



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT  
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2021

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4 May 2021



# Legislative Assembly

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**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** took the chair at 2.00 pm, acknowledged country and read prayers.

## **HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

### *Condolence Motion*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [2.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house records its regret at the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and tenders its sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and his family.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, lived a very large life. He left a legacy of duty and service to his country and the commonwealth. He was a figure of admiration and interest for many Australians and a man whose life matched many of the contours and turmoil of the twentieth century. He really led a remarkable life.

Philip was the youngest of five and the only son of Princess Alice of Battenberg and Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark. Born on the island of Corfu, Greece, his young life was quickly in upheaval. His father, Prince Andrew, was summonsed to Athens to give evidence in a trial of Greek military officials. Those officials were held responsible for a defeat that led to the catastrophe of Smyrna, a fire that killed up to an estimated 100 000 people and destroyed much of the Turkish port city. However, his father was taken into custody and ultimately exiled. The next year, when the King of Greece, King Constantine I, was forced to abdicate, Philip and his mother fled the nation on a British warship. Quite famously, on that warship he had a makeshift cot in an orange fruit crate. He was born with the title of Prince of Greece and Denmark in an era that was strange for royalty across the world. Philip had ties all across Europe. His mother and father met at the funeral of Queen Victoria. His grandfather was the King of Greece; his great-aunt Ella was murdered, along with the Russian Tsar, by the Bolsheviks; and his mother was a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

His Royal Highness had an interesting upbringing. He was raised across Europe with relatives and in boarding schools, especially after his mother was institutionalised. Once again, notably, Sigmund Freud consulted on her case. His life would take him into the military, attending Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, Devon. It was, interestingly enough, where he had a notable encounter with his future wife, a then 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth. The story goes that although it was not their first encounter, it was the first time that he made an impression on the then princess. Essentially, he was excused from training to escort the princess and her sister, Margaret, when their parents were touring Dartmouth and the reason, funnily enough, was quarantine. The college was going through outbreaks of both chickenpox and mumps, and the young sisters needed to be kept away. Philip spent eight months in training at Dartmouth, earning the Eardley Howard Crocket prize for the best cadet of his entry.

Prince Philip would have a successful military career in his time in the Navy during the Second World War. He served on numerous ships, including the battleship HMS *Ramillies* in the Indian Ocean escorting troops from Australia to Egypt, as well as HMS *Kent* and *Shropshire* in the Asia-Pacific region. At the close of 1940, he joined HMS *Valiant* in the Mediterranean theatre, notably at Cape Matapan in March 1941, where, in dispatches after the victory, he was mentioned for bravery and enterprise in controlling the battleship's searchlights in a night-time battle. He was later awarded the Greek War Cross of Valour. In 1942, he was involved in escorting convoys off the east coast of the United Kingdom on HMS *Wallace*, before the ship was deployed to the Mediterranean to take part in the invasion of Sicily, where it was used to help cover the Canadian landings on the island. To quote the Royal Navy website —

Contemporary reports from his commanding officers praise Prince Philip's practical seamanship skills, high intellect, good judgement, strong character, zeal, and great charm. He was described as an "officer of unusual promise" and it was predicted he would "make his mark in the Service".

He was then promoted to first lieutenant on a new destroyer, HMS *Whelp*, whereby, in addition to escort work, he was present in Tokyo Bay in September 1945 for the surrender of Japan. That was not the end of his service, however, as he assisted with the repatriation of Allied servicemen, spent time onshore, trained new sailors and completed additional studies, and, of course, very notably, there was his marriage to Elizabeth and the birth of their son Charles. Notably, prior to the marriage, he renounced his rights to the Greek throne and became a British subject.

Philip would once again return to sea, on HMS *Chequers* in the Mediterranean, with him and Elizabeth residing in Malta. He was promoted to lieutenant commander in 1950 and given his first seagoing command on the anti-submarine frigate HMS *Magpie*. However, Prince Philip's active naval career came to an end with the death of King George VI and the coronation of Elizabeth.

I should mention that he was promoted to honorary Admiral of the Fleet, Captain General of the Royal Marines, Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force and Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps, and remained involved with the armed services for the rest of his life.

Some still find it surprising that the Duke of Edinburgh played an essential role in modernising the institution of the Royal Family. He was instrumental in ensuring that Elizabeth's coronation was televised and was the first member of the Royal Family to be interviewed on television, albeit about the Commonwealth Technical Training Week, appearing on *Panorama* on the BBC in 1961.

The Duke carved out a life in public affairs for himself across the twentieth century. The BBC reported that at the time of his retirement from royal duties, he was patron, president or a member of over 780 organisations and had taken on 22 190 solo engagements. He took up the cause of technological advancement, as well as physical capability and conservation. Most Australians would be familiar with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which encourages people aged 14 to 15 years to take part in volunteer work, learning physical activities or undertaking expeditions. In 2016, it was said that almost 1.3 million people were taking part in over 130 nations worldwide, and 775 000 people have taken part in Western Australia since its creation.

The Governor tells a story of a wreath-laying the Duke attended in Kings Park. Guns were discharged as part of a salute, which shocked one guest, who exclaimed, "What was that?" The Duke replied, "All I know was that it didn't get me."

I think we can all agree that Prince Philip had a remarkable and long life—from the "boy in the orange crate" and the "boy with no surname", to a notable military career, and, finally, to being the longest-serving British consort.

His Royal Highness devoted his life to service, but, more than that, he devoted himself entirely to the love of his life, Her Majesty the Queen. Walking two steps behind her for so many years was a simple and clear statement of his love, support and respect for his Queen.

As a Parliament, we offer our sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family.

Vale His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.10 pm]: I rise on behalf of the Nationals WA to express our sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family on the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Since his passing, much has been written about His Royal Highness Prince Philip's life. It can be characterised as one of commitment to both his Queen and public service. Prince Philip demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and its people. He stood down from official royal duties only three years ago, at 96 years old—a clear testament to his enduring loyalty and support for the work of the Royal Family and the many people it worked for.

Over 57 years, he visited Australia some 20 times, with and without the Queen by his side. His first visit to Australia was in 1954 with the young Queen. The trip was eight weeks long and encompassed 70 cities and towns, with about 75 per cent of the population turning out to see the young Queen and the Duke.

Prince Philip had many causes that he was passionate about, such as preserving the world's forests and fish stocks, as well as the welfare of young people. In 1956, he developed the highly successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a youth achievement program designed to promote teamwork, resourcefulness and a respect for nature. The award has stood the test of time and is still a program highly regarded and pursued by the youth of today.

In addition to his long and enduring loyalty to the Queen, Prince Philip was a father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He has been a mainstay of the Royal Family for nearly 100 years. His loss will no doubt be felt keenly by those who were nearest to him.

On behalf of the Nationals WA, I pay tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and once again extend our sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family.

May he rest in peace.

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [2.12 pm]: I also rise to speak to this condolence motion for His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has been a constant for a generation—someone whom I and every person in this chamber has known about for our entire lives.

Prince Philip has been a friend of Australia, visiting our nation 22 times over 71 years, either with the Queen or separately. Notably, he opened the Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962, a visit during which, against protocol, he drove his own official car. Prince Philip appreciated the relative informality of Australia and made it clear that his affection for us would have continued had we chosen to become a republic in 1999. His very last visit with Her Majesty in 2011 concluded here in Perth, four months after his ninetieth birthday.

Although some in the mainstream media liked to portray Prince Philip as an extremely conservative person, I think that in many ways he was very much a modern man, well ahead of his time in forgoing his own career to support his wife's career.

Prince Philip was born into the Greek Royal Family, but he did not have an easy life. He lost meaningful contact with both his parents from the age of nine when they separated. At the age of 16, one of his sisters and her young family were killed in an air crash. His saying that, "I had to get on with it", sums up the attitude of many of his generation.

Prince Philip made his first visit to Australia in early 1940 as an 18-year-old midshipman on a Royal Navy battleship. He saw action alongside Australian warships in 1941 at the Battle of Cape Matapan. He also served as a first lieutenant on a destroyer in the 1943 invasion of Sicily, during which his initiative in launching a smoking decoy raft saved his ship from a potentially fatal aerial attack. When he was forced to take indefinite leave from the Royal Navy in July 1951, he was a lieutenant commander captaining a frigate. It is clear that he would have had an exceptional military career but for the ill-health and premature death of his father-in-law, King George VI, in February 1952.

Following his marriage to Princess Elizabeth in 1947, Prince Philip dedicated his life to not only her but also the institution of the monarchy, of which he was to say 30 years later —

People still respond more easily to symbolism than to reason. The idea of chieftainship in its representative rather than its governing function is still just as clearly and even instinctively understood. From the point of view of national identity, this function is perhaps more important than ever.

Prince Philip was a thoughtful moderniser, ensuring that the 1953 coronation was televised and that the Queen was soon mixing with a wider range of people. His constant support gave an initially shy and conservative young monarch the confidence to proceed with evolutionary change.

Prince Philip was passionate about the environment and the rounded education of youth. The World Wildlife Fund was launched by Prince Philip in 1961, when the conservation movement was not well established. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has enriched many lives. He founded this program in 1956 with input from the pioneering educationist Kurt Hahn, and through its affiliates it now extends to 144 nations. The award commenced in Australia in 1959 and was established in all states by 1962. The award has been completed by 775 000 young Australians, with an estimated 45 000 competing for the award each year.

According to the historian Simon Heffer —

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme was highly appropriate to him: not just because he was a man of action, but because of its psychological effect on those who took part in it. It bred character, and character had been central to his own success and the respect in which he was held. Character—a moral strength, absence of self-pity, values founded in decency, a wish to serve others and the country—was, again, central to his generation.

It was about setting an example, and not searching continually for what could benefit oneself.

Prince Philip gives us the example of a natural born leader who accepted and embraced the role of consort, dedicating himself to the job of assisting his wife fulfil her destined role, and without ever seeking to exert political influence. When he retired from royal duties in 2017, it is estimated that he had attended over 22 000 solo events.

To conclude with the words of historian Robert Tombs —

He was of that generation, now almost gone, that surmounted the dangers of a war for survival. We admire their virtues, even as we fail to practise them. We know deep down that they merit the respect of all of us who have since lived safe and prosperous lives.

Vale His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

**The SPEAKER:** If there are no further speakers, I request all members to rise for one minute's silence in order to carry the motion.

Question passed; members and officers standing as a mark of respect.

#### ACTING SPEAKERS

##### *Appointment — Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [2.18 pm]: I advise that I have appointed the members for Albany, Bateman, Cockburn, Dawesville, Kalgoorlie and Landsdale as Acting Speakers for the present session. I welcome the appointed members to the team of members who will chair the proceedings of this house.

#### INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

##### *Statement by Minister for Emergency Services*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Emergency Services)** [2.19 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house about International Firefighters' Day. Held on 4 May each year, the day recognises the contributions made by firefighters, including those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In Western Australia, we mark this important event with a memorial service at the Firefighters' Memorial Grove in Kings Park on the first Sunday in May. It was a great honour to attend and acknowledge our firefighters for their extraordinary commitment, their exceptional courage and their service, and sometimes, tragically, their sacrifice. The service is a moving tribute to fallen firefighters across Western Australia, including those who have lost their lives

in the line of duty. I joined past and current firefighters, family members and the community to commemorate the memory of those who are no longer with us and to reflect on the incredible work that our firefighters do every day. For the first time, the service was livestreamed, allowing those in regional areas, across Australia and overseas to be part of the emotional service.

The work of a firefighter is often dangerous and difficult. It is particularly important to acknowledge our firefighters' dedication following the recent bushfire season, which was one of the most destructive in years. Bushfires in Red Gully and Wooroloo saw firefighters from across Western Australia come together to protect lives and homes. Although the fires had a devastating impact on the community, with the Wooroloo bushfire burning more than 10 000 hectares and causing extensive damage, fortunately, no lives were lost.

I acknowledge the resilience, courage and tenacity of the responding firefighters, who worked tirelessly day and night to protect the community. It was a great honour to recognise all our firefighters, both career and volunteer, who are on standby ready to respond to an emergency.

The emotional service included the reading of the fallen firefighters' honour roll, which includes the names of 69 Western Australian firefighters who have given the ultimate sacrifice. To those individuals and their families, we are eternally grateful for their contribution. They have left a legacy of courage and service. I am sure that all members of the house will join me in acknowledging and thanking the thousands of career and volunteer firefighters who work day in, day out to keep our state safe.

Members: Hear, hear!

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER — MEDIA ACCESS

*Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [2.21 pm]: Members, I advise that the parliamentary press gallery has requested additional opportunities to obtain photographs and footage of question time in the Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, I have given standing approval for the presence of photographers and camera operators in the press and public galleries for the first 20 minutes of each question time.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

#### 9. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I ask this question in consultation with and on behalf of the family of Aishwarya Aswath. Will the Premier do the right and decent thing and immediately announce an independent inquiry into the tragic circumstances of Aishwarya's death as well as other severity assessment code 1, category 1 incidents that have or could have resulted in death or serious harm at Perth Children's Hospital?

#### Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. Obviously, the events surrounding Aishwarya's passing were very tragic and very difficult for the family. It is unimaginable for a family to lose their seven-year-old daughter. All our sympathies go to the family. There is currently a process underway—it has become a well-established process over many years—to investigate and review these matters. That process is expected to conclude on or by 12 May. The government will await that outcome. In addition, there may well be a coroner's inquiry but, at this point in time, that is the process that has been in place for governments of all persuasions when these horrible events occur. I do not intend to intervene in that; I do not think the member would suggest that I intervene. When we get the results of that inquiry, we will give the report to the family so that they can understand exactly what the inquiry has found.

### PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

#### 10. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Why is the Premier causing unnecessary anguish for Aishwarya's family when an independent inquiry is clearly required, given the extraordinary circumstances of her death and the questions they are asking about this situation, and given that the Premier can announce this immediately?

#### Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I outlined to the member earlier, an inquiry is currently underway. As I understand it, that inquiry involves around 10 clinicians and others, including a range of eminent child health experts, paediatric consultants and the like from across the health system. I do not intend to intervene in that; I do not think that that would be appropriate. The Minister for Health and I will let that inquiry conclude. At its conclusion, the report will go to the family and, hopefully, we will have a greater understanding of what occurred. There is often a coroner's inquiry in these cases; the coroner, of course, is independent. I do not think that it would be appropriate to intervene in an inquiry that is underway when that is the well-established process that happens when these things occur.

## CORONAVIRUS — INDIA

**11. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Premier:**

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your appointment. My best wishes to you in the years to come.

I refer to the state government's response to COVID-19 both here in Western Australia and India. Can the Premier outline to the house how the state government is responding to those affected by the COVID-19 crisis in India and can he update the house on the government's efforts to get as many Western Australians vaccinated as possible?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Jandakot for the question. I congratulate him on his re-election and the very significant majority he has in his electorate. I acknowledge the members for Jandakot, Riverton and Pilbara, who have been working very closely with the Indian community in Western Australia. Each of them has family and friends in India as we speak. We know that what is occurring in India right now is very dire and tragic.

At present, 350 000 cases and thousands of deaths are recorded each day, but I think most people assume that both figures are much higher than what is recorded and registered. It is a very, very difficult thing. We have decided to commit \$2 million in relief funding towards our friends in India to assist with oxygen ventilators, personal protective equipment and other such initiatives and we are doing so in conjunction with local Indian community organisations so that we can get resources on the ground into the areas that they are most needed. We announced that this morning and it is my intention to make sure that we get that operating as quickly as we can so that assistance from the state of WA to India is provided as quickly as it can be. If Western Australians would like to donate, they can contact an organisation called Sewa International Australia, which has a presence in India and is currently raising funds to assist India. It is shocking to see images of funeral pyres and cremations en masse. It is no doubt very hurtful and very difficult for Indian Australians and anyone in India as we speak.

Here in WA we are continuing to roll out our vaccination program. Vaccinations for those over 50 years of age became available yesterday. I received my vaccination yesterday, as did the health minister. I encourage all Western Australians to get vaccinated when their turn comes. To date, the Western Australian program has rolled out 102 588 doses of vaccine and we continue to vaccinate people each and every day. Hospital-based vaccination clinics, in addition to GP clinics, are offering vaccinations in each of the regions around Western Australia. We are preparing to launch our online booking system. We have ramped up our phone booking system and increased the capacity of our call centre. About one-third of yesterday's 10 000 calls to the COVID hotline related to vaccines. We are doing all that we can to get more staff because the demand is there. Obviously, one of the important ways to get ourselves out of this very difficult situation that we and other states face is to ensure that as many Australians as possible are vaccinated; so when their turn comes, I encourage people to get vaccinated.

## CORONAVIRUS — COLLIE

**12. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the very recent reports in the media that a positive case of COVID has been detected in Collie.

- (1) Can the minister confirm whether this is in fact true?
- (2) If so, when was the minister first made aware of this?
- (3) What advice can the minister provide the house on this very concerning matter?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(3) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question and understand the anxiety and concern that such reports may trigger for a number of people.

I can confirm that we have had what is called an equivocal positive in a gentleman in Collie. He had travelled from Poland and quarantined for 14 days in Melbourne. I am not sure whether it was a usual test or whether he became symptomatic, but a follow-up test produced an equivocal result. In these cases, we make sure that we can get a clear line of sight of the outcome of the test results, so he will be tested again to determine whether he is in fact a positive or what is called a historical case. Our strong suspicion at this stage is that his is a historical case, which means that he is shedding particles of the virus. That can, from time to time, trigger a positive result in the usual testing process. We will go back and test him again. He is isolating and all his close contacts are also isolating until we get a clearer signal in terms of his test outcome. Ultimately, we will determine this through a serology test. Members are all familiar with the PCR test that detects elements, or the presence, of the disease itself. A serology test tests for antibodies, which is the defining characteristic that we would see in someone who is considered a historical case and is actually shedding the disease rather than continuing to incubate or host the disease. That is our very strong suspicion at this stage. We are taking this very cautiously to make sure that we are prepared for any outcome in this particular case.

Further to the Leader of the Opposition's question, I heard about this this afternoon. Of course, the Department of Health had already swung into action to make sure that we had taken steps, which also included liaising with his employer to make sure that they were aware of any consequences for them. Of course, at this stage we understand that the risk is extremely low, or remote. From that perspective, I think we can all take great comfort in the immediate and precautionary work that the department has undertaken.

#### CORONAVIRUS — COLLIE

##### 13. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

Thank you, minister. I have a supplementary question. What communication occurred and what offer of additional resources have been made to the local community, including the local government and hospital, given that there will be serious concerns in that community? From past experience, there always has been an influx of queries while they try to carry out their very important work in both those workplaces.

##### Mr R.H. COOK replied:

We would already have made sure that we had stepped up our testing capacity at Collie Hospital to make sure that if there was an influx of people who were anxious and were getting themselves tested that we were on top of that. We would also have provided information to all the major stakeholders.

At this stage, I stress that it is an equivocal positive—a weak positive. From that point of view, we do not hold grave concerns about the outcome of this, but we are taking a precautionary approach by testing the gentleman, isolating anyone associated with him and making sure that we undertake extra testing to get a much clearer picture of the situation.

#### CORONAVIRUS — CONTACT TRACING

##### 14. Ms E.L. HAMILTON to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the state government's response to COVID-19. Can the minister update the house on the extraordinary work of WA's contact tracers during the past two weeks, as well as the healthcare workers undertaking the massive testing program across Perth?

##### Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup for the question and congratulate her on her recent re-election.

We are all familiar now with the mantra of test, trace and isolate. These have been important principles that we have put into action to make sure that we can keep Western Australians safe. The two key elements of this are the scale-up testing at short notice and the ability to contact trace and understand how the disease may have potentially spread within the community and where it has spread. In recent weeks, we witnessed the capability of WA Health in flexing up its capacity to meet any challenges associated with contact tracing. Through contact tracing, we can ensure that a case is isolated as early as possible, reducing the number of people that the case comes into contact with and, therefore, any spread of the virus. This has been the key element of our success in limiting the cases that have recently occurred. In particular, for cases 984 and 986, we traced 396 close contacts and 898 casual contacts. Over the last weekend, 95 close contacts were identified, traced and interviewed, and 429 casual contacts. Over this period, we have seen extensive testing undertaken. Over 90 700 tests were done between 23 April and 4 May. I think we should all appreciate that the testing capability and the contact tracing capability of the Department of Health has been a key feature of making sure that we can stay on top of any outbreak and that we have a clear line of sight of where it occurs. Our testing in particular has been important. We have the capacity to test up to 18 000 people in our public clinics and many thousands more in our private clinics. I would like to acknowledge the private pathology labs and the great efforts they have undertaken recently in joining us to make sure that we can test anyone who needs to be tested during these incidents.

During COVID-19, Health has been operating with about 50 full-time equivalents in contact tracing. In recent weeks, that has flexed up to 100. We have in excess of 750 people throughout the public sector who can come on as part of those contact tracing teams. This will continue to be an important element of our arsenal in our response to COVID-19. As the Premier said, another element has now come into place. Although we have said, "Test, trace and isolate", now we are saying, "Test, trace, isolate and vaccinate." If people have the opportunity to be vaccinated, they must take up that opportunity. It is important for protecting them, their family and the community. I echo the thoughts of the Premier who said, "Whenever you have the opportunity to get vaccinated, please do so." That will increase our range of options of how we can respond to the disease and make sure that we can stay on top of any outbreak of the disease wherever it occurs.

#### ELECTORAL REFORM — LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

##### 15. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the announcement of the government's intention to pursue electoral reform in the Legislative Council, despite repeated statements from the Premier prior to the state election that this was not on the government's agenda.

(1) Did the Premier mislead the people of Western Australia?

- (2) Did all 21 regional MPs in cabinet and caucus agree to pursue an electoral reform agenda, thereby agreeing to disenfranchise regional voters?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) Obviously, at the election a few dramatic things happened. One of them was that a gentleman who lived in America was elected to the Legislative Council with 98 votes—98 votes. He was elected for a region that fundamentally opposes what he stood for. This young gentleman, Mr Tucker, got 98 votes. His success was orchestrated by Mr Glenn Druery, who we will all be familiar with. Glenn Druery makes a business of getting around organising voting tickets, in upper houses in particular, to ensure that certain people with a low number of votes get an opportunity to get elected, and then he gets a payment at the end of it. I understand that he got a \$50 000 payment as a consequence of this. Mr Tucker was elected to the Mining and Pastoral Region with 0.2 per cent of the vote, or 98 votes. The Liberal Party in the South Metropolitan Region got one member elected with 67 000 votes. That is 67 000 votes for one Liberal member and 98 votes for one Daylight Saving Party member. In what world is that fair? In what world is that sensible? This has occurred. Apparently, Mr Druery, who I do not know or hold any ill will towards, said words to the effect that getting Mr Tucker elected to the Legislative Council was his finest work yet. The Western Australian electoral system allows for this, and this should not stand.

We also have a situation—this is very interesting; I was not aware of it—whereby a vote for the upper house of Western Australia in Kalgoorlie is worth 3.48 times a vote in Albany. Someone's vote at the polling booth in Kalgoorlie is worth three and a half times someone's vote in Albany. As fine as Kalgoorlie is, member for Kalgoorlie, with very fine and wise people in their choice of a local member of Parliament, a vote in Kalgoorlie is worth 1.48 times—in effect, one and a half times—a vote in Esperance. Kalgoorlie is a wonderful place. It does a lot for the state. It has a railway, an airport and certain other things available to it that Esperance does not. Esperance is actually further from the city than Kalgoorlie, but a vote in Kalgoorlie is worth one and a half times a vote in Esperance. Also, a vote in Wundowie, just out of Perth, is worth four times the value of a vote in Wooroloo. Wooroloo is nine kilometres away from Wundowie, but a person's vote in Wundowie is worth four times that of a person's vote in Wooroloo. Does anyone think that any of those things is fair? Does the Leader of the Opposition think that that is fair? She does not answer. Our role should be to promote fairness.

What the Attorney General has done is to get Mr McCusker, QC, an eminent Western Australian, to look at all these issues. Mr McCusker is a former Governor of Western Australia. He is a highly respected local citizen. He will have a look at all of that and come back with a report for us to examine. How were we to know prior to the state election that someone from the Daylight Saving Party would be elected with 98 votes and that only one person from the Liberal Party would be elected in the South Metropolitan Region with 67 000 votes? How were we to know that? We will get Mr McCusker to look at that. We will make sure that we examine what he brings back so that we can look at the fairness of the system.

#### ELECTORAL REFORM — LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

#### 16. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier reject any recommendation from the “independent” committee that reduces the number of regional representatives in the Legislative Council thereby increasing the number of metropolitan representatives?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Obviously, I am not going to prejudice what Mr McCusker will come back with. I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition knows Malcolm McCusker.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** You asked the question; I didn't interject on you. New members, you will get used to this.

I will not prejudice what Mr McCusker will come back with. He will come back with a report in the next eight or nine weeks. But I can tell members one thing that I will reject. “Big Nick” Fardell was on ABC Goldfields radio on 3 May. Members might know Big Nick. I have met Big Nick. I understand the Leader of the Opposition is very fond of him. Big Nick Fardell said that the review that we have launched does not go far enough because it rules out abolishing the Legislative Council. He was one of the National Party's candidates. He was number one on its ticket. He has been a shining light in the National Party for a long time. The Nationals have tried to get him in the Senate and into the Mining and Pastoral Region; they hold him in high regard. He said, and I quote —

I'm a fan of actually scrapping it.

That is, the Legislative Council —

It works in other places. We're the most over represented population in the world.

...

I'm going to do a petition to say who wants to save \$50 million and get rid of 36 politicians altogether.

...

A lot of the people in the upper house are nameless people and faceless people. So we don't know about them.

This is from someone who has run for the upper house.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** He's entitled to his opinion, Premier.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** He is —

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** But he is a senior National Party figure. I am telling members now that we are ruling out abolishing the upper house. It is one thing that we have ruled out; but, obviously, the National Party has a secret plan to abolish the upper house. We will take into account the review by Malcolm McCusker, which the Attorney General has established, because he is an eminent Western Australian whose views we should listen to.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE — FEDERAL FUNDING

##### 17. **MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's success in securing its fair share of federal funding for Western Australia's unprecedented pipeline of major infrastructure works.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how the \$1.3 billion in federal funding that the government has secured will support the delivery of Metronet as well as this government's record investment in both metropolitan and regional roads?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what these major road and rail upgrades will mean for local jobs and the state's economic recovery?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question. Can I also congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election as the Speaker of this house.

- (1)–(2) The McGowan government has a proven track record in delivering infrastructure throughout Western Australia. In our first four years of government, we set about delivering a record amount of infrastructure, which created jobs and opportunities for Western Australians. Since the election, we have rolled up our sleeves and done it again. We have negotiated with the federal government and secured \$1.3 billion in new funding for Western Australia.

**Ms S.E. Winton:** How much?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Member for Wanneroo, \$1.3 billion. That not only will allow us to reduce congestion, support Metronet and improve regional road safety, but also means that we will have a pipeline of infrastructure not for the next year or two years, but for the next five to six years. That means more jobs and training opportunities for Western Australians. That is why we continue to seek federal funding to create that pipeline of work.

