

## SUICIDE — ABORIGINAL YOUTH

### *Motion*

**MS J. FARRER (Kimberley)** [4.01 pm]: I move —

That this house urgently calls for a parliamentary inquiry to determine what more can be done to halt the worrying number of youth suicides amongst Aboriginal youth in Western Australia, particularly in remote communities, and to determine what resources have been set aside to tackle this crucial issue facing our state.

Aboriginal suicide rates have not improved. In my maiden speech in 2014, I spoke about my very personal experience of the extremities of suicide and the extensive, widespread trauma felt by the entire region when an act of self-harm or suicide occurs in the Kimberley. Youth suicide amongst Aboriginal youth in Western Australia is horrifying. Each time I hear of such tragedies occurring, I ask myself, “How can this still be happening?” This government claims to have invested millions of dollars into a statewide suicide prevention strategy, yet we see the frequency of self-harm increasing. It is imperative that an urgent and thorough parliamentary inquiry is conducted to define exactly what has been tried, what has not worked and what has worked, and to strategically determine the amounts required and the best use of funds and resource allocations to tackle this crucial issue facing our entire state.

I am so deeply saddened by the most recent heartbreaking news—the suicide of a beautiful 10-year-old girl. It is not the first time we have had someone so young take their own life and, tragically, it is unlikely to be the last.

In June 2014 I pleaded with the Liberal–National government to not cease funding the Derby community action plan, which included Looma, where this tragedy occurred, and other communities in delivering localised suicide prevention strategies, but I was ignored. The Liberal–National government’s policies and responses around child protection and mental health are failing the people of my electorate. I demand that a full inquiry be conducted into this crisis and whether, in the particular scenario of the 10-year-old girl, either department could have provided more or a higher level of obviously required support.

I have been told that this little girl’s life was an unfortunate rollercoaster of severe disadvantage and traumatic events. About two years ago this girl actually witnessed her beloved older teenage sister commit suicide in their home community of Kalumburu. I wonder if any members of even the immediate family received counselling or any other support services after that tragedy occurred two years ago. Keeping people in the mindset of wanting to stay alive remains a difficult task in my electorate, particularly with regard to youth. I want young people to know that suicide should not be an option and that it is not a sign of weakness to ask for help; it is actually a sign of strength and great courage. But in remote communities there often are not many available or approachable people who know what to do with that sort of information or have the skills to appropriately respond, assist and secure a person’s safety and wellbeing.

I believe it should now become a legislated mandatory requirement for all service-providing staff going into communities to have undergone Aboriginal mental health first aid training, and these are some of the things I talked about with regard to some of our mental health workers who are skilled but need to be upskilled.

I read in an article that appeared in *The Australian* of 14 March that a teacher based at the Looma community said that she was “absolutely horrified”, in light of cuts to the state government’s child and adolescent mental health service, that it had resulted in the complete withdrawal of the service from the Looma community. The article went on to quote the teacher as saying —

“On our first day of term, school staff were told due to budget cuts and staff freezes the CAMHS specialist wouldn’t be coming any more. Yet a convoy of services are sent in after suicide events have happened.”

She said that a 14-year-old student had confided to her recently that she had cut down a teenager attempting suicide from a tree. The girl said that she had not received any form of counselling and that she had just talked to her aunty about it.

On top of cuts to government funding and staff for the Kimberley child and adolescent mental health service, this government also stopped funding the community action plan for suicide prevention programs that serviced Looma, Mowanjum and other communities surrounding Derby. Although there are many strong, positive Aboriginal leaders doing everything possible in their power to improve lives and to strengthen their communities’ wellbeing, they are limited in what they can do, as they are not adequately resourced or supported.

Many children are growing up to be confused, angry, frustrated, bored young teenagers. Even in the largest of the remote communities, there are no or minimal after-school activities, no youth services or formal youth centres, no weekend sporting activities and no swimming pools. We must invest in our youth. We must show

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them the alternatives to suicide, because right now, many youth see suicide as not just a possible option, but their only option.

I believe it is vital that Headspace-type centres, which Broome youth greatly benefit from, must be implemented in Kimberley towns such as Kununurra and Derby. People are not approached; counselling is not routinely offered to at-risk youth as it should be, to adults showing evident signs of depression or even to grieving family members who are mourning the death of a loved one. There simply are not enough mental health professionals to service the Kimberley. The government should provide subsidised training specifically targeting local Indigenous community members to become mental health workers, drug and alcohol counsellors and clinical psychiatrists. Internal staff succession planning and formal mentoring within the health sector is a vital component necessary to building the level of capacity in Aboriginal communities needed to break the systemic generational cycle of suicide and other health issues.

I wholeheartedly support former State Coroner Alastair Hope's recommendation 3, cited on page 61 of the state government's September 2010 document "Local Implementation Plan — Fitzroy Crossing", which states —

*Positive action should be taken, where practicable, to employ Aboriginal people in Government sector activities in the Kimberley Region. In some cases this may require up skilling suitable local Aboriginal people.*

*In order for this to be achieved in some areas of activity it may be necessary to alter entrance requirements for particular positions so that suitable candidates without existing tertiary qualifications can be employed and trained.*

If we look at suicide as distressed psychological pain, I believe it is essential that this government takes immediate action to construct secure mental health facilities at Kimberley hospitals, other than Broome Health Campus, where there could be trained mental health staff and services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This could enable Kimberley residents to be treated for mental health problems without having to travel away from their family and community. That is something I talked about when I mentioned that some communities need quiet houses.

In light of the reported extreme increase in the use of the drug ice throughout the Kimberley, we really need these services implemented in my electorate now. The current drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres in the Kimberley are not adequately equipped to deal with the complexities of patient needs and the referral numbers. The Milliya Rumurra rehabilitation centre in Broome offers the only rehab service in the West Kimberley. Chief executive Andrew Amor was quoted in the media as saying —

"We've seen an increase in referrals in the last couple of years, so that people with meth problems now make up about 20 per cent of referrals," ...

"There are lots of Aboriginal people out there who want to access rehab, have the right level of internal motivation to address this issue, but we just don't have the resources to meet that demand, ...

"At any time, there's a backlog of between 70 and 100 people waiting for a spot to become available."

People cannot wait for rehabilitation and they will simply return to using. Most likely, they will not attempt to seek help again due to being turned away from the only supposedly available service.

In recent years there has been a large focus on alcohol consumption in the Kimberley and the impacts of alcoholism on families and communities, but little investment has been made to combat the ever-growing drug scene in the Kimberley. Make no mistake, these factors directly relate to acts of self-harm and suicide and they need to be effectively addressed as an urgent priority. There may be some dispute about the actual number of ice users; however, one obvious indicator of use is that the number of fit packs distributed from Broome hospital has almost tripled in four years. In 2010, 20 000 fit packs were handed out from Broome hospital emergency department. In 2014, that increased to an astonishing 57 000 fit packs.

The suicide epidemic has affected every single community and town in the Kimberley, and changes need to be made. The government needs to assist by investing more resources and funding into preventative support programs, especially in remote communities. I put to each member in this chamber today to stand with me and make real change. How many suicides and how many more deaths will it take to open our eyes and to open our ears to the silent screaming that is coming from the hearts and souls of those who are gone and from those who grieve and keep screaming "Help"? We must do more. We need to look at doing whatever we can to examine and address these cries. We might start with a parliamentary inquiry into this crisis.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M. Cowper):** I would like to call the member for Roe—sorry, the member for Eyre.

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**DR G.G. JACOBS (Eyre)** [4.15 pm]: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. That is very premature.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** When I last sat in this chair, he was the member for Roe.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Thank you very much, but it is very premature. I have to be endorsed and then I have to win the seat.

I thank the member for Kimberley for bringing this very important matter to Parliament. I suppose this discussion was triggered by a travesty that has existed for some time that was highlighted again by the unfortunate death of a 10-year-old girl Aboriginal girl who took her own life on 6 March this year, in the West Kimberley community of Looma. It is estimated to be the nineteenth Aboriginal suicide in Western Australia this year. That rate of Aboriginal suicide is twice that of non-Aboriginal people, and 25 per cent of Aboriginal suicides occur in WA. One-third of all deaths amongst Aboriginal youth aged between 15 to 35 years are attributable to suicide.

As Chairman of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I was commissioned by this Parliament to inquire into the deaths of fly in, fly out workers in mining. Over seven months, the committee did a lot of work to determine some of the factors that lead to the suicide deaths of FIFO workers and made recommendations to government on how it could make a difference. I reply to the member for Kimberley that it is about making a difference, as the member for Kimberley's motion states, "to halt" suicides in this community.

I want to take the house through some previous inquiries and investigations, including coroners' inquests, and the current situation. In 2007–08, State Coroner Alastair Hope held a collective inquest into 22 suicide deaths. A media report on Alastair Hope's narrative in the inquiry states —

... to explore the reasons for the large number of deaths where alcohol or cannabis use was a contributing factor and for the alarming increase in suicide rates ... The Coroner concluded that Aboriginal welfare in the Kimberley constituted a "disaster" for which there was no real leadership or coordination and a lack of accountability in the response by the State and Commonwealth governments. The Coroner endorsed the evidence of witnesses such as Lieutenant General John Sanderson and Professor Fiona Stanley ...

