

Dr Jags Krishnan; Ms Libby Mettam; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Acting Speaker; Dr David Honey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Peter Rundle; Ms Rita Saffioti; Ms Alison Kent; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Paul Lilburne; Ms Jessica Shaw; Ms Rebecca Stephens; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Chris Tallentire

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from 5 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.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [9.11 am]: Good morning, Madam Speaker. I am so proud to stand before you all as the member for Riverton. Let me first of all acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. I am acutely aware that I am addressing the chair in historically auspicious circumstances. Congratulations on being elected as the first female Speaker of the house, Madam Speaker. I am proud to be serving under you in this house. With your permission, Madam Speaker, may I say a few words in my mother tongue.

Hethaiamma Arulnoge, Hiriodayana Asirvathanoge Jana seve maduthuga sikkitha vaippuga Kodana Kodi Nandri.

In my culture, Madam Speaker, we pay respect to our elders, and that is what I was saying in my mother tongue. I come from the state of Tamil Nadu in India. In that respect, I would also like to say a few words in Tamil.

Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir.

Three thousand years back, a poet, Kaniyan Pungundranar, said, “Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir.” The meaning of that is, “Any place is our place. Any people are our people.” He spoke about unity and diversity 3 000 years ago.

I am really proud to be representing Riverton, which is the most multicultural community in the state. At this juncture, I would like to thank the contribution of the previous member for Riverton, Dr Mike Nahan. In conversations with many people in Riverton, I came to know that he had served the electorate to his fullest ability. Although we do not agree with each other on our political views, one thing that we agree on is making Riverton better. I wish him good luck and I hope he has a safe and happy retirement.

I was born in a town called Kotagiri in the Nilgiris District in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. It was a huge transition for me to move from India to the UK and then to Western Australia, eventually making WA my home. During the process, I have had the opportunity to connect with various communities. I have always respected my connection with the elderly community. I have been welcomed by the Indian and Chinese communities here in Western Australia. I have dealt with people, starting from newborns to adolescents to young mothers, and with many sporting communities in the electorate of Riverton, and I am looking forward to working across the board in serving the community in the coming years.

Education is close to my heart for many reasons. As a kid, when my dad took me to the doctor, who was the most qualified person in the town, I went into the room and said, “Good morning, doctor. How are you today?” That made my dad so proud. He was going about town saying, “My son can speak English.” Today, I am sure he is more proud that I am addressing the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. My parents had a big dream of providing me with the best education possible. There were reasons for their aspirations. My mum could not continue her schooling beyond year 2 because she had to care for a cousin of hers so that her aunt could go to work to put food on the table. My father lost his father when he was aged one and a half. He was brought up in his maternal uncle's house. It was not the same as his own house. At the age of 15, after year 10 he had to give up his education because he felt he was obliged to contribute towards the income of the family. But that did not stop my parents from contributing towards giving me the best education possible in the world. I am thankful to them today. I would like to mention their names. My father's name is Krishnan Bellie and my mum's name is Saraswathi Krishnan, and she is mainly known as Pachiammal—my community recognises her as Pachiammal.

I can remember the days when my mum was sitting with me, though she had studied only up to year 2, when I was studying late in the evening. I remember the days my mum was repeatedly ironing my school uniform and repeatedly polishing my shoes to make sure that I went to school spick and span. I am very thankful to them for contributing towards my education. I am really proud to say that I am very fortunate to represent Riverton, because the people of Riverton have education in their DNA. I am proud to say that I represent an electorate that has three schools, two public, one private—Willetton Senior High School, Rossmoyne Senior High School and All Saints' College—that are all topping the tables in the state over and over again. People move into the electorate to be able to provide the

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best education for their kids, like my parents did for me. I am very fortunate and proud to have made a commitment of \$12.5 million to Willetton Senior High School and \$35 million to Rossmoyne Senior High School and also to primary schools towards STEM education. I know that the people of Riverton are very proud to be providing the best education to their kids. Being a medical educator and Adjunct Associate Professor at Curtin University and a medical educator at Notre Dame University and the Royal College of General Practitioners, I very often see medical graduates coming through from either Willetton Senior High School or Rossmoyne Senior High School, which makes me even more proud. I look forward to the next four years, with the help of our Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery, and under the leadership of our Premier Mark McGowan, delivering on the promises that we made to schools and continuing to fight for the people of Riverton.

My background is in health. I graduated from JSS Medical College in the city of Mysore in the state of Karnataka, India. I am very proud of that college and its teachers who taught me the basic values of medicine, which were more valuable than the clinical skills that they taught me. I started as a GP in my hometown, serving my community and its families. I had the great opportunity of working in a remote area of India that had basic facilities yet trying to provide the highest quality of care for the patients I cared for.

It was a huge transition moving from India to the United Kingdom. Strange things happen in people's lives. On 7 July 2005 something happened that caused me to wake up at 1.30 in the morning. I have never done this in my life. I started ironing my clothes for the day. I had a shave. Maybe that was the reason I left a little bit early that morning. When I reached Wimbledon train station, I was told that a bomb had gone off in Central London. I escaped that bombing by a few minutes probably because I left home a little early. In the aftermath of that bombing, I saw an efficient health system that worked effectively for people in need. I was proud to be part of a management team, working as a senior health officer in public health, in the South West London health authority. We were in charge of St George's Hospital and Mayday Hospital and managing the aftermath of that day.

When I moved to Australia I started my career as a GP in Byford. Day and in and day out, my work involves dealing with people's problems. It is my duty to find out what people's issues are and to also find solutions to their problems. Now, in my new role, which is a little different, I am sure I will be providing a holistic approach to finding solutions to problems in my electorate.

I am proud to say that I have been part of a management team that has been managing two COVID-19 clinics—namely, the High Wycombe Respiratory Clinic and the Alexander Heights Respiratory Clinic—and providing COVID-related services to the people of Western Australia. I am proud to be joining the team that has managed the pandemic in the best way in the world. My sincere thanks go to the Minister for Health, Hon Roger Cook, who is the architect of the management plan of the pandemic. The whole world is looking up to Premier Mark McGowan and at how well the pandemic has been managed in WA. I am thankful to him on behalf of every Western Australian.

I was fortunate to be a small business owner in 2010 and owned my first practice in South Lake. I took so much pride in looking after my people, be it doctors, nurses, cleaners and all staff involved in running the practice. With that experience, I empathise with the mum-and-dad small business owners who have the courage and commitment and who work hard to make things work. We all acknowledge the difficult times that small business owners have been through during the pandemic in the last year. I am confident under the leadership of our Premier Mark McGowan all small businesses will come out the other end stronger and better.

This house has a lot of unique things about it, especially in regard to women. It is 100 years since the first woman was elected to this Parliament; the 100th female member elected to the Parliament is the member for Hillarys, Caitlin Collins; 50 per cent of members in the house are women; and we now have the first female Speaker of the house. I also want to acknowledge Hon Kate Doust, President of the Legislative Council, who has been my mentor and friend and is the first female President of the Legislative Council.

In these circumstances I would fail in my duties if I did not speak about the women in my life. I have been fortunate to have lived with four generations of women in my family. The first is my grandmother. Her name was Rukkiammal, born to Mooka Gowder. She was so proud of her father. She became a widow when my father was one and a half years old. She decided not to get married again, but cared for her family. I remember the days when I would come back from school in my suit and tie and my grandmother would have returned from the farm, full of mud and dust. That did not stop me from giving her a hug. I thank her for teaching me the values of hard work, being humble and taking every opportunity to help people whenever I can.

The second generation of women in my family I want to mention is my mother. She still regrets today that she was not able to study further, but there was a time when I insisted I sit with her to make sure that she could sign her name. Today she can. I thank her for everything that she has done to make me who I am today and so that I can be standing here before you.

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The third generation of women I want to mention—I hope you all have guessed—is my wife, Yaamini. She is a doctor. She is a great woman in herself. I have no shame in accepting that she is my better half. We have been through good times, bad times, all times; she has stood with me every time. When I had to quit my job because I was preparing for exams to qualify to go to the UK, she was the single earner. Maybe it was in my culture, but I was hesitant to approach her and ask her for money for my petrol and out-of-pocket expenses. She realised this and would put money in my shirt pocket, which pleasantly surprised me and made me emotional as well. When we were living in London we rented a single-bedroom apartment. I was so scared to break the lease because I did not want to pay for two rents. In that one-bedroom apartment, she occupied the bedroom with my kids and I was left to sleep on the couch—for months. The house was not big or luxurious, but it was home. It made us feel comfortable and united as a family. Maybe one small benefit from that is she had escaped my snoring and slept quietly in the bedroom.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr J. KRISHNAN: I thank my wife for standing with me in my most difficult times; I am sure she will stand with me until the end of my life.

The fourth generation of a woman I would like to mention is my daughter. During my campaign a lot of people asked me how I was going to be able to manage being a parliamentarian and my multiple businesses. She stepped in and also stepped up to take up the responsibilities, relieving me from my duties. I am proud of her for being able to step into my shoes in the business side of things so that I could focus on the people of Riverton and aim to make Riverton better.

I was very fortunate to attend an RSL Anzac dinner. One of the speeches made brought tears to my eyes. We always pay respect to the war veterans who fought for the freedom we are enjoying today. We often forget the women behind those men. In 1916, the women of Australia knitted 80 000 pairs of socks to send to Europe for the men who were fighting there in the cold environment. That is just physical work. But what about the mental strain those women were enduring? Those women were not certain whether their husbands were coming back. The kids were not certain whether their fathers would return, and many did not make it back. I think I have spoken enough about women. I once again salute every woman who has contributed to the sacrifices of every man.

My journey in politics started with a text message from my friend the member for Jandakot, Yaz Mubarakai, who asked whether I had time for a coffee. I replied yes. My first thought process was, "He's jumping in early for his fundraising for next year's election." Entering the room for the coffee, I was so annoyed with him. That was not the first time and it will not be the last time. He was sitting with Sel—Raj Selvendra. He was not giving me a heads-up. My thought process was that Raj Selvendra owns a practice in East Victoria Park and if I was going to negotiate to buy that practice, Yaz was not going to get a chance to get a heads-up in preparation. A few minutes into the conversation, it was about me putting my hand up to run for Riverton. I took a week. I am very pleased to say that I accepted—I put my hand up—and then the process started.

I knew I could only win the election by doorknocking. I went to the member for Southern River, Terry Healy, because I was told he was topping the table. He gave me a four-hour lecture on doorknocking. Until today, after knocking 14 000-plus houses twice, I was not able to execute all the tactics he taught me at a single house. I will make an attempt next time to follow all the advice. At one point he was visibly upset because I was beating his record time and again.

There were many doorknocking stories that were so interesting. We enjoyed talking to the residents of Riverton. There is one particular story I would like to share with the house. I had the opportunity to have our Premier, Mark McGowan, knock on doors with me. As we were walking through the streets of Willetton, we saw a car parked with its headlights on. The Premier and I decided we would knock on the door of the house where it was parked. The Premier knocked on the door. A bloke came out and the Premier said, "Your headlights are on, mate." The man said thank you. As we were walking away, he kept chasing us, saying, "Are you Mark McGowan? The Premier said yes. A week later, I heard that an elderly lady walked up to the Premier and said, "I'm going to be voting Labor this time because I heard you saved my son's battery." Doorknocking was difficult, as we all acknowledge; it is not easy. My son also helped me during the campaign, bringing his friends along to doorknock. One evening after a tiring day of doorknocking, we were driving back home and my son asked, "Dad, which was the best door you knocked on today?" That spun my thoughts. Which was the one? Before I spoke, he gave the answer, saying, "That door is yet to be knocked, dad. It is our door where mum is going to be inviting us inside with a big smile and a hot plate of food on the table." I thank my family for the support that they provided me during difficult times. It was not an easy campaign. I survived one of the most brutal campaigns.

At this juncture, it is time to say thank you to many people. Madam Speaker, please bear with me as I have many names to read. I would like to acknowledge my wife's father, who has been my father ever since we got married. He is 79 years of age, still serving as a doctor in his home town. He has a nickname, "10 Rupees Doctor", because the fee he charges is 10 rupees, which is equal to 20¢ for a consultation. Unfortunately, we do not have my wife's mum, my late mother-in-law, but I am sure she would have been proud to see me achieve what I have achieved today.

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I would like to thank a lot of my family members who have supported me morally all the way back from India: Kamalkumar, Ranjini, Nithin Bellie, Monicasri Kumar, Tej Tejas, Sivakumar Dhonan, Vasanthi Sivakumar, Murugesh Raman, Sunil Nataraj, Ramya Sunil, Chandrasekharan Kari and Prabhuram Kari.

On behalf of my family and my community, I would like to sincerely thank my mentor and my friend, Hon Kate Doust, President of the Legislative Council, who was my campaign director. She worked things out in such detail that she even made time for my family to spend time with me. She was checking on my family to see whether they were coping with all the stress. I am sincerely thankful to her to have run an excellent campaign. I thank my campaign manager, Cassandra Maney, who had an eye for details. She made sure that day-to-day issues ran very smoothly. Mark Fahey, my field officer, brought in a lot of positive energy every time we were out in the field. I take this opportunity to thank Lenda Oshalem, who put the campaign plan together, which was executed excellently.

I would like to thank a few more people. I had the biggest campaign team of volunteers. I will be here until the evening if I mentioned all those names. I will mention only a few: Karishma Arora, Arthur Clancy, Dilip, Mithun Dharmaraj, Murali Manohar, Uttam Brahma, Lakshmy Chandramohan, Devi Sridharan, Reka Somasundaram, Dulmini Wijebandar, Nipuna de Silva, Divvi Bavirisetty, Ponnai Umapathy, Melvin Matthew, Babu Kurian, Satish Kailasam, Venugopal Natarajan, Sreekrishna Chowdavarapu and Achanthodi VasuDev. There are some special names. Kiran Puttappa was my uni mate and the person I have known the longest in Western Australia. Vishnu Gopalan took the brunt of my business side of things, being my business partner, to give me more time for campaigning. I thank Dr Padmanabhan Ramanathan, who has been my mentor since I arrived in Western Australia; Praveen Kallimath; Lachlan Blom; Will Ho; Alex Knowles; Matt Kav; Claire Comrie; Ally White; Fred Parkey; David Barry; and Bevan Green. I would like to thank at Labor headquarters, Tim Picton, Ellie Whiteaker, Hugo and the team who supported me big time.

I was very fortunate to have some veterans involved in my campaign, particularly Minister Bill Johnston, who had various one-on-one sessions with me and, with all his experience, guided me all the way through. I give a special thanks to Pierre Yang, who especially helped me connect with the Chinese community, was a mentor throughout and ran the phone-booth sessions. I thank Sue Ellery, Rita Saffioti, Ben Wyatt, Roger Cook and Paul Papalia. Sometimes I even had Premier Mark McGowan handing out how-to-vote cards in my electorate!

Before I finish, I would like to take the opportunity to send my prayers and thoughts to people in India, who are going through a very difficult time. I thank our Premier Mark McGowan for approving \$2 million of funding for sending relief material to India.

Before I conclude, whatever it has been, when I won the election, there was one sentence that my father said that is still echoing in my head. My father told me, "The people of Riverton have now accepted you as their son. Do to them as you would do to me." Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[Applause.]

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) [9.42 am]: What a hard act to follow! I would also like to start by acknowledging you, as the new Madam Speaker. What an honour it is to serve in the forty-first Parliament with the first female Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The result of the March 2021 election was an extraordinary landslide for the Labor Party. I welcome all of the new members who are now sitting in this place. Regardless of which side of the Parliament you sit on, I believe that it is an absolute privilege to be representing your respective electorates and I wish you all the best in your representations.

On this side of the house we have an extraordinary task of holding the government to account, given our team is so few, but we are committed to achieving this for the benefit of Western Australia. Regardless of which side of the Parliament you sit on, it is important that there is an effective opposition. This is just as important as having a transparent government, but unfortunately we have seen already, with the Premier's rejection of an independent inquiry into Perth Children's Hospital this week and the rubbishing of the attempts by the Legislative Council to form a committee to look at the accountability of the government, that this government may be no different from the last.

The recent election results were devastating for the Liberal Party, and I would like to acknowledge my former colleagues who were not re-elected, and their staff, who were committed to serving their communities, and also the candidates who worked extremely hard during what was a gruelling campaign.