A number of excellent new initiatives were announced today. I was there with the member for Forrestfield and, of course, the Premier, along with the federal Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash; Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Hon Ben Morton; Ken Wyatt; and Steve Irons. There will be a number of new initiatives. There is another \$350 million to support Metronet, particularly with the lifting of the rail through Cannington, for two new stations and for the removal of level crossings. The member for Armadale will be happy with the new funding that will be spent throughout Armadale and, of course, regional WA. There is \$200 million to upgrade Great Eastern Highway and \$160 million to support our farming communities through WA agriculture supply chain improvements. These are real initiatives that support our economy and also our population. There will be funding for the new Perth Airport north precinct that will allow for further industrial development around the airport. There will be money for the Toodyay Road upgrades, which, again, is a major priority that we set out to the commonwealth. Of course, member for Dawesville—I will try to find you—there will be \$55 million to deliver the estuary bridge. That was an election commitment that we made about eight weeks ago. We have secured the funding for that and will be delivering that project, member for Dawesville.

**Mr R.S. Love:** Great work by the commonwealth government!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The member for Moore is the third shadow Minister for Transport we have had. I suspect he is using the same methodology—knock everything, criticise everything—that was used by previous shadow transport ministers. I suspect this new shadow Minister for Transport will do the same; he will knock and criticise everything that we are doing.

We should all be proud that the government is achieving outcomes for Western Australians. We are creating jobs, supporting Metronet, improving regional road safety and reducing congestion throughout our suburbs.

METRONET — FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK

**18. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to reports in *The West Australian* today regarding delays impacting completion of the Forrestfield–Airport Link project, which was supposed to be completed last year. When will this line be completed and when will trains be up and running to Perth Airport?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Moore for that question. Of course, we know members of the Nationals WA have been knocking Metronet for years. Members may not be aware, but they created stickers and they put them on their cars to make sure they criticised —

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** We are receiving further briefings about the Forrestfield–Airport Link project. As I said in this morning’s press conference, I will provide an update within the week. I am very proud of the work being undertaken out there across Western Australia by workers on infrastructure projects. They have had to build, and continued to work, through COVID-19 conditions. I am so proud of the work that has been delivered and what has been achieved. In many other parts of the world, tunnel projects stopped altogether; they actually ceased all work. But as I said, we will provide an update in the next week.

Let us go through the National Party’s record on Metronet. We know its bumper stickers. I am glad to see that the member for Moore has taken the bumper sticker off his car! Last week, as I was going through the car park, I came across something on the ground beneath the member for Moore’s car—not that I go searching—and there it was: the “metrodebt” sticker was on the ground! He got the glad wrap and the sponge, got it on there, peeled it off successfully and there it was on the ground underneath the car! But the Leader of the Opposition still has got her “metrodebt” sticker on. The National Party is there asking us to build it quicker, when it opposes it. It was the Leader of the Opposition who said, on 24 March—not 24 March 2020 or 2019—a few weeks ago —

... push back some of the expenditure they’ve got for some of those vanity projects or bigger projects like Metronet ...

That is what the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Nationals WA, said—to push back expenditure on Metronet. I could say —

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The National Party, which created stickers to oppose Metronet, tried to create a city—and continue to do —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The National Party is talking about the financial management of the state. We could do a whole question time focusing on the National Party’s record on the financial management of this state!

In relation to Metronet, the National Party, which eight weeks ago said to delay the project, delay the expenditure, is now saying to hurry it up. It has been all over the place. The National Party has played the city versus country divide for four years, which got it nowhere. It went backwards.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you can have a supplementary, but I will ask you not to interject with additional questions.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The demonstration today is that it will continue to go backwards with its attitude in this place.

METRONET — FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK

**19. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. In answers to questions today the minister has claimed she has had a good record on delivering projects. Why will she not be honest with the Western Australian public and come clean about when this project is going to be complete?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

Will National Party members now remove their bumper stickers from their vehicles?

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** When will they? Honestly, they should not come in here and ask about Metronet and then try to divide the community on it. We are so proud of our delivery of Metronet. We have continually engaged with the public in a positive, consultative way, delivering Metronet. As I have said on numerous occasions, I will provide a further update. But we are so proud of the fact that we have an agenda. We came into government and we secured funding from the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack—the good National Party leader supporting Metronet. We have the federal Liberal Party supporting Metronet and running ads on it. The only two parties in the entire country that do not support Metronet are the state Liberal Party and the state National Party.

CYCLONE SEROJA — WATER CORPORATION — ESSENTIAL SERVICES

**20. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Water:**

I refer to ex-tropical cyclone Seroja that has impacted essential services in my local community of Geraldton, as well as Kalbarri and the surrounding areas.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the work underway by the state government to reconnect essential water services in those affected communities?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how the state government is supporting those affected by this disaster?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Geraldton for her question and for the very hard work she has been putting in in recent weeks to assist her community. As a state government, Madam Speaker—congratulations on your election; I am sure you are going to get sick of that eventually, but we will keep saying it until you give us the nod!

**The SPEAKER:** I am not sick of it yet!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** We have been working extremely hard to assist the people of the midwest who have been impacted by ex-cyclone Seroja. I am very proud of the work that has been done by staff at the Water Corporation to ensure that essential water services have continued to be provided. There are only 70 Water Corporation staff in the midwest. That may sound like a lot, but when we think that the area impacted by ex-cyclone Seroja is equivalent to the area of Tasmania, it really is a vast task. The Water Corporation has charge of thousands of kilometres of pipes, over 200 pumps, tanks and other bits of infrastructure in that area, so when cyclone Seroja hit and communications went out and, importantly, power went out, it really was an enormous task that those staff faced. Obviously, the loss of power and communication meant that effectively those staff were operating blind. They could not communicate with each other, they could not communicate with other emergency services and it was a significant task. I really want to congratulate the corporation for the work it put in. Seventy staff got straight to work, and their efforts were supplemented by another 30 staff who, within 24 hours, were mobilised from the metropolitan area. They put together something like 60 temporary generation sets to ensure that power was resupplied on a temporary basis to the system before Western Power was able to reconnect supply on a permanent basis. By and large, the Water Corporation's own infrastructure survived pretty well, apart from some damage in Kalbarri. Once the temporary power was connected, and the priorities of wastewater and drinking water were secured, the Water Corporation's efforts were then directed to the non-potable services that are provided. The Mingenew service, with 200 kilometres of pipe, provides non-potable services to a number of farms in that area. Again, it was done by cooperating and working. I think, in particular, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd assisted. Water Corporation managed to source some generation sets from CBH, so emergency water supplies for livestock were able to be provided. Very quickly, the Water Corporation staff ensured that essential services were provided.

We then announced a range of relief packages for commercial and residential customers, and that was quite significant. All customers in Kalbarri and Northampton had outstanding debts and charges waived. It was something like 447 customers, and over \$277 000 worth of debts were waived. In addition, service charges for 12 months, totalling over \$2.2 million, have been waived for any residential customer in Kalbarri and Northampton. In addition to that, they are getting 50 kilolitres of free water. Outside Kalbarri and Northampton, if customers have been affected by the cyclone, they are able to apply, and if they have lost their homes, they will get the same support package as residents in Kalbarri and Northampton. Outside of Kalbarri and Northampton, impacted businesses will have their wastewater service charges waived for four months. Again, that is significant financial assistance for those businesses. I understand that about 120 customers outside Kalbarri and Northampton have taken advantage of that. In total, we estimate that the package will be about \$5 million worth of financial relief for both commercial and residential customers.

As a government, we are doing everything we can so that those communities in the midwest can get back on their feet. I want to express my thanks on behalf of the people of Western Australia for the really hard work that the staff at the Water Corporation have done to play their part in getting those essential services and customer services back online as soon as possible.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, that was very important information that I am glad you passed on to people, but your answer was rather long. I would ask you to be a bit briefer in future.

## CORONAVIRUS — HOSPITALS — BIRTHS

**21. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to correspondence that the minister, the Premier and the opposition have received from the “Make it Make Sense” campaign.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that under previous lockdowns, partners of women giving birth have been prevented from being present in public hospitals during this especially important period?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that this policy has contributed to significant distress for mothers and their partners, and, potentially, mental health issues, including postnatal depression?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. I can confirm that COVID-19 provides a great opportunity for people to get distressed and be anxious. That is regrettable. It is part of our lives. It is very sad when we see the negative impact associated with measures that our public health experts say we must put in place in order to keep people safe. Obviously, hospital environments are areas where we see a significant number of not only vulnerable people but also the community and the population coming in and out of those buildings and institutions. It is important when we have a heightened state of alert in any lockdown situation that we take extra opportunities to protect people, particularly the most vulnerable. Often, those measures are difficult to put in place. They are heartbreaking and distressing for many people, but they are done with the very best of public health advice. They are done with a heavy heart, but with a determination to keep people safe. I have not had the opportunity to review the correspondence that the member referred to, but we take every opportunity when we have these situations to review, reflect and make sure that we get the balance right in protecting people and allowing them to go about their normal lives.

## CORONAVIRUS — HOSPITALS — BIRTHS

**22. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister commit to allowing partners to be with mothers immediately after birthing during any future lockdowns, especially if he is allowing 100 people to attend weddings?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

No, I will not. I will commit to making sure that we follow the best public health advice and what we can do to keep Western Australians safe. That has been our commitment all along. I see the member for Roe shaking his head, because he does not believe we should keep people safe. He thinks that we should have politicians wade into this sort of exercise and second-guess the public health experts, and make sure that we try to sideline all the best advice that we can get in order to score cheap political points to make that sure we undermine the public health response that has kept Western Australians so safe to date. That is the public health response that members on the opposition benches have taken every opportunity to undermine, whether it is supporting Clive Palmer and his efforts to pull down the borders or second-guessing and attacking our public health officials for providing expert health advice.

Several members interjected.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** I tell you what: if you were in government during the COVID-19 pandemic, we all know what situation we would be in! Thank goodness we have a McGowan Labor government as we attempt to keep people safe from COVID-19 and from the Nationals WA and the Liberals.

**The SPEAKER:** That concludes question time.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER — VISITORS

*Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [3.04 pm]: I advise of a longstanding practice in the Legislative Assembly of visitors not being permitted on the floor of the house on sitting days. This is largely because members may have working papers and other items at their places in the chamber prior to sitting. Guests may not be taken on to the floor of the chamber within three hours of the commencement of a sitting, including during meal breaks. However, it is permissible to take guests into the Speaker’s gallery during breaks in proceedings, but not beyond the Bar of the house. Your cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

## PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (COVERT POWERS) ACT — ASSUMED IDENTITY REPORTS

*Correction — Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [3.09 pm]: Members, we do not normally have quite so many papers for tabling; it is the build-up at the start of a new session.

I advise that I have received a letter dated 30 April 2021 from the Minister for Police requesting that errata be added to seven Criminal Investigation (Covert Powers) Act 2012 assumed identity reports covering the following periods: 1 March 2013 to 30 June 2013, tabled on 26 November 2013; 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, tabled on 11 April 2019; 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, tabled on 16 February 2016; 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, tabled on 14 August 2018; 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, tabled on 20 February 2018; 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, tabled on 29 November 2018; and 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, tabled on 28 November 2019.

The errata provided updated figures for the number of assumed identity authorities. The updates reflect changes made in 2020 to the method for calculating these numbers. Under the provisions of standing order 156, I authorise the necessary errata to be attached to the various tabled papers.

[See papers [190](#) to [196](#).]

**PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH**

*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party)** [3.11 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the following motion to be debated forthwith —

That this house calls on the Premier to immediately commit to an independent inquiry into the tragic circumstances of Aishwarya Aswath's death and other severity assessment code category 1 incidents that have or could have resulted in death or serious harm at Perth Children's Hospital.

I understand an agreement has been reached with the government.

*Standing Orders Suspension — Amendment to Motion*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [3.11 pm]: I move —

To insert after "forthwith" the following —

, subject to the debate being limited to 10 minutes for government members and 10 minutes for non-government members

In speaking to this motion to suspend standings orders, I highlight that inaugural speeches will be given precedence this week. I remind the opposition that families and loved ones will come to those speeches. Of course, the motion is a serious and important one and, therefore, we agree to suspend standing orders to debate it. However, of course, the opposition has the opportunity to move amendments to the Governor's speech, and that would be the other opportunity to pursue issues such as this. It is a serious matter, so we are happy to support this motion.

Amendment put and passed.

*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion, as Amended*

**The SPEAKER:** Members, as this is a motion without notice to suspend standing orders, it will require an absolute majority to proceed. If I hear a dissentient voice, I will be required to divide the Assembly.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

*Motion*

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party)** [3.13 pm]: I move the motion.

I would like to thank the Leader of the House and the government for their support for this motion. I understand that it is extraordinary to move to suspend standing orders at this time, but this is the first opportunity for the opposition to raise these matters on behalf of the family of Aishwarya Aswath. I have been liaising with the advocate and in particular I have spoken to the father regarding this matter.

We are not seeking to interfere with the internal inquiry that is being undertaken into Aishwarya's death. We are seeking an independent inquiry into this matter. It is with a heavy heart that in 2021, in a state such as Western Australia with a first-class health system, we need to call on the government to initiate an independent inquiry into the death of a girl who was left to deteriorate in our state's premium children's hospital. The fact that she had to wait for two hours while her parents pleaded with the nursing station in the emergency department four to five times is an extraordinary set of circumstances. It is fair to say that the family feels let down by the McGowan government in relation to not only how this happened, but also the initial response to their call for an independent inquiry.

I originally supported their call for an independent inquiry in direct response to the circumstances of this tragedy, but this motion also asks for support for the broader context to look at other code 1 events. The family specifically asked for that. We cannot have the Department of Health investigating its own system and expect objectivity in a case such as this. We cannot allow an investigation through the lens of what is an obviously broken Department of Health if it can allow a seven-year-old girl to languish in an emergency department waiting room until it is too late to help her.

Four weeks ago, on Easter Saturday, Aishwarya's parents, Aswath and Praseetha, took her to Perth Children's Hospital emergency department. We know that she had a fever and a high temperature; her heart rate was high; her blood pressure was low; and the triage nurse was unable to take her oxygen levels because her hands were so cold. We do not know, and the family is trying to find out, the circumstances in which she died and what the cause was. Four weeks on, this grieving couple are still seeking answers and that is why on the weekend they took the extraordinary steps—steps that we certainly do not endorse—to stage a protest. They were desperate for answers from the department about where things were at and for an independent inquiry, which is what we are seeking. Praseetha said it was gut-wrenching to be back at Perth Children's Hospital, but she felt that that was all that they could do in an effort to try to get some answers. They have been told this internal inquiry and the response from the department will take four to six weeks, which is no different from the Premier's statement that he made yesterday. However, they have also been told by others who have suffered similar losses in our health system that it could be much longer and even months for them to get specific answers, so I would like some clarity on that.

A number of issues surround this case, including the distress around liaising with the coroner's department. The parents feel that an internal inquiry into the Department of Health will not reveal those issues. Their grief was compounded by the fact that it took from Saturday until Wednesday for them to have a definitive idea of where Aishwarya's body was, which prevented this family from holding a traditional Hindu farewell on the night of her passing and in her presence. The breakdown of communication between the coroner's office and the Department of Health whereby each said that the other was aware of this information was very distressing. They feel that they have been left in the dark and are struggling to find answers. The Department of Health's handling of the press conference following this incident was brought into public view, along with the Minister for Health's comments at the time that WA's health system was performing magnificently.

There are obviously issues with how four out of 18 doctors on this evening had called in sick and could not be replaced. That is almost a quarter of the doctors who should have been rostered on for that evening. We ask why she was triaged as a category 4 patient despite the pleas from the parents. There are also significant issues about staffing and what was done in response to the issues raised by nurses in December about staffing and the impact on patient safety. We know that Mark Olson from the Australian Nursing Federation has produced correspondence from the emergency department nurses that expresses the grave concerns about the staffing levels and safety within their department. What responses were made? Importantly, there are some cultural issues, and the challenges with those cultural issues have been highlighted by the advocates of the family, who feel that perhaps they were too polite. As a cultural issue for this Indian family, they noticed that there was a bold sign behind the nurses' station that asked people not to raise their voice. There is a genuine concern that lessons be learnt for the multicultural community. Aishwarya's dream was to become a teacher. The family hopes that some real lessons can be learnt from this particular case.

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition)** [3.20 pm]: We stand here today to offer the Premier and the Minister for Health an opportunity to do the right thing for these grieving parents. It is with a heavy heart that we bring this motion to Parliament today, but we do so in an effort to seek to ease the pain of this family, as it is an utter tragedy when a child dies, as I know everyone in this house agrees. It is an utter tragedy when we know that the family was in exactly the right place they needed to be to seek assistance for their child. Aishwarya's parents deserve to know what happened. We are not asking the government to intervene in the inquiry that is being undertaken by the Department of Health; that is an important process that the department needs to go through. We are asking the government to listen to the heartfelt pleas from Aishwarya's parents and the community for an independent inquiry to be announced. That could be announced today and it could get underway. It would bring such great comfort to the parents, who are grieving and whose pain is so raw that, as the member for Vasse outlined, they staged a hunger strike over the weekend in an effort to get answers.

Let us in this Parliament today demonstrate that we are here for every Western Australian. Listen to the pleas of this family and let us start on the path to restoring confidence in a system that is in crisis. It has been very difficult to get the minister to admit that over the last three to four months, but there are signals across our system that it is indeed in crisis. We need to start to listen to the experts, the staff on the front line and the patients, and not hide this information behind closed doors. The member for Vasse has made a compelling argument for an independent inquiry. Can you imagine the grief and distress from having to fight for answers at the same time as grieving for your child? Her parents did all the right things. They have been left waiting and wondering, as have many other parents in the broader community. This government can provide those answers and give them the confidence they need in the system that we rely on. This system is stretched at the seams. It is full of wonderful people who are doing the best they possibly can, but we need to listen to the experts and we need to peel back the layers of what is happening in our health system. It is a fundamental part of what government does to deliver safe health services.

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [3.22 pm]: I thank the members for their comments. Obviously, as I said during question time, it is a very tragic set of circumstances. A very tragic event occurred at the hospital when a little girl passed away. We cannot really know how difficult that is for the family of Aishwarya.

I outlined during question time that the normal process when these things occur is to undertake one of these inquiries involving a range of experts. That is a longstanding practice that has been in place under successive governments

over many years, and that is what is currently being undertaken. A range of independent experts are involved in the inquiry. It involves someone with a multicultural background and people involved in the system, if you like. We commissioned the inquiry after the passing of Aishwarya and it is due to report by 12 May.

I have queried this with our health experts; the report will go to the family in question and we will consult them about what they want to do with it. Based on that consultation, my expectation is that the report will be released. That is the normal process and that has been going on for a long time. The severity assessment code 1 assessments have been going on for many years so that we can work out what happened when something has occurred and the cause is not immediately apparent from the patient's condition. This is a tool that the health system uses to make sure it can improve if anything occurs. Our health system is based upon people working with people, so there are many variables involved. We need to make sure that we inquire into these things so that if we can improve the system, we do, and that is what this process aims to do.

As I said during question time, and the Minister for Health will speak in a moment, I do not want to interrupt or interfere with the inquiry that is underway. I do not accept that the existing inquiry is inappropriate in any way. This has been a longstanding practice under governments of all persuasions and I do not think it should be interfered with by establishing any other process prior to its conclusion. I understand that the coroner will look at this matter in due course.

I reiterate that we have the greatest of sympathy for the mother and father and broader family of Aishwarya and obviously for the little girl whose life was tragically ended at seven years of age.

*Amendment to Motion*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I move —

To delete all words after “That this house” and insert —

notes an inquiry is underway regarding the tragic death of Aishwarya Aswath and it is important this inquiry is concluded before any further actions may be taken

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health)** [3.25 pm]: I rise to speak on this motion and to support the amendment moved by the Premier. Obviously, we have all been affected by Aishwarya's death. I cannot imagine the untold pain for the family, who are grieving the loss of life of their seven-year-old daughter. I personally promised Aishwarya's father that we would get them the answers they need about what happened to their daughter. I promised that there would be a thorough and robust investigation with the highest priority, and that is exactly what is happening.

Emergency departments are difficult environments to work in, with people making decisions time and again that impact on people's health outcomes. I have enormous respect for the professionalism, courage and strength of all our ED doctors and nurses. I know they are feeling devastated, because I have spoken to them about this situation. That is what I was referring to when I talked about performing magnificently—the courage, strength and professionalism of our frontline health workers and the work they are doing. They have my utmost respect and admiration.

It is important that we get to the bottom of these matters, and the severity assessment code 1 inquiry is exactly what is required in these circumstances. The SAC 1 inquiry involves a panel of 10 people, four of whom are independent from the Child and Adolescent Health Service, including the chair. The first assertion from the opposition was that this will not be an independent inquiry. It will be an independent inquiry. The panel is chaired by Dr Janine Spencer, who is an external paediatrician. In addition, we have an emergency department nurse from another public hospital, an external multicultural expert, a paediatric consultant from the private sector, a CAHS consumer representative, a CAHS safety and quality representative, a Perth Children's Hospital intensive care consultant and a PCH critical care nurse. The work of this panel is crucial, because on the basis of this report, other people will make decisions and form views, and potentially the coroner. That is why it is so important that the panel be allowed to undertake its work, in consultation with Aishwarya's family, to make sure that it gets to the bottom of what went on and can inform that process going forward, in particular how we can continue to make sure that we always take the opportunity to improve clinical services in our hospital system.

The opposition has made a range of claims, aspersions and premises about this matter. I implore all members to please not do that. We cannot prejudge the outcome of the inquiry. We do not know what happened that night. We were not there. We were not the doctors and nurses making the decisions. We were not the family trying to get attention for their daughter. We should all be careful to make sure that we do not prejudge this inquiry and that we make sure that it has an opportunity to properly investigate these matters and, in that process, inform other decision-making processes. We need to make sure that we can have confidence in this inquiry.

This inquiry will be independent. These inquiries go on all the time as part of a constant improvement process in our health services. I am very proud of our emergency departments in Western Australia. They are the best in the country in terms of the four-hour rule. They are the best in the country in ambulance response times and they are the best in the country in terms of the length of stay. But it is true, Madam Speaker, that all our hospitals are under pressure at the moment. This is being felt around Australia. In this period after COVID-19, we have seen a step change in the volume of people presenting to hospitals—in the number of mental health cases presenting to our hospitals; in the acuity of cases, in particular emergency surgeries that require immediate attention; and in the number of long-stay

patients who are struggling to find a bed in the community, particularly those awaiting a National Disability Insurance Scheme assessment. This is a challenge that all our hospital systems right across the country are facing at the moment. I know this because I spoke with all the other health ministers at the health ministers' conference in Melbourne on Friday. All of them expressed the distress that they are having in meeting this challenge. In addition, they all expressed their concern about the wellbeing of staff working on the front line. These are tough times. We are doing our best to expand the number of beds and the hospital workforce to make sure that we have the resources necessary to ensure that our health system can continue to provide outstanding world-class health care.

I repeat: we do not know what happened that night. People have to have the opportunity to undertake that inquiry and to make sure that everyone receives procedural fairness in that process and that everyone feels that they are being heard and supported, in particular the family in this case.

I know that Minister Sanderson, the member for Morley, has offered to meet with the family to assist them in that process. I have done that as well. Of course, all our hospital leaders, as well as the panel chair, are available to meet with the family to ensure that they can feel confident in this process.

I support the amendment moved by the Premier. It is a sensible approach. However, we need to make sure that this inquiry has the opportunity to complete its work so that we can get to the bottom of what happened that night in relation to the death of little Aishwarya.

#### *Division*

Amendment (deletion of words) put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (49)

Mr S.N. Aubrey	Ms J.L. Hanns	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R.S. Stephens
Mr G. Baker	Mr T.J. Healy	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Ms H.M. Beazley	Mr M. Hughes	Ms L.A. Munday	Dr K. Stratton
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr H.T. Jones	Mr P. Papalia	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr P.C. Tinley
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
Ms D.G. D'Anna	Mr P. Lilburne	Ms R. Saffioti	Ms E.L. Hamilton ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr M. McGowan	Ms A. Sanderson	
Ms K.E. Giddens	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr D.A.E. Scaife	
Ms M.J. Hammat	Mr D.R. Michael	Ms J.J. Shaw	

Noes (6)

Mr V.A. Catania	Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr R.S. Love	Mr P.J. Rundle ( <i>Teller</i> )

Amendment thus passed.

Amendment (insertion of words) put and passed.

#### *Motion, as Amended*

Question put and passed.

### **BILLS**

#### *Notice of Motion to Introduce*

1. Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill 2021.
2. Supply Bill 2021.

Notices of motion given by **Mr M. McGowan (Treasurer)**.

3. COVID-19 Response Legislation Amendment (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Bill 2021.

Notice of motion given by **Mr R.R. Whitby (Minister for Emergency Services)**.

### **TEMPORARY ORDER**

#### *Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [3.40 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended to allow us to deal with the "Temporary Order—Divisions" notice as business of the Assembly.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, because this is a motion without notice to suspend standing orders, it will need an absolute majority to succeed. If I hear a dissentient voice, I will be required to divide the Assembly.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

*Motion*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [3.41 pm]: I move —

That the following Temporary Order in relation to divisions applies for the remainder of 2021 —

- (1) Standing Order 139 to be replaced by the following:

**Procedure for division**

**139.** When a division has been called for —

- (1) Strangers will withdraw from the Chamber.
  - (2) The Speaker will order the division bells to be rung for two minutes.
  - (3) Members will sit in their allocated seats.
  - (4) After the two minutes have expired, the Speaker will order the doors to be locked and no member will enter or leave the Assembly until after the division.
  - (5) The Speaker will appoint at least one Teller for each side.
  - (6) No member will move around the Chamber after the Speaker has appointed the Tellers.
  - (7) The Speaker will state the question and direct the ‘Ayes’ to stand, and after counting the votes, the Teller for the ‘Ayes’ will sign their list. The Speaker will then direct the ‘Noes’ to stand, and after counting the votes, the Teller for the ‘Noes’ will sign their list.
  - (8) If unable to stand because of illness or disability, by permission of the Speaker, a Member may cast their vote with the ‘ayes’ or ‘noes’ while seated.
  - (9) The Speaker will declare the result of the division.
- (2) Standing Orders 137, 138, 140 and 141 in relation to divisions remain unchanged.
- (3) Standing Orders are suspended accordingly to the extent necessary to effect these arrangements.

I am very mindful that the member for Hillarys is about to give her inaugural speech, which we are looking forward to, as are her family members who are present, so I will speak very briefly.

Members would have noticed during the last division that the situation becomes very confined, particularly when government members are required to divide on one side of the house as per the normal arrangements under the standing orders. Therefore, through consultation with the opposition prior to the Parliament sitting, it was decided that the procedures outlined in this motion would allow us to have a more effective division process. As the motion highlights, when a division is called, members will return to the chamber and sit in their allocated seat. After the bells have rung for two minutes, the Speaker will first call for those who are voting aye to stand, and all members who are voting aye will stand. Subsequently, the noes will stand. The tellers will make a record of the vote procedure—if anybody is ill or unable to stand during that process, they are accounted for under subsection (8)—and the Speaker will then declare the result. I thank the opposition for its support of this procedural motion.

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [3.44 pm]: The opposition supports this motion. We just saw how uncomfortable the current arrangements are for members on the other side, given the close proximity. It was very comfortable on this side of the house, I must say, and now I am now regretting our earlier support! We will continue to support this eminently sensible measure.

