

Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Eric Ripper; Mr Terry Waldron; Mr John Hyde; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Tom Stephens;  
Speaker

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**STANLEY HEAL**

*Condolence Motion*

**MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier)** [3.27 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Stanley Heal and tenders its deep sympathy to his family.

Stanley Heal, or “Pops” as he was known, was born on 30 July 1920 in West Leederville, the son of Cecil Farmer and Ivy Florence Simmons. Pops Heal passed away on 15 December 2010 and is survived by Gladys, his wife of 68 years, and their three sons, Stephen, Graham and Laurie. He will be remembered as an outstanding footballer, the captain-coach of West Perth from 1947 to 1952, who played in the winning grand final teams of 1941 in both Western Australia and Victoria; and a committed member of the Legislative Assembly for 12 years as the member for West Perth and for Perth.

Pops Heal was educated at Claremont and Kalgoorlie High Schools. His football career and work life were put on hold by his enlistment in the Royal Australian Navy in 1941, serving on corvettes in the Indian Ocean and at Manus Island until his discharge in 1945. During his training at HMAS *Cerberus*, he was able to play eight Victorian Football League games for Melbourne, with his Perth grand final played only a week later. He worked for the Postmaster General’s Department as a telephone line foreman, and became a committee member of the Postal Workers Union.

His prowess as a member of the Western Australian Football League West Perth team from 1939, leading the team into six successive final series and winning the premierships of 1948 and 1951 as captain-coach, earned him a substantial profile. Having played 180 games for West Perth and 18 interstate games, which included winning the Simpson Medal in 1949, he was selected by the Australian Labor Party to contest the seat of West Perth in the 1953 election. This seat had become marginal, but had not returned a Labor member in its 63-year history. Its well-known sitting member, Sir Joseph Totterdell, was also the Lord Mayor of Perth.

Pops Heal was elected by 332 votes, and West Perth was one of two crucial wins in Liberal-held seats that elected the Australian Labor Party in 1953 after six years in opposition. In 1956, he was comfortably re-elected by 1 179 votes in the first of three contests against Liberal Ray Nowland. In 1959, with the electoral tide running against Labor, Pops Heal won again, a hard-fought re-election by 99 votes. A redistribution merged the seats of West Perth and East Perth into a revived Perth seat comprising the inner suburbs south of Vincent Street. At the 1962 election, Pops was comfortably elected with an absolute majority of nearly 700 votes. However, the re-election of the Brand coalition government, in 1965, saw him lose the seat of Perth to Peter Durack by a margin of 207 votes. Such results, as we know, are inevitable in marginal seats.

After leaving politics, Pops Heal worked in real estate and served the Western Australian community as a member of the Liquor Licensing Court from 1971 to 1974, and as a member of the Kings Park Board. He was a committee member of the West Perth Football Club, and, most fittingly, was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2010.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Liberal Party and members of this house, I express our condolences to Mrs Gladys Heal and her sons—Stephen, Graham and Laurie—on the passing of an outstanding sportsman, a war veteran, and a quiet, positive contributor to the public life of Western Australia.

**MR E.S. RIPPER (Belmont — Leader of the Opposition)** [3.30 pm]: On behalf of the opposition, I join the Premier in extending our sympathies to the family of Stanley “Pops” Heal, a former member for West Perth and Perth who passed away on 15 December 2010. Pops was 90 years old.

I recognise the contributions that Pops made to the state, particularly to the constituencies of West Perth and Perth, while serving in the Parliament for 12 years. On behalf of the state Parliamentary Labor Party, I would like to offer my condolences to his wife, Gladys; his three sons—Laurie, Graham and Stephen—his eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Pops Heal was born on 30 July 1920 in West Leederville. His nickname—“Pops”—was bestowed on him from early days. He was educated at various Western Australian state schools, including Claremont and Kalgoorlie high schools. Pops served his country in World War II; he enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Brigade on 10 March 1941, and served as an able seaman on corvettes in the Indian Ocean, based at Colombo, Sri Lanka and Manus Island, attached to the British Pacific Fleet. He was discharged on 19 December 1945. Following his discharge from the Navy, he worked as a telephone line foreman and as a real estate salesman. He was a committee member of the Postal Workers Union; a member of the Kings Park Board; a member of the Police–Citizens Boys Clubs; the Italian Club; and the Hellenic Society. He was also a member of the Liquor Licensing Court from 1971 to 1974.

