

**LEGAL DEPOSIT AMENDMENT BILL 2023**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MS E.L. HAMILTON (Joondalup)** [11.19 am]: I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023, which is focused on facilitating the preservation of Western Australia's published documentary heritage for current and future generations by requiring the deposit with the State Librarian of copies of certain published materials.

My contribution today will be focused on the important role that our community libraries have within our neighbourhoods and communities. We have a number of public libraries in the northern corridor, but we also have libraries at our schools and other learning institutions locally. Through their extensive collection of books, newsletters and digital resources, they provide a wealth of information for individuals of all ages. They encourage a lifelong pursuit of learning, nurturing curious minds and the next generation of thinkers, innovators and leaders. These institutions are far more than just a place to find books; they are dynamic community centres that provide free access to information, promote education and digital literacy, and support the wellbeing of individuals and our community.

Over the most recent challenging times during the COVID pandemic, these community hubs saw their roles change to meet the needs of those who utilise their services, and we have now seen a growth in the number of services they provide. Over seven million Western Australians seek access to library services each year, with more than one million active library members borrowing over 11 million physical items and 2.5 million digital items in the span of just one year. These figures reflect a community that cherishes and actively engages with its libraries.

Recognising this role in our society, the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023 also seeks to amplify the role of libraries as the custodians of intellectual growth. The bill will expand the literary landscape—a landscape enriched by the contributions of our state's diverse voices. Through this amendment, our libraries will be empowered in their pursuit of curating a collection of ideas, narratives and insights about WA's truly unique history, also noting that they are now guardians of not only printed volumes, but also digital chronicles that capture the essence of our evolving society.

I often say that Joondalup is a young city but it is maturing, and that is very much the case with the growth of the libraries in the area. This year, the City of Joondalup celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. It was a pleasure to attend its wonderful anniversary celebrations at which there was much reflection on the path that has been travelled. Over the years, the libraries have grown into much more than just places that people visit to borrow books. They run a number of programs and activities. From a children's first encounter with the magic of storytelling to a sensory story time to school holiday activities at the library to an adult's participation in a book club, libraries are the centres through which minds are expanded and horizons are broadened. Local libraries cater for all ages, from babies to teenagers, and children have the opportunity to read and participate in fun group activities, adding to their academic and social development. The Joondalup libraries offer discovery sessions and digital help lines. There are groups to support learning of the English language and growing conversational skills. There is story time, baby rhyme time, toddler time, a summer reading program and activities during Children's Book Week. There is a Lego club, a CoderDojo, Minecraft engineers, chess afternoons and school holiday programs. For those interested in their family heritage, there is the Genie Exchange program whereby volunteers support those who want to develop their family history. The library is a place to hold events and share information through coming together. Just last year, the Minister for Seniors and Ageing, Hon Don Punch, launched the Cook Labor government's Seniors Card directory at the Joondalup library. Just today, an advance care planning workshop, presented by Palliative Care WA, is being held at the Joondalup library. As Palliative Care WA says, we all want to have a say in what happens in the last part of our lives and by making plans to cover our future care, lifestyle, health and finances, we are not only working through what we want, but also making things a little easier for those around us at that stage of life. I look forward to holding an advance care planning workshop for my community with Palliative Care WA next month.

At the Joondalup library, there are book clubs, brain games, a camera club, a crochet club, a French conversation group, games and jigsaws, and knitting groups.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** What was that—a French what?

**Ms E.L. HAMILTON:** That is right—French. Lots of different languages are spoken up our way and are also taught at schools. I was positively excited to hear about the knitting clubs that are held at the library. I will digress a little to explain a bit of the work that I have been doing at Poseidon Primary School. The Poseidon Primary School principal, Mrs Guy, has established a school club program that I believe should be commended. Every Monday for a four-week period, one of which concluded earlier this week, students are provided with the opportunity to engage and learn a new skill. There is a camera club, just like that at the Joondalup library, a hairstyling club, outdoor activities and much more. There were six students from years 2 to 6 in the group that I spent a bit of time with.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** I could go to the hairstyling club!

**Ms E.L. HAMILTON:** I heard it was quite well subscribed. I had six students in the knitting club that I held. I feel that not many young people are able to knit these days, but the enthusiastic nature of these six young students—Detroit, Isaiah, Mason, Tayla, Chase and Cayden—has really restored my faith that the young people of today are happy to come away from their screens and get their hands busy. We spent a bit of time knitting some squares and putting them together, and they had a little blanket to take home for their teddies. Some said that their dog would get it, so I am not sure how long those ones are going to last! The idea is to open up the minds of young people and increase the opportunity to gain skills. I have not checked with the Joondalup library to find out who is going to its knitting club, but I am glad to see that we are growing the opportunity within our local school communities to not only learn a new skill, but also increase the social aspect of coming together with a group of people and sharing a like-minded skill. I want to congratulate those students—those wonderful little superstars—on their masterpieces. I was really proud to see their work. A lot of perseverance went into it. Both my electorate officer, Nicola, and I spent a bit of time fixing up their decorations; there were a few slipped loops here and there. However, they persevered and managed to take the piece home. I found from talking to the students that some of them found it so interesting that they took home the skills that they learnt at each lesson and started to have dinner table conversations and engaged both their parents and grandparents in learning that skill.

From a young age, my children—they are a little older now—spent a lot of time in our local libraries. I hope that is the reason that both of them have developed a love of reading. As well as academic development, libraries foster social development. A child having their own library card and choosing their own reading and digital material is one step in giving a sense of responsibility and empowerment, but it also begins the possibility of a lifelong journey of learning.

Amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community libraries really stepped up to the challenge and demonstrated their unwavering commitment to supporting our communities. They assumed additional responsibilities and, as I noted, offered essential services locally, such as document witnessing and certification through justice of the peace services. I know that this was a highly valued service. It is a service that my electorate office also undertook to provide to the community. Our libraries continue to be trusted hubs where community members can fulfil critical administrative tasks within a safe and very accessible environment.

Our libraries are also a place of education. They provide a reliable and structured space for students to study and are safe and inclusive. They are vibrant community places that foster connections and interactions. There are meeting rooms that are open to the public. As I said, libraries provide a place for events and activities to be held and a platform for discussion, collaboration and community engagement.

It is the case that we are in an era in which the digital landscape has really become part of our everyday lives, but we also know that not everyone in our community is digitally literate. We have seen a growth in the need to educate people and provide them with the opportunity to learn to complete their daily life administration tasks online and to do so more safely. A lot of education programs in this space are being run by our local libraries. I know that some older community members are looking for this additional support, as they may have some uncertainties and reservations about modern technology. Sometimes there is a little fear about whether they are pressing the right buttons or whether they are feeling comfortable and safe looking through their emails online. Keystrokes is one-on-one training for technology beginners offered at City of Joondalup libraries to assist people to use devices such as iPads or Android tablets. That is just one example. We have a very active and engaged community in Joondalup—one that I know is embracing technology and trying to do so. For a number of years, I have hosted seniors' cybersecurity forums that are always extremely well attended—sometimes so much so that we have to find extra seats. In the process of getting people together for learning, I have heard from attendees it is one of the many forums on offer to support learning in this way.