I would also like to thank the people of the Vasse electorate and those who supported me. We have seen the McGowan Labor government's form over the past four years when it comes to this region and its refusal to support important mental health, sporting, education and tourism projects to meet the significant demands of this fast-growing region. The south west is an extraordinary place to live and work, and I am grateful for the support of family, volunteers and voters. I will continue to work hard for the people of Vasse, fighting for the issues that matter most to them.

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This is an extraordinary time for the Parliamentary Liberal Party, and we have a significant task ahead. I am pleased to be working with not only Leader of the Liberal Party, Dr David Honey, but also the Leader of the Opposition, Mia Davies, who leads the alliance we have forged, recognising that together we are stronger, particularly given the task ahead. I take the opportunity to thank the leaders and members of both teams, who in good faith have come together to reach this important partnership agreement.

Local health will continue to be a major focus, with many issues surrounding mental health and the need to provide community support between the hospital and the home. This is reflective of the outstanding needs of the electorate. After years of campaigning for two psychiatric liaison nurses at Busselton Health Campus, it was pleasing to see these positions delivered in 2020. Although I certainly welcome this worthy addition to the campus, the need for additional support is clearly outstanding. Too often I have heard concerns about the fact that mental health patients requiring hospitalisation have to be transferred to Bunbury or Perth, and too often they are turned away after making a gruelling or stressful journey. There is an urgent need for a mental health observation area at Busselton hospital, something we had committed to along with a safe haven cafe to support people who seek specialist help before they reach a crisis level.

Our new mums also deserve additional support. They are currently being let down by this government. This week we have seen the refusal to budge on restrictions to maternity unit visitations, compounding stress on the mental health of new mums. Supporters of the “Make It Make Sense” campaign are imploring the McGowan government to find alternative solutions to ensure that people giving birth are no longer ignored and left isolated from their support networks. We are supporting the campaign’s efforts to get consistency and compassion from this government. In the Busselton region, I will also continue to fight for the postnatal support programs run by the Radiance network, which is helping new mums who are struggling with depression and anxiety and is relying on just fundraising to survive. Unfortunately, the pleas for government funding have fallen on deaf ears.

Under the previous Parliament, I advocated on behalf of my region for the expansion of palliative care as part of the voluntary assisted dying legislation. The government made a commitment to invest in regional palliative care. I will fight hard to ensure Vasse gets its much-needed funds in this space to support Busselton Hospice Care, which undertakes a wonderful job assisting our people and their families when they are most vulnerable. It is quite clear that these volunteer organisations and these vulnerable people also deserve additional support from the government.

I turn to tourism. Although the government has a heavy focus on the impact of COVID, it is essential that we look beyond the pandemic and at further expanding and diversifying our economy. I will continue to support the push for flights from Melbourne to Busselton to boost our interstate tourism arrivals. This is an ambitious project, as all regional aviation projects are, but they are also vitally important given the significant outcomes they provide to small businesses and regional communities when they are delivered. We have already seen the McGowan Labor government rip \$9.5 million out of the Busselton terminal project with the then Minister for Tourism, Paul Papalia, labelling the airport a “pup”. It speaks volumes about the importance that this government has placed on regional tourism.

I am glad to see that WA Labor has matched our commitment for the Australian underwater discovery centre at Busselton jetty. It will be a world-class facility. But, again, it is disappointing that such a commitment had to come at the cost of ripping funds out of the Busselton airport terminal expansion project.

The potential for growth and the need for continuing government support and investment in this space are abundantly clear. I will also continue to fight for investment in education in the Vasse electorate, which is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. Dunsborough Primary School is in desperate need of an upgrade to its canteen, which no longer meets health standards, and an undercover area, which is too small and not enclosed. Parents now have to pay a levy to keep up with the upgrades. Cowaramup Primary School is in one of the fastest growing towns in the electorate, and its school, which was built in 1923 and has no permanent early childhood education facilities, is in dire need of support as well.

Sporting infrastructure continues to be a heavy demand in this fast-growing region, which is recognised as the events capital of Western Australia. There is great need for basketball clubs to be supported with additional courts as they are unable to accept new members due to significant demands. Regarding aquatic facilities, we are the only regional centre in WA with more than two swimming clubs and no 50-metre pool. There is a great need to support the Busselton Football and Sportsman’s Club with additional sewerage facilities and upgrades to its club facilities as well.

In addition to my role as the local member, and although the issues affecting my electorate are central to this role, I am grateful to continue to serve as the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of WA and to have been appointed as the shadow Minister for Health; Mental Health; the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Disability Services. These roles are a privilege and I intend to work hard to hold the government to account in these incredibly important portfolios, representing some of our most vulnerable people in this unprecedented time.

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In relation to the prevention of family and domestic violence, although COVID-19 lockdowns have enabled some families to reconnect, for many women and children at risk it has been a period of unmitigated risk. The stress of being in a snap lockdown with nowhere to go and limited reasons to escape the home is incredibly dangerous, with reports of some women in fear for their lives. I understand that between March and December last year there was a 300 per cent increase in the number of requests for tertiary services such as emergency housing. During the last three-day lockdown, there was a 40 per cent spike in the number of women needing emergency shelter in Perth and Peel.

In respect of disability services, the decision by the McGowan Labor government to dissolve the Disability Services Commission and locate it in the mega Department of Communities has been a disaster. There are many stories from within my electorate about how difficult it is to access services and how challenging this has now become. For more than 25 years, the Disability Services Commission served the disability sector well. It was the envy of the nation in its capacity to interact effectively with people with a disability. This, together with the Labor government's decision to coordinate the National Disability Insurance Scheme from the eastern states, has resulted in delays, frustration and anguish for many people with a disability in terms of the security of their financial packages. Clearly, the current system is not working, and I will be fighting hard to ensure that the sector is not left wanting from a government that is not listening.

I have already briefly touched on the challenges of the mental health portfolio as it relates to Vasse. This is an issue that is now overwhelming our communities across the state, which are seeing too many of our people dying young and too many still suffering in silence. I appreciate the challenge that this is having on governments everywhere. The Minister for Health is also the Minister for Mental Health and it is fair to say that he has not been supported with resourcing from the Premier, who is now the Treasurer. These are vital portfolio areas.

The health portfolio and the crises that this area faces were brought into great focus over the Easter long weekend when it became undeniable that our health system is in crisis. Seven-year-old Aishwarya Aswath died after waiting two hours to be seen in the emergency department at Perth Children's Hospital. It is understood that her parents pleaded four or five times for nurses to look at her. Four of the 18 doctors rostered on that night were not there as they had called in sick, and it is understood that nurses in the emergency department had previously raised concerns regarding being overworked. The tragedy does not illustrate the failure of any individual, but the failure of the system, and this deserves independent scrutiny. Yet the Premier and the government denied such worthy calls this week. In addition, the health minister has previously denied that we have a health system in crisis. In fact, on 8 April our health minister stated that we have a health system that is performing magnificently and it is an exciting time in our health system's evolution. I ask the question: this is an exciting time for whom? It is not exciting for workers on the front line, such as those in the emergency department at PCH who warned of the staffing level crisis as early as March, expressing "grave concerns regarding the staffing levels and safety within our department". It is not exciting for the many patients who are waiting for elective surgery, given we have seen the elective surgery waitlist balloon under this government by 40 per cent, from 20 000 to over 28 000 persons since the government was elected in March 2017.

In supporting the calls for an independent inquiry, Aishwarya's family are also seeking this external inquiry to look at other severity assessment code 1 events at Perth Children's Hospital. I understand that there have been 21 SAC 1 cases at PCH in the last 15 months. A SAC 1 event is a clinical incident that has or could have—a near miss—caused serious harm or death, and which is attributed to healthcare provision, or lack thereof, rather than the patient's underlying condition or illness. It is unacceptable that 20 other families experienced a lack of care that could have resulted in, or did result in, death or serious harm. At least one other child died as a result of a broken system. At a press conference, the Minister for Health said that of the 21 severity assessment code 1 events that had occurred in the child health system since 2020, only two had resulted in deaths—only two, our Minister for Health stated. I would say that there is some concern about his response to such a question. The Australian Nursing Federation and the Australian Medical Association had been warning the government for months that this system was in crisis. We can and must do better.

Mismanagement of the health system came to the fore on 23 March when Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital were both declared code yellow internal emergencies on the same day, which meant that these hospitals were struggling to cope with the volume of patients and they could only accept those patients who were seriously urgent. The Minister for Health stated that it was a sign of "business as usual", referring to the fact that we had seen an unprecedented level of 17 code yellow emergencies over the last 12 months—although the AMA believe it may be many more.

According to the AMA, unfortunately, what should be a rare event is now becoming common. The AMA and the ANF say that is absolutely not a sign of business as usual and nowhere is this more obvious than with ambulance ramping. For the first four months of this year, we have seen ambulances spend more than 14 000 hours ramped

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outside our hospitals, including the three highest months of ambulance ramping on record, with 4 111 hours ramped outside of hospitals in January this year, which is the highest ever on record.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms L. METTAM: This has come at a significant cost to not only patients, but also, as we now understand, the taxpayer. Taxpayers are now paying for the incompetence of the government in this area.

Our regional health services have also been affected. Ambulance ramping at Bunbury Hospital has been the worst on record under this government's watch, with more than 30 per cent of people not being seen in less than four hours more recently under the four-hour rule. In just over a year, there have been two damning reports into the toxic culture within Bunbury health campus, and our doctors and staff are crying out for support. The most recent report outlined that four out of five doctors stated that bad culture is impacting their service delivery to patients and creating an environment in which staff experience a feeling of hopelessness and feel that they are being gagged from speaking up for public safety. These damning findings were initially dismissed by the Premier and the Minister for Health. Thankfully, they are now being investigated by WorkSafe Western Australia. Our health system is clearly in crisis, with record levels of ambulance ramping and code yellows and a number of tragic and avoidable deaths or severe experiences as a result of the health system letting the people of WA down.

Nowhere are the failures and excuses of the McGowan Labor government more evident than in its bungling of hotel quarantine, which most recently saw the lockdown of the Perth and Peel region. This could have been completely avoided, because the flaws in the ventilation system had been flagged in early February during the election campaign. When the gaping holes in the management of this were exposed and the pre-election cover-up revealed, the McGowan government blamed the federal government.

Our Premier then singled out our fellow Indian-born Western Australians, leading to a push to stop them from coming back to Western Australia to escape the tragedy they are experiencing in India, their country of birth. We are better than this. If our 14 months of managing COVID-19 with very little community spread has not given us the capacity to support returning Western Australians, it raises the question of where our government's priorities lie. The hurtful comments that the Premier has made about our fellow Indian-born Western Australians has been absolutely disappointing. He has campaigned on fear and turned his back on these people in their greatest time of need. Fourteen months ago, the McGowan government committed in national cabinet to manage hotel quarantine, like the borders, and it is fair to say that the state has done well from the federal government's economic stimulus package that has seen JobKeeper, HomeBuilder and other schemes keep the economy strong. Glaring gaps in the hotel quarantine system have put returning travellers and staff at risk and have led to two snap lockdowns, the last one costing the state \$170 million according to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia. That happened because this government did not manage the well-understood risks.

It is fair to say this government has dragged its feet on ensuring that security guards are not employed in a secondary job. It has not learnt lessons from other states whose guards have been vaccinated and are complying with personal protective equipment protocols. It is worth pointing out that New South Wales has vaccinated —

Point of Order

Ms A. SANDERSON: I want to alert the member on her feet that the Premier never used the words "Indian ban", nor did he limit it to Western Australians. I seek some clarification from the member on her feet.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Thank you, minister. Member, did you use the words "Indian born"? Is that correct?

Ms A. Sanderson: Sorry, "Indian born".

Ms L. METTAM: Yes.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Was that a direct quote?

Ms L. METTAM: No, I was not quoting directly.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you.

A government member interjected: You were making it up.

Ms L. METTAM: No, I was not.

Ms A. SANDERSON: I think that the member needs to clarify what words she is deliberately attributing to the Premier, for the accuracy of the record.

Dr D.J. Honey: This is just a debate. It is not a point of order.

Dr Jags Krishnan; Ms Libby Mettam; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Acting Speaker; Dr David Honey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Peter Rundle; Ms Rita Saffioti; Ms Alison Kent; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Paul Lilburne; Ms Jessica Shaw; Ms Rebecca Stephens; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Chris Tallentire

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, I appreciate you not interrupting when a point of order is made. They are done in silence. When I need some assistance, I will ask you, thanks very much. I am just talking to the Clerk. Thank you, member. My advice is that it is not a point of order, but I do remind members that they should be accurate when they are quoting other members, for fear of imputations. Thank you, member for Vasse.

Debate Resumed

Ms L. METTAM: Hit a nerve!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sorry, what was that, member?

Ms L. METTAM: I just stated that I have obviously hit a nerve. I will continue.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Withdraw that.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: Madam Acting Speaker, you checked me for talking just a minute ago but we have had constant interruption during this Address-in-Reply debate, which we have not done to other members in this house.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): With all due respect, member, that was in relation to a point of order, which are always heard in silence and, frankly, are a matter between the Speaker and the person making the point of order. You are just complaining about interjections generally, I gather, so there is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Ms L. METTAM: In contrast, New South Wales ensured that all of its hotel quarantine staff were vaccinated by March. It was concerning to hear in yesterday's press conference that less than 70 per cent of hotel security guards here have been vaccinated, with the deadline being next Monday. It raises the question of whether the government will be able to meet the deadline of 10 May and whether this is in line with the reduced capacity in our hotels. This is coming from a government that dragged its feet on implementing the recommendations of the Glossop report, which highlighted the risks of continuing to use hotels that are at high risk of spreading the virus through inadequate ventilation. This is a far cry from the promises of a government that spoke big on gold-standard transparency and was elected on the platform of keeping Western Australians safe.

I would like to move an amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

Amendment to Motion

Ms L. METTAM: I move —

That the following words be added to the motion —

but regret to inform His Excellency that the McGowan government has failed to properly manage hotel quarantine to the highest possible standards, which unnecessarily places the community at elevated risk of exposure to COVID-19

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [10.07 am]: I rise to speak to this amendment to the motion. Indeed, it would be surprising if the opposition did not take the government to task over the management of its hotel quarantine system given it is the first week back in Parliament and we have not yet had the opportunity to do that in this forum. Certainly, there have been a number of issues along the way. I thank the member for Vasse for her timely amendment to the discussion that we are having in this house today. We would like to put some things on the record that have been observed over the last 14 months by not only us, but also the broader public. The media has written many columns on this and has tried to seek answers on behalf of the community while this Parliament has not been in session. If we were to overlook some glaring errors in the management of hotel quarantine by this state government, we would not be doing the job that we have been sent here to do. When it comes to managing hotel quarantine, there is no doubt that politicking is taking the fore when it comes to the strong and steady management that the people of Western Australia would expect.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The state government has got itself into a bit of a pickle.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Really!

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Dr Jags Krishnan; Ms Libby Mettam; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Acting Speaker; Dr David Honey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Peter Rundle; Ms Rita Saffioti; Ms Alison Kent; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Paul Lilburne; Ms Jessica Shaw; Ms Rebecca Stephens; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Chris Tallentire

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There has been too much focus on—Madam Acting Speaker!

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: It is loud, minister.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There has been too much focus on the rhetoric of keeping WA safe and not enough focus on the hard yards —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The member for Bassendean should be doing that work outside. This is showing absolute disrespect to the Leader of the Opposition, who is supporting a motion that is critical to the safety and wellbeing of the people of Western Australia. Tell him to go outside.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Members! Everyone sit down, please. As I said about five minutes ago, no-one is to interject during points of order. We had what is affectionately known as a wall of noise and, Minister for Water, even if you do not have any consideration for those who are listening to the Leader of the Opposition, you should at least have some consideration for Hansard. That noise is incredibly distracting.

Debate Resumed

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am glad that everybody in the house is taking this issue so seriously! The state government has agreed to hotel quarantine being one of its responsibilities and is about keeping Western Australians safe.

Ms S.F. McGurk: Quarantine is a federal responsibility.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The management of hotel quarantine is the state government's responsibility and something that the Premier signed up to as part of national cabinet. National cabinet agreed that the delineation of responsibilities meant that hotel quarantine was the state governments' responsibility. The federal government's responsibility at the time, and this was agreed to by all the states and the commonwealth, was to take on JobSeeker, JobKeeper and the aviation support packages—the big economic packages—to support Australians through the challenges that we were facing. National cabinet very clearly made the decision that hotel quarantine would be the responsibility of the states and our position has been that if that needs to change, instead of playing political ping-pong across the Nullarbor, as the Premier has chosen to do, there should be a discussion at national cabinet, with the Prime Minister of Australia, to make sure that we are learning from the things that have occurred over the last 14 months, instead of picking off political points. The reason we have arrived —

Ms S.F. McGurk: Exactly what you are doing now—undermining people's confidence.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Women's Interests!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: You did that yourself.