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Many Western Australians will remember Pops for his outstanding football career, which led him to the heights of the Western Australian Football League and the Victorian Football League. Pops played for West Perth in the WAFL from 1939 to 1952, playing as captain-coach—a role that has since disappeared from football, I think—from 1947 to 1952. He won two premierships as captain-coach with West Perth in 1949 and 1951. Remarkably, in 1941 Pops played in grand final-winning teams for West Perth in the WAFL, and for Melbourne in the VFL. He is the only player to have achieved this incredible feat in the same season. He was a runner-up for the Sandover Medal; he also played as captain-coach for the Western Australian state football team. In 1949, he won the Simpson Medal for his performance playing for Western Australia against South Australia.

Pops was elected as a Labor Member of the Legislative Assembly for West Perth at the 1953 election on 14 February, and was elected as a member for the re-established seat of Perth in 1962. He continued to serve as the member for Perth until 1965, and the Premier has gone through very well the different election results that he achieved. He was probably the original star candidate—a prominent football identity, and a very strong member of his local community in West Perth—when he was preselected. I joined the Labor Party a lot later than Pops Heal, but I can still remember the way he was talked about, as a very effective marginal seat candidate and member.

In this place, he was Deputy Chairman of Committees from 1956 to 1965; he was a member of the select committee that inquired into the Collie Club (Private) Bill 1953—that is probably worth a bit of research, member for Collie—Preston—and of the royal commission that inquired into restrictive trade practices and legislation in 1957. He represented Western Australia at the fourth Australian Area Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1957.

His football career was especially recognised on 3 June last year, when he was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame. Pops will be remembered for his contributions to both the sporting world and the political world. He was a great Western Australian identity, and he will be greatly missed. I again extend, on behalf of the state Parliamentary Labor Party, my deepest sympathy to Stan “Pops” Heal’s family and friends.

**MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin — Deputy Leader of the National Party)** [3.35 pm]: On behalf of the National Party and as Minister for Sport and Recreation, I echo the sentiments of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I will not go through all of the detail, because they have done that very, very well, but I support this motion.

I was very fortunate and privileged, during my time as manager of the WA Country Football League, to meet Stan “Pops” Heal on a number of occasions. He was a fantastic fellow, and it was really great to listen to his stories; I always found it very enlightening when I had that opportunity. He was incredibly humble about his football achievements, about his parliamentary service of 12 years in this house, and also his war service.

He was inducted into the West Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2004, and elevated to legend status in 2009, due to his stellar career. We have already heard that he coached West Perth to three premierships, and in the same season he was part of the grand final-winning Melbourne team. He was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame in 2010, and named in WA’s Team of the Century. Mr Speaker, Stan “Pops” Heal really was a legend. He was a talented wingman and rover, and it has already been mentioned that he played in the 1941 premiership for Melbourne, and then in another premiership the following week for West Perth. It seems incredible that anyone could play in two premiership teams in consecutive weeks at both VFL and WAFL level, but that is exactly what Stan did. It was fantastic to listen to him on the night he was elevated to legend status when he told the story of that week, and we could hear a pin drop. He told the story so well that he had everyone in the palm of his hand.

He was a regular interstate representative for WA, winning the Simpson Medal against South Australia in 1949, and captaining his state in 1950. He played 180 games for West Perth in the club’s golden era, and coached the team from 1947 to 1952, winning premierships in 1949 and 1951.

We should also note that Stan “Pops” Heal had three boys who also played league football—Stephen, Laurie and Graham—and I know many people remember seeing his boys running around the WAFL fields. He was one of the game’s true gentlemen, and someone the state of Western Australia should feel genuinely proud of. Ladies and gentlemen, we extend our condolences and thoughts to his family.

