

Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Geoff Gallop; Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Arthur Marshall; Ms Alannah MacTiernan;
Mr John Kobelke; Ms Dianne Guise; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Tony McRae; Mr John Hyde; Mr Paul Andrews; Mr
Tony O'Gorman; Mr Shane Hill

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Amendment to Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the Opposition) [2.42 pm]: I will restate briefly that a senior minister of the Crown has a proven record of drinking and driving and of driving and speeding. This minister has two previous convictions as a result of which she lost her licence for drink driving, one previous conviction for careless driving, and, subsequently, earlier this year as a minister, lost her licence for the third time for the accumulation of points by going approximately 40 kilometres an hour above the speed limit when approaching Pinjarra. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, in making the public and the media aware that she had lost her licence when a minister, gave every indication and implied that this was a one-off situation. She talked about being remorseful and apologetic, yet she failed to divulge as a minister - a person with public responsibility - that this was not the first time but the third time she had lost her licence. The Premier went out of his way to say that it was not a sackable offence and to praise the minister for her openness in coming forward. I repeat that the Opposition did not call for her to be sacked as a minister; the Opposition is not calling for that now. However, the minister should be removed from the transport portfolio.

I want to make some comments about the response of the Premier - that self-appointed champion and guardian of ministerial conduct. His first response was to say that it was not a sackable offence and to praise the minister for her openness in coming forward. The question that comes to mind was whether the Premier was aware that she had lost her licence in 1994 and whether he was aware that she had lost it for drink driving. The minister's comments indicate that the Premier was aware of this. However, it is interesting that when the Premier was challenged by the media about his prior knowledge of prior convictions his response, as quoted in *The Australian* on 10 March, was -

I worked on the assumption yesterday that the 1994 loss of licence would be public . . . the fact that it didn't become public, that's not the responsibility of myself.

If it is not the Premier's responsibility, and it is not the minister's responsibility, whose responsibility was it to make it public? Whose responsibility could it have been? The Premier knew about it; the minister certainly knew about it, and they both declined to make it public, to make it open and accountable. It is no good the Premier saying that it is not his responsibility. Whose responsibility could it have been? It could only have been the Premier's or the minister's responsibility. They were the only two people who could be open and accountable and demonstrate responsibility and proper high standards of Premier and ministerial conduct. They failed; they failed dismally.

I refer to the action taken finally by the Premier. The Opposition moderately said that it should be a situation of not necessarily sacking the minister but simply removing her from the transport portfolio. Initially the Opposition said that a person with such a record should not have responsibility for road safety. The Premier did not deal directly with the issue. The issue in the first instance was the minister's driving record, but more importantly it was her response as a minister. The Premier did not deal with that directly; to this day he has not dealt with that directly. The Premier's response, eventually, was to say that she would not have responsibility for road safety. Where is the penalty? The public is very aware that the minister still has her ministerial car and driver.

Dr Gallop: You just said she should not be sacked.

Mr BARNETT: I have never said that.

Dr Gallop: Why are we having this debate?

Mr BARNETT: It is because the Premier and the minister have failed the public.

Dr Gallop: There is nothing to debate; why are we having this debate?

Mr BARNETT: Mr Speaker, I have only six minutes, and I need those six minutes.

The Premier's response was to say that the minister would be removed from holding responsibility for road safety. It is not simply a matter of plucking the road safety function out of the transport portfolio and giving it to someone else, and nor should it be done in that way because there are policy implications. Members should be aware, and certainly older members will be aware, that in 1995 the Select Committee on Road Safety recommended that the function of road safety should be removed from the police portfolio and put in the transport portfolio. That recommendation was implemented. That was a policy decision. Was there any

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suggestion of revisiting that policy decision? Was there any suggestion of the merits of where the responsibility for road safety should be domiciled? That did not come into the decision. This Premier took the political route. He did not look in any sense at all at road safety or how it should be administered. The Premier, presumably on advice, became aware that road safety was not one simple little area and that it was covered by three Acts of Parliament: The Road Traffic Act, the Transport Co-ordination Act and the Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Act. This Premier took those three Acts off this minister and gave them to the Minister for Police. He effectively split the transport portfolio. Why did he do that? Was it for any good reason of transport policy or for road safety? Not at all; it was simply what he thought in the short term would be a strategy to save the neck of a minister who was clearly and rightly discredited in the public eye. The implication of that can be seen in an editorial in *The West Australian* of 10 March, which reads -

Instead of taking a tough option in the spirit of the promised new ethos, Dr Gallop has concocted a bureaucratic mess of questionable integrity.

Let us contrast that with his stance in opposition. Let us put it in context. The Premier campaigned, among other things, on changing the government sector and financial management. The ALP policy states that Labor is committed to restructuring the public sector to reduce duplication and improve the coordination between departments.

How can the Premier explain his position? He did not answer the question yesterday. The result is that we have no transport minister. We have T1 in the sin bin and T2, who is not even in the House. We have Hon Ms MacTiernan, the minister who has responsibility for Main Roads Western Australia but not road safety. She is the minister responsible for taxis in Perth, but not taxis in regional Western Australia. She is the minister responsible for trains in the metropolitan area but not outside Perth. She is the minister responsible for ports and boating but not BikeWest, aviation policy or buses.

This minister is responsible for planning but not as it relates to transport. What an absolute disgrace. What a shambles the Premier has made of the transport portfolio for a political objective. The bureaucrats in the Department of Transport have no idea to whom they are accountable; the various interest groups in the transport sector have absolutely no idea to whom they are responsible. The Government did not have the integrity or the strength to keep to what it said during the election campaign.

The Minister for Health may laugh. More than anyone else in this House, he should be concerned about the conduct and the record of the person next to him. More than anyone in this House, he has seen the trauma caused by deaths resulting from drinking-driving and speeding on our roads, yet he smirks. He does himself no justice.

In conclusion, we have a minister with a proven record of speeding and drink-driving. We have a minister who lost her licence as a result of speeding into a regional centre. She presented herself to the public as being remorseful and she implied in all her statements that this was effectively a one-off. She almost trivialised it.

Dr Gallop: Are you questioning the minister's attitude to this matter?

Mr BARNETT: She spoke about losing demerit points because of leaving her headlights on. She used these examples to imply that this occurred over 20 months. She could not remember when she lost the last point. She did everything to trivialise and minimise this issue. When she was caught out that there had been a previous loss of licence - almost inadvertently, during an ABC interview - she even then failed to admit that it was as a result of drink-driving and that this was the third time she had lost her licence. The Premier knew about the drink-driving conviction and he failed to divulge the information, he failed to act and, as Premier, he failed to set any standard. He is a lame-duck Premier. Even now, after all this duplicity, after all the misleading information and the lack of candour and honesty, I do not say the minister must be sacked, but the Premier must make sure that this minister plays no role in any area of transport.

The Premier should leave the transport portfolio intact. He should make his changes at a ministerial level, respond to the transgression, the lack of accountability and honesty by his minister, and reshuffle portfolios within his Cabinet. He should not rearrange portfolios and create absolute confusion, wastage, duplication and inefficiency in the transport portfolio. As a result of his actions, the Premier jeopardises transport policy and the administration of transport in this State. He should have had the strength to act on an errant minister.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Premier) [2.52 pm]: What is the first obligation of a Leader of the Opposition who initiates a debate of this sort? The answer is simple. The Leader of the Opposition should outline the standard that he or she is using in relation to a particular case. The Leader of the Opposition, when pressed as a result of interjections, said that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure should not be sacked over this matter.

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Mr Barnett: Not from Cabinet; that is right.

Dr GALLOP: That raises the question: What is the point of the Leader of the Opposition raising this debate? What standards is he setting in relation to this issue? Why are we having this debate this afternoon? The Leader of the Opposition has not clarified what standards he would apply in a situation like this. I will return to this point.

I contrast the handling of this issue with the way the previous Opposition approached these issues. We had the case studies of the member for Stirling, the then Minister for Primary Industry, whose intervention led to charges being lifted in the south west of the State; we had the case of a former Minister for Transport, who shifted shares around within his family when its company was doing a deal with the Government on a major privatisation issue; and we had the member for Warren-Blackwood, who cleared land without permission. At that time we made distinctions about those matters and said that two of those ministers should have been sacked and one should have been censured. We outlined the issues at stake and why it was important for our system of government. We have heard nothing but diatribe from the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the character of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, who has proved throughout her parliamentary career that she is a fighter on behalf of the underdog and a vigilant defender of the rights and interests of her electorate, and she has done that with distinction. I say with pride that she is a member of the Labor Cabinet today. That is an example of the lack of standards being set by the Leader of the Opposition.

I am not surprised that the Opposition has raised this issue. We have the inheritance of the budget black hole that was left to us by the previous Government. We have inherited a series of contracts that should never have been entered into. We have a backlog of much needed social reform in Western Australia, and our core services in the areas of health and education are in terrible shape. It is no wonder that the Leader of the Opposition focused on an incident that occurred a long time ago. There is no doubt that in relation to those other matters, those opposite have nothing to say to the people of Western Australia. They have let the side down. We have inherited this mess and we have to fix it.

The Government has applied a standard to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and the standard is this: If she is involved in another breach of our road traffic laws, she will lose her position in the Cabinet.

Mr Barnett interjected.

Dr GALLOP: Has the Leader of the Opposition asked all of his colleagues what their driving records are?

Mr Barnett: Four times!

Dr GALLOP: Has the Leader of the Opposition asked all of his colleagues what their driving records are?

Mr Barnett: You have to lose your licence four times for drink-driving under Labor to be irresponsible. What a disgrace!

Dr GALLOP: The Leader of the Opposition has not even checked whether that standard would apply to his own members. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has been removed from the road safety portfolio, for a very simple reason, as she agrees -

Mr Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the first time.

Dr GALLOP: As the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure agreed - unlike the attitude taken by that former Minister for Transport in the previous Government, who has belligerently said that the law is an ass in relation to these speeding matters - it would not be appropriate for her to be in that position. That is the standard: Firstly, one more strike and she is out; and, secondly, she has been removed from the road safety portfolio. I ask the Leader of the Opposition again: What is his standard in relation to this issue? Has he consulted all his members to check their road safety records? If he has, does he believe that some of them should have their portfolio responsibilities removed? This Government has a standard and it has applied that standard.

This Government has a ministerial code relating to the all-important question of the financial interests of members of Parliament, including ministers. There is no doubt that under the previous Government the relationship between private interest and public duty was blurred all along the way. That is one of the reasons those opposite lost government at the last election. This Government does have a ministerial code of conduct and it makes absolutely clear that no ministers shall have shareholdings in areas that conflict with their portfolio and that they shall resign from directorships. Can we say that that standard, which is being applied in Western Australia today, was applied during the past eight years?

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Does the Leader of the Opposition agree with our code? He has seen it. It was put out for public debate. Does he endorse it? He has not read it. I must conclude that the Leader of the Opposition has not read our code. He has not taken it on board. That means he has no interest in the blurring of the line between private and public interests that occurred while he was in government. We have instigated a standard relating to driving offences committed by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and we have a standard covering the private and public interest which applies in Western Australia today and which did not apply under the previous Government.

Two other matters need to be raised. The Leader of the Opposition put forward the proposition that a consequence of my handling of the issue is a mess for transport planning in Western Australia. He spoke of T1 and T2. I talk about T1, T2 and T3: T1 is the member for Carine, the shadow minister for metropolitan transport; T2 is the member for Dawesville, the shadow minister for road safety; T3 is the member for Ningaloo, the shadow minister for regional transport. What will happen to the poor, struggling Western Australian citizens who want to find out from the Opposition something about the transport system? If the Leader of the Opposition's argument about the Government's arrangement has any validity, it has 33 per cent more validity when applied to the Opposition's arrangement. It is an absolutely pathetic argument that is underlined by the Leader of the Opposition's actions in distributing the shadow transport portfolio to three members. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition is able to justify the rationality of that division. Those three shadow ministers have not been particularly vocal since they took on those positions. Perhaps it does not matter which member of the Opposition has which portfolio, because the Opposition has issued only three or four press releases since the election. The Leader of the National Party is active; I do not refer to him. However, the Leader of the Opposition wants to take the portfolio responsibility for resources from him. At least the Leader of the National Party is active and is putting forward points of view to which we must respond. Opposition members are silent and inactive. There are two possible reasons for that: They are either lazy or do not want to work with the Leader of the Opposition. This State has an Opposition that had no standard in government, which was evidenced by its lack of a ministerial code and in the way it responded to accusations like those presented to the former Minister for Transport, the former Minister for Primary Industry and the former Minister for Local Government. It had no standards. The Leader of the Opposition presented an argument but he did not develop a standard by which he can assess the issue of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. Further, his argument is undermined by his distribution of portfolios. A further argument about this Leader of the Opposition needs to be canvassed; that is, that he was put to the test on the question of standards. It was not the former Premier, Hon Richard Court, nor the former Leader of the National Party, the member for Merredin, who was put to the test, but the member for Cottesloe. That test came during the election campaign. We all know Western Australia has a law that members of Parliament must disclose their financial interests. It is an important law. It is not a code but a law passed by this Parliament. During the election campaign, it was discovered - and congratulations to *The Geraldton Guardian* newspaper for taking up this issue - that the former member for Geraldton had not disclosed a very serious matter; that is, a significant shareholding in Kingstream Resources. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure disclosed her position to the world, yet the local media uncovered the case of the former member for Geraldton. How did the current Leader of the Opposition respond to this matter? He is the person who has criticised this side of the House when it has developed and applied a standard and a code. The Leader of the Opposition said, and I quote -

It happens to everyone at some stage of their political life - something goes wrong, they don't do something they are supposed to do or whatever.

That was his approach to this issue. However, he went further than that. Not satisfied with the matter-of-fact statement that these things happen, he said he hoped that the member for Geraldton would retain his seat and that if the Government were returned he would be back, "hopefully as a minister before too long." The Opposition's standard is that if a member breaches a law of Western Australia, he gets promoted.

Points of Order

Mr BARNETT: Mr Speaker, a point of order -

Mr Marlborough interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Peel to order for the first time.

Mr BARNETT: The Premier seeks to impugn my reputation by ascribing to me a statement I did not make.

Dr GALLOP: I quote from *The West Australian* newspaper of 8 February 2001. I wonder whether the Leader of the Opposition corrected that statement.

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The SPEAKER: I did not hear the Premier indicate that the Leader of the Opposition broke the law, but if he did, he should withdraw.

Dr GALLOP: I certainly did not indicate that. I made the point that the standards applied by the Leader of the Opposition when presented with a case study of his party was that it did not matter that the member for Geraldton did not disclose his financial interest, and that the member should be promoted to the ministry.

Mr BARNETT: The Premier impugns my reputation by ascribing to me comments that I did not make and are therefore untrue.

Mr KOBELKE: If members feel they have been misrepresented, various forms are available to them, such as the opportunity to make a personal explanation. A point of order does not amount to that. The Leader of the Opposition is suggesting that a statement by the Premier is incorrect and that, therefore, the Premier should withdraw it. That is purely a matter of judgment and, as such, there is no basis for a point of order. Members should make a judgment about the extent of truthfulness about what was reported in the newspaper article to which the Premier is alluding. I suggest there is no substance in the point of order and that if the Leader of the Opposition feels he has been misrepresented through something that has been reported in the media and repeated by the Premier, he may seek to give a personal explanation to the House at an appropriate time.

Mr DAY: The Leader of the Opposition's argument is that the Premier is representing something as true when it is not true, and in doing so he is impugning the reputation of the Leader of the Opposition. On that basis he should withdraw his comment.

The SPEAKER: It is clear the Premier is quoting from a newspaper. Whether the newspaper article is true and correct is a matter the Leader of the Opposition may take up at a later stage; however, the point of order is not founded.

Debate Resumed

Dr GALLOP: I will refer only to the first half of my argument. I repeat the quote -

Mr Barnett: Anything goes.

Dr GALLOP: Did the Leader of the Opposition say it?

Mr Barnett: You say what you like.

Dr GALLOP: I said I will use only the first half of the argument; that I will not use the second half.

Mr Barnett: You did.

Dr GALLOP: I will not use the second half of the argument.

Mr Barnett: You are yet to defend the minister.

Dr GALLOP: Did the Leader of the Opposition say -

It happens to everyone at some stage of their political life - something goes wrong, they don't do something they are supposed to or whatever.

Did the Leader of the Opposition say that? The Leader of the Opposition is raising the issue of whether *The West Australian* is correct or not.

Mr Barnett: You impugned me.

Dr GALLOP: Come on! The Leader of the Opposition does not want to remember the events that occurred during the election campaign. The fact of the matter is, at a minimal level, he showed complete complacency about what happened. At a maximum level, he showed contempt by suggesting that the member should become a minister. He says that he did not say that. It remains for him to show that he did not say it. Whichever way one looks at it, he certainly has expressed complacency - like thousands of Western Australian citizens, I saw him.

Mr Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: The member for Warren-Blackwood continues to interject even when it is clear that the member speaking is not taking interjections. I formally call the member to order for the second time.

Dr GALLOP: I shall summarise the points I have made. There is a standard on this side of the House and that standard is endorsed by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure who has great respect for the issues of road safety in this State. She has shown that respect by willingly agreeing that it would not be appropriate for her to

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be in that portfolio. It was on her suggestion that the issue came up. That is her attitude towards this issue. Let us look at the Opposition. It developed no standards in the course of this argument and it had no standards when it was in government. A real test during the election campaign was the Bloffwitch affair. Contempt was shown for the issue by the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues. We are setting the standards in this Parliament. The Opposition has nothing to offer on this issue as it did not outline any standards whatsoever.

MR JOHNSON (Hillarys) [3.12 pm]: It is important to point out to members that the member for Armadale had only two of her ministerial colleagues in the House to support her while most of this debate was conducted. The word has since spread and they have now come into the Chamber. For about half an hour she was left alone with only two ministerial colleagues - the Premier and the Minister for Health - to show her some support.

Mr Kobelke: I have been here all the time.

Mr JOHNSON: The member has not been in his seat for a long time. This debate is about codes of conduct for ministerial positions. It is true that prior to the election the Premier went around the State espousing the virtues of what a Labor Government would do.

Dr Gallop: What standards do you support?