On 27 March 2020, national cabinet made the decision to require returning international travellers to quarantine for 14 days in designated facilities such as hotels. According to a report commissioned by the Department of Health and written for the government by Mr Weeramanthri, dated 4 February 2021 —

Over 37 000 people have been through the HQ system in WA since its inception in late March 2020, with over 500 international travellers testing positive for COVID-19.

I think that the reason we are having such a heated debate here in WA over whether hotel quarantine should continue to be used is that in January 2021, COVID-19 was transmitted from hotel quarantine into the community. Up to that point, hotel quarantine was being managed, no concern was being raised by the Premier or the community; the Department of Health was managing it, and there was great confidence in the system. I will read the excerpt on hotel quarantine in the report of 4 February 2021 provided by Mr Weeramanthri. It is the interim advice that was provided to the Department of Health, titled *Review of Western Australia's hotel quarantine arrangements*. It states —

While the Directions are issued by the Commissioner of Police, in his capacity as State Emergency Coordinator ... the HQ program is run by the State Health Incident Coordination Centre ... in the WA Department of Health. Twelve hotels in Perth have been requisitioned under Section 182 of the Public Health Act 2016, for quarantine purposes during the pandemic, with nine currently in use. They are close to hospitals should guests need medical care, have access to adequate staffing, and do not require further transport outside of the metropolitan area, which would increase contact risks in the wider community. Health department, including IPC support, is also close at hand.

I will read that second part again —

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They are close to hospitals should guests need medical care, have access to adequate staffing, and do not require further transport outside of the metropolitan area, which would increase contact risks in the wider community. Health department, including IPC support, is also close at hand.

I am not sure whether this observation was made in hindsight—given that we can all understand that when moves were made to put hotel quarantine in place, it was at the beginning of the pandemic and many decisions were being made—or whether it was the basis for selection of the hotels for quarantine. As the Minister for Health and the Premier outlined yesterday, different states had different ways of dealing with passengers returning and people who needed to quarantine in each state. Whether it was with medihotels, hospitals or hotels, it was managed how the state felt best. Quite clearly, it has been recognised that using hotel quarantine in Perth was considered an appropriate decision by the Department of Health, which had the responsibility.

I think we have started the debate on whether this is the correct thing to do in earnest only because the government made a mistake. The government made a mistake and two million Western Australians went into lockdown over the Anzac Day long weekend, which I think was entirely avoidable. The opposition and many others believe it was entirely avoidable.

Mr D.J. Kelly: You're a genius!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The minister might disagree, but it was avoidable. Instead of admitting that the government had got it wrong and that it had failed to implement recommendations and to manage the system that it was in charge of, the Premier resorted to a tried and tested solution and a strategy that we in Western Australia, whether on this side or that side, love to employ when we need a distraction—that is, to pick on the feds. We love to hate those on the hill on the other side of the Nullarbor, despite the Premier saying in the previous 12 months how well he got on with the Prime Minister and how well national cabinet was working. Every Premier has used this parochialism to their advantage at one point or another when they get into a pickle, but this really takes the cake because we are talking about our community's safety, and it has been shameless. The Premier knew that there had been a stuff-up. However, instead of admitting that the government ignored the advice and dragged its heels on implementing national cabinet's recommendations and instead of coming clean on the mismanagement of hotel quarantine that caused the lockdown over the Anzac Day long weekend, the Premier went into a full-blown "us versus them" and started to point the finger at the commonwealth. He said that it was the commonwealth's fault and it was not us. Nothing to see here. We could not get the reports that were commissioned by the government. They had been kept hidden. Question after question after question were asked in press conferences and the government would not provide the reports. We will look past the fact that those reports were kept from the public so that no-one knew that the government did not do its job. What the state government did was shameless. There was finger-pointing across the ditch in a political ping-pong that reached fever pitch in an effort to deflect attention from the fact that things could have been put in place to make our hotel quarantine system safer and, possibly, avoid future lockdowns.

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There has been more than one, so be careful, and the Anzac Day weekend lockdown was avoidable and that is absolutely true.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There has been more than one.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, can I just say how futile it is to interject through your mask because all we can hear is some sort of muffled dissent. It is a complete waste of time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It makes them feel better. It is just muffled yelling.

Back in April last year, the Premier was so committed to working collaboratively with the commonwealth that he was reported on SBS news as saying —

... no other state leaders had objected when he brought up the idea of continuing the national cabinet.

He said that is where we should have those discussions, yet when something goes wrong, the government moves then to say that none of that works anymore. He has started pointing his finger at the commonwealth and said it is not his fault. That has obviously gone out the window. For political expediency and a supreme effort to avoid blame for what the government has done, it has started to play the blame game. The Premier has postured in this place in the two days we have been back, pointing fingers and ducking bad news. The release of the Glossop report into hotel ventilation risks confirms that the lockdown over Anzac Day could have been avoided. That absolutely confirms it. That was not made public and I do not think there was any intention to make that public. I think there was every intention to keep that inside, just as when the question was asked by the shadow Minister for Health yesterday about the Quarantine Advisory Panel, "When does it meet, and what is it considering?", that was avoided as well. For a government that prides itself on saying it is transparent, open and accountable, these are things that

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would make everyone in Western Australia concerned. These are things that I think people deserve to know. Confidence comes from having clear and concise information communicated to the community on things that impact their health and the wellbeing of the businesses that were forced into lockdown over the Anzac Day weekend in particular. There were very simple steps that were outlined in the Glossop report that have not been actioned by the government to protect those in quarantine and those working in the hotels, and those in the community.

The report was made public after repeated questions were asked by a very persistent media, bearing in mind that the Parliament was not sitting. It beggars belief that health officials and the government knew about the risks associated with using some of these hotels that have been requisitioned and that they failed to act to mitigate these risks.

There were a further two interim reports, and then the final advice relating to the *Review of Western Australia's hotel quarantine arrangements*, which is dated 12 March. There was then a document published in April 2021. There is no specific date on it. It is the government response to the two interim reports. There were a number of letters published between the director general of Health, I believe, or the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and also the Commissioner of Police, and then we had the response of the government. It is about a four-page document. It is very generic in nature. There are no time lines attached to the actions that the department or the government are undertaking. There is very little detail on how those recommendations will be implemented. There are a number of them that I presume will be required to ensure that we can continue to utilise hotel quarantine, until there is some other magical option, which the Premier keeps pointing to, that comes into play. Hotel quarantine is all we have at present. That is what we have to use. Therefore, it is incumbent on this government, which has responsibility for this, to make sure that it is as safe as possible.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Minister, I am not taking interjections from you. I have no interest in engaging with you.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Water, I call you to order for the first time. The member is not taking interjections.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I go back to the government's response to the *Review of Western Australia's hotel quarantine arrangements*. I see no time lines in here. It is, as I said, quite generic in nature. It is in response to what essentially kicked off a discussion about hotel quarantine and how it can be made safer, given that there were things we knew from national cabinet recommendations and learnings from other states that have not been implemented in our hotel quarantine system, and serious recommendations about how we can strengthen this process going forward. There are no time lines. There was no willingness to provide detail in this place yesterday when we asked questions about that advisory committee's very important work: What are the things it is considering? When does it meet? How often has it met? I cannot imagine that the Premier and the Minister for Health's staff have not provided or furnished them with that information in preparation for question time, given that hotel quarantine undoubtedly would be something that the people of Western Australia and the opposition would be asking questions on.

Again, we see the Premier resort to politics. Instead of answering the question or saying, "I don't have that detail", the Premier resorted to politics and to pointing out that perhaps we should have asked the question with some notice. Notice has been given. The Premier can expect that we will continue to seek answers on that front, because we think it is important that the people of Western Australia understand what is being done to strengthen the system that we have in Western Australia right now. We have people in those hotels right now. We have staff in those hotels right now. We have people who are COVID-positive, as I understand it, in hotels which have been identified as substandard, and which the government has said it is going to retire from use, but are still currently in use. I think it was an entirely appropriate question that we asked yesterday about whether there have been investigations into other hotels: Are there other hotels that are appropriate? When did the Minister for Health start looking into this? These are things that we need to know. But the Premier and this government are intent on playing politics, just as they are with the commonwealth.

People's lives are at risk. That is why we are taking this seriously. Our belief is that there needs to be some effort put into making our hotel quarantine arrangements safe for everyone. We need to have a system that allows people to be repatriated from overseas. That is absolutely a responsibility of our national and state government. If the Premier is genuine in his statement that he has enjoyed the platform that national cabinet has given him, the collaboration that it has allowed him to have and the ability for him to raise those questions, then instead of using the press briefing room as his pulpit, he should be having those conversations in earnest. Stop the blame game, the political ping-pong, and change it by raising those matters through national cabinet—or pick up the phone. Do not shout from this chamber. It is too important for the people of Western Australia. If there is any genuine desire to make sure that the people who are stranded overseas can be brought home, I would think that instead of triggering this report when something went wrong and the Premier needed to a way to deflect from the decisions that he had made, that discussion

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or that investigation about how we would look at hotel quarantine going forward needed to have started some time in the 14 months we have had. This has all come about because of the politics of denial, trying to make sure that the Premier can hold true to the promise that he made to the people of Western Australia that he will keep them safe.

There are still positive cases in hotels that are considered inadequate. There are still security guards who have not been required to be vaccinated and will not be until 10 May, as I understand it. There were simple recommendations, like shifting people to rooms away from COVID-positive patients, that were not done and that put people at risk. There were reports that were sat on about the safety of these hotels, and then those reports were not shared when people started asking questions. Therefore, it is our view that when we come to this place and ask for compensation, particularly for the businesses that were impacted by the Anzac Day weekend lockdown, there is some culpability for the state government to be a part of that conversation. But further than that, we will be in a situation in which we will require a system or a solution, whether it is hotel quarantine or something else for, I would say, months, if not years. Therefore, instead of the politics, instead of the finger-pointing and instead of the grandstanding between the state and the commonwealth —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am perfectly entitled to raise these issues on behalf of the people of Western Australia, and the minister knows that everybody has been asking about them, because it has been on the front page of the paper for the last six weeks —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Child Protection!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: — for the last six weeks, two months, three months!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: This is not a good example for the students from Como Primary School up there. Hello.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is absolutely incumbent on this government that it come into this Parliament and answer questions about hotel quarantine and its role in the mismanagement of particularly the Anzac Day weekend and the decisions it has taken since. We are not for one moment oblivious to the fact that this is a complex situation, but when the government has information and it does not act on it, that is entirely its responsibility.

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Child Protection, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: With that, I wholeheartedly support the amendment that has been moved by the member for Vasse in her efforts to try to get some accountability and transparency in relation to hotel quarantine on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [10.28 am]: Can I also back up the amendment that has been moved today. I think we are getting into quite a concerning area here and we are getting into a real lack of transparency. What really worries me is that this hotel quarantine scenario seems to be playing out on talkback radio and the media as much as anything else, because people cannot get the answers from this government. It seems to me that the Australian Medical Association WA president, Andrew Miller, has spent the last couple of months virtually pleading with the government to seek better advice. When we look at personal protective equipment, we see that the Premier continues to say that security guards are wearing the correct PPE, and that this comes from the health advice, presumably from the Chief Health Officer, because we cannot seem to get any advice tabled. However, we do not know because the Premier continues to refuse public scrutiny of any advice. This is what I asked for yesterday: will the Premier and the Minister for Health table the health advice? We have continually asked for that since November last year but no health advice has been tabled. I refer to an example from last week. Andrew Miller talked about N95 surgical masks but the Premier offered differing advice. The government must table the advice from the Chief Health Officer so that the community can get an understanding of what is happening in this field and we can prevent two professional opinions from contradicting each other.

I want to move on to the government's duty of care for security guards because as the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Vasse said, only 70 per cent of security guards have been vaccinated but, according to the Premier, next Monday is the cut-off point. I am concerned about hotel quarantine security guards. A lot of these issues have come from security guards having second jobs, such as with Uber and the like. The government should have paid the right people the right amount of money from the start. Once again, the Glossop Consultancy report has come out with facts about that. As far as I am concerned, the government needs to take care of that issue. Hopefully, 100 per cent of hotel quarantine security guards will be vaccinated by Monday.

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The recurring theme of this COVID crisis has been to shut the border. Although that has been an effective fix, the government has not moved on to the next line of thinking. It shut the border, which was great for its re-election. We always acknowledge that shutting the border has been effective but now we are moving into another dimension. The public lacks confidence in the government's ability and willingness to consider other strategies. We all acknowledge that lockdowns have been effective but now we need to transition to another phase and that is what the public is calling for.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: We are certainly calling for the gold-standard transparency that this government has been espousing for months and months. Not a lot of information is filtering through from Professor Weeramanthri's report of 4 February. As the member for Vasse said, thousands of people were allowed to travel into the regions over the Anzac Day long weekend. According to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, that lockdown cost anywhere up to \$170 million. The Leader of the Opposition pointed out the us-and-them mentality, which I am also concerned about. When things do not go right, straightaway the Premier and the governmental blame the federal government. It was happy earlier this week to accept the federal government's investment of \$1.3 billion for transport projects and the like, but when something goes wrong or when there are other ideas about the quarantine scenario, they blame the federal government. I am asking for transparency. The public of WA expect that. The issue of a lack of transparency was raised during the electoral reform scenario last week. The Premier said before the election, "Electoral reform is not on my agenda", but within one day of Parliament sitting, the government came out with its electoral reform agenda. All we are asking for is transparency. I certainly support the amendment.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [10.34 am]: I have a very brief contribution to make to this important amendment, recognising that there will be more Address-in-Reply speeches today. I rise to strongly support the amendment moved by the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. I have said before in this place and elsewhere that the government deserves good credit; in fact, the people of Western Australia rewarded the government for its good handling of the COVID crisis. However, the failures in hotel quarantine have not been well handled. The failures in hotel quarantine were predictable and preventable. There have been numerous reports about aerosol transmission being a mechanism for COVID transmission. We have known about that for many months and the government has known about it. The government knew about the failures in the adequacy of hotels in this state for a substantial period before there was transmission in a hotel. Those are the facts. The Glossop report is a fact. In fact, the Department of Health had copies of the Glossop report some time before it was finally released to the public. That information was known but it was not acted on. What do we see in the chamber? We see arrogance and overconfidence from government. We have seen the Minister for Transport laugh during the middle of the debate when important points were being made by members of the opposition. She is not taking this seriously.

Point of Order

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Cottesloe is making some accusations and imputations!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): It is not a point of order but I did wonder how the member for Cottesloe could say that government members were smirking when they all have masks on!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Exactly.

The ACTING SPEAKER: All right. Member for Cottesloe.

Debate Resumed

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you very much, Madam Acting Speaker. I do not know whether or not the minister was smirking, but she was laughing. I could hear her laughing from here. I do not know whether she was laughing to mock the speakers on this side, but the fact is she was laughing.

The ACTING SPEAKER Member, stick to the amendment.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Dr D.J. HONEY: The government is arrogant and overconfident. So far, it has handled the crisis in the state of WA well, but hotel quarantine has not been managed well and the lives of hundreds of thousands, in fact millions of Western Australians, have been affected because of that. Daily in this place we see a government that cannot stand being questioned. It ignores advice from experts, such as from the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Nursing Federation, in its response. That is one of the things that has led to the problems that we have had in this state.

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The member for Morley was very keen to point out issues about language. Language is very important in the way that the government manages this affair. I refer to an article with the headline “Western Australian premier says India’s Covid-19 tests inaccurate, unreliable as returning flyers test positive”. The article states —

Premier of the Western Australia state Mark McGowan on Tuesday alleged that COVID19 tests conducted in India for returning travellers were either inaccurate or unreliable which are impinging on the integrity of the system and causing some issues here.

That article was published on 27 April in *The Indian Express*, an online journal that has more than 700 000 hits on its articles every day. Yes, as the member for Morley pointed out, language is very important and the language the Premier uses about this outbreak and returning visitors from overseas is important as well.

The member for Vasse and other members on this side have raised critically important issues. Rather than attacking the opposition and trying to score some cheap political points, which is what it is doing with the federal government, it should listen to the comments that are made and the issues that are raised and come up with substantive proper responses and not pointscore against the federal government. I strongly support the amendment moved by the member for Vasse.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [10.39 am]: I rise to support the amendment moved by the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Can we have a bit of silence from the muffling muppet brigade on the front bench?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, you will refer to them by their seat or their position only.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Sorry, Madam Acting Speaker. I withdraw that comment.