The inquiry report concludes with a very important statement from those two witnesses, which I will share with the house a little later. I want to go through some of the other inquests and inquiries and their recommendations. There was an inquest after the tragedy of five suicide deaths in Oombulgurri, in July 2008. The recommendations from that inquiry relate to restrictions on alcohol sales, child protection, assessing the sustainability of communities, legislative interventions requiring treatment for the abuse of volatile substances and supporting culturally based programs for truancy and mental health for youth. I recognise Wes Morris and his good work with Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley. He has been a constant communicator with our committee on this matter for some time.

In 2014, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Prevention Evaluation Project, funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, was commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of existing suicide prevention services. From that, there has been some preliminary drafting around stating the economic gap between white and black Australians in the Kimberley. That was widening, with disparities relating to extreme poverty, housing issues and homelessness. It elucidated the lack of jobs and economic opportunity directly impacting on the wellbeing of Aboriginal Australians. Western Australia had 14 per cent of the country's Indigenous population, yet contributed a quarter of the national suicide rate, with increasing disconnection between service providers and the communities they service. Indeed, the National Empowerment Project, NEP, funded by the former Department of Health and Ageing, led to the Kimberley Empowerment Project, and its report of 2012 gave some practical tips. They were of the similar vein I have described. The Kimberley Empowerment Project, KEP, was a research project that conducted extensive community consultation in the aim of developing a dedicated new Aboriginal-led empowerment healing and leadership program. The project report was published in 2012 with the practical tips to develop such a program, starting with community readiness, then a preparation phase, and continuing to nationally accredited training for local people who are prepared to lead in change on a family and community level.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** Sorry, member, the title of the document? I missed it.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** That was the National Empowerment Project, which the Kimberley Empowerment Project came under.

I put to members, and I hope the member for Kimberley will understand this as there is no insult or offence meant, but there have been a legion of inquiries. There have been a legion of inquests and recommendations, unfortunately, and that is a tragedy. However, as Professor Fiona Stanley and Lieutenant General John Sanderson have stated, the problem lies not in a failure to recognise the situation, but in how to address that problem and to improve the

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current situation. What is needed now is implementation of recommendations, which have already been made through strong leadership and accountability, rather than more inquiries and investigations.

This is a social tragedy for the Aboriginal community, for the Western Australian community and indeed, Australia. During the week I was called by various members of the Education and Health Standing Committee, which I chair. A number of committee members said that we know we have set a course on doing some inquiries into independent public schools. We also want to look at the Auditor General's central computing report and we want to delve a little bit more into that and ask some further questions of the Auditor General and the Department of Health. We have a fair bit on our plate. However, the members who called me during the week recognise the enormity of the situation and how important it is, and there is nothing more important than the loss of lives, especially the loss of young lives, in our community. We also recognise we should perhaps consider at our next meeting what our responsibility is as a committee, which is part of the Parliament of WA, and how would we go about looking at this matter. This morning at 10 o'clock, before we noted the member for Kimberley's item under private members' business on the daily program, it was resolved that we look at this issue and how we could perhaps make a difference, without, if you will excuse the expression, reinventing the wheel and having another inquiry going over all the problems that we know. As Lieutenant General Sanderson has said, "We know the problems. It is what we are going to do about it and how we go about it." It was resolved this morning, and I have authorisation from all the members of the committee out of session since our meeting, that I could share with members the action that was determined this morning by the Education and Health Standing Committee. The committee resolved to pursue the following actions: firstly, to request a briefing from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project. It is important to note that it was established in 2014. The project is funded, as I have said previously, from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and is located at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia, in partnership with the Telethon Kids Institute at the University of Western Australia. It is evaluating the effectiveness of existing suicide prevention services and programs. ATSIPEP will report to the federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs in mid-2016 and recommend improvements to existing, or alternative evidenced-based service and program delivery models. As a committee we thought we might request a briefing and even ask it some questions about where it is at, in determining some of the effectiveness of some of these programs and perhaps what its feeling is about programs and models that can make a difference. That was one resolution.

The other resolution was to conduct hearings or request information by correspondence to determine the implementation of previous recommendations in relation to suicide prevention and response, and the departments that we have basically decided to look at and ask are the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Department of Regional Development, the Mental Health Commission and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, and in fact, underneath the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, would be the Indigenous Implementation Board of Western Australia. By the nature of the word "implementation", we believe it is an important organisation or group to talk to, because it is about the implementation of programs and previous recommendations of which, as I have said, are legion. These hearings could be conducted individually or collectively. That is what the committee has determined this morning, and I hope that the member for Kimberley can see that there is some merit in not spending a lot of time having an inquiry when in fact the real matter is about implementation. How do those programs look? Are they effective? What are the gaps on the ground?

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Yes, and that is an important point that we talked about previously. Obviously, if we have this, if you like, mini inquiry, I as the chairman would then report back with the vote of the committee on some of our findings and maybe some recommendations about how we can better implement some of these programs, some of the gaps in the programs and where the communities are being let down and, indeed, where the communities can do something for themselves.

There has been a bit in the news about critical response programs to tackle the high rate of Indigenous suicide in WA, and the federal government has pledged \$1 million to set up a critical response project to tackle Indigenous suicide in Western Australia. As advocates warn and as we have said previously, the state has one of the worst rates across the nation. The critical response project helps to coordinate first-response services to ensure that essential support is provided to not only deal with suicide after it happens, but also prevent it happening, so it is really important to deliver these new models for how we make a difference. I have a very important quote from a news article in which Mr Georgatos, who is leading the critical response project, said —

"The underlying factor is actually a sense of hopelessness. We have to restore hope. And to restore hope, we have to actually create opportunity for people in these communities."

I suppose that pretty much puts in a nutshell how we can make a difference in these communities. On 12 March there was an article on ABC News online titled "Aboriginal campaigner and suicide survivor shines light on mental health issues". The article states —

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Professor Pat Dudgeon believes full community engagement is necessary to bring down suicide rates.

Another ABC article is entitled “Indigenous suicides to be probed by WA coroner after 10-year-old girl’s death” and refers to the recent tragic death of that girl in Looma. The article states —

**The West Australian coroner will hold an inquest into suspected Indigenous suicides across the Kimberley and Pilbara in the wake of the death of a 10-year-old girl who had suffered “accumulated harm and trauma”.**

In recognition of the comments around inquiry versus implementation, I would like, with the house’s agreement, to move an amendment to the motion moved by the member for Kimberley. This is not to minimise in any way the very important issue she addresses.

*Amendment to Motion*

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I move —

To delete “urgently calls for a parliamentary inquiry to determine” and substitute —

supports the Education and Health Standing Committee to continue its work in determining

[Member’s time extended.]

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** The motion, as amended, would then read —

That this house supports the Education and Health Standing Committee to continue its work in determining what more can be done to halt the worrying number of youth suicides among Aboriginal youth in Western Australia, particularly in remote communities, and to determine what resources have been set aside to tackle this crucial issue facing our state.

I hope that the house and the member for Kimberley will see that this is an important motion, as was the original motion, but that we need to look at the implementation of programs to make a difference.

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [4.36 pm]: In beginning my contribution today, I want to acknowledge the work of the member for Kimberley in once again bringing a very important issue to our attention. Indeed, it is an issue that has caught the attention of the entire community, because there can be nothing sadder or more tragic than a 10-year-old taking their life. One would hope that a 10-year-old would be facing the enjoyment of life, the hope of opportunity to come and the enjoyment that comes with the usual experience of childhood living. It is tragic that they should see that there is no sense or capacity to go on and that they should be so gripped by despair that they would seek to take their life. This is an incredibly sad issue, but, unfortunately, it is not one that we are unfamiliar with. It is a story that has gone on for some time, and of course it is not dissimilar to the death of Susan Taylor back in 2001, which brought about the Gordon inquiry under the Gallop government. These issues constantly confront generation after generation of parliamentarians and give rise to questions that need to be asked. It is important that we continue to ask these questions so that we as a community, and as members of Parliament and so-called leaders of the community, can continue through these questions to raise the issue and try to decipher and make sense of the enormous complexity and difficulty associated with it.

I thank the member for Eyre for his contribution today and note his amendment to this motion, which in some respects seeks to limit the asking of those questions. I do not want to detract from or criticise the efforts of his committee to conduct that inquiry; I think it is incredibly important. I look forward to the contributions from other members of Parliament to the debate on his amendment, which limits the actions of this place to the mini inquiry, as I think he described it, that his committee would undertake, and whether we should be limiting our efforts to continue to raise questions about these issues. It is only through questions that we will continue to drive on to try to seek solutions to what is happening. Why does a member of our community, in particular a small child, seek to take their life? We know that poverty and inequality are important contributing factors. We know that a lack of identity is a contributing factor. We know that the policies of the past that have sought to eliminate the celebration of Aboriginal culture and cultural identity are contributing factors. We know that the systemic and institutionalised racism that continues to afflict our community is a contributing factor. We know that drugs and alcohol and their impact on the community, in particular these very vulnerable communities, are contributing factors. We know that accumulated trauma and the sorts of things that these young people may have seen, and should never have witnessed, are contributing factors. We know that the sheer invisibility of Aboriginal people, as people who are largely ignored or pilloried in our community, depending on the social commentary at the time, is a contributing and accumulative factor.