Question put and passed.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY***Motion*

Resumed from 29 April on the following motion moved by Ms L. Dalton —

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

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

May it please Your Excellency —

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

**MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys)** [3.45 pm]: Madam Speaker, may I congratulate you on your appointment. As the first female Speaker and the longest-serving female MP in Western Australia, I look to you for guidance. Attaining an almost equal caucus of female members is a proud achievement for the WA Labor Party and our state. It is in

honour of Edith Cowan, not only as the first woman to be elected to this place exactly 100 years ago, but also for paving the long road to the realisation of women's value in the workplace and society. By no more than a quirk of statistics, I am honoured to be the 100<sup>th</sup> woman to be sworn in to the Parliament of Western Australia.

Members: Hear, hear!

**Ms C.M. COLLINS:** I pay my respects to the traditional owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, past and present, on whose land we meet today. We all have a responsibility to ensure that we continue our path towards reconciliation. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Premier, Mark McGowan, and all members newly elected and re-elected. It is with pride and humility that I stand before this Parliament. In service to the people of the electorate of Hillarys and the people of Western Australia, I will share with you my story, my commitment to the community and my vision for the future.

As a teacher, I am proud to stand in the company of many new Labor members who come from such diverse backgrounds. This Parliament is a cross-section of our society. We are a smorgasbord of everyday people and professions, whether it be a paramedic, a naval officer or an electrician. We truly come from all walks of life. I wish to take a moment to reflect on the past year, one which none of us will forget. It was a year that shone a light on the best and worst of us; a year of movements and moments that I will carry with me as I forge my path in public service.

The year 2020 was the year of the Black Lives Matter movement. In Australia, the matters of deaths in custody and the incarceration level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were raised in public protest. The year 2020 was also a year of devastating bushfires, and the year that Australia awoke to the full impact and enormity of the climate emergency. The year 2020 was the year of a global pandemic that has impacted us all. Western Australians united in their commitment to work together to protect our most vulnerable. I congratulate this government for having the political will to make the hard decisions. The McGowan government earned a reputation that was built on dependability, integrity and strength of action. Western Australians voted to demonstrate their confidence in us, and we must continually work for their support.

My deep and lasting gratitude goes out to the people of Hillarys, Padbury, Craigie, Kallaroo, Beldon and Mullaloo. I am deeply honoured that you have entrusted me to represent you. I promise to meet this responsibility with all that I can offer. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes and for your engagement and your connection. I recognise the service of Peter Katsambanis and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Of course, I would not be here as the member for Hillarys without the support and belief of so many people. In particular, I want to thank all the volunteers who committed their time and energy to the Hillarys campaign. Every weekend, a small brigade of dedicated volunteers turned up to meet with thousands of residents and hear their stories. It was their belief in the Labor Party that connected so well with the spirit of progressive change in the electorate. Sir Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." I would like to make a very special mention to a particular giant of WA politics—the fabulous and formidable Hon Alannah MacTiernan, whose counsel as my campaign director was invaluable. She is a political force of nature who taught me that no problem is too big or too small to address; that everything is in the detail.

The inspirational Pam Beggs welcomed me into her family and continues to be a constant source of wisdom, humour and love, coupled of course with the not insignificant fact that Pam, as the member for Whitfords, was the first female Labor minister. She has been my guru of the electorate and my wise guide through WA politics. A very special thankyou goes to my campaign manager, the vivacious Russian Alisa Shibalova, and to Gareth, Jack, Doug, Andrei and Holly for your past and continued support. To our state secretary and assistant state secretary Tim and Ellie, you are the unseen champions behind WA Labor's historic election victory. I would, of course, like to extend a huge thankyou to our Premier, Hon Mark McGowan, for having faith in me, for your strong leadership and continual encouragement during your frequent visits on the campaign trail. Thank you also to the larger-than-life and warm and generous characters of Dr Paddy Ramanathan and John Hammond. The world needs more people like you.

I would also like to thank Ben Harris, Peter O'Keeffe and the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA for their support. The members of the SDA are the essential frontline workers. They deserve fair pay and our respect for continuing to provide services during the most unpredictable and uncertain of times. To the many people working in the City of Joondalup, I share your passion about our community and look forward to working with you. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the headmaster of Scotch College, Dr Alec O'Connell, for your guidance these past four years and for allowing me the space to follow my passion. Running for Labor—twice—could not have been easy on your public relations team in the Liberal heartland of the Cottesloe electorate! Thank you to my former students for the passionate debates and for encouraging me to take the leap into politics. I give my love and appreciation to my partner, Jack, whose sharp intelligence, humour, dedication and ever-present gentle patience got me through the difficult and dark moments of self-doubt. Mum and dad, thank you for instilling in me a sense of social justice and a hard Celtic work ethic, for always loving me and encouraging me to spread my wings, and to my big brother Sean for the happy memories growing up as the two new Scottish kids in Oz.

In speaking to the Assembly today, I have an opportunity to share a bit about my background, which led me to this place. Like so many others in the northern suburbs, my family shares a similar story of recent arrival to

Western Australia. We emigrated from Scotland when I was three years old. I come from an extended family of teachers who have always been active in the labour movement in the UK. Both of my grandparents became teachers later in life, with grandpa being an electrician who only started teaching at the age of 54. I would later follow his footsteps by also becoming a teacher of history and politics. To me, they embody the transformative power of education—giving them the ability to take control, make decisions and ultimately change the course of their lives.

While studying at university, I had the opportunity to volunteer in the remote community of Oombulgurri in the East Kimberley. I remember a community with a difficult history but a fierce pride in the land and a deep sense of connection and ownership of the rugged and beautiful area. Oombulgurri closed in 2011, a victim of austerity and short-sighted economic pressures. Back then I could never have guessed that an entire community could simply close based on a decision made 3 000 kilometres away.

Like so many young Australians before me, I decided to expand my horizons by travelling. I volunteered to teach in the slums of Varanasi, India. There, I was made brutally aware of the consequences of social and financial inequality. It was in Varanasi that I personally came to understand that teaching was not simply passing on facts and figures. I came to the realisation that receiving an education represented hope and the means to escape the impossible burden of poverty.

Growing up, my mum would tell me stories of her upbringing in Northern Ireland during the troubles. I developed a natural interest in the history and politics of Ireland. In 2008, I took the opportunity to study abroad in Dublin and undertook an internship in the Irish houses of Parliament. This was my first exposure to the mechanics of government. This was also the year that the global financial crisis hit. The Celtic Tiger was wounded and I witnessed the immediate human impacts of economic mismanagement and the despair of a boom-and-bust economy. I saw how a bright economic future could disappear virtually overnight.

I was teaching English in Bogota in 2011 as the Colombian government was attempting to enact major cuts to social welfare and privatise universities. I marched with young, politically active students passionately defending their right to higher education that was run for the people, not for profit. As a somewhat naive, privately educated schoolgirl from Perth, it opened my eyes to the understanding and fundamental belief that education is not, and never should be, a commodity. Universal access to quality education is a basic right for everyone, and a right worth defending.

I moved to Vietnam in 2013 and taught English in schools, language centres and at a university. Having taught people of all ages and from all socio-economic backgrounds, I witnessed again and again the importance of education in the lives of people not graced with the same level of wealth that we as Australians take for granted. T.S. Elliot wrote —

We shall not cease from exploration  
And at the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

And so I returned to Australia. Through teaching abroad, I realised that education fundamentally expands the possibilities of opportunity. I wanted every student who came through my classroom to have every opportunity in life available to them. I believe that the measure of a good government is that it must always expand opportunity and it must always work to provide hope and optimism to its people. I had a stronger appreciation for a party wedded to the pursuit of equal opportunity, and it has always been Labor governments that have a core understanding of the true long-term value of equitable investment in the community.

I did not come back from my travels with the answers to the great questions of our time, but my eyes were opened, and for the first time I had many questions about the realities of life in Western Australia. Despite being in the middle of the greatest economic resources boom in Australian history, it appeared to me that the so-called miracle trickle-down waters had evaporated somewhere between the Pilbara and the boardrooms of the Perth CBD. Profits were soaring yet public services were either under-resourced, in the process of being sold off or visibly struggling. How had it come to this?

As a politics teacher here in Perth, I was always encouraging my students to be politically engaged. I realised that I, too, had something to contribute and I decided to practise what I preached. This resulted in a somewhat baptism of fire in state politics. I ran for Labor in 2017 against then Premier Colin Barnett within his stronghold seat of Cottesloe. I did not win. But in the process I met hundreds of residents who shared common ground with me. We wanted the best for our state. We wanted a long-term plan and we wanted equity in opportunity.

Four years later, I had the privilege to run for Hillarys, which had been a Liberal-held seat for almost 30 years. The electorate of Hillarys is without doubt one of the most beautiful places to live in Perth and I am proud to now call it home. While out doorknocking, I met dedicated people who shared with me their life experiences and hopes and fears for the future. The one recurring theme that touched me greatly was the strong sense of community. Whether it is the passionate P&Cs or the spirited sporting clubs, community groups make up the social fabric of this electorate. One such local group that embodies this spirit is Dadbury, which is a group of local dads from Padbury who selflessly help local families in need. Surf lifesaving clubs such as Sorrento and Mullaloo play an important role in keeping our beaches safe and families connected. I am proud that this government will deliver \$8 million towards the rebuild

of Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club. The beach lifestyle along the Indian Ocean coastline attracts many from far and wide. The McGowan government has committed to upgrading cyclepaths across the electorate, as well as contributing to a bike trail network for enthusiasts to enjoy the pristine bushland.

Hillarys is an electorate full of young growing families who deserve the best that this state has to offer. I was particularly moved by the passion and commitment of the numerous principals, teachers and parents I met when discussing the future of their children. For too long there has been a lack of focus by previous Liberal governments on our local schools, which are, after all, the foundations of any community. The McGowan government is investing in our local schools and I look forward to delivering on my major election commitment to rebuild Hillarys Primary School, Springfield Primary School and Duncraig Senior High School.

Looking after our senior citizens is a priority of mine and I will continue to advocate for community and personal safety, as well as improved accessibility across the electorate.

This re-elected McGowan government is committed to upgrading Joondalup Health Campus to ensure the highest standard of care for residents in the northern suburbs.

The Hillarys marina is enjoyed by everyone. Parents take their children down to its calm waters for a first-ever encounter with the ocean. Shrieking, joyful kids get their first up-close interaction with an undersea creature at AQWA. Visitors board ferries for adventures on Rottnest Island, while local retirees catch up over a coffee on the waterfront. Small businesses, which add so much value to any community, have suffered this last year. We must continue to support them in order to prepare for the renewal of the tourism industry. I will work with the City of Joondalup, the Department of Transport and other key stakeholders to ensure that Hillarys Boat Harbour continues to be an iconic Western Australian destination for everyone.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms C.M. COLLINS:** During the months leading up to the election, many people in the Hillarys electorate spoke to me about what they consider to be the great challenges of our time—the issues that they want our leaders to grapple with to provide real outcomes and renew confidence in our future.

Sometimes it is worth viewing who we are in Australia from the outside. Both my parents were educated in state secondary schools in the United Kingdom. When they arrived here, they were taken aback by what appeared to be the widely held belief that Australian public schools were inferior in quality, facilities and educational outcomes compared with private schools. Indeed, federal Labor member Chris Bowen wrote —

... in Australia, how much money your parents earn, where you live, and whether you come from an Indigenous or non-English-speaking background, have a bigger impact on your educational outcomes than they would in other comparable countries.

Continuous improvement of outcomes for all students should be the constant goal of any government. This is and always has been a fundamental principle of the Labor Party. The McGowan government is investing in STEM classrooms in every public school to equip them with state-of-the-art facilities. This is an encouraging investment in a vital component of our education system. However, on a personal basis, as a student and teacher of humanities, I was appalled that the federal Liberal government saw fit to double the cost of a humanities degree. As William Butler Yeats said —

Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.

The power of critical thinking developed by the humanities is paramount to understanding both our past and the way forward. Good teachers are not in the business of producing workers; they produce well-rounded citizens. Working as a teacher, I witnessed the impact that an uncertain future can have on our young people. The mental health of our teenagers and young adults must be a priority. Nationwide, over 300 000 young Australians will experience high psychological distress. Ask any high school teacher and the chances are that they will hold a story of a young person, full of light and potential, who has been lost far too soon.

I would like to recognise the work of not-for-profit services such as Zero2Hero, a group dedicated to increasing the understanding of mental health issues through support camps that teach teenagers how to speak up when the burden becomes too great. When you teach a classroom of young people, you want your students to have the skills to voice when they need help. Western Australia's young people will have the support of the forty-first Parliament. This state government is investing in mental health services at record levels by strengthening our mental health safety net, including telehealth services, referral pathways and more school resources.

Before the pandemic silenced our streets around the world, the sight of schoolchildren marching for a safer climate future was not uncommon. Western Australia's young people understand the science and they understand the risks that are lying ahead; they are watching us. For our economic size, Australia boasts the richest renewable energy resources of any developed country. This promise of hope has been well documented by the economist Ross Garnaut, but he has also emphasised that the cost of not getting to zero emissions will be greater than the cost of making the adjustments to get there. Last year, the McGowan Labor government approved progress on the Asian Renewable

Energy Hub in the Pilbara—over 6 000 square kilometres of renewable energy resources. This energy will be used to begin producing exportable green hydrogen. Western Australians should be encouraged by this government introducing two new portfolios—Hydrogen Industry and Climate Action. We are committed to achieving net zero emissions for Western Australia by 2050. This is a government that is creating manufacturing industries, new jobs and export markets in order to move away from the historical boom-and-bust-cycle economy.

For too long we have been comfortable with the cliché title of the Lucky Country. In 1988, Bob Hawke found himself surrounded by scientists at a research facility, who were urging him to pivot away from Australia's over-reliance on the export of its natural resources and to become the clever country instead. While we continue to be a resource state, we need to build a vision for the future that would further unlock this state's potential. We can walk and chew gum at the same time. We are a forward-thinking government that will leverage our education system to unlock new technology to grow our economy and build our intellectual capital. Perhaps we can become known as the "smart state" in the "clever country". This state government is playing its part.

Learning never fails to provide a solution in dark times. Education's purpose is to prepare the next generation to find a meaningful purpose in the unknown world that awaits them. Education gives us the tools to confront uncertainty with hope, skills and a plan. The McGowan government has provided optimism and determination in the face of uncertainty. This was not just about COVID-19 and the disruption we still face. It is far bigger than that. We have the responsibility to encourage public dialogue and determine the future of the state—to navigate away from partisan rhetoric and division towards progress and real outcomes. It is in how we develop an education system that supports all schools to deliver the highest standard of teaching. It is in protecting our young people by giving them the mental health safety net with the support and confidence to look forward to their lives with optimism. It is in how we face environmental challenges and how we grasp the great opportunities new energy sources present to us.

I will continue to be a strong advocate for the Hillarys electorate, and I take seriously the responsibility entrusted to me. We will ensure our community remains a brilliant place to work, raise a family and live a life with meaning. I promise to undertake every action I can to work tirelessly on my constituents' behalf—to serve, to bring optimism and determination in this age of uncertainty. Thank you.

[Applause.]

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [4.12 pm]: It is my pleasure today to speak to this Address-in-Reply, and I am the first member of the Nationals WA to do so. I am not the lead speaker in any way, but nonetheless I feel privileged to be able to commence our contributions to this Address-in-Reply debate.

I start today by acknowledging and giving my thoughts to all those people throughout the midwest and the wheatbelt who have been affected by tropical cyclone Seroja. So many communities have been impacted and so many individuals have lived through a very traumatic and trying time. They are very much in our thoughts, and in the thoughts of all the local members. I will return to the impact of tropical cyclone Seroja later, but I wish to put on record my thanks to the volunteers and organisations such as the State Emergency Service; the bush fire brigades; the volunteer fire brigades; the ambulance services; all the staff at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services who have assisted, the Army, which has assisted; the shire councils, employees and CEOs of those shires who have been spending night and day at work at their offices and around their towns and their communities trying to ensure that they were well looked after; and all those people who volunteered in any way to make their communities a better place. The Leader of the Opposition, myself and other members of Parliament have had the opportunity to go around and meet many of those people. For instance, on a trip to Northampton, we saw a very committed group of volunteers who had swung into action and provided a great level of service. The Department of Communities unfortunately had not got there at that stage, but those volunteers were doing the job of ensuring people had food, that there were welfare checks and that people were well looked after. I give particular thanks to those people. I also thank the Western Power crews who have been working so hard to repair the damage that has been wrought upon the system throughout the midwest, and of course all the other government and other service providers who have been working just as hard.

Acting Speaker, if you look around this chamber, it is clear that COVID-19 has been on the mind of the electorate. There has been a huge turnaround in the polls in the last 18 months, when the McGowan government was not looking quite so rosy, but as we can see in the result of the division today, the public and electorate of Western Australia very much had the COVID situation and its response on its mind when it went to the polls. It is sad that so many good members of Parliament lost their seats, swept up in a wave of support for the government on that matter—none more so, I should say, than the two Nationals members who, sadly, are no longer part of this Parliament. First, I would like to acknowledge Terry Redman, the former member for Warren–Blackwood. I had the privilege of serving as parliamentary secretary to Terry for a few years when he was Minister for Regional Development; Lands. He also served in many other capacities. From memory, he served as Minister for Water, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Minister for Corrective Services and in a range of other activities he undertook in the service of this Parliament. He was a very fine MP, and is a very good man. He was a good minister, and I was very proud to work with him. I do not think he was ever fully acknowledged for the depth and passion he had for social justice issues. He was quite a right-wing person economically, but on social issues, he had a passion for ensuring that, for

instance, the Aboriginal people of this great state shared in its prosperity and opportunities. He did everything he could in his role to ensure that their voices were listened to. He attended many meetings with Aboriginal people throughout the state, even when he was no longer directly responsible for any area—when he was not a minister. When he was a member of the opposition, he would journey to the north and meet with Aboriginal communities and people, because he had a passion in that area.

Another very hardworking member, a very decent and well-known man, was the former member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney. I knew Ian quite well, because my electorate surrounds the electorate of Geraldton. I am the only member who is a neighbour to the member for Geraldton, so there existed a close working relationship, especially after Ian came across to the National Party. Geraldton is the central point for many of my northern shires. What happens in Geraldton is very important to people in Moore, and what happens in Moore is very important to people in Geraldton. We had a good relationship. I know he had a very tight fight in 2017. In 2021, with the COVID wave running across the state, he was swamped, but I note that the contest was always going to be tight, and the result in the end was not that unexpected to him. I am sure that his standing and the respect felt for him in Geraldton and the midwest is not diminished by that result and he will be missed by many people in his role as member for Geraldton. I see the current member for Geraldton here and I wish her well in her endeavours to serve the community over the next four years.

Many other candidates stood for the Nationals WA across the state. They all did a sterling job and I thank them all for their efforts. I hope that they continue to be involved into the future and that they keep engaged, as they are, with their communities, and with the party, and that they remember that it is very important to put their name forward and offer an opportunity for people in their electorate to have a strong local voice that is focused on their region. That is what the Nationals are in all circumstances. To the many helpers who assisted in the election campaign across the state, but especially in Moore, I would like to thank you, especially my branch presidents, Jonathan Nelson in the Moore branch, Wendy Harris in the Gingin–Chittering branch and I especially would like to thank Peter Cripps, who is the president of the Northampton branch. The Leader of the Nationals WA and I visited Peter on his farm at West Binu a few days after the cyclone. We witnessed firsthand the devastation of his property, and his house with no roof was not safe to enter anymore. His family was living in a small shed that was originally, I suppose, someone's cubbyhouse or perhaps an overnight camp for a worker, and the three people were living in very cramped circumstances. I am happy to report that they have since sourced a caravan, so they have something a little more comfortable to live in, but it was very devastating to see the damage that had been brought upon Peter and his family, something that was repeated on many farms in a swathe of country that runs 700 kilometres from the coast down through the northern side of the grain belt and into the central wheatbelt. It made a devastating impact.

I would also like to thank other helpers who helped out on the day of the election. It is very important to have people at the polling booths to put forward a message to show that the party and its candidates are committed to the district and its communities. I think even in very small communities it is important to have a presence, because quite often the major parties will not bother showing up and quite often a lot of small parties put their names down but do not have a great presence around the area. People appreciate seeing you at polling day. As we know, we had the introduction of pre-polling, which goes for many, many days before the election. I think it is not a great idea in some ways. I thought that the idea of an election was to take a snapshot of the opinion of the electorate at a particular point in time, and everybody made that decision with the same information on the same day so that we would get an accurate reflection of what people felt at that moment. When polling goes for several weeks with these lengthy polling procedures, it leads to a situation in which it is possible for things to change. There might be announcements or policy changes, and in this election there certainly were some shifts at various pivotal moments as announcements were made or positions were taken by leaders of parties. People who had voted prior to that had a different information base than the people who showed up on the final day. I do not think that is a great thing for democracy and it is very difficult to get volunteers to stand at those polling booths day after day. In the case of the electorate of Moore, there was only one pre-polling booth, which was at the Moora Courthouse. The first day there was a shemozzle. It did not go ahead because no information was given out. There was no appropriate training or appropriate staff and right throughout the process there were numerous examples of things going wrong. I do not in any way blame the staff at the courthouse in Moora; I put that on the record. They are diligent employees. I had no problem with them whatsoever. They have already got a job to do and on court days, it is quite a busy job. They cannot really do that job and also handle people coming in to cast their votes, because it is quite a laborious process to go through. It is a little like a postal vote in a way. It is not the same as just dropping a ballot in the white box that happens at the normal polling booths.

Here we are, our little band of four, and we are aware that the opposition is a lot smaller than we would like it to be. For that reason, the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party have decided to join together to fight what we see as the common foe, and that common foe is the McGowan Labor government. We recognise that we need to take bark off McGowan and not off each other. We need to show the community that together we can form a viable and strong alternative to what is being put forward by this government. I think that we are going to do that very well. We have some excellent members remaining in the chamber and I am sure that we will give a good account over the next four years of our side of politics in this state.

I will talk generally about the electorate of Moore. At the last redistribution, the electorate changed somewhat and we ceded from Moore the township of Kalbarri. As we know, Kalbarri was devastated by cyclone Seroja. I want to put on record that the current member serving Kalbarri, the member for North West Central, has done a sterling and tireless job in assisting that community throughout its time of need. He has been up there personally, working on making sure that people know that they are well represented. He has been out there helping people with a chainsaw in his hand, hammering things together and pulling down sheds. He even showed up here the other day with a Gideon Bible to be sworn in on, which I believe had actually fallen on his head when he was pulling down a remnant of a shed. Someone had stuck the Bible up in the rafters and Revelation had fallen on his head. He used that, which I thought was a good tribute to the people of Kalbarri. The suffering of the people of Kalbarri, of course, as we know, is replicated right throughout that area. We are thankful for no loss of life, given some of the things we see.

I was in Perenjori just after the event, and I was talking to the publican there, Kirk. His dad, Jim, sleeps upstairs in the pub. At a particular point in time during the cyclone, things got a bit noisy and the wind was pretty strong. He looked out to see the chimney levitating in midair before, as a whole, it smashed into a power pole. It broke the power pole, and the chimney broke up into pieces and everything disintegrated. At about that point the whole roof went—bang! Then, through all the dust and the noise of a cyclone—anyone who has been through one knows that it is all noise; it is all action—he heard this man and woman’s voice calling out. He thought, “Oh, my God, I didn’t know we had guests up here”, but it was actually the local policeman and his wife who had come into the pub just to see whether he was all right, because they knew Jim slept up the top. He was very touched that someone would have taken that risk and taken that time to come and check on him. It was very much appreciated by him that he had that level of support in the community. Perenjori is one of those towns that was most badly damaged in the north midlands; the local shop, the hotel and a number of houses had been destroyed or badly damaged in that circumstance, but also do not forget the many farms that have lost numerous sheds and houses, such as Peter Cripps’ in Binnu. That situation was replicated right throughout the farming community. The first day I got down into one of the towns, when I could get through after the red alert had been lifted and the roads had cleared enough to drive down there, was, I think, a Tuesday. I was talking to one of the CEOs and he was saying, “We’re not too bad, you know; not too much damage”. I asked whether he was sure about that and he said, “Yes, yes, yes.” I said, “Well, I have just spoken to four of the farmers in here and between them they have lost probably a dozen sheds and half a dozen houses. Some of them are homeless.”

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** They are not as lucky outside. I know that CEO took that to heart and he had his staff diligently check up on the welfare of all those farmers. Of all the shires, I think he is one of the better CEOs in terms of having a handle on what has gone on there. I am not going to name the different ones, but all those CEOs and all their staff have performed very well and I am deeply indebted to them all.

I digressed by talking about Seroja on the basis of the situation in Kalbarri, but I also want to mention that Moore has picked up three new shires. Dowerin, Goomalling and Wongan–Ballidu are now part of the electorate, and I have enjoyed connecting with those communities. I now understand their difficulties and the complexity of organising the Nationals WA stand for the Dowerin field days, which until now had been the bailiwick of the member for Central Wheatbelt. Now it falls upon the member for Moore to organise all these things. It is like a military operation in itself; I have not seen anything like it before. But I am quite sure that when I go there, even though it will now be my home turf, I doubt that I will be the star attraction because Mia Davies is tremendously popular throughout those three shires. I am deeply indebted to her for taking me under her wing, showing me around and introducing me to some of the people in those communities to get me to understand some of their issues. Some of the issues are common to other areas of my electorate, such as the real problem that farmers have at the moment with getting workers.

The shortage of workers is common right throughout Moore and, I believe, right throughout Western Australia. It is not only in farming; there are shortages in hospitality, light and heavy industries, mining and human services. I believe that it is now impacting the productivity of the area. We have well and truly reached full employment in pretty well all the areas that I represent. There is a pressing need to address this issue to get more staff and more people out to undertake those jobs. In the case of farming, it is really leading to people rethinking how they go about some of their programs. An electorate such as Moore, which is such a varied electorate, will always have a big range of issues. My electorate takes in areas on the doorstep of the metropolitan area, with Muchea at the end of Tonkin Highway. Tonkin Highway has been an issue of late.

We know that NorthLink was a project initiated under the previous government, but it was completed under the Labor government. It involved a 22-kilometre dual carriageway as the final stage of NorthLink between Ellenbrook and Muchea, and that was sealed with what is known as chip seal, which is the seal we see on roads in rural areas. Tonkin Highway has a particularly large bunch of stones on it. The original contract, as I understand it, called for the seal to be done in two stages. It was to be laid in one summer and then a second coat laid the next summer. Instead, for some reason—I do not know why—Main Roads allowed that condition to be varied and did both seals at the same time before the road was opened. The second seal was done at Easter time when there was a bit of a cold snap, as can happen at Easter. There was rainy weather and it has been a disaster ever since with noise and damage to vehicles. A lot of the smaller stones have been swept off and stripped out, leaving large rocks to flick

up and break windscreens and make a tremendous amount of noise. I think questioning revealed that by the end of November 2020—these are the most recent figures I have—1 273 claims had been made for damage to windscreens and other damage to vehicles on NorthLink. Of those, 686 have been settled for a cost of about \$589 000.

As I said, I believe decisions made on that project have led to those costs and a real impact on not only motorists, but also the people who live nearby with the excessive noise. Constituents also appear to have structural damage to their homes as a result of the vibrations. We are working through the issues with them to try to get proper recognition of the loss that they have suffered. I think that this whole project and the reasons why some of these decisions were made need to be examined. I will be writing to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee when it is formed to ask it to conduct an inquiry into exactly what went wrong with the NorthLink project and why it has become such a bugbear for people. Even though it has been of tremendous benefit overall in reducing travel times to Perth, opening up areas of my electorate and leading to a bit of a real estate boom in the Shire of Chittering, it has also caused a lot of damage and it needs to be examined.

