

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from 6 May on the following motion moved by Ms L. Dalton —

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's speech be agreed to —

To His Excellency the Honourable Kim Beazley, AC, Governor of the State of Western Australia.

May it please Your Excellency —

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [7.05 pm]: I start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Whadjuk people of the great Noongar nation. I recognise their continuing connection to the land, water and community. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and future, and I extend my respect to all the First Nations people throughout this great state.

It is an enormous pleasure to also extend my welcome to the many new members in the chamber. That pleasure is magnified many times over, because those new members all belong to the WA Labor Party, and, even more of a bonus, there is a large number of women amongst this cohort. As Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the US, has famously said, "Maybe it will take a woman to clean up the house." In their inaugural speeches, we heard an impressive array of life experiences from these new members. Their reasons varied for wanting to represent their local communities, but they shared a passion for working diligently in their electorates. They are part of history and I have no doubt that they will continue to make their own mark in the future.

While speaking of history, I congratulate Premier McGowan on his leadership and unstinting hard work to secure what was an election victory of magnificent proportions. In government he will be ably assisted by his cabinet, and I extend my best wishes especially to those ministers newly appointed. It is a great honour and privilege to have the opportunity, and I am confident that all will fulfil their ministerial duties with distinction.

I, too, join in congratulating you, Madam Speaker, in your new role. You have already had a distinguished career in this place, and you are what is quaintly termed the mother of the house, having served the longest in this place. It is well known that Madam Speaker and I are good friends of longstanding. For that reason, I have been asked by some what sort of Speaker you will make. At this point I need to digress slightly.

I am not sure that Madam Speaker will resemble the first female Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, who served in that role between 1992 and 2000. Boothroyd maintained strict order in the house. She was memorably described by one commentator as a mixture of headmistress, nanny and pub landlady. That said, it is surprising to learn that Boothroyd ejected only one MP during her time in the chair. That MP was Ian Paisley, who was suspended for 10 days after he accused a minister of lying. The story goes that Paisley went to visit Boothroyd sometime after in what she expected to be a clear-the-air meeting, but the Democratic Unionist Party leader, whom Boothroyd speaks of with great warmth and affection, was grateful. Excuse me, members, but I cannot do the Belfast accent. He said, "Madam Speaker, I've come to thank you for the gracious way you threw me out the other day. I got the front page of the Belfast Telegraph and you got page 3." Boothroyd replied, "Step inside, Ian. You're welcome. I've never been a page 3 girl before!"

I do not expect such colourful exchanges in this Parliament. I am, however, confident, Madam Speaker, that you will perform your duties with aplomb and composure. You have an encyclopedic knowledge of standing orders, and I do not anticipate being able to get away with anything unparliamentary!

The SPEAKER: Excellent! That is good to hear!

Ms M.M. QUIRK: While we are on firsts, I am honoured to stand here as the first member for Landsdale. The new seat includes Alexander Heights, Darch, Hocking, Landsdale, Madeley, Pearsall and Wangara. These are areas facing the challenges of rapid growth. Community facilities and infrastructure are struggling to keep up with demand. This is especially so in road infrastructure, school capacity and sporting facilities at Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex. I am poised for the task. This afternoon, I was pleased to be able to attend the site of the new Southern Suburbs Library at Landsdale with Mayor Tracey Roberts from the City of Wanneroo. The state government has donated \$3 million to that project for a youth innovation hub attached to the library, so I can say with some confidence that my 2017 election promise is being fulfilled.

In taking on this new electorate, sadly, I lost Girrawheen, which was the only suburb I have continuously represented over 20 years. I will miss that diverse and lively area, but I know that the member for Mirrabooka will be a terrific advocate for and supporter of the good people of Girrawheen, and also Marangaroo, which I surrendered under the redistribution.

