

Dr Mike Nahan; Speaker; Ms Josie Farrer; Ms Simone McGurk; Mr Paul Miles; Acting Speaker; Mr Dave Kelly; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr David Templeman; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr J. Norberger

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Amendment to Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Minister for Energy) [2.47 pm]: To backtrack quickly, the disaggregation that the former Labor government put in place and came into effect in 2006 was fundamentally flawed. During the last term of government we addressed some of those issues including rescuing Verve from bankruptcy and undertaking the hard political yards to increase the price to the retail market. It still has a number of fundamental flaws, one of which is that it has exposed taxpayers to a great deal of market risk by putting most of the market risk in Synergy. I would like to emphasise that yes, there has been a large number of private investments in this market over the past six years—\$3 billion—but the truth is most of that investment relies on underwriting by the state. Very little of that investment involves the private sector taking market risk. The former Labor government put in a flawed system. The Labor Party might not want to recognise it, but that is the truth. We have made an announcement to combine Synergy and Verve; as the Premier said, one broad ring fence. That provides a balance sheet to protect taxpayers from the risk in the market. It also allows them to borrow and provides a mandate to go out and negotiate fewer contracts. It also allows us to make sure we have better control over the expenditure patterns of both agencies.

I might add that this is not the beginning or the end of this reform. We started it last term. We announced this term that we will look at a major overhaul of the energy market because the thing put in place by the former Labor government is a failure. I will go out to talk with all the players in the industry to address that, to explain what we have done and to devise a new system.

Division

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (19)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr P. Papalia	Mr P.C. Tinley
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr P.B. Watson
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr M. McGowan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J. Farrer	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr D.A. Templeman (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms R. Saffioti	

Noes (35)

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

Pairs

Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr W.R. Marmion
Mr C.J. Tallentire	Ms M.J. Davies

Amendment thus negatived.

Inaugural Speech — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland): Before the member for Kimberley rises, I advise the house that the member for Kimberley has already sought permission from me to deliver part of her speech in her first language, Gidja. I have agreed to this on a one-off arrangement, as it is appropriate to make all speeches in English so that other members can understand what is being said and the Chair can ensure that it is both relevant and appropriate.

The member for Kimberley has been asked to commence her speech in English and, when she wishes to speak Gidja, seek the permission of the Chair to address the Assembly in Gidja, and to give an undertaking that there is nothing unparliamentary in the speech. After the member makes a short part of her speech in Gidja, she will repeat that part of the speech in English so that it can be properly reported by Hansard.

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Motion Resumed

MS J. FARRER (Kimberley) [2.56 pm]: I would like to speak in my own language, Gidja, which is my first language, and then say some words in Kriol; for members and Hansard, I will follow with an English translation. Hansard will be pleased I have also scripted these words in English —

[*Words spoken in Gidja language.*]

What I have just said in literal translation is —

Today, right here, we are sitting here, in/at Parliament House

This is where (Big) important people meet.

They talk (discuss) and plan/making LAWS (policies) for Western Australia.

Speaking again in Gidja —

[*Words spoken in Gidja language.*]

Which translates as —

I find myself right here. Thank you to everyone from the Kimberley. Good one.

Now in Kriol, which is another language; it is a form of English, but more in tune with the Indigenous people —

[*Words spoken in Kriol language.*]

Translated this means —

This is for Nyunga country us Aboriginal have the same belief of a spiritual connection to country.

So I pay my respects to this land and the people who come from here.

My name is Jarlbinyimiya, but to you I am Josie Farrer. I am a traditional Gidja woman; that is to say my values, customs and practices are based on the same values and traditions my ancestors have passed down through thousands of generations to me.

In 1953, I started school in a little rough schoolhouse—a bough house—with a spinifex roof. It is interesting to note that during this time we—the schoolkids—also discovered wax matches, and the devastating effect matches can have on a spinifex roof! We got up in the morning and were made to wash using a homemade cake of soap that consisted of ingredients such as caustic soda, boric acid and beef fat. I remember that if the soap was left on your skin for too long it would start to burn—perhaps it was an attempt to wash the black off us! Our hair was cut short and rinsed in kerosene, and we were dressed in Dingo brand flour sacks and sent to school.

On arrival, we were all given a pannikin made from an empty Carnation milk tin with a handle riveted onto the side. We dipped our pannikins into a diluted mix of water and milk, then, standing in a line, sang *God Save the Queen*. No-one actually told us who the Queen was back then, but we drank our milk and started school. Moola Bulla was closed in 1955, and all the Aboriginal families were forcibly removed from the property. We were relocated to Halls Creek so that the station could be sold and run as a privately owned pastoral lease; I have lived in Halls Creek ever since. My partner of more than 30 years, Mario, and I have raised 13 children together, and now enjoy spending time with our grandchildren as well.

