

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS — CENTENARY

Motion

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [12.44 pm]: I move —

That this house notes that 13 August 2014 marks the centenary of the Australian Red Cross and celebrates this significant milestone in the history of humanitarian endeavours; takes this opportunity to reflect on 100 years of life-changing and often lifesaving assistance provided to people in need by Australian Red Cross workers, volunteers, supporters and donors; and congratulates generations of Australians for their extraordinary contribution through the everyday work of the Red Cross.

The Australian Red Cross has been responding to emergencies and providing human assistance in Australia since 1914. This support is now extended to local communities in the Asia-Pacific region. The Australian Red Cross began as the Australian branch of the British Red Cross Society on 13 August 1914 at Government House, Melbourne, nine days after the outbreak of World War I and 100 years ago to the day. Five Western Australian branches were established shortly after in Brunswick, Dowerin, Fremantle, Mundaring and Pinjarra, with Brunswick providing service continually over those past 100 years.

During World War I hundreds of thousands of volunteers signed up and their efforts were focused on providing comfort packages to troops, helping families by providing information and tracing wounded or missing soldiers, and the formation of the voluntary aid detachment—VAD. VAD members were nursing orderlies who carried out essential tasks, such as scrubbing floors, sweeping, dusting, cleaning bathrooms, dealing with bedpans and washing patients. They worked in Red Cross convalescence and rest homes, canteens and on troop trains.

When the war ended, the Australian Red Cross was involved in the repatriation of Australian soldiers. In 1929, the Red Cross blood transfusion service was established in Victoria. By World War II nearly half a million people were Red Cross members, most of them women. This is an incredible figure when one considers that the nation's population at that time was seven million people. The Red Cross by that time had become Australia's largest charitable organisation.

In 1941, during World War II, VAD members were called up for overseas service in the Middle East. Closer to home, during that same year, the Red Cross deployed social workers in hospitals throughout Australia. In the post-war period, the Australian Red Cross focused on social welfare, responses to national and natural disasters, the blood bank and first aid programs. These programs were sustained by an extensive branch network and thousands of volunteers. The Australian Red Cross was there in the aftermath of the Black Tuesday fires in 1967, Cyclone Tracy in 1974, the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983, the Black Saturday fires in 2009 and Cyclone Yasi in 2011. Locally, the Red Cross played a significant role in the 2011 Perth hills fires, registering the over 1 400 people evacuated from their homes. This is a testament to the great work of the 150 Red Cross volunteers and staff who assisted in that fire emergency. The Red Cross also supported residents impacted by the 2010 Kalgoorlie-Boulder earthquake, Perth's great hail storm in 2010, the 2010 Gascoyne River flood, the 2011 Lake Clifton fire and many other disasters our state has faced.

This government understands that the delivery of high-quality and effective community services requires collaborative effort with organisations such as the Red Cross and investing in supporting volunteers. Annually the state government funds the Red Cross over \$7 million to provide services through the Disability Services Commission, the Department of Health, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and the Department of Corrective Services.

The government also strongly supports greater partnerships between government and not-for-profit organisations, private enterprise and the community. As the local member for Cottesloe, I would like to acknowledge Lady Lawley Cottage, a local community service that I have been proud to be involved in during my time as a member of Parliament. Lady Lawley Cottage is managed by the Red Cross and provides support to families with children from babies up to 16 years of age who have multiple disabilities or chronic medical disorders that impact on the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of not only the child but also the family as a whole.

Today one million Red Cross members, of which I am one, volunteers, donors, staff, blood donors, recipients and supporters make a positive difference to the lives of people in need every day. The 13 August 2014 date marks a century of the Australian Red Cross supporting the most vulnerable people and communities in Australia and internationally, with a focus on seven priority areas: strengthening national emergency preparedness, response and recovery; increasing international aid development; working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, supporting families and communities as they determine and lead their own solutions to bring about positive change; helping people who are, or who are at risk of, becoming homeless, people with, or at risk of developing, mental health issues, offenders and their families, and vulnerable

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 13 August 2014]

p5158c-5167a

Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Margaret Quirk; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr David Templeman; Ms Simone McGurk; MR P.C. Tinley

or socially isolated elderly people; tackling entrenched locational disadvantage; championing international humanitarian law; and addressing the impact of migration. As part of the Australian Red Cross centenary celebrations, a website has been launched that showcases the many Red Cross stories of everyday Australians. People can visit www.redcross.org.au to read some amazing stories and memories of people's experiences of the Red Cross.

I simply say thank you to the Red Cross and all its members, volunteers, supporters and donors who have helped those in need and helped Australians in times of stress and natural disaster and, of course, during times of war. It is a great organisation that has provided a great service to our community over the past 100 years and will continue to do so.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [12.50 pm]: I join the government in acknowledging the work of the Red Cross, in Australia and internationally. The Red Cross is one of the world's great non-government organisations; in fact, it is widely known as one of the top four around the world in terms of charitable work, and exists as both the Red Cross and Red Crescent in various parts of the world where it undertakes humanitarian work and important work in assisting those who might be suffering under a range of circumstances.