I support the motion. The points made by the opposition are extremely valid. It is what the experts have been saying for a very long time. We have acknowledged that the Labor Party won convincingly at the last election, but what we also need to acknowledge —

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Members, what we also need to acknowledge is that this breach, or this hotel quarantine failure, has occurred after the election. After the election, the report came out about hotel quarantine that said it is inadequate to be putting returned travellers into the hotels that we have here in Western Australia. One thing I will back the Premier on is that we do need to use other facilities. I totally agree that we need to use purpose-built quarantine facilities. The COVID-19 situation is evolving. The COVID-19 pandemic is evolving; it is changing constantly. But what has not changed is the way the state is dealing with returned travellers from overseas. It has not been able to move with the times. It has now been over 12 months; this pandemic is here for the long haul. What the state should be doing, if the government truly believes in keeping the people of Western Australia safe, is looking at alternatives. It should be using some of that surplus and huge windfall that this state has got through iron ore royalties—through our commodities doing extremely well—through the GST windfall from the federal government and through the windfall of what the federal government has put into Western Australia, as recently as yesterday with the amount of money going towards addressing traffic congestion on roads across Western Australia. The federal government has played its part. If the state government truly believes in keeping people in Western Australia safe, it should look at building a purpose-built quarantine facility. That is something that the Australian Medical Association has been calling for for a while.

We are the world leaders when it comes to building mining camps. Why can we not build something on the outskirts of metropolitan Perth, which is close to our health facilities, over the next six months—a facility to cater for returned travellers? It is common sense.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Member for Warnbro, the point is that no-one wants to play the politics about whether the federal government should do it or the state government should do it. We have the ability to do it. When I say “we”, Western Australians are the leaders in building mining camps. The state government has the financial capacity to do it. The government went to the last election saying that it would keep people safe. Here is its ability to evolve and change with the times, to keep pace with what is happening with COVID-19, to keep pace with what is happening around the world, to make sure that we are ahead of the pack and that we can be the leaders in Australia in dealing with COVID-19 and how we deal with returned travellers. I think there is a great opportunity here.

Government members can yell and criticise us, and we can yell and criticise them, but the fact remains that we have alternatives. We have the ability to build a world-class, purpose-built facility because we are the leaders. Let us hope that every other state can follow suit. We have seen how successful Howard Springs has been. Yes, it is a federal

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government quarantine facility; yes, it is a federal government–managed territory, so I would expect that. We know that Howard Springs can cope with a greater number of COVID-19-positive cases because it is purpose-built. We know that it can cater for up to 15 per cent COVID-19-positive cases and we know that hotel quarantine can cater for only two per cent. Clearly, it is an imperative to move with the COVID-19 situation and build a purpose-built facility.

Imagine if every state had the same facility. That would mean we could minimise risk and perhaps not have lockdowns. Perhaps borders would not have to close, internal tourism could resume and the country could be one again. Is that not what we want to achieve? Australia could again be one country rather than closing the borders because we have inadequate hotel quarantine facilities, where the only form of community transmission is occurring in our country. It is coming from one area, which is hotel quarantine. COVID-19 could be around for years to come. Let us open up Australia so we can bring interstate travellers to Western Australia, support our tourism businesses and support our hotels so that they can actually have visitors rather than quarantining returned travellers.

Let us make sure that we can actually build internal tourism in Australia and support our small businesses, which cannot afford these continual lockdowns. Small businesses cannot afford these restrictions; they are suffering. I know the Premier says our economy is going well. Why would it not when commodity prices are at record levels? Those companies benefit from having a strong resources sector. Yes, we have a strong economy because of that—because of the world demand that is going on—but looking at our small businesses, particularly in Perth and Peel, they cannot afford these continual lockdowns. It costs tens of thousands of dollars—in some cases, millions of dollars. I think over three days it cost them about \$200 million plus. The three-day lockdown cost our economy \$200 million. Who knows what that effect is, because I think it is a rolling effect with people who have lost jobs or their ability to earn an income. That \$200 million cost has hurt Western Australia. Is it not cheaper for the government to say, “Let’s build a purpose-built quarantine facility on land that we have”? We are the world leaders in building mining camps. It could spend \$20 million —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Even if it were \$100 million, are we not better off building a purpose-built facility to help our community, our small businesses, our tourism businesses and our state economy, and lead by example? Let us hope that all the other states and territories can follow suit so we can be one country and we can get movement happening again in Australia, which benefits everyone. I think we could really lead by example.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [10.47 am]: Yet again we have seen the opposition, the Liberal Party and the National Party, undermining WA’s efforts to fight COVID-19. This is what has happened for 14 months. Everything this government has set out to do, the Liberal and National Parties have sought to try to undermine every step of the way. When members opposite talk about politicking and grandstanding, they stood up and made some claims today. It is politicking and grandstanding when an amendment is moved that condemns the government for its management of COVID-19 in this state. It is complete hypocrisy. For 14 months, everything done by the opposition has sought to undermine the health, safety and wellbeing of Western Australians. That is what has happened. They wanted to open the borders. They sided with the commonwealth then, and Clive Palmer, to open the borders. It is a strange relationship when the Liberal Party and the National Party come in and defend the commonwealth government every step of the way on COVID-19, but it does not even want to talk to you! Federal members ignore you when they come over here because they know that your performance has been abysmal since the COVID pandemic started, and for the last four years! Again today, you come in here wanting to back New South Wales and wanting to back the commonwealth versus WA. There are only six members of the opposition because they never backed WA! They never backed our nurses. They never backed our doctors. They never backed our police officers. They never backed this government in its efforts to control COVID-19. Today they have done that yet again. They have sided with New South Wales and the commonwealth government over Western Australia. That is exactly what they have been doing for 14 months. Again, they cannot get the story straight between them. The Leader of the Opposition’s half are supporting hotel quarantine all the way, and now the member for North West Central and the member for Vasse—the other half of the opposition—are saying something different. They have already shown that, even in a team of six, they are divided on this issue.

Let us go through some of the facts. Western Australia has handled the COVID-19 pandemic very well, with some of the best indicators in the world. Members opposite talked about the public. The public backs the performances of this government, this Premier and this Minister for Health in handling the pandemic. That was reinforced at the time of the election, and it continues to be reinforced. What the public does not want to see is an opposition backing the commonwealth government and New South Wales over WA, but that is what it has done yet again today.

The Leader of the Opposition claimed that the Premier had made too much of an effort in keeping WA safe. We can never make too much of an effort to keep WA safe. We can never be too cautious in making sure that we protect the health and wellbeing of our families.

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I want to talk about hotel quarantine. Half the members opposite stood up and said that hotel quarantine is it, and that there were some agreements made 14 months ago. As the Minister for Health outlined, there are agreements around hotel quarantine for when we are in an urgent situation and we need to bring people home and put people with COVID-19 in isolation. After 14 months, a number of things have happened, which the member for Cottesloe outlined. The transmission of COVID-19 is now slightly different, with new variants, as we understand it—aerosol transmission versus droplets. That has created a number of new issues for how we quarantine returning passengers.

Fourteen months ago we would have assumed that there would have been higher rates of vaccination by now. We also did not realise 14 months ago that we were letting out a lot of people who would come back in, so we thought the numbers would be starting to drop. A lot of things have changed. The Premier has outlined a number of times the need to use commonwealth facilities. He wrote to the Prime Minister last year, asking for commonwealth facilities to be utilised for hotel quarantine. He has said that a number of times. It is clear, given how the pandemic is travelling, that we need access to more of the facilities that the commonwealth controls. Commonwealth facilities are being left vacant—empty—so we have to build more; why can we not just use those facilities? Howard Springs is a commonwealth facility. Why can we not do that?

The idea that the opposition could come in here and blame this all on WA without acknowledging that the commonwealth could do something is, again, completely anti-Western Australian. We say that the commonwealth government has a role in this, and the Premier has said that time and again. The Premier's press conferences normally last an hour to an hour and a half. The idea that the Premier is not being transparent in his handling of this is completely ludicrous. The public get to watch an hour to an hour and a half of the Premier answering tonnes of questions from journalists, pretty much every day.

The opposition says we do not table information. We have tabled information. The member for Roe said we did not provide information; we tabled information two days ago regarding the Chief Health Officer's advice. We keep tabling information; the fact that you guys do not read what we table and communicate it to the other house is not our fault. Again, you try to blame us for a lack of transparency and accountability because you are lazy. If you actually worked, if you picked up the documents and read them, you would not have the gall to come in here and do this.

Yet again, the opposition has undermined our efforts. It is a disgrace what it has done today—yet again putting back members' inaugural speeches to make claims that are completely false. The Leader of the Opposition constantly quoted the Premier, claiming he said things that were not correct and not true. We oppose this amendment, because yet again the National-Liberal alliance is going out of its way to undermine WA health practitioners, the police and the government in their handling of COVID-19.

I am proud of our efforts on this side. I am proud that we have kept WA safe, and I am proud that we have not faced the restrictions, health issues and deaths that countries around the world have experienced. I am proud that we can be safe in WA and that we can continue to pretty much be very normal in what we do every day. The idea that the opposition would back the commonwealth and other states against WA is a disgrace. It again demonstrates that it has learnt nothing over the last 14 months.

Division

Amendment put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Ms M.M. Quirk) casting her vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (5)

Mr V.A. Catania
Ms M.J. Davies

Mr R.S. Love
Ms L. Mettam

Mr P.J. Rundle (*Teller*)

Extract from Hansard
[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 6 May 2021]
p296c-327a

Dr Jags Krishnan; Ms Libby Mettam; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Acting Speaker; Dr David Honey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Peter Rundle; Ms Rita Saffioti; Ms Alison Kent; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Paul Lilburne; Ms Jessica Shaw; Ms Rebecca Stephens; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Chris Tallentire

Noes (45)

Mr S.N. Aubrey	Mr T.J. Healy	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R.S. Stephens
Mr G. Baker	Mr M. Hughes	Ms L.A. Munday	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Ms H.M. Beazley	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Dr K. Stratton
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr H.T. Jones	Mr P. Papalia	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr D.A. Templeman
Ms C.M. Collins	Ms E.J. Kelsbie	Mr D.T. Punch	Ms C.M. Tonkin
Mr R.H. Cook	Ms A.E. Kent	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr R.R. Whitby
Ms L. Dalton	Dr J. Krishnan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr P. Lilburne	Ms R. Saffioti	Ms E.L. Hamilton (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms K.E. Giddens	Mr M. McGowan	Ms A. Sanderson	
Ms M.J. Hammat	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr D.A.E. Scaife	
Ms J.L. Hanns	Mr D.R. Michael	Ms J.J. Shaw	

Amendment thus negatived.

Motion Resumed

MS A.E. KENT (Kalgoorlie) [11.01 am]: I wish to add my congratulations to Hon Michelle Roberts on her appointment as the first woman Speaker in this house in Western Australian history. It is richly deserved and I truly will value the support and learning from her, the Deputy Speaker and the Acting Speakers over the next four years.

I would like to firstly acknowledge the traditional owners on the land on which we meet today, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and especially emerging. Their history and culture over 60 000 years is extraordinary and I learn new things every day.

Today, I begin by expressing my enormous appreciation to the voters in the electorate of Kalgoorlie for their faith in me. It has been 20 years since Labor last held the seat of Kalgoorlie and I am standing here today as the 101st woman to be elected to this Parliament.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Hear, hear!

Ms A.E. KENT: Thank you.

I am humbled and honoured to be given the privilege to represent Kalgoorlie over the next four years.

I would like to recognise and express gratitude to Kyran O'Donnell and his staff for their service over the past four years.

To my gorgeous daughter, Danielle Foster, I am so very proud of you. To my son-in-law, Rhett Foster, and Campbell and Georgie Foster, my beautiful grandchildren, thank you so much for supporting me as I embark on this major life change. You mean the world to me.

To my lifelong friends, thank you for the fun, laughter, support and friendship. I am so grateful to have you in my life—many of whom are here today. Let the crazy journey continue.

I also thank the people from the campaign team who got me here. The biggest shout-out goes to my campaign director, Hon Kyle McGinn. What a journey we have been on. You provided me with support and encouragement and were always there to listen and provide advice—sometimes even to berate. It was all, every part, humbly appreciated. Thank you so much. The only thing I would like to add is that maybe you could have left the shoey out!

To Bobby-Lee Field, George Foulkes-Taylor, Deana Lawver, Klasey Hirst, Amy Astill, Melissa Drummond and Eddie Rochester—your endless hours of work and support knew no bounds. I could not have achieved this without you all and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To the amazing volunteers, all 150 of you—wow, what a fantastic team—who were doorknocking, phone calling and standing on market stores in 40-degree heat, nothing was too big an ask and the win was for you all.

To WA Labor, the support I received was outstanding. I would like to give a big shout-out to Tim Picton, Ellie Whiteaker and all the staff who worked tirelessly to get the massive Labor win.

Last and definitely not least, I would like to thank my staff: Klasey Hirst, my electorate officer, and Katie-Jane Anderson, my research officer. You have hit the ground running, setting up the office and all the logistics that go with that. Thanks to you both. Constituents are being seen and their concerns are being heard and dealt with.

I never thought I would be standing here, and I am still pinching myself. How did I get here surrounded by the Premier and ministers and members of Parliament? They are people I have looked up to for years but I can now call them colleagues.

It goes back to Swansea in Wales, where I was born in the 1960s, and to the best dad in the world, the most influential person in my life. After my mum died when I was eight years old, it was my dad who had to take the reins. That

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was not easy for a man in the 1970s, but he taught me so much. I learnt about the Labour Party, about unions and about how social justice is essential to any society. Importantly, he taught me how, as a girl and then a woman, I could achieve anything in life.

My dad grew up in a very working-class area of Manchester in the UK. His own dad died when he was seven, at a time when there was no social security to rely on. His mum worked three jobs and they lived in a one-up-one-down room and shared a washhouse used by 15 families. I remember going there as a child. Times were really tough. After lying about his age to get into the Royal Air Force in the Second World War, he met my mum on a training course in Wales. They continued their courtship through letters from India, Israel and Japan, and then married after the war. He worked on the shop floor and was a strong union man and a great Harold Wilson fan. I saw how important his values were, especially when he went out on strike to support the coalminers during the Margaret Thatcher days. We used to sit and talk for hours about how this affected towns around the UK. It was tragic to watch, and many communities, particularly in Wales, still have not recovered. What an education that was. The message was loud and clear: we need to look after each other. It started the course of my life as a Labor supporter.

I left Wales in 1989 and came to Western Australia, where I entered my first job in the public sector through the fire brigade, now the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, while also holding the role as the designated sexual harassment officer. That was a challenging role in the then very male-dominated environment. I reflect on the culture that has been exposed in federal Parliament and the international Me Too movement. I also reflect on how critical it is for us to be vigilant.

The Labor Party for me is about equality and justice. As one of many women now sitting in the WA Parliament, I am confident the party I am proud to represent will continue to hold these values to the core. I will speak more about this in a moment.

So, to the goldfields. I moved to Kalgoorlie–Boulder in 1994 and spent the next 10 years working for the Goldfields–Esperance Development Commission, living through a boom and then a bust, when the gold price went down to \$250 an ounce. It was during this time that I met Hon Ian Taylor, who was the member for Kalgoorlie for 15 years. I worked on Ian's campaign during that time. He has offered me support and friendship since then and I am incredibly grateful that Ian is here today.

I continued my state government experience with a role as the manager of intergovernmental relations with the Department of Education. I was lucky enough to be part of the education revolution started by the then federal Minister for Education, Julia Gillard. What an inspirational woman and a true leader.

After 30 years working for the state government, I started my own small business in Kalgoorlie–Boulder, a role I loved and that allowed me to work with many community groups and businesses by helping them get grant funding for much-needed projects.

I would like to focus on community life for a moment. I am an all-in type of person and believe that any place is what you make it. That is definitely the case in the goldfields. The way the community embraces people is incredible. I was lucky enough to become the president of the Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre, a wonderful organisation doing extraordinary things. Its chief executive officer, Gloria Moyle, is an inspiration to me and I am honoured to call her my close friend.

Bringing Rosie Batty to Kalgoorlie–Boulder for International Women's Day in 2019 was a highlight. She is such an inspirational woman who generously shared her time with so many people. I saw how her compassion had such an influence on them.