The other day, I was at the other end of my electorate in the town of Mullewa. The Mullewa community was once a shire centre, but it amalgamated and became part of the City of Greater Geraldton. When the amalgamation took place, the population of Mullewa was over 1 000 and now it has shrunk to over a few hundred. The community has had a lot of setbacks in recent times due to its very, very poor housing and power supply, amongst other things. As a result, a generator was placed in the town and, ironically, it was one of the first communities to get power back after tropical cyclone Seroja. That demonstrates the fragility, I think, of that whole northern agricultural area's electricity system. For some time, I have been calling for more local generation and more ability for local communities to take control of their futures and not suffer lengthy and seemingly endless power outages, as has become the norm in recent years. I know Seroja was a once-in-a-generation situation, but it highlights what has become a perennial problem in the midwest and areas of the wheatbelt. We also know that communications are very dependent on reliable power. A lot of those communication networks, even some of the landlines, are now highly dependent on local power supplies, but the mobile network is particularly vulnerable. We have seen many circumstances in which communities have been desperate for information and —

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk):** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** They have not been able to get their message out because the mobile tower's battery has gone flat almost immediately upon the power going out. The Nationals are calling for action on that. We took a motion to the federal conference in Canberra. We have made calls for Western Power to get involved and to put its standalone power stations at these more important sites so that communications can be kept going in times of emergency.

When Seroja first hit, we heard a lot about Kalbarri and Northampton, and I acknowledge the depth of the damage there, but we did not hear about Morawa or Perenjori. The reason was that no-one could talk to them and they could not get messages out. They were effectively isolated; the roads were shut and we could not know whether they were alive and well or what had happened to them. It was very, very worrying and again highlights the need for stronger and more resilient communication networks throughout that whole area.

I want to finish on Mullewa and make a plea for the community there on a couple of other matters. One matter is that there is a dearth of allied health services in the town, which is leading to families leaving. I know that one family has sent their school-age child to live in the great southern region because the town does not have the services they need. A medical centre was supposed to be built there. It was promised in 2016. The previous Liberal government got it underway. This government has sat on its hands for years and that health centre has not been built, even though I have made numerous pleas for it to be done.

In recent election results, we have seen this COVID wave sweep through the electorates in Australia. State governments have been rewarded, and no more so than the government in Western Australia. The result is a Parliament that is dominated in both chambers by one party. All the freshly elected Labor members probably think that is undoubtedly a great and wonderful thing, but it is actually quite a dangerous time for the state and for democracy and, in a strange and ironic way, probably for the Labor Party.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** We know that the government's leaders will become increasingly arrogant and dismissive of attempts to hold them to account in this place. We know that this government has tried to avoid scrutiny in the past. There is a history of ministers refusing to provide answers to reasonable requests for information, and that has been evidenced in report after report from the Auditor General. We know that the government has refused to consider our requests for reviews of the state's COVID response. We know that it does not live up to its claims of rolled-gold transparency. Labor's dominance of the upper house is something that it has long coveted and it has acted very quickly post-election to initiate electoral reform that will seek to rob regional voters of their voice. Labor is clearly aiming at cementing its dominance, despite telling the people of Western Australia that such a move—this rebalance, if you like, of the upper house—was not on its agenda. For democracy to function, it is essential that the appropriate checks and balances are in place.

*Amendment to Motion*

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** For that reason, I move —

That the following words be added to the motion —

but regrets to inform His Excellency that the government has completely lacked transparency and accountability in the last term and appears to do so on an ongoing basis

In the two minutes I have left to speak, I note that we have an opposition that is lacking in numbers, but it has put forward to the Premier proposals that would help to ensure that Parliament can help to carry out its role of accountability.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, have you moved your amendment?

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** All the proposals that we have put forward have been rejected.

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [4.41 pm]: In 2017, the Premier set the benchmark for his new government by announcing that it had acted with gold-standard transparency in reporting about lead in the water supply at the new Perth Children’s Hospital. I will read from a WAMN News online article that was published on 25 April 2017. It refers to the new government’s reporting and analysis of lead in the water at Perth Children’s Hospital, and I think this is where the term “gold standard” has come from. It states —

“I think we’ve been gold standard when it comes to transparency and accountability in relation to this project.”

Since that time, we have seen the exact opposite from the government. By 2018, barely a year after the government was elected, journalists were alive to the fact that this government was not open, did not have gold-standard transparency and shrouded itself in secrecy. I will quote from an article in *The West Australian* of Monday, 17 September 2018, only a year and a bit after this government was elected. It states —

State of secrecy: WA Labor invokes confidentiality clause 39 times

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** It continues —

Premier Mark McGowan’s promise to deliver an open and accountable government has come under fire after a dramatic spike in the number of decisions by his ministers to thwart the release of information to the public.

...

Among the questions ministers have refused to answer are the names of those attending exclusive cash-for-access fundraising dinners, the cost to taxpayers of tennis ace Roger Federer’s “quokka selfie” and the TAB’s wagering turnover.

A key tactic of the Government’s for withholding information has been to trigger section 82 of the Financial Management Act.

Ministers have issued ... 82 notices in Parliament 39 times since coming to power, compared with 55 times during Colin Barnett’s second term as premier and just 12 in his first ...

Right from the outset, we saw a government that wanted to hide information from the public of Western Australia, not to be open and accountable. What have we seen since the Labor Party was re-elected with a massive majority in both houses of Parliament? This government cannot even stand the scrutiny of the actions of its own members. The member for Landsdale has been removed from the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission because she stood up for the propriety in the way the head of the CCC is selected. Someone who, in my view, is the bravest member of this house has been relegated because she stood up for proper parliamentary process, not the partisan political wishes of the Premier. Hon Kate Doust, President of the Legislative Council, who has my great respect for the way she conducts herself in Parliament and also the respect of the community at large, has been removed from her position because she had the temerity to defend parliamentary privilege and oppose the bullying behaviour of the Attorney General. What an absolute disgrace! An arrogant government emboldened by its electoral success is sending a clear message to its returning and new members, and note this, new members: bend to the will of the Premier or suffer the consequences. That is the clear message: bend to the will of the Premier or suffer the consequences. Anyone who is a threat to the Premier is politically eliminated.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members! I can hear you even though you have your mask on, Minister for Transport, so just keep it down.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The member for Willagee, who, to much acclaim, rescued the government’s relationship with the fishing industry after the disastrous actions of the Minister for Water, has been relegated to the back bench for

being too competent. Those actions alone should have alarm bells ringing across the entire state of Western Australia about how the McGowan Labor government intends to exercise ruthless control and misuse its parliamentary majority. These are not the actions of an open and transparent government. These are the hallmarks of a government that is evolving into a dictatorship.

During the recent state election, the Premier was questioned repeatedly about the possibility of electoral reform if Labor gained control of the upper house. The Premier knew that this was a key concern for people who live across the state, but particularly for those people who live in the regions. The Premier knew that many of those people who were considering voting for Labor would not do so if there was any prospect that Labor intended to change representation in regional areas, so what did our gold-standard transparency Premier do? He told the people of Western Australia that electoral reform was not on the agenda. The Premier was clearly indicating that this was not something he was considering doing. What did we see a few weeks after that? We saw in *The West Australian* of 12 February, just after the lockdown at the start of the campaign, an article headed “Mark McGowan says electoral reform ‘not on agenda’ as Nationals claim Labor will overhaul Upper House voting”. He was quoted in that article clearly indicating to those people that this was not, in fact, on his mind. What did we see a few weeks into the new government? A few weeks into the new government, the Attorney General came out with a press release on Friday, 30 April, only a few months after that statement at the height of the campaign, about a ministerial expert committee to advise the government on electoral reform. It refers to former Governor Malcolm McCusker leading a panel of four eminent electoral and constitutional experts. Who are those people? They are Professor John Phillipmore, Professor Sarah Murray and Associate Professor Martin Drum, along with Hon Malcolm McCusker. The justification used by the Attorney General for the establishment of that review committee is a sham in itself. He justified the review by using the example of a person who was elected as a member of the LC with very few primary votes. He conveniently ignored the fact that the great majority of the Labor Legislative Council members have also been elected with very few primary votes. In fact, it is usually only the first candidate on the ticket who gets any primary votes.

**Ms S.E. Winton** interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Look at the website. Look at how many primary votes the Labor Party Legislative Council members got as well.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister for Transport!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The Attorney General’s comments in the media on this matter are all too revealing. His agenda has nothing to do with the problem with ticket voting that enables individuals to be elected with very few primary votes. That is an easy matter to resolve. The federal government has resolved that. That could be done almost at the stroke of a pen. This review is not about that. This review is about dramatically reducing the representation of regional areas in the Legislative Council. We will see the truth of that. As the Labor Party does consistently when it wants to reach a certain conclusion, the Attorney General has tried to provide a veil of respectability for this process by forming a ministerial expert committee headed by a person who is highly respected, namely Hon Malcolm McCusker, but stacked with people who already have a firm view on the outcome.

We do not need to look much into the media to see that that is the case. I refer to an article in *WAtoday* of 21 February 2019—this is interesting—by Martin Drum and John Phillipmore, two members of the committee. The article is headed “The four changes needed to bring WA’s political system up to scratch”. The article refers in some detail to the terrible inequity of regional vote weighting and how that needs to be done away with.

I refer also to an article in the journal *Inside Story* of 23 February 2021. That is this year—the Attorney General did not have to look far. The article is headed “An affront to anyone who believes in democracy”. Who are the authors of the article? They are Benjamin Reilly, John Phillipmore, Sarah Murray and Martin Drum. Three of those authors are the independent members who have been chosen to serve on this review committee. The article quotes Hon Jim McGinty, among others. The article refers to the dreadful situation that exists with unfair representation for the regional areas of Western Australia.

As I said, I hold Hon Malcolm McCusker in very high regard. However, the committee will be stacked with people who do not support the current weighting for regional voters in Western Australia. In fact, it is stacked with people who have published articles saying they think we should get rid of that system. That is the conclusion that the Attorney General wants. That is why he has chosen those people to go on that committee.

Several members interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I congratulate all the newly elected members of the Labor Party who are here today. I can tell all the newly elected members, and the regional members, that hell has no fury like a regional voter spurned. Regional voters know what the government is up to.

Several members interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Regional voters know what the government is up to. Regional voters will not forget.

Several members interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I am back here, am I not, members, so welcome!

Several members interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** This is a free-for-all.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, the member is not inviting interjections. The more you interject, the longer he will be on his feet.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** That is clearly what they want, Madam Acting Speaker!

I will not quote that again. Regional voters know what the Labor Party is up to. They know what this review is intended to achieve. They know that the review committee is stacked. They will not forget it, and we certainly will not let them forget it come the next state election. This will be top of mind.

This is a Premier who deliberately did not answer the questions during the election campaign. He knew what he wanted. He knew what he was going to do. He did it within a relatively few days of coming into power. What we see here is a shallow attempt to fundamentally change our voting system in this state and disenfranchise regional voters. The Premier was not open and honest with regional voters before the election. The Attorney General is not being honest and open by trying to hide the agenda behind an expert committee. As I have said, I have the greatest respect for Mr McCusker. However, I have no respect at all for the Attorney General for misusing such a fine person in this cynical way. All this has happened within the first 100 days of this new Parliament. None of this duplicity comes as any real surprise to members on this side of the chamber.

Several members interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Pardon me? Do you have something to say?

None of this duplicity comes as any real surprise. This government has form when it comes to being arrogant and unaccountable.

In the lead-up to the 2017 election, the Premier promised that there would be no new taxes or increases to existing taxes. After the election, the government introduced a housing tax—the foreign investors’ surcharge—increased payroll tax, and tried twice to introduce a gold tax. This government has been anything but accountable on the health crisis. It has been virtually impossible, until quite recently, to get the advice of the Chief Health Officer that forms the basis for lockdowns. Unlike the situation in other jurisdictions, we have barely seen the Chief Health Officer at press conferences. We typically see him only when something has gone wrong. The Premier is willing to claim all the glory, but when things go wrong it is suddenly the turn of the Minister for Health and the Chief Health Officer to take centre stage.

The government’s withholding of information simply prevents the media from obtaining the evidence that it can use to hold this government to account for its decisions. We know that the state government received advice from Professor Tarun Weeramanthri, president of the Public Health Association of Australia, on 4 February, following the lockdown caused by patient 903. The advice highlighted that it was likely that patient 903 had contracted COVID from airborne transmission. The professor’s advice was received by the government four business days after the lockdown was announced on 31 January this year. The Health Department and the Commissioner of Police responded within two working days of receiving that interim advice. How long was it before the Premier released that important information to the public of Western Australia? It was not until 26 February 2021—22 days later or more than three weeks after receiving the advice. Why did the government withhold this important information for so long? We may think that it had something to do with the state election.

WA Labor also promised at the start of the last government that three new medihotels would be built—at Royal Perth Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital and Joondalup Hospital. The first hospital was supposed to be delivered by 2021. The news release posted on 11 July 2017 states that WA’s first medihotel —

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, we are dealing with transparency and accountability. You are straying a bit off the amendment.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** That is exactly what I am referring to. Thank you very much for your guidance, as always, Madam Acting Speaker.

The article is headed, “WA’s first ‘medihotel’ to be operating in Perth’s south by 2021, Government says”. Where are those medihotels? How different our response to the COVID crisis could have been if those medihotels had been available. Had the government been accountable to its decision, those medihotels would now be in operation, with proper ventilation systems and the proper ability to handle COVID patients and prevent the cross-infection that we have seen recently in the hospitals.

The government does not like any criticism. When the Australian Medical Association criticises this government, it does not say, “You people are the medical experts. You are representing the doctors in the system.” The Premier and others attack the AMA for expressing its concerns.

Western Australia has an enormous housing crisis. Where has the Labor Party been on housing in this state? The Labor Party said that it wanted to deal with social housing. Minister McGurk is responsible for that area and, as

I have said in this place, she genuinely cares about people. What has this duplicitous government done? It has, in fact, sold more public housing than it has built and, as a result, the state was worse off at the end of last year because there was less public housing in WA than there was at the start of the term of the McGowan Labor government.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, you need to link that with accountability and transparency.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I am.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Move on.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** That was done secretly; it was not done transparently. The people of Western Australia were not told that the government was doing that; rather, the opposition found out about it. A false economy is being presented because the government should be building social housing. We should be seeing a net increase in social housing but what we have seen is a net decrease. The McGowan Labor government has consistently failed its own stated goal of gold-standard transparency. It is a secretive government, a government that punishes anyone who stands up for decency and proper process, especially when they do so in this Parliament. This government misleads electors and mismanages critical issues, as we have witnessed with the appalling health crisis in our public hospitals. The massive majority that this government has in both houses will only make that situation worse. We on this side of the house—we recognise that we are a diminished number—will do everything that we can to hold the government to account, but that responsibility also falls to those members on the government backbench. It is their job to hold their government to account. They should not sit there —

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, you need to address the chair, thank you very much.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** They should not just sit there and be bullied and cajoled. They need to stand up for their electorates and hold their government to account.

**MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central)** [5.01 pm]: I will be quick because I have agreed with the Leader of the House that we will take 10 minutes so that we can get on and do the Address-in-Reply motion for the new member.

The member for Moore, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Nationals WA, was right to move the amendment. As a past member of the Public Accounts Committee, I know it is a vital committee that inquires into all the things that the government does with the public purse. It is absolutely integral because it helps to keep government departments to account, which is what it did in the last four years when it held a much needed inquiry into Perth Children's Hospital to get to the bottom of its issues. One of the last inquiries that we completed was into the West Australian Football Commission, which was absolutely critical. That inquiry enabled change to occur within the West Australian Football Commission to keep public moneys accountable so the taxpayer is sure that their money is being appropriated in the right manner. That is why we on this side of the house, this opposition, believe that one of our members should be appointed Chair of the Public Accounts Committee to hold those inquiries and to provide the checks and balances for the taxpayers and the electors of Western Australia. We are a diminished bunch over here; I think we all agree with that. Hence, it is more critical in this term of government to have those resources to inquire into government spending and decision-making. Other members have read out some of the comments made by the Premier. One dated Monday, 17 September 2018 states —

“We will strengthen governance, accountability and transparency across government,” McGowan declared this year.

The article refers to the staggering number of occasions on which McGowan's ministers have invoked section 82 notices under the Financial Management Act 2006 to avoid answering questions in Parliament. It goes on and on. The article continues —

McGowan's “gold standard” of openness has become rather opaque.

It goes on and on. Members, the point that I am trying to make is that democracy is not working because Parliament is not operating in the way that it should.

Several members interjected.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Members, members, members! The way that Parliament should operate is a way in which —

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** You could not beat me, either.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members! Member for North West Central, I am on my feet.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** What is important is that the Premier released 12 key priorities last term. Another article quotes the Premier as saying —

Over my career, I've travelled all over the state and have spoken to thousands of people. Their expectations of their government are remarkably consistent — they want it to maintain a strong economy that delivers jobs and shares prosperity.

They want their kids to have the best possible education —

We saw the Labor government try to get rid of Schools of the Air and Moora Residential College.

Several members interjected.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Hear this, members! The article continues —

and they want peace of mind in knowing world-class healthcare is available for those stressful times when kids get sick.

That is what the Premier said. If we move forward to today, tragically, a young child has lost her life, potentially due to the health care that she missed out on. It is important to have accountability—rolled-gold transparency—because it is critical to hold to account whatever government is in at the time. The role of the opposition is to provide the checks and balances and ensure that the government is accountable and transparent in its decision-making. Let us look at what happened only a week ago when we went into lockdown. I would have thought that the government would have had a plan when it decided that we would go into lockdown. Having declared previous lockdowns, I would have thought that the government would have had a plan to make sure that it closed the roads and put roadblocks in place before everyone left Perth to holiday in regional Western Australia. It is simple things like that that could have been devastating to regional communities. It is simple things such as not knowing for 24 hours after the Premier's announcement on the lockdown whether we should wear a mask inside and outside, where we could go and what we could not do—you name it. The inconsistencies and mixed messaging played havoc in the minds of the people of Western Australia. It is important to resource the opposition so that it can inquire into government decision-making, such as the decision-making behind what happened with the recent lockdown. Why did the Premier not cancel the football on the Saturday night? Why did he wait until midday the next day? I am sure that he had the same health advice. Perhaps the Premier can table that health advice. Was the Premier looking at the opinion polls before he made that decision? Those are the questions that need to be answered. The health advice needs to be open and transparent and tabled to ensure that everyone can see the decision-making. If the government has nothing to hide—if the Premier backs the decisions that he makes and those of his ministers and department heads and is confident of those decisions—it should not fear a member of the opposition chairing the Public Accounts Committee to keep this government, which has an absolute majority in both houses, accountable. In that way, the people of Western Australia will know that someone is watching out for their hard-earned taxpayer dollars and we can make sure that there is a paper trail to back up the government's decisions. That is what we are asking for.

I support the amendment moved by the member for Moore because it is all about the government following its own rules that it set prior to the 2017 election, which the government has not followed. It has become a one-trick pony. Over the next four years, the government will see that it has become a one-trick pony, and the whole of Western Australia will start to see that. If the government has nothing to fear, give the opposition the position of Chair or the Public Accounts Committee to make sure that someone provides a check and balance to the decisions the government is making that affect Western Australian lives.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport)** [5.10 pm]: I rise to make a few comments to reject the amendment put forward by the opposition. First, I refer to the level of disrespect and arrogance shown to the new members in this place by moving this amendment when new members have their families here to listen to their first speech. If the opposition wants to talk about arrogance, talk about the treatment that the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA are showing to the new members in this place who have their families here to watch their inaugural speeches.

*Point of Order*

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I cannot see how this is in line with the amendment the member moved about accountability, as per the last chair.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. Carry on, member.

*Debate Resumed*

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** As always, the member for North West Central is displaying arrogance in his dismissal of values by the fact that although the new members have their families here to watch their first speeches, the opposition has delayed Parliament with an amendment that introduces no new facts, no new evidence and was not urgent today. The arrogance and disrespect that we have seen is from the Liberal and the National Parties trying to lecture new members about democracy. The member for North West Central said that democracy is not working. It is, members, but the opposition cannot accept it, just like it could not accept it in 2017. For four years—between 2017 and 2021—the opposition never accepted that we actually won the election. The opposition's arrogance, laziness and inability to focus on what matters to the people is why they have only six members on the other side. That is the truth. They have come in here and insulted the new members of Parliament and dismissed their intelligence. As though they will listen to the member for Cottesloe about anything! Those new members would have won their seats anyway, but I am sure that the member for Cottesloe's performance on the Friday before the election increased their percentage a little bit more. The shadow Minister for Energy's performance was integral to that costings debacle. It reminds me of an American drama movie in which the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party emerged from the

city and the Liberal Party burning—the fire hydrants were bursting with water, things were on fire and they were walking away saying, “It’s got nothing to do with us.” The members for Cottesloe and Vasse said that it had nothing to do with them. They were at the forefront of that campaign, and no-one believed them. Do not come in here and lecture us about democracy and respect.

Today, the member for North West Central insulted the Commissioner of Police for his handling of the blockade. The police commissioner, the government, the Premier and the Minister for Health were working around the clock, yet the member for North West Central comes in here and insults the Commissioner of Police—someone who has much respect in this state. The member for Cottesloe basically insulted all the members on our electoral reform committee, including professors and Malcolm McCusker.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Did I?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Yes, you did. The member never listens to what he says. It is similar to the election campaign. The member never listened to what he said.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cottesloe, you have had your chance.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** He introduced a policy that basically wiped out half of the Liberal Party’s members and he comes in here and says, “I’m still here.” That is his approach: he is still here; that is all he cares about. There is no accountability. If the opposition wants to talk about accountability, it should take some accountability for its actions over the past four years. Again, they have come here and insulted us.

New members might not know this story, but during the last four years, I wrote to two previous Leaders of the Opposition—moving on to the issue of accountability and transparency, member for Mandurah.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** I’m glad to see it!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I wrote to two Leaders of the Opposition when we were delivering the Forrestfield–Airport Link but not the Perth Freight Link. Two business cases were created for those projects under the previous government and attached to those projects were cabinet documents. When we were in government, we were delivering one project but not the other. I thought that it was important for public debate to have access to both those documents. I wrote to two previous Leaders of the Opposition asking for access to those documents. It was years since they had been produced. The contracts were underway—not in the way—and there was no commercial confidentiality, so I asked whether we could have access to the documents. I got nothing. The opposition would not give access to the two documents, the contract for one of which was nearly completed and the other for which a contract was never entered into, even though the opposition had all the power to do so. I will be writing to the new Leader of the Opposition asking for them again.

When it comes to accountability, the Liberal and National Parties have failed again. We reject this amendment to the motion. We believe that it is an insult to new members. We did not do this to the member for Cottesloe during his inaugural speech.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** It was a by-election.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It was a by-election, but the member still had an inaugural speech. We did not do it to him and we would not do it to anyone else. Look in the mirror when talking about arrogance in this place, members. Members out there are saying that democracy is not working and, again, that we should not have been elected. The Liberal and National Parties are saying that this is all somehow a crazy mistake by the public. Keep thinking that, because during 2017 to 2021, the opposition did not believe that we should have been elected and it ignored that we were elected. If the next four years are like the last four years, we will see them in opposition again in 2025.

Amendment put and negated.

*Motion Resumed*

**MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough)** [5.16 pm]: I would like to congratulate Hon Michelle Roberts on her appointment to the role of Speaker. It is an honour to have been in the chamber to witness the historic moment of the state’s first female Speaker being elected, and I wish her all the best in the role going forward.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge the former member for Scarborough, Liza Harvey, and thank her for her 12 years of service to our community.

I am beyond grateful to the people of the Scarborough electorate for placing their trust in me to be the member of Parliament who works hard to represent their interests in this place. Scarborough is my home, and it has been for near on a decade. I will raise my kids here one day, and I expect that it will be my forever home. Scarborough is its own little bubble in our city. It is close to the CBD for work, with the state’s best beaches on our doorstep. There is no better place to watch the sunset over the Indian Ocean than Sunset Hill on the Scarborough foreshore.

Scarborough truly is a special place, and in this I am completely unbiased! There is so much it has to offer. These are just some of the things that make it special to me: going for a run around Lake Gwelup; catching a wave at Trigg Beach; snorkelling at Mettams Pool in North Beach; enjoying the view of both the city and the ocean from Doubleview Hill; shopping at Karrinyup; patrolling Scarborough's long, white sandy beaches and crystal blue waters as a surf lifesaver; and, what could potentially be the electorate's jewel in the crown, the Ikea at Innaloo!

I have a strong connection to my home, and I will never be prouder than on election night when I was standing on the balcony of my club—the Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club—when I learnt that I had been elected as the member who represents this beautiful and unique part of the world.

I want to take a moment to say to everyone in Parliament that if there is ever a moment when they wonder why there is so much beach sand around, I apologise in advance. Second only to its natural beauty is the community of Scarborough. People from all walks of life are drawn to its beauty and laid-back lifestyle. It has a strong local vibe and our community welcomes anyone who wants to enjoy what Scarborough has to offer. Scarborough is home to much of the untouched natural beauty that makes WA one of the best places in the world. There is a strong desire in the Scarborough community to preserve this natural beauty and way of life, but also to see Scarborough reach its potential, and it welcomes anyone who wants to share what Scarborough has to offer. I share this desire and I look forward to working hard with the community and finding a way forward that finds a balance that everyone can be at peace with.

The backbone of Scarborough's community is its schools, community groups and sporting clubs. I take a moment to welcome two honoured guests who are here today—school captains of Scarborough Primary School, Toloa Madden and Maya Westaway. I was extremely honoured by how Toloa and Maya so graciously welcomed me to their school's Anzac service and I wanted to repay that honour. Scarborough Primary School's motto is "Strive". Being leaders of a school is no small feat. I commend your courage in stepping up and I am sure that you will be future leaders of the Scarborough community.

Scarborough Primary School is the third-smallest primary school in WA by land size. Although it is small in size, it is big in heart and it plays a large role in strengthening our community, as do all of our schools. I am proud, as part of the McGowan Labor government, to have been able to deliver a \$7.9 million commitment to upgrade Scarborough Primary School to provide extra classrooms for the school. This upgrade will accommodate the growing number of students and give them back play space that is currently being taken up by transportable buildings. Being the third smallest primary school in the state, this play space is vital in the children's physical and mental development. Physical activity and a sense of belonging to your community is incredibly important to the wellbeing of children and adults alike. I know firsthand how fulfilling this can be, from being a member of Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club and protecting my community on the beach as a surf lifesaver. As Scarborough's new local member and an active community member, I aim to support all clubs to the best of my ability, to increase participation and integration with the wider community and with each other. By supporting each other, we can be stronger together as a community.

One threat that Scarborough as a coastal electorate faces is from rising sea levels that are resulting from climate change. It is with great pride that I stand here as part of a government that has been taking the threat of climate change seriously. With the appointment of the state's first-ever Minister for Climate Action and Minister for Hydrogen Industry, I am confident in our state's ability to create sustainable solutions, as well as new local green jobs in hydrogen, carbon farming, green manufacturing, and waste and recycling. I look forward to working as a part of the McGowan Labor government to continue the efforts that will protect the future of our state and Scarborough from the threat of climate change. As the youngest member of this Parliament, it is my generation that will have to face the harshest effects of climate change.