Mr JOHNSON: I will tell the Premier in a moment. I am glad the Attorney General is here as I want to have a word with him as well. The Premier espoused the standards and the code of conduct that would apply to the ministers and Cabinet of a Labor Government. I know it is difficult for the Premier as he does not choose all cabinet members. I believe all the factions and the unions decide who will get which job. If that is true, who will sack them? Not the Premier; not without the permission of the factions or the unions. I sympathise with the Premier as he is in a very difficult and untenable situation. He has now been caught out in his hypocrisy towards the people of Western Australia.

Dr Gallop: What are your standards?

Mr JOHNSON: I will come to it in a moment. The Premier gave his speech and I did not interject. I am only one minute into my speech and he is already having a go at me. I will have my say although he does not want to hear what I have to say. There are members of the House who do want to hear what I have to say. If there is peace and quiet the members will hear. The members on the other side of the House get too excited.

The SPEAKER: It is clear from the member's comments that he does not wish to take interjections. I ask members to refrain from interjecting.

Mr JOHNSON: I thank the Speaker for his protection. The Premier and the member for Armadale have been caught out by the media. It has been called a cover-up. I quote from *The Australian* on its Western Australia page that states "Gallop tainted by cover-up". I want to read it into *Hansard* as it is very important. It has been stated before in the media but it is important that this Parliament knows.

Mr Carpenter: Who wrote the article?

Mr JOHNSON: Matt Price.

Mr Carpenter: Is he a Liberal Party supporter?

Mr JOHNSON: I do not think so. If the member thinks he is a Liberal Party supporter he is living in cloud cuckoo land. The member should change portfolios as his education in that area is obviously not very good. Matt Price criticised the Premier in his article which states -

Holding the moral high ground seems to mean little when it comes to political expediency,

He continues -

Dr Gallop was Labor's good guy during the campaign, promising to enforce a strict code of ministerial conduct unprecedented in Australia.

Yet this week, at the first sign of trouble, he found himself embroiled in a shameless and bungled cover-up.

Matt Price also wrote about the member for Armadale -

Ms MacTiernan is a serially rotten driver who was less than honest with the public . . .

If that is not sloppy standards from any minister, I do not know what is. The Premier is prepared to allow sloppy standards from that minister. I suspect that as time goes on we will see -

Dr Gallop: Are you saying that she should be sacked?

Mr Barnett: Yes. From all areas of transport.

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Dr Gallop: The whole of transport; not just road safety? Is that the Opposition's position?

Mr Barnett: Yes. I have said it publicly. She should not have responsibility in any area affecting transport.

Mr Carpenter interjected.

The SPEAKER: Will the Minister for Education please desist from making comments.

Mr JOHNSON: The media have already shown that the Premier is a man of straw when it comes to following through on promises he made to the people of Western Australia to have good ministerial standards in government.

Dr Gallop: What exactly are we are arguing about in this debate? Why are we having this debate?

Mr JOHNSON: It was interesting to hear the Premier say that he was proud to have the member for Armadale as one of his cabinet colleagues. He should speak to the general public and hear what it has to say. The Leader of the Opposition is quite charitable; most members of the public believe the minister should be sacked as she has persistently broken the laws of Western Australia. It has happened not just once or twice.

Dr Gallop: Have you ever broken the speed limit?

Mr JOHNSON: I have a clean driving record.

Dr Gallop: What about your colleagues?

Mr JOHNSON: The Premier should ask them.

Dr Gallop: You ask them!

Mr JOHNSON: No!

Dr Gallop: The Leader of the Opposition has not done it and I know you want to be in his chair.

Mr JOHNSON: Do not be foolish. The member for Armadale has lost her licence three times and she did not own up to it when she was asked originally. There was a cover-up. The last offence was driving a motor vehicle at 100 kilometres an hour in a 60 kilometre an hour zone. That is reckless, dangerous and plain stupid. She could have killed someone by travelling at that speed. I think she should have done the correct thing and tendered her resignation to the Premier. She is quite obviously happy to stay where she is, retain a big car and a driver, and have all the things that a minister has.

Mr Carpenter: Have you never broken the law?

Mr JOHNSON: The minister is driving my old car and I never pushed it over 70 kilometres an hour.

I wish to move on a bit, since I believe it has been established that these were very serious offences. Drink driving is a very serious offence, and the member for Armadale has two such offences. To err once is forgivable, but to do it twice is an abuse of other road users in Western Australia. The Premier should have shown a bit more leadership.

Dr Gallop: Has the member for Hillarys checked the driving records of all the members of the Opposition? If any opposition members have a similar record, will they be sacked?

Mr JOHNSON: Our members are not in government, or in the Cabinet.

Dr Gallop: So it does not matter, then?

Mr JOHNSON: Does the Premier not believe that the Government should set the standards, as he has been asked to? The Premier went out and said he was going to set high standards. We shall see how far that goes. Obviously, the Labor Party factions said that the member for Armadale could not be sacked, so that was it. The Opposition accepts that.

I want to go on to another very important area. The member for Armadale is a justice of the peace - someone holding a very important position in the legal system of Western Australia - and I wish to ask whether the Attorney General is prepared to say that the member for Armadale is a fit and proper person to carry out the duties of a justice of the peace after this dreadful and persistent breaking of the law.

Mr McGinty: Yes.

Mr JOHNSON: That statement may come back to haunt the Attorney General. I do not believe the rest of the public would agree with him. The position of justice of the peace is a responsible one and is taken seriously by most justices of the peace. How in all honesty can the member for Armadale carry out her duties as a justice of

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the peace when she has a horrific law-breaking record in Western Australia? The member for Armadale should have done two things - she should have resigned as a minister and secondly -

Dr Gallop: The member for Hillarys said it was not a sackable offence.

Mr JOHNSON: I said she should have resigned as a minister. Under the ministerial code of conduct, she should have done the right thing and resigned. The second thing she should have done, and done a long time ago, is resign as a justice of the peace.

Dr Gallop: For accumulating 12 demerit points? She should have resigned as a justice of the peace for that much?

Mr JOHNSON: For drink driving, she should. When did the member for Armadale become a justice of the peace?

Ms MacTiernan: About 1994.

Mr JOHNSON: I thought it was 1986. The member for Armadale became a justice of the peace in 1994 - is that what she is saying?

Ms MacTiernan: Around then.

Mr JOHNSON: Around then - give or take 10 years?

Ms MacTiernan: Give or take six months.

Mr JOHNSON: I thought it was earlier than that, but 1994 will do. Did the member for Armadale disclose on her application form that she had these convictions for breaking the law?

Ms MacTiernan: I do not have the application form in front of me.

Mr JOHNSON: I will ask the Attorney General, who is the chief law maker in this State. Will he investigate that matter? If the member for Armadale did not disclose those offences, that is a very serious matter, and as the chief law maker, the Attorney General has a responsibility in that area.

Mr McGinty: Does the member for Hillarys want to go on any other fishing expeditions?

Mr JOHNSON: This is not a fishing expedition.

Mr Barnett: Drink driving 1986, justice of the peace 1994. The Attorney General should act.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hillarys has indicated several times that he does not want interjections, but for the past 10 minutes he has done nothing but ask questions of members on the right-hand side of the House. I urge him to direct his comments through the Chair. This is not question time, it is a chance for the member to contribute to debate on this issue.

Mr JOHNSON: I will conclude by saying once again that I trust and hope that the Attorney General has the welfare of the people of Western Australia as his utmost priority and will investigate whether the member for Armadale did disclose her convictions for drink driving on the application form when she applied to become a justice of the peace. If she did, it seems strange that she was allowed to become a justice of the peace, given the timing. I was under the impression that it was earlier than 1994. If the member for Armadale did not disclose those convictions for drink driving and other driving offences on her application to become a justice of the peace, that is even more serious. We will wait to hear what the Attorney General has to say once he has done some investigation.

MR MARSHALL (Dawesville) [3.25 pm]: In supporting the amendment and the remarks of previous members, I must say that being in opposition does not suit my psyche. I am not used to being a king-hitter, stabbing people in the back, or being a hit-and-run expert. I like to think that my remarks today will be like those of a father talking to his children, teaching them what is right and wrong. I hope it is taken in the right context. Sometimes, in a family, it hurts to have to tell your children what is the right thing to do in life. I have been a fan of the member for Armadale. I was disappointed when she received that speeding ticket and lost her licence, but I was absolutely disgusted when she followed it with the admission of drink driving charges. One can make a mistake, but one must be prepared to own up to it, and to learn from it. It is a great worry to me, and to all of us in this job, that we can lose points for speeding and drinking and driving, and that is one of the great dishonours. In my eight years in this place, I have known the member for Armadale to be a young, intelligent, hard working and experienced politician, and I thought she would know the responsibilities of a minister. We set the laws in Parliament; we have been involved with them, but we should not be seen to be breaking them. The performance of the member for Armadale, unfortunately, worsened our position in the community. Many

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new members in this place - there are lawyers, city mayors, and people from all walks of life - came in here yesterday and lost their credentials. They became politicians. I thought, even though the Premier said that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and was attacking the Opposition for what happened -

Dr Gallop: What are the Opposition's standards?

Mr MARSHALL: The Government has the big team. It should be setting the goals. The Opposition is in this place to make sure that it does. We should have started with a clean slate, trying to prove to the community and the Press that politicians are people to be respected. They are hard-working, and deserve every cent they earn. They are caring and law-abiding people. I say that as the opposition spokesman for road safety, and I say it a little shakily, because everyone, from the moment they step into a vehicle, is liable to make a mistake. I know the actions of the member for Armadale were errors, but every member of this House has been judged by them. As the minister responsible for road safety the member for Armadale should have known that speeding and drinking accounted for 189 road deaths last year, 77 of which were in the metropolitan area and 112 in the country. Speed was a contributing factor in 74 of those fatalities. It is jammed down our throats, as it should be, over and over again that fatalities are caused by speed, alcohol, fatigue, and an absence of safety belts. These factors are not being treated as a group; they are split up each month by the road safety authority, and included in publicity. At the moment the emphasis is on fatigue. No-one has received a ticket for that yet, but we have done pretty well so far on speed and alcohol.

After the epic headline appeared in the Press, a reporter rang me and said that she was just checking to see whether, as the opposition spokesperson, I had ever lost my licence. I asked the girl whether, if I gave her a quote, she would please print it. She agreed to do that. As my family is involved with the media and I was reared in a press and media environment, one gets to know how the Press works. I crossed my fingers and hoped the quote would appear in the Press as a teaching exercise for the community. Unfortunately, my answer did not suit that reporter because, with fingers crossed, I said that, no, I had never lost my licence, but if I had, I would not have accepted the road safety position. That is an important point. Unfortunately, that quote did not appear in the Press because there was not a story in it - I had not lost my licence.

Dr Gallop: Have you lost demerit points?

Mr MARSHALL: Demerit points are easy to lose. The Premier knows that. How many has he lost? He told me that he wanted to become a minister so that he could have a chauffeur.

Dr Gallop: I can assure you that I have lost demerit points.

Mr MARSHALL: Of course. That is very easy in our job because we are always busy, running to meeting after meeting. It is very easy to be on the phone in the car and suddenly drive into a 60 kilometre an hour zone without realising. Since becoming the road safety spokesman, I have noticed that the biggest trap for drivers south of the river, coming from Mandurah, is that as they travel over Canning Bridge on the Canning Highway on their way to the WACA ground, to Gloucester Park or to any of the other sporting areas, the speed limit is 60 kilometres an hour. One slows down from 100 kilometres an hour to 70 kilometres an hour, and there is always a speed camera there. Consequently, I have my gauge set on 60 kilometres an hour, so that when I hear the buzzer, it reminds me that I must be a more responsible driver. It is a great thing to set that gauge at 60 kilometres an hour, and I advise those who are not using it to do so right away.

As the opposition road safety spokesperson, I believe that road safety is a huge responsibility for all members here, not just the member for Armadale. Three years ago, I was appointed for one year the ambassador to safe driving for seniors. It was the national seniors year. People always think they know everything. However, I did the course, read the rules and had to lecture seniors throughout Western Australia at various times. When I say I have to do something, it makes me doubly sure that I do it right. During a lifetime, one will make errors. However, it is not often that people make three errors; they usually learn. In sport, I have always said that champions never make more than two errors. They can be told once, and most champions never make the error again. There is always the odd one who must be told twice. However, champions never make the same error three times. Once they do it three times, they are taken out of the side and are B-graders. That is worth noting.

During seniors year, I was concentrating and observing the speed limits. I was talking to elderly people about concentrating and being alert. I told them to take note of the kind of car that was alongside them. I told them not to park in a car park next to a dented car, because the driver of that car was irresponsible and would dent their car. I told them to have some discipline in their driving, which is the number one word about which we should be speaking. I find it traumatic being the spokesperson on road safety, because the responsibility is huge. I will be telling people what they should be doing, but it is easy to get caught for speeding by a Multanova.

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Another thing has happened with the member for Armadale. Unfortunately, I do not like our members to be taken as a joke in the community. At the bowling clubs in my area, people will have three or four beers, and on the fourth beer the barman says, "Are you going to become an Alannah?" Unfortunately, some people in that area have said to me, "You had better not have another drink, Arthur. You'll become an Alannah Marshall." I do not particularly like that, but that is what people are saying, and I feel upset, because I know the minister better than that.

I guess nothing can ruin a career more than to be made to look foolish. Unfortunately, the member for Armadale's track record and lack of discipline has made her look foolish. She has let down herself, her team and the House, and I am upset about that. She should not have accepted the responsibilities of a minister if she did not have the discipline to do the job properly.

Dr Gallop: Did the Leader of the Opposition let down the side in the election when he failed to stand up to the member for Geraldton?

Mr MARSHALL: The Premier is here to set an example, not to judge people.

Dr Gallop: I am asking you a question.

Mr MARSHALL: I will conclude by simply saying that the Premier spoke for 15 minutes. He went on and on, and not once did he acknowledge that his minister's performance was out of order and that she had set the wrong standards for the entire State, including all members in this place, to follow.

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale - Minister for Planning and Infrastructure) [3.35 pm]: I need to respond to this matter. I will take into account a number of issues. First, I acknowledge up front that I made a stupid mistake. It is a mistake that is made by Western Australians every day. However, that does not excuse it, and I recognise that, as a minister, I have a higher level of obligation. It was not in any way intentional. As I have explained previously, I was driving along South Western Highway into the outskirts of the town. I agree that my vigilance dropped and I did not notice the signs on the side of the road. That is not a justification or an excuse; rather, I add that by way of explanation.

I acknowledge that I have lost my licence twice in the past. This makes a total of three times that I have lost my licence. However, this is over 15 years. It is not a good look and it does not justify it. However, the impression that has been given by members of the Opposition is that I do this sort of thing on a daily basis.

More importantly, I will address the issue that was raised by the Leader of the Opposition - namely, that I misled the public and that I gave a false impression. When I went to the public the day after I had been booked, I wanted to state up front as soon as possible that I had been booked. I was deeply embarrassed and ashamed of having been booked for speeding. There is no doubt that I wanted to state that fact to the public, and at that time I genuinely made the call that it was my behaviour while a minister that was relevant. It did not occur to me at the time that I had to set out my driving history of 25 years.

Mr Barnett: Did you discuss the previous convictions with the Premier?

Ms MacTIERNAN: I did.

Mr Barnett: So it occurred to you then because you discussed it with the Premier, but you chose not to divulge it publicly.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I did not believe that it was relevant for me to set out that entire record. However, in any event, as soon as I was asked, I acknowledged it, and during the following day I set out my entire driving history of 25 years. I agree that it is highly embarrassing. I also acknowledge that it will stay with me for some time. However, in hindsight, it will make me much more vigilant in the future.

Mr Day: Make sure you don't get caught out.

Ms MacTIERNAN: No. It simply brought home to me how easy it is to make this sort of error.

Mr Barnett: You were a member of Parliament at the time of the 1994 conviction.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That is correct.

Mr Barnett: Therefore, as a member of Parliament, you were drink-driving, caught and convicted.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That is correct.

Mr Barnett: Were you caught and convicted of drink driving while a member of Parliament?

Ms MacTIERNAN: That is correct. It was a 0.08 offence.

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Mr Barnett: Was it the second time as member of Parliament you were caught? It was not a one off.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That is right. I do not and cannot resile from that. I acknowledge that what I have done is wrong. I acknowledge also that I have great problems in presenting myself as a spokesperson on road safety and that it is entirely appropriate that I move on. At the time I considered whether or not I should resign. I had to consider whether the offence warranted my resignation. When making that decision, I had to consider what was in the best interests of the community. I worked very hard with many people to ensure that a Labor Government was elected to put in place the policies it believed should be implemented for the progress of the State. In making an assessment about whether to take the symbolic step and resign, I decided that, at the end of the day, it would not achieve the best outcome. I have been elected to implement Labor Party policy and the best way I can make a public contribution is through the Cabinet. I do not pretend that this process has not damaged me. The public acknowledges that I have a role to play in the implementation of Labor Party policy. Members opposite will raise this issue because they have nothing else to say. They will argue that because I lost my licence three times over 15 years I am a bad person. I will not let that deter me for one moment from doing what I was elected to do. It will not deter me from putting in place a first-class integrated transport and planning system in this State.

I contrast that with the Minister for Transport in the previous Government who, twice within two years while Minister for Transport, lost his licence for speeding.

Mr Barnett: It is you we are talking about.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I know the Opposition is talking about me, but I will make that contrast. While the Leader of the Opposition was the Leader of the House, he sat in Cabinet for eight years with a Minister for Transport who had twice lost his licence for speeding while he was a minister.

Several members interjected.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The difference is that that previous Minister for Transport's attitude to losing his licence twice for driving at 160 kilometres an hour was that good drivers like him should be allowed to drive at those speeds. I will not justify my actions in that way. What I did was clearly wrong and I apologise to the people of this State. I have apologised in the past and I will continue to apologise. My 25 years of driving history has been revealed to the public. I must do the job I was elected to do, and I will do it with all of the discipline and diligence I can muster.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara - Minister for Labour Relations) [3.44 pm]: It seems strange that at the first opportunity the Opposition has to raise a matter of public importance after the election, it concerns itself with old newspaper stories that it thinks raise an important issue. There is no issue. This amounts to an attack that the Leader of the Opposition launched on the now Minister for Education during the election campaign. At least when he tried to lash out and hit somebody, he rolled up the sheet of paper.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr BARNETT: I hope that the minister has the respect for Parliament and the decency to withdraw that statement.