I have always been intrigued by the story of the creation of the Red Cross by a young Swiss businessman, Henry Dunant. He was born into a wealthy family and in the 1850s was involved in a range of business schemes that he wanted to progress; one of them was an agricultural business venture in Algeria, which at the time was a French colony. In order to progress that scheme he needed to obtain water rights from Napoleon III, the then Emperor of France. Dunant sought out Napoleon III who in 1859 was engaged in the Battle of Solferino in present day northern Italy, in which France sided with the then Kingdom of Sardinia against the Austrian Empire. Dunant arrived at Solferino during the course of the battle, which was one of the biggest battles of nineteenth-century Europe, involving the deaths of tens of thousands of Austrian, Italian and French troops. He observed the battle and its aftermath of wounded soldiers left on the battlefield without receiving any medical care or attention and conceived the idea that something needed to be done about it. He came up with the idea of a cross-border organisation that had overarching authority above nation-states. He conceived this idea and then wrote a book, *A Memory of Solferino*, about what he had observed—men dying on the battlefield of horrible wounds—and about the fact that there needed to be an organisation that took care of people, regardless of which side of the conflict they had served.

He then put all his efforts and financial resources into inviting leaders and delegates from around Europe to a conference in Geneva, from which there was to be developed an accord to establish an organisation that would oversight international affairs and look after the victims of conflict. The conference was held in 1864 and became known as the Geneva Convention, so what we now refer to as the Geneva Convention derives from that 1864 conference organised by Henry Dunant, including signatories from 16 different nations, out of which the Red Cross was formed. The Red Cross in Europe is therefore 150-odd years old and it has spread around the world as an overarching organisation to take care of the victims of conflict.

The Red Cross came to Australia a week after the outbreak of the First World War; the wife of the then Governor of Victoria established the Victorian branch of the Red Cross, following the example of Britain and other countries around the world. During the First World War—which, as we know, was the most deadly of the conflicts that Australia has engaged in—the Red Cross performed the role of supporting the home community while around 400 000 of our soldiers were serving overseas. It looked after and assisted families, particularly those who had suffered the loss of a family member in the war, and also performed what would now be termed counselling services and general support on the home front. It also gathered together a group of nurses who went off to France and Belgium to participate in the care of wounded soldiers.

After the war it went from strength to strength; by the end of the war there were approximately 20 000 Red Cross members in Australia. Naturally, the First World War had provided an impetus to its activity. It performed a stronger and larger role in the Second World War because it was by then a more established organisation around the country. People will be familiar with the idea that people wearing the Red Cross served close to the battlefields to assist those who were wounded in large numbers. Indeed, hospital ships had the Red Cross painted on the side and lit up so that enemy submarines and ships would know not to sink them because they were full of injured soldiers. One of the great tragedies of the Second World War occurred off the coast of Queensland when the hospital ship *Centaur*, lit with a Red Cross on the side, was sunk by a Japanese submarine.

The organisation went from strength to strength, and it has to be said that its role is now very multidimensional. We are all familiar with the Red Cross because of its role in collecting blood and the important role it plays as a non-government organisation making sure that people in need of blood transfusions have that service provided.

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p5158c-5167a

Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Margaret Quirk; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr David Templeman; Ms Simone McGurk; MR P.C. Tinley

Indeed, like many other members in this place, I participate in the provision of blood to the Red Cross, as do many other hundreds of thousands of Australians.

The Red Cross also performs a role in assisting people in need; it runs a children's breakfast service for communities in need. The organisation has many members around the state, predominantly women, who have embraced the Red Cross to a greater degree than have men. It also still has responsibility for working with our defence forces as part of what is called the International Humanitarian Law Committee of the Red Cross; I was a member of that committee in the early 1990s. It plays an ongoing role in ensuring that international law looks after those who are victims of combat, civilian or combatant, and makes sure that we are a signatory to the regulatory regime, which is very important to protecting the victims of conflict.

I congratulate all those people who have been involved over the past 100 years, many of whom are no longer with us. I also congratulate the organisation for the important role it plays and, in particular, I congratulate the Western Australian contributors and members of the Red Cross.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [1.00 pm]: I am very pleased to speak on this motion acknowledging, on its centenary, the fine work of the Australian Red Cross. Earlier this year I had the privilege of speaking at the Wanneroo–Joondalup RSL sub-branch Anzac morning ceremony. On that occasion I mentioned that this year not only were we celebrating the centenary of the commencement of World War I but also the foundation of the Australian Red Cross and, of course, the two events were linked. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers signed up during World War I and by World War II, the Red Cross had become Australia's largest charitable organisation. From a population of seven million, nearly half a million people were Red Cross members, most of them women. They worked during wartime supporting soldiers and their families, including producing knitted and sewn goods as "comforts" for the troops, caring for the wounded, helping their families and assisting to locate soldiers reported missing in action. As soldiers returned, the work of the Red Cross turned to their care and rehabilitation, eventually growing to include the wider community.