Diversity is strength, and it fills me with pride to be standing here and looking out across at my 52 Labor colleagues especially with an almost 50 per cent representation of women. It is an encouraging sign that our Parliament will lead the way forward towards a fairer and more equitable society for everyone—one that better reflects the Western Australian community. With the retirement of fellow tradesmen MPs Mick Murray and Fran Logan, I take up the mantle as the only tradesman in this Parliament. I am eager to share my experiences as a tradie, a sparky, a fly-in fly-out worker, a surf lifesaver and the youngest member of this house.

One question I often get asked is: what is someone like you doing in politics? The answer is too long to explain in a taxi, at the pub or on the doorstep, so I will share it here today. I was sitting at Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse after completing a five-day hike of the Cape to Cape Walk Track when I received a phone call from Ellie Whiteaker, Assistant State Secretary of the WA Labor Party, who asked whether I would put up my hand for preselection for Scarborough. I was a little bit surprised myself, but once I had overcome the initial shock, I saw an opportunity to really step up for my community and, to me, that is everything. I have been guided through my whole life by a quote by Albert Pine —

What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.

I have held the belief from a young age that my purpose in life should be to work for others, to lift up those around me, and to serve my community, my state and my country.

I want you to imagine that it is 45 degrees, with 100 per cent humidity and no cloud cover, and you are surrounded by red dirt and loud machinery, and standing on top of a stacker. For those who do not know what a stacker is, it is a large machine that stands about 50 metres tall that stacks ore into a stockpile before it is loaded onto the ships. I was standing there at the age of 21, looking out over the Dampier Peninsula and the Indian Ocean thinking to myself that I was absolutely miserable. I love my trade and I am very good at it, but it is not my passion. I had a very long hard look at myself that day and I realised that I was off course. I had lost my way. I was sacrificing my body and my mind in the pursuit of money, and, for me, it has never been about money; it has been about purpose and service. From that day things changed.

Twenty-one turned out to be a big year for me. I completed my electrical apprenticeship and became a qualified sparky. I began my first FIFO job, I moved out of home, I came out to my friends and family, and I joined the Australian Labor Party. My parents guided me through life and gave me the tools to succeed, but they never forced their beliefs on me when it came to religion or politics. I joined the WA Labor Party because of my values—values that the Labor Party shares and that my parents instilled in me to guide me through life to be a good person. Those values continue to guide me to this day—compassion, fairness, equality, integrity and a mission to work hard for the greater good of all.

When I joined the Labor Party, I was looking for a way to fulfil that purpose—to find my way again. I vividly remember walking into my first branch meeting, lost and unsure. On that day I met someone who confirmed everything that I was hoping for. From there, I knew I belonged. He was the beacon that showed me that I was on the right path, that the Labor Party is the party that works for a better future for all. That man, that beacon, is sitting in this house and has been for some time. That man is none other than Minister Templeman. I am grateful to Minister Templeman for being kind and genuine towards an impressionable young man who was finding his way in the world. I hope to live up to being the same calibre of local member as Minister Templeman—to be that beacon that shines brightly for the people of Scarborough and who can show people that there is a better future for all under a Labor government. But I will leave the singing to him! After that meeting, I continued to transition towards politics, hitting the campaign trail, going back to school and getting into university, all the while continuing to work FIFO in the mining industry.

Mining is ingrained in my family's history as it is in our state's history. My grandfather on my mum's side, affectionately known as Gung Gung, was the first baby born at Blackrange mining town. He was one of the first to work at Hamersley Iron's East Intercourse Island project before the township of Dampier was even founded. Over 50 years later, I would follow in his footsteps. As I ventured up north in 2012 for my first mining role, I worked at East Intercourse Island as a fixed plant maintenance electrician. My grandfather on my dad's side, Walter, was a coalmine worker in Wales, and my father, when he immigrated to Australia, laid railway tracks in the Kimberley, before he settled down as an educator to raise and support our family. I have no living memory of my grandfathers. They both died when I was very young, but I am proud to have followed in their footsteps and, knowing they were both staunch Labor supporters, I know that they would have been proud to see their grandson standing here as a Labor member of Parliament.

Times were incredibly tough for my grandparents and parents in the mining industry. We have made considerable strides to improve the lives and conditions of the mining workforce, their families left at home and the mining communities. But we still have a way to go. Mental health is an issue that I continually faced during my seven years in the mining industry, not just as a sparky, but as a supervisor, an enterprise bargaining agreement negotiator, an elected safety and health representative, and a mines rescue and emergency response team member. During that time, I not only supported my colleagues in their struggle with mental health, but also fought my own battles. As a result, I fought and succeeded in bringing about changes that improved the lives and mental health of my colleagues and friends in a small way.

Only those who have experienced working FIFO or who have family working FIFO can understand the conditions we withstand—the gruelling heat; the social isolation from friends and family; and the long hours, long swings, shiftwork, high-risk tasks and much more. We duked it out shift by shift, sacrificing our wellbeing while trying to build a better future for ourselves and our families. In those arduous times, we looked to each other for support and we leant on each other. The gleaming light that shone through it all was the camaraderie and larrikinism and the strength and resilience to overcome great challenges through grit and hard work. The bonds we shared and the challenges that we overcame speak to what it is to be Australian.

I am proud to be standing here as part of a government that delivered the code of practice for mentally healthy workplaces for fly-in fly-out workers in the resources and construction sectors. I was on the ground representing over 50 colleagues as a safety and health representative when the code was released. It acknowledges the issues and gives a clear framework on how to take practical steps to improve mental health and culture in the mining workforce. I hope that during my time in this place I can assist in furthering that work and increasing the uptake of those measures across the industry to prevent any further suicides of any more of my friends and colleagues.

I have big shoes to fill now, being the only tradesman in this house; but, as most tradies know, it is hard work that wins the day. I know that I am up to the task. Winning the seat of Scarborough at the election was no easy task.

When I was first preselected as the candidate, I had the honour to be out with the Premier on a walk around the Scarborough foreshore—an experience to say the least. The Premier was rushed upon by adoring members of the public wanting selfies and expressing their gratitude and was being cheered on by people in passing cars. I was mistaken for both a contestant on *The Bachelor* and one of the Premier's bodyguards.

In a brief quiet moment, I asked the Premier for his advice on how best to tackle the monumental challenge in front of me. Among other advice, the Premier said something that struck a chord: “Leave no stone unturned.” The Scarborough campaign worked incredibly hard to ensure that Scarborough knew it had a clear alternative this election. With over 10 000 doors knocked on, 5 000 phone calls made and every booth staffed, we delivered the largest grassroots campaign Scarborough has ever seen by a Labor candidate. We left no stone unturned.

Words will never match my gratitude to my team for their hard work throughout the campaign. To Martin Pritchard, your wisdom and counsel as my campaign director kept me grounded, at times much more than I wanted to be, but certainly needed to be. To Emma Collyer, my campaign manager, your commitment, hard work and patience drove me to work harder than I ever thought possible. To Donna Leckie, your vibrancy and energy lifted me up when I needed it most. Everyone falls down occasionally, and during an eight-month campaign when you are working both full-time and campaigning, it was definitely not uncommon for me to fall down. To both of these incredible women, thank you for being there to remind me what I was fighting for and being my support. To my field team, Lucy, Ally, Ben, Ryan and Giacomo, I feel like field campaigning is often neglected as it is seen as the unglamorous side of politics for some, but it is the most important. Talking to the community at the doors and on the phones is truly best the way to not only show them who is listening, but also actually understand the mindset and the issues of the electorate. Thank you for your hard work standing alongside me and helping me reach out to my community. Thank you to all of my volunteers who stood on pre-poll, handed out on election day, letterboxed, doorknocked, or called. This win could not have been achieved without you.

Thanks to the Telfer boys who always had my back, even when you had to listen to me talk about politics all day like a broken record. To my surf club friends, your hard work and support gave me the energy to push further knowing I had my surf club family by my side.

To my incredible family who have supported me from near and far, I would not be standing up here without you. My whole life I have been supported by strong women, so I would like to make a special mention of my mother, Christine, my sister, Rhian, and my nana, Jean. When I was asked to run, the first person I spoke to was my mum, and, as always, she told me to strive, because she remembered that 14-year-old boy who once came up to her and asked her why she supported Labor. That was because Labor fights for the greater good and a fairer future for all. By standing for Labor I could help in that fight. Mum, Rhian, nana, your support means the world to me and I owe you everything, I love you.

Thank you to the union support, especially from my own trade union the Electrical Trades Union. Us sparkies know how to work hard to get the job done and support each other in doing so. To Tim Picton, state secretary, Ellie Whiteaker, assistant state secretary, and to all of the WA Labor Party office, I would like to thank you for monumental efforts in supporting me and the Scarborough campaign, and I would also like to congratulate you on a job bloody well done. To my party mentors, Hon Klara Andric, now member for South Metropolitan, you have always seen potential in me that I commonly failed to see in myself. Thank you for pushing me to meet my potential and congratulations on your election to the Legislative Council of Western Australia. You are more than deserving. Jann McFarlane, former federal member for Stirling, your mentorship and advice during the campaign and to this day have been invaluable. It is no surprise to me that it will be a steep learning curve going from electrician to parliamentarian, but I have confidence knowing that I am part of this state's strongest and largest ever Labor caucus and I have all of your support. To team Scarborough, Lucy Morrison, Shannon Griffiths and Sophie Kerr, you have been by my side working hard throughout the campaign, and I am extremely grateful to have you stay by my side as part of team Scarborough going forward. I cannot be everywhere at once and each of you are an extension of me. I have complete faith that you will represent me well and take special care of the Scarborough electorate when I am elsewhere serving the community.

Last, but not least, to the Premier, Mark McGowan, your effort throughout the campaign whilst managing a global pandemic and the most successful government in recent history was nothing short of inspiring. Thank you for leading by example, working hard for the people of Western Australia and supporting us during the campaign. I look forward to following your example and doing the same as the first Labor member for Scarborough in over 30 years, which makes me the first Labor member for Scarborough in my lifetime!

[Applause.]

**MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.34 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to see us through to dinner. It is wonderful again to be in such a wonderful chamber of diverse, incredible people. Can I acknowledge the incredible speech just done by the wonderful, long-hardworking member for Scarborough.

First of all, can I thank my family. Can I please thank my electorate for the honour of returning me to this wonderful place. Our families make an incredible number of sacrifices, and I am absolutely truly honoured that my electorate

has seen fit that it is happy with what Mark McGowan and I have done in our local area and it would like us to continue. We will always work hard for you. We will never abuse the trust that has been placed in us. We will always work hard to deliver all our promises and do all those things. I want to thank my incredible team of volunteers who have worked nonstop with us doorknocking, working, phoning and communicating with the electorate for five or six years and beyond. I greatly appreciate everything that you have done. Thanks to my team in my office, Lincoln, Jacob, Kelly, Marcus—all those people have helped put me in this place and to do all the work that helps deliver what people seek in Southern River. Ben Wyatt, the former member for Victoria Park, said something very, very well. He said, “You are only as good as your electorate staff”, and I am very, very good because of my electorate staff.

Before I talk about the extended hours of the police stations, the extended facilities for young people in my community, such as the \$2 million commitment for youth plazas, the train lines we are building, the school upgrades and the new schools, I would first like to mention the incredible people who serve alongside me, and that is the student councillors of schools in my electorate. As members would be aware, I was very honoured to be re-elected in March 2021. I serve alongside several hundred student councillors from all my local schools, and I would like to mention them. I would first of all like to say congratulations to student councillors from Canning Vale College who have served their community well so far and will continue to do so through the challenges of 2021 while continuing to do their studies. In year 12 at Canning Vale College, I would like to acknowledge the service of and say congratulations and good luck to Farah Al-absawi, Linta Babar, Courtney Doherty-Bigara, Amritha Thirumalai Chetty, Amir Cooper and Maha Zahir. I acknowledge year 11 Canning Vale College student councillors Bevan Famlonga, Laura Loveday, Tia Martin-Petersen, Paul Price, Leander Schutte and Nouvelle Tamilalagan. I acknowledge our year 10 Canning Vale College student councillors Georgia Brandis, Jessica Birrell, Abbey Johnson, Audrey Keenan and Paige Van de Vaart. I acknowledge our year 9 student councillors Emma Gudgin, Rhys Gudgin and Sam Mamootil, and our year 8 student councillors Oliver Birrell, Aria Brennan, Daria Mirzac and Jacqueline Ong. I look forward to serving alongside you as elected representatives in our area.

I would like to acknowledge the student leadership of Providence Christian College. I would like to acknowledge our college captains Zander Mostert and Phoebe Lim; and our prefects Evangeline Agung, Luis Alberto, Gael Brutus, Levi Chelliah, Micaela Hill, Erina Hong, Nicole Kwidzai, Julia Messier, Joshua Meyer, Maraina-Miria Paurini, Elijah Ramirez, Krishan Shorey, Charlotte Smoker and Zoe Trapski. I look forward to serving alongside you as student councillors and, of course, I look forward to sending you all a copy of this video and a copy of the *Hansard* for you and your families.

I would like to tell members all about the incredible student councillors at Bletchley Park Primary School. I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the service of those students who have done so much so far: our head girl at Bletchley Park Primary School, Abbey Galante, and head boy, Anav Nambiar, who I met at our Anzac Day school ceremony only a few weeks ago. I also acknowledge our student councillors Annika Chin, Sienna Flint, Jaxon Lewis, Harrison Moore, Ella Nazri and Rithvik Vibhushn Thiruppathi. Congratulations and well done for your service. I acknowledge the faction captains at that school, because they are also very hardworking. For Bradman, my electorate well knows Chelsea Natta and Kai Roos; for Strickland, Ruby Anderson and Cooper Peberdy; for Farmer, Easa Abraha and Ella Waite; and for Fraser faction, Breanna Stone and Cruz Kururangi.

I would like to inform members about the incredible student leadership at Caladenia Primary School, a fantastic primary school in my electorate, and acknowledge its student executive. I was very honoured to speak at their elections last year and speak to them, and am very happy to now congratulate and announce the successful winners of those student elections. I congratulate our head girl, Kayla Troy; head boy, Lucas Werder; and the student executive Tala Almur, Makayla Dunn, Kushi Kattokola, Amber Wood, Olivia Kim, Zane Sutherland, Akshayan Mukunthan, Tharul Ranamuka, Stanley Rivers and Albie Elson. I also acknowledge our music captains at Caladenia Primary School, Zexin Zhao and Jocelyn Hurst—congratulations. I look forward to the member for Mandurah teaching you all about music and singing and dancing. I acknowledge the faction captains for Red, Aaliyah Louise and Viraat Juvvadi, and vice captains Sierra Louise, Yara Ravjee, Yonal De Vas and Bodhi Chopping; for Green—I was in Green faction when I was in school, but I did not make faction captain, so well done—Natasha Garatidye and Logan Madden; and vice captains Adeleine Barr, Amarni Brown, Ijaaz Ramdianee and Nicolas Ng. I would like to congratulate our Blue faction captains Vanessa Tjitra and Davis Kennedy; our vice captains Lola Rivers, Esme He, Benjamin Wojciechowicz and Ethan Sasidharan; of course our Gold faction captains Vivian Nwokeiwu and Nate Wright; and our vice captains Emily Sartori, Clarissa Tampubolon, Giovel Augustine and Dihain Abeynayake. Congratulations and well done for your service.

I would like to congratulate the student leadership at Huntingdale Primary School. The student leaders are very hardworking and I wish you the best for your service in serving the community of Huntingdale. Our student leaders are Allika Green, Robert Davis, Ashleigh Hitchcock, Zac Holland, Neveah Quaynor, Annie Raja Azizi, Tyler Woodward and Ali Znad. I also acknowledge faction captains at Huntingdale Primary School. For Acacia, Jada Borsbloom and Cooper Hornblow; for Banksia, Riley Andrews and Raksha Yohan; for Hovea, Ajay Chanrasekaran and Kobi Holland; and for Zamia, Ahmad Gholami and Jazmyn Williams. I wish you the best, Huntingdale leaders and faction captains, for your service to our community.

I acknowledge the leadership of student councillors at Ashburton Drive Primary School in my electorate: Angela Agus, Riya Shrestha, Atifa Noori, Jax Saleh, Carlajah Hiko-Kita, Emily Lawrence, Lorna Blaxall and Jerry Jarvines. I look forward to working with you as part of your student leadership teams to do the best that we can for our school.

I acknowledge the student leadership team at Seaforth Primary School: Bella Amos, Celeste Hansen, Mojtaba Ali Doust and Ziki Shahidzadah. Congratulations for your election. I wish you the best for your leadership and for your service.

I would like to tell members all about the fantastic leadership team of students at Excelsior Primary School. I congratulate and look forward to working with the fantastic team involving student councillors Casper Tan, Jeol Veenvliet, Rebecca Dobbie, Skye McCracken, Nur Sahara Muhamad Sahril and Meena Prasanna.

I acknowledge the student leadership at St Emilie's Catholic Primary School. All year 6 students at St Emilie's are student leaders; no student councillors are elected. All those year 6 students hold leadership positions within the school and I would like to say thank you to all of you for all the things you do looking after all the young people at our school and ensuring that they are looked after in the playground and around the school.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the student leadership at Southern Grove Primary School, a fantastic school in the electorate of Southern River. Our student leadership at Southern Grove does not have student councillors, it has ministers. I acknowledge the two ministers of operations, Rudy Singh and Reyansh Kheeroo; the ministers of sustainability, Vyshnavi Tatikonda and Ryker Cunningham; and the ministers of outdoor play, Abel Biju and Isabella Caruso. I wish you the best for your terms, I wish you the best in serving our community and I say thank you for putting your hand up for that service.

Members, on behalf of the member for Thornlie and I, I would like to inform the chamber of the incredible leadership of students at Wirrabirra School. Wirrabirra Primary School and Wirrabirra Education Support Centre is a fantastic school that exists at the border of both our electorates in Gosnells, and its student leadership does a fantastic job. I acknowledge our head boy in year 6, Barath Harirajesh; our year 6 head girl, Sanday Kur; our year 6 student leadership team Tahnee Cadman, Dylan Jong, Jonathan Crace, Komalpreet Saini, Dayna Wallington and Max Harris; our year 5 student leadership team Addison Kehoe, Charlotte Gray, Abigale Betty and Jack Johns; in year 4 Mutin Sujesh and Sreshta Penmetsa; and in year 3 Layla Mafarji and Alisha Bhandari. I look forward to working with you as the student leadership team at Wirrabirra Primary School. I also look forward to delivering on our election commitment of a \$30 000 nature playground. I look forward to consulting with you about what we build and how we build it.

I would like to acquaint members with the incredible leadership team at Southern River College, the school I used to teach at before I came to this place. Southern River College has an incredible leadership team of students. I acknowledge our year 7 student councillors Arie Peason, Celina Davey, Dakota Smith, Elyysha Maynard, Ibrahim Khurram, Lucas Groenewege and Seth Dellaca; our year 8 student councillors Eftekhar Hussainy, Harmony Bright, Jawad Islam, Kaeden Amos, Munira Alizada and Rhian Javier; our year 9 student leadership team Adam Khurram, Hariz Bin, Katie Russell and Sunday Thaymu; our year 10 student leadership team Cooper Macey, Jaishree Charan, Jasmin Rico, Mi Soi Tar Non and Pratishee Luchoomun; our year 11 student leadership team Athena Calupig, Kobi Philbin, Willow Bright and Maisum Syed; and the year 12 student leadership team Jarrod Bakranich, Kobe Van Wyk, Brooke Keep, Miranda Leaver, Isabelle Oreo, Alexis Gidman, Richard Pountney and Tracy Fernihough. I look forward to working with you steering our community through and taking your advice so that I can do my job better as a local member of Parliament.

I would like to tell members about my last community school, which is Campbell Primary School, and acknowledge its student leadership and councillors. Campbell Primary School is a fantastic school in Canning Vale. To the councillors at Campbell, I say thank you for standing for election and serving our community. It was lovely to meet the student councillors at their recent Anzac Day ceremony, and I want to say thank you to those students and their families. Our student councillors at Campbell include Sophia, Lucy, Sai, Jessica, Aidan, Ayush, Yi Shuen, Joby, Mathoosan and Ashlen. Our faction captains are Avyukta, Jordan, Charlotte, Daniel, Isha, Skye, Alpheus and Lewin.

To all our student leaders, I again want to say a very big thank you. I cannot do my job as a member of Parliament without input from them and their families. I cannot represent the community and I cannot know what issues need to be addressed. I will keep working hard because I know that they will keep working hard. We will do that together and our area will be better for it.

I acknowledge a few of my fantastic supporters. I am very, very honoured to have a Facebook social media presence that allows me to liaise directly with families in my community. They share my stories. They consult with Mark McGowan and me. They let the community know what needs to be known. They are therefore community leaders. I mention another top 50 of my Facebook fans and acknowledge those people on my Facebook page. I know they are watching the stream now and they will watch the video when we share it on Facebook. I say to them: thank you and please stay faithful to me and I will try not to make my Facebook posts too boring!

I thank Martha Steenkamp, Richard Tresidder, Lisa Ahnstrom, Donelle Dunn and John Short.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I also acknowledge Mary Bruhn, Katherine Lockwood, Bells, Simon Kelly, Arthur Fayley, Nigel Eaton, Anne Giovenco, Paul McGreavy, Christopher Patton, Brad Smith, Caris Morris, Adam Bell, Kimberly Halliwill, Marlene Smith, Donna Ellis, Kelley Davies, Lynette Dixon, Julie Cleveland, Refaat Fouda, Angela Bushby, Subhash Chandra, Mohammed Tajuddin, Ruth Cadman, Ciaran Crossin, Margaret Hewett, Cassandra Lyon, Gary Lee, Cynthia Yardley, Warrick “Wazza” Upton, Cliff Woodcock, Valerie Gilbert, Jon Trice, Anthony Lee, Bushra Ali, Callum Small, David Peterson, Carren Pinker, Margaret Randell, Natasha Bakranich, Beth Crispin, Barbara D’Sylva, Tanya Clarke, Adam Kuzimski, Stanley Obinwa and Christopher Patton. Again, I thank them for their support and the things they do to make me and my ability to communicate with my electorate more efficient and more productive and a more enjoyable experience.

I will take a moment to acknowledge a couple of things. I will refer to my first speech, four years ago, and quote directly the new Speaker, Michelle Roberts, the member for Midland. I think her election to the post of Speaker is an incredible occasion. I would like to share a few things she said and certainly agree with them. I quote her *Hansard* speech from when she accepted the position last week —

... until relatively recently, this place felt more like a select gentlemen’s club than the people’s house. I am privileged to be the thirty-first Speaker of this house, the first woman to hold this office and the start of a new tradition. In this Parliament, that seems fitting, because we have never before seen so many women sitting in this chamber at one time.

...

As I stand here today, barely just over half of the members are men, which of course means that nearly half are women, including many in leadership positions. This is a clear signal to the community and to women of just how far we have come, but it has taken over a century to do it.

I refer to my first speech in which I said the same thing: there were not enough women in this chamber. It is key that the community has recognised that and we have returned a Parliament that is not yet 50–50 equal representation but is well on its way. I will quote my first speech and give a report. If the community allows me to return here every four years, I will do a report card every four years to say how we are progressing. Four years ago, I said —

I believe that men and women should be treated and represented equally. We will be a better Legislative Assembly if we actually represent the 50–50 gender balance of our community. In this chamber, only 18 women sit in the 59 seats. Today, there are more women in this place than ever in this Parliament’s history, but it is still not good enough.

I quoted one of the first speeches of my local predecessor Sheila McHale when she stated, 20 years earlier —

Women represent 50 per cent of the population, yet only 21 per cent of this House ... That is not good enough for our community and it is not good enough for us.

Four years ago, when I called upon some female leaders, Amy Hart and Allyson Murray from Southern River College, they gave me this quote. I think they said it well then and it still applies now. As I said in my inaugural speech, these were the words of my young people in Gosnells on why they want more women in Parliament —

We believe that in order for our parliament to be a reflection of our society, gender equity has to be achieved, with women making up 50% of parliamentary representatives. To us, as women who are about to graduate and enter society as active and engaged citizens, having representatives that reflect the population, will ensure that everyone benefits. In order to make laws for the benefit of all, the parliament must represent the entire constituency.

We can do better. We are well on our way.

I acknowledge a stalwart of our community who has recently retired—Huntingdale Primary School principal Edd Black. He spent 49 years as an educator. I was very honoured to be at his farewell ceremony as he graduated as principal from the school. He had 21 years as the leader of Huntingdale Primary School and made a huge contribution to our community in Huntingdale. Literally generations of young people have been through his leadership and teaching. I acknowledge and place on record in *Hansard* his 49 years of service in the central office, the district office and schools. He is described by me and the community as empathetic, persistent and determined—a promoter and protector of public education. He worked for improved pay and conditions for teachers and administrators. He was an advocate for curriculum and management initiatives to deliver better and efficient teaching and learning. He was always fighting the good fight for better resourcing. He is a particularly persistent voice in keeping school leaders’ perspectives on the agenda. He is a compassionate man. He is energetic, courteous and patient. Kids and young people have always been his focus. He has a strong and practical understanding that benefits will flow only if teachers and support staff are given a professional voice, resourced adequately and cared for. Again, I would like to say thank you to Edd Black and his family for his service to our community for many, many years. It is an honour to have been a member with a principal such as Edd Black in my electorate and he will be sorely missed. I say thank you on behalf of all of us for your service.

I congratulate and say thank you to Huntingdale IGA, which recently had its thirtieth anniversary. The Pham Group, which runs my local IGA in Huntingdale, one in Byford and a couple of others around the area, runs services and

incredible teams. Matt Pham and his team and the Pham family do well. They provide an experience that my community values with friendly services and shops. On the anniversary of Huntingdale IGA's thirtieth year, it had animal farms and face painting. The IGA is a core part our community and a core institution. I place on the record my thanks for the support it gives us and how we greatly appreciate what it does for us.

I acknowledge the C.Y. O'Connor Village Pub. At the end of last year, it won WA's Best Steak Sandwich Competition and the 2020 Casual Pub Dining Award. Those awards are very, very well deserved. It is one of the fantastic places in my electorate and I look forward to providing its owners with a framed printed *Hansard*. I look forward to one day bringing Mark McGowan there for a nice steak sandwich. To John and Roger Dawkins and the whole family, thank you all so much for the great work you do.

I acknowledge the leadership team of Southern River Hockey Club, which was elected just last month. The hockey club is a fantastic community organisation. I acknowledge the new committee members: Jamie D'Souza, president; Robert De Wind, vice president; Marieka Wilson, secretary; Andree Wiseman, treasurer; Sharron Butler, registrar; Tim Horley, senior men's coordinator; Donna D'Souza, senior women's coordinator; Melanie Cruickshank, junior coordinator; Anthony Bruyns, turf facility and grounds manager; Tanase De Wind, bar and kitchen manager; Donna Stevens, uniforms; and Nina van den Berg, events coordinator. I also thank the retiring committee members for their service in 2020 and previous years. I thank Elizabeth Smoker, Craig Ryan, Derek Smith, Jessica Heath, Michelle Payet-Smith and Marli van den Berg so much for their service.

I want to place on record that I am also very honoured to serve as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training. I look forward to the role and with great enthusiasm I will stand up for all my community and all our schools. To my community, I will always be your local member of Parliament first. I look forward to assisting our very, very hardworking minister to deliver all the incredible projects at our schools, such as new primary school science labs. They will happen in almost every single one of our primary schools. I look forward to delivering the school psychologists that were committed to at the election and the career practitioners. We are seeing a maintenance blitz being delivered in our electorates now, in every community across the state. We are making incredible education investments. The jobs allocation and the employment of local people to do those works is an incredible decision and will improve the lives of everyone in our communities.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm*

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I would like to welcome to the public gallery His Excellency, Hon Kim Beazley, Governor of Western Australia, who is here to hear his daughter's inaugural speech.

**MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park)** [7.02 pm]: I am humbled to rise this evening for the first time in this place, as the member for Victoria Park. I acknowledge that we are on Whadjuk Noongar boodja. My thanks to Noongar elders Neville Collard, who guided the smoking ceremony at the opening of Parliament, and Dr Richard Walley, who conducted the first-ever welcome to country in this Parliament. Having Dr Walley welcome all those who serve here in what was traditionally the House of Lords was incredibly gracious. His welcome marks a watershed moment in this Parliament's history. It was also a powerful act of reconciliation as we walk together in our shared commitment to the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution and in realising an Indigenous voice to Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate you on becoming our first female Speaker and I thank you for your ongoing support of me in my journey to get here. The significance of having our Parliament's first female Speaker appointed on the centenary of Edith Cowan's election is not lost on anyone in this place or outside of it. It is also not lost on me that within both of these contexts, Parliament House sits on the matriarchal songline that exists between Kaarta Gar-up, or Kings Park, through Boorloo, Perth, and onto Matagarup (Heirisson Island) where Noongar trailblazer Fanny Balbuk was born. Fanny walked this important songline. She lived through the British colonisation of Perth and was the granddaughter of Yellagonga and the niece of Yagan. Fanny was a resistance fighter who fiercely defended her values, traditional rights and country while maintaining a clear rapport with many of the newly arrived settlers. Fanny Balbuk's legacy offers a masterclass to those of us seeking to be strong female voices for, and leaders of, our communities.

It is right that she is remembered today at the beginning of a Parliament that sees a record number of women elected to its benches, including two powerful Aboriginal women and the first-ever Aboriginal woman in the Legislative Council.

I congratulate also Premier Mark McGowan, his ministry and government on a historic election victory, a tangible realisation of the Western Australian people's approval of your government's first term, with its focus on real action, social justice, prudent financial management, fairness and commonsense. Premier, I thank you not only for your personal support of me but for the glow of your popularity imbuing the fantastic election results in my electorate of Victoria Park.

I love Victoria Park and its people. It is over 90 years since the electorate of Victoria Park was created. For all but eight of those years, Victoria Park has been held by the Labor Party. I thank the most recent member for Victoria Park, my friend and former Treasurer, Hon Ben Wyatt. Ben served our community with distinction, retiring

while still enjoying immense popularity and respect. Ben remains much loved by the people of Victoria Park and has left big shoes to fill—as have all former members of Victoria Park. I have a whole wardrobe full of shoes to fill! Our community has enjoyed Treasurers, Premiers and opposition leaders as their local representatives.

Another friend of mine, former Premier and member for Victoria Park, Hon Dr Geoff Gallop, rang me the day after the election to reiterate the expectations of our community: they expect their member to make a difference. And I intend to do just that. For all those shoes to fill, none has been heels! I am the first female member for Victoria Park. To be the first of anything is an achievement. To be the first woman is an absolute privilege and a responsibility I welcome. I join other wonderful women in this place, many, like me, who are first-term members. At this election, 11 seats changed from being represented by men to being represented by women. All of those seats are now held by Labor women. Of these 11 new members, six of us represent electorates that have never been represented in this place by a woman. From Geraldton in our north to Albany in our south, our ascendancy is the result of societal change forged by the vision and action of generations of women before us, together with our own determination, hard work and, in so many cases, pure perseverance. I congratulate and support you all.

I am born and bred Victoria Park. I learnt to ride my bike along our local streets, cajoled my parents into scoring my diving at Somerset Pool, now Aqualife. I loved Brownies and jumble sales at St Joachim's hall within the grounds of my first primary school. I picked up friends on my walking group to my second primary school, East Victoria Park Primary School, and waited tables at local icon Pancho's Mexican Villa Restaurant.

At 18, I was proud to move out of home and into my first rental on Mint Street with my best friend since kindergarten, Fleur Allen. Fleur is still one of my dearest friends today and I take this opportunity to thank her and her family for a lifetime of love and support.

The Victoria Park community made me who I am and I am so proud to have the opportunity to repay the investment they have made in me. My family's history in Vic Park goes back generations. My maternal grandfather, Hon Sir Shane Paltridge, his sister and my great-grandmother lived at the Broken Hill Hotel on Albany Highway. Granddad's family owned the hotel and he managed it from the late 1920s for well over a decade and again after his return from service in the Second World War. Apparently, he was renowned for always being quick to shout the bar. He was definitely my kind of guy! Granddad had his own political life—starting as a Labor man who would listen keenly to party meetings held in the hotel's back rooms by future Prime Minister John Curtin. Shane would eventually be elected as a Liberal Senator for WA, becoming a key confidant of Prime Minister Menzies.

My paternal granddad, Hon Kim Beazley Sr, or Pop, as I loved and called him, was the federal member for Fremantle. Pop entered federal Parliament in the 1945 Fremantle by-election. In this and the following election, Victoria Park was within the Fremantle electorate. In 1949, Victoria Park was redrawn into the federal electorate of Swan, represented from 1980 for 16 years by His Excellency Hon Kim Beazley, AC—hereafter referred to as "Dad". Dad went on to serve another 11 years as the member for Brand. This makes me the third generation Beazley to represent the good people of Victoria Park in an Australian Parliament, and I could not be prouder or more humbled.

Like I said, I intend to make a difference. I come from a family of teachers. Dad started off as a lecturer and my mum and sister are both fabulous teachers. I, too, worked in education for almost a decade. Pop was the federal Minister for Education who made universities free of tuition fees. I know the value of education. It is the one lever we can pull to create generational shifts in opportunity. I understand the curse of education inequality among incomes, races and locations. Western Australia has a small population; we cannot afford to waste the talents of a single person. In Victoria Park, our local schools and TAFEs are my priority. Locally, we are blessed with many fantastic avenues for quality learning, including Curtin University.

I was very pleased during this election campaign to announce, together with the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery, \$750 000 to upgrade classrooms to deliver STEM education at Kent Street Senior High School. The quality of STEM education is a key priority of the McGowan government and this is a fantastic investment in our current and future Kent Street Senior High School staff and students. This investment is in addition to the maintenance funding boost it received last year as part of the McGowan government's \$200 million school maintenance blitz. Kent Street needs this funding. It is now more than 80 years old. Kent Street is a high school with excellent and dedicated staff and wonderful specialist programs, including aviation, fashion and design, and cricket. However, due to its age and the demands of servicing a growing population—a population that deeply cares about quality education—it is a school that also needs attention. I am committed to giving Kent Street Senior High School the attention it needs and deserves. My aim as the member for Victoria Park is to successfully secure further investment in Kent Street Senior High School that would see this wonderful school reach its full potential and provide an exemplary learning institution to local families for generations to come.

Running through Victoria Park is the oldest train line in Perth, the Armadale line. I cannot tell you how many times I have jumped on that train to take me around our great city. It is a gateway for our community and for others to visit us. I also cannot tell you how long I have waited in my car at our level crossings or how many times I have been woken by the honks of passing trains and the bells of boom gates. When feeling nostalgic, I find these sounds quite comforting, but when in a hurry, I do not appreciate the significant time being stuck at a level crossing adds to my commute. As one of my top priorities, I look forward to working with the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti,

as this government raises the rail line through Victoria Park, removing local level crossings at Mint Street, Oats Street and Welshpool Road and connecting our neighbourhoods for the first time in almost 130 years. I am committed to helping the minister ensure that this project is a success and that our Victoria Park community has both input into, and benefits from, the improved connection, amenity, security and aesthetic this almost half-a-billion-dollar project can create.

Removing the level crossings and connecting our neighbourhoods will also help our local small businesses grow and prosper. Victoria Park has always been a place of growth and opportunity for small business. Our local businesspeople define vision, optimism and energy. I consider it one of my top priorities to advance and amplify their activities. Our local small business owners, who in turn train, skill and employ our local community members, are the beating heart of Victoria Park. Anyone looking for a great coffee, a good feed, a reliable car, wonderful homewares, a satisfying book, the weekly groceries or a friendly beer at knock off need look no further than Victoria Park. Our strips along Albany Highway and Archer Street, as well as pockets all around the electorate, are the epitome of endeavour and enterprise.

I am a former small business owner. I understand the anxiety of making payroll. I know the inevitable sacrifices made when paying yourself last. I also understand what our businesses are going through in these uncertain COVID times. I navigated my business through the uncertainty and revenue hits of the global financial crisis, and I know that government can make a real difference when businesses operate during challenging times. During the GFC, cash injections into people's back pockets and asset depreciation relief made a real difference to my bottom line. During the COVID pandemic, the McGowan government's support measures for small business have done the same, from relief on electricity bills to licence fee and payroll tax waivers. The small business lockdown assistance grants announced last week will also be a welcome support to many.

What COVID has starkly revealed is something the Labor Party has laboured on for the length of my lifetime and longer—that Australia needs to be a manufacturing nation. Not being so is a threat to our security, relevancy and sustainability. By virtue of our rich natural resources, WA has long been considered the engine room of the nation. There is no reason why we cannot also be the modern factory floor, whether that is in digital innovations, value-adding to our primary resources, tourism, commercialisation of tertiary research or being at the vanguard of optimising the outputs of our natural environment.

For the last two years, I held a senior position at Western Australia Return Recycle Renew Ltd, a local non-profit charged with delivering this government's container deposit scheme, Containers for Change. It was a herculean task getting the scheme off the ground. The scheme covers the largest distances, as well as the most remote refund points, in the world. Under the guidance of the Minister for Environment and WARRRL, whole regions of that refund point network are being run by Aboriginal corporations. Containers for Change started as an election commitment, became policy and then legislation and is now a reality—a reality that has, since its launch in October last year, seen over 318 million containers recycled, many of which would have ended up in landfill, as litter or in our oceans. Over 600 Western Australians are now employed through the scheme, with many of those jobs awarded to the long-term unemployed, Aboriginal people and people living with disability. It was a privilege to help lead Containers for Change and make it a reality. It is a professional legacy I am proud of and a reflection of what can be achieved by a government that cares and is committed to both our environment and the diversification of our economy. I share this commitment to a strong and diversified economy—one that embraces local manufacturing in its many potential forms and protects and enhances our natural environment.

This government's view to manufacture wind turbine components here in WA is a perfect example of its commitment to the economy and our environment, and to creating green jobs. It is a project that capitalises on our natural resources, from the steel to the wind. It utilises our skilled labour force, which is being further developed by our investment in vocational education and training and TAFEs. It engages local industry and ensures local procurement. Procurement is the key that unlocks policy and turns it into positive, tangible outcomes. It makes the difference. When my dad became the defence minister of Australia, 70 per cent of Defence's equipment budget was spent overseas and just 30 per cent was spent in Australia. When he left the defence portfolio, those numbers had been reversed. Those active procurement decisions have made a difference in local defence equipment investment, advancement and output for generations, not to mention the effect it has had on strengthening our national security. Support for business can come in many forms and I am committed to supporting my local Victoria Park businesses, their staff and families, in all the ways I can.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms H.M. BEAZLEY:** Just like our small businesses rely on the support of their community for their success, so have I. It has been a long journey for me to get to this place. And, honestly, not because it took me three times of running in elections to get here but because I was not supposed to live this long. Twenty years ago, when I was in my early 20s, I became very ill. I could not walk more than 10 or 20 metres without having to rest. I intermittently lost the use of my legs. The blood vessels in my fingers would burst and haemorrhage, rendering me incapable of picking up a pencil or using a phone. There was a time my heart doubled in size in the space of a week. I was the youngest person by about 50 years in the hospital's coronary care unit. Nobody could decipher what was wrong.

I was put on medication that mitigated some of my pain and symptoms but it could not deal with the source of my illness. I was told I had five years to live without this medication and maybe 10 years to live with it. Fast-forward a year or so and I finally had a diagnosis; a rare blood disorder—hypereosinophilia. Back then, it was also a potential death sentence but because Western Australia is the best place in the world to live, world-leading research into this disorder was happening right here at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Dr David Joske and his team at Charlies saved my life. The drugs that they helped to develop and administer saved my life. I am alive today due to our strong public health system, the people who make it so, and the commitment of successive governments to medical research. Today I have a beautiful family because of our public health system. I can alter my course from fighting for my life, to fighting for my community because of our public health system. That is why, underpinning all my priorities for Victoria Park will always be my commitment to a strong public health system that offers top-quality health care, medicine and services to each and every one of our citizens, regardless of wealth or geography. You do not have anything if you do not have your health.

The fact that I stand here today is not only due to life-saving health care, but also the support of a community for which I will always be grateful and to whom I will always strive to fulfil the trust and faith they have placed in me. Of all the people I thank who brought me here, I thank the people of Victoria Park. Those who voted for me and those who did not; I represent you all. My door will always be open, and I will always do what I can to help. I know that I work for you. When I was little and my dad was the member for Swan, he would often take my sister Jessica and I to Miss Maud on the weekend for a treat. I remember people coming up to him all the time for a chat, for help, or to impart some sage advice. On one of these trips, Jessica and I were getting very annoyed with the interruptions and made our displeasure known to dad. Although sympathetic, dad simply said, “These are the people who put food on our table”. It was a valuable lesson about who you serve in this place and one I have never forgotten.

I thank the labour movement. Strong unions mean a strong democracy. It cannot be overstated. A strong democracy in the workplace is the foundation for a strong democracy overall. I thank particularly Peter O’Keeffe and Ben Harris of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA, the union that represents workers across retail, fast food and warehousing. Thank you to my local Labor Party members and branches, including Victoria Park–Carlisle branch president Ryan Harte, secretary Jeremy Gilchrist, membership officer and star volunteer, Christine Miller and fundraising officer Jan “JJ” Jermalinski. JJ is unwell at the moment and I send him my prayers for a speedy recovery and good health. To my many friends who have been the family I have been lucky enough to choose, thank you. It is true that you cannot make old friends and please indulge me while I thank a few of them. I mentioned Fleur Allen and her family earlier. I also thank another schoolfriend, Kelsey Schwabe, who flies my flag in Broome. I thank Alison and Darren Devenish who keep my husband and I sane and loved. As a nurse at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Alison has been on the front lines of dealing with COVID and is one of the reasons that I have such faith in our hospitals. I would also like to thank Craig Goulder and Wendy Palmer. It is a source of pride for me that I purposefully do not live in an echo chamber. I surround myself with people of different persuasions, opinions and passions but sometimes you just need the quiet support of old, like-minded friends who still have the intelligence to challenge you to do better—that is Craig and Wendy. To new friends, Sarah and Robin Trotter, who jumped in straightaway with supporting the campaign and our family juggle, thank you. To the woman who, a decade ago, invited me to rethink how I served the Labor Party and our community, encouraging me to nominate as a candidate, Lenda Oshalem, the then assistant state secretary of WA Labor, thank you. I also thank the current state secretary of WA Labor, Tim Picton, and assistant state secretary, Ellie Whiteaker, for their guidance and leadership of the party.

To my volunteers, many who have stood by my side for almost 10 years now, first supporting me when I ran for Riverton, home to my businesses’ distribution centre, back in 2013, then for the federal seat of Swan, which saw us campaign heavily in Victoria Park and surrounds for two years in the lead-up to the 2019 federal election and now in Victoria Park, which has felt like a homecoming since the beginning of this campaign—countless volunteers, too many to name and many whom I now consider my personal friends, they know who they are. There is nothing more humbling than being the beneficiary of your hard work—thank you. To my campaign teams, too often the unsung heroes of any election campaign, please allow me to sing their praises now. What a bunch of incredible people. I cannot name them all, but I will name a few. Hon Sue Ellery, Samantha Doran-Bryce, and Julie Kroeber in Riverton. Hon Kate Doust, Hon Samantha Rowe, Ally White, Fran Laine and Greg Roberts in Swan. Tim Hammond, Alison Cook and Sarah McBride in Victoria Park. A sincere, enormous and heartfelt thank you to my campaign manager for both Swan and Victoria Park, who knows where all my bodies are buried, whose counsel I will always seek, and who has one of the sharpest strategic minds I have ever come across—Adelaide Kidson. I now add to my Victoria Park story with Russell McFarlane who, together with Alison Cook, have become my left and right hands in the community through our electorate office. Thank you both.

I learnt the power of women from the women in my family. To my mum, Mary Ciccarelli, my stepmum, Susie Annus, my sisters, Jessica and Rachel Beazley, thank you for your ongoing love and support of me and my boys. We have gone through a lot together and the ride is not over yet. Your combined strength and support formed the springboard from which I jumped into this journey and I thank you for being both my jumping off point and my safe place to land, even if my sister Jessica remains perplexed by my desire to be in this place. In addition to Jessica, I thank

her husband, Philip Cormack, and my three nephews for their support but also for simply being wonderful and a constant source of joy for my boys. I thank my cousins: Claire O'Malley, her husband, Ben Sudlow and their girls; Justin O'Malley and his wife, Natalie, and their pigeon pair; Anton Wasson and his wife, Sarah, and their beautiful cherubs; my extended Canion, Wasson, O'Malley, Ciccarelli and Annus families, many of whom get roped into helping on election days, thank you.

To those I have loved deeply and I wish could be here today to witness this moment but have departed this world, my grandma, Lady Molly Paltridge, and my nanna and pop, Betty and Kim Beazley, I feel your love today. I hope I am doing you proud. To my dad, Kim Beazley, whose love is the foundation on which I built myself and who is a constant source of inspiration to me, thank you.

Finally, the people I left for last so I could keep it together for the rest of this speech: my husband, Andrew Canion, and our two beautiful boys, David Beazley Canion and Benjamin Beazley Canion. They have sacrificed much to get me here and I know will continue to do so. Politics is a family sport and I very much could not do this without them. This year will mark 22 years of love with Andrew—just over half my life. We have gone through terrible ill health, small business ownership, the death of loved ones, career changes, three election campaigns, the birth and raising of our boys, and the challenges of having a son with a disability, and we have endured. Thank you, Andrew. Words will never do you justice.

To my boys, who may one day read the transcript of this speech: know that I love you. Know that I know what this life means for you, and I thank you in advance. Know that I know you are going to make this world a better place in whatever way you choose.

My sons have often asked me over the course of the last 10 years why I keep running, why I want to be in this place, why I keep asking people for their vote. When you are explaining such a complex idea to two small kids, it helps you to clarify exactly why you want to be here. My simple answer has always been: to help people. And that is what I intend to do. Thank you.

[Applause.]

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [7.31 pm]: I am happy to make a very short contribution while we wait for the member for Nedlands' family members.

This was a great election result; one of the best election results I have ever seen. It was historic for many, many reasons, including electorates that have never before had Labor members elected to this place. That is a tremendous result for those members. I want to acknowledge all the members who have returned to this place as members of the forty-first Parliament and also, of course, warmly welcome the members who have been newly elected to this place.

We will hear from the new member for Dawesville very shortly, but I am particularly proud of her, as her election meant the defeat of the former member for Dawesville. It gives me great pride to share a city that has two Labor seats in this Parliament—Mandurah and Dawesville. It was a great result.

I am just waiting for the nod; I think this is one of my best speeches—a great speech this is, one that will go down in history as one of the best speeches in the world!

It was great to hear the Governor of Western Australia, Hon Kim Beazley, AC, deliver in the other place last week the Governor's speech. He highlighted in his speech some very important focuses for the second term of the McGowan government. For those of us who have been elected to be members of the McGowan government, we are very proud of the achievements of the first term, but we of course also look forward to the delivery of an extensive program. Metronet will see a significant increase in investment into the rail infrastructure of the Perth metropolitan area. In Mandurah, we are very pleased to be getting the Lakelands station in my electorate.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Mandurah is, of course, a region!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased that you are one of very few members in this place who recognises the regional nature of the Mandurah electorate, which is very important. With those words of wisdom, I am very happy to conclude my remarkable contribution this evening. Again, I will say that I am very pleased indeed to have such a wonderful group of new members elected to this place. I might say as Leader of the House that the speeches we have heard so far—no pressure, member for Nedlands!—have been absolutely wonderful.

**The SPEAKER:** With the exception of one, member for Mandurah, although I do not think there was as much preparation!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I know not of whom you speak!

I think the family members and friends of the member for Nedlands are here. Is it not remarkable that the Labor Party now holds the seat of Nedlands? Remarkable! I am happy to sit down now to hear the member for Nedlands' speech.

**DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands)** [7.35 pm]: I thank the Leader of the House for that, because the member for Victoria Park actually left me in tears. You have let me start in good humour instead, so thank you!

I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land upon which we stand today, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, their continuing culture and the contributions they make to the life of this place, this community and this state. I also pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging, and make particular acknowledgement of the Aboriginal people in the chamber.

It is indeed an honour to stand in this house as the very first Labor member for Nedlands. It is an equal source of pride to stand here as only the second woman to hold this seat since its inception in 1930. There are, indeed, very many legacies associated with the seat of Nedlands. Importantly, however, looking forward there is an opportunity to work alongside the community of Nedlands and to show them what it means to have an active, engaged and inclusive Labor local member.

It is this nature of legacy and, in particular, the shoulders of the women on which I and many others here stand, that I wish to reflect upon today. We come together to form this, the forty-first Parliament, in the centenary of Edith Cowan's election to the Western Australian Parliament—the first woman elected to any Parliament in Australia. Long before her election, Edith played a very important role in public life, advancing and progressing many issues for women and children that still stand today in the Western Australian community. She showed us what was possible, and we have witnessed women taking on increasingly diverse and non-traditional roles within public and civic life, including the recent appointment of Madam Speaker, Hon Michelle Roberts, as the first female Speaker of this house. I add my congratulations to the well-deserved chorus.

I stand here also on the shoulders of my social work colleagues, students and the communities that we serve. It is a female-dominated profession committed to social justice, human dignity and integrity. We provide care and advocacy for people, populations and problems that are very often rendered invisible or hidden—people and places that show us the very worst, but also the very best, of the human condition.

Social work and community service are, to me, hope in action. Hope is a human endeavour. We find it in our aspirations, our struggles, our connections and our spirit. To even embark on a career in social work is a quest in hope—hope that the world can be better, can be kinder and can be more just, that people can and do grow and recover, that lives improve, and that the structures that inform those lives can be built on foundations of fairness and justice.

However, if hope is to be a spark for change, it must be active and it must be fuelled by both imagination and evidence of what works. There are two women I would like to introduce members to this evening whose contributions to social wellbeing in Western Australia represent imagination and evidence.

For the last decade I have worked at Wanslea Family Services, a Western Australian not-for-profit organisation providing care and services to children and families across this state. Wanslea was founded during the Second World War by Florence Hummerston, a woman of amazing imagination and innovation. During the Second World War, Florence became the founding president of the Women's Australian National Service, which performed many traditional activities, such as preserving fruit, sewing uniforms and social activities, to support the war effort.

Florence soon recognised that the women whose husbands were at war were effectively sole parents. Many, too, were also taking on roles in the workplace traditionally held by men. Recognising this, Florence led the development of a compassionate, caring and responsive organisation focused on the welfare of children. She opened a hostel in North Perth where children of servicemen could stay while their mothers recuperated from illness or for respite. Although the original intention had been to cease the service at the end of the war, the baby boom and what we now know as post-traumatic stress disorder for returning service men and women saw the ongoing need for and then the birth of Wanslea Family Services. Florence would later become the first female councillor for the City of Perth, a position she would hold for some 18 years, from 1951 to 1969. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I acknowledge Florence for showing us the importance of a responsive and innovative community services sector, which is always turning to emerging community need, much as we are bearing witness to now as the impact of COVID-19 on our wellbeing becomes better known. I also take this opportunity to thank my Wanslea colleagues, in particular, CEO Tricia Murray, AM, for their support not just throughout my campaign but also over the last decade of service.

The other acknowledgement I wish to make to my social work colleagues today is to Donna Chung, John Curtin distinguished professor. Professor Chung's work in understanding family and domestic violence and effective service and policy responses is internationally renowned. Many of the innovative service responses we see in response to domestic violence are informed by Donna's research. I hold a deep professional and personal respect for Professor Chung, who has worked passionately and tirelessly for decades for the rights of women and children who are experiencing and are impacted by domestic violence. Donna, while I thank you personally for being a role model, a mentor and a friend, I want to bring your legacy of evidence-informed policy, evidence-informed service design and delivery and legislative reform to the work that we undertake in this house, too. I also thank my Curtin colleagues for their support and, in particular, their understanding, as my campaign happened to coincide with the start of semester 1 teaching.

I also acknowledge those who have brought social work values and ways of knowing, being and doing to Parliament, both here and in Canberra, before me. The very first was Grace Vaughan, then Kay Hallahan, Stanley Halden, Francis Donovan, Jann McFarlane and, of course, Hon Don Punch. These formal and public roles and legacies of women are important and need celebrating. It remains true, however, that many of the roles women play and the contributions we make to the community are still largely embedded in the private sphere, often hidden, often invisible and often undervalued. Yet, in my 25 years of community services work, I have seen women step up to provide very complex care to highly vulnerable individuals, people for whom neither the state, the market nor the community are coming to provide.

There is a very particular and very important group of women and men that I acknowledge today who step up to provide love and care to children who are often unsafe and often vulnerable. My dear colleagues of Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren WA Inc, you know that you are one of the other reasons I have the honour of standing here today. Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren on a full-time basis is the fastest growing form of out-of-home care for children in need of care and protection in Australia. This group of grandparents step up to take responsibility for and provide full-time care to their grandchildren when it is no longer safe for them to live at home. Often formed in a period of crisis, these families come together in response to parental substance use, mental health, domestic violence and incarceration, and very often the intersection of all these issues. The majority of these arrangements are considered informal; that is, it is a family arrangement. This means that there is no legal recognition of the grandparents' responsibility and rights when it comes to the care of and decision-making for their grandchildren. Their ability to access both universal and specialist services are negatively impacted by this. Yet, their care keeps their grandchildren out of the formal foster care system and that system's short and long-term challenges, costs and negative outcomes. There are financial and social savings to the state and community for grandparents' sacrifices, too. We know that children in the care of their grandparents experience greater stability and longevity in their placements. Their outcomes are better than for children in the care system, as they are known and, most importantly, they are well loved.

Having been on the board of Tuart Place for many years—a unique participant-led organisation that provides support to care leavers, including child migrants and forgotten Australians, I know that the impact of a care experience is lifelong. The care leavers of Tuart Place have taught me that this impact is about not only ongoing pain and trauma, but also resilience and recovery, particularly when their care experience is seen, heard and acknowledged. It is important that we get children's care journey right—that it be safe, secure, loving, supported and resourced. We should do this for the improved social and economic outcomes and savings that brings to us but, mostly, we need to get it right for human reasons.

Through research that Wanslea conducted with Edith Cowan University and Curtin University over the last four years, grandparents told us that they derive immense joy and great satisfaction in caring for their grandchildren—keeping them safe, secure and well loved. Yet, they also told us that they do so at great sacrifice to all aspects of their wellbeing, being worse off than their peers across dimensions of social health, mental and physical health, financial health and employment and housing security. This cost is exacerbated by navigating complex service and policy systems that can contribute to their invisibility.