These situations give rise to more questions, and as I said in my opening remarks, it is good that we are asking these questions. It is good that we are continuing to seek answers. It is good that we are continuing to

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 16 March 2016]

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cross-examine ourselves and our governments about whether the solutions we are putting in place are effective enough in their design and in the quantity or strength of that effort. For instance, we know that the government's suicide prevention strategy has a \$26 million project over four years and that the value of that particular allocation for 2015–16 is \$4.3 million. It is important that we ask questions about how much of that money has been spent and utilised in this incredibly difficult task, and what proportion of those resources go to what are clearly very troubled communities.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** We will be talking to the Mental Health Commission, too, member.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** That is important. We have all seen that the Mental Health Commission is doing some important policy focus work, but it is still largely an experiment, and we continue to wait to see the effectiveness of the model as a way of consolidating policy in that area and effecting service delivery models. In February, Hon Stephen Dawson asked the Minister for Mental Health what value of funding had been spent to date. The Minister for Mental Health said that only three-quarters of the \$4.1 million had been committed for 2015–16. It had not necessarily been expended, but it had been committed and it was only three-quarters of that amount. We are now well into the third quarter of the 2015–16 year, and we think that the minister should have some very concrete and material examples of how that money is being spent to deliver services into these communities. Hon Stephen Dawson's questions go on: how are these services being delivered? I am reminded of a colleague of mine who wrote to me. She says —

Suicide is the last stage of the trauma. It's not rocket science ... It's the feeling of complete hopelessness and despair. What could a 10 year old child possibly think of ending their life? What was going on for her? Agencies knew about her why was there not intensive intervention and prevention support provided to her and the community? Educating and empowering them to understand suicide and trauma. Also what activities were available to her ... other children from the community? Were the community consulted in what they could do to support the family? Were they adequately equipped and supported financially to do that etc?

The questions go on. As I mentioned earlier, the Gordon inquiry was appointed following the death of Susan Taylor in 2001. The Gordon inquiry identified that mainstream services were continuing to work in silos and there was a need for collaboration and wraparound of services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people. My colleague observes that in 2016 nothing has changed. She says —

In fact, it's getting worse. If nothing changes soon the numbers and plight of my people in the next 10 or 15 years is going to be frightening.

There are more questions to be asked. As I said, as this generation of politicians, members of Parliament, it is important that we continue to ask those questions.

The observation that my colleague made was particularly pertinent in the delivery of these sorts of services and Susan Gordon's statement that we were delivering in silos. It invites the question: what is the best service delivery model? I am firmly of the view that these programs should be delivered in a culturally appropriate way by the Aboriginal communities that they serve. I am reminded of the success stories and where we have seen these programs work before. I refer in particular to the work of those involved with the Unity of First People of Australia which was doing some work in this very community that we are talking about, Looma. It was able to halt the deteriorating condition of people with diabetes and obesity in that community by working as a culturally appropriate service to deliver those services. The program was so successful that a minister at the time lauded the program that UFPA was implementing. An article in the *Koori Mail* referred to that minister, Dr Hames, and states —

Mr Hames said there was an emphasis on exercise and sport programs and support provided under the Happy Family Project to promote emotional and social well-being of individuals and families.

He said, and I quote —

“The Looma community members and UFPA are to be applauded for taking control of their people's well-being, the increased exercise, better diet and heightened awareness that it fosters in individuals,”...

Of course, the UFPA president at that time was Mr Ernie Bridge, who was quoted as saying —

This is a fantastic result,” he said.

“It shows that with a concerted, joint effort by communities, public health departments and government, the prospects for even the most vulnerable groups can be turned around to provide extended and healthy lives for their young people.”

That was in December 2009, Mr Acting Speaker

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**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M.J. Cowper):** For all members, at the moment we have before the house a motion to amend the original motion and I remind the speaker on his feet, the member for Kwinana, and everyone else in the chamber that we are speaking to the substantive part of the amendment at the moment. I am prepared to give a bit of latitude because this is a very important debate—if members would not mind keeping their comments to the nature of the amendment.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** On that point, Mr Acting Speaker, does that mean I get another 30 minutes when I am talking to the substantive motion?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** I will hold there, and talk about the amendment for the moment. As I was saying, in addressing the amendment, it is incumbent upon us to ask questions. There should not be a limitation to the questions that we were seeking answers for. There should not be a sense of complacency within this place that others are undertaking these efforts and, therefore, we need not bother ourselves with the issues that confront us around such an incredibly important issue as the incidence of suicide, which is endemic in our Aboriginal community.

It would obviously be ridiculous for this house to accept the words that the member for Eyre has proposed in his amendment to this motion. I understand he has put them up in good faith as a practical way forward and as a way to seek some quick desktop answers, which is appropriate for the member's committee to do, and I commend this committee for taking the initiative to get on and do that, but I do not want to limit an inquiry of this Parliament in trying to seek answers to the questions that the suicide of this young girl throws up. I do not want to limit the efforts of this Parliament to a quick mini inquiry, as the member for Eyre and Chair of the Education and Health Standing Committee has proposed in this instance. I do not think that we can delegate the task of looking into these matters that should be undertaken by this Parliament to a quick inquiry. I accept that inquiries have been done in the past and I propose that inquiries be undertaken in the future because it will not just be us who inquires and asks these questions. It will not just be the next government that inquires and asks these questions. It will not just be the government after that. It will be generations to come and it is not appropriate therefore that we limit our efforts and step back and say that we are happy for someone else to go away and take care of this on our behalf.

The member for Kimberley has proposed an eminently reasonable response to a tragic and urgent issue afflicting our community. It is not just the damage it does by the loss of life; it is the damage it does by the ongoing issues associated with the trauma from a suicide in the community. I do not seek to limit the efforts of the member for Kimberley in what she regards as an incredibly important issue. I do not seek to limit the efforts of this place to put extra resources in to seek the answers once and for all for what should be one of the most urgent and pressing issues in front of this and future generations of members of Parliament.

**MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood — Leader of the National Party) [4.53 pm]:** I will not spend much time speaking on this motion but I want to put a couple of comments on the record. I was one of the ministers responsible for the regional reform unit put in place by this government as a product of a subcommittee of cabinet, which the Premier put in place at the start of this term to look at a number of issues. Right from the outset, I do not think anyone in this chamber or outside would not have been moved by trying to comprehend how a 10-year-old girl could get to the stage of what happened in the Looma tragedy and, indeed, any other suicide of young people in our community wherever they live in Western Australia. The tragic circumstances in these remote parts of the state are grossly overrepresented and therefore it clearly needs a better response than we currently get from all governments over a long period.

However, I do not agree with the member for Kimberley's request for an inquiry. This issue has been inquired to death. In fact, there are at least 50 published inquiries and reviews at the national and state level, nearly all of which were informed in part by experience in Western Australia and/or the Kimberley particularly. These included at least 19 state-based reviews containing some 40 recommendations. They included three separate inquiries by the State Coroner on suicide in Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley. The State Coroner has announced that she will conduct an inquiry into these most recent suicides. There are more than enough recommendations on the table. People have a good understanding of the issues. It is a case of being able to address those issues.

The member for Eyre has moved an amendment to the motion before us. Given his position on the Standing Committee on Education and Health, that is an appropriate step to take to respond in a quick way to get some information on the table, if that is what this place seeks.

I want to reflect on one of Coroner Alistair Hope's recommendations from the 2008 inquiry—that is, to manage welfare payments to ensure that they are not spent on drugs and alcohol. That is one of the federal government's

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initiatives in a trial in the East Kimberley—one that I and this government supported. That will occur in Kununurra and Wyndham. There are some discussions about it occurring in other areas. Some things are happening in that space. One of the recommendations was to ban full-strength takeaway alcohol. Again, those things have been enacted using the Minister for Racing and Gaming's powers to put in place strategies to address symptoms. I guess that is what they are. Many of the recommendations that come from the inquiries that have taken place relate to the symptoms and address those symptoms in response.

I turn to one of the main reasons I feel driven to talk here today. It is important to look at and deal with the symptoms. We have agencies that respond to that and recommendations will be made to put in place strategies to hopefully enhance our response, but unless we take a longer term approach to redress the causal factors over time, in a decade or two we will finish up with exactly the same issues and perhaps more people with the same symptoms. That will not be the solution that we can find on this side of the house. I would like to think that that will span a number of governments. When the opposition comes over to this side of the house, which will happen at some stage, if there is support for work that we can get in place now, I would love to see that carried on. We will only get that long-term shift through that continuity.

One of the recommendations in Coroner Hope's February 2008 inquest, the "Hope report", stated —

I recommend that the State and Commonwealth governments identify an individual or organisation to lead the efforts to close the gap between the well-being of indigenous and non-indigenous people. That individual or organisation should be given the power and resources to make decisions, region by region, throughout the Kimberley and to coordinate the response to the disaster of aboriginal health, suicide rates and living conditions.

