Party in the Legislative Council in a range of positions, culminating in the position of President. Watching the President in his former ministerial position as a legislator was an important experience for me when I joined the Parliament in 2001. The Labor Party was in government, and I was on the back bench. In your previous capacity as a minister, Mr President, you had responsibility for carriage of the majority of legislation that was dealt with by the house on many occasions. I learnt by observation, and made a point of watching the way that you conducted yourself in the carriage of that legislation. The important thing that I noted and tried to emulate myself was getting the balance right when dealing with a piece of legislation that may be controversial. How can we get the right balance between answering questions and responding to interjections during the committee stage while ensuring that the momentum of the legislation is not lost? You were very skilful at that, Mr President, and I sought to learn from you. I want to make comment also about a particular project that marks your presidency, which is the relationship between this Parliament and one of the provisional Parliaments in China. Under your presidency, for the first time, this Legislative Council has an ongoing relationship with a Parliament outside the European tradition usually followed by this Parliament in establishing relationships with sister Parliaments. A relationship with a sister Parliament in an Asian country is an important achievement for the Legislative Council, and I commend you for that, Mr President.

I turn now to my friend and former leader Hon Kim Chance. I said this morning in our caucus meeting—if I can be relieved of my obligations not to reveal what goes on in the caucus room—that I now have some understanding of the pressure that Hon Kim Chance must have been under in getting the relationship right with our colleagues in the Legislative Assembly, for someone holding a leadership position in the Legislative

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

Council. I have some understanding of what it is like now, but I am in opposition, and I now see that the pressure of getting that relationship right in government would have been enormous. I commend Hon Kim Chance, as our caucus colleagues said this morning, not only for what he did but also for the way that he did the job. It is not true that the only legacy that Hon Kim Chance leaves is about speeches on feral goats and the Potato Marketing Board. He has in fact done much more than that. I can imagine that it might not always have been easy being the Minister for Agriculture and Food in a Labor government, but he represented the industry and the stakeholders with distinction. I know he is held in high regard by the industry. I will miss knowing that he is there if I need to pick his brains. I also record my appreciation for his generosity after the change of government, when he was more than willing to make himself available to help me in my new role. I will keep at the back of my mind the checklist that he gave me to make sure that we have fun along the way.

I thank my other colleague in the South Metropolitan Region, Hon Sheila Mills, for being part of our team. Hon Sheila Mills has served the Labor Party with distinction. Her role on committees has been really important. Her contribution to debates when required from time to time has also been valuable. It is true that part of her legacy will be how outrageous a pair of shoes she could wear on any given day. We will miss seeing those outrageous pink legs.

I also thank Hon Batong Pham. Against the odds, we have observed his ongoing successful rehabilitation, and we saw the results when he asked his parliamentary question today. He has made a couple of speeches since entering the house. I know that his rehabilitation continues, and I wish him and his family well for the future. If I may be granted indulgence, I would also like to recognise the role of his father in assisting him in his parliamentary duties. Mr Pham is unfailingly cheerful when we see him every day. He is an incredibly courteous and delightful man, and I am very pleased that members have had an opportunity to speak with him and to see his smiling face every day in Parliament. I hope he is listening now.

Hon Shelley Eaton replaced Hon Vince Catania when he left this place to successfully contest a lower house seat. As Labor Party members were reminded today in caucus—this is the second time I have breached the rule about not revealing what happens in caucus—Hon Shelley Eaton first came to Parliament as a baby in her mother's arms. She has served in every capacity in which it is possible to serve in the Australian Labor Party as an integral part of the team. Hon Shelley Eaton was one of the first members to come to me in my new role as Leader of the Opposition, to offer me assistance with the really practical stuff to do with setting up the mechanics of the office—sensible things, such as generating templates for questions and those sorts of things. She has always done exactly what she has been asked to do and has played the role that she has been asked to play, and I know that in future she will continue to be a loyal servant of the Australian Labor Party. I thank her also for her contribution.

Hon Carolyn Burton replaced Hon Graham Giffard in the North Metropolitan Region. Hon Carolyn Burton was, I think, terrified at first by the prospect of having to make her first speech in Parliament, but she handled it with aplomb and has served on committees and asked questions in the chamber every day in a way that has shown her that she is, indeed, a capable woman, and capable of stepping up and speaking out in a public forum, frightening as this place can be. I thank Hon Carolyn Burton for her contribution.

I turn now to Hon George Cash, who—as we have heard from the Leader of the House, and we know this to be a fact—has served the Legislative Council and, indeed, the Parliament of Western Australia with distinction. He is, indeed, a very skilled member of this house, and I know that the Liberal Party will miss him, and so will the house. This may well be the kiss of death, but as a parliamentary secretary and then minister when the Labor Party was in government, I used to hope that Hon George Cash would be in the chair when I was dealing with a difficult piece of legislation in committee, because he was genuinely committed to ensuring that the house did the work that it was required to do in as orderly and efficient manner as possible. I used to cross my fingers and hope that Hon George Cash would be in the chair during committee, because I knew that the house would then function well. This is not to reflect upon anybody else, but his level of skill is such that he demonstrated time and again how to get the balance just right between ensuring that members were given the opportunity to have their say on controversial matters and to ask questions, and ensuring that the role of the house, which is to deal with legislation, was met. The legislation I refer to did, in fact, pass through the house. I wish him well in the future.

Hon Bruce Donaldson as Liberal Party Whip has also served his party well. I am tempted to say something about travel, but I will not, other than that I hope he gets to do a lot of it in his retirement!

Hon Norman Moore: He's been everywhere; there's nowhere left for him to go!

Hon SUE ELLERY: With regard to Hon Ray Halligan, I literally wrote in my notes that I have, on many occasions, seen Hon Norman Moore, either as Leader of the Opposition or as Leader of the House, walk over to Hon Ray Halligan and whisper something sweet into his ear, and without fail, Hon Ray Halligan would stand to make a speech, whether it was the five-minute, 15-minute or the 55-minute version that was required! Hon Ray

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

Halligan was able, without fail, to deliver the speech necessary to get his party through the time required. That is something that I think the Liberal Party will genuinely miss. It is not an easy task to perform, despite the fact that all members think that they can speak ad nauseam about anything. In fact, Hon Ray Halligan conducted himself with great flexibility in that role. I know that he attends many ethnic community and armed services events, and I know that those organisations will miss his ongoing connection with them.

I turn now to Hon Barbara Scott. She is, indeed, a passionate advocate on behalf of the little children of Western Australia. I want to recognise her role in many areas, not the least of which is the one referred to by the Leader of the House, which was the debate about the establishment of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. Her role in that is certainly recognised by the sector.

Hon Anthony Fels and I were at university around the same time; he is a friend of one of my brothers. When I first saw him in the Legislative Council, I thought, "How on earth is Anthony going to cope with the restrictions of the Legislative Council?" I had not ever considered that he had aspirations to join the Legislative Council! I genuinely wish him well for his future. He has certainly displayed dogged aspects of his character in identifying his agenda, pursuing the things that are important to him and not giving up. The fact that he still has various matters before the Court of Disputed Returns demonstrates his determination to see that justice is served. I genuinely wish him well in the future.

It was quite an unfortunate and difficult time for the Australian Labor Party when Hon Shelley Archer decided that she had to take a path that saw her separate from us. I find myself in an interesting position because, as Hon Shelley Archer will be aware, there are certain events about which she and I will never agree on what happened, or what we perceive to have happened. Having said that, I worked very closely with Hon Shelley Archer on a range of matters relating to the improvement of the status of women, particularly the improvement of the representation of women within the Australian Labor Party. I know that she is genuinely committed to those issues, and I enjoyed the time we had working together on them. I genuinely wish her well for the future.

Hon Paul Llewellyn is an advocate who is not to be deterred from the path he sees as the right path for the community and the environment. I know that he will continue to pursue those issues, whether in the Legislative Council or in any other field of endeavour in the community as a community activist, because those are the issues that he feels absolutely passionate about.

Along with the Leader of the House, I wish all the outgoing members the very best for their future. No doubt we will see them around Parliament House from time to time as retired members exercising their rights. It is important that we take the time to recognise the contributions, great or small, long or short, that each of them has made. I am pleased to be able to support the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

HON WENDY DUNCAN (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [7.30 pm]: As the only member of the National Party in the Legislative Council, I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our retiring members, even though I obviously have not known them for very long. I think that all members who come into this house make a worthwhile contribution. Obviously, some have been here longer than others. In particular, Hon George Cash comes to mind. He was the member for Mount Lawley from 1985 to 1989 and then moved to the Legislative Council. When I decided to look up Hon George Cash on the parliamentary library website it had a thousand hits on speeches he had made in Parliament. When I spoke to staff in the library they said that it was just the first thousand and that they did not record the next, so he has been a very active member of this house. Of course, as the Leader of the House noted, he was President of the Legislative Council from 1997 to 2001 when the government, for the first time in 103 years, did not have a majority. Media comment at the time was that he was the best man for the job because he would be able to handle the highly delicate task of negotiating legislation through a hostile upper house. I noted in a media clipping in 2006, when Graham Mason, a journalist with *The West Australian*, asked himself the question who would be the six best politicians to be in a war cabinet in Western Australia, Hon George Cash cracked a mention because of his great abilities and his strategic thinking. I would like to thank Hon George Cash, because he is a great mentor of new politicians. I am one of them. He takes the role of the Legislative Council very seriously. Of course, his report "Reflections on the Legislative Council Committee System and its Operations during the 36th Parliament — Discussions with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Parliamentary Committees" has been a very worthwhile document for us all to consider. I have particularly enjoyed his advice on Council committee matters.

Another longstanding member who is leaving us is Hon Kim Chance. I congratulate him on his great service to the Parliament, and give congratulations particularly from the members of the Nationals. Hon Kim Chance came to Parliament in March 1992. I note in his inaugural speech that he said in his role with the Australian Labor Party, foremost amongst the things he was committed to were Australian workers and their families. He also commented —

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

My colleagues now understand that my commitment to farmers over the past two decades is motivated by the same ethic and that if I bring anything new to the Australian Labor Party's contribution to Parliament it will be a better understanding of rural issues and the aims and aspirations of country people.

I would like to say to the honourable member that he has done that extremely well. Regional Western Australia has greatly benefited from the work he has done on its behalf.

Hon Bruce Donaldson is also a longstanding member of this Parliament. He has steadfastly served the Agricultural Region. I was interested to note in his inaugural speech that he talked about how he refused a bribe of Maltesers in return for balloons while campaigning before he was even elected to this Parliament. That happened at the Esperance agricultural show. I think that Hon Bruce Donaldson has attended every subsequent Esperance agricultural show since that date even though it is held at the very extremity of the electorate he represents. He is well known for the fact that he would always be there. I am sure that in other parts of his vast electorate he was also attending where he was needed. Hon Bruce Donaldson's contribution to local government in particular is of note. He was president of the Country Shire Councils Association of WA and then the former Western Australian Municipal Association. Perhaps he is most famously remembered for his comments on daylight saving and his concern over who would cook the chops while mum was out enjoying the extended hours of sunlight. Perhaps he will never live that comment down, but I congratulate him for his contribution to this Parliament.

Hon Shelley Archer and I have become quite good friends since I came into Parliament. Of course, I was not here during the difficult times of her career, but she has certainly been a good friend to me, particularly in relation to matters mining and pastoral. Shelley has worked very hard for the Kimberley and particularly for Indigenous communities in the Kimberley. She has given me great advice about that part of the world, which will soon be my electorate. I do appreciate that. Another piece of advice she gave me when I was contemplating the new Mining and Pastoral Region electorate, which runs from Esperance to Kununurra and through everything in between, was that a member really needs to specialise in some issues and not try to do everything. I think that Shelley's ability to specialise and to pursue particular issues has led to some great results in the work that she has done.

I had the pleasure of working alongside Hon Paul Llewellyn in the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs. He is certainly a very productive and committed member of the Legislative Council. He has introduced into this house many bills relating to renewable energy targets, greenhouse gas emissions and water conservation. He has been a staunch supporter of the south west and renewable energy. As a colleague on the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs I enjoyed his intellect and his determination to deal with the fine detail. There is no way that a matter would be brushed aside. One had to chase it right down to the bottom of the rabbit hole.

Hon Giz Watson interjected.

Hon WENDY DUNCAN: Well and truly unpacked! I greatly enjoyed that. I wish Hon Paul Llewellyn all the best.

Hon Sheila Mills has been the very accommodating chairperson of that committee. I have certainly appreciated her sense of humour and her willingness to guide and mentor in that position and in this Parliament. I wish her well in her future endeavours.

Hon Barbara Scott is also retiring. She has made a long and very valuable contribution to this Parliament. She has been certainly very welcoming to new members and willing to share her understanding of the Parliament with those who have been in need of some assistance along the way. I congratulate her on the work that she has done with childhood education and, in particular, in achieving the position of Commissioner for Children and Young People. I wish her well in her retirement, but I bet she does not slow down. I know there are plenty more things that Hon Barbara Scott has said she wishes to achieve.

When I started here a little over 12 months ago, my first experience was sitting on the opposition benches and listening to Hon Ray Halligan's introductory remarks on a motion to do with the performance of the then government. Those introductory remarks went on for weeks. I was looking through the standing orders trying to find out when and how does this man stop and wondering whether that was what we were expected to do in this place because I certainly did not think that I could achieve that. However, I thoroughly enjoyed the contributions of Hon Ray Halligan to this Parliament and, in particular, I enjoyed his singsong way of delivering the disallowance motions and I almost felt like saying amen at the end of them. I wonder whether he would probably find a good place in a pulpit somewhere once he has finished in Parliament.

Hon Barbara Scott: The Halligan half-hour!

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

Hon WENDY DUNCAN: Yes, that is right. There are other members of this house whom I have not had so much to do with but to whom I wish all the best. It has been good to have Hon Carolyn Burton here during her short time in this place. Likewise, Hon Shelley Eaton, whose company I enjoyed at the Kimberley Moon Experience in Kununurra just a week or so ago. I know that she is a great supporter of the north of the state and the north of Australia, generally, and I wish her well in her future endeavours. Of course, I wish Hon Batong Pham and Hon Anthony Fels well, too.

Last but not least is our President, Hon Nick Griffiths. I congratulate him on his contribution to this house, not only as President but also in his ministerial roles. He is a great defender of the Legislative Council, which I am sure we all, as members of this place, believe has a very strong role to play in the government of Western Australia.

The best wishes of the Nationals go with these retiring members and we thank them for their contributions to the house.

HON GIZ WATSON (North Metropolitan) [7.41 pm]: I also make a contribution to this motion to acknowledge the members who will leave the Legislative Council by the end of the week. It was an interesting reflection for me when I looked at the number of members who were leaving and realised that I might soon find myself to be a senior member of the Legislative Council, which is a bit of a scary thought really, having been in this place for 12 years by the end of the week. I will acknowledge a number of members in particular with whom I have worked closely over the past more than a decade. I came into this place with no idea about what it was or how it worked. To be quite honest, I had never been inside the Parliament; I spent more time protesting on the steps.

I have particularly enjoyed working with Hon Kim Chance. Over many years I have recognised his extraordinary diplomatic skills and capacity to deal with stress. I think I have some idea about how difficult Hon Kim Chance's job has been over the years and I have nothing but respect and admiration for his capacity. He had a very genial way of dealing with negotiations with the Greens (WA) over the years, and also has a capacity to get his head around a whole range of issues and to stand and give extended answers on quite a range of topics that I would never have contemplated, feral goats being just one of them.

Hon Kim Chance: Most of which I made up.

Hon GIZ WATSON: Then he has a career in—something.

Hon Robyn McSweeney: Theatre.

Hon GIZ WATSON: Theatre.

However, I wish Hon Kim Chance all the best and I think that he can certainly expect, if he wishes to have, a well-earned break from the enormous contribution he has made to the Legislative Council. I wish him all the best.

I also acknowledge Hon George Cash who is, of course, a senior member of the Legislative Council and who has made an extraordinary contribution not only in the time that I have been in this place, but also before that. I have very much enjoyed working with Hon George Cash on committees. He has an extraordinary capacity to deal with complex legal issues and I think the chamber will miss his capacity very much. I will certainly miss his insight and his knowledge. I think his contribution in ensuring that this state has better laws should be recognised, plus his capacity to work cooperatively and respectfully with all members. I think Hon George Cash is truly a parliamentarian of great standing and I personally will miss working with him very much. I thank him for his friendship and the collegial work that we have done together.

I have enjoyed working with Hon Barbara Scott on matters to do with children, which, as we all acknowledge, is a passion that she has pursued consistently and passionately in the Parliament, in particular, working on the select committee that, I guess, provided additional impetus to ensure that the state finally got a Commissioner for Children and Young People. I thank Hon Barbara Scott for her friendship and support during the time that I have been in this place and I have very much enjoyed working with her.

Hon Bruce Donaldson is not in the chamber, but he has also, clearly, been a long-standing member of the Legislative Council. I worked with him as a Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation during one of the iterations of that committee that I have been on in the past 12 years. Bruce has an excellent and wicked sense of humour, which I have enjoyed, particularly when we have worked together on committees. I wish him all the best and I am sure that his retirement will involve seafood.

Hon Sheila Mills: And 747s!

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

Hon GIZ WATSON: And 747s, probably. I am sure that Hon Bruce Donaldson deserves a long and enjoyable retirement. His contribution has been significant, particularly his shouldering of the job of being the Whip.

Hon Ray Halligan is a member whom I have not worked with so much on committees, but I acknowledge the committee work he has done. It just so happens that the committees that I have served on have not been the ones that Hon Ray Halligan has been on. However, he has been a stalwart of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation and dealing with that very important area of subsidiary legislation. I think it has been noted that his numerous disallowances chiming across the chamber indicate that that committee has been working steadily to improve the state's legislation. I also acknowledge his capacity to speak at short notice on virtually anything that he is called upon to speak on.

I need to keep a list; otherwise, I will forget whom I have mentioned and whom I have not because there are so many members who are leaving us. I have not had much time to get to know Hon Carolyn Burton and Hon Shelley Eaton very well, but it has been enjoyable having them in this place and I hope that they will have enjoyable future ventures in whatever they choose to do next. I have enjoyed the short time that we have worked together in this place and I wish them all the best.

Hon Anthony Fels has been a lively contributor to many debates in this chamber. Over the years I have come to appreciate the diversity of members' contributions and Hon Anthony Fels is always keen to take on issues. I wish him all the best, and I am sure that he will continue to contribute to politics, if not specifically as a member of Parliament but in the general sense of the politics of the state.

I have enjoyed very much working with Hon Sheila Mills, and, in particular, our recent committee visit to New Zealand was very enjoyable. We managed to enjoy a couple of nice bottles of wine as well as, of course, do the very important committee work when we were in New Zealand. I wish Hon Sheila Mills all the best in her future endeavours. I trust that she will find something that she enjoys and will satisfy her ambitions.

I would also like to acknowledge Hon Shelley Archer, as other members have done, for her commitment to her constituents, and particularly for her passion to address the problem of Indigenous disadvantage. That is a passion that I share as well, and I would have liked to have had more time to work with Hon Shelley Archer in a cooperative manner on that issue. I have also very much enjoyed working with Hon Shelley Archer on a number of bills. I am thinking in particular of the Indigenous Conservation Title Bill 2007, on which we were of the same mind about achieving an outcome for Indigenous people in the Gibson Desert. Unfortunately, that bill languished, which is a real shame.

I also want to pay tribute to Hon Batong Pham and acknowledge the challenges that he has faced in coming into a very difficult workplace. Hon Batong Pham has made a significant contribution to this place. I know that he feels very strongly about wanting to make a contribution to the politics of this state and to the community, and I hope that he will continue to make that contribution. I hope also that his health continues to improve, and I wish him all the very best.

I also want to thank Hon Nick Griffiths, the President of the house. Hon Nick Griffiths has had a long career in the Parliament and has made a significant contribution. I remember working with Hon Nick Griffiths, before he became President, on legislative review, and his legal capacity was very much appreciated and valued. I also acknowledge his good work as President. It is not an easy job in a lot of ways, and he has done a very good job over his last term in Parliament. I wish him all the best.

Finally, I thank my colleague Hon Paul Llewellyn. I am very sad that he will be leaving us. I have very much enjoyed working with Paul. He is a long-time friend of mine, and it has been interesting to work with someone whom I know very well. He has in my estimation done an extraordinary job in coming up to speed in understanding how the Parliament works and what are the possibilities within Parliament, and in leading forward with some of the key issues that he believes will make this state a better place. He has done that very capably and articulately, and full credit to him for taking that on. I wish him all the very best, and I am sure that he will continue to contribute to the big changes that we need to make in this state if we are to truly live in a sustainable community. With those words, I support the motion.

HON CAROLYN BURTON (North Metropolitan) [7.53 pm]: I thank members for this opportunity to make my final statement in this house. I express my appreciation to the Labor Party and my colleagues for the opportunity to be able to speak in this place at all. It is a unique privilege to sit in this place, and I have been honoured to do so.

I feel as though it was only yesterday that I stood in this place to make my maiden speech. It is with sadness and humility that I now make my final speech in this place. My time in this place has been short, but it has been, I feel, worthwhile. The opportunity to represent the people of the North Metropolitan Region, even for a set period of 249 days, has been an honour. I urge all members to remember that being a member of Parliament carries with

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

it great responsibility. We have an awesome responsibility to do some good for the people of Western Australia, and this should not be forgotten. It has been a privilege to be a member of the Legislative Council of the thirty-eighth Parliament.

When I arrived in this place, the Australian Labor Party had suffered a demoralising loss in the September 2008 election. During my time in this Parliament, however, we have still had a majority in the Legislative Council. This will, of course, come to an end in a matter of days. However, our task of keeping the Liberal-National government accountable will not end. We have a fight ahead of us, but it is a fight that we can win. We need to keep this government on its toes and hold it accountable. We must work hard to show the people of this state that we are ready to govern and that we are ready to work for them. When ministers have conflicts of interest and their transparency becomes clouded, Labor must be there as the sole force of accountability for the Western Australian people. The Barnett government has reintroduced several pieces of Labor legislation. Until it starts to develop some ideas or plans of its own for the state, I guess we will see even more of that.

It has been a real eye-opener for me to sit in this place and come to understand its workings—not all of them, but a large number of them. It has been good for me to see how Parliament operates. In fact, it would be good for anyone to know how Parliament really works and how our laws are made. A remark that perhaps is appropriate in this context is one that was made by Otto von Bismarck many years ago, when he said, “Laws are like sausages—it is best not to see either of them being made.” Unfortunately, in my time in this place I did not get the chance to follow an issue through the entire legislative process of Parliament from start to finish. I have, however, seen most of the process of the creation of the sausage. But things do not happen overnight, and there are good people in this place who work hard, and will continue to work hard, on our policy and legislative programs.

One of the other very positive experiences that I have had while in this place was as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People. That committee was re-established in November 2008. One of the committee’s initial tasks was to examine and report to Parliament on the commissioner’s first annual report, which we have done, and that report was tabled in both houses of Parliament last week. It is critical that we close the gap between children and young people from Aboriginal and other communities in Western Australia. There is a clear need to focus on the early years and early intervention. I took part in this committee through public hearing processes, briefings and discussions with stakeholders and found it a very rewarding process. I very much enjoyed working on this committee with parliamentary colleagues Martin Whitely, MLA, Hon Barbara Scott, MLC, and Andrea Mitchell, MLA, who are very passionate advocates for young people in this state.

I have also greatly enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions in this place on behalf of my constituents in the North Metropolitan Region and around the state. Keeping this government accountable for promises on road funding, community safety and police numbers and facilities, as well as schools, seniors and safety in metropolitan and regional Western Australia, has been worthwhile. That is not to say that the relevant minister has always been forthcoming with an answer to those questions. Far too often, Barnett government ministers do not have, or are not aware of, basic information about and details of their portfolios, but eventually we seem to get the information. I also commend Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich on her moves to access what were standard levels of freedom of information requests when we were in government. Ministers who withhold their diaries or whom they meet with have something to hide. The people of Western Australia deserve a transparent government. I will always keep my eye on question time and other accountability measures that our parliamentary system provides, and I know that the Labor Party that will form the next Council caucus will hold the Barnett government accountable. I am not necessarily the best asker of questions in this state Parliament, but credit must go to our Labor shadow Minister for Local Government when he questions his counterpart in the Barnett ministry. It has been remarked that it reminds those watching of a baby seal being clubbed.

It has also been my honour to be able to directly help the many constituents and community groups that have come into my electorate office over the past nine months. I certainly feel that I have made a real difference to those groups and individuals. I have enjoyed the elements of representation that come from working on issues such as hoon behaviour and community safety in my area, or on a housing, Centrelink or family safety issue. I also acknowledge and thank the community groups that I have been able to support through representation and support for their events. I hope that other future members of Parliament from my area will continue to assist those groups.

I now want to thank a few people who mean very much to me. To my husband, Rick, thank you, not only for supporting me during what I thought would be the most daunting time, but also for keeping things running at home during the late sitting hours. I dare say that, had the Liberal-National government been more proactive and had more sitting dates, my house would never have looked the same again! Love and thanks also to my two

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

beautiful daughters, Nikki and Kristy. No mother could be prouder than I am of both of them. I mentioned in my maiden speech that I believe that all the good characteristics I have come from my parents, Don and Beryl McCulloch. I endorse that statement again and thank my parents for all they have done for me throughout my life.

I thank my Labor Party colleagues in both houses, who have given me support over this short time. The staff at my Joondanna electorate office have been brilliant. It has been an honour to have them work for me over the past nine months. Their work has been excellent and I am indebted to their hard work. I thank Terry O'Brien, Lyn Young, Sonja Garnett, Sue Hearn and Stacey Hearn.

I also thank the staff within Parliament House for being extremely helpful and courteous to me during my short stay. My appreciation extends to Malcolm Peacock and the other Clerks of the Legislative Council. Thanks to chamber staff Chris Hunt, Grant Hitchcock, Peter Gale, Lisa Parrella, Glen Whitting, Brian Conn and Alice Muller for being so helpful, and all the security staff that work in and around Parliament House. I also thank the dining room and bar staff, especially Mark Gabrielli, Deborah Kapoor and Joshua Stokes. Special thanks to Di Welch and Em Ward from the State Parliamentary Labor Party office.

Of course, there are others leaving this place whom I would like to wish well, particularly Hon Kim Chance, Hon Shelley Eaton, Hon Sheila Mills, Hon Batong Pham and Hon Nick Griffiths. Whether a long-serving minister or a short-term backbencher, they have all played a part in making this state what it is. Their vision and desire to represent the people of Western Australia is an example to all who wish to serve the greater public. I would also like to thank Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich. Sharing an office with Ljil was a real eye-opener. Her hard work and enthusiasm were motivators to me. What she does for the people she represents and for the Labor Party is commendable.

We may disagree over many issues, but I believe we all come to this place with good intentions—to make our community a better place and to leave it stronger and better than when we came. On that theme, we must work hard to protect Western Australian jobs and build our state's recovery for when we emerge from the global financial crisis. I am concerned for the state of our state. I am concerned for my kids and their jobs. We must keep pressure on this government to ensure that this state does not falter under its management.

The upper house provides an important check and balance on the Legislative Assembly. It performs an important role for the Western Australian people. If the Barnett government abuses its majority in the Legislative Council, the public will be watching and we, the Labor Party, will be ready to take up the fight.

Finally, I urge all Labor members to remain vigilant. It is an absolute necessity that those opposite are held accountable until the Labor Party is back in power. The Labor Party and the movement we stand for is something worth fighting for. How we perform in opposition will directly impact on the time it takes to regain government and get back to running the state as it should be run.

In my maiden speech I quoted Ben Chifley's words that described what the Labor movement meant to him and how it can effect change in this world. I leave with some words from another great Labor Prime Minister and former member for Fremantle, John Curtin —

The great University should look ever forward; for it the past should be but a preparation for the greater days to be.

The Labor Party is certainly a broad movement and a broad school of thought. As a party, we must look ever forward, to be aware of our past mistakes and challenges but learn from them and move forward as preparation for greater days to be. Thank you.

HON SHELLEY EATON (Mining and Pastoral) [8.03 pm]: It has been an enormous privilege and pleasure to have served the community of Western Australia through the Mining and Pastoral Region, albeit for only the past eight months. I thank the Labor Party for its support and belief in me and for giving me this great opportunity.

As I leave the house this week, I take with me many treasured memories of the experience. It was mentioned earlier today that I was here as a babe in arms, but I was probably about 12 years of age when I started running around the corridors of Parliament. I do not know if my mum appreciates the age she has been given a couple of times today! Although I have worked in the building for a number of years, I do not think a person can truly appreciate the work of members of Parliament until one is sitting in this place. I also had no idea of the work involved with parliamentary committees prior to being here. Having served on the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation for the past few months with Hon Kim Chance, Hon Ray Halligan and Hon Barbara Scott, and our colleagues in the other house, it has been a very interesting time. I thank everyone for that opportunity.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

Over the past eight months I have had the opportunity to travel a lot through the Mining and Pastoral Region. I have met a lot of community groups and organisations, and continue to hear the many issues associated with living and working in regional Western Australia. One of my greatest concerns is the need for short-term accommodation in the regional centres of Western Australia. Earlier this year I travelled to the Northern Territory to meet with the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation to look at some of the projects it was doing in Darwin, particularly relating to homelessness in the city of Darwin. I had seen projects of Larrakia back in 2004 when I was in the NT for a local government conference. Larrakia coordinates an Indigenous resource centre in Darwin. It has three main purposes—it is looking at a “return to country” program, an identification program and crisis accommodation.

I believe the return to country program is absolutely critical for the north west of Western Australia. When Aboriginal people come into a town for whatever reasons—they could be going to a funeral, for health reasons or justice issues—often they get stuck in the town and cannot get back to their communities. The return to country program provides them with an avenue to get back to their communities. A person can book a flight or a bus trip. It is all done through Centrelink payments. It is a pay-back system, or a user-pays system. The program started with a very small pool of money. I am told it was about \$300 000, which is continually topped up. There is no cost to anybody but the users. It is something that I suggest people keep looking at. It works a treat in the Northern Territory.

The other program run in the Northern Territory is the identification program. A lot of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions do not have birth certificates and they do not have the knowledge of how to access them. The Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation provides identification cards to people. It provides them with up to two identification cards because, inevitably, people lose them. When a person comes back for a third card, they get hit for another \$25. They are quite happy to do that. It is much easier than dealing with drivers' licences, which they often do not have.

The third program is the short-term accommodation program. A number of hostels are run in Darwin—some have been successful; some have not. We desperately need to look at affordable short-term accommodation in our towns. There are too many people sleeping in the mangroves. There are too many people sleeping under buildings. When mums are seen coming out from under a building with babies in nappies, it is not an acceptable situation. We have got to do something about it.

During my brief time in the house there have been two major developments in the west Kimberley that have either been resolved or progressed—the native title issue in Broome and the decision that James Price Point be the site for the industrial hub to service the Browse Basin. It is certainly with a lot of relief that the global negotiations for native title in Broome appear to be finalised. As a shire councillor in Broome, I was only too aware of the planning difficulties that resulted from the fact that land could not be released in the town until this matter was resolved. It was an extremely complex situation involving major issues. It has certainly not been resolved in six months; it has been two and a half years of hard work by a large group of committed individuals, from traditional owners to government employees, the Broome Shire, former ministers and current ministers. It is the collective that has resolved that native title issue. To the traditional owners and all those on the negotiating team who have worked tirelessly to reach this outcome, I say congratulations.

In regard to James Price Point and the industrial hub, I still have some reservations. I know that agreement has been made with the traditional owners there, but I know there are still a lot of people who are very uncomfortable. The Shire of Broome still has an enormous number of concerns with the development, particularly with the social impacts that such a hub will have on the town. It will have some positive impacts on the town but there are social impacts that we also need to look at. We are going to need a huge amount of infrastructure in the town to support the hub. I will watch with interest as the negotiations continue and the social impact studies are completed and acted upon.

I acknowledge some other members in this house who also finish their term with me on Thursday. Firstly, Hon Kim Chance, whom I have had the pleasure of working with over a number of years—he has been a great contributor to the Labor Party as a leader in this place. His vast knowledge of legislation and experience will be truly missed by everybody. Hon Batong Pham, Hon Carolyn Burton and Hon Sheila Mills, whom I have known for a number of years—it has been a pleasure to work with them all during my short time in this house. I must mention Hon George Cash, because he seems to have gained a new, great interest in the cane toads in the Kimberley. All I say to Hon George Cash is, “Please keep up the fight; keep the cane toads out. Spend more time up there catching the cane toads!”

I say to the other members on the government side of the house—Hon Bruce Donaldson, Hon Ray Halligan and Hon Barbara Scott—and to Hon Anthony Fels and Hon Paul Llewellyn that I wish them all well in their

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

retirements from this place. I say to Hon Shelley Archer that I know that she holds the Kimberley close to her heart and will continue to work hard for those members of our community whom we both care for so much.

Lastly, I thank the President, Hon Nick Griffiths, for his guidance and advice to me during my time in this house. On a personal note, I know that there is a small but committed group of workers in this building who will miss him very much and have appreciated his understanding and support in providing them with that small corner in the courtyard. I just hope that the incoming President is as understanding as Hon Nick Griffiths is.

I thank the many staff who work tirelessly around the Parliament: the Clerk, Malcolm Peacock; Chris Hunt; Nigel Lake and Donald Allison; the staff of the Legislative Council; the staff of the Legislative Council Committee Office; the Hansard staff; Cathy, Marilyn and Rosalie on the switch; the catering staff; the security staff; the library staff; and the IT staff. I thank them all for their support and friendship over the many years I have worked in and around the building. I particularly thank Di Welch and Em in the State Parliamentary Labor Party office. I thank very much my electorate staff, Stephanie and Mark, for being my best friends and supporters.

My family has seen very little of me and has sacrificed a great deal during this amazing period of my life. I thank them very much for their understanding.

As I said earlier, it has been a great pleasure and privilege to have served in this place as a member for the Mining and Pastoral Region. In my maiden speech I quoted a great Aboriginal leader from the Kimberley, Patrick Dodson. I thought I would pick up on what another great Indigenous leader from the Kimberley, Hon Ernie Bridge, said in his valedictory speech. He stated —

Never let go of the obligations we have to look after the interests of ordinary Australians because they make up Australia; they are Australians. Not only are they Australians, but also we are all Australians together.

My final plea to the members of this Parliament is never to lose sight of that reality and their obligation to fight for that cause.

In saying that, I hope those members of this house who will continue to represent the Mining and Pastoral Region—the Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore; Hon Jon Ford; Hon Ken Baston; and, from Friday, Hon Wendy Duncan—and incoming members Robin Chapple and Helen Bullock will continue to stand up for the rights and needs of this great region of Western Australia. I will watch with interest as I start the next chapter of my life in the Northern Territory. Thank you.

HON BARBARA SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [8.12 pm]: I would like to begin my comments tonight by thanking most sincerely the members who have spoken earlier today: our leader, Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Giz Watson; and Hon Wendy Duncan. They made very generous comments about all the retiring members, and I thank them for that.

I have been reading with interest some of the valedictory speeches that have been made in this place and in the federal Parliament. I noted that when Senator Chris Ellison made his speech, he made the comment that a member's maiden speech and valedictory speech are like bookends to the time that that member is in this place. I thought that was quite a nice analogy. However, having been in this place for 16 years, I do not intend to fill that space between those two speeches with every detail of what I have done in that time. Nevertheless, as the longest-serving female member in this chamber at the moment, I must say that it has been a great honour for me to be here for 16 years, and I thank the many Western Australian people who placed their trust in me to represent them. For those who were there 16 years ago and for those along the way, I hope that I have been able to fulfil that trust.

I will begin my thanks tonight by firstly thanking the members of the Liberal Party in the divisions that I represent in the South Metropolitan Region—that is, Brand, Fremantle, Swan and Tangney. Many of those members have been there to support me in four bouts of preselection. They have been a great support in many other ways along the path—for example, as volunteers on polling days helping out wherever required. They have also had great generosity of spirit in helping me to get to know and understand their communities. I would like to nominate some people who have done that. I will begin at the bottom of my electorate, in Rockingham. Of course, there is always a risk, when a person starts mentioning people's names, that he or she may leave some people out. However, Rick Palmer is one of those leading people in Rockingham who introduced me to the chamber of commerce. He was responsible really for making me the patron of the first women's entrepreneurs group down there. Alison Gibson was a lawyer down there who was involved in many things. A number of people, all from those areas, have helped and assisted me throughout my time in Parliament by helping me to get to know the groups that they work in. I appreciate that and I thank them. I thank Frank Parker and Anne Hector. They are two divisional presidents in Brand who have been particularly helpful.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

In Fremantle, I thank Brian Christie and Madeline Khuen Kryk. Some people may not know Madeline Khuen Kryk, but she is a little American lady who smokes cigars continuously. She does not even vote in this state. However, I do not think I have ever met a more committed Liberal. When I was making one of my many overseas trips, I said to Madeline, "What would you like me to bring you back, Madeline?" She said, "Just a carton of cigarettes." Somewhere along the way in a duty-free place, I found some cigarettes that were labelled "Parliament". For Madeline, that was the best gift I could ever give her, but, as a true friend, I probably should not have done so. However, she enjoyed them.

In Tangney division, I thank Cameron Schuster, John Corser, Lorrie and Rob Slater, Margaret and the late Grant Palmer and Peter and Patsy Douglas. Those people stand out. In the Swan division, I thank the late Maurie Daw, Con Ryan, Phyl Morris, Sandra Brown, Colette Wiltshire and John Gleeson. All of these people are so devoted to the Liberal cause that they would do everything in their power to assist in any way. Their devotion and commitment are just amazing to see.

I thank the Liberal Women's Council of Western Australia—which was previously known as the state women's council—for its support of me for all those years and for bestowing upon me the honour of being its patron for the past six years. Many outstanding women in the Liberal Party have been mentors to me and supporters of me. I name June Craig, who helped me to write my very first preselection speech and encouraged me to stand; the late Daphne Bogue; Bridget Faye; Elaine Dacre; and Judith Orr. They all gave me enormous support, and others have followed them. Currently, there is a very special group of ladies in the Applecross section. They have been a huge support to me. I thank Lois Bracewell, Maureen Court and Lady Doris Brand. I had morning tea with that group at Parliament House last week. I took the liberty of showing them the parliamentary secretary's office where there is a desk that was made for Sir David Brand when he was the Premier of Western Australia. Now I share an office with Brian Ellis. I said to Brian, "Do you know the history of that table that Ray has been sitting at for the past few years?" For anyone who does not know, it is worth a little visit to see. I called Ray, but he was not there. Lady Brand was really thrilled to go into that room and see this beautiful desk, a big jarrah desk with ornate wood carving of gumnuts all around it that was made for Sir David Brand when he was Premier. She thought that it had been made by the Cullity family. Someone told me it was on the way out and Hon Bill Stretch had rescued it!

I refer to that group of people: Bobby Porter, now Bobby Craig, who was a business person in Fremantle, Betty Bishop, Lorraine Ellard, and others, all of whom have given me great encouragement over the years to pursue my passion for making life in Western Australia better for children, families and women. Their support has given me the courage to pursue the issues for children—there have been many—and to fight against the abuse and exploitation of women and girls in prostitution. I would go every month to the branch meeting, and they would really appreciate a detailed parliamentary report—as I did with other branches; they really enjoyed that feedback. They are wonderful fundraisers as well.