As a community and a state, we have an opportunity to step up, as grandparent carers do, to create a fairer future for all grandchildren: to create an evidence of care system, a way of demonstrating grandparents have both the rights and responsibilities to make decisions for their grandchildren; to have grandparent advisers in key government organisations, to reduce their invisibility in service systems and facilitate access to required services; to have specialist legal advice to support not just the obvious custody and care arrangements, but also often complex financial, retirement and estate planning, too; to create a parliamentary friends of grandparent carers to provide a focus and voice in this house; and advocacy to our federal colleagues to improve the accessibility of Centrelink in particular. To the grandparent carers whom I have come to know as my colleagues and friends, my promise to you is to continue to give voice to all you do for your grandchildren, your families and us as a community.

Grandparents and other carers are part of a broader network of community services and what is often called the care economy. COVID-19 has shown us many things, including the social, economic, health and human importance of these sectors. Female-dominated sectors were at the front line of the services that remained throughout the hardest times of the pandemic—childcare workers, retail workers, nurses and health workers, those who work in aged care, and the broad network of community services, including the diverse array of large and small non-profit organisations across Western Australia. Community services rallied, showing our capacity to be agile and innovative and always responsive to emerging community needs. COVID-19 has seen the need for increased and varied responses, particularly to family and domestic violence, homelessness, child safety and mental health. The increased demand for services is ongoing, and many are at or beyond capacity. There are long waitlists to manage and the impact of those on both the people we serve and those who serve is meaningful. Yet, in how we respond to the pandemic recovery, the role and centrality of the community services sector is often lost in analysis, recognition and job recovery plans.

We need to continue to grow our investment in the care economy and community services during the COVID-19 recovery and beyond. Actioning existing strategies and plans to address homelessness, family and domestic violence and poverty are essential. These are made urgent by a global pandemic. Addressing such issues will have important

economic and social outcomes, but, again, our reasons for valuing and investing in the community services sector should be driven primarily by human and humane reasons. I am really proud to stand here as an advocate for my sector and its place in our economic, social and human life, including our recovery from COVID-19.

There is still much to be achieved in terms of gender equity. Our shoulders, too, must remain strong and robust for others ahead of us to stand on and see a different future. I think, too, of my women, including my granny, Phyllis Edington, who was the first social worker in the family. Although she might not have had the piece of paper as such, her compassion, inclusivity and sensitivity to others' needs were a model for me into my calling to community service. She remains one of the kindest people I have ever had the pleasure to know. Kindness—to each other, to the planet and to ourselves—is perhaps the greatest gift we can offer.

My grandmother, Marjorie Katherine Stratton, taught me what grace and courage in the face of loss looks like. To love fiercely despite loss is perhaps one of the most courageous lessons that I have been taught. My brother, Ben, sister, Leonie, and I were lucky to be the recipients of that love, and I witness my mother-in-law, Joan Toole, delivering the same lesson—loving her grandchildren with a ferocity that is brave and beautiful in the face of our shared loss.

I stand between my mother, Jenny Stratton, and my daughter, Catherine Lily Stratton, linking the generations. Like my grandmother, mum has shown what it means to be kind and compassionate, and to take the needs and feelings of others into account when deciding who and what you are in the world. Catherine extends that. She is known as a person who can get along with anyone—much like her dad did—make them feel at ease, make them laugh and make them see the best of themselves.

Her brother, Oliver Dermot Stratton, has this same compassion and kindness, but his is bounded with a strong thread of social justice. Again, much like his dad did, he will stand up to be counted when he sees a wrong. He is already, at 17, an engaged and values-driven citizen.

He, too, is politically active, and when we discussed my running for the seat of Nedlands—in this, his ATAR year—he was cool, calm and accepting. And so began the campaign for Nedlands: a short and sharp six weeks, which began with a one-week lockdown.

In that time, we engaged over 120 volunteers. Many of them were first-time campaign volunteers and were not yet members of the party. They carried out a broad range of tasks for not only the campaign, but also my family. So, yes, there were many pamphlets delivered, phone calls made, community engagement activities and events held and a lot of how-to-vote cards distributed. But there were also meals cooked, cakes delivered, listening ears offered and children cared for.

As a campaign team, we were always clear that we would run a positive and local community-based campaign. It would be a campaign informed by Labor values of justice and inclusivity, and one with integrity at its core. The feedback we constantly got from the pre-poll and on the election day itself was that our volunteers were committed, engaged and positive. While I thank you for all the practical tasks you carried out, it is for working in alignment with those values that I want to say a particular thank you.

To my campaign team: Sandra Nelson, my campaign director, was the first Labor member for the seat of Katherine in the Northern Territory, which she won by 28 votes. Sandra lived the knowledge that there is no unwinnable seat; there is just a seat that has not been won before. That became our campaign mantra. Sandra, your passion, your straight-talking, your strategic thinking and your integrity were and are a force to be reckoned with.

Bev Jowle was the first to ask if we could stop talking about unwinnable seats and instead talk about challenging seats. This is another example of what those of us from the community services bring to the table—always strength-based and always optimistic. Bev, while working full time, was also the one who managed those 120 volunteers across the many weeks and hours of campaigning and pre-polling. I thank you, Bev.

Michael Berry, who created the all-important campaign soundtrack, would also start every meeting with a list of innovative wins and hopes. Yes, he is a social worker too. He brought these qualities together post-election to form what has become our campaign ode. Michael, your optimism was, as it always is, a gift, a joy and a salve for the soul.

Angela Barns—AB—your boundless enthusiasm and humour and searing analysis were so necessary. You brought, too, the familiarity of our social work ways of knowing, being and doing to the work. I thank you not just for your campaigning, but also for your decades of friendship and collegiality.

Cathy O'Toole, my mentor through EMILY'S List Australia, was always available, always wise, always kind, always optimistic. Cathy won the federal seat of Herbert for Labor in 2016, the first time that Labor had held the seat for 23 years. She won it by 37 votes. People might see something of a theme in the kind of mentors I was seeking. Cathy always brought me back to a commitment of enacting Labor values and what they had to offer the electorate.

[Member's time extended.]

**Dr K. STRATTON:** Finally, to my colleagues in Perth Labor Women—a place for learning about the party, procedure, policy and advocacy. This branch is always pushing for equality for women in the party and policy, and for a gendered lens across all our decision-making. Under the leadership of Helen Tuck, the branch also provides opportunities for women to try out their political voice and aspirations.

However, my most important thanks belong to my family and particularly to my son, Oliver, and daughter, Catherine. Being your mother is my greatest adventure ever. I am always told about, and I live with, your kindness and your compassion, but also the commitment that you both show to people being included and heard. I am so proud of the family the three of us have created, and I thank you for coming with me on this great adventure.

I now turn to Nedlands, the place I have called home for 40 of my 48 years. It is a beautiful place to live, on the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan and with Kings Park on our doorstep. My parents moved there in the 1970s so the three of us children could have access to the exceptional public education opportunities on offer. That was my same reason for returning 11 years ago with what was then a young family.

One of my friends observed that election night was a little bit like watching the Brownlow count, but it was for political nerds instead. I am going to assume that I have a receptive audience here for some political nerd kind of details, and so I want to share with you some numbers.

In 1929, the seat of Nedlands was created. In 1930, the seat elected its first of many Liberal members. The electorate is now home to eight suburbs and just over 30 000 voters, and covers 31 square kilometres.

Two is the number of Premiers the seat has been home to. Five is the number of Nedlands members who have held ministerial or shadow ministerial positions. Two is the number of women who have held this seat, and I am proud to be the second.

The year 2017 was the state election year in which Penny Taylor, the WA Labor candidate, who with a swing vote of 10.9 per cent reduced the two-party preferred margin in favour of the Liberals to the lowest it had been since 1933. I thank you, Penny, for that leading legacy.

Twelve years was how long my predecessor had held the seat. Hon Bill Marmion was my local member for the whole time since I returned to live in Nedlands. Bill, I want to thank you for your many years of service to the people of Nedlands, and to the state of Western Australia through your ministerial and shadow ministerial roles. I thank you particularly for your kindness to me on the campaign trail, for running a positive campaign and for your very public good wishes post-election.

Eight point six per cent was the margin in the seat, before a boundary redistribution after the 2017 state election. When we welcomed parts of West Perth, that margin became eight per cent.

Depending on which poll you read and/or believed, 80 to 92 per cent was the approval rating of our Premier, Hon Mark McGowan, as we headed into election day. This was meaningful in the electorate of Nedlands, where 32 per cent of our population is aged over 65. They told us many times on pre-poll how they had felt particularly scared and vulnerable during COVID-19. Premier, I was asked many times to pass on to you a message of thanks for seeing our older people, for seeing their vulnerability, for protecting them and for keeping them—and all of us—safe.

Sixty-eight years—the longest someone told us they had been a Liberal voter and were now voting Labor for the first time. We had quite a few of those! So many people told us they were a first-time Labor voter. The year 2025 is the year that they will become second-time Labor voters!

One hundred and sixty-seven was the number of votes by which we won the primary vote, or 0.7 of one per cent for those who prefer comparative statistics. The swing to Labor in the primary vote was 9.1 per cent, and 10.8 per cent was the two-party-preferred swing. We won nine out of 12 of the booths. The seat took five days to count and declare. Fifty-five is how many days that actually felt like!

Four—the number of resignation letters I have had to write. Again, to my colleagues at Wanslea, Curtin University, the University of Western Australia and the board of Tuart Place, thank you for your generosity in supporting my campaign and for hoping that I would not be back!

Five point six per cent is the margin by which the Labor Party now holds the seat of Nedlands. And one is the number of Labor members this seat has had—for now!

Behind these numbers, though, is a story—a story of gratitude and a story of community. Nedlands gave me a great childhood and an excellent education. It gives me a safe place to raise my children, with lots of opportunities on their doorstep. The community of Nedlands stood by us when the worst thing that ever happened to us, happened to us. Nedlands gives me a beautiful natural environment to both enjoy and to protect. I am so grateful for this community.

I am also grateful to the people of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Subiaco, Shenton Park, Daglish, Jolimont and West Perth for the honour you have granted me in representing you, to work with you, to work alongside you in service; and in representing all of Nedlands, all members of our community, whether you voted Labor for the first time or have done so all your life. I bring with me to that service the lessons from all the legacies that I have spoken of today: to live and to serve with courage, with grace and with kindness in ways that are inclusive and are always about progressing social justice for our most vulnerable—to serve in gratitude and collaboration but always to serve with hope. My esteemed colleagues, I consider all of us to be brokers of hope, and that together, and in this very particular Parliament, we can contribute to a society that is more just and more inclusive. Thank you.

[Applause.]

**MRS L.A. MUNDAY (Dawesville)** [8.01 pm]: Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I make this, my inaugural speech, to the Legislative Assembly of the forty-first Parliament of Western Australia. I would like to also join everyone in congratulating you, Madam Speaker, on your appointment as the first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. You are probably a bit tired of hearing that!

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mrs L.A. MUNDAY:** I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people, the traditional owners on whose country we meet—always was, always will be. I acknowledge their connection to this country and I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge the Bindjareb Noongar people of my region. I recognise their rights and obligations to care for their land and the ongoing spiritual and cultural relationship with our waterways, and I deeply respect their sacred sites and areas of cultural significance.

I speak to you today as the first Labor member for Dawesville. The Dawesville electorate was created in 1994 and some 27 years later, Labor holds this seat for the first time. I am humbled and determined to be the best representative to the people of the Dawesville electorate. My area also encompasses the suburbs of Dudley Park, Erskine, Falcon, Halls Head and Wannanup.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Carolyn Smith and the United Workers Union officials and members. I appreciate each and every one of you and I am proud to be a UWU member. I want to acknowledge all the Labor members who assisted me on my campaign, gave me advice and also the opportunity to represent them. I would like to acknowledge my husband, Steve, who is my champion and my love; and my two sons, Alex and Frazer, who worked so hard. Steve, Alex and Frazer balanced work, study and caring for my mum and dad, and generally just made sure the world kept on spinning. I love you all, more than you will ever know, and everything we have achieved is because of each one of you. To my brother, Mark, sister-in-law, Tracey, and their girls, Holly and Sophie, thank you for all your love and support and for being here tonight in the public gallery. To Mikayla, Frazer's girlfriend, who is also here tonight, thank you for your help and also for getting me the best work bag any new member of Parliament would be proud to carry!

A second marriage can often be difficult when attempting to blend families; however, I am one of the lucky ones. Steve's kids, Wesley and Taylor, welcomed us into the fold, and over the last 10 years we have morphed into the imperfectly perfect family. I would also like to acknowledge Steve's first wife, whose name is also Lisa Munday and lives in my electorate. She is Lisa the first and I am Lisa the second! She doorknocked with me every weekend and ran a booth on election day. It was great to have her support and encouragement.

In my profession as a psychologist, my passion is positive psychology, which is mostly due to Dr Michelle McQuaid's incredible work on human flourishing. I do a lot of work on character strengths, of which there are 24, and these all present themselves differently for each person. During my campaign, I often spoke about these character strengths when I was with my campaign team, and as I record my debt of gratitude to them, I will describe them in their top strength. Thank you to Dominic Rose, my campaign director, who has the top strength of honesty, something I feel that some people in this chamber have been on the receiving end of! Dom called me out of the blue one morning towards the end of June last year and explained that he was the national political coordinator for the United Workers Union and wanted to discuss something with me. My first thought was, "If my union is ringing me, I've got to be in trouble." I never imagined that he would ask me to think about running for the seat of Dawesville. Dom promised to be at my side for the whole journey, and he lived up to that promise time and again, especially when things got tough. Dom's honesty was of great benefit to me. I knew I could call him anytime of the day or night and ask any question. I knew that I would get a no holds barred, honest answer. Dom is a realist; he likes to deal in facts. When I would continually give him the glass-half-full picture or explain I was focusing on the positive, he would just smile that faraway smile, and I would often wonder whether he was lamenting his decision to make the call on that day.

Zoey was my campaign manager. A complete opposite to Dom, her strength is one of love. She worked like a Trojan. She was my wingman for the entire journey. I cannot begin to add up the number of hours she put in to volunteer for my campaign—the days and weeks of doorknocking with me. She checked in every day to see how I was going. Thank you, Zoey, for your love and support. Andi was my field manager. Her top character strength is perspective. For a 23-year-old, Andi has an incredible knack of being able to step into other people's shoes and see life from another's perspective. Thank you, Andi, for all your hard work and for helping me get through all those 40-degree days. You have the greatest future ahead of you. To Gemma, who has the strength of creativity: I can only imagine the hours you spent creating material, working off the out-of-focus, badly positioned or shadowed iPhone pictures that we would all send through at the last minute for you to work on. To my new awesome team of Vickey Payne, Jessica Smith and Angela Samiotis in my electorate office, I know we will do ourselves proud by creating positive change in our community.

I want to thank the many people who offered me their support and guidance during the campaign. To my ambo colleagues and all my friends, new and old, who worked tirelessly week in and week out, thank you. To Senator Sue Lines and Fiona Bennett, who have been my guiding light, and to all my fellow MPs who supported me, especially those in my UWU family, thank you. A very big thank you to Tim Picton and Ellie Whiteaker from the party office for their very professional and amazing campaign. I am so very grateful.

I would also like to congratulate the *Mandurah Coastal Times* and the *Mandurah Mail* for providing fair and impartial coverage of the election campaign. I look forward to continuing a great working relationship.

I also acknowledge my predecessor Zak Kirkup and thank him for his commitment to the people of our community over his four-year tenure. Although he did not make my campaign easy for me, he always treated me with respect and warmth, and I wish him all the very best with his future career and endeavours.

I am a country girl. I was born and raised in Harvey. My parents, David and Pam Nabbs, bought an old three-bedroom asbestos house in Eighth Street, and that is where they stayed for the next 50 years. My father worked as a meat inspector in charge of the local meatworks. My mother spent most of her years with the hardest job of all, keeping myself and my two brothers in line! As I remember it, we did not have a lot of money as a family, and while we never had the trendy clothes, we never went without either.

I have always said to anyone who will listen that I believe Harvey is the centre of the universe—everyone has either been there, is related to or knows someone from there. I have some examples of this. I sit with two other members of Parliament who have ties to Harvey. One is the member for Forrestfield and Deputy Speaker, Stephen Price, whose mum, Margaret, and my mum are best friends. The member for Collie–Preston, Jodie Hanns, also grew up in Harvey and was at the local high school at the same time as my younger brother. The first member for Dawesville, the late Arthur Marshall, who held the seat of Dawesville from its inception in 1996 to 2005, also has ties to Harvey. Mr Marshall and I met decades ago when he was my tennis coach in Harvey, and even though he played at Wimbledon twice, let us just say that I do not think that I will be remembered for my tennis prowess! Another example of happenstance is that the Mundays have already been in Parliament. Steve’s mum, my mother-in-law, Jill Munday, worked at Parliament House in the dining room from 1981 to 1988.

Politics was never really a conversation we had at our dining table. However, my brothers, Darren and Mark, and I grew up in a community-minded family. My parents were in Apex WA and then Rotary International, so we were always collecting stuff, cooking stuff or dropping off stuff. The Rotary ethos, “Service Above Self”, rang loud in our home.

I was an average student at Harvey Primary School and Harvey Senior High School. My reports often said that I talked too much and was easily distracted, and in my younger years I often spent a bit of time outside the classroom being asked to think about what I had or had not done.

I just want to take a minute to express to any person, young or old, who happens to come across this speech in years to come that if they want to do something in their life, I have found the answer. It is not about being smart or talented; it is about being consistent and disciplined, and being okay with failure. Failure is just life showing you that you are at the wrong door, and that you need to step back and seek some advice. Good people who have already succeeded on your chosen path will happily show you the way.

I have had four different careers over my 50-plus years. I was a bank officer in my late teens and early 20s for the R&I Bank, now Bankwest, where I learnt the value of hard work. In my late 20s I worked as a base room supervisor for Swan Taxis, and so began my first taste of night shift. It was here that I got my opportunity to apply to be an ambulance officer, when I overheard someone in the call centre talking about it.

Making the cut to join the ambulance service was an incredible break. I was one of 30 people chosen from 1 000 applicants. I never stopped to think whether I was suited to the job; I just saw the opportunity to be making a full-time wage working two days of 10 hours and two nights of 14 hours, with four days off—perfect for a mother with two young children.

My first 24 weeks of on-the-road ambulance life was like nothing I could have ever prepared myself for. When people say to me, “You must see some terrible things”, they really have no ability to comprehend what we do see. My strength of kindness and hope drove me to keep going.

Fast forward nearly 15 years to when I was 45 years old. The job had certainly changed me. I became a lot more aware of the value of life and what was important. My first marriage became a casualty of my job. I was divorced and a single mum to two young boys, then aged six and eight. That was for the best part of six years. During this time, my boys were both diagnosed with high-functioning autism, and although they were extremely bright educationally, their social interactions, planning and executive formatting were such a struggle. I watched them struggle to make friends and find their place in society. They were and still are each other’s best friend, and I will be forever grateful for this deeper than brotherly bond that they share. I realised I was making a difference one day when Frazer said to me, “I actually like being different, mum. I have superpowers!” Our motto is: show me something great a normal person has ever done—nothing! Despite their individual challenges, they have gone on to graduate from university with degrees.

Steve’s family has always had ties to Falcon through his family’s home, so when we decided to move in together and blend our families, the boys and I shifted to Halls Head; then, once we were married, we moved into our renovators’ delight in Falcon. Night shift was starting to take its toll. I was getting older and was watching the mental health situation of our young people in the community starting to change. I was accepted at Murdoch University as a mature age student and studied a bachelor’s degree in psychology. After gaining my honours, I started an internship at

a private psychology practice in Halls Head, where I completed my psychology registration. I was all set to start my own positive psychology business called Two Curious Birds with my friend Jess, who is a yoga master. We were going to combine strength and resilience techniques with movement. But then opportunity knocked again, or rang, and I answered the call from Dom Rose that would set my life on yet another course at the age of 52.

The Mandurah region has been well represented and looked after for over 20 years by the member for Mandurah, Hon David Templeman. I have a tremendous amount of appreciation for the kindness David shows me every day, and I look forward to working with him as we continue to serve the Mandurah–Dawesville region together. Robyn Clarke, the member for Murray–Wellington, has also been an integral player in supporting me through my campaign. Thank you so much, Robyn, for your guidance and support along the way.

The area of Dawesville is home to some remarkable people. Paddi Creevey is an exceptional role model who has been awarded the Order of Australia for her social work and service to our region throughout her life, and for creating and chairing many organisations that offer a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Paddi for her kindness and ongoing support. I am excited to be working with her into the future.

Rhys Williams, the Mayor of Mandurah, also lives in Dawesville. He has done an incredible amount of work over his young life for the Mandurah community. Watching Rhys speak at public functions, I was struck by his warmth and genuineness. I am looking forward to forging a new relationship with Rhys and the Mandurah City Council as we work together in delivering the Transform Mandurah initiative in what I think is the most beautiful part of Western Australia—the district of Dawesville.

The McGowan government has made WA jobs its top priority. Moving forward into this forty-first Parliament, it is so uplifting to be part of a government that will continue to invest billions of dollars in regional projects such as the Transform Peel initiative, which is a long-term vision through to 2050 that encompasses the Peel food technology facility, the Bushfire Centre of Excellence and the Peel integrated water initiative. Our waterways are an extremely important part of our Dawesville community. The *Peel–Harvey estuary protection plan (Bindjareb Djilba)* is a 10-year plan that the McGowan government is undertaking in conjunction with the local and federal governments, industry and the community to effectively manage and highlight the needs of our estuary.

I am deeply proud of the McGowan Labor government’s commitment to end privatisation of health services and to bring Peel Health Campus back in-house. As a former frontline paramedic, I know the very real difference this will make in our community, and that public health, not private profit, must be at the centre of our health system. The promised \$152 million upgrades will ensure that the hospital is able to serve the needs of the Peel region.

Education and early intervention are essential to tackling complex mental health issues, especially amongst our young people. It is exciting to see how our innovative Peel health hub’s unique model of care, with its collaborative approach to medical, mental health and job support organisations, has been so successful. It has a client-centred, no-wrong-door policy. I am excited to be a voice working with the Peel Development Commission, other stakeholders and all three levels of government to continue to build on this model.

It is imperative that the people in our Peel region who need extra support, irrespective of age, ability, gender, culture or religious beliefs, feel included and heard. It will be incredible to join forces with the members for Mandurah and Murray–Wellington to continue their hard work to put systems in place and create the change that we need.

I love the area in which I live. It is a diverse place that offers the best of both worlds, being so close to a city and all the services it has to offer as well as the sleepy country fishing village that it used to be. The Dawesville electorate has fantastic family friendly beaches; an estuary that offers paddle boarding, boating, fishing and crabbing; and some of the best cafes and restaurants in WA. Thousands of visitors come to enjoy this area that I am fortunate enough to call home. I intend to also focus on promoting local businesses and creating more tourist attractions further south from Mandurah.

I have been an ambulance paramedic for nearly 20 years of my life. It has been part of my identity for so long that I struggle to see myself as anything else. My experiences as an ambulance paramedic have made me the person I am today. I have sat with people in my community during the worst times of their lives. Unfortunately, I see many of my former colleagues in similar situations. When I say “colleagues”, I am referring to my regional brothers and sisters—our 000 call-takers in the State Operations Centre, volunteers and those in patient transport. One of the issues I hope to raise and work through during my time in government is who is supporting and taking care of our first responders. We have had numerous reports into our ambulance service here in WA that have highlighted the issues and trauma that our first responders face both internally and externally. I have seen firsthand the burnout, fatigue, acute stress disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, poor physical and mental health and even suicides within our paramedic workforce. Why does this happen? Research has shown that ambulance officers are three times more likely to be diagnosed with PTSD than any other worker. We have limited opportunities for any downtime, and debriefing is difficult when there are jobs outstanding in the community. People need us, so we just keep going. Some of the worst-affected areas are our country regions. Those officers work 24/7. I worked regularly over a number of years as a relief community paramedic in one of the most remote areas of WA, in Wyndham.

I felt firsthand the stress of realising that just a simple car accident would push my resources to the limit, with only a single ambulance available in a 100-kilometre radius. A community paramedic does not get to take a break because there is no one to hand the work phone to. As long as I have the honour to serve in this Parliament, I pledge to be a voice for my ambulance colleagues and to work with our ministers and departments to make sure that we deliver for them and the community they serve.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mrs L.A. MUNDAY:** The current evidence shows that getting the right treatment at the right time is paramount in ensuring the best possible recovery from psychological injury such as PTSD, yet too often our first responders are left languishing, with debilitating symptoms, while they try to prove to insurance companies that their current condition is attributed to their work. PTSD can result from cumulative exposure to traumatic events. It will always be difficult to pinpoint one specific incident as a direct cause of PTSD—a fact that can be easily and unfairly manipulated by insurance companies under the current workers' compensation system. This needs to change. I am also very grateful to Premier Mark McGowan for listening to the long campaign by United Workers Union ambulance members such as myself and committing to introduce a rebuttable presumption that ambulance officers suffering PTSD have developed it in the course of the intensely traumatic work they do every day. I am confident that this change will reduce the stigma associated with work-related psychological harm and PTSD claims by removing barriers for our first responders seeking assistance and getting them the right treatment. It will protect those who protect us, when they are at their most vulnerable.

I am looking forward to working closely with Minister Dawson as Minister for Industrial Relations; Mental Health to get this change done as soon as possible to stop the potential suffering of our ambulance staff.

Opportunity, resilience and hope have been the underpinning message of my inaugural speech tonight. Each of these words has had an incredible impact on the reason I am standing here today. A quote that sits with me is —

You can't stop the waves, but you can learn how to surf.

Dr Michael Ungar, a specialist in the field of resilience research, made the observation —

It's all very well to learn how to surf the waves of life and emotions, but not everyone has access to a surfboard, a lifeguard or even a beach.

Resilience is about resources: what physical, psychological, social or spiritual resources can we draw on? It is not lost on me how privileged I am to be here today, and the opportunities afforded to me will be paid forward whenever and wherever I can during my time as a member of Parliament. It is my intention to be that external resource—that lifeguard—and to help as many people as possible to surf those waves.

I do not come with an ego or sense of entitlement. For the grace of God, we are all here today and it comes as a timely reminder that many people outside these walls are not as fortunate as we are.

I also recognise that I am here on the back of the hard work already completed by Premier Mark McGowan's government and the members and ministers in cabinet of the fortieth Parliament.

As we learn to live with managing COVID in this new world, and our young children and adults look towards us for direction on how to act, it could be a timely reminder that as the forty-first government, we need to be seen to be the best we can be, to show a level of kindness and empathy to our opposition who have an incredible task ahead of them. I think if we all ask ourselves at the start of every day, "Is what I am about to do or say going to make me a better person and does it serve the community we are all responsible for?", that will stand us all in good stead. Thank you.

[Applause.]

**MS D.G. D'ANNA (Kimberley)** [8.22 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate Hon Michelle Roberts not only on her appointment as the Speaker but also for being the first woman to be the Speaker of the house. It is especially fitting since this year represents 100 years since the first woman entered Parliament. Of course, Edith Cowan was not only the first female elected to the Western Australian Parliament, but also the first female elected to any Australian Parliament. This is one of the themes I would like to highlight in my first speech in this place.

I would like to begin by acknowledging all First Nations people and pay my respects to the elders past, present and emerging. Special acknowledgement goes to the Wadjuk people of the Noongar nation on whose land we are gathered today. It was a privilege to be so warmly welcomed and smoked last Thursday so that we could safely undertake the important business of this place.

*Ngaji gurrijin? Ngayu nilawal Divina D'Anna, janu Yawuru jarndu buru rubibi.*

How are you all? My Name is Divina D'Anna. I am a Yawuru woman from Broome.