These days the work of the Australian Red Cross covers many important areas of humanitarian assistance, with some 70 programs ranging from the well-known blood service to providing breakfast to kids who go to school without having had a meal, offering support for people with a mental illness, giving material and psychological help to victims of bushfires, floods and other disasters, and, of course, the Red Cross is the world's largest first aid training provider. In this context, it is also in the vanguard—training people in affected communities in psychological first aid to ameliorate the impacts of trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder. I cannot refer to all the programs but I want to make special reference to a few areas with which I have had personal contact through my shadow portfolios of emergency services, seniors, volunteering and multicultural interests.

In the context of bushfires, as we have already heard from the Premier, the Australian Red Cross is present not just for a few days after the fires but for weeks and months afterwards and on anniversaries, assisting with counselling, accessing services and in rebuilding community resilience. Those impacted by bushfire, either directly or indirectly, are able to seek personal support and learn about the range of recovery services available. We know that in the aftermath of traumatic events, people often face a long, slow and challenging journey to recovery. People can often experience feelings of anxiety, helplessness, abandonment and frustration. These emotional responses can be exacerbated as people go through the hard slog of repairing and rebuilding their lives.

It is important that those exposed to bushfire devastation who are struggling remain socially connected and are aware of the recovery services on offer. That occurs over different time frames for different people. It is always great that the Red Cross is there targeting the needs of those affected when they are realised. I am aware that the Red Cross has had some level of involvement in all major bushfire events in Western Australia in recent years; however, in particular, I have heard a lot of positive community feedback about the work that Red Cross undertook after the Margaret River bushfires. It was in there for the long haul, and that was much appreciated.

In the context of seniors, it is ironic in our modern age, in which there are more ways to connect than ever, that many people find themselves cut off from family, friends and community. Red Cross provides a range of services to vulnerable older people, which help them maintain their independence, improve their wellbeing and social connection and support them to remain living in the community. One such service is the Telecross telephone contact program, which supports more than 8 500 people across Australia. All Telecross services are delivered over the phone, largely by a dedicated group of volunteers. In many cases that daily phone call is the only contact that the elderly person will have for the day. It gives them reassurance, making them feel less vulnerable, and enables them to continue to live in their own home with this added backup and social support from a friendly volunteer on the other end of the phone.

Extract from Hansard

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At the 2012 WA Volunteer of the Year awards, Telecross was nominated in a number of categories. Sheryl Foster, a Red Cross staff member for 10 years, won the award for excellence in volunteer management, which was considered to be a well-deserved acknowledgement for her outstanding commitment to clients and volunteers in the Telecross service.

No mention of the Red Cross in Australia would be complete without reference to volunteers. Red Cross Australia is supported by over 30 000 volunteers plus over half a million voluntary blood donors. These volunteers help to serve breakfast to 4 500 kids who might otherwise go without. They call 7 500 elderly, socially isolated Australians every day to check on their wellbeing and make 27 000 blood donations every week. While some organisations are struggling with an ageing volunteer cohort, Red Cross is taking a lead by ensuring that its volunteer base is diversifying, with people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and gender giving their time and skills. Whilst there are often attempts to put a monetary value on volunteer service in Australia, equating to many billions of dollars, it is the more intangible social benefits that they add to society that make volunteers priceless, and the Australian Red Cross volunteers are no exception. There are the people who volunteer help and their family and friends and the positive benefits to volunteers themselves. Medical research has concluded that volunteers live longer and are happier. Worldwide, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has in the order of 97 million volunteers.

In the context of multicultural interests, there are a couple of areas of Red Cross endeavours that I want to specifically mention. Those Western Australians who have fled from war-torn South Sudan or those whose family members were affected by typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines or those from Burma who were concerned that international aid was not reaching victims of cyclone Nargis all tell us what valuable work the International