This story of my early life may seem a long, long time ago, but, unfortunately, the reality for many Kimberley Aboriginal people today is similar. In recent years many people were forcibly removed from Oombulgurri, not by packing them into a truck like we were, but by turning services off, not repairing power generation, switching off water and closing the school. They were sent packing to Wyndham before adequate housing was provided for them. Today we can drive into Wyndham and see many of these people sitting in the middle of town, still without homes, jobs, training or possessions; they are living hard in parks, bushes and mangroves.

A big thank you to Nyakiny-ji Ngulngany, my husband and partner, Mario —

Ngarrarlk ngemima.

He recognised what I was doing and supported me. I thank my children —

wanyanyaKem NgaKiny-pe

Shirley, Lingkalbal; Christine, Waatbi—these are all their Aboriginal names because most Indigenous children are born with Aboriginal names that give them the right to their country and their identity creates an affiliation with their country—William, Yougkiny; Jonathan, Garngkiny; Priscilla, Jarnimbal; Vaughan, Jingariginy; Minetta, Murlu; Renate, Wuarrel; Shonelle, Kuyu Kuyul; and Elliot, Yarlmariny. I thank Elliot today. He is

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here in the audience, so thank you, son. A special mention to my grandson Seymore, Yambiljiny, for his support in driving me and changing tyres in the mud during the campaign; for wanting at just 19 years old to learn about campaigning and politics; and for showing that young people can work hard for a cause even when young people, I am sure, would prefer to be doing other more fun things. To other members of my family whom I helped raise, I thank Preston, Zorran, Rasheeda, Chrysanthus, Wayne and Jason. I thank these people for their support: my sister, Ethel Walalgie, Goongali; Phyllis Wallaby, Waayagurral; Jennifer Tait, Wajala; and their children, who are part of my family, from the Gidja language group that reside in the Ngarrawanjie and Yurranyangem Taam native title claim area.

The values and traditions of my people are based on a foundation of land, law, language and culture. The survival and continued practice of our culture in the region in large part can be attributed to the work of the Kimberley Land Council, the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and the Kimberley Language Resource Centre. I thank them all for that, but it is our old people, our cultural leadership, our elders who work, worry, encourage and teach us the foundations of our faith. I thank people such as Old Man Watson, Joe Brown, Old Man Davey, Merle Carter and Edna O'Malley.

I have lived my whole life in the Kimberley and I have had to fight for my family just to live most of the time. So like a lot of people I have experienced hardship and difficulties and I understand what a lot of people are going through. I understand what it is like for people to feel as though they have been forgotten about because they live in a small town or a remote community. I understand firsthand the entrenched bigotry and prejudice that I and people like me suffer daily. In fact, during my preselection for the ALP it was suggested that I had no idea what Parliament is like and what being a member of Parliament involved. Who was I to think I could be a member of Parliament? I was growled at on the main street of Halls Creek and yelled at. "Do you understand that you will have to turn up to work every day?" Many members here will know that I served the Halls Creek community as a shire councillor for 16 years and I spent seven years as shire president. So why did this person think I could be treated this way? I can only assume that it is because I am black and worst of all I am a black woman. I was asked recently if I had received any apologies subsequent to my election and I replied no. It does not matter, you know. You just get used to these sorts of things. I should point out that a great strong woman in her own right, Irene Davey, also said to me during that time, "Stick in there sister, girl; you know and I know, the only good man for the job is a WO-man." So here I am, proudly elected, proudly black and proudly woman!

I have heard that Aboriginal people are not capable of making decisions on land and economics and on preserving culture and the environment. In the recent and current debate on James Price Point, I make the point again that as a traditional person, I cannot speak for this land because it is not my country. We have protocols in place in which Indigenous people do not talk about other people's country. That is something I think, in all fairness, that we all need to understand. Because we are all Indigenous people does not mean to say we can speak on behalf of somebody else's country unless we have permission from them. I can say though, that a lot of people have been hurt by paternalistic, racist and uninformed commentary. The owners of this land considered long and hard their culture, their customs and their lands and environment. They voted for opportunity for their young people, not at any cost, but through hard and deliberate processes. Let me say this: we are not some living museum for your entertainment or curiosity, although we have been studied over and over again. Aboriginal people have a right to participate in the real economy. It is only through this that we will gain our self-determination. We know what we want and we do not need privileged people preaching to us.

I would like to touch on something that is very dear to me. This is an issue that has been in my heart for a long time. It is about Kimberley youth suicide. Why do so many Kimberley children feel that the only option they have in life is to take their own life? Why is little money or government resources dedicated to helping these young people live long and happy lives? Why do we in this place think a debate on the location of a football stadium or the development of Elizabeth Quay is more important than keeping an Aboriginal person alive or in proper housing? I think we need to question ourselves on that. This is an issue of utmost urgency and I think the government has to place a high priority on stopping the flood of young lost lives.

My people are refused access to their land to carry out the rites and customs of thousands of years by pastoralists who are in fact just tenants of the people of Western Australia. How can any government allow this to continue and claim that all people are treated equally? I want people to be treated equally throughout the Kimberley and the state. I am sick and tired of seeing people standing outside courthouses because they have no money to pay their bills or feed their families. I get angry when I see in our remote communities desperate eyes looking at me with feelings of hopelessness. All people need to be treated equally no matter who they are and where they live; no one should be forgotten.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 17 April 2013]

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I will work for opportunities for our young Kimberley people in industries other than mining. I want to fight for a strong beef industry because it has been the backbone, economically, in the Kimberley for generations and I would like to see an agriculture college located in the Kimberley so our young people can be trained and can get the work opportunities generated by this industry.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J. FARRER: I bring my life's experiences with me to this new and challenging job and I intend to work very hard to make sure Kimberley people are not forgotten by this government or anyone else. I will work hard to ensure that proper health services, adequate housing and education are equal with those in Perth to provide access to opportunity for all Kimberley people. And I will fight for a concerted effort by government to rid the Kimberley of poverty.

We also need native title issues to be resolved as quickly as possible. The whole process takes too long; it creates a lot of humbug, division, frustration and worry for everyone. Simply put, more resources need to be given to courts to expedite outstanding claims because in the process we have lost a lot of older Indigenous people; so we need this process to happen a lot more quickly than it has done in the past. Certainty is important not just for the WA business and government sectors, but for traditional owners as well!

Finally, before I move into acknowledging some more supporters and friends, I want to state that the Kimberley should be recognised for its great spirit of community, strong Aboriginal culture and iconic environment. I would like to say thank you to Muliga—all of you members here know him as Mr Jon Ford—Sally Talbot, Stephen Dawson, Claire Comrie, Ryan Casey, Mima Comrie and of course Leslie, my very good secretary in Broome. Thank you for supporting me through the campaign. Thanks to Irene Davey, Mary Durack, Mark Bin Bakar—his twin Mary G!—Tina O'Connor, Craig Comrie, Faye from Bidyadanga, Mary O'Reerie, Gordon Smith Jnr, Wossy Russell, Ted Wilkinson, Terry Wilson and family, and not forgetting Daron Keogh and the Indigenous Labor Network, and the whole polling day team! I would like to say a special thanks to my friend and Perth mob's leader Steve McCartney.

One thing I have seen over time, and especially recently over the gas hub, is how quickly we in the Kimberley get divided as a community. A lot of what I have seen and heard I believe could be resolved if people remember to keep talking to each other. I want us to keep talking and fixing our differences, and I am happy to help make that happen. If we keep fighting each other, only outsiders win.

I want to talk about suicide again. This is very personal for me. Just a few years ago my grandson took his own life. He was only 16 years old. No-one who has not suffered this type of grief and loss can understand the very real pain a family goes through when someone who is dearly loved takes their own life. For me, I left public life and service to my community. I retreated from my community and my life to mourn, to be angry, to hate, to feel guilty and to find answers. For me, still, there has been no adequate closure, no help in finding answers, no support outside my family and culture—and I am not alone. Unfortunately, too many young people have died and too many young people continue to take their own lives. This means that more and more Kimberley families are searching for answers and trying to deal with grief. Just in the lead-up to my swearing in and becoming the member for Kimberley, we had about six to seven deaths through suicide in the Kimberley; so it has been a hard time for people up in the Kimberley. Also a young boy was taken by a crocodile.

The Kimberley is a small place by number of people, and like all regional communities loss is felt across the country; and the loss is multiplied in families and friends, in cafes, in shops, in homes and also around camp fires. I plead with this government and to anyone who can help that the Kimberley needs people who can help with the issues that those left behind after suicide face—more often by themselves. We need mental health professionals located in the Kimberley dedicated to assisting these families and individuals who can break through the barriers of pain and grief. In our work here in this place it is important that we all remember that no-one should be forgotten—no one!

I would like to finish my speech with the following words in my language —

[*Words spoken in Gidja language.*]

In English it is translated as —

Please listen, listen to the words I am saying. We need to stop what's happening to our young people because they are our future.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

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MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle) [3.15 pm]: I begin by joining with other members in congratulating you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr I.M. Britza), on your election to the role of Acting Speaker. I thank the Clerk and the staff of Parliament for their assistance since I became elected. They have been both professional and personable in assisting me as a new member of Parliament. I am very grateful.

I begin with the knowledge that the Fremantle electorate is situated in Wadjuk Aboriginal land. They were there in the past, they are still there today and they will be there in the future. I acknowledge that fact.

Fremantle's European history began when the ship *Challenger* docked in Fremantle in 1829. When we think of the history of Fremantle and its surrounds, we tend to think of the built environment. While there is increasing acknowledgement of the original inhabitants, ignorance of their experience of the land is still pervasive. Last year I attended a local series of talks held around a campfire surrounded by balga or grass trees, which took place in the street in which I live. These Noongar stories were designed to give an appreciation of local Aboriginal culture focusing on the Fremantle area where the river meets the sea. It was a special experience, and I thank Noel Nannup and Bruce at Replants for their ongoing efforts to ensure our area stays at least a bit connected to its Indigenous origins. I look forward to working with local Aboriginal groups using practical measures to not only close the gap in life expectancy, but also assist Aboriginal positive engagement in Fremantle and with the local community.

I place on record my appreciation for the people in the Fremantle Labor community who worked so hard to get me elected. To Jean Hobson, Helen Mills, Zita Pal, Phil O'Donoghue, Ron Mizen, Josh Wilson, Emm Drake-Brockman, Tim Kucera and Priya Brown, thank you. Thanks also to members of the Fremantle and Hilton branches—true believers all; I take very seriously the trust you and our army of volunteers have placed in me. I am particularly indebted to my campaign director, Sue Ellery—who probably will not let me forget that I said that—for her experience, firm hand and time during this campaign. We have been friends for a long time. I appreciate her candour and moral compass. A big thank you also to my campaign manager, Dom Rose, who brought intelligence, a can-do attitude and his family to the campaign effort.

I am very honoured to represent Fremantle, a place I have called home for nearly 20 years, including when I was a student some years ago. Despite not growing up in the area, I have spent time in Fremantle since my early twenties, when I quickly came to appreciate the variety, verve and coffee of Old Papa's Café and Gino's. People are attracted to Fremantle for many reasons, not the least of which is its physical beauty. Of course, this has changed hugely since settlement, but the grace and the strength of the body of water where the river meets the sea is always impressive. Fremantle harbour is no exception. Much of the Fremantle coast has been built on, which is why my fellow South Beach lovers guard their territory so rigorously. These beaches, which extend south to Coogee, have a calm and a lack of pretence that hold a special place in the community's heart. Horses are still walked there and they swim not far from the statue that acknowledges C.Y. O'Connor's suicide on his horse in that water more than 100 years ago.

Not only does Fremantle have the magnificent Swan River and beautiful beaches, it is also steeped in history. The Round House at Arthur's Head, which was built as a jail, is the oldest intact building in the state, having been built in 1830. There were some buildings in the area but it was not until the convicts arrived 20 years after settlement that significant construction took place. Fremantle Prison was completed in the 1850s and continued to be used as a prison until 1991. In the 1860s the Fremantle Arts Centre was built as a lunatic asylum, with locally quarried limestone. This week actually marks the fortieth anniversary of that building's very successful incarnation as an arts centre. In 1897 there were a number of significant civic openings in Fremantle; Premier John Forrest laid the foundation stone of Fremantle Markets and Fremantle Hospital was first opened, as was Fremantle Harbour. That year another building was opened but with less fanfare. William Knox, a merchant trader, built two modest semidetached workers' cottages in what was then Alexander Road. He had three daughters, one who married, but the other two did not marry and lived together in one of those houses for the next 80 years. I have copies of photographs of the two women on the front verandah and in the backyard of their house in the 1920s when the women were in their 20s. Since the mid-1990s, I have been lucky enough to call that same house home. I recommend that if our current home builders, such as Alcock and Satterley, can build structures of lasting quality anywhere near houses like my own, they will be doing very well. It is a tribute to not only good construction but also activism that so much of Fremantle's heritage buildings still stand today. I would like to acknowledge the Fremantle Society, which in the past worked tirelessly to ensure these buildings remain. Some buildings, such as Victoria Hall, which hosted WA Labor's campaign rally during the election, were protected by construction union green bans. Currently in Fremantle, there is a very active debate in true Fremantle style about future development and getting the balance right between protecting precious heritage, increasing inner city density and developing Fremantle so that it is equipped for the twenty-first century.