Unfortunately, like many, that is the extent of my ability to speak the language of which my ancestors have spoken before me. I want my kids and all other First Nation kids to know our language and understand why their mother and other mothers cannot speak it.

I also have Bardi, Nimanburru and Kija connections. My bloodline connects me to both the East and West Kimberley. I stand here today, as a proud Kimberley Aboriginal woman, with strong lineage. I am grateful, I am fortunate and I am truly honoured to be representing the Kimberley electorate and all people of the Kimberley.

As the fourth and latest Aboriginal member for Kimberley, I am standing on the shoulders of giants who have gone before me. Hon Ernie Bridge first won the Kimberley seat in 1980 and 10 years later became the first Indigenous cabinet minister of any Australian government. He was followed by Ms Carol Martin, who was the first Aboriginal woman ever elected to any Australian government. She was followed by Ms Josie Farrer, my distinguished predecessor. These trailblazers have made my path to this place much straighter and easier to navigate. It is with this relatively recent history, combined with an ancient history, that I enter this place to share my story.

I would like to describe the Kimberley from my perspective, as someone who has grown up there and lived my whole life there. The Kimberley is a beautiful, vast and rugged country. It is a place of the most unique and oldest living cultures in the world. From magnificent untouched landscapes, winding ancient rivers to the mighty red-coloured pindan cliffs to the sandy desert soil and pristine blue waters and beaches, the Kimberley is a place of great magnitude and natural beauty. The coastlines are home to long stretches of untouched beaches, including the Dampier Peninsula, a place that is close to my heart. As a saltwater woman, being near the sea is where I feel most connected. It is the salt, sand and pristine turquoise water that calms me. All this combined with the hot Kimberley sun, endless blue skies and clean fresh air fills me with the sense of belonging and the essence of who I am. It is a symbiotic relationship that I have with country. I am truly blessed. Through the centre of the Kimberley are the back ranges of the Gibb River Road and the endless and timeless beauty of high rangelands, roadside springs and waterfalls. All the way up to beautiful Lake Argyle and across to the desert, this wet season we saw it turn green in abundance, doing what it has to do every year to keep country alive. It nourishes the land and all its inhabitants, feeding into the beautiful waterways like the National Heritage Listed mighty Fitzroy River, known by its people as the Martuwarra.

Through decades of working and living across the Kimberley, I have had the privilege to travel throughout the Kimberley many times over. Each time a new appreciation and understanding comes to me. It resonates that although ancient in geological terms, country is still well and truly alive now in our present existence. This country is home to saltwater people, river people and the desert people, and they are all connected spiritually, culturally and geographically—a relationship, where one is connected to the other. We have a mixture of all different cultures, from the many different Aboriginal language groups to the rich and deep multicultural historic influences of the pearling industry, the gold rush and the most recent race to populate the vast and rugged country over the last century. All these stories, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, need to be learnt to acquire a better understanding of where we are today and why we find ourselves here. Truth telling is for not only young future generations but all people, no matter their age, race or class.

The Kimberley electorate is remote and geographically very large. To put it into perspective, the electorate is twice the size of the state of Victoria! It is home to six major towns and numerous remote Aboriginal homeland communities, as well as several pastoral lands and stations. Industries such as tourism, hospitality and mining drive the local economies. But to me, more than anything else, the Kimberley is my home. It is the place I have lived my entire life.

I was born in Broome, the eldest child of nine siblings. My parents were young when they married in Broome and they had their children soon after. They, too, have lived all their lives in the Kimberley, as did their parents, my grandparents, and our old people before them. My mother and father worked hard to support our big family. My mother, Deborah, was the second eldest child of nine children also. She was born to Ernest and Bernadette Rahman. They came from a multicultural background of Filipino, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. They were hard workers who worked hard to provide for their children their whole lives—pop with the Public Works Department and nanna at Broome Hospital. I had the privilege of being raised in my early years by them and was taught the fundamental values of family, commitment, hard work and caring for others.

My father, Albert Cox, is the eldest child of six. He was born to David and Dorothy Cox. They were both taken from their families as children and placed into dormitories at Beagle Bay Mission north of Broome on the Dampier Peninsula. It is there that they married and raised all their children, including many of the children of their extended families. They were part of the stolen generation. My Lulu died when I was only one and a half years old. He was a well-respected man and a man of great courage. He was a leader for his community. He was the first Aboriginal man to become chairperson of the Beagle Bay Mission in 1972. Both he and nanna were seen as role models in Beagle Bay. My nanna Dorothy was a strong and proud woman. Her matriarchal role of keeping her family together was always her first priority. Her later years were spent in Broome and saw her work with many local organisations and women's groups, advocating to stand together against domestic violence, as well as carrying the message of the importance of education and housing for local people. Each year during NAIDOC Week, nanna would march proudly in Broome and wore her Aboriginal colours. Sadly, nanna passed away six years ago, but her legacy still lives on. I am evidence of that legacy. I know she would be proud of me standing here today.

When I was young, dad worked away a lot and mum took care of the family home with the children, while at the same time she was studying to be an Aboriginal health worker. Being the eldest child of relatively young parents meant I had to step up. Looking out for my younger brothers and sisters taught me strength, courage and responsibility

at a young age and, at times, brought a fair amount of anxiety under the pressure of obligation. There were many hard times, struggles and challenges. I remember at times we did not have enough money to put food on the table. At other times, though, such as when we went camping and fishing with our families, there was more than enough food to eat. Living off the land was always an exciting time for my family and to this day I continue that practice of going back to country, and I now take my own family to the same old camping and fishing spots in and around Broome and the Dampier Peninsula and across the Kimberley.

As I stand here, with plenty of nerves about delivering my first speech in this place, I have been thinking about what I can say to explain the challenges and issues the people of the Kimberley face and what changes need to happen. What can I say that has not already been said by my predecessor and those before her? I have come to the conclusion that now is not the time for more words. We need to act, and we need to act now. My upbringing has led me to work across many different sectors in the Kimberley, including social and emotional wellbeing, education and native title. Through these roles, I have always seen myself as an advocate or a conduit for making sure that voices that are not being heard or are being silenced are amplified. I get a sense of fulfilment when I see people succeed and often find myself rooting for the underdog.

The future of the Kimberley is what drives me to step up. The young people of the Kimberley are the future and they are the ones who inspire me every day. It is so important for young people to have role models from their own community in the public eye. I want to show our young people that they do not need to be afraid and encourage them to step up and participate and have their voices heard. I am here to focus on delivering more opportunities for the people of the Kimberley, but it is not only about creating these opportunities. We need to make sure that we are building the capacity for the community to take up these opportunities. This means having better education and safe housing and strengthening our social and emotional wellbeing. My focus will be on building a stronger, cohesive community that not only survives, but thrives.

Aboriginal Australians are the most researched people in the world. There are countless reports about the many issues that the Kimberley Aboriginal people face, such as the foetal alcohol spectrum disorder studies in Fitzroy Crossing, yet we still have dire outcomes. We have well-funded youth programs, yet we still have disempowered, disengaged youth who are committing offences instead of dreaming big, striving and being mentored as our future leaders. We have mining companies making millions out of our land, but still our people are poor. Make no mistake, with the right consultation, support, education and engagement, Aboriginal people have the ability to enjoy all the benefits modern society has to offer. We want to participate. We want to work. What we do not want is to be tokens or tick-box processes that have to be managed on the side so that others can reap the benefits of our lands. We do not need people to tell us what we need. We know what we need. We just need a fair go or, to put it far more eloquently, as Noel Pearson wrote, we need a hand up, not a handout.

We need help to increase our opportunities to the same level as those of any other Australian. Our basic standard of living should be the same. Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott once said that living in a remote Aboriginal community is a lifestyle choice. Not quite. He should have said that living in a remote Aboriginal community is not a choice; it is our life. Country is the core of our culture. Tony Abbott's comments were fuel to a fire that the Western Australian Barnett government ignited. It wanted to close our remote communities because the commonwealth government was backing out of providing municipal and essential services and expecting state governments to foot the future bills. My concern is that many remote communities were ultimately left to barely exist rather than being afforded the opportunities they need to thrive. There are positive things happening in our communities, but all too often, 10 positive media stories are overshadowed by one negative story. We must change the narrative.

So what are the positives? The Kimberley is a tourism mecca where tens of thousands of people from all over the globe travel to for that quintessential outback, remote and cultural experience with our traditional custodians on land—from Ord River boat cruises to the challenges of conquering the Gibb River Road, from air and sea adventures to see the famous tidal Horizontal Falls to riding camels on Cable Beach, from a fishing tour to catch a barra to seeing the ancient dinosaur footprints at low tide at Cable Beach, and from relaxing in one of the many luxurious holiday apartments and hotels to seeing the world-famous staircase to the moon on the king tide. There is a multitude of diverse community festivals and Aboriginal art galleries where you can buy the original and even meet the artists. You can even visit my second home, the Dampier Peninsula, where the newly sealed road will bring an influx of visitors, as well as great economic, social and community opportunities for traditional owners and local Aboriginal businesses.

With opportunity comes great responsibility. In the Kimberley, these are both enormous. Some are claiming we could be the food bowl of the world. With this comes pressure to access land and water for agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture. The Kimberley has vast resources of oil and gas, and with that comes the responsibility of managing access and environmental concerns. These opportunities and responsibilities, alongside the tourism industry, will all have an impact on the Kimberley and its people. In my view, stringent measures must be put in place to deal with the impact that these industries will have on the land and people of the Kimberley. The questions for me are: Who will be the greatest beneficiaries of these industries in the long term? Will investments in projects across the Kimberley help individuals, families and remote communities upon whose lands these industries are built? I would think that it no doubt should, but if the recent past is anything to go by, I think I am right to, at an absolute minimum, keep asking the questions.

I commit in this place to advocate to my utmost on behalf of the voices of the Kimberley Aboriginal people and all people of the Kimberley who are committed to the same vision and mission—that is, to ensure that our level of living is well above the current level. To see people in the Kimberley living below the poverty line is completely and utterly unacceptable in this day and age. A lot of people in the Kimberley, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, understand the imbalance of access to services that we have compared with the people here in the city, in Perth. This year marks the 30-year anniversary of the end of the landmark Royal Commission into Indigenous Deaths in Custody.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms D.G. D'ANNA:** Since then, more than 475 Aboriginal people have died in custody. Just in the last week, we have seen the sixth death in custody in less than two months. Thirty years ago, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders made up just over 14 per cent of adult prisoners. Now, that has more than doubled to roughly 29 per cent, despite Indigenous Australians comprising less than four per cent of the total population. This is a national shame. But it is also a shame on our state.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

**Ms D.G. D'ANNA:** My grandson.

Between 2008 and 2019, Western Australia recorded the highest number of Indigenous deaths in custody of any state or territory in Australia; that number is sitting at 51. Black Lives Matter. We need to do better. This place needs to do better.

I know that being the member for Kimberley will not be an easy task and will be one of the greatest challenges that I will face. But, I also know, with courage, support and commitment, I can bring the voices of the Kimberley people to this Parliament to be heard. I would like to acknowledge and pay homage to those who have helped me on my journey here to this place. To all those in the WA Labor movement who have believed in me, helped me organise a massive campaign across the Kimberley and mentored me along the way: EMILY's List Australia; the WA party office; the Premier, Mark McGowan—known by my kids as “Uncle Mark”; Steve McCartney; Alex Cassie; Ellie Whiteaker; Hon Stephen Dawson; Nicki Slevin; Akira Boardman; and other ministers and members who offered support and encouragement along the way. A special mention goes to the Broome Labor branch members. Thank you to all my supporters along the way—everyone who helped in the campaign in many forms across the Kimberley from Bidadanga to Kalumburu to Kununurra to Balgo and literally everywhere in between. There are too many to name.

A very special and sincere thank you to my family—my husband, Angelo, and my children, Hazali, Angelica, Salvatore, Kianee and Kianee's husband, whose name I cannot say for cultural reasons but feel the need to mention. I thank my grandchildren, Klade, Ellie, Giuseppe, Xania and Junior for all understanding and supporting me on this new journey. I thank my mother, Deborah, and father, Albert, who made me who I am today, and my siblings, Renae, Suzanna, Serena, Lillian, Russell, Richard, Deanne and Scott. My beautiful grandparents also contributed to my core values, Dorothy Cox, David Cox, Ernest Rahman, and not forgetting my beautiful grandmother, Mary Bernadette Rahman, who will celebrate her eightieth birthday at the end of this month. Not to forget my extended families—my aunts and uncles and cousins whom I know as my other mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. I thank my beautiful mother-in-law, Noni Jarlot, and wonderful family of in-laws, including Alu and Timothy Trust.

I have a great amount of respect for and gratitude to the young and old people in the Kimberley whom I have had the pleasure of working for and being educated by, inspired by and pushed forward by to take up this responsibility. Those people who gave me opportunities and believed in me even when I did not believe in myself or the importance of speaking up for those who do not have a voice. And to the people of the Kimberley, I promise to ensure that the voices of the Kimberley people are brought to this place and that the views of the Kimberley people are known by all in here. I will be doing it as a proud member of the McGowan Labor team.

Family is bigger and way, way more important to me than anything else on earth. To me, family is understanding where I fit in this world. It is obligation, respect, discipline, safety, assurance and fighting! Yes, sometimes with each other, but mostly what I mean is fighting for each other and with each other. We fight every day to improve our lives and protect those we love. It is a striving, yearning desire to lift each other up and sometimes drag each other kicking and screaming from the brink of a terrible place, physically, mentally and spiritually. I am here to fight for our people, all the people of the Kimberley. I want to make sure that we leave our country and community in a better place than we found it—for our children, grandchildren and young people. *Gala mabu.*

[Applause.]

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum)** [8.45 pm]: I find myself needing to speak! It is a remarkable day today with so many outstanding inaugural speeches. I want to congratulate particularly the member for Kimberley for her speech. She plays a great role in the chamber. I think that Western Australians should be justifiably proud of the quality of Indigenous representatives we have enjoyed here in the Parliament. I am sure that the new member for Kimberley will follow in the proud footsteps of the three previous Indigenous members for Kimberley and the former member for Victoria Park, my good friend Ben Wyatt. I wish him well, except on the board of the West Coast Eagles! I am not surprised that he ended up with the Eagles, but it is so disappointing.

I also want to congratulate the Minister for Transport for completing the negotiations with the commonwealth government for \$1.3 billion of funding for infrastructure. Included in that, of course, is the funding for the removal of level crossings at Wharf Street and Hamilton Street, and brand new train stations at Queens Park and Cannington. It is just fabulous. I have been campaigning for the removal of the level crossing at Wharf Street virtually since I was elected to Parliament, so I am very pleased that the project is now moving ahead. In the last Parliament, nine and a bit million dollars was allocated for engineering and design work. People in the community often do not understand how complicated and expensive these types of projects are, but we now have the resources available to get that project done. The people of Cannington are going to be very pleased when it is complete.

**MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston)** [8.48 pm]: I would like to start by extending my congratulations to Hon Michelle Roberts on her appointment to the role of Speaker, and yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your appointment. In this centenary year of Edith Cowan's election in 1921, that I, too, should be elected alongside so many other strong women—Divina, you are a credit to your community—is a privilege that is not lost on me. I would also like to congratulate the member for Hillarys, Caitlin Collins, on becoming the 100<sup>th</sup> woman to be elected to this Parliament. Although this is an outstanding achievement for women in Western Australia, I have one hope: on behalf of young women like my daughter, Brydie, my hope is that it does not take another 100 years to elect the next 100 women to Parliament.

Thank you to Neville Collard and Richard Walley for last week's outstanding welcome to country and smoking ceremony on the opening day of Parliament. It was a day that I will treasure. I pay my respects to the Aboriginal elders of the land on which we meet today.

I would like to start by thanking every single one of the electors in Collie–Preston who voted for me, and there are many. I am excited and humbled by your support and I promise I will work alongside you, your families and your communities over the coming years so our region will have the opportunity to thrive. Collie–Preston is a diverse regional electorate, from large population centres such as Australind and Eaton, to small communities like Kirup, Burekup and Peppermint Grove Beach. This diversity extends beyond simple population size. The electorate of Collie–Preston is home to many different towns with their own sense of place and sense of community. From the rural towns of Dardanup, Capel and Gelorup to the more suburban areas like Clifton Park and Millbridge, each location has developed its own distinct identity.

This diversity also exists in the local economies, from the mining and electricity generation sectors in Collie to the farming and agricultural areas of Donnybrook, and the burgeoning tourism industry in the Ferguson, Preston and Collie River valleys. This diversity presents some challenges, but it is also one of the strengths of our region and serves to highlight the importance of the role of Collie–Preston in the south-west economy. Despite the diversity of the electorate, over the course of the election campaign I learnt that what we all have in common in Collie–Preston is quite simple: we want to live and work locally in our regional communities, and we want our kids and grandkids to be able to do the same.

My journey to Parliament as the newly elected member for Collie–Preston began 49 years ago. I was born and raised in Yarloop, and that is where my story begins. My grandparents ran the Yarloop local store. My nan, Jean Higgins, was the most selfless person I know. Nan used to get up at 4.00 each morning to make her pies and pasties in her wood stove, and they were renowned as the best in the south west. One of my first memories is of sitting in the back of my grandad's van. The van, purchased from the winnings of the renowned WA racehorse Aquanita, meant that my grandfather and I did the daily delivery of piping-hot pies to Yarloop's Bunnings mill, just in time for the mill workers' smoko. The whistle would blow, the saws would stop and the workers would line up for Mrs Higgins' homemade pies. My grandparents' store served the town of Yarloop. It was more than a local store; it was a hub for the community.

My parents married and became entrenched in service to their community. Regional towns rely on people who are passionate about their local schools, sporting groups, hospitals and local employment opportunities. From a young age, this commitment to service became integral to my values and helped shape the person I am today.

My parents are amazing people. My dad, who is no longer with us, is the driver for my Labor values. Dad was a tough bloke, a blokey bloke, the life of the party. He was a sawmiller. Later, he was a refinery worker, a union official and a professional debater who never let you win an argument! Dad worked alongside the member for Forrestfield, Stephen Price, MLA, as a union official at Alcoa in Wagerup. I am sure they shared many jokes alongside the serious business of making sure workers had a safe work environment and that they went home safely to their families at the end of every shift. He would have been proud to be here today, and would probably have made sure that the member for Forrestfield shouted him a glass of red wine at the bar! My mum is the opposite of my dad: a quiet achiever. Her sense of fairness, social justice and her ability to stand up for what is right, even when you are told you are wrong, made its mark on me. Love you, mum, and thanks for your support over the years.

I attended school at Yarloop Primary School and Harvey Senior High School, with the member for Dawesville, and then travelled as a Rotary exchange student—just like the member for Dawesville!—although my trip was to South Africa, in 1990. It was a year that changed my life and the lives of millions of others. It was the year that Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years. I watched as the country planned for its transition to democracy and saw firsthand what the move from apartheid to integration looked like—in schools, at the beach,

on the buses, in the shops and in society as a whole. I was hosted by Lulu and Pieter Myburgh, who lived in Brakpan, near Johannesburg. Lulu and Pieter were teachers, and were committed to educating the children of the local domestic workers. They taught these children mathematics, English and Afrikaans. They explained to me that with these skills, black children could gain higher-paying jobs such as bank clerks, postal workers, teachers and nurses, thus breaking the cycle of poverty that was rife for millions of black South Africans. It was an experience that changed the course of the rest of my life. It taught me the difference that the opportunity of an education can make, regardless of your race, your gender or how wealthy your family is.

On my return to Australia, and for the next 30 years, I would go on to study and practice teaching. I wanted to work in state schools with significant numbers of Indigenous students, to try to make a difference to kids in places such as Tom Price, Kwinana and Collie. I moved to Collie with my husband and toddler in 2006. I worked as the school's vocational education training coordinator, helping students to find relevant training pathways and getting them ready for employment in the local community. For the last three years of my career I was a deputy principal at the school.

Over the last 16 years that I have lived in Collie, I have immersed myself in the life of my community. I served for eight years as a Shire of Collie councillor and for 10 years on the Coal Miners' Welfare Board of Western Australia. I served as chairperson of the Collie Early Education Centre, as a board member at St Brigid's School, and as CEO of the Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Along the way I also crossed paths with a bloke named Mick Murray; more on that later!

In a way, each of these experiences led to me being preselected as the Labor candidate for Collie–Preston. It could be likened to lining up the holes in a piece of Swiss cheese! In July 2020, I took leave from the Department of Education to campaign full time. I landed the dream team for my campaign: campaign director Hon Dr Sally Talbot and campaign manager Kelly Paul. Given that these were not even their day jobs, it was a huge commitment. The dream team pushed me to my limits, but also pulled together the most incredible team to support me. We all had the same unwavering vision: to retain the seat of Collie–Preston for Labor after the retirement of Hon Mick Murray.

To Sally Talbot, you are the real-life version of *The Karate Kid's* Mr Miyagi—mentoring me with quietness, patience and a generosity beyond words. To Kelly Paul, thank you for your unwavering dedication, enthusiasm and doggedness to get me elected. Although a simple thankyou will never be enough, I thank you and your boys Haimona, Alex and Tane.

Thank you to Sally, Kelly and Hon Don Punch, who brought me one of the greatest gifts of my campaign, Karen Steele. Just like her name, she is built of tough stuff. Like me, she is a passionate Aries, she is left-handed and—be prepared—is a sympathetic crier! I thank you for everything, my friend.

Thank you to the Collie and Australind branch members and our branch presidents, Louise Knox and Gary Benton, for your support and friendship. Thanks to Cameron Membrey, Bill Hamlett, Maree Quinn, Renee Chappell and Tyril Houghton, my regular volunteers during the campaign. Thanks to Ian Dores, Peter Knox, and Jon Ford who, as the campaign ramped up, so did you!

To those who helped cover hours and hours of pre-poll and polling day booths, thank you. To Christine and Allan Jauncey: you are the best. Thank you to the unions who supported me: Steve McCartney and Alex Cassie from the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union; Wayne Wood and Jill Hugo from the Australian Services Union; and Greg Busson from the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union. Thank you to the union delegates, members and supporters for helping spread the message in your workplaces and in your communities. To Tim Picton, WA Labor state secretary, thank you for your support and for always taking my calls, even when they were accidental pocket dials about pretzels! An extra special thank you to Ellie Whiteaker, WA Labor assistant state secretary. You are a powerhouse, an incredible advocate for women and a friend.

Thank you to Ashley Buck, Sofie Hannabus, Louise Pratt and Juliana Plummer for your support.

Thanks also to my band of willing doorknockers, who over the months included members of Young Labor, WA Labor, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and the Australian Services Union. You came along with bubbling enthusiasm, renewing the momentum of what had become the hard slog of doorknocking house after house, street after street.

Thank you to my supportive friends who made sure that my kids got to school and sport while I was missing in action for nine months. Thanks to my new electorate office staff—Karen Steele, Taegan Irving and Gemma Stewart. I look forward to doing great things with you.

And finally, thank you to my family—Jason, Brydie and Toby—who could not be here tonight. You are the three best people I know. My kids are teenagers, so thanks for letting me embarrass you with the car stickers and roadside signage. Yes, Toby, it is all pretty weird, hey? I hope I have made you all proud.

The reality is that the namesake of my electorate, Collie, as in Collie–Preston, is a town in transition. Importantly, this transition affects not only the workforce in Collie itself, but also the local economies that depend on Collie thriving as a centre for industry and energy generation in the south west. Many people who live in the neighbouring areas of Bunbury and Harvey and the Peel region rely on direct or indirect employment based in Collie–Preston.

I live and breathe the real-life challenges this transition brings every day. My husband, Jason, works at Muja power station as a power station controller. I always tell him, think Homer Simpson, but minus the doughnuts! Although he is highly skilled, changing careers at 50 years of age would be really daunting. Making the right call for the workers of Collie–Preston means planning carefully for workers just like my husband and for the jobs of the future. If we get this right, there will be jobs for our miners, boilermakers, plant operators, nurses, teachers, aged-care workers, tourist operators and young people alike. The future of Collie–Preston—indeed, the south west—relies on me being a strong voice in government to make the right calls about Collie’s future. It needs to be a future in which new industries are established to create new opportunities for workers. It needs to be a future in which our skilled workforce can transition into new jobs, using their existing skills and expanding those skills with further training and innovation opportunities. It needs to be a future in which our youth can live, with access to quality education and training facilities and the ability to find work in the local area. The McGowan government has this vision well underway with its commitment to the Just Transition process and the Collie Futures industry development fund. These key initiatives pave the way for Collie–Preston and the south west to continue to prosper. It has already brought to reality projects such as the WesTrac autonomous technology training facility, the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. The new Koolinup DFES training facility and its neighbour across the road, Frontline Fire and Rescue, are creating new jobs and bringing manufacturing opportunities to the region.

The establishment of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety regional licensing centre moved some key government functions to the region and, in doing so, created local jobs.

Tourism initiatives such as the Premier’s favourite pre-election dad joke—the biggest dam mural in Australia, at Wellington Dam—have thrown a national and international spotlight on the region. Thankfully, the mural evolved to its current form, instead of the Premier’s initial concept, that of Hon Mick Murray reclining across the dam wall! That is a true story. The expansion of Wellington National Park, the opening of Lake Kepwari and the mountain biking trails initiatives have helped to further diversify the region.

In terms of education and training, many schools and TAFE campuses in Collie–Preston have received, and will continue to receive, significantly increased funding to improve employment outcomes for students.

More broadly, across the electorate there have been investments in major road projects such as the Bussell Highway duplication and the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, aiming to make country roads safer for all road users.

We have seen major investment in community assets such as the rebuild of the Eaton Bowling Club, the revitalisation of the Donnybrook goods shed and the \$6 million Donnybrook Community, Sporting, Recreation and Events Precinct, funded by government from the COVID recovery package. Capel got its police station, with upgrades being planned for both Collie Police Station and Donnybrook Police Station.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Ms J.L. HANNS:** Investment in these projects has seen a remarkable change in Collie–Preston over the last four years. My job, as the representative for the people of Collie–Preston, will be to work hard in government to bring new projects to fruition—projects that retain traditional jobs in traditional industries—to grow new jobs in emerging industries and to listen to the needs of my community. I will advocate for projects that make Collie–Preston a remarkable place to live.

The position I find myself in as the newest member for Collie–Preston is a testament to the commitment of our Premier, Mark McGowan, and his team and to the person who will forever be known as “Marvellous Mick”, Hon Mick Murray. Mick has been the local member for the last 20 years. From winning elections by 34 votes to romping in by thousands of votes, Mick has shown me how to fight for our community. He has never stopped fighting to create secure local jobs, to improve our local health and education services and, importantly, to make sure that everyone in Collie–Preston gets their fair share. Thank you, Mick, for your service to our community. Enjoy your retirement with Anna and your extended family.

As we look to the future of Collie–Preston, it is a future that no doubt will be different from its past. But it is a future that is being carefully considered and brings a sense of security and confidence for what lies ahead.

When I was chosen to replace Mick, I kept being told that I had big shoes to fill. Dean Alston’s cartoon in *The West Australian* the day after my preselection made that very obvious. I am looking forward to growing into those big shoes of Mick’s. I hope those shoes are just like Mick’s were—long lasting, hard wearing and tough as nails. They are going to need to be, so I can make sure that the people who call Collie–Preston home get the future that they deserve.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms E.L. Hamilton**.

*House adjourned at 9.07 pm*

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