Before thanking those who have helped me in my endeavours not only during the campaign, but also over the last term, I want to make a few observations about the unique position in which we find ourselves. Although the word “unprecedented” has become a little hackneyed over the last year, it seems the most appropriate when we consider the vast majority in the Legislative Assembly and the comfortable and workable numbers in the Legislative Council. This scenario requires a change in approach—as they would say in *Star Trek*, “to boldly go where no man has gone before”. We need to consider what this rare opportunity affords us. We need to fast-track those laws that will materially improve people’s lives but keep dropping off the agenda. We must better integrate the recommendations of parliamentary committees into law reform and not just leave them gathering dust. We can no longer trot out the excuse that the lengthy parliamentary process and the likelihood of opposition resistance and recalcitrance makes the prospect of meaningful change remote. An example I give, but it is not a reflection on the new Minister for Commerce, who has only recently been briefed on the issue, is the need for amendments to the Retirement Villages Act. Recommendations of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee chaired by Hon Bob Kucera were tabled in 2008. That inquiry identified bullying of residents, non-completion of works promised in contracts, improper conduct and flouting of building approvals. This conduct had caused distress to many residents in many retirement homes over many years.

In 2012, a first tranche of recommended laws was passed. That bill included the less contentious issues and another bill was foreshadowed at the time that would deal with the remainder of the committee’s recommendations. Since 2012, a series of consultation papers have been released, with a final one currently under consultation. We have the unique opportunity to expedite laws such as this. It is hard to imagine that stakeholders have not had ample opportunity to express their views and concerns by now. Likewise, a minor amendment to the equal opportunity laws was identified some years ago to protect parliamentary staff from unwelcome harassment and molestation. Maybe events in Canberra will focus minds sufficiently so that we can make these minor amendments with expedition.

Next, I observe that not everything has to be accomplished with the aid of legislation. In recent years, for example, there has been much discussion about systemic racism. Examining where that is identified and changing administrative practices does not require legislative reform. A recently tabled report of the Inspector of Custodial Services, *2020 inspection of Bunbury Regional Prison*, is germane in this context. Under his recommendation 10 at page 41, he notes —

Aboriginal men were receiving lower gratuity levels

Aboriginal prisoners were under-represented at the higher gratuity levels (levels 1 and 2), and over-represented at the lower levels (4, 5 and 6). Aboriginal prisoners made up 26 per cent of unit workers, and 19 per cent of those unemployed. And, as mentioned previously, Aboriginal prisoners made up 20 per cent of the prisoner population.

The highest gratuity level (level 23) pays \$90 per week. Only those prisoners who are approved to leave the prison for work (under section 95 of the *Prisons Act 1981*) are eligible for this level. There were no Aboriginal prisoners on level 23 gratuities. Only 10 per cent of employed prisoners receiving the next highest level ... were Aboriginal, against 20 per cent of non-Aboriginal employed prisoners on a level 1 gratuity. Similarly, 17 per cent of Aboriginal prisoners were on level 2 while 25 per cent of non-Aboriginal prisoners were paid a level 2. And at the lower end of the gratuity levels (level 4, which paid \$30 per week), Aboriginal prisoners made up 41 per cent of the group receiving this pay level, as opposed to non-Aboriginal prisoners who made up just 17 per cent of this cohort.

Yet this recommendation, when addressed by the department, does not anywhere address the notion of systemic racism. I use this example only to demonstrate that throughout the public sector and government activity instances of systemic racism can be readily identified that can be remedied administratively.

While we are on the subject of boldly going where no man has gone before, I raise the framework for legislation that could guard against disparity of the impact of our legislation. I have mentioned this previously in this place and have had the opportunity to travel to the United States and discuss the operation of such laws. A number of jurisdictions in the United States of America have passed what they call racial impact laws. It does not mean that laws cannot be passed, but at the time of passing legislation, it is acknowledged that it may disproportionately impact on one racial group or another, in which case the proponents of the legislation then need to explain how they will ensure that public policy mechanisms or administration or the provision of resources for other remedial programs will even out the resulting inequality and that disproportionate impact on one particular group. It is kind of like an environmental impact statement. It differs between jurisdictions as to what agency is responsible for the preparation of such statements—it might be a sentencing commission, a budget or fiscal agency, or the department of corrections. I cite this framework to emphasise that we are blessed with the opportunity to do public policy better in WA and to consider the consequences of our legislation in a more holistic manner, reducing the unintended consequences. I leave members to ponder on these issues.