In my role as the member for Joondalup in this place, I support the libraries of our local primary schools with a number of different book donations throughout the year. For our Anzac Day celebrations, I make sure to donate a book to celebrate Australia's Anzac and military history. I also attend a number of Book Week activities. I am not one who will get dressed up, though I know the member for Southern River was the Very Hungry Caterpillar this Book Week! He will be making a contribution on that. I also have some wonderful larger books that I take to different schools. I really enjoy the opportunity to be able to talk at schools and make sure that kids continue to find reading fun. This year I was able to donate books to Beaumaris Primary School, Connolly Primary School, Eddystone Primary School, Edgewater Primary School, St Simon Peter Catholic Primary School, Joondalup Primary School, Heathridge Primary School, Poseidon Primary School and Ocean Reef Senior High School.

Sparking a love of reading and a curiosity to learn in kids is so important. That is why our government in 2022 brought back the Premier's Reading Challenge. Last year, 28 200 students from over 800 schools participated in the challenge and students logged over 300 000 books read. Interestingly, if you laid each of those books out end-to-end, it would measure over 6.6 kilometres. That is quite extensive. There is a huge conversation in my community about children participating in that program. Best of luck to all our students getting involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge.

Beyond their educational roles, our community libraries capture our local history and are custodians of cultural heritage. They collect the stories of our cities and families, capturing the essence of our past for the benefit of future generations. In my own experience, our local council's Joondalup library and the State Library of Western Australia have been instrumental in providing historic photos that have brought our community's heritage to life on social media platforms. I heard the member for Hillarys mention that earlier. It provides an opportunity for community members to reflect, and it is quite enjoyable to see all the comments and experiences that historic photos bring to front of mind.

It is worth noting that the State Library, operating alongside the comprehensive network of public libraries managed by local governments, plays a role in facilitating the provision of information services. This collaboration ensures that library services are not just confined to the physical space, but extend to every corner of our communities and online as well. The State Library, along with our local library, is a repository for historical images, with about one million images in its pictorial collection. The collection covers many aspects of WA's history, including portraits of people from all walks of life, cultural and business activities, rural and mining industries, and transport.

Along with these historic moments, we also have many local community organisations and schools that are celebrating significant anniversaries this year. One set of photos that I was able to share online recently were photos of the Ocean Reef Sea Sport Club from 50 years ago. It really created engagement online, with members of our community sharing memories of their experiences over the time. I have also shared aerial views and photographs of the first buildings, from the 1980s and 1990s, in what is now Joondalup city centre; the history of local institutions, like Joondalup Health Campus and Joondalup TAFE; and the earliest photographs of European settlement. The banks of what is now Edgewater used to be a dairy farm named Craigie Farm. It was run by the Hastings family from 1936 until 1946, while also operating the Wanneroo Dairy and selling their milk to Brownes. It is wonderful to be able to share these pieces of history with community.

I take a moment to appreciate the library staff who have assisted my office throughout this process of preserving our visual links to the past and sharing them with our community. In particular, I acknowledge Jane van der Meer, digital services officer at Joondalup library, for her assistance in supporting my office to share these important pieces of our local history with the community.

Our local Joondalup library is also proudly preserving the Indigenous history of Joondalup and the northern suburbs. For a number of years, it has published information on Indigenous history called *Joondalup Mooro Boodjar*, which maps out the ancient migration paths through what is now Yellagonga Regional Park. It also shares the Noongar six-season calendar, and a number of Dreamtime stories. This includes the story of the Charnok Woman, or the woman with the long white hair. Her hair created the Milky Way, and the stars represent the spirit children she collected to protect in her hair. "Joondalup" itself means "the place of the long white hair". Earlier this year I joined a large number of local residents—from the number of people there, there were also people from across Perth—for the opening of the Perth Festival with an event called *Djoondal*. *Djoondal* tells the story of the Charnok woman using drones, lights and sound. It really was an amazing production that brought the Noongar story, and the origin of my community's name, to life.

At the heart of this bill lies recognition of the vital contributions community libraries make to our lives. They are sanctuaries of knowledge, havens of learning, and hubs of community engagement in Western Australia. They bridge the digital divide, preserve our past, and nurture the leaders of tomorrow. They are cherished institutions that will continue to thrive and serve our communities for generations to come. With that, I commend the bill to the house.

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [11.36 am]: I rise to make a brief contribution to the second reading debate as opposition lead speaker on the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. This is a minor bill and one that the opposition absolutely supports. It is also an important bill that deals with matters of historical record for the State Library of Western Australia and will ensure that vehicles for matters are basically kept online. It will provide capacity for the State Library to use the National edeposit service, which was launched in 2019 and is a collaboration of member libraries of National and State Libraries Australasia, including the WA State Library. It is a digital collection that enables publishers to meet their legal obligations by depositing a single copy of a digital publication into an online portal.

The Legal Deposit Act 2012 provided the framework for the collection of these materials through the State Library, but there was no provision for the deposit of internet publications. That is provided for under this legislation. This bill will give the State Library the capacity to use this system to collect publications and make them available online, and preserve them into the future. It will be cost effective for the state and will ensure that there is a greater level of efficiency in the information put forward by publishers. It will allow regulations to be put in place to support this very worth endeavour, which is an extension of what the Legal Deposit Act 2012 put in place by allowing for the provision of internet publications. It is about protecting and ensuring that the documentary heritage is accessible for current and future generations. There certainly is a great deal of support for what the State Library

of Western Australia does and a recognition of how important it is to ensure that the information remains accessible to the community, up to date and delivered efficiently.

The opposition has no reason to oppose this bill. I note that it has already passed through the other place. The lead speaker for the opposition in the other place, Hon Peter Collier, similarly provided support, along with other members of the house.

I will leave my comments there. As I said, this bill deserves support, as do all the staff, community volunteers and everyone involved in ensuring that the publications and written works such as calendars, books, periodicals, newsletters, maps, diaries, music, photographs and the historical reflection of the heritage of Western Australia and other publications are made accessible to the people of Western Australia. I commend the bill to the house.

**MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary)** [11.41 am]: I rise to make a contribution to the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. I find myself in concurrence with the Liberal Party and the Leader of the Liberal Party's statements. I will also vote in favour of the bill. For those who do not want to wait until the end of my speech, I am very happy to declare that I will speak in favour of the bill. I would like to commend the upper house, as the Leader of the Liberal Party said, for already expressly and efficiently passing the bill. I commend the parliamentary secretary to the responsible minister in the upper house and the Minister for Culture and the Arts in this house.