We have put in place the reform unit and I believe it has taken steps to respond to that recommendation. Recommendation 4 of that report states —

I recommend that the State and Federal governments devise a plan to assess the sustainability of indigenous communities in the Kimberley including Oombulgurri, and in doing so take account of the practical, historical and cultural factors impacting on these communities.

I highlight that for the first time there is a very serious effort, having two ministers on the ground playing a role at the service delivery level and infrastructure level—that is, me and Hon Helen Morton. It has the imprimatur of cabinet. I have had conversations with the member for Victoria Park and the member for Kimberley in the hope that if we can get some of this right—I do not pretend for a second that we can get it all right—when the opposition picks up government, that can be carried on. The point I made when I have had a few chances to address groups and talk to communities is that this is a long-term game. With all the goodwill under the sun we expect that we can get some visible change in two years, and we are hoping to get some significant change in five years, but it will take a generation to get transformational change. It is not something that we can do in one term of government.

We have tasked the unit to find innovative and strategic ways to change the state government's response to longstanding conditions of social and economic disadvantage that are endured by Aboriginal people in remote and rural Western Australia. It is a very small team. That team cannot do it by itself. It is critical that we bring on board the cooperation of all the government agencies, local government, not-for-profits that work in that place and the federal government, but especially the Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal leaders. If we do not have that, we will not have this shift. To get that long-term gain, we believe we need to start the ball down the path to get that shift. It will take effort, coordination and a lot of cooperation. I really encourage all to be on board.

I just wish to make a couple more comments. The government is putting some not-negotiables on the table. It is not negotiable that children are safe and nurtured. It is not negotiable that there is an opportunity for a quality educational pathway, that there is a pathway to employment and a pathway into the economy. Those pathways and a connection to country and heritage and culture are fundamental to all decisions that are made, and that some certainty is given to people who live in these regions about their future.

I also disagree with the member for Kimberley on her point about resourcing. I think there are more than enough resources in the mix. The issue is that a lot of those resources are ineffective. We acknowledge that. Everyone acknowledges that. We have had some scans done of a couple of communities. The amount of resources and the number of providers is staggering, yet we do not see the shift that we want to see to give a child an opportunity to have a vision for the future and some understanding of how they can pathway into the opportunities that our great state provides. In 2012–13, for example, about \$4.9 billion was allocated directly and indirectly to Aboriginal people in Western Australia. That is about \$53 000 per Indigenous person, compared to about \$20 000 per non-Indigenous person, and that has grown by about 20 per cent since 2008–09. I do not believe that resourcing is the issue, but I do believe how it is directed is the challenge.



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Some of the critical factors are long-term education, jobs, homeownership and pathways into the economy, and particularly strategies for those who live in some of the more isolated start parts of the state. I put on the table some of the challenges. I highlighted the fact that this will take time. The minute a government tries to redirect resources and objectively focus on resources that do stuff, and a government says that it does not think something is working and shuts it down, more often than not the government finishes up in a fight. That is because whoever is involved often does not like the fact that resources are pulled, even when the case is made for resources to be redirected. However, it is critical that the directed resources are assessed and interrogated. We understand that if something is not working, resources need to be shifted and directed to another area, even if the government is pushing itself and putting at risk a new project. It is important to test that because, quite frankly, history has not delivered good outcomes for these people. Support for the redirection of resources is important. It will be publicly challenging, and we acknowledge that. The broad support of ensuring that we can redirect money into areas that make a difference is really important.

This will have some tough parts. Whoever looks at the challenge of improving opportunities for people in these communities will have tough calls to make. The reform unit is getting to the point at which some of these things are starting to emerge. Those positions have not been put publicly yet, but it is important to be true to ourselves about what decisions need to be made at government level to improve outcomes. It is important to invest in success. We have reinvested in failure in many cases. It is important to invest in success. We should support those things that are successful and support investing in pathways so that a child born in a remote community in Western Australia has a pathway into a good education and into the economy and that child does not find themselves at a dead end and in the circumstances that we saw in that tragedy in Looma.

I do not think there is any more important issue in Western Australia than this one and it will take the collective wisdom of all who have taken time to inject views into it. There have been more than enough inquiries. We need to challenge ourselves to do some things differently. It is always difficult to do things differently from what has been done in the past, and there will always be people who do not agree with redirecting resources. This is critical to our future. It is, quite frankly, a pretty big blight on our past. I do not want to spend my time in this place, before whenever I choose to exit Parliament, in my role as a minister not putting my mind to and supporting something that needs to fundamentally change. It will not be good enough to wake up in a decade's time to find that we have not shifted these issues forward.

**MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park)** [5.05 pm]: I want to make a couple of comments about the amendment moved by the member for Eyre. We oppose the amendment. To be frank, this amendment makes me a little cranky. The amendment asks that the Education and Health Standing Committee be given a briefing on a particular program so that it can come back to tell Parliament about it. That is the amendment. I listened intently to the Leader of the National Party. I was generally interested in the first part of his contribution, but the second part was all about what government does. If the member for Eyre was legitimate in moving the amendment, he would have come over here and asked the member for Kimberley about the matter. He would have asked whether the member for Kimberley wanted to be involved or to be co-opted on his committee. He should have told the member for Kimberley that he was going to amend her private member's motion calling for an inquiry into suicides in the Kimberley, but he did not tell her about it until he got to his feet. The Leader of the National Party, who has left the chamber, then talked about bipartisanship in the regional reform unit. Let me remind members how that came about after the Premier said that he wanted to close 150 communities. In the chaos of that declaration—people in government call the opposition, too—there was a nightmare in trying to respond to that as the government clawed its way back from that ridiculous statement.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Noel Pearson didn't think it was ridiculous.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I do not care what Noel Pearson said. I worry about what Western Australians think, and I thought the Premier did, too. When the Premier announced the closure of remote communities, and then walked away from that—as he should have done—the regional reform unit appeared. The regional reform unit was fundamentally tainted by that start. If the Leader of the National Party was legitimate—I sat here for a minute listening to him talking about a bipartisan approach and wanting to be able to bed down these things so that they can survive for years and decades—he could have asked the opposition to sit on that. He could have asked the member for Kimberley whether she would like to be part of this process. He could have asked how the opposition will genuinely embed something in a bipartisan way through the years. That is what I intend to do with our policies, and I will announce them in due course. That is what the government should have done if it were serious. It should not have come in here with its rhetoric that it wants to do this and that in five years' time this will happen and in 10 years' time that will happen. If the government were serious, it would have spoken to the opposition and it would have spoken to the member for Kimberley when seeking to amend her motion. I am not interested in an update from the committee about a particular program. My view is—I have said this in a number of speeches; I think anyone who follows Aboriginal affairs knows this—that the structures are wrong.

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My great regret at a federal level was the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. In retrospect, I think that was a mistake. I agree that it needed to be fundamentally changed and it was co-opted by a terrible leadership. I think those who were around at the time will remember that. Most of you will not, I am sure, but some of us will. A terrible leadership destroyed it, to be frank—and I do not mean the leadership of the regional councils; I mean the leadership that was delivered at the top

**Mr J.M. Francis:** Robert Tickner.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I am not talking about that.

That is what destroyed ATSIC, and in looking back in retrospect through the decade since, I think that we rushed to get rid of the whole thing holus-bolus. As I note the fly in, fly out response from Scullion about those suicides, we will still deliver in the same structures. The member for Eyre was right in that we have had lots of inquiries and they all say pretty much the same thing—that is, local solutions for local problems. If I could summarise it, that would be it. We still do not do it. In our structure with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs et cetera, we cannot do it. I thought royalties for regions was the opportunity to do it. I said as much at the time, and I wrote that for the University of Western Australia at the time that there was an opportunity to do that—but royalties for regions did not change anything at all. It was just a different mechanism to give money from Perth; that is all it did, and not very efficiently in many cases. Maybe I will get the chance to say all that when we get to the substantive debate after the amendment, but I oppose the amendment. I do not believe it has been moved in good faith. If it had been, the member for Kimberley would have been consulted.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** She was.

**Mr M. McGowan:** Ten minutes beforehand.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** Yes. That is not consultation. The member for Eyre knew he was doing this. Apparently this morning he got up in the committee and had this conversation and got approval to come in here this afternoon with this amendment. I do not hear any invitation for the member for Kimberley to be co-opted onto that committee and to be a part of that process. The committee can do that.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs** interjected.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I am not interested, member for Eyre. You did not speak to me and I did not interject on you.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** Were you here when I spoke?

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza):** Member for Eyre, the member for Victoria Park is not taking interjections.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** Since 4.00 pm I have been in this place the whole time. I have listened to the member for Eyre and I do not agree with him. I am cranky that we have gone down this path; I am particularly annoyed that the Leader of the National Party gave a speech and left because I wanted to respond to him and I wanted him to hear that response. Is the government serious about this regional reform unit, which is handicapped by the way it started? Anyone involved in regional Western Australia who speaks to Aboriginal people will know that everything is in the context of which community is being closed. People cannot move and cannot unshackle themselves from that. I know that and I know some colleagues in this place probably know that. If someone wanted to unshackle themselves from that—if they were genuinely interested—they would have said, “We need to get a proper plan, and let’s speak to the opposition.” It may not have been me; probably the member for Kimberley would have been the better person. They would have spoken to the opposition. I do not think that was sincere. I think the Leader of the National Party is a person of good faith who legitimately wants to rescue something out of this, but the birth of the regional reform unit will handicap it. That is the reality of it. If the government wanted to rescue it, it would have spoken to the opposition. We will be opposing this amendment.

**MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.12 pm]: I am pleased to support the amendment to the original motion. It is my understanding that the member for Eyre spoke with the member for Kimberley because the member for Eyre came to speak to me prior to —

**Mr P.B. Watson:** That’s not consultation.

**Ms A.R. MITCHELL:** And it was agreed.

**Mr M. McGowan:** She’s not happy.

**Ms A.R. MITCHELL:** Thank you. That is fine. It was agreed earlier on, so I am not sure what happened after that.

I am very pleased to speak on the amendment because I think it is important to have this discussion, but it is also important that we make progress and do not do the same thing that has always been done. I also acknowledge the

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tragic events that have occurred in the Kimberley in the past three months, particularly the most recent that involved a 10-year-old girl. I pay my respects to the families affected by the suicide of the 10-year-old girl, and those affected by the suicides that have occurred in the past three months. For most this is beyond understanding and comprehension. We cannot comprehend or understand, and are at a loss to know how this could possibly have occurred. But I know that all in this chamber will never accept this as an acceptable situation, and it is from there that I believe we need to move forward and make sure things happen.

The Kimberley is a unique and beautiful part of Western Australia. It has its own issues that need to be dealt with. I need to clarify that Looma is a very, very good community, although some people may think that it is not such because of the situation that recently occurred there. Kimberley communities are very, very proactive in addressing areas of concern around suicide. I probably cannot say that about other communities in Western Australia, but in the Kimberley they are very cognisant of and very keen to address it. We do not have all the answers yet, member for Kimberley, and we have not solved all the problems, but the Kimberley communities are very keen and wish very much to be involved. That huge step forward will make quite a difference.

Once upon a time we did not talk about suicide. Firstly, let us put some general facts on the table rather than concentrating on youth suicide in the Kimberley. In Australia in 2014 suicide was ranked as the thirteenth highest leading cause of death, and it was the leading cause of death for people aged between 15 and 44. In Western Australia suicide is the leading cause of death for 15 to 44-year-olds. It is second highest leading cause of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Western Australia. I am quoting confirmed figures, not reported or alleged figures because I must use confirmed figures. In 2014 there were 374 suicides—almost double the number of road fatalities that occurred on Western Australian roads. Yesterday there was massive uproar about road deaths from the other side. Member for Kimberley, I am pleased we are having this conversation because the suicide rate is higher—nearly double—than road fatalities, and yet that gets much more attention.

Breast cancer is a sensitive subject and I should not be comparing them, but in Western Australia about 230 women and men may have died from breast cancer; once again, that is well below the figure for suicide. This is a major issue in our state and in regional areas, and it is time to speak about it. We used to not talk about it and it was swept under the carpet: we must stop sweeping it under the carpet. We must deal with it and recognise the seriousness of the issue.

I will talk about Looma for a minute because I think it is important to clarify a couple of matters that may have been misreported. The young girl was not in the care of the chief executive officer of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support at the time. The child was living in a family arranged placement. It is understood that, most unfortunately, the young girl had had a very, very tragic life. That is no reflection on Looma community. I think it is very important that we recognise that Looma community is one of our very good communities and is very supportive. I will also give a little information about what is available to the Looma community after this recent situation. Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service and the Department of Education's school psychology services are responding to the community, along with support services from the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, and community adult mental health and child and adolescent mental health service personnel are all available to the community. Intensive in-reach and postvention services are available and will be taken up by the community when it is ready.

I move to the broader issue of suicide to talk about all the things being done, as raised by the member for Eyre. The member for Eyre will clarify those things through some of the additional hearings the Education and Health Standing Committee will hold. I commend that, and appreciate that a discussion had started prior to this motion being moved. Unfortunately, as the Leader of the National Party said, some of these things take a little while. A lot of money could be thrown at something, but it may be very shallow, fall away and be unsuccessful. We have all—the member for Kimberley knows this—seen money thrown at something without a solid foundation that does not build capacity.

“Suicide Prevention 2020: Together We Can Save Lives”—the second suicide prevention strategy—was launched in May 2015. Its focus is on strengthening families and early intervention, with priority groups encompassing people experiencing mental illness and alcohol and other drug problems; Aboriginal people and young people in remote communities are also a major focus. In fact, a dedicated Aboriginal implementation plan is part of the suicide prevention 2020 strategy. The Mental Health Commission has appointed Aboriginal consultants Mr Darryl Kickett and Ms Adele Cox who will co-facilitate regional forums. They have extensive experience in this field; they are on board and that process is underway.

I will mention a couple of the action plans that are part of the suicide prevention strategy. There will be long-term support for children bereaved by suicide, the placement of suicide prevention coordinators, follow-up care for people who have attempted suicide and the launch of a small grants program to support local prevention

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initiatives. I think the member for Kimberley may have been referring to that when she said some money was taken away; it was a grants program that ended, but there is always more going through and there will be other opportunities. Also, there will be the delivery of targeted culturally and linguistically diverse suicide prevention training programs that must be unique to the particular region; this is not a one-size-fits-all program. The programs that are part of this plan will commence in the first half of 2016, so many are ready to go and underway. I say again that young people are a priority group in the suicide prevention strategy 2020. A dedicated youth engagement strategy was endorsed by the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention in October 2015. Alongside that, although not part of the suicide prevention strategy, a statewide specialist Aboriginal mental health service that is out on the ground has also been established.

To return to the Mental Health Act 2014, I want to bring up a couple of significant points that will become more and more important. We have to make sure that Aboriginal people understand it. Traditional medicines and therapies are acceptable as a treatment for mental health for Aboriginal people—it does not have to be Western medicine—and they can have their cultural people with them to make sure that all work that is done with an Aboriginal person is well understood and agreed upon by the Aboriginal person.

The Leader of the National Party talked about the regional services reform program. It is unfortunate that the member for Victoria Park feels that it will not go anywhere. I have to say—I have been one of those people at times—that there has been a lack of coordination. We all know it has happened, and we have to stop it happening. I might go into a community one day and find out that, for example, my department, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, was in there the day before, and someone says, “Oh, by the way, the Department of Housing’s coming in on Friday”, and guess what? We are all dealing with the same things. It has been most ineffectual. It certainly has not worked.

Therefore, I think that the concept of a reform strategy that has key agencies working together is an absolutely fantastic situation. We are not there yet—it is not perfect—but when we can have people from the police, Education, Health, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, mental health and all the others at least saying, “Well, what are you doing? Let’s do this; let’s go together rather than three of us going in on three different days”, it will make a huge difference. Those things cannot be verified just yet. We cannot do it quickly; otherwise, as the Leader of the National Party said, we will be throwing in a whole lot of money and then running away. No, this is about developing people, training local people and listening to Aboriginal people. I will admit that often that has not been done; often that did not happen.

**Mr P.B. Watson:** Did you listen to the member when she spoke? She’s a local person.

**Ms A.R. MITCHELL:** I certainly did, member for Albany. I always listen to the member for Kimberley when she speaks, because she speaks from the heart.

I want to give just a couple of examples in which a couple of agencies have been working together, because it is important that that occurs. I am going to give a couple of examples from Education. We all understand how difficult it must be for the Department of Education to have a different program or form for education around the state. It has made changes so that Aboriginal education, particularly in remote communities, will suit that community and they will weave around it. With things such as the Aboriginal cultural standards framework, the child and parent centres and KindiLink, the idea is to improve educational opportunities for Aboriginal students, and we all understand how important that is for their purpose in life and for their ability to feel that they have a role to play within their community, within their families and within the state.

The department has also developed more localised engagement centres so that some students who have difficulty engaging in education straightaway can go through a separate avenue to come back into the main pathway. I am particularly pleased that the Department for Child Protection and Family Support operates with the police in having six fully operational, multifunctional police facilities in the Kimberley, and they are co-located with officers. These are at Kalumburu, Balgo, Bidadanga, the Dampier peninsula, Warmun and Looma. The Looma one opened in December 2011, and all these multipurpose facilities are staffed at all times. These are ways of working together, and we are doing it in other areas with mental health, police and whatever else within the city. They are important and they are working together. It is not a case of talking to one and then going to speak to someone else and that sort of thing. It is important that we listen and that we work together. It is important that we recognise that there are key issues in the Kimberley because of the distances, the climate and getting around. It is not easy, and we do understand that.

I want to talk about what we need going forward, and I have probably already touched on a couple of things. We have not got there yet—no-one is saying we have—but it is important that we evaluate, assess and keep moving forward. That is one of the reasons why I am a little hesitant, I guess, about having another inquiry, because things get put on hold and therefore we slow down the momentum that is really starting to pick up. I have said it once and I will say it again: money does not solve this. Money assists, but it does not solve it. I say that we need

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quality services and support, but for me the most important thing is developing people, and those services and support will assist that. As the member for Kimberley has told me, we need people on the ground there, preferably local people. Unfortunately, we cannot train someone overnight. Unfortunately, people move on. They say, “Yes, we’re going to do it”, and then they move on, but that does not stop us. For me, the most important thing is developing people, and we will do that through the supports and services. That is our intent and our aim.

I have also said that we need to listen to our Aboriginal people more, take on board what they are telling us and work out how to make that work effectively for them. We need to make sure that the connections are happening, particularly in government, to get those better outcomes. We will continue to do that. We will make sure that we can provide a better service, and we certainly need to have more people on the ground who are trained in the areas of suicide prevention and counselling.

As I said, I respect the member for Kimberley’s call for a parliamentary inquiry and I respect the member for Eyre speaking about how we may look at that in a different way, but I can assure the member that this Liberal–National government will continue to work with Aboriginal people to make a difference and to assist her people not to have to deal with these suicide rates or to continually go through what they are going through.

**MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition)** [5.29 pm]: I do not support the amendment to this motion, and I will tell members why. I do support the motion moved by the member for Kimberley. Last week when the information came forward that a little girl had taken her own life in the remote community of Looma, it was shocking. Personally, I struggled for a response. How do you respond to that? What can you say? What can be done? I talked to a few people, but it is difficult to know what to do. This followed on from a young child, an 11-year-old boy, taking his own life last year or the year before in a remote community. It then emerged that, over the course of the last few months, 17 to 19 Aboriginal people had taken their own lives, predominantly in the Kimberley, but throughout the goldfields as well. That is a crisis. I may have used some slightly inappropriate language at a press conference, when I said that if that had happened in the western suburbs of Perth, there would be a royal commission. I thought at the time when I said that that maybe it was not appropriate, but I note that *The West Australian* has picked up on it and said that it is appropriate. I think we all struggle with how to try to improve this situation. We all know that there are long-standing issues in this state that go back 180 years or so. Many of the causes of what has occurred recently go back that far. I communicated with the member for Kimberley about what we could do about this situation and the member for Kimberley’s motion was an idea that came forward. Some of my colleagues wanted a royal commission into this issue because it is an extreme situation when by all accounts a beautiful young child takes her own life. I knew that the government would not come at a royal commission. But we thought a parliamentary committee to undertake what I would term a short, sharp inquiry into the specific issue of Indigenous people taking their own lives in large numbers in recent months might be something we could do.

The idea for a committee was put forward in good faith. It was not like we tried to politicise the issue at all. I hate hearing that the Liberal–National government has done this or our side of the house has done that in these debates. I hate it. It is absolutely ridiculous to say, “Look at all the programs and things we have put in place.” Honestly, who cares? That is a silly politicised response to the issue. The most fundamentally decent person I have ever met in this place is the member for Kimberley. She has no politics in her at all. This fundamentally decent person who knows the people involved and the family of the small child who took her life comes into this chamber to move a motion and talk about the issues around Indigenous communities, particularly, resourcing, which is always an issue, and instead of members treating her motion with the respect that it deserves, we once again saw an amendment put forward to what I think is a good motion. The government wants to amend the motion; it heard the member for Kimberley stand in this place yesterday and give notice of this motion. Government members knew this motion was coming on today and they could have come and spoken to the member for Kimberley, me or the shadow Minister for Health, and we could have worked out an approach that everyone agreed with yesterday or last night. Instead, 15, 20 or 30 minutes into this debate, I get a call down the corridor that the government has moved an amendment. I think it would be fair to say that the member for Kimberley is a bit unhappy about that. Why would the government treat her that way?

I do not agree with what the government is doing and we do not support this amendment. The member for Kimberley has come up with a motion that outlines a specific approach that perhaps she, the member for Victoria Park and the member for Murray–Wellington, who has an interest in this issue, could be involved in to try to come up with something that is short, sharp and immediate to deal with this issue. I think that is fair enough.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** Yes, I think I did that.

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**Mr M. McGOWAN:** She advised me that the member discussed the amendment with her between question time and the time she moved the motion, and that she did not agree with the amendment. The government has had 26 hours. The member for Eyre is an honourable man and I do not know whether it is his amendment or the government's amendment. It annoys the hell out of me that the member for Kimberley, for example, comes up with these ideas and government tries to take them away from her.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** No.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Let me give members one example when she gave in—it is the only time I have seen her do that. The member for Kimberley came up with the idea of Indigenous recognition in the Constitution, but there were all sorts of efforts to pull that away from her.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza):** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Yes there was. I could go over *Hansard* for members if they want me to. They know that is true. I find it offensive that the member for Kimberley was treated that way. I say to members opposite that the member for Kimberley has come up with something with this motion and they have once again tried to amend it. No members communicated with me and the member for Kimberley was communicated with just before the motion came on for debate. There was no opportunity for us to discuss these matters. I have now found out that the member for Kimberley did not agree with the amendment and she is upset by it.

Having said all that, we will not support the amendment. If the motion is amended, we will not vote against the amended motion, because something is better than nothing, but we think that we need a specific short, sharp inquiry into this issue. I think we all agree that there appears to be a crisis in these communities. We all know that these communities often live in a lot of sorrow. I just cannot believe the extent of the number of deaths and the ages of the people involved. We need to do something specifically related to this issue. I have explained the opposition's point of view; no doubt, government members will respond to our point of view.

**MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [5.38 pm]:** I rise to address the amendment to this motion. I am sure that we all agree that the words "10-year-old" and "suicide" should never be in the same sentence. When they are in the same sentence, it is a real tragedy. I appreciate the member for Kimberley's desire to have Parliament in some way address this ongoing tragedy taking place in Aboriginal communities. I understand that something like 95 per cent of all Aboriginal people know someone directly in their family who has committed suicide. I am thankful to God that I do not know anyone directly who has committed suicide. I can only try to imagine what it would feel like for those families. In this case, a 10-year-old girl from Kalumburu had been taken into care to be in a safer environment in the very functional community of Looma. Apparently, the girl's older sister committed suicide two years ago. The girl was to be in appropriate care in a family in Looma yet, we are told, she ended up committing suicide. I have no reason to doubt that.

What is happening in our communities? I support the amendment because we are all well aware of the seriousness and extent of the problem. The Leader of the National Party said in his speech that something like 40 different inquiries have been held into this issue. I appreciate that the amendment is not trying to determine the resources that have been set aside to tackle this crucial issue. We know that massive resources have been set aside, but they have not been particularly effective. Some things the government has put in place in the last few years have only just begun to take effect. When a child commits suicide, it is not something that the child just happened to think of on the spur of the moment; it is the result of trauma, brokenness and abuse. Some members may know that prior to entering Parliament, I was involved in counselling adults who had been sexually abused in childhood, and from my counselling training and experience, I know that some of the victims of childhood sexual abuse say that they wish they had been murdered rather than sexually abused. They say that it destroys their soul—their very sense of who they are. The sad thing is that when a child ends up in care, as this young girl did, after coming from the community where I understand sexual abuse was rife, that child has been damaged. She was so wounded that no matter what support services were put in place, that child, growing into adulthood, would continue to limp through life. That is the nature of sexual abuse. We know from the evidence given by many people to the federal sexual abuse inquiry just how they have limped through life. Many others who were abused committed suicide; they just could not face the future. It became all too difficult.

I am supporting the amendment because we know what the problems are in our communities. After visiting remote Aboriginal communities over the last 15 years—some members may know I am involved in taking teams out to remote Aboriginal communities to run holiday programs for the children there—I know that the tragedy is that many of the kids experience sexual abuse. My guess—I cannot prove it; it is only my guess—is that if we could eliminate sexual abuse in our remote Aboriginal communities, the suicide rate amongst young Aboriginal people would be less than the rate amongst the white population. I am told by Aboriginal people that, prior to white man coming to this country, suicide was totally unknown in Aboriginal communities. I do not know

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whether that is true, but that is what I have been told by people in Warburton. It was a totally foreign concept in Aboriginal culture. We now have a situation in which Aboriginal people have six times the suicide rate of white people in this country. There is obviously something happening here. We know a lot of the contributing factors, so the question we need to address is: what can we do better to prevent those tragic situations from occurring that lead to a child, young person or young adult committing suicide?

Many children who go into care have been either abused or neglected. That is usually the reason they are taken into care or taken into care by an extended family, as was this particular girl, coming from Kalumburu to Looma. Looma is a very functional community, as the member for Kingsley said. I visited that community at one stage. When I went to that community and compared it with some of the others around there, I thought, “Wow, this is great! There should be more communities like this.” Despite being in that functional community, that little girl saw no way forward and ended up taking her own life. I believe we need to ask ourselves how we can best allocate the resources that we have. I think the Leader of the National Party said that we spend \$53 000 per Aboriginal man, woman and child on providing services to Aboriginal people compared with about \$20 000 for the white community. It is not that governments are being stingy and pulling back funding. That is not the issue. The issue is how we can target what we are doing so that families can function well. I would put it to members that the very idea of suicide just would not occur to a child growing up with their mum and dad in a functional home, where they get reasonable food and are loved and cared for, unless they were exposed to sexual abuse or some other horrific trauma. That is the reality.

Some members have asked the questions: What can we do better? Which programs are working most effectively? I suggest that one of the areas that we need to work hard at is helping Aboriginal mums and dads to be great parents. I see it when I am in the Aboriginal communities. There is no question that they love their kids; that is not the problem. The difficulty is how to be an effective parent and how to transition from a very different culture to a western culture. Families often struggle with having one foot in Aboriginal culture and the other foot in western culture, and the difficulty of trying to pull that across. Let me just explain an example to members. I was told in Warburton that amongst the Ngaanyatjarra people, parents do not discipline their children. That is not the role of parents. It is the job of the uncles and aunts to do that. That worked great when everybody was nomadic and they sat around the campfire at night. If a little boy misbehaved, uncle or aunty was there and they would discipline them, and that worked fine. But when mum and dad live in a house with their children, and uncle and aunty live six doors down or perhaps in another community, there is no-one to discipline the children. These are some of the issues that those communities face. People might say that they just have to learn to discipline their kids, but those things need to be taught. They need people who can come alongside them to help them through that. Some really good work is done in the Kimberley by Bill and Joan Grosser, who ran parenting programs in Perth. Since they have retired, they have gone into the Kimberley at their own expense and are training Aboriginal people in some of those skills and are coaching the Aboriginal people they have trained to teach other Aboriginal parents, so that it is Aboriginal people teaching Aboriginal people. It is that kind of thing that we need to do. Interestingly enough, I made lots of inquiries for them, because they wanted to put that on a DVD so that people could watch it on their television and it could be used in communities. I could not get any funding. They did not want much—I think it was about \$10 000 for audio equipment to do that work—but no funding was available for that. That is the sort of petty cash that could make so much difference to the wellbeing of Aboriginal families.

I do not believe that the suicide rate will change very drastically over the next three, four or five years no matter how much money we throw at this problem today, because it is the damage that is done today and that has been done in the past that sets people up for that sense of hopelessness and despair. We need to work at preventing young people and children from being exposed to things that end up leading them to have that sense of hopelessness. We need to ensure that kids are not exposed to pornography. We need to ensure that kids are not sexually abused. We need to ensure that kids get a reasonable diet and enough sleep.

I had the opportunity to visit Woolanin Homeland Christian College in the Northern Territory some years ago. I was intrigued by what I had read about it, so when I was in the Northern Territory I took the opportunity to drive there, just a couple of hours outside Darwin, because I wanted to see how it functioned. It is a community college that the Aboriginal people in that area wanted set up. They set up this school as a boarding school away from their own communities. The Aboriginal elders said that their communities were so dysfunctional that they knew their kids could not learn in them; they needed to be away from the communities to be able to learn. They operate on the basis of a six-week term. They go there for six weeks, then they have two weeks off, and over the three months of the wet season they do not go to school at all. They take kids at the high school level only because it is too difficult for younger children to be away from home. When they begin school, 85 per cent of the kids are functionally illiterate, but within three years in that setting, the bulk of those kids reach the average standard of literacy for their age. That indicates to me that, given the right environment, we can do great things with Aboriginal people. They are intelligent. They are just as intelligent as anybody else.

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**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza):** Member for Albany, we knew what he was saying.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Aboriginal people have demonstrated that they are capable of achieving just as much as white people are able to achieve in studying and all that kind of thing. The sad thing that I was made aware of there is that when it comes to the end of the six weeks and the children have to go back home, some of them deliberately self-harm because they are so afraid to go back to their dysfunctional family because they know that they will be abused. That is part of the reality of what is happening in communities. If we want to avoid Aboriginal suicides, we need to address those very difficult questions. I do not claim to have the answer for fixing those issues. To do so, we need to involve the community; it cannot be imposed from outside. There is great opportunity to improve what is happening in our remote Aboriginal communities. I believe that the amendment moved by the member for Eyre is simply sharpening the focus of the member for Kimberley's motion. The member for Kimberley asked for an inquiry. The amendment does not take away the inquiry; it says that something is happening in the Education and Health Standing Committee, which is doing a mini-inquiry already, and we should support that and see what is happening on the ground and how it can be more effective. I warmly support the intent of the motion moved by the member for Kimberley, but I believe that the member for Eyre's amendment helps to sharpen the motion. Rather than creating another inquiry to add to the 40 or 50 inquiries that have already been held, let us look at what is actually happening and what we are doing to address the problems and what we could do better. They are the things that I believe we really need to address. I will conclude my remarks in speaking to this amendment. I speak in support of the amendment.

**MR M.J. COWPER (Murray–Wellington)** [5.53 pm]: I wish to speak to the amendment. I understand the comments made by the member for Victoria Park, who is somewhat indignant about the reasons that the member for Eyre moved the amendment. I will see if I can shed some light on it for the house.

I believe that there is probably no more important issue that this place needs to contend with than the way in which we treat certain Western Australians. As we know, that has manifested recently, and tragically, with the loss of many lives. I believe there have been 19 Aboriginal suicides so far this year, which is what the newspapers are quoting.

I had an opportunity to join the Education and Health Standing Committee about 12 months ago, and it has conducted a number of different inquiries in that time. Also during that time I have been privileged to be a member of a select committee, involving the member for Victoria Park and others. That was a committee that exhibited significant cooperation—the sort of cooperation that sets the benchmark for how this Parliament should operate. One of the reasons I joined the Education and Health Standing Committee was so that eventually I could get my colleagues on that committee to draw attention to the very serious issue that the member for Kimberley has bravely brought to this place. Members may recall the debate we had about the recognition of Aboriginal people in our Constitution and the comment I made that although that was a significant watershed for the people of Western Australia, the real issues were not being dealt with—that is, the health, education, wellbeing and hopes of Western Australians in remote areas. These issues are not being dealt with notwithstanding the fact that we have numerous government departments investing a whole lot of taxpayers' money—all well intended. The reason that I joined the select committee was so that we could examine why we have all these various programs, functions and reports but are not getting as much traction as we would like. We are getting successes in certain areas and in other areas we are less than successful.

When I woke the other day and read *The Australian* newspaper report, I immediately became very sad about what had happened at Looma community. For those who have never been to Looma, it is a community about an hour and a half south east of Derby on the Fitzroy River, near Camballin station, now Mt Anderson station. It is a beautiful part of the world—lovely country. At one time there was a proposal to build a massive farm there; in fact, one of the biggest feedlots in the southern hemisphere was constructed there, but it never turned a wheel. That had the potential to create a large amount of employment for people right across the district. A town was built at Camballin, which included a primary school, but unfortunately it failed commercially. There were a number of attempts to try to resurrect it, but it continued to fail. When I read further through the article in the paper, I noticed the resident police sergeant was Neville Ripp, whom I have known for 40 years or thereabouts. I felt that I needed to speak to him to find out what was going on on the ground. Without going into the details of that private conversation, I can tell members that he is a man who has been stationed at various places throughout the Kimberley, including the Dampier Peninsula and Oombulgurri, and I think he has been to Kalumburu. I know he has been at Fitzroy Crossing for the last three years, and a week and a half ago he was at Looma. His affinity with the local Aboriginal people is renowned, so I value his judgment and assessment of what is happening on the ground. He expressed to me that he is somewhat dumbfounded as to how to proceed. He said there have been many attempts to try to deal with the issues, but, unfortunately, the traction is not there. I am not sure whether he is in a state of shock at the moment over what has occurred, but certainly he is very



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keen to keep communications open because he, like many other people in not only the Kimberley, but also right across Western Australia and Australia, wants to deal with these issues. I do not believe that we can apply a panacea to resolve the issues that have presented in recent times.

I recall as a young police officer going to the Kimberley back in 1981, when the notion of suicide was quite rare. There was a manifestation of deaths in custody that resulted in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which became quite an issue for the state, but it appears that we have a growing culture of self-harm.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm*

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** Prior to the dinner break I was discussing the phenomenon of self-harm in the Kimberley. When I arrived in the Kimberley in the early 1980s, self-harm was not a common practice. However, over time it has become an increasing phenomenon that is of great concern to all Western Australians. I understand that it manifests itself in different ways in different locations. From some preliminary examinations that I have conducted, Fitzroy Crossing seems to have a high incidence of self-harm, predominantly revolving around the slashing of one's arms. I know that police in the Kimberley have been very conscious of the way it has been manifesting right across the north. A former local superintendent, who recently left the north to take up a position in Bunbury, took it upon himself to examine the issue. I am very keen to catch up with him in the not-too-distant future to tease out some of the information that he has gleaned. When police officers have attended an incident involving persons with either a mental health issue or a domestic violence issue, he examined whether the circumstances could be interpreted as self-harm. It may simply be the use of words, it may be an injury to oneself, or it could ultimately be as serious as an attempt to do away with one's life. It is a great initiative by the police inasmuch as whenever there is a critical incident in Western Australian society, inevitably the first respondents are the police. Although they are given a certain amount of training to deal with it, and they gain a lot of experience through the course of their duties, police are relied upon to make assessments. I am very pleased that the superintendent had the foresight to instruct his officers in charge to look at these matters and also to formulate localised plans to try to deal with it. He may be touching upon an issue that the Education and Health Standing Committee would be most interested in; not only the committee but also on a broader scale. Really, it is probably the first attempt, albeit not a terribly accurate one or one that can be relied upon 100 per cent. In the context of what has happened in the past, we have a lot of well-intentioned government departments that perhaps have not been as interactive or in concert with each other as they might have been, and that in essence is the challenge that presents itself to the state. Part of the reason I am still speaking to the question that the amendment be agreed to is that although I would not want to limit the potential for this house to conduct a more serious inquiry, I think the amendment put forward by the member for Eyre is an attempt to move forward. I can understand why the member for Victoria Park might be upset, but I think we should set aside our differences on this matter because it is such an important issue. I believe it is one of the single most important issues that this place could deal with, certainly in the 10 years I have been here. I believe we should work together in a bipartisan fashion and deal with this issue if it means that the Education and Health Standing Committee can look at certain aspects of it. Again, I know that that committee is very conscious of not hoeing the same paddock and going over the same ground. I think it has been mentioned by a number of members in this place that there is a library full of reports on the issues but not necessarily a great number of programs that have been successful on the ground, albeit that they were well intentioned.

I support the member for Eyre's amendment, but I say that on the proviso that it should not impede the will of the Parliament to, if it sees fit, make an inquiry, whether it be a parliamentary inquiry or even a royal commission. I think it is of such a serious nature that it is incumbent upon all Western Australians to do something about it because the single most shameful thing that is occurring in our society today is the manner in which certain Western Australians are living in a state of hopelessness. I do not say that specifically about Aboriginal people in remote areas; I am talking about the whole scope of Western Australian society. This is an area that we, collectively as a Parliament, need to address. I also believe that there is no single panacea for the ailments that we are presented with, but I do believe the police have perhaps touched upon a potential way of at least trying to understand the issues and how we are going to deliver certain services. The inclusion of information like that, which is being compiled by the Kimberley police, is commendable. I understand that one of the issues with that, though, is that once we have a whole lot of information, we need an analyst to be able to decipher what it means, and that may be of great significance to a number of organisations, including the committee from the University of Western Australia mentioned by the member for Eyre that will present to the Education and Health Standing Committee shortly—it has an acronym that I do not remember, but it is a fairly long one—and other government departments such as the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, the Mental Health Commission, the Department of Health and so on.

On that note, I support the member for Eyre's amendment, notwithstanding the fact that I do not want to detract from, restrict or impede the capacity of this place to look at this issue as a most serious ailment that will afflict

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the people of Western Australia into the future. I understand that there is anecdotal information that in certain circumstances it is a combination of a number of issues, such as domestic violence, alcohol and ganja—or drugs. I understand that the Kimberley is not immune to the ice epidemic and that it is quite prevalent in the bigger towns of Derby, Broome and Kununurra, but not so prevalent in the smaller communities out from there—the satellite communities. Certainly marijuana, or ganja as they call it locally, is a major issue. I notice from the preliminary information that I have received that about 45 per cent of the causal factors of self-harm are still unknown. Those unknown factors take up a big chunk of the reasons why people are causing harm to themselves.

There is one thing that I might ask the member for Kimberley to address. Former State Coroner Alistair Hope will be inquiring into nine of the more recent deaths. I hope that number will be expanded to include the recent death involving the 10-year-old girl. I hope that will be the case. I put that on the record in the hope that someone in some government department will hear that and initiate to have that death included, because I believe that would help significantly in addressing these issues.

I will now sit down and allow other members to speak in the time that is left for this debate, and hopefully we will be able to progress this matter. This is one of the single most important issues that we can present to the house. Thank you.

**MS J. FARRER (Kimberley)** [7.11 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the speech that I made. A lot of things have been said today. This is the message that comes from the Kimberley, and this is what they want. For too long, we have had a lot of our young people take their own lives. I do not know how many of you people have experienced a loss in the family through suicide. I lost my grandson to suicide. He was only 15 years old. I have spoken about that from the day I came into Parliament. I have heard all you people make accusations about why some of these kids take their own lives. My grandson was never sexually abused. He did not come from a broken home. That is what I taught him. But there are issues that our young people face every day. I do not think that we all sit down and think of these things. It is not just about all the things that people have talked about. Some of it may be true, but not every suicide that happens or has happened has been for those reasons. I think that came out of some of the things you people have said here. I want you to know that the message that I have brought down here comes from a lot of these families in the Kimberley. They have asked me to make sure that we push this. What I said in my speech is what these people would like. I am just the messenger. I am the member for Kimberley. The people of the Kimberley want a parliamentary inquiry to be held into this matter.

I have heard members talk about how money has been spent here and money has been spent there. Last year, I talked about Balgo. The funding for the person who was placed at Balgo as a mental health professional to work with the people in Balgo has been cut. I do not know whether members remember, and they can go back to *Hansard*, but I put in a request directly from this person who worked out of Balgo. He came to see me at my office in Halls Creek and told me what had happened and that his funding had been cut, and he asked whether I would request that some funding be made available for the work that he was doing in that community. He was doing tremendous work with the young people at Balgo. Our fellow member of Parliament over there, Mr Cowper, knows what Balgo is like. He knows the situation that a lot of these young people are in and the displacement of everyone in the community. This has not happened just recently. This has happened over time. This fellow who was working out of Balgo came and asked whether I would read this; I brought it to Parliament last year. I do not know whether funding had been reinstated to make sure that he was re-employed, but I can tell members that that fellow has worked with a lot our young Aboriginal people from the desert and he has had a tremendous effect on changing some of the ways that they live and their attitudes. Last year, through the work that he has done with the young men out of Balgo, he has helped them overcome a lot of issues with alcohol, domestic violence, and issues with any other drugs that people may say are out there. He contributed a lot of his time. He even spent time with the Wirrimanu Tigers, which is the football team for Balgo that is made up of the three communities out there. He nurtured these people and he even went out of the area he worked in so that he was part of the community. He went out camping with them and learned about the environment and the culture, which made a tremendous change and had a tremendous effect on those people. I think it is really bad that people such as him who worked out there are having the funding for their positions cut for no reason whatsoever.

We have seen some of the young kids and since then some of those younger ones now want to go back to sniffing petrol again. How do we get somebody to go back out there to continue the work that he has done without that financial support? We do not talk about money; we talk about support. Sure, to do some of those things and those programs we need money, but I noticed the way that someone said here today—I listened to the speech—that we have thrown this much money there, we have thrown that much money. I would like to see how much money has been spent on some of these programs for the Kimberley. From what I know, the

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Kimberley has received only \$3 million. That is distributed right across the Kimberley—that is, east and west. But people have had enough of suicide: the young people, the ones whom they have lost and the most recent occasion with the young girl. We have to look at ways to stop this thing from going on. That girl should not have been in Looma; that is not her country. So there are a lot of psychological issues that I think sometimes we do not take into consideration.

This is why I brought down this message from the people of the Kimberley. It is because everyone is at their wit's end. They do not know what to do. How can we as a Parliament change that? That is why I brought it to the Parliament. I have said yes, we would seek a parliamentary inquiry into suicide. We are in the Kimberley. You people are here in the cities. I am sure that these things happen in your cities—the drugs, the alcohol, and the sex abusers and that—but we never hear about them. But we are an open book in those Aboriginal communities; anybody can tell our life story about what is happening out there. All I am asking for is the request of these people from the Kimberley to be considered; it should not be ignored. I stand here and I say that I do not accept this motion because I believe in what I believe in. That is all I am going to say. Thank you.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

*Division*

Amendment (deletion of words) put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr P. Abetz) casting his vote with the ayes, with the following result —

Ayes (31)

Mr P. Abetz	Mr J.H.D. Day	Dr G.G. Jacobs	Mr N.W. Morton
Mr F.A. Alban	Mr J.M. Francis	Mr R.F. Johnson	Dr M.D. Nahan
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mrs G.J. Godfrey	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr I.M. Britza	Mr B.J. Grylls	Mr R.S. Love	Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr G.M. Castrilli	Dr K.D. Hames	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr M.H. Taylor
Mr V.A. Catania	Mrs L.M. Harvey	Ms L. Mettam	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr M.J. Cowper	Mr C.D. Hatton	Mr P.T. Miles	Mr A. Krsticevic ( <i>Teller</i> )
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr A.P. Jacob	Ms A.R. Mitchell	

Noes (16)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr M.P. Murray	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr P. Papalia	Mr P.B. Watson
Ms J. Farrer	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr S.F. McGurk	Mr C.J. Tallentire	Mr D.A. Templeman ( <i>Teller</i> )

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Pairs

Ms W.M. Duncan	Dr A.D. Buti
Mr W.R. Marmion	Mrs M.H. Roberts
Mr J. Norberger	Ms M.M. Quirk

Amendment thus passed.

Amendment (insertion of words) put and passed.

*Motion, as Amended*

Question put and passed.