It now only remains for the inevitable thank-yous. I am grateful for the support of my federal colleague, Dr Anne Aly; upper house member Hon Martin Pritchard, MLC; and campaigners James Rowe, Mary Monkhouse, Adam Blackheart and Steve Curtis. I thank Anthony Harris for his social media skills and for spreading corflutes from one end of the electorate to the other, then picking them up afterwards, minus the many displaying the Premier's face, which had already been grabbed by souvenir hunters. I am also thankful to my doorknocking buddy Craig Shannon, who bore the merciless WA sun with equanimity and a pair of orthotics. I thank Lauren Cayoun and Ryan Pavlinovich, whose job it was to hose me down from time to time, which they did marvellously. I thank the queen of the Malaga pre-poll, Kimberley Peck, and also my colleague the member for Kingsley, who managed the Warwick pre-poll extremely capably. I thank party secretary, Tim Picton, and assistant state secretary, Ellie Whiteaker, and the workers at party office, who were readily accessible and always helpful. I thank the many who cheerfully came to help either at pre-poll or on the booths on the day. Your smiling presence was much valued. Without meaning to single out individuals, I will name the usual suspects: Dom Zappa, Marino Salinas, Trung Pham, and Lara and Bobby Mitic.

My comrades in the union movement are acknowledged for their support, in particular Brad Gandy, state secretary of the Australian Workers' Union; Ben Harris, assistant state secretary of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA; and Steve Catania of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union.

I thank my family, of course, for their love and support: Chris, Sherry, Nell, Charlie, Tom, Jack and Anna.

Last but by no means least, those members who have been here for a while know implicitly how important our electorate officers are. They are on the front line, especially when the member is absent sitting on the relative comfort of the blue-green leather in Parliament. I have been enormously fortunate to work with some amazing electorate staff. I do not take that for granted. Michelle Sweet has worked with me as an electorate officer for 15 years. I will not be overly effusive about Michelle, as she is extremely humble and is likely to be embarrassed. It has been a real pleasure to work with Michelle. She is enthusiastic, hardworking, loyal and, most importantly, gets results on even the most intractable of cases. Simply put, she goes above and beyond. I feel blessed to have had the rare pleasure to work with someone of Michelle's calibre. She is ably assisted by James Rowe, who we welcome back to the office.

And last but not least, there is Ingried Telikostoglou—I will give *Hansard* the spelling of that name—who will be retiring soon. For that reason, I pay her a special tribute. Ingried has worked tirelessly with me for 17 years. She worked mostly in the Girrawheen office, but also had a bit of respite for a little under three years in my ministerial office as executive officer. I can still recall her first days in my office in Girrawheen. The week Ingried started, I was in Parliament. A good western suburbs girl, she fronted at this exotic and strange place—Girrawheen—with trepidation. A day or so later, I received a phone call at Parliament. There had been an armed robbery at an ATM outside my office. A bullet had grazed the front door. To this day, the indentation of that bullet can be seen. Happily, no-one was hurt. Police commandeered the office as an incident room. Happily, Ingried was not deterred and returned the next day.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I cannot speak highly enough of Ingried. She is reliable, diligent, loyal and possesses a dry sense of humour. She is assertive in a subtle but pleasant way. Ingried has social justice ingrained in her and is compassionate with constituents without being a soft touch. She could charm the most curmudgeonly. She would persist and prevail long after the rest of us had given up on such grumpy people. Ingried could be my conscience but was also a one-person cheer squad when I became despondent. In recent years, Ingried experienced ill-health. She soldiered on. Characteristically, she would unselfishly consider she was letting the side down; nothing could have been further from the truth.

Dr A.D. Buti: She's a great person.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Yes, I agree with that, minister.