Through my own involvement in community groups, I have been able to give back in a small way, and I hope to continue to do so. Communities play an important role in every aspect of our lives. We have communities in our friends, our families, our employment, our neighbourhood and in so many other places. Having a sense of community unites us. Being a part of the community can give us opportunities to connect with people. I am sure that everyone thinks that their place and community is special, but I know that the goldfields are unique. Being part of this community gives us a great sense of belonging. We are part of a group of people who want to help each other either socially or professionally. It gave my career a huge boost back in 1994, and I am positive that I am just one of thousands of stories that are very similar. I encourage anyone who wants a great lifestyle, great income and great opportunities to come to the goldfields—you will not be sorry.

Of course, the Kalgoorlie electorate will be boosted by some fantastic infrastructure projects that I fought hard to get as election commitments. They include the \$5 million upgrade to the Niels Hansen Basketball Stadium, a \$2.1 million youth hub and \$600 000 to build a large-scale nature playground on the site of the Karlkurla Bushland Park. These will make a big difference to the liveability of the goldfields region.

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What a rich, powerful history Kalgoorlie–Boulder and the goldfields region have. I am sure that previous members for Kalgoorlie have stood in this house and told of the impact that the goldfields region has had on Australia. As legend has it, in 1893, three down-on-their-luck Irishmen, Paddy Hannan, Tom Flanagan and Danny Shea, stumbled across 100 ounces of nuggets when they stopped to replace a shoe for their horse. Just a decade later, the twin boom towns of Kalgoorlie and Boulder would be home to the fabled Golden Mile, reputedly the richest square mile on earth, with one of the greatest concentrations of underground mines ever established. Today, Kalgoorlie–Boulder and the goldfields are not only a thriving region for almost 40 000 residents, but also a living heritage area. The new and the old city are in harmony side by side, acknowledging a rich past and looking to fresh horizons. Its natural bounty combined with its striking landscapes, amazing sunsets and remarkable Aboriginal history makes it truly a unique and distinctive place. This wonderful history continues. Just three months ago, the Super Pit joint owners, Northern Star Resources and Saracen Mineral Holdings, merged, with a value of \$16 billion. The merger created a new top-10 global gold major with a world-class portfolio. For the first time in its 125-year history, Kalgoorlie's famous Golden Mile has now been consolidated under one owner. This was achieved through Raleigh Finlayson and Bill Beament, two graduates of Kalgoorlie's own Western Australian School of Mines. The future of the mining industry is secure—well beyond my lifetime I am sure.

One of my strengths lies in being a strong, opinionated woman. I feel passionately about giving women an equal voice in all aspects of life. In 2021, we are dealing with a tsunami of issues surrounding the treatment of women. Women are being underpaid! Women are being under-represented! Women are being bullied and harassed! Women are being beaten and abused! Is it not time to gain the respect we deserve, time for us to be treated as a core part of society, time our ideas and opinions were valued, time we felt safe in our workplace and time we felt safe in the street and in our homes? It is 2021, 100 years since Edith Cowan entered this house as its first woman member. We have our first Madam Speaker. When she came to this house in 1994, she was only the eighteenth woman to be elected to the Legislative Assembly. This year, I am one of 13 women coming in at one time. What an achievement this is for women, for the Labor Party and for Western Australia. I am a feminist, and it has taken me decades not to feel I have to apologise for that label. Getting equal rights, opportunities, status and respect are all that feminists want. Michelle Obama said, "I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat." I wholeheartedly agree. If we have learnt anything from what has happened in Canberra recently, we must recognise that women are standing up and using their voice. They have had enough. Here in this Parliament, I can only be humbled and grateful that I am in this special place at this special time. Now we have almost 50 per cent women representing the Western Australian people. Imagine that! This demonstrates true democracy. We will participate and our voices will be heard. We will add a different perspective to discussions, and, trust me, the sky will not fall in.

I have learnt so much over the past year. Of significance is the unwavering support I have received from the Labor caucus. I would like to single out two women who have constantly checked in on me and given me tips and advice on how to survive the campaign. They have been there every step of the way: the member for Kingsley and the member for Swan Hills—the two Jess's. Thank you so much. Knowing I can count on you for your support for the next four years means so much to me.

Having worked among the community on so many issues, I have heard a range of different matters that are important to people, and I want to be able to make a difference as a member of Parliament in so many ways. Access to mental health services is one of the big ones, especially among young people. This was highlighted for me when over the last six months a number of young people in the goldfields sadly lost their lives to suicide. On 11 January 2021, a friend of mine in Kalgoorlie, Sharon Duffy, lost her 19-year-old son, Bryce Duffy, to suicide. It is with Sharon's permission that I recount his story. For over a decade, Sharon Duffy sat powerless, helpless and scared as she watched her son continue to try to take his own life, when the system that was supposed to support him continued to let him down. Since the age of 10, Bryce had had many attempts at taking his own life, but due to his young age and issues with drugs, there were limited options of support available. On three occasions after a suicide attempt, Sharon rushed Bryce to hospital, but they faced the same issues each time. She was told there were no mental health beds at the hospital for youth under the age of 18, which meant that Bryce could be kept in emergency overnight but could not be admitted, and he was sent home the next day. In Sharon's words —

There were many times I could tell he was suicidal or he had self-harmed, where I considered taking him to hospital—but it was too hard to get him there and what was the point? I knew they would just send him home ...

I spent so long, so many years not being able to do anything.

As a mother you are supposed to be able to care for your child and protect them and when you are powerless to do that, it is really upsetting.

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It was really hard, lots of sleepless nights and crying and stressing, terrified that my child was going to kill himself and now it is too late.

It's too late for my boy and I don't want it to be too late for anyone else.

Sharon used her voice during this tragic time to call for stories from other parents. Twenty submissions from the Kalgoorlie community outlined that the problems that Sharon's family faced were unfortunately all too common. These submissions detailed the personal experiences that families have endured trying to get their family members, often children and youth, help from services. Multiple gaps were identified. As a parent and grandparent, this broke my heart. No parent should have to go through this. One of the first things I did once elected was to bring Sharon together with key health professionals, and the challenges and hurdles faced by parents were discussed in detail. As you said, Sharon —

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. We need to support people in times of need and ensure the system supports them and makes them well again. If we do not do this then more people will suicide, and more families and communities will be left grieving the loss of those they love.

Thank you, Sharon, for your strength, your ability to share and for bringing others along with you. Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that in 2019, suicide accounted for 1.9 per cent of all deaths in Australia. That is shocking. For Aboriginal Australians, it is even higher—a devastating 5.9 per cent of the population.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms A.E. KENT: As a government and a community we must address this. We must do better and we can do better. I will be working with Sharon to push very hard for the changes we so desperately need. Thankfully, I am now part of a government that understands how important it is to significantly fund mental health initiatives. A \$360 million funding package will address critical gaps in the mental health system. Importantly, this will include more than \$122 million for the expansion of mental health services to young people.

This privileged position I find myself in will never be taken for granted, I promise. I was lucky enough to count on Premier Mark McGowan who visited Kalgoorlie so many times during the campaign. It enabled me to discuss many issues that are important to my electorate. If you haven't walked down Hannan Street with the Premier, you really haven't lived! What an experience. Of course, if Mark was not available, the cardboard cut-out was still a very popular choice for a selfie! I am so grateful for the support and encouragement of the other ministers who visited often. I would like to make special mention of Hon Alannah MacTiernan who visited Kalgoorlie when I was deciding to go for preselection and grilled me. Anybody who knows her knows what that is like! But thankfully I survived and her advice has been so warmly welcomed. I look forward to working with the Premier, ministers and members of Parliament to implement the plan for the goldfields. I promise that I will fight hard to bring benefits to the electorate of Kalgoorlie that it so richly deserves. I will represent every section of our wonderfully diverse community as best as I possibly can over the next four years.

During my campaign, a lot was made of how the regional voice will be overshadowed by metropolitan members of Parliament. Well, the Western Australian voters have spoken. This Labor state government now has nine regional members and the voters can count on us fighting hard in our electorates. No-one need be in any doubt that we will be heard loud and strong.

I chose Western Australia as my adopted home. I am so glad that my journey took me to the goldfields where I am now living with the third generation of my family in this incredible community. You have my heart and my family. I am passionate about so many things, but the core value that my dad taught me was how everyone needs to be treated with fairness and compassion. This is what I see Labor represent and it will remain at the forefront of my mind at all times. Dad, I hope you are looking down. This is for you. Thank you.

[Applause.]

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Finance) [11.22 am]: I rise to just make a few comments. One thing I would like to say to new members is that they should make sure that they listen to the bells and do not miss a division. It is very important that one does not miss a division. It can be very embarrassing and it is a black mark on one's record. New members should make sure that they work out that the blue light is for this house and the red one is for the other house. Members of the other house usually move at a slower pace so those bells usually ring for a longer period and are of a higher volume. Members should try to work out the difference between the two and make sure that they respond when it is a blue light and the right sound. It is important that members get back for a division, particularly in this house where the numbers are very tight!

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr D.A.E. Scaife), may I congratulate you on your election as the new member for Cockburn and your elevation to the chair that you fill at the moment as Mr Deputy Speaker—sorry, Mr Acting Speaker.

Dr Jags Krishnan; Ms Libby Mettam; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Acting Speaker; Dr David Honey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Peter Rundle; Ms Rita Saffioti; Ms Alison Kent; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Paul Lilburne; Ms Jessica Shaw; Ms Rebecca Stephens; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Chris Tallentire

Sorry about that, member for Forrestfield! I am sure that you will make an outstanding contribution to Parliament in representing the good folk of Cockburn. Of course, you are from south of the river and I believe that any member south of the river needs to get extra marks because we always have to fight harder for what we receive.

The inaugural speeches that we have heard this week have been absolutely outstanding. The class of 2017 was a large incoming class made up of not only Labor members but also members from other parties and there were some outstanding speeches then. Every inaugural speech in this house for this term of Parliament is being given by incoming Labor members and they have been absolutely outstanding. I was ashamed that I could not hear the speech last night of my good friend, the new member for Darling Range, but I look forward to reading through the transcript and viewing the video recording. Congratulations to my good friend for being elected to this house.

An absolutely outstanding speech was given this morning by the new member for Riverton who did not even read from his notes, which is absolutely brilliant. I may be wrong, but the only other incoming member in the last 20-odd years who has not read from his notes is the now member for Butler, but back then he was the member for Innaloo or whatever it was.

Mr P. Papalia: The current Attorney General.

Dr A.D. BUTI: He is the Attorney General now, but I do not think he read from his notes at the time. His speech was much more controversial, but I thank the member for Riverton for that outstanding speech this morning. I thank him for his campaign. I know it was a very bitterly fought campaign and I hope that some of the tactics used by some of his opponents are not repeated when we contest future elections. It was appalling. The member responded with grace and, as I say, member for Riverton, winners are grinners and losers can please themselves.

We look forward to the member for Riverton's contribution over the next four years and beyond. It is great to have a medical doctor in the house. Obviously, there are other doctors in the house, such as the member for Nedlands and the Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Cottesloe; we are real doctors, as we know. If one goes back and looks at the history, we have the real doctorates. These medical doctors are just practitioners that went off to medical school and we thought we would give them the doctor title, but we know who the real doctors are; isn't that right, member for Riverton? He knows the history. It is really good to have a medical doctor in this house and even more so on the Labor side because it has always been the Labor Party that has invested in public health.

The member for Riverton relayed the story about the terrifying bombings in London in 2005, which happened the day after it was announced in Singapore that the Olympics would be held in London. As the member for Riverton knows, it was a sliding doors moment. He was a bit late to the station and, as a result, his life was spared and we have the good fortune of having him here now representing the good folk of Riverton. As he mentioned in his speech this morning, the public health system in the United Kingdom stood up to the demands placed on it in London. The National Health System is revered there and Australians revere the Medicare system that was established here by a federal Labor government. We had an iteration back in the 1970s under Bill Hayden; I cannot remember what it was initially called.

Mr S.A. Millman: Medibank.

Dr A.D. BUTI: It was called Medibank, then a conservative government came in and destroyed it. When the Hawke-Keating government got back into power, it reinstated universal health care, which, of course, should be a right of any advanced democracy in the world. We know philosophically that federal Liberals, the federal conservatives, are opposed to universal health care. They have tried at various times to get rid of it, but they know that they cannot touch it now. They will try to diminish it over time and we must stand up to that.

I thank the member for Riverton and all new members for being here and for the outstanding speeches, as I said, by many of them. They have come into a chamber that is quite unique. When I entered this place in 2010, I started off by sitting where the member for Hillarys is sitting right now. The numbers were very tight back then. A member would not want to miss a division back then.

I remember the former member for Victoria Park—please take note, current member for Victoria Park—who missed a division and, as a result, I think we lost the vote. We would have otherwise won the vote. Then again, I also missed a division back then.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You missed one just five minutes ago!

Dr A.D. BUTI: Did I really? Thank you, Leader of the House, for reminding me of that. I am sure that will now be in *Hansard*. I really appreciate your recollection.

A member interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes, they do write your name down, but people do not necessarily read that. They will read now what the Leader of the House has just said. But can we get it correct: I think it was more than five minutes ago!

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Mr D.A. Templeman: In fact, they slammed the door in your face. You've left an imprint in the stained glass!

Dr A.D. BUTI: I did forcefully try to open that door, but, unfortunately, I was not successful. I was at a very important meeting, may I say, but there is no excuse. Parliamentary responsibility and duties take precedence over any other activity, unless a member has a pair, and a pair is granted only by the Whip of their party, so the member for Belmont is probably the most powerful person in this chamber. Members should make sure that they get on very well with the Whip, because if they do not, their chance of obtaining a pair may be reduced.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Can I interrupt? There was a time when, of course, the bells were rung once, and the now Attorney General appeared at that door, it was locked, and we could see, because we could see his unique-shaped head. The next minute, he appears at the back, trying to get in through the back door. I think he tried to get in through every door! We refused.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The Attorney General does not get embarrassed easily. I was rather embarrassed when I tried to open it this morning and all I could hear was laughter. I made a very quick retreat back to where I was for my meeting before that.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Back to morning tea!

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, come on, minister!

Mr D.J. Kelly: I hear there was a cream cake involved!

Dr A.D. BUTI: The minister knows very well my discipline in that department!

Mr D.J. Kelly: You'd run all the way to Armadale to get it!

Dr A.D. BUTI: The minister is right there. I believe that if you run a long way, you deserve a bit of pleasure, but that will be the excuse this afternoon for afternoon tea. For new members, it has taken some previous new members up to two or three months to realise that afternoon tea is served in this place. Unlike the other place, we do not have an adjournment for that period, but we can go and have afternoon tea.

Ms S.F. McGurk: It might be reformed; who knows?

Dr A.D. BUTI: It may be reformed; that is something that we may want to consider.

Congratulations to all new members. It is fantastic that you have been elected in this historic 2021 election. The speeches so far have been absolutely fantastic and I think that is a great sign for the contribution you are all going to make to this Parliament. Thank you very much.

MR P. LILBURNE (Carine) [11.32 am]: I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. I wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr D.A.E. Scaife), I congratulate you on your election to the seat of Cockburn, and it is truly fantastic to see you in that chair. I would also like to congratulate Madam Speaker on her election as the first woman in the position of Speaker. This truly historic moment for the position of Speaker in Western Australia is incredible and I am so honoured to be a part of the forty-first Parliament over which Madam Speaker presides.

My name is Paul Robert Lilburne and I am the recently elected first WA Labor member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia to represent the district of Carine.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr P. LILBURNE: I wish to thank Hon Martin Pritchard, MLC, who has been an extraordinary friend in both my political and professional life. I am so humbled and proud to serve in the same Parliament as he. I wish to formally acknowledge the contribution to the Carine district of my predecessors, Katie Hodson-Thomas and Tony Krsticevic. Thank you sincerely for the care you have demonstrated to the constituents of our wonderful electorate. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the Western Australian Labor government's substantial election result in March 2021, led by our Premier, Hon Mark McGowan, MLA. I would like to acknowledge and thank Tim Picton and Ellie Whiteaker at CHQ during the campaign, who helped to return WA Labor to an historic win in Western Australia.

I wish to thank my children, Matthew, Rebecca and Jessica, for their support during my election campaign. They have put up with a lot and I hope they understand that I love and care for them deeply. I must give special thanks to my most special friend, my wife, Tracey. We have a unique partnership and I wish to record how much I appreciate her love, encouragement and support.

