

MOVEMBER — MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Statement by Member for Fremantle

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle) [2.51 pm]: I know that members could only be impressed by the facial hair that I managed to produce in such a short time. Members are right to be impressed, but the fact is that I was motivated. I was motivated on hearing that in this country, on average, five men each day take their life through suicide. I do feel a bit stupid, but anyway. I was also motivated by the memory of my eldest nephew, Jay. Jay was an intelligent and perceptive man with a career as a medic in the Navy. He had four children, Taliah and Zed, who are teenagers, and younger twins, Darcy and Declan. They are all lovely and an absolute credit to their parents. We knew Jay had a deep undercurrent, but if he was depressed, he kept it pretty well under wraps. Last Easter, I got a call from his wife, Lucy, to say that Jay had taken his life. He was working away from home, in Queensland. None of us had any idea. His funeral was unbearably sad, and seeing the face of Jay's son during that service is something that will stay with me forever. Members might think that this is a very serious matter to be speaking about with a fake moustache on, but I am pretty sure Jay would have wanted it that way. He loved irreverence, did not have much time for politicians—except me, of course—so if he could be part of taking the mickey out of the formality of Parliament, I think he would be chuffed. A few weeks ago someone put a fake moustache on a seat ad that had my face on it. Everyone thought it was funny and it gave me the idea of doing Movember. Movember has played an important role in raising awareness that men need to look after their health, including their mental health. As the Movember website says, "Take action, stay connected and look after your mental health." Jay—thinking of you today.