Working with Ingried was a family affair, with her delightful daughter Natalie a frequent cheerful visitor and helper. And Ingried's mum, Thea, a renowned pastry chef in her younger days, would send up pastries filled with custard and liberally laced with Austrian brandy. We will miss Ingried enormously. Constituents hold her in great affection and she is an integral part of a happy team. It has been an honour and a privilege to know Ingried and to call her a friend. I wish Ingried well for a relaxing and fun retirement.

The SPEAKER: I, too, congratulate Ingried and wish her all the best for her retirement in the future. It is certainly well deserved; she has been an exceptional electorate officer.

MS E.L. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [7.24 pm]: Madam Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege to be standing in the forty-first Parliament, elected for my second term as the member for Joondalup. I would like to start by congratulating you on taking the chair as Speaker of the house. It is a historic moment to have the first woman elected Speaker in the history of our Western Australian Parliament. In light of it being the 100th anniversary of the first woman elected to any Parliament in the nation, Edith Cowan, let us take a moment to embrace this significant

milestone. One hundred years ago, Edith Cowan took her seat in this chamber. It is a moment etched into the fabric of our history. At the time, she was considered a trailblazer. She ran a great campaign to get here. Of note, first speeches are often heard in silence, but she was heckled. She was relegated due to her gender, not her ability. As the member for Joondalup, which is home to a university in her name, her achievement is echoed in day-to-day conversations in my electorate. Today, I am the forty-sixth woman to hold a seat in this place and I will not let a day go by without being proud of this achievement. Parliament has now seen the 106th woman elected since Federation. My hope is that we do not have to wait another 100 years to see the 200th female member elected to this place.

I would like to congratulate Premier Mark McGowan and the cabinet for the strong leadership they have provided and continue to provide. We have been listening to the first speeches of newly elected members of the forty-first Parliament, and I commend and welcome all our newly sworn-in members. My sincere congratulations to each and every one of you who is here to represent your community. Each of you bring something special to this Parliament. Parliament is also known as the people's house. We can almost say this Parliament is truly reflective of our WA community, with 47 per cent of the members elected being women.

I spend a lot of time with young people in Joondalup—our leaders of tomorrow. I am often heard saying that our Parliament is elected to represent our WA community. But more importantly, I challenge each and every young person I meet to aim high, dream big and strive for their best, with the understanding that one day they, too, could take a seat in this place. A democracy is based on the ability of individuals to represent the views of their community. Today, this is what we see. We have in this Parliament mothers, fathers, grandparents, caregivers, lawyers, police, doctors, teachers and many more—a rich and diverse representation of our community.

It was a privilege to hear from His Excellency the Governor Hon Kim Beazley, AC, upon our swearing in. He detailed the achievements of the McGowan Labor government so far and the work that we intend to continue into our next term. I want to sincerely thank the people of Joondalup who have again placed their trust in me to represent them for a second term. I want to thank my dedicated team of volunteers who joined me in talking with our community and those who were actively involved in my campaign.

The state electorate of Joondalup encompasses the suburbs of Heathridge and Ocean Reef to the south, Iluka and Joondalup to the north and Edgewater to the east. Over the past four years, I have been dedicated to ensuring that I serve the people of Joondalup and to ensure that we, as the McGowan government, deliver the infrastructure and services that our maturing city needs to grow our home to be a second CBD for Perth. Situated about 20 minutes north of Perth's city centre, we have a thriving local economy that is home to over 13 000 small businesses. We have achieved so much over the past four years, and I would like to take some time to provide an update on the commitments that are rolling out and to highlight the areas that I will be dedicating my time to moving forward.