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I would like to acknowledge the support of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA, the union that represents workers in the retail industry. I would also like to thank the unions of Western Australia that support WA Labor generally.

I was born in St Anne's hospital in Mt Lawley, Western Australia. My brother, John, was born four years later. My father, Robert Lilburne, was employed as a deputy principal of a secondary high school throughout his life and on his retirement received the educational medal from the then director general of the education department of Western Australia. My mother, Jane Lilburne, was employed during her career as a jewellery shop manager. I grew up in a Labor Party-supportive family and can state that our family has always voted for the Australian Labor Party both federally and at state level. During my father's career, he always remained a member of the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia. I have also always been a member of the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia with my membership beginning before I had completed my university training.

My father and mother considered purchasing a block of land on Lilburne Road in Duncraig in 1977. I remember as a five-year-old boy walking around a banksia-laden bush block that would someday be in the district I was to be elected as a member of Parliament. My parents ultimately decided to purchase a block of land in Kallaroo instead and I attended Kallaroo kindergarten in Perth's northern suburbs when I was four years old. It was here I met my first and lifelong friend, in the sandpit, building sandcastles. My friend's name is Mr Lance Spice. Lance was destined to join the Royal Australian Navy, and I know that some members here in the Legislative Assembly know and, indeed, have served at the same time as this gentleman. I wish to thank Lance Spice for his fantastic service to our nation. We remain the best of friends 44 years later. Last year, we travelled together to New South Wales to witness the spectacle of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

I attended Springfield Primary School from 1979 through to 1986 as a student dressed in my lovely grey school uniform. The modern primary school uniform colour regime has changed ever so slightly since I was a student. I have great memories of attending school camps at Nanga Bush Camp next to the Murray River in Dwellingup and Ern Halliday Recreation Camp at Whitfords Beach. My favourite primary school teacher, Ms Lynne Catchpole, was and remains to this day a caring person who had a marked positive impact on my ethos towards teaching students.

At the age of 10, Lance Spice and I joined the Kallaroo jurate club situated in the Anglican Church along Dampier Avenue. The jujitsu school was run by the late Mr Rob Baddock, a councillor of Wanneroo, who was then a black belt instructor. I learnt much of my early discipline, determination, respect and listening skills at this martial arts dojo.

At the age of 11, my parents took me to the United Kingdom for a six-week holiday. We travelled to the Neolithic Stonehenge site in the south west of England. This was probably the single most profound event in my life that forged my desire to teach anthropology, archaeology and palaeontology to school students, as a teacher. My family and I also visited the town of Tintagel, where the famed legendary castle of Camelot was said to be located, complete with Merlin's Cave underneath in the bedrock.

I attended Ocean Reef Senior High School and cherished the scholastic and social experiences of my secondary education. In 1991, I enrolled at Edith Cowan University in Joondalup and Mt Lawley in a Bachelor of Arts degree specialising in economics, geography, history and politics.

I wish to acknowledge the enormous contribution Edith Cowan made as a politician to Western Australian society, and join in the chorus of celebratory comments made about her recently by leaders in our community.

I received my black belt and instructor's licence in jujitsu when I was 18 years of age, and took over as head instructor in 1991. I relished the chance to teach self-defence to students and adults in our community. My martial arts background assisted me to support myself during my university days, because I was one of Perth's first security officers. In my role I attended alarm response activations in a range of places, like the Fremantle Crocodile Park and Customs House. I also had the privilege of being a personal bodyguard to numerous celebrities, including Miss Delta Goodrem and the late Michael Hutchence.

I graduated as a fully qualified teacher in November 1999 and was employed by the Education Department of Western Australia as a secondary school teacher. My first placement was at North Lake Senior Campus as a geography teacher, and I was then transferred to Pinjarra Senior High School to begin my country service. My country service was exciting because it enabled me to demonstrate my community involvement with associations such as the State Emergency Service, the Pinjarra Uniting Church and the Pinjarra-Mandurah Theatre Performing Arts Company. I played characters in the theatre ranging from productions of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* through to Gilbert and Sullivan's merry band of pirates in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

During my career within the Education Department of Western Australia I held positions as vice chairperson of school finance committees, treasurer of parents and citizens associations and a subject specialist teacher of economics

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and geography. I have taught at dynamic workplaces such as Rossmoyne Senior High School and Warwick Senior High School.

My career has provided me with numerous opportunities to meet incredible people in our society. One of the most amazing moments I have had was sharing a beer with and shaking the hand of Hon Bob Hawke in the 2017 campaign. I had just heard an incredible speech from the former Prime Minister and statesman and he was enjoying a coldie with our Premier Hon Mark McGowan. Bob Hawke then rose to his feet and burst into song, singing *Solidarity Forever*. I quote —

Now we stand outcast and starving 'mid the wonders we have made
But the union makes us strong
Solidarity forever

I was the first union representative at the picket line at the Griffin Coal mine site in Collie. It is this value of strength through solidarity that guides my ongoing Labor beliefs. I also acknowledge the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union of WA and the great work it does representing the interests of its members.

My fifth-generation great-grandfather was Sir Richard Spencer. Captain Sir Richard Spencer, KCH, who was born on 9 December 1779 and died on 24 July 1839, was a London merchant. He was a sea captain of the Royal Navy who served with Lord Nelson in several battles, particularly against the French. Later in life, he settled in Albany, Western Australia and was appointed Government Resident in 1833 on the recommendation of Sir James Stirling. He was born in Southwark in London's dockland and died at the Strawberry Hill government farm in Mira Mar, Albany, Western Australia.

My positive campaign strategy for the March 2021 state election was an amazing experience. Much of my learning of the demands of the political system occurred during the 2017 state election campaign when I was the candidate for Churchlands. The Carine district I now represent in the state Parliament has over 30 000 electors and covers more than 24 square kilometres. It has within its boundaries some of the most beautiful places for families to recreate in Western Australia. The Mount Flora Regional Museum, for example, is a historically important location. It was one of the original major freshwater storage facilities in the developing northern corridor. When the giant water tank on top of Mount Flora was decommissioned, it was refurbished to host one of the most important local museums, full of important memorabilia and significant photographic records of the developing North Beach, Marmion, Carine and Sorrento suburbs. This collection and site are administered by the City of Stirling. Unfortunately, this facility is able to open for only a few hours a week due to financial constraints. During my first term as member for Carine, I would like to drive the facilitation of a project research group to examine how this fantastic resource can be made more available for school students and the community in the future. I encourage all Western Australians to visit this local museum and climb the external stairs of the water tank to take in the views and the magical photographic opportunities, and, whilst there, support the local businesses of Carine.

The forty-first Parliament of Western Australia has allowed me to be a leader in my community with culturally important events. I had the pleasure of being invited to the Poynter Primary School Anzac Day service on Friday, 23 April 2021, where I represented the Minister for Education and Training of Western Australia, Hon Sue Ellery, MLC. Since my election, I have attended numerous meetings of community groups, such as the Karrinyup Rotary Club. It was my delight to be involved with numerous election commitments within my electorate, such as the redevelopment commitment for Duncraig Senior High School, worth over \$30 million. The two new classroom blocks and the addition of nine new science laboratories and two new chemistry laboratories particularly delight me.

Families from across the suburbs of Hillarys, Sorrento, Duncraig and Padbury are in the catchment of the school, and with so many more families established in these neighbourhoods or moving to these areas, it is vital that our school infrastructure is revamped and fit for purpose. The local school community will benefit from this significant rebuild and expansion, along with other major investments in school support and community sports facilities across the northern coastal suburbs. Having access to quality public education is so important. As a parent with a young family, I want to ensure that our local schools have the modern facilities and technology to accommodate students and the new and different specialist areas that schools now offer.

The election commitment to rebuild the Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club on West Coast Highway, with funding of over \$8 million, ensures that the people within my electorate and visitors to this most beautiful stretch of coastline will be safely protected against accidents. The \$1 million commitment to actively promote and enhance the Sorrento Football Club prior to the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, announced by Premier Mark McGowan on 1 April 2021, is of particular importance to me. As the Premier said in his media release regarding the undertaking, the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 is "a big deal for football, a big deal for women's sport, and a huge win for our State."

[Member's time extended.]

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Mr P. LILBURNE: The McGowan Labor government inherited a financial deficit disaster from the Barnett Liberal government, and I quote from *The Australian Financial Review* of 9 February 2017, which states that “net debt will pass \$40 billion for the first time in the state’s history”. The people of Western Australia are aware of the outstanding economic management of the McGowan Labor government. They demonstrated their understanding of the economic situation by electing 53 members of Parliament in the Legislative Assembly and securing 22 members in the Legislative Council for the forty-first Parliament. Those groups of facts prove that the democratic ethos is alive and well in Western Australia, with the people giving the McGowan Labor government an absolute mandate to make positive change for the people.

I have been an advocate for our region through my work for the last 21 years in the public service spheres of education and child protection. I have watched our community grow in strength and diversity and I have cherished the opportunity to contribute to numerous development programs in our area for youth, families and business. I have seen our standards of living improve and our artistic endeavours encourage innovative development of ideas during this rapid advanced technological age.

I secured a \$20 000 funding commitment under a re-elected McGowan Labor government to deliver accessible play equipment at Karrinyup Primary School. The funding will provide an accessible swing and accompanying infrastructure, such as ramps and rubber matting, to enable students with disability to play alongside their classmates. Modern, high-quality play equipment at our schools is important for keeping our kids healthy and interested at school. This commitment will ensure that students with disability can play alongside their classmates on accessible equipment.

Social values are a set of moral principles defined by society dynamics, institutions, traditions and cultural beliefs. These values are implicit guidelines that provide orientation to individuals and corporations to conduct themselves properly within a social system. I have observed our societal social values being challenged during recent times of crisis in Western Australia, but the Australian spirit of helping others in times of need demonstrated, reinforced and ultimately celebrated and enhanced our society. On Anzac Day this year, for example, thousands of Western Australians stood solemnly at the end of their driveways to commemorate Anzac Day. People stood and held in their thoughts the men and women who have served our nation. This year the people of this state could not come together to pay their respects like they wanted, but they still paid their respects.

Quality education and quality resourcing by the Mark McGowan Labor government since 2017 has rapidly improved the educational experience of students in schools in Western Australia and the breadth and depth of employment for our teacher graduates into the future. The WA Labor state government infrastructure projects in our Carine region have had a positive multiplier effect of financial strength and emotional wellbeing within families and their networks. The excellent management in areas such as Treasury and health will continue to deliver for the citizens of this wonderful state.

I wish to provide accessible and positive representation for the Carine electorate. I want to continue to support groups functioning for those in disadvantaged circumstances. Recently, I have been involved with numerous requests for assistance from my constituents. One such request came from a fly-in fly-out worker who had had a major accident at a worksite. The man received huge injuries and has required over 40 operations so far. I have delivered many food parcel relief packages for this man and his family during the last six months and am actively engaged in directing him to services associated with his administrative recovery.

I enjoy supporting my local schools’ parents and citizens associations’ fundraising events through the provision of gift hampers, the printing of advertising materials and the publishing of event schedules on social media services. I enjoy providing guidance to constituents with issues within my community, such as minor disputes with government offices. My office functions as a hub for information and advice for people through pamphlets from government agencies such as the Western Australia Police Force and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Australian values based on freedom, respect, fairness and equality of opportunity are central to our community remaining a secure, prosperous and peaceful place to live. The Carine district is an example of the embodiment of these ideals in an electorate. When I have hosted people at my electorate office or at one of the local businesses in the area, my guests have often commented on the peaceful and pleasant nature in which residents go about their business, with courtesies, patience and respect shown. Our values define and shape our country and they are a reason why so many people want to become Australian citizens and many actively choose to locate within the area I represent. The multitude of sporting organisations, clubs and social groups all enhance people’s lives and increase the level of networking, capacity and resilience within the community.

During my life, I have learnt that trust and friendship is worth much more than money. During my election campaign, it was the assistance and actions of friends that assisted my successful election and the right to represent the citizens and interests of the Carine district. The election campaign for me was a pleasant experience because I forged

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friendships as time passed. People who had commented on my social media pages were contacted by me personally and meetings were scheduled at a local cafe. Those people who took time to speak with me decided to support my campaign as volunteers, ranging from organising barbecues at ballot locations to being personal assistants for me on election day. To those friends I have made during that exciting time, I thank you for the hours of help you provided and I look forward to an ongoing friendship into the future.

When I visited constituents' homes during my doorknocking, the residents explained that trust as a core value was central to many of their decisions regarding the election. Elderly residents at a forum that I attended commented that I had actively listened to them about their concerns regarding law and order in their area. They told me that they trusted me over the other candidates standing in the election. I pledge to honour this trust during my term in Parliament and to demonstrate through actions an improvement in the standard of living for my constituents.

[Applause.]

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.59 am]: I rise to speak to the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's speech. In so doing, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the member for Midland on her election as Speaker. It is truly historic to have the first female Speaker of the Legislative Assembly elected, and that is something I think we should all be proud of. I also want to acknowledge her extensive career in Parliament and her great contribution to the north-east metropolitan corridor. The member for Midland certainly was very supportive of me in my early days as an aspirant to the seat of Swan Hills, and I appreciated that support. I congratulate her on her election as Speaker.

I would like also to take a brief moment to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of all the organisations that assisted my community throughout the Wooroloo bushfires. In the lead-up to the election and in the midst of a pandemic lockdown, we as a community were absolutely shaken by the ignition of a fire at Wooroloo that spread all the way through the electorate of Swan Hills with breathtaking speed. It extended from Wooroloo in the north-east right through to Gidgegannup. It knocked on the door of Brigadoon and went all the way through to Bullsbrook. It was a fire that travelled at a speed we had never seen before.

I subsequently spoke to many of the bush fire brigades that responded to the incident, and the fire was unprecedented in the speed at which it travelled and in the challenges that it presented. Fire brigade members talked to me about the fact that no sooner had they received their instructions on the fireground to respond, all of a sudden the direction came through to preserve life and property. It was an extraordinary event. I cannot express enough the gratitude that has been expressed to me by the people of Swan Hills to all the fire brigades that turned out, and I want to put that on the record.

Fire brigades turned out from across the state and, indeed, the nation, to assist in the response to that fire. I want to acknowledge the brigades in my electorate that were called upon. The Wooroloo Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is, of course, based at the ignition point of the fire. The Chidlow Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is based in a town that is very close to my heart, where I spent many happy years. There is also the Mt Helena Voluntary Bush Fire Brigade, the East and West Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, the East Swan Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, the Bullsbrook Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service and the Sawyers Valley Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. Each and every one of these brigades put themselves in danger for us, protecting our lives and homes, as they do each and every summer, and I want to express my gratitude.

In fact, I was evacuated to the Swan View evacuation centre; the fire came to the boundary of my neighbour's property, and it was really quite terrifying to experience. When I later went out to the fireground with the vice-captain of the West Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, it actually brought tears to my eyes to know that the West Gidge guys had protected my home only nights before. As we drove through the fireground, they described to me the fear they had felt when they faced these walls of fire. Men were standing there, defending my home, while their homes burned. I just want to express the tremendous debt of gratitude I feel and that I know many of my constituents feel.

I want to also convey my heartfelt sympathies to the hundreds of people who have lost their homes. The tragic thing is that many of the fire brigade members who have spoken to me have expressed their guilt about the homes that were lost. I know we all feel devastated, but I want them to know how grateful we are for the lives that were not lost and the many hundreds of homes that were saved. We are so deeply grateful for that. I want all the brigade members who are reflecting on that incident now to recall that.

One of the debriefing sessions I spent with the brigades was really quite emotional. A brigade member who was also a teacher at one of my high schools was racked with guilt because he was unable to save the homes of some children he taught. The impact it had on our community was really quite devastating, so I really want to acknowledge the extraordinary lengths the fire brigades went to, and to express just how grateful we are for their efforts.

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I would like to take a moment to thank a range of other groups for their efforts in response to the fires. At the evacuation centre we had the Department of Communities helping people to find clothing and support services. City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring officers were also there, helping out, as was the Western Australia Police Force. For the first time, we put in place an animal welfare plan for the pets of those people who were evacuated. Very often in such situations, people stay at home because they are not able to evacuate their pets, so the state government for the very first time put in place an animal plan in response to bushfires. City of Swan rangers were there to take people's pets into care, so I want to also acknowledge the shire rangers.

I would like to acknowledge the Australian Veterinary Association, which set up an animal emergency response unit to take care of our furry and feathery friends—the domesticated ones, but also native animals that were injured in the fires. Some days after the fire, I had the very great privilege of releasing an injured owl that had been hit by a fire truck. Fire crews had been coming through and it was flying low to avoid the smoke. It was hit by a truck, but thankfully it was rehabilitated and re-released into the wild.