Many members are aware that I am a former high school teacher. It should come as no surprise that I am a big fan of literacy and of the opportunities that come from being literate and reading. I sometimes call our ability to read and function in a modern society "operational literacy". Today, I will discuss the importance of the State Library of Western Australia and of other libraries in that operational literacy. I will talk about some of my experiences as a father reading to young people, my own children and a number of literacy champions across my community. In the interests of the bill, which I will go through in a moment, the State Library is an incredible repository, or is it depository? I might need to seek the minister's clarification on the correct term.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** I will accept either.

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** Fantastic. The State Library is a wonderful place to archive and store much of our collective cultural corporate memory. I am very lucky to have 15 amazing and very important libraries within my spheres and circles. I will give a special shout-out to the most important of those libraries, the Parliamentary Library, which so very often makes me look very good in this chamber and around the place. Sometimes I am given hash from my fellow MLA colleagues. I am a great producer of what I call a pretty *Hansard*—a beautiful document that shows the statements of the parliamentary *Hansard*, as transcribed by our wonderful team. For the record, I acknowledge our parliamentary staff who have assisted me greatly in my last six years as a member. I look forward to a long career of them supporting me! I acknowledge Dr Niamh Corbett, JP; Andrew Lewis; Judy Ballantyne; Janet Hocken; Russell Hamilton; and Kyle Felix. If they are watching in the library, I say thank you very much. On Tuesday night, my daughters and I returned the Parliamentary Library book that the library staff wrote to me about a week ago to say was overdue. I also have a long history of having library books well overdue. I have returned the book by Judyth Watson called *Holding up the Sky* and I will make sure that I keep on top of all the books that I have borrowed.

I am very happy to support the bill. For those who are not aware, the Legal Deposit Bill will allow the process of documenting our history to continue to be collected by the State Library. It will allow for the continuing care of that documentary evidence for future generations. The State Library is a wonderful place. I remember going through microfiche at the State Library in the previous millennium when I was in high school. My staff who will be making videos of this speech will probably not believe that I am telling the truth, but people used to go into the State Library and take what was basically a microscopic negative to a machine that was basically a gigantic magnifying glass and they would have to scroll through the microfiche using a fast and slow button. That is what we now know as the internet. That repository of things, the microfilm, was a great resource of mine. I am not sure whether it added to my scholarly debate in high school, but it was the only place that I could obtain that information and the Dewey decimal classification system was fully in operation at all our libraries. But things have changed. Things have become updated and some of the provisions in the bill before us allow the collection of films, maps, diaries, art, oral histories and photographs to continue to be collected. When the Legal Deposit Act 2012 was enacted, an online portal became part of the corporate memory of this information. I acknowledge the National edeposit service, which is a collaboration of all libraries, national and state, of which our State Library is a member. I acknowledge that library's role in archiving and collecting materials for future generations. I hope that it will not be boring for someone 50 years from now to look at the equivalent of a microfiche when looking at my speech today.

I will discuss a number of different opportunities that happen at libraries. I have a number of examples to go through of things that may or may not be in the State Library archive. I will discuss them here so that they will be stored. Just in case the State Library does not support my recommendations for certain things to be included in the State Library, they can be safely recorded in the parliamentary *Hansard*. For those who are playing along at home, section 12 of the Legal Deposit Act 2012 requires repeal and will be processed once we have had that debate here.

I concur with a number of the previous speakers. An annual event has just come to pass promoting the champions of literacy in all our schools and libraries, and that is Children's Book Week. I commend the Children's Book Council of Australia, which is supported by state government grants to assist in holding the Book Week parades. I was very lucky to attend 10 of my school Book Week parades. As a former English teacher and former teacher in my electorate, I greatly enjoyed championing and attending Book Week parades and assemblies and those types of festivals, essentially, at schools. I congratulate each of the mums and dads, aunties, grandparents, sisters and other family members of those who put so much effort into the construction and recycling of different materials to create Book Week costumes. I congratulate the staff of those schools; well done on all the work you have done. Some members are aware that each year I look forward to wearing a different Book Week costume. A couple of years ago I was a science lab, because we were delivering science labs to schools. I was Metronet man when I was using one of the Metronet journals as a book. I have been a pirate and a Southern River snow leopard. I draw members' attention to the fact that this year, on the advice of my wife, I asked my Facebook community for ideas for this year's Book Week costume. I give a shout-out to Katrina who suggested *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The initial design was very poor, I have to say. I will give a shout-out to one of my local Huntingdale businesses. In the end, we created two hungry caterpillar suits, which allowed the federal member and state colleagues to join me. I give a shout-out to Cheryl from All Sewn Up, who took my very bad designs and created a beautiful Book Week costume. For those who cannot see it, the spine is made from some fabric in the shape of the very hungry caterpillar. I thank Katrina for the suggestion to be the very hungry caterpillar. It is a wonderful book, loved by generations of people across my community, that I read to my little ones as well. I was able to attend each of my Book Week parades, sometimes with my children also dressed as the hungry caterpillar, sometimes with the federal member and state members. It allowed me to be at those schools. Through the Minister for Transport and state government, I was able to donate a number of books about the Indigenous history of our main roads and transport networks. It is a wonderful book that was able to be shared with the schools. I greatly enjoyed visiting all of my schools.

I give a special-shout out to Southern Grove Primary School and its wonderful morning Book Week assembly. I attended with my daughter. For the last couple of years, my daughters have come with me. This is the first year that one of my children is now in full-time school. It was my littlest one's day off from kindy and she was able to join me. I am starting to freak out a little because next year both my children will be in full-time school, which I am not ready for. If there was a motion I could move in this chamber to perhaps cancel pre-primary and year 1, I might explore that! It was wonderful to have my little one join me as a hungry caterpillar. At St Munchin's Catholic School and Providence Christian College I was joined by the federal member for Burt, Matt Keogh. We both wore our hungry caterpillar suits.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** Is that Rostrata Primary School? Good morning, Rostrata. Welcome to the Parliament of Western Australia; I hope you have a lovely time. Dr Jags, who sits next to me, is a very good friend of mine. Welcome to Parliament. I am talking about Book Week and our wonderful literacy programs.