**MR J.N. HYDE (Perth)** [3.37 pm]: I also rise to offer my condolences to the family of Stan “Pops” Heal. Pops, as a former member for Perth, was one of my predecessors, and his maiden speech, delivered on 18 August 1953, dealt with many issues that we still deal with today. It is also sobering to remember that the way in which an inner-city member undertakes issues in this Parliament was just as relevant then as it is today. Central business district members have the ability to look at what is happening in the rest of the state, and beyond this state. On the night of his maiden speech he stated that the West Perth electorate, which was the smallest in area, had its troubles, but not on as large a scale as those suffered by the people in the country and the north west.

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Pops, of course, went on to be a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegate, and to explore the advancement of Parliament itself.

In that first speech he spoke on a number of local issues. He was very much aware of the effect of losing inner city residents. Of course, 60 years ago we had not only the seat of West Perth, but also the seat of East Perth, and we invariably had the seat of Perth and North Perth, and, occasionally, Mount Lawley. Until the last election, those four or five seats were combined into the seat of Perth; we now have the seat of Mount Lawley taking up some of the slack. But Pops alluded to the problem just across the road from Parliament—at the corner of Harvest Terrace and Hay Street—that the residential homes and flats that were there, in which people of a lower social demographic lived, were being knocked down for the construction of the retail and office buildings that are there today. Today we rue the lack of residential homes in the inner city, but we are seeing their slow return. He also mentioned in his first speech the tram running along Hay Street into Subiaco and the importance of grappling with the issue of cars and having adequate public transport in the area. He also mentioned how important it was that big developments such as infrastructure were not built at the expense of local residents. Again, this issue remains a theme in the inner city.

Of course, his local link to football was with Leederville Oval. Stan, like many West Perth players and supporters, had a strong affection for Leederville Oval. Of course, the team has now moved north away from Leederville Oval, and even though the mighty Royals are now the resident team there, many local residents have an affection for Leederville Oval and it will be known for the exploits of West Perth and its players. As a good local member, he was a strong member of the WA Italian Club, which remains in West Perth, and various Hellenic groups. The multicultural community has always been a strong component of the inner city in different ways, and Pops was very much aware of its importance. A number of my uncles who played football for East Perth and Claremont played against Pops, and his exploits are quite legendary. My uncle Archie Campbell, who was at East Perth, was another serviceman who had his football career interrupted by war service at the time and was able to play for part of the season for Victorian Football League clubs, as well as play in Western Australia. It is a really fascinating part of our sports history. I think we need to be reminded that, despite the tyranny of distance, Western Australia has batted above its weight in many sporting fields.

It is important that we, as members of Parliament, remember members who have gone before us, the issues they batted for and the residents they spoke up for in this place. I remember Stan “Pops” Heal. I send my condolences to his family and to all those who worked with him in progressing the aims of the electorates of West Perth and Perth.

**MR A.P. O’GORMAN (Joondalup)** [3.42 pm]: I also rise to extend my condolences to the family of Stan “Pops” Heal. To Gladys, I offer my sincerest sorrow at the passing of Stan. I think it is the merit of the man that the opening line about Stan “Pops” Heal on the website of the West Perth Football Club, which is very proud of its history, reads —

Stan ‘Pops’ Heal is without doubt, the greatest name in the 125 years history of the West Perth Football Club.