Securing local jobs has been the cornerstone of the work that we have been focusing on, and the Ocean Reef Marina is exactly the project that we need to continue to boost our local economy for not only now, but also years to come. I am excited to be able to inform the house that this project is well on its way to becoming a landmark waterfront precinct. It is exactly the sort of project WA needs right now. It is a key economic driver for the north-west metropolitan region. Since 2017, the McGowan government has tripled its pre-election commitment to funding the Ocean Reef Marina to \$120 million. To support a strong economic COVID-19 recovery, the state government committed a further \$6.5 million in funding that will help relocate the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club, Marine Rescue Whitfords and Joondalup City RSL to new facilities within the multimillion-dollar development by 2023. All up, on top of the \$126.5 million that the state government is putting into the project, the Ocean Reef Marina redevelopment is expected to attract approximately \$650 million in private sector investment and provide an additional \$3 billion boost to the WA economy.

In the past few weeks, the first rocks have been placed at the \$62 million breakwater construction project, which is expected to take 18 months to complete and create 56 jobs. There will be 680 000 tonnes of limestone extracted from a Neerabup quarry and 300 000 tonnes of granite is being mined in Byford. The rocks will be used to create two breakwater structures at the marina, which will be approximately two kilometres in total length and up to 18.5 metres high from the ocean floor.

In the coming weeks, the Hodges Drive extension will be open, which will be the ultimate entry to the Ocean Reef Marina. There will be 8 600 construction jobs created by this iconic development. It is timely that I am on my feet this evening, given that the federal budget has just been handed down. I note that earlier this year the federal member for Moore recognised the significance of this project in our federal Parliament. Today, I am yet to see any public calls from the member for Moore to the federal government to invest in this major project in the northern corridor, so I have written to the member and hope that the Morrison government will support the McGowan government and the City of Joondalup by providing specific funding for this project. I have not yet had an opportunity to work my way through the federal budget, but I hope to see specific funding allocated for this project.

Interestingly, the benefits of sourcing the limestone for the marina locally will be not only a reduction in transport costs and the creation of local jobs, but also unlocking up to 25 hectares of industrial land for future use at DevelopmentWA's Meridian Park industrial estate, which will go on to create an additional 550 ongoing jobs in the corridor. This reinforces the state government's commitment to creating local jobs and providing valuable infrastructure in this fast-growing northern corridor. Last Friday, I had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Lands, Hon Tony Buti, and addressing the City of Joondalup business forum. With the theme "shaping our future economy", I spoke about this project and a number of other projects that are happening now or will be taking place in the not-too-distant future and will provide an ongoing pipeline of works.

Located in the Neerabup Industrial Area, DevelopmentWA's 390-hectare Meridian Park estate has been designed to meet the business needs of Perth's fast-growing north-west corridor for the next 30 to 50 years. The development is expected to ultimately generate up to 20 000 new employment opportunities and has experienced strong demand. Located in a former limestone quarry adjoining Meridian Park, I am excited to see that the Australian Automation and Robotics Precinct, which will serve as a development and testing ground for new and innovative industries, is taking place. In 2020, the state government provided a \$20 million funding injection to help kickstart this project, which will support testing, research, development and training in autonomous, remote operation and robotic systems and equipment. The strategy is to create and manage access to a globally linked and locally relevant test facility with test laboratories, virtual laboratories and design co-labs.

Located within Joondalup's southern business district, the Quadrangle estate is positioned to service Perth's rapidly growing northern corridor, an area expected to house more than 400 000 people over the next 20 years. The 33-hectare estate is already home to a range of businesses, including Edith Cowan College, employing hundreds of local people. In early 2020, a new bridge across the Joondalup rail line was completed, unlocking a 5.7-hectare site earmarked for the future growth of Edith Cowan University. It is clear that as one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, the northern corridor is well on its way to becoming a powerhouse. All this development and opportunity is backed by the transport links that the McGowan Labor government is establishing in the northern corridor.

Reflecting on the last term, we have achieved so much in Joondalup. Connectivity is a fundamental element of a thriving city. We recognise this, and the Yanchep rail line extension as part of Metronet is a welcome addition for Joondalup. As Joondalup matures, this new transport link will connect those residents living north with all that our city centre has to offer. It should not be a necessity any longer for people to have to travel to the city centre, in Perth. Easing congestion and saving time travelling will all add to the lifestyle that we love. This particular transport link is an addition to our network. Located at Joondalup station we also have an active CAT bus service. I have advocated for and we are seeing the delivery of the state's first electric CAT bus trial.