Mr KOBELKE: There is no point of order.

The SPEAKER: I ask the minister to withdraw that comment.

Mr KOBELKE: Which comment?

The SPEAKER: The comment about the rolling up of the newspaper.

Mr KOBELKE: How can I withdraw what I saw on television? Are we closing down freedom of speech in this place?

The SPEAKER: No. I ask the member for Nollamara to withdraw the comment.

Mr KOBELKE: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr KOBELKE: The Minister for Education was interviewed on radio when a television camera was in the studio, and he got upset and totally lost his discipline. He lashed out at the member for Willagee. That is a fact. It was seen on television by hundreds of thousands of Western Australians. It is not a point of view. It is an indisputable fact that the Leader of the Opposition was undisciplined in that instance. Members know that that

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has happened on many occasions. As weak and undisciplined as that attack was, the attack mounted today by the Opposition does not come up to that standard. Members opposite could at least have rolled up the sheet of paper to try to hit us with it. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has acknowledged that she made a mistake. She acknowledged it at the time and she did not try to cover it up.

As the minister said previously, when this Opposition was in Government, minister after minister made major mistakes for which we said they should be sacked. The Leader of the Opposition has made it clear that this is not a sackable offence. The important point is that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure took the medicine, unlike the former Minister for Transport Eric Charlton who, when found guilty of speeding, made the excuse that the roads were safer if he sped. That was the position supported by the members opposite. They supported the argument that that minister was a safer driver because he was speeding. That reveals the stupidity of the Opposition. As the Premier said, we on this side of the House have some standards. It was considered to be inappropriate for the minister to remain responsible for road safety in the light of that clear and acknowledged indiscretion, and action was taken. We could go through issue after issue concerning the rabble opposite. When they were in Government and major indiscretions occurred, they thumbed their noses at the public and said they did not matter.

Mr Barnett: The conduct of the minister is known. She apologised, but she did not divulge her true record.

Mr KOBELKE: She hid nothing.

Mr Barnett: Only under protest. The first vote of many new members of this Parliament will be to defend the drink-driving record of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure because of the Government's actions and the way it has tried to defend the minister. That is something about which they can tell their children and grandchildren.

Mr KOBELKE: That statement drives home how the Opposition has yet to come to grips with the reality of the facts of the matter. The basis of this motion relates to the driving record of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. That is not in dispute. Some Opposition members added the additional issues through spite and invective, and they do not enhance the standards of debate in this Chamber. The other issue that was rightly raised concerned how the matter was handled and what was the appropriate response. That is a matter that can be debated in this place and appropriately addressed. It has been addressed adequately, because at no time did the minister in question seek to mislead anyone or hide the facts of the matter. Further, after discussion with the Premier, action was taken to ensure that the minister was not put in a situation where it could be regarded as inappropriate for her to act in that area. The Government's response was a clear and decisive response. That is very different from what we saw from this mob opposite when it was in government. On that basis, the Opposition does not have a case and the amendment should be defeated.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (20)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Day	Mr Masters	Mr Waldron
Mr Barnett	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Omodei	Mr Bradshaw (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Birney	Mr Edwards	Mr Pandal	
Mr Board	Mr House	Mr Barron-Sullivan	
Dr Constable	Mr Johnson	Mr Sweetman	
Mr Cowan	Mr Marshall	Mr Trenorden	

Noes (29)

Mr Andrews	Mr Hill	Ms McHale	Mrs Roberts
Mr Bowler	Mr Hyde	Mr McRae	Mr Templeman
Mr Brown	Mr Kobelke	Mr Marlborough	Mr Watson
Mr Carpenter	Mr Kucera	Mr Murray	Mr Whitely
Mr Dean	Mr Logan	Mr O'Gorman	Ms Quirk (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr D'Orazio	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Quigley	
Dr Gallop	Mr McGinty	Ms Radisich	
Mrs Guise	Mr McGowan	Mr Ripper	

Pair

McNee

Dr Edwards

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Mr John Kobelke; Ms Dianne Guise; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Tony McRae; Mr John Hyde; Mr Paul Andrews; Mr
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Amendment thus negated.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MS GUISE (Wanneroo) [3.56 pm]: In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply moved by the member for Kimberley, I offer my congratulations to the member for Burrup, Mr Riebeling, upon his election to the important position of Speaker. I know that he will lend to this high office the dignity and impartiality required. I am honoured to have been elected by the Parliament of Western Australia as the first woman Deputy Speaker and look forward to serving my political apprenticeship under the Speaker.

I acknowledge and pay respect to the Nyoongah people on whose land I stand and look forward to working with members in this place to bring about changes that will provide certainty with regard to native title for the indigenous people of Western Australia. I believe we can move forward as a reconciled people to ensure that all Australians achieve self-determination and are able to participate fully in our community and civic life, thereby defending the democratic practices which allow us to live together in tolerance and peace.

I am honoured and privileged to represent the electorate of Wanneroo, and I thank the electors for the confidence they have expressed in me. I intend to do the best I can to make a contribution to good government - with a Government that is fair and equitable, a Government that does not discriminate.

Politics was not something to which I aspired as a young woman. It seemed to find me - a young mother with a passionate desire for her children to receive the best education possible and to value that experience as they matured, and a young woman prepared to seek answers and volunteer to help where possible. That is also the case for many of our volunteers, the wonderful people who are working tirelessly in our community providing the glue that binds together the fabric of our community. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. Therefore, as someone who comes to this place as a former community activist and volunteer, I pay tribute to the large number of volunteers who are working to improve the wellbeing of others and in so doing are helping to make our State a better place in which to live.

At this point I acknowledge the mums and dads who assist the marvellous work done in our schools by the professional educators and their support staff. I have come to this place from the parents and citizens association. I am honoured to follow in the shoes of other notable women such as May Holman, Labor's pioneer woman parliamentarian, and Senator Patricia Giles, both of whom were associated with the State parent body known today as the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations, as well as Senator Susan Ryan and former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner who, like me, also represented parents on the Australian Council of State School Organisations. I cut my political teeth as an education lobbyist through the organisation known as WACSSO. I owe a debt of gratitude to the former Minister for Education, Hon Norman Moore, for suggesting political motivation when I had none at the time. I have offered to pay for the first drink in the Member's Bar by way of saying thanks.

It is clear that politicians and bureaucrats should value the input of parents, teachers and students, even if the messages they receive are sometimes unpalatable, for they must win their support for successful changes in education policy. I received an email following the election, headed "Well done that woman". It was sent by an educator who understood the struggle to ensure a strong voice for parents of students in the state school system. That woman is now in this place, and will continue to fight for the educational rights of the child.

Public education has not received a fair go in recent years. Parents and teachers across the nation continue to lobby to raise public awareness and support for this vital sector. I will share a statement of principles for public education developed by a summit of education, community, welfare, union and political organisations, and concerned individuals in Victoria. It is a true reflection of my own beliefs and states eloquently that public education is essential -

Because it -

is vital to the future economic, social, cultural and intellectual development of our nation and all its citizens

is for everyone

provides everyone with the opportunity to shape their own future

enriches and strengthens our local communities

is the basis of an informed, active, fair and democratic society

draws people together, and creates greater tolerance and appreciation of differences

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values our shared experience and our common good.

In acknowledging the importance of public education, it asks the question: What sort of public education do we want? The answer is -

One which:

is free

provides the best possible education for all

includes and values everyone irrespective of difference in race, religion, class, ability, gender or geographic location

bridges the gaps in advantage and provides students of all ages with a fair share of resources

is adequately and fully funded by State and Commonwealth governments at a level which reflects the value we place on every child and young person in our society

is available locally and relates to the life of local communities

provides for life-long learning and for second chance learning

promotes tolerance and inclusiveness

respects inherited values while instilling a desire for new solutions

has teachers and education workers who are well-trained, well paid, respected and secure in their employment

is given priority as an essential responsibility of governments

will be here for future generations.

I highly commend this statement of principles to members for endorsement. I firmly believe that public education is an investment in the future wellbeing and prosperity of our community.

The States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Bill 2000 did not provide much hope for public schools. Instead, provision of commonwealth funding went in increasing amounts to private schools, including some of the richest in Australia. The federal government legislation provides \$22 billion over four years to schools, of which 68 per cent will go to private schools, while 70 per cent of Australian children who attend public schools will receive only 32 per cent. The enrolment benchmark adjustment, which takes funding away from government schools, is another example of the demise in support for the public sector by the Federal Government. Opposition to this funding formula was strong. The position of the Australian Council of State School Organisations, which represents parents of students in public schools, was supported by the Australian Parents Council, which represents parents in non-government schools, as the latter group also believed the system was grossly unfair. No-one denies that a strong non-government school sector should exist and gain support from the Government. However, the funding system must be fair and not at the expense of the 70 per cent of Australian children who attend public schools.

The new Labor Government has five priority areas in education: To improve literacy and numeracy, increase retention rates, improve the learning environment and information technology systems, and raise the status and standard of teaching. The vital partnership between the school and home is also recognised. I will continue to advocate a high quality education system that values the role of teachers and other education professionals and the contribution of parents. I will work to ensure that each child has the opportunity to learn to his or her maximum capacity, for recognition and promotion of classroom-based teachers, leadership roles for women, and a resurgence of respect for the profession. I also advocate a strong tertiary sector - both technical and further education and university education - that is accessible and affordable. I believe that education is the best way for children - and women and girls in particular - to have greater choices in life.

Having identified a need for greater choices for women, it is time that the reality of inequity in pay and conditions for women was addressed. Legislation is required to deliver a fair wages structure for women workers in Western Australia. Not only are Western Australian women behind the eight ball in comparison with the opposite sex, but also it is estimated that they are paid \$20 less a week on average than their counterparts in the rest of Australia. The Women's Policy Office advised that the average weekly wage for women aged 15 years and over in Western Australia in full-time employment was the equivalent of 78.2 per cent of men's earnings. When compared to all employees' total earnings, women receive \$451.50 compared to \$778.40 for

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men - some 58 per cent of men's earnings. I have repeatedly heard women lament that although the principle of equal pay was won in 1969, and again in the 1970s, it is still not a reality.

In 1969, the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission ruled that by 1972 Australian women should receive equal pay to men for equal work. The Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and the Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1986 were enacted in the 1980s. These Acts were designed to improve the situation of women in the labour market. My own experience, and that of my female friends, indicates that the number of areas in which it is possible to earn equal pay are limited. It was only when I commenced a position as an electorate officer that I earned the same amount as a male for doing the same job. If this basic issue cannot be addressed, it is no wonder that it is difficult to address the undervaluation of women's work.

In her book *The beauty therapist, the motor mechanic, the geoscientist and the librarian: addressing the undervaluation of women's work*, Rosemary Hunter points to her belief that the New South Wales Government's pay equity inquiry made significant conceptual advances in considering how pay and equities for women workers may be identified and remedied. The terms of reference asked the Industrial Relations Commission to inquire into and report on whether work in female-dominated occupations and industries is undervalued in terms of remuneration and pay relative to work in comparable male-dominated occupations and industries. We are challenged to redress the widening gap by enshrining equal remuneration for work of equal value as a minimum condition of employment, allowing for claims for work based on comparable value. That challenge should be met not only by my female colleagues and me but also by all male members in this place.

While dealing with the subject of discrimination it would be remiss of me not to comment on the need for law reform to end the discrimination that currently exists in Western Australia towards gay people in our community. The current laws are draconian and totally unacceptable. They continue to promote discrimination against a segment of our community that has no choice about its sexual orientation. I found particularly telling a letter to the editor of *The West Australian* written by Irwin Swasbrook of Highgate and published on 2 April 2001. It reminds us that we are referring to real people who are disadvantaged every day, not a theory or an abstract notion, and debunks the myth that anyone is led into a sexual lifestyle, whether it be heterosexual or homosexual. He pointed out that the young people most affected often do not make it to the age at which they can drive, drink and vote because they have chosen the sad path to suicide. They have despairingly seen that as their only option in a society that does nothing but abuse them personally and denigrate their value as people.

As the mother of a gay child, I can attest to the struggle to rise above the discrimination that exists in our society. My daughter did not choose to be gay, nor was she led into a particular sexual lifestyle. She is a wonderful person whom I love dearly. She has a generosity of spirit, is intelligent, kind and loving, and she is always ready to help others. There are many others like her in the community. I am yet to be presented with any reason that my daughter should be treated differently from her brother under the law. I welcome the end of sexual discrimination and look forward to a more socially just State and a community that cherishes and nurtures all of God's children, not just some of them.

My electorate covers 681 square kilometres, making it the largest state metropolitan seat, with 37 720 electors. That population is almost 400 per cent greater than the population in some other electorates. That is a disgraceful situation that unfairly devalues my constituents' democratic power. The Wanneroo electorate deserves better than that, and Labor will deliver.

The first recorded European exploration of the area now known as Wanneroo was undertaken by John Butler in 1834. It is hard to estimate the number of Aborigines living in the area at the time because it appears that they were often on the move. However, it is known that the Aboriginal elder in the district at the time was Yellagonga. Included in the first group of pioneers who joined the indigenous population was James Cockburn, who settled in the area in 1850. Settlement was slow, and it is estimated that only 60 families had settled in the area by the 1870s. I was fascinated to read in a book entitled *The Story of Wanneroo*, published by the Shire of Wanneroo in 1979, that convicts were employed to build what was called a "block road". A flat surface was made and wooden blocks laid with sand poured between them, making travel possible if not comfortable. Today, the City of Wanneroo is the fastest growing region in Australia and the need for greater access to transportation remains a high priority for its residents.

The first school was established in 1874 with 17 students in its inaugural year and the postal service came on board in 1883. The area's first church - St Anthony's Roman Catholic Church - was consecrated in 1932. The electorate of Wanneroo now boasts 19 government schools and nine religious schools, with the building of additional schools planned during this term of government, including new primary schools in Carramar and East Marangaroo.

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Market gardening had taken a strong hold in Wanneroo before the turn of the century. Joining earlier settlers were families from Italy, Yugoslavia and other nations, and it is due to their hard work that the area continues to flourish today. It is enlightening to learn of the early opening up of the region, especially because extensive development continues there today. The electorate is large and it is hard to find a community of interest between the diverse suburbs, ranging from Marangaroo in the south east to Two Rocks and Yanchep in the north west. The electorate suffers the burden of many such areas on the periphery of cities. It has a young, heavily mortgaged population with school-aged children and a need for additional community facilities as it struggles to keep pace with its growth.

The Wanneroo electorate has many tourist attractions, including the two excellent heritage trails. The Yaberoo-Budjara trail is based on the movements of Yellagonga's tribe and links the linear lakes of the coastal plain from Lake Joondalup to Yanchep National Park. The other shorter trail is around Lake Joondalup and traces the history of the Wanneroo district. Without wanting to sound like a tourist guide, I can safely boast that Wanneroo has it all: Great beaches, wetlands, national parks, great daytime destinations such as Yanchep and Two Rocks that have exciting plans for further development, as well as wineries and horticultural industries.

I wish to congratulate and pay tribute to the Premier, Dr Geoff Gallop, who led the Australian Labor Party to a resounding victory on 10 February this year. I thank all my Labor colleagues for their support and assistance. Finally, I thank the women and men who worked to have me elected, especially my husband Stuart and our children, Daniel and Carly. I thank Andrew, my stalwart doorknocking companion who stuck it out in all weather, and the many dedicated people in the Labor movement and the community who worked tirelessly throughout the campaign, not least of whom was Liam Costello, who kept me grounded and very busy. Thanks must also be extended to the campaign team of the Western Australian Labor Party - particularly Ruth Webber, who is a great mentor and friend - the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and the Maritime Union of Australia for their support. I also thank the wonderful women of Emily's List, whose support and assistance with money were crucial to my winning the seat of Wanneroo.

I make special mention of the guidance and support offered to me by Hon John Cowdell, Graham Edwards - the federal member for Cowan - and my special friends and mentors, Senator Jim McKiernan and the former member for Wanneroo, Jackie McKiernan.

I acknowledge and thank the staff of Parliament for the assistance they have given me in taking up my duties as the member for Wanneroo and Deputy Speaker. I look forward to my time in the Western Australian Parliament, to vibrant and stimulating debate in the House and the opportunity to represent the electorate of Wanneroo.

[Applause.]

MR LOGAN (Cockburn) [4.20 pm]: Madam Acting Speaker (Mrs Hodson-Thomas), I begin by offering my congratulations to you, and also to the member for Burrup on his election to office, an elevation that indeed is appropriate, and they are positions which you both fully deserve. I also thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Peter McHugh, and the staff of Parliament House for their assistance in helping me to settle in. In particular, I thank the staff at the Parliamentary Library for their prompt and pleasant assistance.

Before addressing the House, I will acknowledge those who gave me great help and assistance and without whom I would not be in a position to stand here today. First, I thank my former employer, the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union. I spent close to 15 wonderful years working for that organisation as research officer, industrial advocate and organiser. That body of working-class people is often recognised by the general public only when some of its members are on strike. Few appreciate the key role that union has played in achieving conditions that we now all currently enjoy and take for granted; for example, four weeks' annual leave; the 38-hour week; structured career paths for all workers, not just professionals; and training leave as an award right. The people of this State, and indeed the whole of Australia, owe a great debt to the work of the AMWU, formerly known as the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union, and I am proud that I can record this fact here today.

Another organisation I would like to thank is the Australian Labor Party, whose membership I have proudly carried for the past 19 years. I thank the party for the confidence it has shown in me by endorsing and supporting me for the seat of Cockburn. I thank in particular those members who assisted in significantly increasing the party's majority in Cockburn, namely, Martin Bolanca, Paul Ferreira, Les Richardson, Fiona Bennett, Tony Toledo and my campaign manager Dr Sally Talbot. Key campaigners such as Doris Burnham, Paul Burnham, Peta Hounslow, Terri Riley, Ray Smith, Steve McCartney, Richard Leather, Phil Vinci, Gerald Sturman, Geoff Harcourt, Bob Edwards, Gwen Barrett, Stan Jacks and the indomitable Ray Lees, former Mayor

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of Cockburn, are all thanked for their tireless efforts. I also thank the members and officials of the Maritime Union of Australia, in particular Dean Summers and Wally Pritchard, who have provided invaluable assistance throughout the campaign.