I want to also acknowledge Disaster Relief Australia for the support it provided to my community; the Minderoo Foundation for its support; MercyCare; and the Red Cross. The Red Cross even doorknocked my house to make sure I was okay. It doorknocked homes all the way through Swan Hills to make sure people had the services and support they required. All those organisations have indicated to me that they are not just here for the short term; they are here for the long term. Obviously, when an event first occurs, everyone is preoccupied with the immediacy of response, but when the fires have died down, the poles and wires have been replaced, the power is back on and we look out upon a scarred landscape, who is still there to make sure that our mental health requirements are taken care of? It is organisations like Red Cross and the Department of Communities that are there to ensure that we receive ongoing support. If I have come to understand anything through this event, it is that long-term support is required. We need only look to the east coast where, years after fires have passed through, there are still scarred communities and people who are in need of support. I think it is very important that, as we plan long term for the communities affected by the Wooroloo fires, we understand that the process will take years, and those support services must be in place.

It is wonderful that, as part of the state government's response to the fires, allowances were made for water. I thank the Water Corporation and the Minister for Water for making that relief available as we evacuated our homes. Those who chose to stay and fight did so by sprinkling their homes with water. I would like to also acknowledge the provision of electricity to my community as we struggled to deal with the impacts of the fires.

I want to acknowledge a number of community groups that have rallied around. As I am sure many members appreciate, my electorate covers some 1 400 square kilometres; the fire started at one end and basically burned right through to the other—from Wooroloo through the outskirts of Chidlow, through Gidgegannup and Brigadoon, to Bullsbrook. When I was evacuated at one o'clock in the morning, I went to my mum's home. She came and shook me awake at three o'clock in the morning and said that they were evacuating Ellenbrook. Tens of thousands of people were required to leave the town of Ellenbrook; not a corner of my electorate remained untouched.

As much as we in Ellenbrook were very fortunate not to lose lives and homes, community groups responded. We witnessed this phenomenon across the length and breadth of Swan Hills. Many community groups rallied around to show solidarity with all people in the hills part of the electorate who had encountered such hardship and had such devastation wrought on them. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the extreme generosity of so many organisations. I want to give a really big shout-out to the guys at community radio station VCA 88.5. One of the first things that happened is its Wednesday night program *In the sheds* contacted me and said, "We want to organise a charity bushfire cricket event. We've got two local teams. We're just going to do as much as we can to raise as much money as we can to support our friends up in the hills." Dozens of businesses answered the call and donated money. I really want to acknowledge all the work that they did. They raised \$20 000. The Chidlow Tavern also held a thankyou event for the fireys and that was incredibly generous. The habitat of the western swamp tortoise was burnt out and the Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise rallied around to raise funds so that the swamp area could be replanted. The Sikh Gurdwara at Bennett Springs provided thousands of meals in the electorate of Swan Hills and also raised money. The Wooroloo Primary School P&C, Gidgegannup Recreation Club and Noble Falls Tavern all organised community events to bring us together to support that community. We owe a debt of gratitude to all the people of Swan Hills who donated and helped our community. Thank you.

MS R.S. STEPHENS (Albany) [12.11 pm]: I congratulate Madam Speaker, Hon Michelle Roberts. It is an honour and a privilege to serve alongside her as the first-ever woman Speaker in the Western Australian Parliament. She is indeed a trailblazer. I relate to the word "trailblazer" because I am the first-ever woman member of Parliament to represent the community of Albany—the first settlement of Western Australia and the home of the Anzac story.

I acknowledge the Menang Noongar people, whose land I call home and I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. The Menang name for Albany is Kinjarling, which means place of plenty.

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There are many firsts in the forty-first Parliament following the unprecedented election results. I am the seventeenth member for Albany, the seventh Labor member for Albany, the first-ever woman member for Albany and the first-ever member born in Albany. I acknowledge Hon Peter Watson, also known as “Watto”.

In 2000, I graduated from Albany Senior High School as Citizen of the Year, the same year Watto started his campaign. He successfully won the seat of Albany in 2001. Our paths joined as we pounded the pavement, doorknocking the Albany community. We did not encounter too many hot days, rather lots of hills, dogs and long driveways. We share the aspiration to proudly and determinedly represent the people and community of Albany. I intend to build on the legacy that he left not only in the community of Albany, but here in this Parliament. I wish Peter, Dianne and Harry many happy adventures in their motorhome.

I was born in Albany to Robin and Celia Waugh. My father was born and raised in Albany. Dad left school at 14 years of age to start an apprenticeship as a painter. He retired last year after running a successful business for 50 years. Mum and her family arrived in Fremantle as ten-pound Poms. Shortly after their arrival, my grandfather travelled to Albany and purchased the Lower King Store.

I have very fond memories of my schooling at Spencer Park Primary School and Albany Senior High School. I was fortunate to have many teacher role models and mentors, such as Maggie Dent, Nicky Byrne and Rod Gillies.

I obtained my first job at the Beachside Cafe and Restaurant at age 14, where I learnt many skills and especially the importance of a strong work ethic, which remains with me today. This is the first of the attributes that define me. I have a very strong work ethic.

Like many young Australians, I took a gap year after high school and used Edinburgh as my base and travelled throughout Europe. Wow, I learnt a lot! Those were the days when internet cafes were just starting to pop up and there was no such thing as Google Maps or apps.

When I returned to Western Australia, I studied tourism, event management and marketing here in Perth. At 23, I returned to Albany and started a boutique award-winning hairdressing salon with my cousin Ryan. That set us on the path to success. During our partnership, we won many awards, including WA regional business of the year with up to 10 employees. I was an active member of the executive committee of the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the youngest by 35 years and still the youngest-ever serving member. While at the chamber, I was instrumental in establishing the ACCI Great Southern Women’s group and in bringing young business owners to the membership. I am a proud member of the chamber, which has 600 diverse businesses in its current membership. I acknowledge the humble Baked Bean Seller, Paul Lionetti. Paul is an inspirational businessman, who has made brave investments to progress Albany, with the opening of the Hilton Garden Inn on the Albany foreshore in the coming months.

Volunteering was instilled in me at a very young age. My father is a football legend and a life member of the Royals Football and Sporting Club. My mother is a life member of the Albany Surf Life Saving Club and Surf Life Saving WA. The value of volunteering has helped shape the person I am today. As a keen sports person, I often played multiple sports, with mum and dad coaching, scoring, umpiring and volunteering as committee members. Sport was my life. I went to school to socialise and I played sport. I trained and I played hard. I represented Albany in country carnivals in basketball, football, volleyball, swimming, surf lifesaving and netball over many years.

Let me tell you a story that illustrates what kids from the bush faced and still face today. I loved swimming. When I was 10 years old, my coach, Andy Jay, took me, the only kid from Albany, to the state titles at Challenge Stadium in a 50-metre pool. I remember as a country kid warming up on my own, getting to the 25-metre mark and having a cry. I had trained in only a 25-metre pool. I had a goal to break the 40-second mark in the 50-metre freestyle, and my reward was that I was going to Sizzler. I marshalled my stomach full of nerves; the grandstand was packed. I took the blocks; the gun went. I smashed my goal by two seconds. I was eighth in the state; I was going to Sizzler. At the age of 10, I knew that as a country kid I was going to face challenges, but I was ready for them.

My family joined the Albany Surf Life Saving Club in 1990. The club had only 50 members and was close to folding. Mum became the secretary and committed to revamping the membership, which now is over 400 members. Surf lifesaving taught me the value of community service. The surf club became my second home. I spent summers patrolling the beach, travelling to compete at carnivals and keeping the Albany beaches safe. Middleton Beach is known as one of the safest beaches in WA. However, when I was 17, we lost a community member. I was involved in the rescue and resuscitation. We could not have done anything else; however, that experience and loss stays with me today.

I had many opportunities through surf. I obtained my first professional job at surf house as an education program coordinator. I was chosen to volunteer in Bali, training locals to obtain qualifications to gain employment, and I served on the Albany Surf Life Saving Club as the executive director of education and in other committee positions.

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Surf lifesaving clubs are unique. They are sporting clubs that provide vital emergency services to WA communities. As the pressures and demand of the emergency response teams expand, the McGowan government has committed \$1.6 million to expand the safety and functionality of the Albany Surf Life Saving Club.

The second of the attributes that define me is that I have lived and breathed the broader community of Albany. The obvious move for me was to become involved in local government, firstly as the mayoral liaison officer and then as a staff member and later an elected member of the City of Albany. There is nothing like local government to give you a breadth and depth of understanding of the issues facing the broader community. I enjoyed the opportunities to learn about the many varied challenges that people in the community face. People in Albany who know me well would say about me that what you see is what you get. I learnt a great deal under the leadership of two local government CEOs, firstly, the legendary Graham Foster, followed by the current CEO, Andrew Sharpe. I acknowledge City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington for his bullish, passionate advocacy for Albany, and my fellow councillors, current Deputy Mayor Greg Stocks and Councillor Rob Sutton, for their support, guidance and wisdom over the years.

The third attribute that defines me is my thirst for knowledge and understanding. Prior to being elected, I was the regional manager of Worklink WA, a not-for-profit organisation providing career and training services. I absolutely loved this role and its ability to adapt to a changing scope. Let me tell you about Dakota, one of our many success stories. I had a call from an old school friend who had a junior warehouse position vacant. I took Dakota down to the business for a meet and greet. Dakota had been a student with Worklink for 18 months and prior to that had attended high school for only four days—not four days each week, but four days in total. He did a trial at the warehouse the next week and he is currently completing a full-time traineeship. This is a perfect example of how organisations like Worklink can fill the gap for the many young people who slip through the cracks of the traditional education system. It is vital that government continue to partner with not-for-profit organisations like Worklink, because there are many, many young people like Dakota in our communities.

Organisations like Worklink are perfectly placed to provide for local needs. An example is when South Regional TAFE collaborated with Worklink in response to the hospitality skills shortage by delivering a fast-track course for students to gain responsible service of alcohol, barista and COVID food-safety qualifications, along with speed networking with hospitality businesses who were seeking staff. This was highly successful. Just last weekend I was introduced to one of the successful students from that program, who is now working full-time at the Albany Entertainment Centre with the skills they learnt. On the Monday following the election, a journalist joked that I would have to resign from my job. It was honestly the most rewarding job, helping young, vulnerable youth to obtain training and employment. Resigning became a bit easier when my colleague, friend and CEO of Worklink was elected to the seat of Warren–Blackwood!

The McGowan Labor government created the regional economic development grants program so that strategic government investment can get smaller local projects off the ground and help diversify our regional economies, drive economic growth and create local jobs. Since 2017, nearly \$1.5 million has been invested in Albany through the RED grants to businesses like Himac Attachments, Albany Seafoods, Monty's Leap winery, Westerberg Aluminium Boats, Dune Brewing Company and Beck and Call Coffee. Albany's Himac manufactures machinery attachments for the agricultural and earthmoving sectors. From its roots as a small family business to being a leader in the Australian attachments industry, Himac has experienced incredible growth. The grants have helped Himac kickstart digital infrastructure for its manufacturing facilities. Its workforce will reach around 65 employees by the time the second manufacturing facility is up and running later this year.

I now turn to my thank-yous. To my campaign director Hon Alannah MacTiernan, you, my friend, are a warrior, inspiring and compassionate. Thank you also to your family for their willingness to help in any way. Your support, wisdom and encouragement has changed my life and I will be forever grateful. To Guy Wroth, I would not be here without your dedication to the campaign. Thank you Ben Headlam, Ian Bishop, Claire Hanson, Kenneth John, Di Fry, Luke Gibson, Darcy Duncan and the Albany Labor branch. Also thank you to Ben Harris and the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Brad Gandy and the Australian Workers' Union, former Premier Alan Carpenter and all volunteers, supporters and donors. To the WA Labor campaign headquarters team, your support and dedication was outstanding. To my fellow regional members of Parliament, special congratulations to you. Our regional representation is so important. Regional voices need to be heard and acknowledged. Regionally, we face diverse challenges and are presented with many opportunities. This government has demonstrated its commitment to creating regional jobs and diversifying regional economies so that local small businesses can benefit. To the Premier, Mark McGowan, thank you for your solid, unwavering leadership, for your dedication and commitment to the party, and for your advocacy to see more women in Parliament. You rose to rockstar status in 2020 for many reasons. The Albany roller derby team used your famous "Run and Eat a Kebab" comments for fundraising T-shirts. It asked that I thank you.

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I acknowledge my family and friends. To my mum, Celia, thank you for your unwavering love and support always. Thank you to my husband, Darcy, who has embraced and supported me to become a member of Parliament. Thank you to my sister, Megan, who is a nurse who serves the Albany community, and to my dad, who during the campaign proudly flogged around the streets of Albany on his gopher as a mobile billboard. Thank you to my children: Fergus, my quiet lamb, a lover of history, sport and music; and Maggie, my rooster, fearlessly determined, independent and soccer-mad. Thank you for being resilient; the journey has just begun.

It is an exciting time for Albany, with planning underway for the bicentenary in 2026, the delivery of a new Mount Lockyer Primary School, the Albany ring-road, the radiation oncology centre and everything else in the WA Labor plan for Albany that will create local jobs.

The stamp I want to leave on this Parliament as a proud member for Albany are the three attributes I have spoken about today, with the first two being my strong work ethic and my constant involvement in the community. I know the Albany community and the Albany community knows me. The third attribute is my thirst for knowledge and understanding. I want to use these attributes to contribute to the decision-making of this government for the benefit of every Western Australian. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [12.27 pm]: Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on your new role. Sorry, it feels a bit weird to have the mask off! I would also like to congratulate the member for Midland on her election to the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the forty-first Parliament of Western Australia—the first woman to hold this position. As I look around the chamber, I am grateful beyond words to be a member of this place and to stand beside my colleagues, both new and returned, as we continue the work of the McGowan Labor government. I acknowledge the crucial role of the Speaker in ensuring that we, as parliamentarians, stay focused on the task at hand in the business of government, and as I noted in my first speech four years ago, I wish our Speaker and all who sit in the Speaker's chair throughout this term of government all the very best in ensuring we follow the rules of this place and endeavouring to ensure we play the ball and not the person and stay focused on, as I said, the task at hand in the business of government. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier and cabinet ministers of this the forty-first Parliament, and I sincerely thank and acknowledge the historic work of the cabinet of the fortieth Parliament.

I speak today having been returned as the member for Bicton. I am excited and incredibly grateful to be at the beginning of my second term in this place, and I would like to take a moment now to express my eternal gratitude to the people of the suburbs of Palmyra, Bicton, Attadale and Melville, and parts of Alfred Cove, Myaree and Fremantle, for their belief in me and the support they gave me to continue my very important role here. I acknowledge and congratulate each of my new parliamentary colleagues on their election to the forty-first Parliament of our great state of Western Australia, and on the occasion of their first speech. It is a wonderful thing to listen to their first speeches and learn a little about each of them, their history and their hopes and intentions for their time in this Parliament. I look forward to working with them and the returned members of this second term of the McGowan Labor government who now sit right throughout this chamber as we continue to deliver for the people of our electorates and across Western Australia. It is also wonderful to see the great variation of backgrounds and life experience of my new colleagues and that almost half of all members in the forty-first Parliament are women. We are a broad church and while we actively seek diversity, we serve in unity. It is the great strength of the Western Australian Labor Party and of the McGowan Labor government.

I am proud to be a member of the McGowan team and to represent the electorate of Bicton. It is a privilege that I never have and never will take for granted. To my campaign team, my family and the army of volunteers who worked tirelessly for my re-election, thank you. The many hours of doorknocking and phone calling, working in outdoor offices, attending community meetings, representative opportunities and other electorate-wide engagement activities, as well as the work here in the Parliament throughout the past four years, has taught me that while there is great power in words, it is with listening and then action that I can truly make a difference for the people of Bicton as their local member. As I reflect on the twin notions of listening and acting, the words of the new member for Kimberley resonated deeply with me when she talked about Aboriginal people being amongst the most studied people in the world, and yet there is still such a massive gap in life outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. I thank the member for the work that she has already done and will do in the years ahead to make things better for all people of the Kimberley.