Red Cross does and how it has personally assisted them or their families. In this context, it is worth noting that 130 Australian volunteers work with the Red Cross in communities overseas to help people achieve healthier, safer and more sustainable lives. One of the efforts, both overseas and domestically, of particular value is the tracing service, which aims to re-establish contact between separated family members and to clarify the fate of the missing. Less well known is the fact that the Australian Red Cross has been monitoring conditions and providing those tracing services in immigration detention facilities for more than 20 years. Guided by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Australian Red Cross is a respected, experienced and neutral organisation that people can turn to about any issues of concern within immigration detention. It provides independent humanitarian monitoring of conditions and conducts confidential advocacy with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Australian government to ensure that the dignity, health and wellbeing of people held in detention are upheld. Likewise, the community detention program provides support to vulnerable people to live in the community rather than in an immigration detention facility while waiting for the outcome of their visa application. Awaiting an outcome of a visa application can be a complex and lengthy process. This time can be particularly difficult for people who may have mental health issues, serious physical health issues or be dealing with experiences of torture or trauma or family issues such as domestic violence. Red Cross supports their health and wellbeing while they await an outcome on their visa application to ensure their basic needs are met. Like its international colleagues, ARC has an interest in the rights of people who have been trafficked or forced into marriage. They are amongst the most vulnerable members of our community. They are likely to have experienced trauma, physical and psychological abuse, and have complex health and welfare needs. People who have been trafficked or have been forced into marriage are often afraid to come forward, as they fear retaliation. Red Cross supports people as they recover from their human trafficking and forced marriage experiences through the Support for Trafficked People program.

The Australian Red Cross operates under the same guiding principles as its counterparts in other countries. Its neutrality is central to how it operates. For this reason it has for the 100 years of its operation been universally regarded with the highest respect and trust by the Australian community. Its agenda is transparent and is about treating all with humanity and compassion, and advocating to ensure that the fundamental tenets of international law and human rights are observed. In a speech in 2003, Nelson Mandela described the Red Cross as “a beacon of humanity within the dark inhumane world of political imprisonment”. He and his colleagues had been assisted greatly by the advocacy of Red Cross during their time as political prisoners at Robben Island, and the advocacy of the Red Cross led to markedly improved conditions in that prison.

In that same speech to the British Red Cross, Nelson Mandela made some further observations about the Red Cross movement, which to my way of thinking reinforces how fortunate this country is in having been the recipient of the Australian Red Cross’s good work for the past 100 years. He said —

In the midst of bloodshed and war, of animosity and pain, hatred and conflict, the Red Cross has carried the flag of the belief in our common humanity; and lived out that belief in action in conditions and circumstances where the opposite sentiment dominated.

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All this is a roundabout way of saying on behalf of the Western Australian community a hearty thankyou to the Australian Red Cross for its commitment and service, and I extend my best wishes in its endeavours for the next 100 years.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Deputy Leader of the National Party) [1.12 pm]: I, too, rise this afternoon to support the motion on behalf of the Nationals WA and to sincerely offer my congratulations to the Red Cross as an organisation. On reaching this significant milestone, it is truly remarkable that this organisation has been part of our lives in supporting the community for 100 years, and it is totally appropriate that Parliament marks its respect for that milestone.

As other speakers have mentioned, in the early days its work was focused on the war effort in sending over comfort packages and dealing with the repatriation of some of our returned servicemen and servicewomen. I am sure that many families have stories of the involvement of their grandmothers and grandfathers with the Red Cross. Personally—I think the Premier touched on the people involved in some of our hospitals and convalescent facilities—my grandmother and my great aunt, Aunty Marge as I call her, were two of those in the Second World War. They lived in Darkan and at the age of around 16 to 18 my grandmother and her sister jumped on the train from the farm at the nearest crossing. They travelled to Narrogin and went from Narrogin to York for four to six weeks every year on their holidays, as they had left school at that stage, to offer their services at Faversham House, which at that stage was used as a convalescent home for returned servicemen who had been in Northam District Hospital. Of course these facilities are both in my electorate, but members can see that it was a huge effort and I am sure that this story is not an unfamiliar one to many people who lived through that period. They were not nurses as such, but they offered their services in scrubbing floors, helping in the dining room, going for walks to Mt Brown with the servicemen and generally providing support for the boys, as they referred to them. They did this right through the war effort, and it is just one small example of how this organisation garnered support from the wider community. My aunty also very much recalled the effort in being able to clothe our soldiers on the war front by sewing many pairs of pyjamas and knitting many pairs of socks. She said that, having brothers and family members participating in the war at that stage, that was the way they felt they could contribute. I am sure that many members of Parliament and many people in the community have personal stories like that of relatives who participated through the Red Cross.

It is also worth mentioning that in 1948 Australia's first mobile blood donor unit was created, and that was in an adapted train carriage that embarked on its maiden journey to Donnybrook. Our regional members would attest to the fact that those regional blood units that still exist—maybe not on the train tracks—visit our communities and are very well supported, and that there is strong community reaction to any notion of them being removed or the community not being able to access them. They are trusted, it is an important service that they provide and they are still a presence right throughout our community. We have 28 Red Cross shops and 10 Red Cross blood donor centres in Western Australia. As we have heard from other members, they are instrumental in times of natural disaster and in a war effort, and in fact in supporting the most vulnerable people in our community. We all, as members of Parliament who take a leadership role in our community, would have seen the Red Cross step into the breach when we experience natural disasters. I have seen it myself through some of the bushfires that we have experienced in the electorate of Central Wheatbelt. The previous member who spoke is exactly right that the Red Cross is there long beyond just the event; it is there to support the community in the aftermath when quite often the focus shifts onto the next issue of the day.