This speech is a dedication to the memory of a former member for Cockburn, Mr Clive Hughes, his wife Elizabeth and his family. On Thursday, 28 February 1985, Clive stood in this Chamber and delivered his first speech. Like me, he was a former union organiser for the Kwinana-Cockburn area. However, little did he know on that happy day that the small black dot on his back was the melanoma of the cancer that would take his life only 13 months later. A special mention must also be made about the comradeship and humanity shown by Clive's fellow union organiser and former member for Cockburn, now the member for Peel, Mr Norm Marlborough. He and his wife Roz moved in with Liz to help nurse Clive during his physical decline right up until the day of his death. Clive was only 38 years old when he died. He had many years of parliamentary service ahead of him. I am sure members will all agree with me that his was a life that was taken all too soon.

In researching material for their first speech most parliamentarians seek inspiration from the speeches given by their predecessors, and I freely admit that I am no different. Therefore, at this point I acknowledge the former members for Cockburn, Mr Don Taylor, Mr Clive Hughes, Mr Norm Marlborough and Mr Bill Thomas, not only for the use of their first speeches but also for the work they did in the Western Australian Parliament on behalf of the people of Cockburn and the Labor Party. In particular, I thank Don Taylor and Bill Thomas for their personal assistance in my campaign.

The theme that I seek to build this speech around is unemployment and the future of work. These issues are topical, controversial and of great importance to many Western Australians and of particular importance to the people of Cockburn and the south west metropolitan region. It came as no surprise when reading the first speeches of my predecessors that they too had made significant comment on these issues.

In 1968, the then member, Don Taylor, referred to the huge disparity in employment opportunities between males and females in the electorate. Clearly a man ahead of his time, he indicated that females should have access to work in the heavy industries that were emerging along the Kwinana strip. He also raised pertinent questions about the types of jobs that were being created in the area and the environment in which people would have to live and work. Unfortunately, the fears that he had about the problems that would emerge with the parallel expansion of housing and industry and the loss of access to a beautiful coastline have largely come true, and today are a source of major complaint.

In his first speech, the former member, Clive Hughes, called upon his experiences as an organiser with the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union to highlight the human dimension of entrenched unemployment plaguing Kwinana and the south west metropolitan suburbs. "Plague" is the correct word to describe the appalling number of people without jobs at that time. Overall, the south-west corridor had 14.2 per cent unemployment and in Kwinana, which at the time was in the seat of Cockburn, the figure was 17.6 per cent. For youths between the ages of 15 and 19 years in Kwinana, the situation was disastrous; 37.6 per cent of this age group were looking for work - a figure 69 per cent greater than the average for Western Australia.

Hughes did not look for simple answers though. He poured scorn on employers in the community who claim that "to reduce youth unemployment, there needs to be a reduction in youth wages so as to make it more attractive for employers to employ younger people". Instead, Hughes, quite rightly, looked at the underlying structural problems in the Western Australian economy which were prevalent at the time, which are still with us today and which create severe fluctuations in the labour market. I will return to this issue later in my speech and quote Hughes further on his perceptive observations.

Prior to the electorate's current boundaries, the former member for Cockburn was Mr Norm Marlborough, now the member for Peel, to whom I referred earlier. In his first speech in June 1986, he too spoke at length about local unemployment and he put forward suggestions that remain as pertinent today as they were 15 years ago. The member for Peel raised the benefits that would arise from designating HMAS *Stirling* the Navy's strategic Indian Ocean base. He predicted that this boost to the shipbuilding industry would mean "a massive increase in job opportunities". More opportunities in this industry are again available with the decision to base Australia's Collins-class submarine fleet at HMAS *Stirling*.

However, the types of jobs that we should be encouraging as a result of this decision are those that fit clearly into the new knowledge economy. Electronic communications and weapons systems on the Collins-class submarines are highly sophisticated. They require a different form of factory, and a different type of worker, from that which is currently found in the area. I hope that our new Labor Government will provide incentives to attract the industries that manufacture and service these systems. By locating these industries in WA we will broaden both the technical and employment capacities of the Kwinana-Cockburn area and of the State. They will also fit quite

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neatly into the proposed high-tech clusters within the Wattleup mosaic industrial plan and maritime technology park.

Another concept the member for Peel raised in 1986, which I believe we should revisit, was the South West Corridor Development and Employment Committee. This tripartite body worked very effectively with the councils between Rockingham and Melville in initiating employment strategies aimed particularly at the local community level. A hands-on approach involving all stakeholder groups in addressing unemployment at the local level is just as relevant in 2001 as it was in 1986, and I will return to this concept later in my speech.

My immediate predecessor in the seat of Cockburn, Mr Bill Thomas, gave his first speech in June 1986 as the newly elected member for the seat of Welshpool. Although not physically connected to the area of Cockburn, this seat nevertheless came within the region of the southern suburbs and shared the same characteristics as were referred to by Hughes and Taylor. The former member acknowledged the emerging contradiction between industrial and urban expansion and the environment. He lamented the loss of bush and native habitat around the Swan and Canning River systems and criticised the chaotic urban and industrial sprawl through Kewdale and Welshpool. His answer to this problem was "the creation of the urban habitat". At the time it was a unique solution, and today it is a concept that is incorporated in modern, sustainable city planning techniques which address the key issues for this century; namely, where we live, how we live and the future of work.

Unemployment has been endemic to the Cockburn area for the past 30 years. Compared to the Western Australian figure as a whole, Cockburn's unemployment rate has consistently been between 1 and 2 per cent higher. The only time that this disparity with the average has changed has been when there have been local spikes, which have taken unemployment figures into double digits. For the rest of the south-west metropolitan region the picture is the same or worse. Is this a situation that we have to accept in the south-west metropolitan region? Is marginalised employment the lot in life for the people of Cockburn, Fremantle, Kwinana and Rockingham? This situation must not be accepted as the norm for this region or any other area in Western Australia or in Australia. I do not subscribe to the orthodox market economists' view that at this stage of capitalism, achieving 5 per cent unemployment means having reached full employment. An average 5 per cent figure across the nation still means massive unemployment for the suburbs of south-west metropolitan Perth. It means condemning thousands of people in our electorates to the possibility of lifelong unemployment and statistical non-existence. Apart from the moral and ethical questions about this view, it is, in economic terms, a waste of human resources. Contrary to the market economists' view, I argue that through a holistic government-led approach to job creation, sustainable community development and technology policy that embraces the new knowledge economy, genuine full employment is achievable. To explain what I mean by a holistic approach to attaining full employment, a quick examination of the unilateral programs and methods used by former Governments, particularly Federal Governments, in trying to tackle unemployment and stimulate job growth is needed.

Certainly the beginning of the decline in employment can be traced back to the early 1970s when, after the long post-war boom, Australia was hit by the double shocks of the oil price crisis and the removal of the link between currencies and the gold standard. This period, coincidentally, was also the last high point in employment in Australian manufacturing. It has never been the same since and it could be argued that the path to a state of permanent unemployment in the economy was laid by the Whitlam Government's response to the crises with its 25 per cent across-the-board tariff reduction decision in 1973. No amount of money poured into regional employment development programs could absorb the dislocated workers who lost their jobs as the companies they had been employed in collapsed as a result of the all too rapid change in circumstance. The RED schemes, although unique in their targeting of regional unemployment through providers such as local councils and shires, were not much more than blunt work for the dole instruments. Although well intentioned, their impact was not enough to combat the structural changes that were taking place in the economy.

Under the Fraser coalition Government, that pace of change accelerated. With John Howard as the Treasurer, a laissez-faire approach was adopted not only for the economy, but also towards the unemployed. A great deal of overseas investment took place with government encouragement, but this influx did not result in the establishment of job-creating industries. The money poured into purchasing equity or outright takeover of existing Australian companies. However, very little was done in the way of targeted job programs or structured training for the unemployed. It was a period when those without a job were left to fend for themselves.

The 13 years of the Hawke-Keating Labor Governments resulted in new initiatives in the fight against unemployment with an emphasis on promoting learning as a lifelong concept. Schools and colleges were restructured and their education curricula modularised to coordinate the pathway between the classroom and work. Thousands of traineeships were created and, for the first time, a national approach was taken to education with the creation of portable vocational training qualifications. It was a genuine belief held by numerous Labor

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education ministers that in order to both create and be prepared for the jobs that would emerge from new technologies, Australian citizens would have to be trained. The unemployed and employed were encouraged to gain a higher skill base to effectively use the new technologies as tools of production and communication. Despite all these efforts, unemployment stubbornly refused to drop below 5 per cent and at the end of Labor's federal term in office in 1996, 8.9 per cent of the work force was still looking for work.

It could be argued that under the Howard-led Federal Government, there has not been as much emphasis on labour market programs, but rather a belief that jobs can be created through labour market adjustments. Structural impediments in the marketplace, such as unions and awards, have been challenged and restricted in their operations. In this environment, if people cannot get a job, obviously their expectations are too high or they are asking for too much money. By allowing individuals to negotiate their own workplace agreements, so the theory goes, an equilibrium will emerge, balancing how much money the boss is willing to pay and how much money the worker is willing to accept, and goodness and happiness will reign. If this is repeated at every workplace across the land, a natural level of unemployment and a natural level of income will exist. Quite what the levels are, and what they will mean for the individuals and families involved, has never been explained.

A summary of the unemployment policies and strategies adopted over the past 30 years can be defined under three broad headings: Firstly, job creation whereby incentives are given to create employment; secondly, the training model under which, if the skills of the unemployed are raised, the unemployed stand a far better chance of gaining employment; thirdly, deregulation, whereby if conditions and other impediments to the market such as unions are removed or curtailed, wages will find their own natural level and jobs will be created.

The pattern that emerges from these three widely differing approaches to the issue of unemployment is that they are singular in their methodology. Little thought has been given to integration between unemployment programs, let alone attempts to reach agreement across government departments or agencies. Indeed, one of the main criticisms I heard during my years on a tripartite regional employment council - mostly from employers - was the confusion over the range of different programs and allowances that were on offer and the strings that were attached to them.

Long-term unemployment of the type that has blighted Cockburn and the rest of the south-west metropolitan corridor can be addressed through a whole-of-government approach to the issue. Although I acknowledge that the Federal Government is responsible for unemployment and social security payments and initiatives to address job creation, it falls on all of us in the community, and particularly on us as parliamentarians and decision makers, to assist in the fight to achieve full employment.

The Gallop Labor Government has announced the creation of more traineeships in the public sector and the repeal of the deregulatory approach to industrial relations within the service. This is a positive and encouraging start to a leading role in job creation and addressing unemployment. However, we can achieve significantly more if we are willing to adopt a mission objective that spans key government agencies and is focused on the single issue of job creation. For example, in education, schooling that has clear unambiguous credits towards vocational education has significant benefits to all in society regardless of whether a student will go on to higher levels of education or will leave at year 10 to look for work.

Vocational training must provide for real jobs in the new knowledge economy. Technical and further education and college curricula must be linked to meaningful vocational outcomes and not become tools simply to achieve an income stream from unemployment programs and leisure courses. We must encourage the lifelong training concept. As it is now standard practice to hold three or more jobs in a working lifetime, all citizens should be encouraged by government messages to accept continuous education as part of life. Redundancy packages in both the public and private sectors should contain training clauses to assist in the transition to new jobs.

In local government, the links between state and local governments on employment projects should be enhanced. This relationship is particularly important in addressing localised unemployment black spots and regional job creation programs. The hands-on tripartite local employment committees I referred to earlier are a good example of these relationships in practice. In Newcastle and the Hunter Valley in New South Wales - areas like Perth's south-west corridor that have been blighted by unemployment, associations of business, tertiary institutions and local and state governments - are forging what Stephen Long of *The Australian Financial Review* calls "a kind of cooperative capitalism". He reports -

... small businesses in the Hunter region have joined in more than 23 industry 'clusters' in areas from agriculture and biotechnology to engineering, metal products and wine".

These networks have achieved million-dollar contracts and created significant numbers of jobs in these economically depressed areas.

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In finance we must challenge the culture of downsizing. Everybody in this House has probably read stories about chief executive officers who are paid even greater salaries or bonuses if they are able to achieve targets of terminating employees. Unfortunately, this is not an urban myth; it has happened all too regularly and is still happening. A counter to this ridiculous situation can be instituted by government. The triple bottom line method of accounting as proposed by environmentalists can be modified and used by government to encourage positive employment practices. Instead of using the third bottom line to report on environmental benefits undertaken, government departments, agencies or recipients of government funds should be required to produce a third bottom line to identify how many jobs were created that year by their activities.

In state development we must firstly encourage investment in new technologies and system networks. Labor's \$260 million information technology commitment for Western Australian schools is an outstanding example of government leadership in expanding this State's involvement in the new economy. This investment alone will generate more jobs. Combined with an aggressive strategy of attracting high-tech and, in particular, biotech companies to establish in Western Australia, along with providing the critically necessary high-speed communications infrastructure, thousands of new economy jobs could be generated, and this State could leapfrog into twenty-first century manufacturing. Government incentives should particularly target industries that will manufacture the mechanical or electronic technologies for use in any production methods that emerge from biotech, DNA or genomic research. This is the work of the future and it can be ours if we move quickly.

Secondly, we should challenge the imbalance in Western Australia's economy. Riding on the proceeds of agriculture and mining has served WA well for the past 100 years. Those primary industries have created a wealthy, but unbalanced, economy. Their success has overwhelmed the emergence of a broad manufacturing base in this State; yet, as everybody knows, employment in those two industries is shrinking as new production methods reduce the need for manual labour. Also, when the industries are affected by fluctuations in demand and price for their commodities internationally, the multiplier effect on the local economy is dramatic - one has only to remember the recent Asian crisis.

The late Clive Hughes recognised this in 1985 and argued that had our industrial development planning in the 1960s been directed at labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive industries, the massive swings in unemployment in the south-west metropolitan corridor may have been alleviated. One method of challenging the imbalance is the strategy of attracting high-tech and biotech industries to WA, as I have mentioned. Another is by addressing the failure of local content policies.

Having spent my life up to now working in and around the engineering industry, I am familiar with its condition, and I can assure the House that today its health is critical. The industry's survival rests on the strengthening of this State's local content requirements. Claims of achieving 60 to 70 per cent locally sourced or manufactured components in a multi-billion dollar resource project are worthless if only 20 per cent of the entire project was contracted to WA companies in the first place. To overcome this and compete on a level playing field with Korea, Singapore, Dubai and Indonesia, we must have compulsory conditions written into agreement Acts, compelling the resource developer to fabricate and source its engineering in WA. Of course, there will be screams of complaint from the usual crowd and threats that this will stymie international investment. However, I have been told privately by both international project engineering companies and a major resource developer that if Australian Governments were to take a strong stand on local content, they would have to comply, just as they do in other countries, because in the end, access to Australian resources is the key issue.

With over \$10 billion worth of projects planned for the offshore oil and gas industry over the next 15 years, local content policy must be a key tool in the whole-of-government approach to job creation, especially as we will soon have a world-class fabrication yard and load-out facility in my electorate at Jervoise Bay for those jobs to be located.

To those who believe that we should forget totally about dirty, blue-collar industries and concentrate only on the new knowledge economy, I remind them of two things: First, these projects create literally thousands of highly skilled and highly paid jobs in areas that at present have no capacity to attract industries in the new economy; and, secondly, despite amazing advances in new technologies, engineers have yet to come up with the oil rig or gas plant that welds itself together. Engineering construction and fabrication is a labour-intensive industry. It creates huge numbers of jobs and it must be encouraged to grow and thrive.

In planning, the future of work is ultimately related to our future communities where the new work force will live. Will it be a continuation of our urban growth in Perth and other Australian cities, where suburbs simply continue to expand further away from our traditional industrial centres, or is there an opportunity to think laterally about how new and existing communities can be related to industries of both the new and old economic type? Internationally recognised city planners, like Professor Peter Newman of Murdoch University, believe

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there is. He has advised both the British and United States Governments on the check lists that cities need to achieve sustainability. The elements of the check list include economic efficiency, social equity, environmental responsibility and human liveability criteria. All of these elements can be introduced to individual areas of an existing city through reorganising separated suburbs into organic communities, or, if the city is expanding, by creating clusters of urban villages, all within walking distance of workplaces and services, linked together by green belts of bushland or permanently protected open space.

This model of new urbanism is attractive to local councils and town planners, who are promoting this type of development through policies such as Local Agenda 21, and it also fits with the lifestyles and work environments of industries that are in the new economy. Technology Park at Bentley is an example of the workplace environment that fits within the new urbanism model. What it lacks, however, are the other crucial elements, such as housing, shops and civic services within walking distance, and protected open space.

If we work towards creating the type of urban villages promoted by Professor Newman, I believe we will not only provide a better social environment for the workers of the future, but also succeed in attracting international investment because of the work environment and lifestyle these communities offer employees, particularly here in the wonderful climate of WA. It is a concept I support and one that I will certainly be promoting for the mosaic industrial development in Wattleup, the maritime technology park and the degraded areas around my electorate of Cockburn.

I believe the elements of this holistic strategy, as I have outlined, can address the problems of both uneven economic development and the unequal distribution of employment opportunities which, in the end, are the underlying causes of long-term unemployment and the social problems it brings.

Of course, there is a more direct, if somewhat controversial, approach that a State Government can adopt if it has the confidence, and that is to prescribe by statute a 35-hour working week and a limitation on overtime. This idea drew savage attacks and howls of ridicule to the Lionel Jospin's socialist-led Government in France when it introduced such legislation in the form of the loi Aubry in June 1998. Now it is the socialist Government and the people of France who are laughing. As a result of that legislation, unemployment has fallen dramatically, tens of thousands of jobs have been created, the quality of working life for both workers and management, and particularly women, has increased significantly, and the economy is growing at a rate not seen in years. Even committed free market Governments like the United States Administration are sending delegations to France to study the phenomena.

I hope, Mr Speaker, that a dynamic, forward-thinking Government, like the type we have here in this House, led by our Premier, Geoff Gallop, will examine the proposals I have put forward as methods of addressing both long-term unemployment and the future of work. The people of Cockburn and the south-west corridor, who for years have been the victims of employment uncertainty, would fully support this investigation, and I know that if Clive Hughes were with us here today, he would too.

