

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta) [6.00 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 11 February 2020, at 2.00 pm.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Leader of the Opposition) [6.00 pm]: I rise to make some comments in the adjournment debate. I would like to put on the record my appreciation for all the people involved in what has been a very tough debate and a very tough piece of legislation to pull together. I put on the record my appreciation for the efforts of all those people who worked with Minister Roger Cook to put together some very sound and appropriate amendments to this legislation to get it into a format in which people like me could vote for it. Early in the debate, I was very uncertain about whether this was the right pathway for Western Australia to go down because of my own personal experiences. However, having spoken to so many people during the course of the debate and being contacted by so many people both for and against this legislation, I managed throughout the process to get some comfort from the minister's willingness to take on the amendments moved by those in the Legislative Council to get this legislation to a point at which I felt it was safe enough for me to vote for it, and I thank him for that from the bottom of my heart.

Opposition members have always said that we would be very happy to come back to Parliament should the Legislative Council finish the debate at the end of last week, as it did, which was the timetable we had all envisaged. I thank all my members, and all other members in the chamber, for being willing to adjust their timetables to come back to the chamber to complete the task so that the very long implementation phase of this legislation of around 18 months can commence and we can provide some certainty to people about the availability of voluntary assisted dying for the hopefully very small number of people who might need to access it.

I also put on the record that we will hold the minister to account for the commitments about palliative care, particularly access to palliative care in regional areas, so that we can minimise the number of people who want to access voluntary assisted dying. We want to make sure that those people with a terminal illness in this state have all the care options available to them so that this is the choice of last resort.

I commend all members of this house for their contributions to the debate, particularly Minister Cook. I commend him for the way that he has treated the members of the Legislative Council with respect and taken on board the issues that they have raised with him and brought forward, and for agreeing to the numerous amendments that we have debated today. It shows great character and I thank him for that.

With those words, I look forward to adjourning, attending many school graduation ceremonies and then enjoying some quiet time at Christmas with my beautiful family. I wish that for all members in this place so that they can get some respite from this very challenging issue over the summer period.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [6.04 pm]: Very briefly; everyone is looking forward to moving on from the chamber. I add my thanks to the Minister for Health, the government and the member for Morley for their consideration as we worked our way through this very challenging piece of legislation. I would also like to put on record my thanks and appreciation to Hon Colin Holt, member for South West Region, who played a significant role in the other place, and to all the members of the other place. Having been in the Legislative Council and understanding the vagaries of that chamber, I know it was no small task to try to manage the bill across two houses of Parliament. The minister's patience in dealing with all the different challenges and individual concerns of members—because that is what it was—has demonstrated that we can, as a Parliament, represent our communities, even on the most challenging issues. I thank everyone, and best wishes to you all, as the minister has a few weeks of respite without thinking about this.

Question put and passed.

[Applause.]

House adjourned at 6.05 pm