As a community, I think we are incredibly blessed to have an organisation that is prepared to work for and look after the vulnerable in our community. The Red Cross does it without regard to people's nationality, race or class, or to their political agenda or beliefs. I think we are incredibly lucky to have seen that as part of our world for the past 100 years, and on behalf of the Nationals WA I offer my sincere congratulations to all the people who have been involved, have volunteered and have worked with the Red Cross over the past 100 years. We are in debt to your service to our community.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [1.17 pm]: I echo the words of all the other members who have spoken so far and I congratulate the Red Cross on 100 years of service. However, I want to do it a bit differently. I want to talk about some of the people and the characters in the great southern region who have done a lot for the Red Cross over the years. The first is Dorothy Willis, who has dedicated most of her life to helping others around Mt Barker and Albany. She was recently recognised with a gilt rosette for 60 years of tireless service to the Red Cross after joining the Mt Barker branch in 1944 to help out during World War II. She has made toys, visited sick people in hospitals and baked hundreds and even thousands of her signature sponge cakes, biscuits, slices and jams. Mrs Willis was instrumental in establishing seven first-aid posts in the area and opening the Red Cross shop in Mt Barker. Keeping herself busy, Mrs Willis has been secretary, president, regional president, social work assistant, liaison officer and blood bank coordinator with the Red Cross. When we see all these

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 13 August 2014]

p5158c-5167a

Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Margaret Quirk; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr David Templeman; Ms Simone McGurk; MR P.C. Tinley

knighthoods and special awards that come out from the Queen, someone like this who has given her life in a regional area to such an entity as the Red Cross should be celebrated.

Albany Red Cross recently celebrated its 100th anniversary along with three women, Rose Easton, Helen Cooke and Sue Wimbush, who together have more than 100 years of involvement with the charity. Mrs Wimbush started out with the junior Red Cross as a primary school student in 1948 before taking up a nursing post at Green Range in 1962. A newspaper article I have with me states —

“I was issued with a square Red Cross case, a few dressings and later a fire blanket and a road sign to go at the front gate,” she said.

Drawing on her nursing training at Princess Margaret Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital, and experience as a nurse at Albany Hospital, Mrs Wimbush operated the nursing post for 36 years, providing medical care to the rural community.

“In those days there was no ambulance based at Jerramungup, Bremer Bay, or Wellstead,” she said.

“There was a nursing post at a farm near Wellstead and one at Bremer Bay.”

Mrs Wimbush said she valued her time at the nursing post and regards it as a “wonderful experience”.

She was also a member of the South Stirling Red Cross unit, along with Helen Cooke, Joan Easton and her daughter-in-law Rose Easton.

The four former members of Red Cross were present in 1979 when Joan Easton instigated the formation of the South Stirling branch to provide services to their communities after liaison officer Merle Thomson left the district.

These are another three ladies: we have Helen Cooke, Sue Wimbush, Joan Easton and Rose Easton who are doing tremendous work in our community.

Another volunteer was Kath Knapp. Kath Knapp was a volunteer at the Red Cross blood bank in Albany for 25 years. Kath also went with the nursing staff to other areas around Albany in the mobile blood donation van. During World War II Kath helped make up parcels of food to be sent to the troops overseas.

Hazel Whitem became interested in the Red Cross after her husband Geoff came home from World War II. He lost his left arm while serving in the Middle East. The Red Cross played such a huge part in looking after wounded soldiers. Living in the farming community of Bornholm, the ladies of the district would have a get-together once or twice a month and money raised from the bring-and-buy stalls would go to another nominated charity such as Red Cross or St John Ambulance. In 1960 Hazel and Geoff’s eldest daughter died as a result of a car accident. She needed blood transfusions and was transported to Royal Perth Hospital, but died four days later. Hazel then became more involved with the Red Cross as a volunteer at the Albany blood bank, making cups of tea and coffee for the donors for many years. Hazel also travelled with the mobile blood bank unit to areas such as Mt Barker, Cranbrook, Rocky Gully and other towns. Selling raffle tickets for the annual fundraising raffle was Hazel’s passion. For many years she would organise people to sit at different locations around town to sell tickets. Also, Hazel would spend many hours sitting collection for the Red Cross herself. She enjoyed talking to, meeting with and helping people. She was also for a time a Red Cross driver taking people to appointments. Hazel was very honoured to be given her 40 years-plus medal.