Everyone has a story to tell, and in every story there is an opportunity to learn and grow as a local member, a parliamentarian and a person. As local members, we hear many stories from the people we serve, our constituents, of both hardship and celebration. It is a privilege and a great responsibility to be entrusted with these stories. Even more critical is the responsibility to assist our constituents in achieving the outcome being sought through the telling

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of their story. Once again, I thank my new colleagues who have so far shared their stories of how they have come to be here in this house. Their speeches have been eloquent, honest, heartfelt and funny. I thank those who have spoken of deeply personal challenges for their willingness to share their vulnerability as well as their strength. I look forward to hearing the speeches still to come. If I can offer just one piece of advice, it is to allow yourselves the time to get to know this new world you have now entered, ask questions, build relationships and know that every member here was new to this place at some point too. Enjoy the ride with all it brings and remember there are people all around you who can help you learn to survive and thrive.

At this point I would like to acknowledge and thank the member for Fremantle—I am very pleased she is here in the chamber—for her guidance and support before I came to this house and every moment since. It is her work ethic and dedication to her electorate of Fremantle and to her ministerial portfolios that continue to inspire me to be the best that I can be in this place and for my electorate of Bicton.

I go back to stories. The stories of COVID-19 in Bicton and beyond have been as diverse as the people across our great state. Isolation, separation and restriction has affected everyone in some way. The elderly, the vulnerable, small business owners and those whose loved ones live outside of Western Australia have been especially impacted. We in this house are not personally immune to this and I, like many, including our Premier, have parents and family interstate and overseas. We also have a small family business so I know firsthand some of the challenges that COVID has brought to this sector. I also know that it is here in WA that we are best placed to navigate our way through this global crisis because of the leadership of Premier Mark McGowan and the government he leads. An overwhelming number of people across our state agree.

Along with our return, it is wonderful to see so many new Labor members in this house, particularly the many women. The McGowan Labor government has already delivered many historic and monumental things for our state and I am proud to have been part of the fortieth Parliament, which took on the massive challenge to turn around our state's finances, make important changes in the protection of our environment, overhaul the public sector and take on what we thought at the time would be the biggest challenge of all: to pass laws to allow end-of-life choice—the voluntary assisted dying legislation. I am proud of all our achievements and my contribution over our first term of government. There are too many achievements to mention in their entirety, but I will make a special mention of some of the big ones. They include stopping the Perth Freight Link and Roe 8 and 9 projects. That was a disastrous plan that would never have succeeded in what it was apparently attempting to do. It would have never reached the port in Fremantle. It was a traumatic time for many and a galvanising point for me in terms of taking action and getting involved, from being out there on the protest lines at the Beeliar wetlands, to deciding to nominate and then win endorsement for the seat of Bicton. As the member for Riverton said, doorknocking can be brutal but it is the way to win hearts and minds. It is key to everything that we do as Labor members. It is all about engaging on a personal one-on-one level to ensure that we fully understand the needs of the community and continue the work that we have begun in this place. One more piece of advice to new members is to never stop knocking on those doors. Get out and engage with your constituents and be out there as much as you possibly can in your communities.

Protecting the Alfred Cove foreshore from inappropriate development was another achievement. It is often said that when we campaign, it is the small things that make the biggest difference. Although the Perth Freight Link was a massive part of our historic win in 2017, locally it was more telling around the local environment and the proposal for an artificial wave park that would have impacted the Alfred Cove foreshore, which is known internationally as a habitat for not only local wading birds, but also migratory birds from as far away as Siberia. It also would have impacted local playing fields and the opportunity for our children to engage in physical activity that they enjoy, be it cricket, football, soccer or whatever. They need open green spaces, particularly as the pressures of development begin to impact more greatly. I am particularly proud of that achievement. To this day we continue to protect that beautiful part of my electorate of Bicton, two-thirds of which is based along the Swan River. The foreshore is an incredibly important part of where we live.

I am proud that we have invested in our schools, including \$4.5 million for Melville Senior High School that saw the construction of the dedicated performance arts centre. In terms of sporting infrastructure, \$1.8 million was provided for the Frank Gibson Park Netball Centre. Every Saturday, my daughter is included in the number of netballers who head to Gibson Park. Over 10 000 people, including players, family members and supporters, use that facility. It was ageing and not fit for purpose. I am particularly proud that we were able to provide that funding.

We achieved landmark protection of our environment with the introduction of the three-bin food organics and garden organics program to reduce landfill. Then there is the container deposit scheme. Many of our constituents live on the banks of the Swan River and are very connected to the importance of our waterways. Whether a member represents an electorate on the ocean or along the river, the importance of reducing the amount of plastic and other rubbish that ends up in our waterways cannot be underestimated. Of course, the container deposit scheme provides incredible opportunities for our local sporting groups, P&C associations and other community groups to raise funds

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as well. It is an absolute win-win and is something that I am particularly proud of. Locally, I am also proud to have made some small changes with big effect, which include a new bus route to enable students who live north of Canning Highway to get to Melville Senior High School and home again and a new signalised pedestrian crosswalk over Canning Highway that will safely connect residents north and south of the highway.

I am deeply connected to my communities right across my electorate. That really comes from my history in community building initiatives. I managed a farmers market for three years prior to coming to this place, along with other things. I am also a local mum and a resident, too. Like so many across my electorate, I am involved in my local sporting and service clubs, and I am really excited to be delivering for them and others in this forty-first Parliament. Our sporting facilities, schools and local environment will benefit in many ways from the re-election of the McGowan government. These benefits include a \$20 million redevelopment of the East Fremantle Oval precinct, \$7.5 million for a new gymnasium at Melville Senior High School and \$2 million for a reef restoration project in the Swan River. I thank the member for Thornlie for introducing me to the Nature Conservancy four years ago. It does incredible, phenomenal work in re-establishing a network of shellfish reefs. I guess it is not hard to imagine that 100, 200 or 300 years ago and beyond there were a whole series of reefs, both mussel and oyster reefs, right across our country and throughout our waterways. As a result of adverse environmental impact and fishing, many of those have been reduced if not completely wiped out. The Nature Conservancy re-establishes these reefs, which have huge and far-reaching benefits. A mussel reef is being developed in the Swan River, just off Bicton in my electorate. It will provide habitat. It is expected that our fish stock will increase, and that will benefit recreational fishers and our beautiful osprey. The big osprey that we have in Alfred Cove rely on local fish for their survival. The reefs will also improve water clarity, so the benefits of that type of project cannot be underestimated.

There is a commitment of \$50 000 to each of my local schools for small projects. Again, these small funding-type commitments can make huge differences to schools, whether they are to install solar panels to offset running costs; to go towards nature play projects, which, again, have huge benefits for our children in their gross motor skills development; or to community gardens, so that our kids can benefit from an understanding of how to grow and harvest food and then share that food together. Some members may be familiar with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation project, which has been around for a few years. Funding can also benefit our local sporting facilities and really support the massive growth in the participation of particularly females in traditionally male-dominated sports such as AFL and cricket. I do not have to look too far for an example of that. My daughter is in her fourth year of playing AFL, and Palmyra Junior Football Club, the Palmyra Demons, has grown in four years from being one team with nine girls to this year being six teams with over 80 girls. That is great for the sport, great for the club and absolutely terrific for girls. In taking on new challenges, they have the opportunity to not only learn new skills, but also feel greater levels of confidence in themselves and their abilities. Hopefully that will lead to leadership opportunities in the future.

I am going to wrap it up there. I would like to say welcome to you all. Again, please ask questions and build those key relationships. Everyone here—maybe not a couple of members over there—are here to help. We are looking and willing to help you, so make the most of the opportunity. Welcome, and I look forward to working with all of you throughout the forty-first Parliament. Thank you.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie) [12.44 pm]: I begin by congratulating all the new members and complimenting them on the magnificent inaugural speeches that we have heard. The diversity of experience and talents, the different delivery styles and the various life experiences and ambitions that people bring to this place are absolutely tremendous, and that is what makes this Parliament a wonderful place. The more diverse and wideranging the backgrounds of members, the stronger this place will be. I think it also has to be said that the quality that we are seeing is a great compliment to the quality of the Labor Party's preselection and candidate selection process, so well done there.

I also congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your appointment, and, of course, Madam Speaker, Michelle Roberts. As have all other members, I acknowledge the significance of that election. When we think that Edith Cowan stood in this very place 100 years ago to make her first speech, and we look back at *Hansard* and see the barrage of insults and derogatory remarks that she received, it is absolutely amazing. Thank goodness we have come a long way, but what a pioneer she was.

Throughout the last 12 months or so since the COVID pandemic started, I have seen a big transformation in the way the Western Australian public looks upon elected officials, and I think people running as candidates as well, although the difference between being a politician and a parliamentarian is an interesting thing. We are all now here as parliamentarians, and I think people have a desire to respect people who are parliamentarians. This is something that the Premier, Mark McGowan, has done so well. He has shown people what it is to be a leader and to make tough decisions to keep us safe, and I think one of the opportunities that has come about through COVID has been the chance for people to see those extended media conferences. They are not just getting fed the minute or two of WA political news on the nightly news. Instead, they are able to actually see the Premier wrestle with the decisions of the day, see the challenges and the pain and hear about the sleepless nights that he has had to go through to come to a particular

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decision—and I think that is helping the Western Australian public to regain respect for the political process. That is a very good thing. We are moving away from the almost automatic cynicism that people have held against the political process for so long. We are moving to a situation whereby people actually admire and respect the decision-makers, and that is a huge transformation. I think it is a wonderful prize for us to treasure and nurture along.

The challenge going into the future will be that, inevitably, our political system is built around an adversarial approach. Indeed, the structure of this chamber reflects that adversarial approach. Somehow, as good, solid and rigorous as that adversarial approach is in testing whether ministers understand things and are making the right decision, it also seems to have the impact of being a bit corrosive on the broader community's respect for the political process. That is a challenge that we face—how we can continue to nurture this new-found respect that people have for the political process while at the same time maintaining the integrity that comes about through that constant interrogation. Of course, it has been a mighty effort by our leadership team of the Premier; the Deputy Premier; the Commissioner of Police, Chris Dawson; and the Chief Health Officer, Dr Andy Robertson. It really has been an amazing effort, and Western Australians are very appreciative. Like all members here, I am sure, I was overwhelmed by the number of times people asked me to pass on their thanks to the Premier and to the whole leadership team in government for the very wise and sensible decision-making and for keeping Western Australians safe. Western Australians have responded magnificently, and the people in the Thornlie electorate are no exception. They have been diligent observers of all the personal hygiene requirements; they have been wearers of masks and sanitisers of hands. They have done everything really well, so that is fantastic.

Of course, we face many challenges. I acknowledge that about four per cent of my electorate has a connection with India, and I feel for people in this challenging time. I want to make one quick comment on the quarantine situation. When I see somewhere such as the Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre out towards Northam, I wonder why that could not possibly be adapted to accommodate people, rather than having us forced into using the hotel quarantine system.

Moving onto another issue, I know we began this week with the acknowledgement of the passing of Prince Philip and I give my respects to Prince Philip. I request that Hansard not correct my speech when I refer to him as only Prince Philip because I think there is a tendency for royal protocols to come into effect and that he would be, in fact, titled His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. I think in Australia we are fast moving on from this idea that people can marry into a title or acquire a title, huge wealth and power by dint of their birthright. I think we have to move on from that; it is just wrong. Therefore, I make this request to Hansard that my words not be corrected and that the title His Royal Highness not go before my reference to Prince Philip, just as a mark of the times we are moving in, because we need to make changes and our society is coming along.

We are very different from the United Kingdom with its entrenched class system, which has the monarchy at its peak. It is a class system that I think is incredibly damaging. I think the monarchy in the UK is used as a distraction. Political players there, especially those of a conservative bent, are very happy to see all sorts of aspects of the royal soap opera play out, so that they are not under the scrutiny that they perhaps should be under for bad decision-making. Thinking of the tragic number of deaths in the United Kingdom from COVID-19, why its media is not pursuing that more strongly, I do not know. Instead, the media have headlines about the latest situation with Prince Harry and his wife. It goes on as a distraction. We do not need that in Australia; we can move on from that and I am sure that many members will agree that the time for Australia to become a republic is fast approaching. Even if we were to stay as a constitutional monarchy, we could look at the approach taken in some of the other European constitutional monarchies; they are vastly different from how it plays out in the UK. I believe that of the 27 European Union countries, six are constitutional monarchies. None of them has that same national obsession with the Royal Family that the UK seems to have. That is a problem. I commend to members a very interesting report on Radio National's *Rear Vision*, that looked at Edward and Harry, the two men who left the Royal Family. It is a very interesting story that certainly puts things into perspective.

I want to move on to an issue that the member for Swan Hills touched on—that is, the Wooroloo bushfire. A family property of mine in the Gidgegannup area was quite badly hit by the bushfire. It caused significant damage to fencing and the water supply, but the magnificent effort of volunteer bush fire fighters, professional full-time firefighters and, especially, the local community people who were loosely affiliated with the fire brigade saved the cottage and the sheds on the property, so we are incredibly thankful for that.

Something that always comes up in the review of any bushfire is the arrangements between the different agencies and the local volunteers, who have very strong knowledge. Fortunately, I think they all combined incredibly well, certainly in the Gidgegannup area. There was still a tragic outcome—no loss of life but much loss of property. We can be very thankful that it was not worse.

I think the issue gives us a chance to again ask the question about the effectiveness of prescribed burning. I noticed that areas on the family property that had been recently burnt were burnt again and other areas that had not been

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burnt for decades were not burnt at all. That is because there are so many ecosystem types, whether it is a wandoo woodland area or an area that is casuarina dominated or jarrah-marri dominated. There are different patterns and different forces at play.

I noticed on the weekend an ABC report by Mark Bennett in which Dr Joanna Young called for a review of the effectiveness of prescribed burning. That is very interesting, because it touches on air quality. My constituents in Thornlie raise with me the issue of the air quality impacts of prescribed burning. They are very understanding, though. They have been told that this is the main solution to the problem of wildfire, so they understand that. But I do hear from air quality experts that the levels of PM2.5—that is, the very small particles that can get into the bloodstream—are severely elevated at times. I know the health advice is that that would happen whether it was a wildfire or a prescribed burn, so people would suffer one way or another. There is scope for some review of that issue. They are the health impacts of prescribed burning and wildfires.

We also need to look at the biodiversity impacts, and that issue was raised in the report on the weekend. There is a third element, and that is the effectiveness of our current prescribed burning program, which is driven by a target of burning 200 000 hectares per annum. Sometimes that target seems to be met by large burns in areas of state forest, but it might not necessarily be effectively targeted at protecting property and areas of human settlement. There is every justification for this area to be reviewed and better understood, because we still have much more to learn about it. I heard a presentation at the City of Armadale a week ago by Dr Joe Fontaine from Murdoch University and he was very open about it. As a fire expert—this is a man whose life study is in this area—he says that there are so many things that we are yet to learn. There is a lot that we can try to glean from traditional Aboriginal burning practices, but it is important to note that there is certainly not a one-size-fits-all solution. The practices of the Whadjuk people might have been quite different from those of the Noongar people elsewhere in the south west and very different again from the practices used across the rest of the country. We have this very interesting situation in which modern science is trying to learn from and validate the practices of the past. The best information that Dr Fontaine presented was that it comes down to looking at the individual species. Those that are known as obligate seeders—that is, plants that have to regenerate from seed—tend to have a negative response to increased fire frequency, whereas resprouters, such as jarrah trees, can cope very well with increased fire frequency. There are 14 000-plus species of plants in Western Australia. In the south west, I think it is close to 8 000 species. They are not all governed by the same requirements by any means. We can alter the landscape and perhaps also make it safer through various burning practice changes, but the one thing that seems to be very evident is that the drying-out effect that happens through burning, especially in wetter areas, tends to remove some of the humus layer, which dries out the landscape and makes it more vulnerable to increased burning. Some very good work is currently being done in this area. Magnificent work is being done, whether it is on the response to wildfires or to some of the prescribed burning that goes on, and much can be done by way of refinement into the future.

In the few moments that are left to me, I would like to say how happy I am with the range of projects that we will be investing in in the coming weeks and months in the Thornlie electorate. I am especially proud of the \$200 000 commitment for work by the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group to make the Canning River area in the Thornlie electorate more enjoyable for, and more accessible and friendly to, the public. It is something that people will be able to learn from, appreciate and recreate alongside. I recognise that many people in my area have recently arrived in Australia and are only just beginning to appreciate the complexities of Australian natural heritage. That is one of the aims of that \$200 000 project.

I am also delighted that the Gosnells City Football Club clubrooms will be expanded, with funding of \$130 000.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 336.]

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm