

## **KELLERBERRIN SHOOTING**

*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt)** [12.55 pm]: Last Thursday, the small wheatbelt town of Kellerberrin suffered a tragedy that resulted in the violent loss of two lives.

Kellerberrin is a town of about 800 people—people who live and work alongside each other, and have extended family and friends, some going back generations. In the wake of this event, grief, sadness and a sense of disbelief are rippling through the close-knit community.

Sadly, Mr Terry Czernowski, a father, valued employee and community member, lost his life due to gunshot wounds. From the outset, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Czernowski, Sparrow and extended families for their loss.

I also feel deeply for the family and friends of Mr Lachlan Bowles, who took his own life on the same day.

I offer my gratitude and thanks to the Western Australia Police Force, which responded swiftly on the day. From all accounts, police have been sensitive and respectful in their interactions with those who were directly impacted at the scene of the shooting and in the aftermath.

I pay tribute to the first responders, who were Terry's work colleagues, St John Ambulance volunteers and hospital staff. They faced a horrific situation, dealing with people they knew. Emotions are still very raw, but the foundation of the town—the good people, strong local leadership, neighbours and friends—will provide support to those who need it. As the local member, I will work with community leaders and service providers to ensure that this little town receives the support it deserves.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife)**: I take the liberty of adding Parliament's sympathies to the Czernowski family and the Kellerberrin community.

**Members:** Hear, hear!