The federal member for Burt, Matt Keogh, and I both attended St Munchin's and Providence. At St Munchin's, we read to a number of students dressed in our Book Week hungry caterpillar costumes. We read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to the students. I was able to visit Southern River College, my old high school, to talk to the students there on another day. Campbell Primary School this year celebrated National Science Week as part of its literacy programs during Book Week. Gosnells Primary School had a wonderful Book Week parade. At Gosnells and WIRRABIRRA Primary Schools, I encountered two of my former students who are now there as parents, and I got to meet their children. That certainly made me feel very old. I enjoyed chatting to my former English students about our English classes. They are now also reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to their little ones. I enjoyed my time at Huntingdale Primary School and Excelsior Primary School, but I was not able to attend Bletchley Park Primary School's ceremony. I had some wonderful experiences. Again, I give a special shout-out again to Cheryl at All Sewn Up. She really saved my bacon, because my dodgy sewing meant that there was no way my costume would have been ready for the scrutiny of all the parents and families I saw, let alone the rigmarole of getting in and out of my car for the three weeks that Book Week represents within my community. I also say a very special thankyou to each of the families, educators and young people who continue to be champions of education and literacy. Well done for your role in Book Week 2023.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I am very lucky to have my entire electorate in the City of Gosnells. We have some amazing libraries in the City of Gosnells. I give a very special shout-out to all the librarians at the libraries within the City of Gosnells. They ran a number of fantastic programs during Book Week. They ran special toddler time, STEM workshops and creative writing workshops, and they read *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. My costume for Book Week 2022 was a bear. I am sure the Acting Speaker (Mr P. Lilburne) is aware of that. It is a wonderful book. There were a number of really, really great programs to help promote literacy. Again, I say congratulations.

I give a special shout-out to an organisation within the Gosnells community, Paint the Highway REaD. It is a fantastic team. For those who do not realise, that is Paige, Patrick and Pete the possums. My daughter and I attended Amherst Village Library during the Book Week period. We are often there.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** Hello students; welcome. I hope you have a lovely time at Parliament.

Paint the Highway REaD has three wonderful possum characters that read to young people. Paint the Highway REaD is a working group of members who represent a number of different organisations across the City of Gosnells and the City of Canning. It hosts events and celebrations throughout the year to provide diverse and targeted literacy activities based on playing, talking, rhyming, singing and reading, and engages friendly possum mascots to add to the fun. Its members facilitate discussion, model tasks, provide resources and connect local families to services. I saw them most recently at Amherst library. The Paint the Highway REaD activity this year was at Mills Park Library, in Beckenham. It was a wonderful event. They encouraged all of us to talk, read, sing, rhyme and play. Again, I want to give a special shout-out to Paige, Patrick and Pete for their great work in helping our young people learn how to read and in promoting literacy.

In this chamber four years ago, I wished Amherst Village Library a very happy tenth birthday. I am very happy to say that in August this year it had its fourteenth birthday. It is a wonderful facility. The library does some amazing work. On behalf of the member for Cannington, I wish the library a happy birthday. Mills Park Library turned one. Recently, the library shifted from Kenwick to Beckenham. It is a wonderful facility.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Mills Park Library is brilliant and it's so good that all tiers of government have worked hard to make it such a great facility for the community.

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I concur. My only request to our CEO is that we put the door of the library close to where the people are. We are working on that one. I have not done it yet.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Yes. It is difficult. They would have to put it on the other side of the building because it was not originally intended to be there. It was originally designed as a meeting room, and they converted it into a library. That's the problem; the meeting room faced that side of the centre.

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** That library space is where my kids used to do ballet. We got kicked out of that space to make way for the library. It is a wonderful library and a wonderful facility. I wish Mills Park Library a happy first birthday.

I also give a shout-out to some of the other programs that happen across the City of Gosnells. We have an amazing children and families team and a wonderful education program within the City of Gosnells. I attend a number of these events with my family and I talk to other families. Part of my ongoing dilemma is that promoting these events is always a challenge. I look forward to helping promote each of these activities. In my community, as we continue to struggle through some of the cost-of-living scenarios, it is very important that we make sure that every family gets the energy credit and we assist with the hardship utility grant scheme program, free rapid antigen tests and other programs, but one of the most important things that I say to families is that a lot of people do not realise that free activities are happening every week at our public libraries and parks. They are certainly cheaper than going to a cafe or a play centre. There are free activities at Gosnells Knowledge Centre—I always call it "Gosnells library" but it is the Gosnells Knowledge Centre—the Amherst Village Library, Mills Park Library and Thornlie Public Library. There are programs such as toddler time, baby rhyme time and story time. Whether your child is one, two, three, four or five years old, there is a program for them. There are bilingual story times. A new mini library has opened at Maddington Central shopping centre opposite Strandbags. There are facilities for teenagers, STEM creators, thinkers—all sorts of different spaces that allow young people and their families to access these things for free. We are currently building a youth plaza at Sutherlands Park, and I am looking forward to that being a very active space. The tender is now out for the roof space, and the playground and car park are almost finished. When that complex is finished, I think it will be a wonderful place for toddler times and outdoor baby plays. These places really activate those activities.

I want to commend a statement and read it into *Hansard*. I turn to the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023 and the information archived within the Parliamentary Library and the State Library of Western Australia. I was recently approached by Aria Arndt, the head girl at Bletchley Park Primary School. One document she has created for her studies looks at why the national Parliament is not here in Western Australia. I will read some of her archived debate so that it can form part of our conversations. Aria is a wonderful Southern River resident, she is a year 6 student and head girl at Bletchley Park, and I have mentioned her in this chamber before. She writes —

Why is the ACT the capital of politics in Australia and not WA?

Again, she is in year 6; I think she has already worked out the core part of eastern states–western states political relations, and it is always very positive to talk about how important Western Australia is. Aria writes —

Every now and again the debate arises around where the location of our national Parliament House should be?

Currently, the meeting place for the legislative branch of the ... Government ... is located on Capital Hill in Canberra. Some supporters, for a change in location, say Perth, Western Australia would be a more appropriate location for a new Parliament House.

To better understand both sides of this argument, we need to revisit the reasons why Canberra was chosen and also discuss, if the current location of Parliament House in Canberra is still meeting the needs of the entire country and could Perth be the better location.

Again, for those playing at home, I concur with her views. We all know that Western Australia is the best place for all things. She continues —

So why consider Perth the new home of Parliament?

Perth is at least 160km from Sydney.

She is quoting the constitutional requirements. She continues —

Perth has good air and water quality and is very accessible via road, air, rail and by sea. Perth is the sunniest capital city in Australia, making it very desirable.

... by land mass, the country's largest state ...

WA's economy is well known for its contribution to the national economy ... widely recognised as funding the nation, through mining and agriculture. WA's exports in these areas are world class and are often referred to as 'floating the nation'. WA has often contributed more than any other state ... Sometimes more than double that of other states.

In conclusion, Aria is a great politician and leader, and she proposes a compromised solution —

Perhaps our nation could follow in the footsteps of the European Union, where they have joint capitals and share the responsibilities and costs or perhaps such events as National Cabinet where the Prime Minister and State Premiers come together could rotate amongst the states.