I now move on to Anne Woodhouse. She said —

It would have been 1948 when I first became a Red Cross member, (7 years old), and very proud I was too.

A very nice lady came to our school to tell us all about the Australian Red Cross and how we could help.

We all worked hard to raise as much as we could.

It was very important to us that we raised more money than our counterparts in the school next door.

This was done by setting up a penny circle in our playground each day. It took us a week or so to fill the circle with 240 pennies (made £1). Also had a penny bowl game which ran like this: A spruiker called for players to come and play at 5 balls (1 think it was 3pence for 5). When more than two players were ready they played one at a time to see who could get closest to the drawn line. A prize was chosen from the table.

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I had a hiatus from my efforts during married life, but took them up again in 1999 when I relocated to Albany.

Some of the activities I have undertaken at Red Cross Albany are: cutting up bags of rags and working in the retail store. You go home and it feels like you've had a hit, you're very hyper. If this is getting old give me more of it.

Wellstead Red Cross: Margaret Stockwell, who farmed with her husband Richard on Cape Road, was offered a Red Cross post in July 1967. Margaret was a registered nurse and midwife and due to the isolation and the dangerous nature of the work being carried out through the district decided to accept. In due course a reflective sign for the front gate and a Red Cross box full of all manner of handy things arrived and is still in use today. Some of the more memorable calls at "The Post" were varied and included delivering a baby at 2.40 am after Margaret and Richard had had a late night out. There was also a snakebite incident and a visit from the local stud manager who had dislocated his shoulder and requested to be strapped up with sticking plaster. On his way out he tripped over a cocky garden gate, crashed to the ground and his shoulder popped back in again! These are just a few of the cases that Margaret attended to over the years. She also held prenatal classes for pregnant mothers, this being a great service due to the post being so far from Albany. The nursing post at Wellstead was closed when the farm was sold. Latterly, Margaret was not a well person and unfortunately she is no longer with us today.

I was just talking to the Red Cross people in Albany yesterday and these are just some of the volunteers whose names came out. These are people who have volunteered all over Albany in all different services. They are Karen Condon, Joan Garstone, Vanessa Bruce, Denise Elphick, Bob and Blondie Millard and Eric Wake. We have Mr Laurie Carter and Mrs Laurie Carter and I had to make sure I mentioned them both. There are also Grace Graham, Elma McAuley and Norma Freebury. With Norma Freebury I had the great pleasure of cutting the ribbon for the 100th anniversary celebrations we had in Albany. Francine Seymour does a great job. She runs a shop in Albany and that is just a small part of what she does to make the Red Cross really, really prominent there. I also mention Wendy Freeland, Diane Whittington, Janet Whittington, Pat Cooke, Bel Brown and Tracy Sleeman.

I would like to mention that the Albany branch of the Australian Red Cross was the second store out of 160 in a challenge to create a display that best reflected 100 years of the Red Cross. They were the week 1 winner of the theme window. It had a photo of a soldier, a nurse and a wheelchair, and was very well received by the people of Albany. The Red Cross also donated a red rose species that was developed as part of the Australian Red Cross centenary commemoration and transported from South Australia to the city of Albany to be planted in the garden that was established in 1935. Another thing coming up is the Albany badge launch. Some badges will be auctioned for the centenary. There will be badges numbered one to 100 and the auction will be held in October. The badges that are not numbered will be only \$5. This year we commemorate 100 years of the Red Cross, 100 years of the troops leaving Albany and 100 years of Anzac, and so there will be 100 numbered badges to celebrate 100 years of fundraising only in Albany. It is a one-of-a-kind badge made locally and it is all very exciting.

Finally, on behalf of not only the people of Albany, but right throughout the great southern—all of Western Australia, but I am talking on behalf of people in our area—I would like to say that being in a regional area, people need help from volunteers. My main concern is that there are a lot of our senior volunteers in our hospice. They are mainly ladies—obviously, they look after themselves better than us guys—and they are getting old now, and I am just wondering about the next generation. After all the great service that the Red Cross has donated over the last hundred years, we have to encourage more young people. We have to get into the schools and get them involved because we have had 100 years of a great service from the Red Cross. Let us hope that we have another hundred years of the successful running of a great operation.