Finally and most importantly, I acknowledge the support and encouragement I have received from my partner, Vivienne Burnham, and our children, Alexandra and Henry. As every father and mother in the House knows, this job is particularly hard on the family. I am truly grateful for the cooperation and help I have had from my family to assist me in my new role. I thank the Speaker and my parliamentary colleagues.

[Applause.]

MR McRAE (Riverton) [4.47 pm]: It is an honour and a privilege to stand here today. I thank the traditional owners of this country, the Nyoongah people, for their welcome to Nyoongah boodja. It is a thrill for me to give my first speech to a Parliament that has been opened by a joining of the traditions of a Westminster democracy and a welcoming to country by Nyoongah people. The linking of these traditions is more than symbolic. It is an expression of respect between the oldest Australians and those of us from more than 160 cultural and language groups who continue a journey of learning about our home. I pay my respects to the traditional owners and am grateful to history and circumstance that we find ourselves here together.

I come to this Parliament as the new representative of the people of the electorate of Riverton, a district of 26 square kilometres encompassing the suburbs of Parkwood, Riverton, Shelley and Willetton, small parts of Ferndale, Leeming and Rossmoyne, and including the Canning Vale industrial estate. The City of Canning covers more than 90 per cent of the electorate, and the remainder is administered by the City of Melville.

At the February election, more than 24 000 electors were registered in Riverton - up by about 500 people on the 1996 election figures and indicative of the increasing urban densities of the area and of many parts of the metropolitan region. It is reflection, too, of increasing property values, smaller family units and increasing

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numbers of people living in smaller housing lots of one and two-person households. The increasing number of people coming into the area also reflects the essential livability of the district. It is within easy reach of the city, Fremantle and beaches and has one of the most beautiful stretches of river anywhere in the State. The district is serviced by three state high schools with a partnership between students, parents, teachers and the community, which has created a culture of success recognised throughout the State. The district contains its own industrial, commercial, sporting and entertainment estates in Cannington, Willetton, Riverton and Parkwood. Importantly, seniors have carved out their niche in the district by developing their own networks and accessing their own range of services. The people in my electorate are in many ways typical of metropolitan Perth, and as well they have the range of characteristics that make the area the dynamic and vibrant place it is.

Riverton's population of under 24-year-olds and 40 to 59-year-olds is well above the state average for those cohorts. The other age groups are well below the state average. On one analysis it confirms the important role that education plays in the lives of the district's parents and families. The larger age groups within the community - that is, the under 24-year-olds and the 40 to 59-year-olds - are the parents and children who make the area's three large high schools hum with activity. It also suggests that to communicate to both groups, I need to learn how to skate, study and sing some retro 1960s pop songs.

There are also Aboriginal and older Anglo-Celtic Australians in the area. Riverton has significant ethnic Chinese and Indian subcontinent communities as well as people from the Middle East, mainland Europe, Africa, South East Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. To understand the vibrancy and diversity of the community one needs only to visit Willetton Senior High School. In the school's main entrance off Pinetree Gully Road a huge sign greets people with the declaration, "This is a multicultural place". It is a sign that points to our future; the future of Riverton and the future of our nation. It is a statement that is clear, optimistic and generous. It includes us all. It affirms an older Australian sense of a fair go. It is a value that is part of the goodwill and hope now given in trust to the Gallop Labor Government. Last week, and every week since I have been elected, I have spoken to people who have migrated to Australia about their experience of securing their place in this country and of creating a future for themselves and their children. People come to this country understanding the challenges they will face, including those of language and cultural and religious diversity. I have no doubt that, with the passage of time, these people, with hard work and some luck, will grow and prosper. They will find and make their own place here. They will contribute to our collective capacity to fashion a society that includes everyone. This is our challenge and our potential. It is one that I approach with enthusiasm. I hesitate to say unrelenting optimism, as there are those who would refuse this journey. There are those who have been marginalised by changes in Australian society, economics and industry over the past 20 to 30 years and who are reacting against further change. They have become the most vocal exponents of the politics of downward envy - a narrow and fearful approach that would have us return to a monocultural and limited idea of what constitutes community. This is not our future and it is not the way to develop and maintain the social cohesiveness or the sustainable prosperity we all desire.

The people of Riverton consistently say to me that they want a society that has fairness as its underlying tenet. We have lost our way on this in recent years and this is, in large part, because of the international tide of economic irrationalism and its elevation of efficiency - and efficiency alone - as the overriding determinant of community good.

As I campaigned over the past year and a half - initially on my campaign pledge of "Putting Community First" and, more recently, adding Labor's priorities of health, education, community safety and forests - the response of electors and others in the community was as clear as a bell. They wanted the Government of Western Australia to focus on those things that are the building blocks of community wellbeing and they clearly believe that the Labor team has its priorities right.

I shall take a moment to tell the House of a meeting I had in January this year. At a morning tea for local residents in a park near High Road a couple in their mid to late 50s arrived and identified themselves as lifelong non-Labor voters. They sat for some time listening to the discussion between a dozen or so of their neighbours. When they spoke it was to discuss with me their two adult daughters, one of whom is in her late 20s and the other in her early 30s. They had both attended universities in Perth and completed postgraduate degrees in environmental and biological science. The older daughter was engaged to be married to a fellow who also had a postgraduate degree in environmental science. These three young adults, representing in many ways the brightest in our community and the most optimistic, had been on short term workplace agreements of no more than six months' duration for more than four years. They could not secure permanent employment and they had been told repeatedly that if they did not take the individual contracts on offer, they were to look for work elsewhere. The parents were angry that the values of fairness and honesty they had passed on were no longer being reflected in our workplace laws. They said that they were watching their children lose self-confidence and

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that their optimism for the future was waning. The couple voted for me and Labor, as they had come to the view that only a new Labor Government was prepared to make the industrial relations system in this State fair for everyone.

I have also heard the recent cacophony about the sky falling in as the unions in this State are taking action to protect or advance the interests of their members. Although I do not doubt for a moment that there will be occasions when union action might not be acceptable and it crosses the line, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the election of a Labor Government includes within it the community's desire for the removal of draconian controls over the collective bargaining rights of employees. In this process it should be no great surprise that there has been a release of pent-up frustration and anger at the unfair system that has been in place in this State for far too long.

The heartening aspect of my campaign and election has been to hear people from all parts of the electorate talk about the need for the Government to work in partnership with the community to get the services right, to allow people to take charge of their own destinies and to assist in the forging of community links and networks that make living in our community so rewarding. I shall comment further on this latter aspect of community links and networks.

It is no simple harking back to less frenetic, simpler days or a rosy nostalgia trip that is causing people everywhere to reflect on what has been gained, and perhaps lost, in the process of developing a technologically advanced society and its accompanying increase in our material wealth, physical health and life expectancy. In many urban communities, including my electorate, people often work, study and play away from their immediate, and indeed wider, neighbourhoods. Our connections with local people tend often to be a bit one dimensional in that we see them for one particular aspect with limited opportunity for broader interaction. The general frustration with this style of living is expressed in part by people's expectations of government, in the provision of services and in the delivery of activities that bring people together. A brief walk around the streets in my district will show people that the most successful and enduring services and activities are those in which government has entered into a partnership with a community group and has provided the necessary resources and expertise for that group to harness local community energy. It is a strategy that works effectively and efficiently and, just as importantly, builds upon and strengthens existing community networks.

The Bannister Creek Catchment Group is a classic example of harnessing that community energy and resource. Bannister Creek is a permanently flowing tributary of the Canning River and it is systematically being restored from its devastating reconstruction into a drainage channel during the original suburban development of the area. This work is being done under the auspices of the Bannister Creek Catchment Group - a local group that has received limited government funding for a coordinator and part-time environmental worker. The group has become adept at harnessing the resources of volunteers, the City of Canning and every relevant state government agency that has an involvement in the area or representatives of any agencies who pass through the area on any given day that the group is working. The group has achieved extraordinary results in rehabilitating creek beds and banks and creating a greater awareness of the environmental importance of the creek among the households and businesses in the wider catchment area, including the Canning Vale industrial estate. It is appropriate to acknowledge the good work of my predecessor with the Bannister Creek group. He was a great ally to the group and, in this area at least, I intend to build on the former member's work.

The obverse of this example of the Government's working in partnership with communities would most appropriately be the contracting out of cleaning and gardening work in our schools. The sacking of school-based cleaners and gardeners and their replacement with contractors whose contributions to schools were calculated by time and motion experts is one of the best examples of the old adage, "They knew the price of everything and the value of nothing". One of the last gardeners employed by the Riverton Primary School before the contracting system was introduced lived next door to the school. He loved his job. He made a gate in his back fence so that he had ready access to the schoolyard. In addition to his gardening responsibilities, he was there early, hosed down the verandahs in the morning, helped the cleaners, was there after school, and walked through it during the evenings and on weekends. The school was secure because of him; therefore, there was minimal vandalism and the parents allowed their children to go there after school. He contributed towards making the school a part of the local community. He, the kids, the parents and the teachers owned it.

It is a similar story with most school cleaners. Many of them were mature-aged women, some of whom had children or grandchildren enrolled at the school. They cleaned the schools and were part of the schools' activities on fete and school carnival days. They knew the children and the children knew and trusted them. They were a vital and important part of those school communities.

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Compare this with my experience at Kwinana Senior High School last year when I was working on a vocational education program for non-TEE students. I asked a teacher why the contractors were erecting an 8 foot-high fence topped by barbed wire around the high school. He said they were spending \$60 000 to fence the school to stop a vandalism and graffiti bill of nearly \$300 000 a year. It emerged that the high level of graffiti and vandalism began the year the former resident gardener/caretaker was replaced by contractors. It is this alienation from our resources and our inability to articulate what it is that we value that is causing so much frustration and anger being directed at Governments and service providers generally. As the elected representative of the communities in Riverton, I look forward to the contribution I will make to the building and regeneration of these vital networks.

In my broader role as a member of Parliament and its roles of legislating and carrying out policy and program reviews, I am excited to be part of the first Government to establish sustainable development principles as its basic framework. Great support exists throughout the community for the Government to develop the tools to assess its priorities on the basis of sustainable development. The use of the triple bottom line has been advocated or welcomed by everyone with whom I have discussed this issue. It is widely recognised that what we have done and what we propose to do must be assessed on economic as well as social and environmental values. I will comment on each of these issues.

The challenge for our business community is to recognise the changes to the Australian and world markets and to include their employees and local communities in that change. Companies that assume that their business relationships will not be affected because of the way they treat employees, the environment or their customers are doomed to fail. A report from the New South Wales Chamber of Commerce last weekend has confirmed that more than 75 per cent of Australians are now directing their purchasing choices on the basis of social or environmental issues. The New South Wales Chamber of Commerce has rightly warned business leaders that they must respond to the shift in consumer behaviour and make their companies respond to that changing environment. Similarly, our constituents also expect Governments to set appropriate rules for national and international competition. Many doubts have been expressed about the capacity of the present national competition policy to reflect the full economic, social and environmental costs and benefits in all industries and in all regions of the country. This issue will continue to drive much of the debate on industry policy in this State and, I suspect, in this Parliament over the next four years. The related controversy over Royal Dutch-Shell's bid for control of Woodside flushed out even the federal Treasurer from his previous adherence to an unfettered free market policy. The Treasurer's decision to block the takeover in the national interest was the right one. However, there are plenty of doubts about his motives.

I believe our role is to support businesses to be more efficient, sensitive and responsible to the legitimate expectations of the community and of this Parliament. The State's role must be to establish an economic environment that encourages long-term investment and long-term views on profit and reinvestment. Short-term thinking is killing our industries and eroding the broad social contract between people, government and business. We must also face the fact that investment in skills development nationally and in this State has fallen below the necessary level required by the community. It has fallen below the level required as a launching pad for our economic development. With our rich resource base and diverse community, the State's economic and democratic future depends on its capacity for dynamic thinking, technical proficiency and the inclusion of all of its people in the process. This State will prosper only if we nurture a culture of education and training and a confidence about our openness and creativity. That is not happening today.

In addition to these issues there is the perennial challenge of developing sustainable regional communities throughout this State. No magic formulas or quick fixes exist for any of these issues. Each will require a broader understanding of our opportunities and responsibilities as well as a concerted effort to create those partnerships that have the confidence and support of the community, business leaders and Government. I have mentioned the importance of community networks to deliver more effective services and to harness community energy and resources. This might be best characterised as harnessing the State's social infrastructure. In my electorate and in the communities across the southern metropolitan region there is a need for a new approach to the physical structure that underpins the community, especially in public transport. The southern metropolitan corridor is being extended down the Kwinana Freeway. The Labor Government, through the competent Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, is now developing the only railway line to be laid by any Government since the Second World War other than the Joondalup line that was built during Labor's term of government in the 1980s.

We must pay attention to the older and more densely populated areas along the east-west axis between Fremantle and Cannington. A recent proposal written in *The West Australian* by Kevin McQuoid for a light rail system to provide essential links to Perth's transport system was visionary and a logical extension of the exhausted Stephenson plan used by the previous Government. It is well to remember that when Stephenson laid out his

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plan in the late 1950s, demographic forecasts suggested that by 2020 Perth would have a heavy industrial base, employing more than 40 per cent of the total work force in the State. The revolution of advanced technologies was not part of Stephenson's vision for our community and he would no doubt be surprised to see that Perth's manufacturing work force in the year 1999 was 16 per cent and falling. Stephenson also failed in his labelling of Perth's extensive tram system as old hat nineteenth century technology, and in his labelling of freeways as being the epitome of modernity. Someone forgot to tell Melbourne, Vancouver, Amsterdam, Munich and many other cities that love their trams and are demonstrably more successful cities than freeway-dominated cities such as Perth. If we are to get serious about addressing the economic, social and environmental costs of a petrol-based city such as Perth, we must get serious about public transport systems that people want to use and enjoy.

We need a new Stephenson plan. Kevin McQuoid's contribution is a good start, and to that I would add a light rail link from Fremantle to Murdoch University, east to Riverton and across the Canning River to Curtin University, the State's largest university, with in excess of 30 000 students. From there it would link to the existing heavy rail line in Victoria Park or to the light rail circle proposed by McQuoid. His idea is right; he just missed out on one of the most important natural community and transport corridors running east from Fremantle to my electorate. If there are any doubts about that proposition, one need only check the consistently high passenger numbers on the present bus circle route, which runs along a similar line to the one I am proposing.

In education, too, we need to identify the investments that we can make to build on the work initiated by the minister last weekend. I will be raising the issue of a multi-function performance space for the large high school populations in my electorate and surrounding southern suburbs. Rossmoyne Senior High School music students have been in New Zealand for the past few weeks and were the only Australian orchestra and band to participate in major New Zealand Anzac Day ceremonies. It was of course a great honour, and it also reflects the enthusiasm and talent of this wonderful group. Rossmoyne, and Lynwood and Willetton Senior High Schools, some of the largest schools in this State, have struggled with substandard performance and rehearsal spaces for a number of years, and undoubtedly communities across the whole of the southern metropolitan region would benefit from appropriate government investment in this area.

Finally, on the environmental leg of the triple bottom line, I will make a brief comment on forests. One night after the election, while my family was sitting down to dinner I asked each of our three daughters what they would want the Government to do immediately. My eldest daughter, Jade, instantly listed the ending of logging in old-growth forests as her priority, and she was quickly joined by Tegan and Ruby. I am proud of our three daughters and proud to be part of a Government that has made this its No 1 priority. It is the right decision, and it has the overwhelming backing of our community. The announcement last Saturday that three forest blocks in the south west will be assessed to determine their scientific, economic and social values is right too. It is a practical demonstration of what we mean when we talk about the triple bottom line and will, I imagine, cause some indigestion for the present federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry when it is included in the State's next forest management plan.

I will now say a little about me. I came to live in Western Australia more than 21 years ago, and for a number of years I lived and worked in the iron ore industry as an electrician. Since then I have been involved in state and national committees on skills development and industrial relations. I completed a degree in social ecology at Murdoch University and commenced a masters degree in sustainable development - a postgraduate degree I suspect I will not be able to complete given my current role. I am director of a consulting company and have worked for mining and manufacturing companies on greenhouse gas reduction strategies and with regional Aboriginal communities on economic development and community management. This work and education experience reflects in many ways the expression and reality of lifelong learning.

I come to this Parliament as a sixth generation Anglo-Celtic Australian. I am not the first from my extended family to be elected to a Parliament in Australia. On my paternal grandmother's side, Mr Malcolm Brown was the member for Singleton in the New South Wales Parliament in the 1930s. My mother's family is represented by Peter Lawlor, a leader at the 1854 Eureka Stockade and by 1856 a member, and later Speaker, of the Victorian Colonial Parliament. This heritage hardly constitutes a political dynasty and probably indicates that my family has been involved in the business of family making, independence and building this country rather than focusing on the political life of this country. Not all of my family is thrilled that I am on this side of the House. A cousin in New South Wales wrote recently to say that the McRaes were all excited at my election to Parliament although some secretly wished I had stayed closer to our agrarian socialist roots and become the National Party member for the New England district in New South Wales - a place otherwise known as Scot's corner! My family now represents the best of what it is to be Australian. In addition to the Anglo-Celtic traditions I have mentioned, we also celebrate our links with Somalia, Egypt, Hungary and the Gunibidji people of Arnhem Land.

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I have contemplated the way in which my family's history in this country reflects the experiences of so many who now share this place. From my earliest ancestor's arrival as a convict in 1796, it has been a migrant family's story of learning about the country and its people; of developing the capacity to see this landscape for what it is; and of understanding that many of the lessons of Europe are not sustainable.

In thinking on these things, I am reminded of a comment by Henrietta Fourmile-Marri, an Aboriginal researcher on indigenous property rights, who asserted that everything we see in the Australian landscape is an artefact; it is not the product of an unguided ecological process spanning millions of years but is the product of more than 60 000 years of Aboriginal land and resource management. Even if this interpretation of the Australian landscape were only partially true, the legacy and sustainability of Aboriginal society and resource management has parallels in no other place in this world and in no other time in human history. That is an awesome legacy.

I am reminded also of my role as a director of research at the National Native Title Tribunal, where I had the opportunity to develop a better understanding of the legal basis of native title rights and interests. The fact that British and now Australian common law derives from the Norman invasion and conquest of Britain in 1066, and that this is the means by which indigenous Australians have secured their rights to land, must strike even the casual observer as an ironic and extraordinary connection across more than half a world and 900 years.

The McRae clan's experiences in Scotland also resonate in Australia today. I am in many ways a product of the diaspora from the Jacobite rebellion and the clearing of the highlands in Scotland, and in Australia generations later I seek to make my contribution to right the injustices of colonisation and dispossession. I suspect many Australians from older Celtic families can trace similar connections. It is an exquisite and personal connection of past, present and future.

I need to give some thanks. To the business people in my community who had to cross an imaginary line, to the union officials, members and workers who still believe in the greater good, and to the youth groups and their leaders who have an unlimited faith in the essential good of people, I thank you all for your support and encouragement. To past politicians whom I admire very much, including Don Dunstan, Gough Whitlam and my long-time friend Peter Dowding, thank you for living the possibility of humanity in your work. In the International Year of Volunteers, it is most appropriate to thank each and every one of the Riverton campaign volunteers - this has been your triumph. No tough political campaign can be successful without the support of many people, and each of the more than 120 of those volunteers did it month after month after month. To my campaign team, the most possessed one will ever meet, each of you were a delight, and your intelligence and determination were an inspiration.

To my parents, Colin and Lena, my brothers John, Paul and Stephen and their families, and to Michael and Phil, thank you for knowing me so well and forgiving me my foibles. To Jade, Tegan and Ruby, thank you for helping me keep my feet firmly anchored, and for your love. To Maria, thank you for doing this with me. To the people of Riverton, thank you for your support and trust. I pledge to put the community first in all that I do.

[Applause.]

MR HYDE (Perth) [5.18 pm]: I live in Perth 6000. Perhaps it does not have the same ring as Beverley Hills 90210, but it is home. I am able to walk from my dwelling to my electorate office, walk from there to various meetings in the central business district, and walk here to Parliament House. I can stop for a chinwag, or be stopped by constituents at most times of the day and night. I also tend to shop, eat, drink and be merry within my electorate, which stretches from the Swan River at East Perth, around to the freeway at Kings Park, out to Harborne Street in Wembley, and through Mt Hawthorn and North Perth to Mt Lawley at Central Avenue.

The residents of Perth are enriched by my electorate's diverse community, which hosts the headquarters of most of the State's multicultural communities. It has a mosque, a Buddhist temple, a Catholic and an Anglican cathedral, a Jewish temple, some of our State's most rabid atheists, many of our arts creators and companies, an active gay, lesbian and transgender community, our flagship galleries and museums, environmental and protest organisations, the wealthy, the dispossessed, the homeless, the Governor and his digs, entertainment precincts, and reminders of our heritage. Shanks's pony may have got me up here physically today, but a tremendous Australian education system, starting at kindergarten, must take most of the credit for my ability to string a sentence together, understand when I am splitting an infinitive and count well enough to appreciate that there are more of us on this side of the House than there are on the other side, which is why we are the Government. I owe the fact that I made it to university at all to Gough Whitlam. The advent of that most magnificent Federal Government meant not only that university tuition was free, but also that students were actually paid an allowance. With my princely stipend from the state of \$13 a week, part-time work as a barman and proud member of the liquor and allied trades union, and supportive parents who were still each working 70 hours a week in our family deli, I got "meself edjumeated".

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I have many political heroes. I fervently believe that the pursuit of politics is a noble profession. After nearly 40 000 years of evolution of participatory democracy on this continent alone, it is a magnificent though flawed process of advancing goodness in the human race. Within state politics in this country, the achievements of the Don Dunstan State Government in South Australia are inspiring. To nurture economic development along with magnificent improvements in human rights, gay and lesbian law reform, a blossoming of the arts, heritage preservation, an enrichment of the central business district, not to mention a milestone in the sartorial splendour standards of parliamentarians, is a record to which a progressive Government such as this can aspire.

New members are advised of conventions regarding first speeches - to steer away from the controversial, avoid confrontation, and check out some speeches of those who have gone before to get the demeanour right. I duly garnered the first speech of Don Dunstan, made on 28 July 1953, courtesy of our excellent parliamentary library staff. In his first paragraph, the "Hon Don" sallied forth against his Tory opponents, damning them with faint praise, that -

Normally a member of a Party supporting a laissez faire economy is wholly concerned in making claptrap remarks and pious utterances.

Such language will not be heard from me - on this occasion! I had better luck with the first speech of the first Labor member for Perth, Mr - later Sir - Walter Dwyer, on 7 November 1911. He rose -

with a considerable amount of diffidence to address this Assembly for the first time. However, I hope to have the indulgence of hon. members, not perhaps with regard to the matter of what I say, but rather the manner, which I hope may be pardoned in a new member addressing an august Assembly presiding over the destiny of Western Australia. As the result of the recent elections we have heard the country pronounce its decision in no uncertain voice. We have had the labour side returned with a huge majority, and the anti-labour side returned with shattered forces.

Obviously that sort of language worked wonders in getting an Irish boy from Tipperary a knighthood after joining the Labor Party and serving a term as member for Perth. How times have changed! Under this new Government, not only will the present member for Perth fail to get a knighthood in his dotage, but also the position of Agent General in London is out of the question. However, the first member for Perth went on to serve his community in the arts. He was trustee of the Perth public library for 33 years and president of the Art Gallery of Western Australia for 18 years. I hope the member for Thornlie notes that these are wholly noble occupations for a former member for Perth.

In his first speech he praised the incoming Government for its quick investigation into the causes for the increased cost of living for working people, its plan to introduce a minimum fixed wage, and its intention to give shop assistants a five-day week to give them a full weekend. The first member for Perth also gently admonished his Government for not mentioning in the Governor's speech the establishment of a university in Western Australia. He called for it to be started forthwith and for tuition to be free. He called on his Government to make a pension compulsory in the private and public sector. I take heart that he also took ownership of a new Bill to amend the Local Courts Act 1904 to stop serial debtors from exploiting small business owners through late and non-existent payments. I note that today, 90 years later, the Minister for Works and Services has asked the current member for Perth to chair the security of payments task force; hopefully, new legislation will be brought into this House in November to speed up payments for subcontractors in the building industry.

My own political outlook has been fashioned through my experiences in Western Australia as a journalist, teacher, small business owner, wheat truck driver, actor and producer. Like many young Western Australians, I rolled my swag and headed overseas, living and working as a journalist and actor in Edinburgh, Seattle and New Orleans. Margaret Thatcher and I share a birth date and a few personality deficiencies. However, living in Scotland under her reign inculcated in me the travesty of economic rationalism. To live in the United States under Ronald Reagan cemented my foothold on the left side of politics and my belief that there is an important role for government in a just and fair society.

Stuffing envelopes for Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Alliance in Seattle was part of my political education. Immersing myself in the ruthless, awesome politics of the deep south, as practised in New Orleans, tempered my idealism with the professionalism needed in the real world. Living in the French quarter as a mild-mannered leading spear-carrier in *Aida* for New Orleans Opera by night, I came to pay homage to my greatest political hero, the Depression era Governor and senator for Louisiana, Huey P. Long. Regardless of the way some reactionaries remember Huey Long, by the time of his assassination in 1935, he had taken one of the poorest States in the United States to the heights of free education, with free schoolbooks for children. He also brought regional prosperity by building one of the greatest road and bridge networks in the western world, improved

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rural health by building a university medical school to train doctors, redistributed wealth away from the exploitative oil cartels and fought for a fairer, more equal, society. Under Huey, the loss-making state prison planted crops and trained inmates in industry. The prison eventually ran at a profit. He also reprieved thousands of African-Americans who were overcrowding the prisons for trite offences. In four short years as Governor, Huey Long made a big difference. He fervently believed in government intervention and regularly intervened in the state football team, coaching from the sidelines and addressing players before the games. Huey justified his political stance, blunt methods and the need for government intervention in society and the economy because 1 per cent of the population in the United States controlled 90 per cent of the country's wealth. Huey realised that trickle-down economics was a sham and worked on his important "share the wealth" projects until his assassination in the Baton Rouge parliamentary corridors. I will work to ensure that the wealth of Western Australia is not only greatly increased during the first term of the Gallop Labor Government, but also shared.

In 1928, Huey was elected Governor by the largest plurality ever given to a candidate. He quickly proposed a 5c-a-barrel tax on the Standard Oil Company, which squealed as some oil companies are wont to do, to help fund his progressive platform. As Huey would later tell the United States Senate when he became a senator in 1932, he had put taxes where taxes ought to be put. I am sure that this will not be the last time that I call upon Huey in justification, in elucidation and in celebration of Labor policies. As with Huey Long, Don Dunstan and Gough Whitlam, I am proud to be part of a Government that will deliver on human rights such as one vote, one value and the end of sexuality discrimination in this State.

Of course, my upbringing, my life experiences and my employment have also deigned that I end up on this side of the House. Having trained in journalism and education, I took up a teaching post in Geraldton as my first real job. I thank the union movement for achieving basic rights for workers. I was flabbergasted to find out that I actually would be paid for holidays and if I were crook. I joined the Australian Labor Party as a young teacher teaching at John Willcock Senior High School, named after the train-driving Labor Premier of this State, John Collings Willcock. I was impressed with my local Labor members, Jeff Carr, the then member for Geraldton, and Graeme Campbell, the federal member, who later helped source private sector funding for a horticultural course I ran for Aboriginal students in Geraldton. At that time, a new State Labor Government came to power. I remember that it was the headmasters and public service chiefs who took a 10 per cent salary cut to fix the budget problems the Labor Government inherited. As I skateboarded to school after an early morning surf - long-haired and surf-shirted - life was pretty good under a new Labor Government. We had blocked any prospect of uranium mining and the construction of a nuclear reactor at Ledge Point, and the tragedy of Aboriginal oppression as symbolised by Noonkanbah would be addressed. I hope that young Western Australians again feel that optimism and have high expectations of our new, progressive Labor Government.

My love for the stage and the arts grew in Geraldton. I trod the boards at Theatre 8 in Wonthella in amateur theatrics before I took to the stage professionally. We surfed in the morning, went to work, hurried to footy training with Brigades in the early evening and then went off to theatre rehearsals. After three and a half years, I left teaching and went into journalism as the arts and sports editor on *The Geraldton Guardian* and sports stringer for the *Sunday Times*. Conflict of interest was not as clear-cut in those days, and I would sometimes play for Brigades at Mullewa or Northampton and then anonymously write the match report. Hyde was never mentioned as one of the best players, so I was saved from testing the conflict.

I later joined *The West Australian*, working there on and off for six years. I was either sacked or resigned on three occasions. My longest absence - 18 months - was spent working in the United States and on *The Scotsman* in Edinburgh, where many other fine Western Australian journalists shone. One of my weekly jobs was as the final edition subeditor. I was all alone between 1.00 am and 3.00 am, ready to pull the front page in case Maggie Thatcher met her demise and a sensitive, caring headline was needed to alert the fiercely anti-Tory Scots of impending celebrations.

After another stint on stage in the United States and working as a freelance writer, I came back to Perth and worked part time on our wonderful Post newspapers under Bret Christian. I started to winter in the Kimberley in 1991 with my ice-shaving business. I joined up with the likes of my great mate Stephen "Baamba" Albert - Uncle Tadpole in *Bran Nue Dae* - to create Theatre Kimberley, Western Australia's first professional regional theatre company. The outgoing Keating Government funded us to create the Tourism and Theatre Aboriginal Awareness Program, which helped to find jobs in tourism and the arts for hundreds of Kimberley residents.

In the United States, arts and tourism meld to prove a big job and wealth creator in regional areas. I dream of that occurring here. I urge ministers to ensure that their agencies employ Western Australian actors and technicians for any advertising and promotions.

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Western Australia is the most urbanised State in the world - only 27 per cent of our population live outside the metropolitan area. While I may be the member for the central business district seat of Perth, where the financial operations and administration that enable our mining and agricultural industries to prosper occur, I am passionate about decentralisation and look forward to a regeneration of the regions under Labor.

I am delighted that already our new Labor Government has achieved so much in my electorate. The Education Minister has already initiated the \$17 million rebuilding of Mt Lawley Senior High School, as outlined this morning by my colleague the member for Yokine. The Government has also committed to the long-term tenure of City Farm in East Perth and has funded a major recycling project in the inner city. This Government's commitment to social justice and sharing the wealth has seen \$120 million worth of part ownership of the Tamala Park waste facility in Wanneroo appropriately redistributed from the non-resident corporate elite of the CBD to the original resident owners - that is, the residents of the Towns of Vincent, Cambridge and Victoria Park. I thank the Minister for Housing for his re-examination of affordable housing projects throughout my electorate. Simple, compassionate consultation has achieved breakthroughs where six months ago my residents faced brick walls. We will end up with more and better affordable housing. I thank the Premier for recently opening the North Perth Community Bank, of which I am chairman. I acknowledge the excellent work done by the member for Ballajura, who is chairman of the Bayswater Community Bank.

Progressive, intelligent prostitution legislation will be enacted by our Government, properly treating prostitution as a health issue.

Danillo Rodriguez, a gay man, lives around the corner from my home. Danillo lost his partner of 20 years to a tragic accident two years ago. Victorian superannuation laws would recognise him as the rightful beneficiary of his partner's superannuation, but Western Australia's discriminatory laws do not. That is why we need sexuality discrimination legislation, and I applaud our Attorney General for introducing this human rights Bill. Over the next four years I aim to report many more improvements for the people of my electorate. I am champing at the bit to see our young Government do even more.

Having come from local government and having watched my friend, close comrade and predecessor as mayor, Jack Marks, die in office, I know too well the truth of one of his oft-repeated sayings: "The dogs may bark, but the caravan moves on." I aim to work hard to ensure that the Government honours its stated priorities. Rather than see edifices such as belltowers and convention centres built in my electorate, I want to ensure that the workers who pull the middies in the hospitality rooms, cleaners, car park attendants, ticket sellers, performers and carpet layers are all paid a just and decent wage. I want to ensure that the workers who create great wealth for our State in the CBD have real, affordable housing close by, and that they can access a clean and efficient transport system servicing the CBD, where they produce the profits for investors. It is all very well to see workers forced to accept minimum call-out payments and stringent conditions to help maximise profits - or, as it is called, viability - in the tourism and hospitality industry in the CBD; however, at the same time, they are penalised by having to pay higher parking fees, to travel longer distances and to suffer a lower quality of life because they can no longer afford to live near their place of work in the inner city.

As a proud member of Actors' Equity within the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, I want to ensure that the edifices this Government has inherited are filled with Western Australian workers and artistes. Buildings and structures mean nothing unless they are peopled with the soul of local culture sourced via the arts.

I am delighted to have arrived at this place after spending six years with the most progressive local council in Western Australia. I am proud that during my terms as a councillor and as mayor of the Town of Vincent we refused to contract out our outside work force and, instead, nurtured a council-owned work force that fairly and competitively beats the private sector for works jobs, earning profits to fund other council activities. I am proud that part of my electorate is a nuclear-free zone; that the degradation of animals in circuses is banned; that we banned the use of old-growth timber while promoting recycled wood many years ago; that we cared enough to ban trade with the oppressive regime in Myanmar; that we ran balanced and debt-free budgets and attained community support for rate rises because residents could see the improvements in infrastructure, parks, roads and playgrounds; that we also banned new billboards because of the visual pollution they cause; and that, above all, we listened and responded to our residents. I thank the member for Warren-Blackwood, who as Minister for Local Government created the Town of Vincent and treated Jack Marks and me so well.

I also thank the member for Greenough, with whom I served as Western Australia's representative in the Australian Local Government Association and in leadership roles in the Western Australian Municipal Association. We have enjoyed a very close relationship while attacking conservative State and Federal Governments to progress the aspirations of Western Australians. The member for Greenough also endured

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countless interstate flights, conferences and meetings at which I would harangue him and all within earshot about the tremendous advances occurring in the Grand Duchy of Vincent.

While our revered Premier can claim direct family lineage in my electorate back to the first English Gallop pioneers, I can merely note that a 13-year-old John Hyde arrived via steerage at the Swan River colony on 19 October 1829 aboard the *Atwick* from London. The next local tracing of any namesake is towards the end of the nineteenth century. Reference is made to the John Hyde Estate, a big swag of land on Lincoln Street in Highgate - which is within my electorate and around the corner from my current heavily mortgaged abode - leading towards Third Swamp, which soon became Hyde Park. Unfortunately, I can claim no familial links, inheritance or land rights, from this John Hyde.

My own father, also a John Hyde, is a Victorian who, after playing in three grand finals for two premierships with Geelong in the early 1950s, came to WA as Claremont's captain-coach. He fortunately met my mother, Morna Pearce, WA and Australian women's hockey captain, and one of the Pearce sisters from Moulyinning who all played for this State and Australia. Mum and her sisters used to train and play hockey at Birdwood Square, Perth, also within my electorate.

While my birth certificate states that I was born in country Hamilton, Victoria, mum and dad having moved there for the start of the 1957 footy season and dad's playing-coach duties, I am adamant that I was conceived in Western Australia. I have argued this issue with my mum and while I acknowledge that she was there at the time and is probably the more reliable witness, given my large size at birth, I am sure it was a long pregnancy and it was entirely possible that mother was with child while hitting a hockey ball around Birdwood Square.

Robertson Park in Northbridge, also in my electorate, once housed the WA women's playing field where my aunts - Dip, May, Tib and Jean - and mum played hockey along with other WA women before and after the Second World War. I am delighted that the Aboriginal reconciliation process I sponsored while mayor as part of the soon-to-begin upgrade at Robertson Park will see Aboriginal heritage commemorated there, the Women's Field reborn, the phases of Chinese and Jewish settlement in the park acknowledged and Australia's first AIDS memorial public art built.

I thank mum and dad for their support. While they and my siblings have remained in Victoria, I had the good sense to stay in WA with our extended family. I have wonderful childhood memories of hot summer nights sleeping on the back lawn in Mt Lawley at Uncle Arch's and Aunt May's, weekends swimming at North Beach while staying with Uncle Poss and Aunt Lucy and school holidays back at grandma's and the uncles' farms at Moulyinning in the wheatbelt.