Colleagues, I commend Aria Arndt, our head girl at Bletchley Park, for her contribution, and for the sake of our library archives and for the future learners of tomorrow, I commend this document.

I give a quick shout-out to the Gosnells Toy Library, which is another very important facility within my electorate. The Gosnells Toy Library has recently shifted location. I commend my colleague the member for Thornlie, who made a contribution of \$10 000. The facility was located in Gosnells. They have recently shifted it to Beckenham, not too far away, into a new space. For over 45 years, the Gosnells Toy Library has provided a wonderful resource. I have accessed the toys, games and jigsaws. There are over 1 000 items.

I will mention two contributions. Firstly, the council has recently made a contribution to the new space, which I support. The library is a victim of its own success. It was a wonderful facility in its old home. Because of the number of families and the amount of resources, a new space was desired. I commend the Gosnells council for putting \$122 000 and \$76 000 towards toilets, fences and parks. Within the Gosnells council budget, as members will be aware, budget items 10651 and 10652 is where we find that funding. I think it is very important that the council continues to support that facility. As I said, the state government has provided support to the Gosnells Toy Library, and the council will continue to provide support. I think that the future challenges will be that as the place becomes more settled, it will need more fencing, playgrounds and toilets. I understand that there will be a Lotterywest application. I will be very happy to write a letter of support and continue my support for the Gosnells Toy Library in its future expanses. On behalf of us all, I am sure, we say thank you to Mel Douglas, Caris Morris and their leadership team for what they do to make sure that families can afford and have access to a range of toys and materials.

I am sure members will be aware that the last time I spoke about Gosnells Toy Library, I spoke about the Gosnells Toy Library mascot, BunBun the rabbit. The problem is we have lost BunBun in the move. In the move from the old Gosnells Toy Library site to the new, BunBun the rabbit has —

**Ms M.J. Hammat:** Careless!

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** It is my view that BunBun is making his way and is looking for the new premises in Beckenham. If anyone sees BunBun the rabbit in their commute around Gosnells, please let us know. We look forward to BunBun the rabbit finding the new toy library, but, as I said, his whereabouts are currently unknown. We look forward to BunBun becoming a resident at the new library. In the absence of BunBun, Tyrone the cat is currently taking up residence at the new toy library, as well as a number of bin chickens. Ibis are the patron animal of Gosnells, and they are also known as bin chickens. When I was a teacher at Southern River College, bin chickens were actually on our school uniform. We look forward to BunBun making his way to meet and share that space with Tyrone the cat.

I briefly acknowledge the members for Hillarys and Joondalup, who have done well in acknowledging the role of knitting within their communities. For the sake of the archives of the Parliamentary Library and the State Library,

I also give a quick shout-out to one of my clubs that produces some amazing things—the Inner Wheel Club of Gosnells. It is one of the world's largest women's organisations. It has recently celebrated 56 years of service. The members of that club create breast cushions for men and women who have had major breast surgery. They hold sewing bees and provide cushions to Fiona Stanley, Sir Charles Gairdner and Royal Perth Hospitals. They have made over 600 cushions for hospitals and for friends and family. The Inner Wheel club receives grants from the Rotary Club of Southern Districts and a number of organisations for the purchase of materials. I give a special shout-out to Pam Walker, Kaye Passmore, Barbara Jamieson, Ann De Jong, Betty Tullett, Josie Jamieson, Glenda McIver, Lesley Wells, Lois Smith, Elaine Dunn and Ann Watts. All the ladies who are involved with Inner Wheel are over 70 years of age. The project helps many people. I want to give the club a very special shout-out and acknowledge them and say on behalf of the State Library and the Parliament of Western Australia, we greatly appreciate all you have done.

When we are talking about archiving and the presentation of materials, I have final shout-out and that is to Barb and Ken D'Sylva, who will very soon celebrate their fifty-third wedding anniversary. Barb and Ken D'Sylva are very, very big supporters of the Canning Vale community. I missed their fiftieth wedding anniversary and they have reminded me of that. They were married in India on 26 December 1970, so I would like to say to them: when you celebrate your wedding anniversary in a couple of months, on behalf of all of us and the Parliament of Western Australia, congratulations.

**MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka — Parliamentary Secretary)** [12.11 pm]: I also rise to make a contribution on the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. It is always a pretty tough act to follow the member for Southern River, but I will do my best to share my thoughts about the important role that libraries have played for both me personally —

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.A. Munday)**: You might find BunBun over at Mirrabooka!

**Ms M.J. HAMMAT**: BunBun would have very sensibly caught the bus to Mirrabooka because he will understand it is the centre of the universe, so I will keep an eye out for him, member for Southern River.

The bill before us today is a simple and very short bill, but it is important because it goes to facilitating the preservation of Western Australia's published documentary heritage for current and, also importantly, future generations. It is a requirement that the State Library retains copies of certain published documents and that is set out in the Legal Deposit Act 2012 and the regulations that set out a framework for the collection of materials into the State Library and outline how deposits are made.

Members, of course, will be aware that in recent years there has been a dramatic change in the nature of publication, broadly, and it is no longer the case that everything is committed to a printed hard copy as it was for many, many decades. It is now quite common to have material published electronically and digitally and, of course, we anticipate that in coming years that will continue to change and progress. In 2019, the National Library, which also mandates the deposit of certain material, published the National edeposit system, which was developed in conjunction with the National Library and state libraries around Australia, including our State Library here. That will enable a single deposit to satisfy the requirements of both national and state and territory obligations. Of course, it is easy with a digital publication to deposit it once and then that satisfies both obligations, rather than having separate processes for both the national and state libraries. That is obviously a far more efficient system for both the libraries and the depositors. This bill deals with section 12 of the Legal Deposit Act, which is not in operation, but specifically requires that a publisher notify the State Librarian when it makes a WA publication available on the internet. If this section were to remain in operation, it would oblige publishers to notify both the State Library and the National Library separately using two different and separate systems. This bill will repeal section 12 and streamline that whole process, making it more efficient.

There have already been quite a lot of good contributions in which members have shared their great love of libraries so I will do that too because it is impossible not to reflect on libraries with a lot of affection. Like many members of this place, I also love reading. I want to talk about the very first library that I had access to and that was in Broomehill Primary School. I have shared here before that my first school was Broomehill Primary School, a school with three classrooms in the great southern. Our library was not a separate building or separate room; it was a series of bookcases across the back of the senior classroom. As someone who loved reading, even at a young age, we used to love going in there and choosing books. Of course, as I progressed in years and progressed through school and employment, I have indeed had the opportunity to access some extremely good and fine libraries. A number of other members have talked about the Parliamentary Library, which is not only a physically beautiful space, but also run by incredibly helpful people and packed full of some wonderful historical records.