MR A.J. SIMPSON (Darling Range — Minister for Seniors and Volunteering) [1.28 pm]: I would like to speak to the motion on the Red Cross celebrating 100 years today. The Australian Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian movement with tens of millions volunteers working in 189 countries, united by the fundamental principle of preventing human suffering without discrimination wherever it may be found in times of war, conflict, disaster or personal crisis. I would like to acknowledge the chairman of Red Cross WA in the gallery today, Di Buckles, and the CEO, Steve Joske, who cannot be with us today, for the great work they do for the Red Cross in WA. Recently, I had the great opportunity to be in Brunswick for the 100th anniversary lunch and it was great to be in that town as part of the celebration. There was a sea of volunteers dressed in red throughout the hall and it was great to be there with Di, Steve and the volunteers who were celebrating the 100 years in Brunswick. As the Minister for Communities; Seniors and Volunteering, I salute the contribution made by all Red Cross staff and volunteers over the past century.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 13 August 2014]

p5158c-5167a

Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Margaret Quirk; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr David Templeman; Ms Simone McGurk; MR P.C. Tinley

Today, the Australian Red Cross has a network of over one million volunteers, members, staff, donors, aid workers and supporters. Through this network, the Australian Red Cross mobilises the power of humanity to work right across the country in local communities in every state and territory, and further afield, to help transform the lives of vulnerable people in their time of need, wherever they may be. During the Kelmscott fires of 2011, I witnessed firsthand the great work that Red Cross has done, not only on the day and in the weeks after the fire, but also in the months and years after the fire, in supporting my community in its time of hardship.

Today we join the Australian Red Cross in celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding on 13 August 1914, nine days after the outbreak of World War I; congratulate generations of Australians for their extraordinary contributions through the everyday work of Red Cross; and continue to support the independent, neutral and impartial humanitarian mission of Red Cross to work with and assist the most vulnerable people in need, both in Australia and internationally.

I support the motion.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [1.30 pm]: I would like to join the other members who have commented on the significance of this motion, which expresses our gratitude to the Australian Red Cross on its centenary. I would also like to acknowledge the hundreds of people in the Mandurah and Peel region who have over many years been members and volunteers for Red Cross. Red Cross has operated the Red Cross shop in Tuckey Street, Mandurah, for many years. I have been associated with a number of the volunteers and volunteer coordinators of that organisation in the over 27 years that I have lived in Mandurah. The contribution of the volunteers in the Red Cross shop is very significant. It is a very successful operation. Through the Red Cross shop, a number of contributions have been made to local, state, national and international emergencies and response efforts. When we had the devastating Dwellingup bushfires six or seven years ago, coordinated efforts were made through the Red Cross shop to assist people who had lost their homes during that fire emergency. During the devastating bushfires in Victoria a few years back, in which over 200 lives were lost, again the Red Cross shop in Mandurah took donations of money and donated goods in response to the needs of the Victorian communities affected by those bushfires. At an international level, the Mandurah Red Cross shop, along with, I am sure, many others in the state, and indeed across Australia, has responded through fundraising and awareness when there have been international emergencies that have required a coordinated response from the International Federation of Red Cross and through the members in our local communities.

I acknowledge all the volunteers, both past and present, who have not only operated the Red Cross shop in Mandurah, but also been part of a truly international service organisation over its 100-year history and thank them for the contribution that they have made and continue to make to our local community, to our state and to our nation, and, indeed, to humanity throughout the world.

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle) [1.32 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to add my voice to congratulate and acknowledge the important work of the Australian Red Cross on the occasion of its centenary in Australia. Last Friday morning I attended the opening of a new blood donor facility in Douro Road, South Fremantle. The former centre was located at Fremantle Hospital, and the new centre is not as centrally located. However, the new centre is a state-of-the-art facility, and it will be a model for future donor facilities around the country. The new centre has been designed with the donor in mind—that is, to attract donors. It heralds the fact that Red Cross wants to ensure that it is well placed to continue to serve the community into the twenty-first century—that is, for another 100 years. The new Red Cross facility cost about \$2 million and provides ample opportunity for expansion. The design was put together after extensive consultation with donors, staff and volunteers. One of the benefits for people who volunteer or donate at the new centre is that it has adequate parking. Parking was a continual issue at Fremantle Hospital, because it is in a very congested area close to the centre of Fremantle. The new centre also has increased opening hours, with the opportunity for people to donate on Sundays and later than during normal business hours. The centre also provides the capacity for people to donate not only blood and plasma, but also platelets. Those benefits will hopefully lead to an increase in the number of donors presenting at that facility.

As I have said, the former centre had been located as part of Fremantle Hospital in Alma Street, in an area just below street level. I learnt at the opening of the new centre that the former centre had been located in what was once the morgue of the hospital. However, when people walked into that centre, although it felt a little dark, that feeling dissipated when they were met by the staff and volunteers at reception. The staff and volunteers at that centre have always been fantastic during the times that I have gone there to donate. That volunteer enthusiasm was also present last Friday when I went to the opening of the new centre, and the woman working in reception was quick to make sure that I made an appointment to give blood again. I will be going to the centre this Friday morning to make my contribution, as I am sure many members of this house do as well, and as I am very happy to do.