After doorknocking in Edgewater and talking to locals like Timothy Lawrence and Leo Kerr, who asked about the Public Transport Authority's bus contract a few years ago, I was able to talk with the Minister for Transport to ensure that we are equipping our network with technologies that will become the way of the future. Modifications to the Joondalup bus depot are 75 per cent complete, and I am advised that we will have the first of the new vehicles on the road in October this year. The CAT bus in Joondalup is a fantastic one that links locals around our city centre.

I am of the opinion that more work can be done. Our learning precinct is serviced by many students, and the area is growing. Not only is there the Western Australia Police Academy, ECU, North Metro TAFE and Edith Cowan College, but also we are continuing to grow this area, geographically and also in reputation. Electrical Group Training is located slightly to the south. Ensuring that we are able to move students with ease to our transport nodes is important. It would be great to see an extension of our CAT bus not only to this area, but also to provide increased connectivity with our Winton Road business park, for example. This would make sure that the locals and visitors in the Joondalup CBD were able to freely move about to visit and support local business on the west side of Joondalup Drive. More work can be done to connect our tourism providers.

The post-COVID world is going to be different from the world that we once knew. Although not stark in comparison, the needs and challenges that have arisen provide an opportunity to lean into and embrace something that will be different from, though not dissimilar to, the world we once knew. For those living in the outer suburbs of Perth, like Joondalup, this presents its own opportunities and challenges, but these are not to be feared; rather, they should be embraced. Prior to COVID it was the case that one in 20 people worked from home. During the height of COVID, this changed to seven in 20. Moving forward, this looks like three in 20. Gone are the days of the expectation that those living in the northern corridor would need to spend an hour out of their day travelling each way to and from work. This presents a unique opportunity for flexibility in the workplace for perhaps work from home, or a hybrid of such, to enable the much sought after work-life balance.

Western Australians enjoy a certain way of life, and much of this revolves around family, time spent at home and being in close proximity to the services that meet the needs of our local families. I look forward to continuing to advocate for the decentralisation of government offices from the Perth CBD to the outer CBD of Joondalup. We

have seen this with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, and I look forward to welcoming more state government offices to the Joondalup city centre.

The McGowan government is also heavily invested in and committed to health infrastructure in Joondalup. In fact, Joondalup Health Campus is set to become WA's largest hospital. I am excited to advise the house that work has commenced on the new 12-bay unit within the emergency department at Joondalup Health Campus. This first package of works is another milestone in delivering on our commitment to health care in Joondalup. We have already seen the opening of the mental health observation area, known as MHOA, and the stroke unit. We now also have five interim palliative care beds that have been allocated following recommendation 7 of the end-of-life choices report. I look forward to continuing to advocate for support for palliative care at JHC.

Stage 2 of the Joondalup Health Campus development project is advancing, with the early contractor involvement tender awarded to Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd. Significant work has been undertaken by Ramsay Health Care and Multiplex, which have worked together on the detailed design. We have now seen the rollout of the first package of early works in the creation of a new 12-bay infectious diseases unit within the emergency department. These new beds will increase the hospital's capability to safely manage patients who may require isolation, including those with COVID-19. I have already put on the record in this place that JHC's response to COVID-19 was second to none. It handled one of the largest single intakes of COVID-19 patients with a zero rate of accidental transmission. Behind our front line—the doctors and nurses at Joondalup Health Campus—are thousands of hardworking people who keep our hospital running, and I will thank them at every opportunity I get.

The new unit can be negatively air flowed if required, and contains two isolation rooms with a sterile anteroom through which staff enter and exit to help prevent the transmission of infection. It will pave the way for the next step in the multimillion-dollar expansion due to be completed in September this year—the development of a three-bay behavioural assessment urgent care clinic. This will be designed and appropriately staffed to safely care for patients who are affected behaviourally, including those who are affected by drugs and alcohol, away from other patients within the main ED. The full ED expansion is on track, with works having commenced in April, which includes the refurbishment of the emergency admissions unit, scheduled for completion in November this year.