I want to talk a bit about the State Library collection because one of my memories is also going to our State Library and using it as a senior high school student and particularly as a university student while doing an undergraduate degree and my masters. One of the things that strikes me and stands out for me is that as part of one of my courses of study, I undertook a course in labour history and we were required to write an original history, so I had access to a package of material that the State Library held. It really outlined the consideration of the state government and



industry bodies considering the regulation of the trade of hairdressing in WA during the 1930s and the 1940s, which resulted in this Parliament passing the Hairdressers Registration Act 1946. It was a fantastic opportunity to access an original package of materials that had been stored in the State Library since that time. It had a series of correspondence between the relevant government department and the industry bodies that were advocating for regulation. I am not sure whether anyone accessed that package of material between the 1940s and when I accessed it, but it made a strong impression on me because it felt like not only reading a fantastic novel, but also being on a journey of discovery as I turned the pages of the correspondence. Of course, it did not give me the complete picture about what had happened. There was a number of items of correspondence and internal memos, but it left an intriguing trail of breadcrumbs, really, to try to understand what was on the minds of people at the time.

It was also a fascinating insight into the social and economic considerations of the era, because at the time hairdressing was largely undertaken by men. It was very uncommon for women to be engaged in hairdressing. But that was starting to occur; increasingly, women were starting to work in the hairdressing industry. Some of the arguments in favour of regulation were about maintaining the so-called standards of the industry, which was really a thinly veiled reference to keeping women out of the industry. There was a lot of preoccupation with women finishing work late at night and walking along the streets as they made their way home and how they would be unsafe. There was a lot of concern for the moral character of the women who would be working cutting hair and some consideration of the physical characteristics of women and how they would be totally unsuitable for such a trade.

It provided with me at the time, and even now when I reflect on it, a really fascinating insight into the relationship between gender and skill and indeed pay, because part of the preoccupation with regulating the trade was to keep the pay rates high. It is interesting to reflect that at the time it was mainly a male occupation but, of course, now the majority of hairdressers are women. We can trace the relationship between skill and gender and what happens when trades or skilled work is deregulated and more women do it, and how the pay rates fall in comparative terms. We can trace that in lots of industries. Anyway, I digress somewhat. But I think it illustrates the important work that our State Library does and some of the incredible records that it holds. Although that was just a collection of papers that had been written a long time ago, as I said, it gave a fascinating insight into the preoccupations of the time. Many of the themes and the learning of that assignment that I did remain as relevant today as they ever were.

I often reflect on the saying, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” I feel that the work that the library and other institutions do in documenting our history and keeping those original records is so important. Although those records from the 1940s have not changed—the records are what they are—our interpretation of them changes. To be able to go back to those original sources and re-read them in a different context sheds new light on our understanding of contemporary issues as well as what happened at the time. I have talked before about our increasing knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage and how we can look back at our history and have a very different understanding now about some of the things that happened. Access to original records is so important for understanding and reinterpreting our history in a way that makes sense as our knowledge of society grows.

Many of our records now are electronic and we face great challenges to ensure that we continue to keep those and access them. One of the consequences of electronic records is that it is easier than ever to publish things. The scale of the task has no doubt increased substantially for our public libraries to simply keep up with the vast number of things that are published. It was once an incredibly difficult undertaking to publish a book. It was the preserve of many monasteries because generally people were not able to afford written materials or publish them because they were all handwritten. Over a long period of time it has become easier to publish and the number of things published has proliferated, making it an incredible challenge for our public institutions to collect what is relevant and important because it is simply not possible to collect it at all.

The State Library of Western Australia plays an incredibly important role. It had more than a million visitors last year, both physically and electronically. It also plays a really important role in acquiring materials for more than 232 local public libraries. The majority of our community interact with our library system in their local community public library. Like many other people, I found this to be true as well, particularly when my children were young. We had a lot of outings and excursions to our local public libraries. They are really great and so close to where we live. They have an endless supply of books that allows children to select their own, they run lots of different activities for children to get involved in and they offer other things that can be borrowed. Of course, it is a fantastic way to encourage a love of reading and a love of books. Like most parents, I hope that stays with my children throughout their life. It was also a place that allowed for social interaction for not just the kids, but also me as a new parent, and facilitated things like story time and other activities over the school holidays. Our family remains a pretty avid user of the local library, particularly my partner, who is a great fan of the ability to borrow talking books that he listens to as he drives to and from work. There is something in the local library for all ages at all stages that will encourage people to read, to have an inquiring mind, to learn more about the world in which we live or to just embark on something that is incredibly entertaining.

I also want to talk a little about the people who work in our libraries. For a number of years, I had the privilege of working at the Australian Services Union that represents many people who work in libraries around the state of Western Australia. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank them for the incredible work that they do. As part of my role at the Australian Services Union, I experienced firsthand the incredible work that they do. They are not only hard working, but also incredibly passionate about what they do. They are passionate about books, reading and the benefits that come from that. They are universally a great bunch of people who are very committed to their communities and their jobs.

In putting my notes together for this contribution, I remember an occasion when a local council—I will not say which one—was busily debating ways to reduce the pay of their library workers. It happened a while ago, so for people who do not remember video stores, these comments may not mean much. At the time the council was arguing that working in a library was just like working in a video store because a person is just scanning things and checking them out. The council was arguing that those workers should be paid a similarly low wage. That analogy was not only upsetting for those library workers, but it also highlighted how the council completely misunderstood the nature of the work of those library staff. They are not just checking out books or videos; they conduct a range of activities to support community members. We can see this clearly in rural areas in which libraries are also hubs for community information. They are often very actively involved in curating collections and local history items for the preservation and enjoyment of future generations. That is true in the city as well where they are a hub for not only information related to books or historical records, but also community services. I am very pleased to say that the council was not successful in its attempts and those workers maintained their pay, partly because of the really strong community response. The community understood how important those workers were and the excellent value that they contributed. For me at that time it underlined that libraries and the people who work in them are not a cost to the community; they are an excellent value-for-money proposition for the work that they do.

I want to make a few comments about libraries, particularly in my community of Mirrabooka. We are lucky to have two public libraries in the electorate: the Mirrabooka Public Library in the City of Stirling and the Girrawheen Public Library in the City of Wanneroo.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms M.J. HAMMAT:** The Mirrabooka library is an incredibly important part of our community in Mirrabooka. It is located alongside the Mirrabooka Community Hub that houses a number of important community services such as Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services. It has very much been developed as a kind of hub model. Earlier this year, the Mirrabooka library launched the "Library of Things". This is a new idea and quite innovative. It allows anyone who has a library borrowing card to borrow items for three weeks, in the same way that a person would borrow a book. This service allows members of the public to borrow over 60 common household things that people might need to use once or twice but often do not want to spend the money on and invest in right away. It includes things such as baking tins, fitness equipment, musical instruments such as guitars, a range of gardening tools, selfie lights for the budding influencers in the community, and green screens, which are obviously very important for social media. I understand that the Mirrabooka library is the only library so far in the City of Stirling with this facility. It is an excellent idea for our community that is made up of a large number of people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and a large number of people who are renting and who may not have ready access to these kinds of things but may want to use them for short periods. It is a great initiative and I encourage others to think about ways that this idea could be picked up in their communities.

The Mirrabooka library also acts as a hub for many community events and supports. For example, during the last school holidays, members of the local Myanmar community held a reading and writing corner in the library to help children of Burmese families, many of whom do not speak English as a first language at home, to get some additional support with literacy. I want to congratulate those who helped to arrange those sessions. I hope that they continue to develop that idea in the future.

The Girrawheen Public Library in the City of Wanneroo is also part of an incredibly important community hub. It is located alongside a community garden and a community centre that is well used by the senior citizens group and also the Gujarati seniors in our area. Other community groups also use the area for cultural celebrations. A separate building in the precinct called the hub houses the offices of some community groups like the Karen Welfare Association and others. It is truly a community centre that is well utilised for not just the library resources that it houses. The library building itself is somewhat aged. I was really heartened to see that last month the City of Wanneroo considered a report to council for a new masterplan for this area of Girrawheen. The plan the council considered and adopted has designs that incorporate reinvigorating the entire area and the purposes for which it is used. I think it is a terrific plan and it will certainly ensure that the Girrawheen community continues to have access to an excellent library facility,

I give a shout-out to local councillors James Rowe and Brett Treby for their work and consultation in the community on this masterplan. A number of consultations were undertaken to get it to this stage. I understand that part of the council resolution is to support the concept plan for the purpose of community engagement. I take this opportunity

to encourage our local community to take the time to engage with the council on this important issue. The report to council also estimates the redevelopment would cost approximately \$20 million. It is a lot of money, and obviously cannot be funded out of its current budget. The issue of the redevelopment and the potential for funding will need to be carefully considered by the council and the community in the coming period of time. I put on the record that I support the work of the council in considering how we can progress this work, particularly for ensuring that part of the consideration is how the hub precinct in Girrawheen is able to remain a vibrant and important space for collaboration and services for local people.

I am particularly passionate about ensuring that the local library remains in this community location in Girrawheen. Although the Girrawheen library may be small and somewhat dated, it is an essential community resource. The consultation undertaken to date supports the library remaining in the community I think it is especially important in our local community, where more than 50 per cent of people speak a language other than English at home. It is important that they have access to books and other materials to help them, and particularly their children, develop English language proficiency. It is also important that this community resource be within easy access for the local community. Many of them do not have easy access to a car, and public transport to another locality can be time-consuming and difficult.

The current location is close to Girrawheen Senior High School and two primary schools. It is connected with a brand new bike path, and, as I have already said, it is co-located with other community resources and activities, so it is easily accessible for everyone who lives locally. I congratulate the City of Wanneroo for its work on that masterplan and I look forward to seeing the community consultation progress. Regardless of the outcome, I put on the record my support for the library remaining in the Girrawheen community, because it is an essential part of supporting our community and some of the more vulnerable people who live in our area.

I also take this opportunity to recognise Brett Treby, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Wanneroo and long-term councillor for the south ward. Brett Treby was first elected to the inaugural City of Wanneroo council in 1999, and has since served our local community continuously for 24 years. He was elected deputy mayor and served as acting mayor for an extended period last year. He has been a strong advocate for our community for 24 years. I thank him for his service and wish him well for the future, as he has announced he will not be seeking re-election at the current council elections. During his time as a councillor he has also held many local government board positions, been the chairperson of the management committee at the Hepburn Centre in Marangaroo, and been an active member of many of our school communities, including Roseworth Primary School. I also thank Brett at a personal level for his friendship and the advice he has given me. I am sure his interest and passion for our local community will not lessen and he will remain an active participant in local events, despite the fact that his term as a councillor for our area will soon come to an end.

Although it would be easy to keep talking about libraries for a long time, I now bring my comments to an end. I close by saying that libraries are incredibly important to our communities as places where our historical records are stored and kept, providing access to reading and other resource material. They are invaluable places of learning and an opportunity to inspire young people. In my case, even as a young graduate, access to the library records inspired me on the course of study that I talked about earlier. Libraries are essential to our community, particularly in our regional areas, but it is also very true in our metropolitan areas. This bill is important because it will allow the efficient collection of publications. I underline in my conclusion the importance of those publications to understand the world we live in today, but also leaving an important historical record for those who come after us to understand the times that we lived in.

I conclude my comments and I commend the bill to the house.

**MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton)** [12.35 pm]: The Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023 seeks to update and modernise the record keeping responsibilities of the collecting institution, being the State Library of Western Australia. The Legal Deposit Act 2012 facilitates the preservation of Western Australia's published documentary heritage for current and future generations by requiring the deposit with the state library copies of certain published material.

Legal deposit is a statutory provision requiring publishers to deposit copies of their publications in the nominated collecting institute. In accordance with the Copyright Act 1968, publishers are required to deposit copies of certain published materials with the National Library of Australia. Legal deposit is the legal right for a collecting institution to receive published material in a jurisdiction. Through the State Library of Western Australia, the library board administers the Legal Deposit Act 2012. Regulations made under the act set out the framework for the collection of these materials by the state library, including the manner in which deposits are to be made. The section of the act related to internet publications remains unpublished and the regulatory process has been undertaken in two stages, with first priority given to the deposit of physical publications. Regulations for internet publications were to be developed in a second stage on the understanding that this would require significant new infrastructure and processes to be developed. Subsequently, the national edeposit, or NED system, was developed as a collaboration by member libraries of the National and State Libraries Australasia, including the State Library of WA.

NED was launched in 2019 and is a world-leading approach to digital collecting that enables publishers to meet national, state or territory legal deposit obligations by depositing a single copy of a digital publication into an online portal. This triggers an automated email deposit notification to the collecting institution in the state or territory in which the publication was published. NED has delivered efficiencies and cost savings to both publishers and the libraries that receive legal deposit publications. Although many Western Australian publishers voluntarily deposit digital publications using NED, the associated regulations are intended to require publishers to do so as is the case for the deposit of print publications. Before these regulations can be made, however, section 12 of the Legal Deposit Act 2012 requires repeal. Section 12, which is yet to commence operation, requires a publisher to notify the state library when they make a Western Australian publication available via the internet. The State Solicitor's Office has advised the state library that section 12 of the Legal Deposit Act 2012 cannot be satisfied by automated email deposit notifications from NED. If section 12 came into effect, a publisher would deposit in NED and then separately be required to notify the state library of details of the publication and its location on the internet. This runs counter to one of the major attractions for publishers and libraries to use NED as a single deposit to satisfy state and federal legal deposit obligations.