To the staff of Parliament House: thank you for everything. From the beginning they have been extremely helpful—every one of them—and very polite and at times very forgiving, which I really appreciate. I hope they are able to forget some of the naive requests made to them over the years, particularly when one is a new member and asks, "Which floor am I on? There are three floors on one side of the house, and two floors on the other but where is my office?" To the switchboard ladies, who are the public face of this place and who give Parliament House and members of Parliament a friendly, professional image owing to their thoughtfulness, efficiency and graciousness: thank you. So, too, to the security staff, the staff of the dining room and bars and, of course, the staff of the chamber: thank you all. You make our lives so much easier because of your knowledge and willingness to assist. My thanks also to the library staff, who have been so efficient and obliging with every request. I was up there the other day with a group of visitors saying how the library had moved from this side of the building into the old ballroom. Some of the library people said that the only downside of that is that not as many members use the library as they used to. For me, having my office on this side of the building all of the time, the library has been very convenient. To Malcolm Peacock, who leads the team in the chamber: it has been with great admiration and pride that I have watched Malcolm progress from the position of Usher of the Black Rod to Clerk of the house. To you and your team, Malcolm: congratulations, and thank you.

Often when I have been addressing students or other people I have been asked to speak about my experiences since coming into this place, what drove me, how I got here, and how I found the whole ambience of Parliament House. As a new member, the closest analogy I could think of was to compare entering Parliament House to that of my experience when I was a young 12-year-old, a shy country girl coming down to boarding school in Perth. The buildings have similarities: the wood panelling, the lead lights and the bells — bells, bells and bells ringing! At school it was for study, chapel, recreation, meals and vespers. For me, coming from the back of Burracoppin, it was hard enough getting used to the formal school uniform with lace-up shoes and brown bullet-proof stockings and suspender belts, when I had been used to going to school mostly barefoot in a one-teacher school. That was the similarity. Here, people were terribly polite and everybody seemed to know me; just as when I

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

arrived at boarding school—Notre Dame des Mission in Mt Lawley—everybody seemed to know who I was, because I had two older sisters go before me. There was an expectation that if one's name was Barnett, which mine was—no relation to the current Premier—one would be a safe bet for the swimming team, the diving team and for tennis for starters. To arrive here as a new member of Parliament, it was the staff and their assistance which impressed me most.

To my family, my husband, my children and my extended family I extend my special thanks for their support in my pursuit of a challenging political career as a woman. I will say a little bit about that later. I am sure that there are many occasions when my family have not been all that thrilled that I have been a member here because being a member of Parliament places family members under some scrutiny. They also have to live with the preoccupation of our duty to our communities and our lives that are diary-driven and often do not allow very much time for them. But I have been lucky. I come from a big family, so it was no trouble ever to fill polling booths, and everyone in Fremantle said, "Can you bring all the family, Barb?" We would go to Parmelia and to lots of Labor-held seats at which I had to fend off some comments. Some of the comments that were directed at the kids when they asked, "Would you like a how-to-vote Liberal card?" I do not know that I can repeat in this chamber. "Not very likely!" with a few expletives was tame!

Our children have moved on since I came here. When I first came here we had three children at university and one at school. Those members who have been here for some time will know that we sat often till two and three in the morning passing legislation such as the industrial relations bill, so it was not at all uncommon for me to arrive at our home in East Fremantle and find a 15-page assignment on the kitchen table with a note on it saying, "Dear mum, this has to be in by nine o'clock in the morning, could you please proofread?" I have always been a good proofreader, and I am sure lots of staff on committees have looked at me when I said, "That sentence doesn't have a subject" or "You don't start a sentence with that." My kids relied on me to do their proofreading. I think that over the years I probably could have qualified in law, in science, in journalism, and perhaps even wine science, because I helped them all through their studies.

Our youngest son, John, who is practising law in Sydney, and is a great lover of the surf, combined his law degree at the University of Western Australia with a colourful blend of sporting pursuits, including many trips to Rottnest Island in our little runabout with his friends to catch a special surf break. We have, as a security for our sons out at sea, taken up membership of the Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue group, and I pay tribute to them for the number of times that they rescued our sons between here and Rottnest. One memorable occasion was when John took off with some mates aboard the boat, and they put the anchor rope short—I think that is the way to describe it—and headed out to surf. While they were surfing, the boat capsized with the motor and sunk to the bottom of the ocean, along with all their personal gear, including wallets, car keys and the lot. A Channel Nine spotter plane started circling looking for the surfers, who were blissfully unaware of the upturned boat. But all got back to Fremantle safely. Of course, reporters—as they do—rushed to these kids and said, "Can we have some comments? What happened?" John was most adamant and said to his mates, "Say nothing—no names; no details. My mum will kill me if I end up on telly!" My kids have had to live forever under the threat of not embarrassing mum, and I am sure every member in this chamber can relate to that. I have to say that our annual membership over 20 years or so would not cover the cost of the number of rescues that the Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue has actually undertaken!

I turn now to my electorate staff. Diane Goodman has been with me for all of the 16 years, and I will never be able to repay her for her loyalty and commitment to me and my family, and for her devotion to my constituents. Thank you, Diane. Diane has been particularly generous in her time to Monica McGhie, who adopted me under the adopt-a-politician scheme, and to an endless number of elderly constituents. She will leave the office after work or at weekends and take them shopping and do things that I do not hear about until later. To Chris Burger, who has worked with me for many years, thank you. Chris has worked alongside me on issues that we have both been passionate about.

To Anna Gossman and Gaby Holdsworth and to Rhonda Johns, my bookkeeper, who has been challenged by all of us in the office to keep on budget, thank you. Members of Parliament of longstanding can only be as good as the team behind them—along with Madeline, who I mentioned previously—and I thank all of them for their hard work through good and bad times. I thank them for being with me on this unforgettable journey. I have many personal friends who have given me great support and I thank them.

I move now to my colleagues in the house who have been helpful. Firstly, I thank Hon Norman Moore for his support over the years and his belief and trust in me. From the first time I came into this place Norman invited me to chair a task force to investigate early education in Western Australia. I had been a lobbyist in the community before then and I guess I came in here known as the kindergarten lady. That task force resulted in the kindergarten year and preprimary year for all Western Australian children, and I am very proud of that. To past ministers Eric Charlton and Murray Criddle, who both gave me specific tasks to do with traffic calming and the

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

rail line into Rockingham, I thank them very much. Out of Eric Charlton's task, the 40-kilometre-an-hour zones around schools were put in place at my recommendation. I have a friend who says, "I drive around the suburbs, Barb, and every time I see a 40-kay zone I think of you. Sometimes I curse you, but sometimes I praise you."