With two high school-aged children, I understand the importance of education in setting our kids up for the jobs of the future. But, more importantly, I understand that families want the reassurance of knowing that their child can have a bright and positive future here in WA. We have seen significant investment in every aspect of our education system in Joondalup. Schools are being equipped with science labs, high schools now have performing arts centres, and there has been investment in allied health care and cybersecurity in our North Metro TAFE and at our university.

On TAFE, I know that the extension of the fee freeze on all TAFE and vocational education and training courses has been welcomed by our community. At the start of last year, the Premier and the Minister for Education and Training visited the Joondalup campus of North Metropolitan TAFE and met with student chefs to see firsthand how the 50 per cent cut to TAFE fees was having a positive impact. At that time, early data was showing that there had been a 20 per cent increase in enrolments. We met a first-year student, Amy Van Der Weide, who had benefited from the fees reduction for her certificate II in hospitality. The 16-year-old had started the course in high school as a VET student. Her passion for cooking desserts definitely shone through, and she hoped at that time to work in a commercial kitchen. We also met students enrolled in a certificate III in commercial cookery, who are learning in fully equipped kitchens in the Pavilion restaurant, providing real-life training for the chefs, waitstaff and front-of-house staff. I might add it is a lovely restaurant that the public is able to book.

We are starting to see the positive impacts in the number of people who are choosing TAFE, and that is continuing to grow quite significantly. There have been more than 50 000 enrolments in low-fee courses that lead to qualifications in areas including defence, Metronet, construction, engineering, information technology, hospitality, and I could go on. Everyone deserves a pathway to a quality job, and it means that we are continuing to invest in a skilled workforce for WA.

We have an active lifestyle in Joondalup and this can be seen in the number of sporting and recreational groups.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms E.L. HAMILTON: Grassroots sport is at the heart of our communities, and it brings benefits to everyone involved. One of the challenges that local groups have been raising with me is the growth in participation numbers and the physical constraints of the size of clubrooms and grounds. On the one hand, it is very pleasing to hear that there is such an active number of people participating in club sport, but, on the other hand, we are understanding the need to continue to invest in and grow local sport.

The McGowan government is committed to upgrading local sporting and community facilities. We will be delivering a boost for women in sport, with \$520 000 for a new public amenity toilet block at HBF Arena near the netball courts and hockey ground to cater for the thousands who play netball, hockey and other sports at the facility throughout

the year. This builds on the already delivered support for the growing number of women participating in sport and the upgrades that we have seen at the Joondalup Sports Club clubrooms at the western side of HBF Arena, with works completed to enable female participation in those sports.

We are also going to be seeing over \$250 000 in funding to local sporting groups in Joondalup, with a whole host of recipients. It covers things from improved lighting to sporting equipment, a kitchen extension for a clubroom and making sure that we are providing sporting and training equipment to women's teams. With around 3 000 athletes playing sport or participating in recreational activities at the Heathridge Park Clubroom, I have been very proud to have secured \$2.5 million towards the upgrade of the clubrooms to ensure that women and girls have access to top-quality facilities. These particular facilities are the second oldest community facilities in the area of the City of Joondalup, and I look forward to collaboration with all levels of government in the delivery of this project, ensuring that there is meaningful engagement with local neighbours, the clubs and the user groups that call this park home.

I have said before, and will continue to reiterate, how honoured and privileged I am to be able to continue to stand here representing our Joondalup community. I thank all the volunteers who worked on the campaign and have allowed me to take a position in this house. Each and every day I am striving to speak with, interact with, understand and represent the voices of our community so that we can continue to grow Joondalup. Like I have done over the past four years, I plan to come and speak with you at your front door, on your phone, and when you are out and about in the community. I have been elected to serve our community, and that is exactly what I will continue to do. Thank you.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

House adjourned at 7.43 pm