This bill will delete section 12 to make it possible to make regulations for the deposit of Western Australian internet publications, so the state library can use NED to collect, preserve and make available internet publications. This will minimise compliance costs and effort required by publishers to satisfy their legal deposit obligations, and maximise efficiency and cost effectiveness for the state library. That is the dry, technical stuff about the bill, but I think what most members who rise to speak on the bill today really want to talk about is the importance of libraries as institutions that go far beyond record keeping. Although the record-keeping aspect is incredibly important, as is the modernisation that this bill will effect, libraries are also about bringing us together and helping us to learn. These are some of the more intangible benefits of libraries.

There is no doubt about the importance of appropriate, legally compliant, modern and cost-effective mechanisms for information collection and record keeping. However, there are other aspects of libraries, and I would also like to highlight the positive impacts they have on their local communities. Libraries are the heart of a community. They are engagement hubs for people of all ages. Children use them for storytelling, playing and learning; students use them for studying and a place to hang out; and adults use them for personal engagement and development. Libraries hold a special place in the lives, hearts and minds of many. They are, of course, places of learning, but they are so much more. For me and so many others across Bicton and beyond, libraries connect us to our past, our present and our future. They have been, and continue to be, a constant for individuals and communities through all stages of their lives.

My local libraries—AH Bracks Library in Melville and the nearby Willagee library in the City of Melville—are wonderful examples of all that is great about libraries. I would like to give a special shout-out to them, as well as to the City of Melville for its outstanding commitment to its libraries and, more broadly, to the importance of storytelling and language. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate local author Holly Craig. I had the privilege of listening to her speak at a recent Author In-Conversation event at the AH Bracks Library about her book *The Shallows*, which is racing up best book charts everywhere. It was a fantastic lead-in to the upcoming series “Stories for all: Melville Storylines”, which is a celebration of story in all its forms and is being held across the City of Melville in the month of October. The program will bring together the many and diverse ways in which we tell stories and set out to captivate curiosity, spark imagination and celebrate human creativity through lively panel discussions, fascinating workshops, adventures in the parks, community celebrations of historically significant characters and family events that share stories of kindness, hope and strength.

It is not lost on me that those of us in this place are very familiar with storytelling. It is what we do. What can sometimes be fairly dry information, particularly when we speak on pieces of legislation, although always important, can sometimes be, let us face it, a little dull. What we do here is craft the way in which we speak on bills in a way that incorporates storytelling aspects so that those who take the time to sit in the chamber do not get too distracted or start to nod off, and those of us who are preparing to speak can find inspiration. I would like to acknowledge each and every one of us in this place as absolute storytellers.

Getting back to “Melville Storylines”, there are stories to be told in every corner of the City of Melville. With more than 30 events across the month, audiences can expect to visit some of their favourite Melville haunts, while also getting a glimpse into some of the city's lesser-known locations as they embark on the ultimate discovery of storytelling.

Other activities at my local libraries that I would like to give a shout-out to include—this will come as no surprise to anyone here; those who have already contributed have talked about these activities and I know that they are an important part of all our local libraries—story time and baby rhyme time sessions. We also have—I may pronounce this incorrectly, so I apologise if I do—Koolangka Waangkiny Noongar language story time with Rickeeta Walley every Thursday to celebrate Noongar stories and language in interactive sessions for early learners. The weekly program introduces simple Noongar language and engages children's imagination through the use of traditional storytelling instruments and creative play. There is Chinese language rhyme time, thanks to the Australian Asian

Children Education and Development Association. Sessions are filled with stories and rhymes in Chinese language but are introduced in English. There is LibraryCraft. My son, who is now nearly 22 years old, would have loved this one when he was a little younger. LibraryCraft is a free Minecraft server for seven-year-olds to 17-year-olds.

Activities at the AH Bracks Library are not just for bubs and kids. Lots of activities are going on to draw young and older adults to our local libraries, including “Board in the Library”, which includes sessions to learn and play board games, and “Crafternoons”, to which participants bring their own craft activities and enjoy a cuppa and socialise with like-minded folk.

Libraries offer a unique opportunity to look back through Australia’s history and provide an opportunity to learn from the past and each other’s stories. We can make better decisions about our future with the knowledge provided through Australian literature. Was it the member for Mirrabooka who talked about making sure that we do not forget our past in order to not repeat mistakes? Yes. That historical aspect is an important component. Libraries are highly valued cultural institutions for Western Australians. They house Indigenous stories, knowledge and music, which enrich the lives of all Australians, no matter their background. During this critical time in Australia’s history, it is paramount that we immerse ourselves in Indigenous knowledge, perspective and experiences.

The resources at local libraries, such as the Willagee library, which is very close to my electorate of Bicton—it is just across Leach Highway—offer our constituents ample opportunity to engage in Indigenous literature, which is something I find incredibly important and am always inspired by. We can listen to and seek out Indigenous voices on a micro scale, such as through literature, while preparing for and supporting changes on a macro scale with the upcoming referendum. The Willagee library is a thriving library that supports youth. Young Aboriginal engagement officers, who have all grown up in the community, are a unique and powerful feature of the library. These officers provide a safe space for Indigenous children in the community and act as role models and mentors for locals. As a plug, with the upcoming school holidays, our local libraries offer our children interesting and engaging programs that continue their learning outside the classroom. As a mother, I know how much I relied on those opportunities when my children were younger.

There are many reasons that libraries are special, valuable and greatly valued, including the following summary of a few of them. Libraries provide access to information and knowledge, and are essential to our communities, providing access to a wealth of information. They are a place where anyone can learn, discover and develop, regardless of age, education or income. The member for Mirrabooka also reminded me of something. She mentioned borrowing at her local libraries and how they are expanding the range of items that can be borrowed. It reminded me of something that I find absolutely fascinating. It is referred to as the “human library”. This may be familiar to some members. According to the Human Library Organization —

The Human Library is, in the true sense of the word, a library of people. We host events where readers can borrow human beings serving as open books and have conversations they would not normally have access to.

That is pretty cool.

Libraries provide a sense of community and offer space where people can socialise and interact with others with similar interests. Libraries can help save money and are an excellent resource for people who want to save money on books. For someone who loves to read, libraries are a fantastic place to borrow books for free—or, in some places, humans, as I just referred to. Libraries can preserve history, as we know. Libraries can help people learn new things, and are a valuable resource for people who want to learn something new. They provide a quiet place for people to study and work, and are one of the few places left in the modern world where people can find peace and quiet. Libraries are free and open to everyone, but one of the best things about libraries is that they come at no cost; anyone can walk into their community library. Cost is not a barrier, which is particularly important at this time in our lives, when cost-of-living pressures are so very real. Libraries also promote literacy and a love of reading.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 5067.]