He played his first game for West Perth on 22 April 1939. I will not go through his whole career, because members have done that adequately, but I will talk about the past 10 years, when I knew Pops Heal at Arena Joondalup. Many times I was seated at a table with him at pre-game lunches and functions run by the club. I will go through some of the things that happened in the past 10 years, not particularly about his football but about how he was recognised for his football. The war years restricted Pops to 206 games—180 with West Perth, eight with Melbourne and 18 for Western Australia. It is a very large number. However, without the years lost during World War II and early retirement to enter the Western Australian state Parliament, the number of games would have been well in excess of 300. In 2000 *The West Australian* newspaper selected its Western Australian state team of the century. Pops was selected on the wing in that team. In the same year, West Perth selected its team of the century. Pops was selected captain and coach of that team. In 2004 Pops was inducted into the inaugural West Australian Football Hall of Fame, and in 2009 he was elevated to legend status in the West Australian Football Hall of Fame. In 2010 Pops was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame. Shortly after that induction, at a match-day lunch at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Pops was feted by the Melbourne Football Club and presented with an inscribed retrospective miniature replica 1941 AFL premiership cup. Late in 2010 Pops was advised that the coach’s box at Arena Joondalup was to be named the Stan “Pops” Heal coach’s box. This story indicates that a lot of the overdue recognition was accorded to Pops in the last year or two of his life. It is very pleasing that he lived to see and enjoy the accolades that he so richly deserved. Members can see that he was well respected. At 90 years of age, he was still a member of West Perth and he still regularly attended its match-day functions and match days. He was renowned as one of the great footballers of his era. I once again extend my condolences to his family.

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**MR T.G. STEPHENS (Pilbara)** [3.45 pm]: To Mrs Gladys Heal and to the children, Graham, Stephen and Laurie, we offer our sincere condolences. When I arrived in the Parliament in the early 1980s, Pops Heal was one of the occasional visitors to the place. I had limited knowledge of football and could see amongst my colleagues the high regard in which he was held for his football prowess. It led me to ask some questions about his parliamentary contribution. I found out from discussions then and since about the extraordinary contribution that he made on behalf of electorates that, as we have heard, were marginal. It was not easy for the Australian Labor Party to put together a majority for those seats, but he did it with enormous distinction.

The member for Perth went through the inaugural speech that Pops gave as the member for West Perth. The speeches of Pops Heal are completely studded with a commitment to fairness and equity in the Western Australian community, not just for his electorate, but with a wider view across the landscape of the state. I note with interest that he described visits to what were then called Aboriginal camps in far-off parts of the metropolitan area such as Belmont and similar locations around the metropolitan area. Pops brought those concerns and observations to Parliament and got engaged in parliamentary discussion about the ambitions of the Western Australian community to advance the interests of not only Aboriginal people, but also others for whom equity and justice were not guaranteed. He got involved in discussions about tenancy law and the unscrupulous behaviour of landlords in relation to rents.

Upon my arrival in this place, I had the wonderful support of Rosa Townsend, a colleague from the Labor Party who was involved in the party office. She was a great fan of Pops. She was much more knowledgeable of football than I was; my knowledge of football is zilch. She used to sing his praises for that involvement, but also, more importantly from my perspective, for his involvement in politics. She described to me the results that he delivered for public housing in Hay Street and other parts of the inner city. He was able to champion successfully the cause of public housing for people in need in this part of the city.

He displayed a commitment to serving the Western Australian community through the Australian Labor Party during the ups and downs and the turmoil when he had to contest difficult seats, which he did with enormous distinction. In a text message that I have just received from Mal Bryce, he referred to Pops Heal's absolute loyalty to the Labor Party in the face of those ups and downs. It was a reminder of the challenges involved in serving the Western Australian community, with the frailties of any organisation that goes through ups and downs and tough times. He recognised that that which unites a group in the pursuit of equity and fairness is much more important than are those issues that from time to time divide us. Pops was a dedicated politician. He was finally "knocked over" by a formidable political opponent in Peter Durack, who went on to become a senator. Pops enjoyed the company of his colleagues in the dining room for many years after his parliamentary service. It was a service through the Australian Labor Party to the people of Western Australia that goes down proudly on the record of not only this Parliament but also the ALP. It is with gratitude that all of us, I am sure, say thank you to the Heal family. Stanley's wife, Gladys, of course comes from the McInerney family. Together, two great dynasties were united. To Graham, Stephen and Laurie, and all their families, it is with gratitude and condolences from all of us that I join with other members in expressing my support for this condolence motion.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, in support of this motion I ask you to stand and spend a minute in silence.

Question passed; members standing.