I pay tribute to my political forebears in the North Perth ward of the City of Perth and Town of Vincent. Jack Marks, the member for Midland and the member for Armadale proved inspirational to someone engrossed in grassroots politics. I had some wonderful times with Jack as a councillor and as deputy mayor to him at the Town of Vincent, and I thank the members for Midland and Armadale for their guidance and friendship.

I owe much to the immediate former member for Perth, Diana Warnock, my campaign director. Diana remains a consummate politician, incredibly progressive, with humanitarian ideals mixed with a knowing acceptance of the realities of the political system. Diana is much loved within the electorate of Perth. She taught me much about hard work, yet at the same time we had enormous fun. I take it as a huge compliment that some call me "Son of Fluff" as I try hard to emulate Diana's commitment to people, events, openings, protests and celebrations within the electorate of Perth. It was said that Diana would turn up for the opening of an envelope in our electorate. You have taught me well, Diana. In April, I even attended the opening of a milk carton.

To June Belton, my campaign manager, confidante and electorate officer extraordinaire, I say a big thank you. Her nurturing, needling, bluster and bluff helped push me over the line. I know that the member for Geraldton and others here and in the other places in Canberra are also proud graduates of June's school of political preparatory.

I am indebted to Pauline O'Connor, my electorate officer, that I managed to put today's speech in my diary, read it, understand it and turn up on time to deliver it. Having worked with her as my deputy president at the Local Government Association of Western Australia, as a neighbouring councillor, as part of my campaign team and, most importantly, as a co-Geelong and East Perth supporter, I am delighted to have her serving the electorate of Perth.

I thank my other campaign committee colleagues - yay team. Richard Farrell whacked the finances into shape and stopped me from doing silly things. The acting mayor of Vincent, David Drewett, encouraged us all, intuitively was able to see political consequences of actions and stopped me from doing really silly things.

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Councillor Marilyn Piper at Vincent worked tirelessly and stopped me from doing some unbelievably stupid, silly things. To the 233 volunteers who worked on the ALP for Perth campaign, I say a massive thank you.

I also thank the federal member for Perth, Stephen Smith, for his brutal honesty and encouragement, my chief executive officer, John Giorgi, and all the staff at the Town of Vincent for their support and professionalism during my time there as mayor and councillor, and my researcher, Jennifer Piper, for her wonderful skills and for being a bon vivant. I owe thanks to the Minister for Housing and Works, the member for Mining and Pastoral and friend, Hon Tom Stephens, for inspiring me and teaching me. It was an honour to have served on Tom's staff. Above all, I thank my partner, Andrew David, for joining me on this roller-coaster ride of politics.

I am now part of the most diverse and truly representative Parliament we have ever had in WA. As the first openly gay man in this place, I join an Aboriginal woman, a young student, labourers, unionists, mothers, fathers, a secondhand-furniture salesman, sparkies, farmers, single parents, grandparents and the odd lawyer or two, to truly reflect our community of 2001 and become a modern House of real representatives.

[Applause.]

MR ANDREWS (Southern River) [5.57 pm]: Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on being elected Speaker of this House. I hope you enjoy your time in the Chair. I acknowledge other new members of this House and congratulate them. I also thank those longer-serving members of the House who have welcomed us so warmly. I am sure that those sitting opposite today will ensure that that warm welcome is extended well into the future.

Recently those of us who are new to this House were put through an induction process. We were addressed by many long-serving and distinguished members of this House. They spoke about the various aspects of the function and processes of this Chamber. They constantly spoke about the honour and privilege that we have as members of Parliament. As I stand here tonight, my feeling is one of overwhelming elation at being in this place. I am honoured to be the member for Southern River. I am honoured that the people of Southern River have seen fit to have a Labor member of Parliament represent them. I do not recoil from being an emotional person, and I wished to place my feelings on record.

My electorate is one of the fastest-growing areas in the metropolitan area. It extends west to east from the Kwinana Freeway almost to the South Western Highway, and from Thomas Road in the south to the suburbs of Canning Vale, Jandakot, Gosnells and Maddington in the north. It covers an area of over 200 square kilometres. There are now 31 500 voters in my electorate. It is an electorate of great diversity. I look forward to working with the various local government authorities within it.

The City of Gosnells in the northern part of my electorate was originally established by European settlement in 1829 as a farming territory. I remember, as a boy travelling from Bunbury, that before we entered Perth we had to stop at Gosnells and clean ourselves up. It was the town people got to before they went to the city. Today in many parts of Gosnells people can still see some remaining farms, including a goat farm which exports produce to South East Asia.

The City of Armadale in the eastern part of my electorate incorporates the area around Forrestdale Lake, which is truly a marvellous part of the metropolitan area. Some days when I look across those waters, I see absolute paradise. It is an internationally recognised heritage listed area, mainly because of its wildlife. One of my tasks as the member for Southern River will be to make sure that area is well protected. We recently had a bushfire in the area surrounding the lake. I take the opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work done by staff, students, parents and police and emergency services in the area around Forrestdale Primary School, which turned what could have been a total disaster into a very good result.

It showed they had done their planning and preparation, and that their implementation was perfect. Another area that indicates the diversity in my electorate is within the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. It has a large number of equestrian activities, small hobby farms and so on. Of particular interest to me are the bridle paths, which I am pursuing with the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The Town of Kwinana also forms part of my electorate and is very similar in nature to that of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. Extending further north is the City of Cockburn. The localities of Atwell and Jandakot are in my electorate. That part of my electorate is a hotspot of urban growth. Canning Vale, the part of my electorate under the auspices of the City of Canning, is another fast-growing hotspot of urban development. Around this area is the Jandakot mound which supplies some of the Perth's purest drinking water. One of my tasks is to make sure that is well protected under our legislation.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House some of what I value in my electorate. One of those is the welfare of families. It is very easy to stand here and talk about how we should look after families and so on. Every day in my electorate I see the stress that families are under. Often these families are single parent families, and that puts great pressure on the parent and on the children of those families. When I drive around

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the electorate, one of the things I do not see at six o'clock of an evening are fathers kicking the football around the front yard with their kids. They might be absent, or they could be working exceptionally long hours. One aspect of our society that we need to address is that fathers must take a greater role in the lives of their children. I include myself in that as well. Some of the happiest moments of my life have been spent outside the front of my house kicking the football around to my daughters and son. Many families in my electorate suffer through the lack of the presence of a male role model.

I express particular concern about the welfare of boys. It is well recorded that boys tend to do more poorly at school than do girls. They also have a higher incidence of assault and suicide. That needs to be addressed. I also lament the decreasing number of male teachers in schools, particularly in primary schools. It is an area that needs to be addressed during the term of this Government. As a school teacher for 24 years I take a deep interest in education. It is one of the factors in my electorate that needs greater attention. I would like the students in my electorate to have the same sort of education that I was fortunate to have. I attended an independent Catholic school that in some ways was more like a prison. However, I had the good fortune to attend Bunbury Senior High School. I was greatly influenced by the teachers at that school, not because they taught me anything in particular, but because they were good, decent people who had confidence in me. I will always remember them. They are the sort of people we need in our schools today.

My electorate contains only one state high school. It has an excellent principal in Sue Rodway. I believe it has excellent staff and I am very impressed by the students. However, I am not impressed by its facilities. I hope that in the term of this Government the \$7 million that we have allocated will produce a school of renowned excellence that will give students at that school the opportunity to have something to hang their hats on, so that they can say, "Gosnells High School is an excellent school because . . .". The "because" is up to the community. I would like it to be a model of how an ageing school can become a source of pride for the community. I also look forward to the establishment of the Canning Vale high school and other primary schools in my electorate.

I believe that the south-east corridor of the metropolitan area has been largely ignored over the past eight years. I believe that it has deteriorated considerably in the past five years in particular. The occupancy rate of shops within the centre of Gosnells is down to 40 per cent and falling. This means that the retail businesses in Gosnells are dwindling, and with them goes jobs. I look forward to the rejuvenation of the centre of Gosnells through the town revitalisation program, because it will have a significant effect on the lifestyle of the people in the city of Gosnells. I refer to my original point about the importance of employment. I am of the belief that for this corridor and my electorate in particular to sustain employment, it needs the development of industry. As I have said, my electorate is not well serviced with retail outlets. The challenge for this Government is to facilitate industry that provides employment that is environmentally sustainable, located in the right place, monitored by the right authority and provided with an infrastructure that integrates this industry with the community. In particular, I look forward to the extension of the Tonkin Highway and the development of the Forrestdale industrial park.

In the lead-up to the election I asked one of my constituents, Mr Peter Kruup of Canning Vale, whom I had met through doorknocking, if he would prepare an audit of the bus services in my electorate. Mr Kruup is an experienced economist who spent four years on Westrail's Urban Passenger and Advisory Council, and he is a senior marketing manager. His research found that some of the suburbs in my electorate have some of the poorest services in the metropolitan area, particularly weekend services, which are universally poor - areas such as Huntingdale and Gosnells, where weekend services are virtually negligible. His comment was -

While the overall level of services in the Southern River electorate was 58% of the benchmark, the residents in the electorate were poorly serviced during off peak periods, particularly in evenings and weekend time periods. During these times approximately only one third of the benchmark was achieved. In other words the residents of Southern River electorate had only a third of the services that could be reasonably expected during off peak periods.

Put simply, I want more public transport in my electorate.

Another point that concerns me is the level of crime throughout my electorate, particularly crimes against the most vulnerable - the older people, and also young people. I will not go into detail about the level of crime; suffice to say it needs to be addressed by employment, education and more police resources. I look forward to the drug summit in August.

I also believe that the payment of government bills within 30 days has had a significant effect on the businesses in my electorate. Last week I was contacted by two of my constituents who have a small firm that deals basically with government contracts. At one stage they were on the brink of walking away from their business.

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They told me a week ago that because of some of the changes that are being made, they will stay in business and are thinking of putting on another employee. I also state that I will defend the rights and responsibilities of unions to represent workers.

At this part of my speech I seek the indulgence of the Chamber to talk about some personal issues that I find very emotional. I do so, not to talk about myself, but to honour one person in particular and a large number of other people. I was not always the rather full-figured person that members see standing here today. I should at this point acknowledge the contribution that Gaelic football has made to the Labor backbench. The member for Ballajura and I represented Western Australia in Gaelic football, as did the new member for Roleystone, who assures me that while I was fairly average, he was a star. He has threatened that he will show slides to this Chamber. I think we should avoid that!

When I was 30 years of age, I had two children with another one on the way. I was working full time. I led a very active sporting life. I was a member of the West Australian Marathon Club, and I competed in the first Rottneest Island triathlon. I ran every Sunday morning, played hockey and, as I said, kicked the football around with the member for Ballajura.

When I was 31 years, my times for the various 10-kilometre runs that I used to do began to increase dramatically, and when I reached the stage of being able to run 10 kilometres in an hour, I thought I should see a doctor, which I did. To cut a long story short, I was diagnosed with nephritis, which most members would know is a disease of the kidneys. Within a short time, I went from being someone who was very fit, healthy and on top of the world to someone who could barely crawl out of bed each day. At that time I was told that in seven to 10 years my kidneys would fail completely and I would need to go on dialysis. In fact, it was four and a half years. I went into hospital in 1991 and had a fistula constructed in my wrist, into which two needles were placed, and blood was pumped in and out of the machine - we all know what dialysis is. A form of dialysis about which members may not know is peritoneal dialysis. I had a tube inserted in my side, into and out of which I pumped two or four litres of fluid - I think in the end it was four litres - four times a day. This took about 40 minutes each time, and I spent most of the day getting onto and off this machine. I continued to work part time, but it was a great struggle.

As time went on, the only way to describe how I felt was that it was like the worst hangover a person could possibly have - I am sure no member of this House knows that feeling. Each morning was a difficult time, because when I woke up I immediately threw up all over the place. That was my starting routine for the day. I also began to be unable to think properly in many ways. My sight started to diminish, and basically I was just about finished - I was very ill.

In September 1992, I went to Albany for a holiday with my family. When I was there I could not get out of bed. As I said, I was very ill. Driving home, I asked my wife if she thought I would still be around at Christmas. She said, "Of course you will." I said, "What about new year?" She went quiet, so I knew at that stage that my days were numbered. I went back to the hospital and said to the nurses, "I've had enough. I really don't want to live any more. That will do me." At that time I was ready to pass away. Today I heard stories about Ray Young. I visited my friends and made arrangements about various matters. It was embarrassing when I got much better and had to go back to see them!

I tell this story only because I have never been able to tell anyone the extent of the debt I owe that person who, in giving up life, enabled me to have a transplant. Part of my reason for speaking today - as I said, I have never been able to do it before - is to acknowledge those people who make the decision to be organ donors and those families who honour that decision.

I had a transplant in October 1992. I was in hospital only one week. My nephrologist is in the gallery today, and I thank him and the staff at the hospital. After three days I got out of bed and looked in the mirror. I immediately turned around because I thought someone else was standing behind me. I did not recognise the person I saw in that mirror. From that time, apart from putting on about 30 kilograms - the parliamentary dining room probably will not help - I have had excellent health. Three years ago I participated in the swim to Rottneest Island. I have been engaged in politics since 1993. During the election campaign I never missed a single day. I rarely missed work leading up to the election. I enjoy excellent health. One reason for speaking today is to highlight the need for organ transplants. I think I am the only member of Parliament in Australia who is lucky, and unlucky, enough to have gone through that.

The facts about organ donation in Australia are appalling. The rate of organ donation is one of the lowest in the western world. In most years, the rate of organ donation in Western Australia is the lowest. In 1999, there were only 13 cadaveric donors in Western Australia. That means that the organs came from people who had passed

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away. In 2000, the total number of donors was 22. In 1999, the rate was 1.21 donations per thousand deaths, and in 2000 the rate was 1.52 donations per thousand deaths. The average donation rate is decreasing, not improving, yet the success rates for transplants are increasing dramatically. For example, the success rate of a kidney transplant after one year is 88 per cent, and 13 to 14 years later, 50 per cent of kidney transplants are still working well. Similar rates apply to liver transplants. For heart transplants, after one year the success rate is usually between 60 and 70 per cent.

Today, between 120 and 150 people are on the kidney transplant waiting list. Many of them will die simply because not enough kidneys are available. There were four of us when I was in the ward: John Bridgewood, whom I bring to the attention of the member for Wagin, two others and me. Those two others, who were 24 and 19 years of age, died, and John and I are still alive. At Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, children are dying every day because not enough organs are available. Each year, the cost to the community of keeping someone on dialysis, for example, is \$84 000. The average waiting time for someone who is lucky enough to receive a transplant is three years.

We must increase the awareness of the benefits of transplantation. Occasionally that will be seen in the newspaper. It is a wonderful thing that organ donors have done for people like me. If people become more aware of the benefits of transplantation, the rate of refusal by relatives will decrease. We should also support intensive care units, because it costs intensive care units both money and staff time to make relatives aware of the organ donation process. Therefore, extra support must be given to intensive care units.

Because Western Australia is such a large State, another problem is that retrieving donations from country areas is almost impossible.

Surgeons currently work on a volunteer roster basis so that when a body becomes available, the organs can be taken. However, it takes too long for these surgeons to get to and from country areas. There simply are not enough surgeons to retrieve those organs. We need to set up a system by which we can accept the donations of people in the country. There is also an argument for centralising transplantation expertise under a single professional unit. One of the things that deters people from wishing to donate their organs after death is that they fear that their bodies will not be treated with respect. We as a Government must ensure that hospitals treat people's bodies with respect. We have just observed Anzac Day, which is a celebration of the highest honour that we can give to people who have laid down their lives for their country. We need to acknowledge the contribution that donors and their families make to saving lives. I intend to use my position in this Parliament to honour those people. I am sorry for being self-indulgent in this matter, but it is difficult not to be.

I will continue to be self-indulgent by thanking the many people who have helped out during my campaign. Members of the Southern River and Armadale sub-branches of the Australian Labor Party, like Tony and Joy Dench, Erica Gamble, Ron and Betty Pearce, and Phil Kelly, worked day in and day out, and at the end of this time turned around and thanked me for letting them help me. Those members who are here today all know that we should be the ones who thank them for everything that they have done for us. I also thank my long-suffering friends, some of whom are sitting in the gallery today - long-suffering because they have to go to yet another quiz night or fundraiser, or drop yet another pamphlet, and most of the time they put on a cheerful face when they do it.

There are many people in this Chamber whom I wish to acknowledge. One of them is the member for Armadale. I respect her appetite for hard work, her sheer intellect and her compassion for people, and most of all the way she serves her electorate. I also thank a former member of this House, Mr Graham Burkett, for his tireless support and enthusiasm. He gives me endless advice, but only when I ask for it. He has taught me the meaning of community service and helping people. I also thank Lyn Jager, who is a wonderful person embodying all the values the Australian Labor Party stands for. I would also like to bring to the attention of the House Jane Gerrick, the federal member for Canning, who is also going through a period of illness at this moment, suffering from leukemia. I have been her friend for 15 years, and I respect her greatly and most of all I admire her courage. She is making a remarkable recovery and is looking forward eagerly to the next federal election.

Kay Hallahan was my campaign director, and one journalist continues to refer to her, quite rightly, as "Special K". She has so many qualities that I would aspire to that I just cannot mention them all. The present member for Armadale said in her maiden speech that she thought Kay was wonderful, charming, kind, capable, dedicated and open-minded, with a wicked sense of humour and a love of life that is infectious. The first time I met Kay Hallahan I was overwhelmed by her. I still am, and she has encouraged me right from that first time.

In many ways, it is a selfish pursuit to be a member of this House, and I wish to acknowledge the sacrifices that my family have made to get me here today. I think of the financial sacrifices they have made, and the extra work

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that my wife and children do around the house when I am not there. Usually, conveniently, I have been able to get out of mowing the lawn at every possible chance. I thank my children, Lara, Rebecca and Peter, for what they have given up in the past six years. Most of all, I thank my wife, Gim, without whose support and willingness to make those sacrifices I just would not be here today. She has supported me, not only because I am her husband, but also because of her own beliefs in the Australian Labor Party. I cannot thank Gim enough. She is my wife, my love, my partner in life and my comrade. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [6.16 pm]: Firstly, I take this opportunity to thank the people of Joondalup, who have placed their trust in me to represent them as their member of Parliament for the next four years. The result of the recent election serves as a warning to all politicians that the electorate is unforgiving and extremely knowledgeable about the manner in which governments affect their day-to-day lives. I congratulate all members on their election win, particularly the newly elected members. I also congratulate the Speaker on his election to office.