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The face of the new facility in South Fremantle is that of beautiful six-year-old Lexi Margaritis. Lexi was at the opening, and her face is on a number of advertisements promoting the new centre. Lexi's father, Angelo, spoke at the launch about the gruelling journey that the family had to undertake when they learnt when Lexi was six months old that she had an autoimmune disease, and about the benefits that Lexi received from the donations of various blood products in her journey to become the well and, as I said, very beautiful six-year-old girl that we see today. I am not sure whether Red Cross is using Lexi's face throughout the metropolitan area but I have certainly seen it a number of times around Fremantle. Angelo set out the very compelling and moving story of their journey and made the point that Lexie must have some Fremantle blood in her because somehow she has become a Dockers supporter!

Dr A.D. Buti: Very sensible.

Ms S.F. McGURK: I thought so, too. I think it is a very sensible move.

As I said, the new centre in Fremantle will ensure that the Australian Red Cross positions itself in the twenty-first century and continues to provide a good service for the community now and as it seeks to expand to make sure that it can meet the increasing demands of the blood product donation services that are required. I learnt at the opening that not only are blood donations associated with trauma incidents, but also something like 30 per cent of blood donations are received by cancer patients. Its work getting this message out will increase the understanding of members of the community of the need for donations or to volunteer to assist in any way they can, such as through financial contributions.

As another example of the Red Cross ensuring that it is positioned where it needs to be to maximise donations and contributions, I understand it is looking to relocate its Wellington Street blood donor facility towards Murray Street in the next few years so that the donation centre is situated where people are, near large office blocks and next to the train station. Wellington Street has served it well, but it is slightly outside the main pedestrian traffic areas in the CBD. I think those sorts of decisions and that sort of positioning speak volumes about how the Red Cross has ensured that it can do its work internationally, as we have heard today, and also in our community. I would like to commend the work of the Red Cross on the occasion of its centenary. If any members are in the south metropolitan area, I look forward to seeing them at the new South Fremantle donor centre.

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee) [1.42 pm]: I am very pleased to rise to add my congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. We heard from many members that the role of the Australian Red Cross is omnipresent both across this country and globally. In fact, the Red Cross or the Red Crescent is present in every country in the world recognised by the United Nations. It has, by its own estimate, some 97 million volunteers across the world. If we think about that for a moment, that is 97 million volunteers reaching out to assist other humans. I think it is a fantastic heritage from 1863. However, what also might not be known is that the International Committee of the Red Cross was formed in 1863 and won three Nobel Peace Prizes—in 1917, 1944 and 1963. It gets a significant amount of recognition for what it does in conflict particularly and also what it does in peace.

I want to particularly highlight the role of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It was not formed until 1919 following the First World War, and of course the Red Crescent was established in Turkey following the Great War. The Red Crescent had a significant impact on me when I was serving in southern Lebanon for the United Nations. It is funny how it all echoes around a circular set of reporting, but this time in southern Lebanon. On a particularly bad day, rockets fired by various Lebanese militia into northern Israel were responded to by the Israel Defense Forces invading southern Lebanon yet again and displacing some 400 000 people out of southern Lebanon, with all the humanitarian grief that occurred as a result of that. There, right in the thick of it, alongside us and the United Nations, was the Red Crescent, toiling away in some significant danger to ensure that the civilians who were ostensibly affected by this reaction from Israel were at least in some part protected, supported and guided. One of the biggest contributions it made, apart from the first aid to the civilian population in this mass movement of 400 000 Lebanese who were pushed out of southern Lebanon, was to join families together again. The Red Crescent knows that a family unit that can be united has a far better survival rate than individuals, particularly children. It was a personal introduction to what happens in conflict with the Red Cross, or the Red Crescent in that case. It culminated, unfortunately, several days later when the Israeli artillery attacked and bombed—by accident, I hasten to add, as is the case in some of these tragic conflicts—the Fijian battalion headquarters, in which there were 130 civilians deaths. The Red Crescent was there alongside us stacking 130 bodies and attending to all the issues that would naturally fall from that for the families of those who had been killed.

I just wanted to record the significant effort and contribution that the Red Cross and the Red Crescent have made internationally. We often have our own exposure to the Red Cross, as we heard other members talk about the

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great work it does, the most obvious of which is blood donation. I urge all members to pause and consider the fact that this organisation does not shirk from a high-threat environment and it will put itself in harm's way to continue its mission, which is a fantastic mission.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the executive director of the Australian Red Cross in Western Australia, Mr Steve Joske. I have known Steve and his wife, Jill, for some time. I first met Steve walking the talk of peace and assistance when he was the commander of the Truce Monitoring Group in Bougainville and I was assisting in the security of that activity. He has been the executive director of the Red Cross in Western Australia since 2003. It is a significant contribution on this great occasion that also deserves recognition, because leadership in a non-government organisation, particularly one with as much heritage as the Red Cross, is no easy feat, and Steve does that in spades.

Question put and passed.