I thank Hon George Cash for his wise advice over the years. Many people have mentioned George's experience in this house. He has been very generous in helping many members. I thank him for the help he gave to me. To our Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, I thank him for his belief and trust in me on the issues that I took to him over the years—early education, children's commissioner and mandatory reporting of child abuse. Colin has a wonderful ability to travel through an issue with people and I thank him for the support he gave me, especially in the private members' bills on mandatory reporting of child abuse leading up to the 2005 election and the children's commissioner.

I give special thanks to a previous member of this house Derrick Tomlinson. Derrick and I shared an office for 12 years and I am very grateful for his wit, wisdom and wise counsel. His ability to be a political analyst fascinated me all the time. When Derrick left I was privileged to have our very new young member Hon Donna Faragher move into my office. Much to my amusement, and in some sense it made me feel younger, when she introduced me to others she would say, "This is my roomy." This term is commonly used in the federal Parliament where Donna worked for eight years. "Roomy" is not a word that I would dare use when referring to Derrick. Rather I would say, "This is the man with whom I shared an office for 12 years." I thought that was much safer. To my roomy of four years Hon Donna Faragher, thanks for your friendship and congratulations on being the youngest member of this house to be appointed to the cabinet. That is great. I will say more about the other women who have achieved in this way later.

I thank many colleagues on the opposite benches—there are a number with whom I have built strong connections—in particular Hon Kate Doust with whom I have worked closely on a number of issues. Kate had the carriage of the bill for the children's commissioner. Kate and I have worked in the background with a group of cross-party members of Parliament on a number of issues, loosely termed life issues, such as the stem cell, surrogacy and living wills legislation, all those issues on which members had a conscience vote. We did a lot of that work with our colleague Hon Phil Pental, who led that group. We have missed his support in the past year or so. There have been strong bonds across party groups and factional groups within the parties.

I would also like to pay tribute to the people from the University of Notre Dame who would come here at two or three o'clock in the morning—Terry O'Connor, QC, Greg Craven and Mary Macommish and others. They gave us enormous support during the debate on those difficult bills.

I will dwell a little on some of my observations of the women in this house and a bit of the history. Here I have relied very much on the people in the library. When I came into this chamber I was just the third Liberal woman in the Legislative Council. I find that a bit scary. The first was Hon Margaret McAleer who was the Whip. She left when I came and Muriel Patterson was here. It is great to see the number of women in this place increasing. I particularly commend our two women ministers and two parliamentary secretaries, Hon Robyn McSweeney, Hon Donna Faragher, Hon Helen Morton and Hon Wendy Duncan. It is pleasing that we have moved forward in giving positions to women in this house. Other women who have been ministers have been Hon Kay Hallahan and, of course, Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich. Members can see that in 16 years there has been enormous change.

I will talk briefly about one of the changes that have occurred since I have been in this place. When I came here my office was upstairs and near it was a bathroom, which had "Gentlemen" on the door. I was shown around and told that was the bathroom I needed to use. I would go in there cautiously and knock loudly. A bolt was put on the door. There was a urinal there. It has since been upgraded and now has on the door "Bathroom", and it can be used by both women and men. I had a couple of experiences in that place, having locked myself in and found a very embarrassed man not knowing how to get out or whether he should get out. That story is best told at another time. I mentioned earlier in my speech that I thanked the staff for some of their forgiving moments.

Also when I first came into this place, women members and women Hansard reporters were not allowed to wear trousers. A ruling was made by the then Speaker, Mr Jim Clarko, and the then President in this place, Clive Griffiths, who declared that women, in particular women Hansard reporters, should not be allowed to wear trousers in the house. The picture that tells it all is Alston's cartoon the next morning in the newspaper. Here we had a bewigged Speaker, in a cape like that worn by women, saying to Hansard reporters, as well as women members, "What do you think you look like?" I know how members like to doodle, so, out of generosity of spirit, I have had copies made for all the women members. I thought that when the speeches get a bit boring, they could do some colouring in.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Carolyn Burton; Hon Shelley Eaton; Hon Barbara Scott

Moving on, there have been many adjustments in this chamber. I have talked about some of those. One could talk about many stories, but I think that one of the things that first struck me when I was first here, when we were in government and backbenchers did a lot of representing of the Premier and ministers, was when I went to the University of Western Australia one evening for a graduation. We were duly begowned in our academic dress and had drinks with the official party. I was introduced as Barbara Scott, MLC. We took our seats in the front row of the upstairs part of the UWA building. A gentleman turned to me and asked, "How many students does MLC have?" I thought, wow, so I said, "I am not sure of the number but it is a very good school." Later on in the evening he approached me and said, "I am terribly sorry; I did not realise you are a member of Parliament and that MLC stands for member of the Legislative Council." I tell that story to new members and say that it was 16 years ago when there were not as many women members of Parliament. I tell them not ever to get carried away with the fact that people know who a member is and put them on a pedestal. That is not the case.

Some of my most enjoyable and interesting times have been when undertaking travel that has been associated with the Parliament. I have attended a couple of anticorruption conferences. The Standing Committee on Public Administration did a wonderful trip to London and then travelled by train all over the place in England. There were three women and one man. That one man is sitting in the chair tonight—Hon Barry House. Poor old Barry was such a gentleman. At every railway station we came to, we would go to the lift for the disabled or for people with heavy cases only to find that the key was somewhere else. Barry would tell us to give him the cases and he would walk up the stairs. Members will know that London railway stations have masses and masses of stairs. Barry carried our cases all over England, for which I will be eternally grateful to him.

I would also like to compliment and commend Professor David Black and Dr Harry Phillips, who have recorded and written on the history of this place. I think that when retiring after 16 years there are many wonderful experiences. It is important to record some of those for posterity. The changes are quite marked when I look back on that time.

I would also like to thank all the leaders who have made comments this evening. I would like to wish the incoming members all the very best. I would like particularly to commend the new members who took their places for a very brief time here, Carolyn and Shelley, both of whom I have worked with. For them I guess it is a great experience to be here for a little while but disappointing that they have not got further opportunities to serve.

It is always a privilege and an honour to be selected as a member of Parliament. I think it is the duty of all of us to make sure that when we are in the public arena, we work as a team in making sure that the community respects members of Parliament. Although there is criticism of members of Parliament, I think that on an individual basis once people get to know a member of Parliament, they respect the amount of time a member puts in and the commitment that a member makes to the Parliament. As Hon Sue Ellery said earlier this evening, and I think it is a very telling remark, the majority of people coming into this chamber to serve in Parliament come here because they have a passion or a conviction. I believe it is incumbent upon members of Parliament to support each other in the community.

In closing, I thank people for the enormous amount of support that I have had, the opportunities that have been given to me and the challenges, and I hope those things for every member here. I hope I have not forgotten anything. I hope the women members enjoy their finger painting 101 and that they colour their pictures in and keep them. I thank all members and say good luck to all those new members as of Friday.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Hon Bruce Donaldson**.