I thank the many volunteers who have spent countless hours assisting me since my preselection in November 1999. All these volunteers should be personally acknowledged for their individual efforts, but time does not permit. I will, however, acknowledge those who were associated more closely with my campaign. Fiona Henderson stepped in late in the campaign and took charge of ensuring that volunteer lists, mail-outs, advertisements and a multitude of other tasks were completed and met the various deadlines. Simon Mead brought his vast experience and particular knowledge of campaign strategies. Leanne Fury coordinated fundraising efforts and polling booth rosters. The following group ensured by their participation that I managed to doorknock a large proportion of the electorate and kept me going when I felt that maybe it was time to stop and head home for a rest: Gerry Hartigan, my cousin from Ireland, Tony McNamara and Tony Logan, also Irishmen, and Terry Behan - members might be forgiven for thinking that the Irish are planning to stage some sort of invasion here - and also Liz Prime and Guy Chamberlain. Another important part of the campaign was the series of morning and afternoon teas successfully arranged by Trish Sinclair-Jones. One of the most important members of my campaign team was Ken Travers, who supported me through my previous campaign in Hillarys during the 1996 election, continued to support me during the intervening years, and prompted me to nominate for Joondalup in this election. Ken contributed large amounts of his time and personal resources to ensure that Joondalup became a Labor-held seat. I thank the Australian Labor Party office for its advice and help throughout the campaign. I thank all those people and those whom I cannot mention, unfortunately, for their time, effort and ideas. I owe them a great debt of gratitude that will take me many years to repay.

No campaign can be run without money. I thank the businesses in Joondalup that contributed to the campaign, both financially and by supplying goods for raffles, displaying election materials in their windows, and continually looking after us as we went through the campaign period. A number of unions assisted throughout the campaign. I thank the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, of which I am a long-time member; the Community Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association; the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union; the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union; the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union; and the Maritime Union of Australia. All contributed with volunteers to doorknock and deliver pamphlets throughout the campaign.

I thank my family for the many sacrifices they have made over past years and the support that they have offered me as a family and as individuals. They have been my biggest supporters and have always encouraged me to stick with my principles. My wife Bernadette has been a great motivator and has always made sure that whatever I decided to do I could do with the knowledge that she was behind me completely. This was never more true than during the election campaign when our house was turned into the campaign office, with people and materials coming and going at all times of the day and night. The continuous use of our house made it very difficult to carry on a normal family life but Bernadette, through her persistence, made sure that we were as normal as possible throughout the election campaign. The untimely death of my parents during 2000 and early 2001 made it very difficult to remain focused on the campaign. Bernadette made sure that I had appropriate time to compose myself and was ever watchful to make sure that I was coping and that I had opportunities to express my grief during that particularly bad time. Bernadette, I thank you very much and know that you are always close by whenever I need that extra bit of help or encouragement.

My daughter Jessica provided one of the greatest sources of energy for my campaign. She always seemed to be willing and able to take on any task that needed to be done, whether at short notice or prearranged and well-planned. She amazed me on election day by arriving to set up the polling booth at about four o'clock in the morning and was still light and hearty at six o'clock in the evening when she went into the tally room as a scrutineer for the booth at Ocean Reef Senior High School. It was our single biggest gain in the election

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campaign. Her efforts throughout the campaign are one of the reasons I sit in this place today. My youngest daughter spent many hours letter dropping throughout Joondalup and made sure that the name Tony O’Gorman was known and recognised as being the best candidate to represent Joondalup for the next four years. My foster sons Charles and Michael also made a large contribution to my campaign - Charles by putting his thoughts about me as a father on paper and being prepared to tell everyone how he felt, and Michael by his efforts in delivering pamphlets and direct mail to the areas surrounding our house. As all members would be aware, the support of one’s family during an election campaign is absolutely crucial and I thank all my family for their support and hard work during this very difficult time for them.

I also thank the officers of the Parliament and of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet for their assistance in settling me into my electorate office and for their efforts in educating me in the ways of this place.

One final group of people whom I wish to thank is the other six candidates who contested the election. I know that the effort that is put into each and every election campaign takes a huge toll on candidates, their families and their campaign teams. I thank and congratulate them all for the competitive manner in which all the campaigns were run. It was a truly hard-fought campaign and the contributions by all the candidates to the community should be commended.

To the best of my recollection, my first political act was when I was about 14 years of age in Ireland. I was involved in a local youth group as an ordinary member and we were due to make a weekly bus trip to the swimming pool in a little town called Ennis. Unfortunately, the bus did not arrive. When we contacted the bus company we were told that its bill had not been paid. The youth officer who had been operating the youth group had been involved in a couple of questionable dealings. A public meeting was called and at the meeting I was nominated to question the youth officer about why the bus company was not paid. This led to an investigation and disciplinary action. Following from this action, I represented my classmates in debating and later represented my fellow workers as a union shop steward. I learnt negotiating skills through the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union and leadership skills through the scouting movement and parents and citizens associations.

I think the greatest single lesson I have learnt was from my parents. They taught me about social justice and a fair go for all. The incident that prompted this lesson is still vivid in my mind. An uncle of mine lived about four houses away from my family. He put his house up for sale and accepted an offer from a Pakistani family. As one can imagine, 20 years ago in Ireland, it was a fairly unusual event. The Pakistani family had only recently moved into the area. Some of the local residents were outraged when they heard about the sale and they promptly circulated a petition objecting to the sale because the Pakistani family would not fit in with the area. When the petitioners knocked on our front door and requested that my parents sign the petition they were met with a curt comment, “Isn’t the colour of their money the same as yours or mine? Further, what has the colour of their skin got to do with whether they are suitable neighbours?” The Pakistani family did move into the house and to the best of my knowledge they still live there and are very active members of the local business and civil communities. Throughout their lives my parents displayed great tolerance and support of all people, no matter from where they came. I think this is the reason that I enjoy living in Western Australia and Joondalup so much. In general, the people are accepting and happy to be part of a multicultural society. They work together to build communities that are inclusive and recognise each other’s strengths and weaknesses. This is demonstrated by the fact that I am here today as a member of the Western Australian Parliament representing Joondalup, having emigrated here from Ireland a mere 20 years ago.

During the building of my first home I had occasion to visit the City of Wanneroo offices. I was given directions and found myself on a beautiful scenic road; it is now Joondalup Drive. I was convinced that someone was having a joke on the new boy and had sent me bush. I eventually reached Wanneroo Hospital and I checked to see if I was lost. Armed with fresh directions I found the council offices and completed my business. It was not long after that first adventure into the bush that the new suburbs of Heathridge, Ocean Reef, Beldon and Edgewater sprang up north of Craigie. It was about this time that I heard of plans to build the second central business district of Perth. From my understanding, the idea had been around for many years but little progress had been made. I returned to Ireland for two years and on my return to Perth I discovered that the concept of a second business district had suddenly been given a life. The then Joondalup Development Corporation had been set up by the Labor Government to bring this long-held dream to reality. I built my second home in the suburb of Beldon and was soon involved in the community through the parents and citizens association at my daughter’s school. I quickly realised that while Governments can build roads, schools, police stations and the associated infrastructure that is necessary to service a new city, it would be people that would eventually give heart to the city.

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We built our current home in Joondalup in 1990 and formed the Joondalup Residents Association to make sure that the community was represented and that its needs were addressed. In 1992 the Labor Government commissioned the northern suburbs railway line to Joondalup and the new regional shopping centre was opened. In just eight short years the Joondalup central business district has grown to be home to Edith Cowan University, the North Metropolitan College of TAFE Joondalup campus and the Australian Institute for University Studies - which has a presence from Curtin and Monash universities. The Western Australia Police Academy is due to open in February 2001. The explosion of higher educational institutions in the area is significant and will be significant in the future development of the Joondalup area. The district has many varied shops, restaurants, night clubs and entertainment venues as well as offices for federal and state government services. It is a true achievement for all concerned in such a short period, but our work is not yet done. The City of Joondalup is only now starting to realise its potential. Through the foresight of the administration and academics of Edith Cowan University, Joondalup is to become the university's main campus. This can be achieved only by selling some of the other campuses and retaining the funds to rebuild in Joondalup. The close proximity to the university of the police academy, the Joondalup Health Campus and the Joondalup TAFE college places Joondalup in a unique position to become an educational as well as a business district. It was a Labor Government that first breathed life into the Joondalup City project. We now have an unprecedented opportunity to take the project to the next step and reset the vision for what Joondalup could and should be. There have been suggestions of building a performing arts centre in the city and these should be closely considered in conjunction with the city council and the educational institutions in the area. While Joondalup has developed rapidly over the past eight years, it is starved of cultural amenities and events. The city now needs attractions that will bring people into the city not only for business, but also for entertainment. This will ensure the future prosperity of the city.

The railway line to Joondalup has been the lifeline from the south. It is now being extended by the current Labor Government to Clarkson and Butler to make Joondalup a true regional centre. Connecting the outer northern suburbs with the city will create demand for more state and federal government offices to be located within the business district. Planning for this must take place now to ensure that the demand is met. Water Corporation services, vehicle licensing and Medicare and Homeswest offices are some of the services that spring to mind immediately.

So far in my speech I have dealt with the Joondalup central business district. Of course, the Joondalup electorate extends far beyond the business district. The western boundary is the Indian Ocean with what are arguably the most beautiful beaches and dune systems in the metropolitan area. The eastern boundary is Lake Joondalup, which is part of the Yellagonga Regional Park, sometimes referred to as the Kings Park of the north. Burns Beach Road is the boundary to the north and Ocean Reef Road and Craigie Drive are the boundary to the south.

Within these boundaries are many areas of bushland that are protected and revegetated by the many volunteer environmental groups such as the Joondalup Coast Care Forum, Yellagonga Catchment Group and the Friends of Yellagonga. The Yellagonga Catchment Group was formed to combat the midgie plague that has been dogging the Wanneroo and Joondalup electorates over the past few years, mainly due to the development in the area. The Friends of Yellagonga was established many years ago and has done much work to revegetate and dispose of weeds that have been introduced to the area. Myriad small groups look after their areas of bushland throughout the Joondalup electorate. These volunteer groups must be commended for their efforts in revitalising and protecting our bushland, usually from ourselves. Many more volunteer groups operate throughout the electorate of Joondalup, such as netball, basketball, scouting associations, guides, martial arts, resident associations and junior football associations to name only a few. This year is the International Year of Volunteers, and all these volunteer groups should be commended for their efforts in building our communities. I look forward to working with members as we develop this great State that is the best place in the world in which to live and work.

[Applause.]

MR HILL (Geraldton) [6.31 pm]: I stand here today feeling honoured to be the representative for Geraldton. An individual - especially me - cannot claim all the success in the recent election. Consequently, I use this occasion to publicly give thanks to Hon Fred McKenzie, Ian Patterson, Veronica and Graeme Whitehorn, Margaret and Garry Ghockson, Lyn Jager, Graeme Burkett and my family, without whose support I would not have nominated for preselection for the Australian Labor Party. I also thank the many volunteers who tirelessly folded letters, and pamphlets, delivered material and doorknocked on my behalf. I thank Patricia Hodges and the local Geraldton branch of the Australian Labor Party for working tirelessly on my campaign for some 15 months. Many thanks must also go to Mrs Roberts and Hon Kim Chance for providing me with unfailing support and encouragement. Similarly, my partner and my family also endured a sometimes stressful campaign

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but they never let me down. I also thank the constituents of Geraldton for electing me to Parliament on my first attempt. I believe I was elected because the State and the people of Geraldton wanted a change. They wanted a new direction and, most of all, they wanted a Government that listened and cared. Running for State Parliament is a lot of hard work. The recent campaign revealed a degree of cynicism in the electorate about the future direction in the areas of health, education and law and order issues. People in a position of leadership must include people who assist and facilitate their needs. The constituents of Geraldton have spoken loudly and clearly that the time has come for Geraldton to move forward.

I have also come to realise that Geraldton has major social problems to resolve. As a community, we cannot continue to hide from these problems and I am pleased to inform members that the people of Geraldton are working towards positive solutions to many of these problems. Geraldton's social problems are no different from other similar size centres across Australia. It is important to deal with the causes and not the symptoms of these problems. It is easy to patch things up and say, "She'll be right". However, we must deal with the causes because if we cease to deal with them, the problems become more inflated. It is easy, for example, to scream about parents' rights and scream for harsher penalties when reading the newspaper. However, the solution lies in better parenting skills and family support. Families must be given opportunities to obtain those skills. On the other hand, some issues will not be easily resolved. Unfortunately, many issues will be with us for a long time. With the increased tendency of the Government to withdraw services and to withdraw from the broader economic picture because of the process of privatisation, the resources available to government to remedy these problems will be reduced.

Every person has the right to live with dignity. The rich are getting richer and the poor are finding it harder to make ends meet. These problems will not be solved overnight, but community support groups will play a major part in this process. One of these groups is the Yamatji street patrol. It has won several awards around Australia but is under-funded. The previous Government did not realise the true value of the organisation. I was pleased during the election campaign to announce that the patrol would receive an additional \$70 000 a year for the next four years to provide a seven-day service to Geraldton. Another community group in which I have been involved is Geraldton Personnel. Its role in the community is to place disabled workers in the work force. I recently attended an awards afternoon at which employers in Geraldton and the mid west were recognised for their commitment to this program. I am also proud to advise that my research officer is employed through this program and I encourage other members to employ someone with a disability. Another organisation with which I have been associated for a long time is the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. That organisation provides a valuable support to the community in combating cruelty to animals. I was pleased that during the previous Parliament, Mr McGowan highlighted the need for animal welfare to be addressed as a priority for this Government. The RSPCA owes its origins to the Ladies of St. George's Reading Society and was founded in Western Australia in 1892. In 1920, the WA Parliament passed its first Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, making it a crime to mistreat animals. It is interesting to note that no major amendments have been made to that Act since 1920. I hope the new Animal Welfare Act will be passed by Parliament by the end of the year.

I ran for Parliament because I wanted to participate in the quest to make a difference. We all come from different backgrounds, some poor, some rich, others middle class. We all have different motivations. Some are motivated by prestige, others by power. I applied for the job because I like to work with people. Underlying this is the belief that I can make a difference for Geraldton and this State. If people had said to me many years ago upon leaving the Eastern Goldfields Senior High School that I would one day be a member of this Chamber, I would have told them they had been in the sun for too long.

I began my application for this position as a supermarket employee. I started work pushing trolleys at Woolworths, Kalgoorlie and became a supermarket manager at Woolworths. After that I joined the state Public Service and the importance of the public sector became clear to me. I worked with dedicated public servants for many years. We were all well aware that the services that we provided made a big difference to the lives of individuals and to the community. Then, as now, public servants often must fight to defend the services they provide. They must also speak up when they are worn out by the lack of resources that stop them from being able to give their clients the standards of service they deserve.

People require an active focus on job creation, skills development and building a sense of confidence in the future. They need proper health care, safe homes and streets, a justice system they can rely on and an ability to make ends meet. People do not want to feel useless, redundant or feared because they are old, young, sick, injured or different in some aspect of their lives. People do not deserve to be blamed for ruining the economy because they are poor or sick, and they do not deserve to be told that they should do community or volunteer work because they have nothing better to do. The volunteers of Geraldton and the mid west do volunteer work

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because they care about their community. They care enough about themselves to want to continue to contribute to society and to their own skills development, no matter how limited their opportunities may be.

After my election, I spoke to many business people in Geraldton about many issues. A large amount of skills are available in Geraldton and the mid west. It is important for us to support those people. We must look within our region before we look outside.

Geraldton's greatest asset is its people. Small business in Geraldton is doing it tough. We must remember that small business is still the biggest employer in Australia. However, we need to focus on not only employers but also workers. After all, they are the people who carry out the work. We must not forget their right to a fair day's pay for their services.

Geraldton is on the verge of commencing some major infrastructure projects in the redevelopment of the Geraldton foreshore area. This multi-million dollar project is aimed at reshaping the foreshore adjacent to the Geraldton central business district. The project will also enhance the redevelopment of the Geraldton port. The Gallop Labor Government has already announced a regional investment fund that will support these projects. This fund is a clear sign that regional centres such as Geraldton are a high priority for this Government.

This being the International Year of Volunteers I will refer briefly to the involvement of volunteers in our community. There are many volunteers in Geraldton and, as I have had the opportunity to attend a wide range of activities, I have been able to appreciate the contribution they make to our community. Indeed, we frequently rely on them to fill many gaps in the publicity and community service areas. Volunteers play a large part in our life in Geraldton and in the mid west. However, too often today they are asked to do things that should rightly be the role of government and employers. They run financial counselling services, health care programs, crisis care and parent support schemes, employment skills development programs, child care to allow others to study, and community centres.

Most of the people in Geraldton have good lives. They live in a great area and have a sense of community; nonetheless, they all fear for our education and health systems. They also worry that the services to which they are accustomed will not exist when they need them next. Too many people are struggling too much. They need our attention. I see my role here primarily to focus on those people because the community, not the economy, must come first. For me, the community of Geraldton will come first.

In closing I draw to the attention of members a major event that Geraldton will host in 2001. I refer to the 60th anniversary of the loss of HMAS *Sydney* off the Batavia coast. On the evening of 19 November 1941 HMAS *Sydney* was off the coast of Geraldton when it disappeared with the loss of 645 lives. The Geraldton Rotary Club is coordinating the erection of a memorial to honour the men who lost their lives, and to give closure to some of the families. The monument will include a waiting woman and a wall of remembrance. This event has been granted the status of a significant federation anniversary event. The Rotary Club is striving to complete the project in time for its dedication in November, with many relatives planning to travel to Geraldton for the ceremony, as will the Prime Minister. The Premier has viewed the plans for the memorial, and I understand he will also attend the dedication. The project is on track but, as occurs with similar projects, more funding is required. My final words to you today, Madam Deputy Speaker, are in the form of a plea to all of us: Let us get on with the job. Let us prove to all Western Australians that we are serious about making a positive change for the future. I know that I am.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Kobelke (Leader of the House).

House adjourned at 6.44 pm