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Fremantle is a place of arrival where people from around the world and all walks of life have chosen to call home. This is in fact one of our community's great strengths. European settlement, mostly Italian but also Spanish and Portuguese, enriched the community, and as a result a much wider group, including artists and people seeking alternatives to the mainstream, came to Fremantle and contributed to its ongoing vibrancy. We are still heavily indebted to the Italian and southern European communities for choosing Fremantle and its surrounding suburbs as their home. We are very grateful for not just their culinary contribution, although this is very much appreciated, but their ongoing maintenance of many homeland traditions, which has brought a richness and diversity that is now woven into our community's make-up. An example of this is the annual blessing of the fleet ceremony, which I attended last year. First introduced to Fremantle by Italian migrant fishermen in 1948, it is a celebration of the fishing community's traditions and religion, and also involves the wider community by way of a procession through Fremantle. Fremantle's blessing of the fleet is unique as two statues are part of the procession representing the towns of Capo d'Orlando and Molfetta in Italy, from which the majority of our now local fishermen came. There are countless examples of southern European migrant resourcefulness and success throughout Fremantle. We have to look only at Sealanes, which started as a small family business in 1922 and is now the state's largest supplier to the food service business. While there are successes, there is no doubt that there are also challenges facing many of the industries traditionally working from the Fremantle electorate. Over the last term of government, quotas in the rock lobster industry were introduced. While the operators of boats working from Fremantle understand that sustainable fishing is necessary, they would like to see fairness applied so that restrictions are shared equally along the WA coast. They do not feel that this is the case under the present system, so I plan to work with their various representative bodies to ensure that the local industry is viable for future fishing operations. Both Sealanes and the local rock lobster industry are now being led by the children of migrants. In both those cases, tertiary educated children want to maintain their family and cultural connections to their industries but understand the need to be positioned into the twenty-first century. With what I have seen so far, I have every reason to believe that they will succeed.

Fremantle is of course not the only suburb in the electorate of Fremantle. The southern end of the electorate includes Spearwood, which still contains market gardens and a strong migrant community; a rapidly changing Coogee; and Hamilton Hill, once referred to as "silly town" because who would be silly enough to live that far south! It includes part of Beeliar wetlands, and the young families now moving there do not consider themselves silly at all. The also electorate includes Beaconsfield, White Gum Valley, South Fremantle—known for the Bulldogs and the beach—Palmyra, and at the northern end, East Fremantle. In short, Fremantle appears to have it all. Graced with natural beauty and steeped in history, it has a vibrant working port and an active and engaged community. But there are challenges. Fremantle is a heavily populated area situated on top of a working port, which now processes hundreds of thousands of containers each year, and that output will double before the port reaches capacity. Currently about 86 per cent of those containers are transported by road, which in last year's figures equated to nearly half a million truck movements in and out of the Fremantle area. Given that diesel emissions are now classified by the World Health Organization as a grade 1 carcinogen and those trucks contribute to congestion on already congested roads, there is a lot of support in my electorate for increased use of rail to transport freight. I welcome the current government's adoption of Labor's target of 30 per cent of Fremantle's freight being transported by rail and I look forward to holding the government to account to that target. Productivity of cargo movements must also be watched closely with the point being to minimise the number of empty trucks coming into or leaving the port. It is not just the volume of cargo coming in and out of the port, it is what is being transported that is of concern to the Fremantle electorate. Just last week Rosslyn Hill Mining announced that approval had been given for it to recommence the transport of lead through Fremantle Port. While there have been a number of safeguards put in place to protect workers and the community along the lead transport route, local public opinion remains highly concerned about the risks involved. WA Labor's policy is that the lead should not be transported unless it is in ingot form. I commit to doing what I can to ensure that safeguards are adhered to and there is zero tolerance for safety guideline transgressions when it comes to transporting this and other dangerous materials in and out of the port.

Another strong sentiment in the electorate I represent is that of phasing out live animal exports. This is not a nimby sentiment and as long as the animals are transported from Kwinana away from sight the community would cease to care, although the regular sight of sheep jammed onto trucks is distressing enough. I believe that the live animal trade is unnecessarily cruel and costs Australian jobs in abattoirs and in meat processing. I acknowledge there is a significant proportion of our state's agricultural industry reliant on the live animal trade, so it would be necessary that there should be in phasing out an adequate transition, as we have done in other industries we have exited.

Like any community, it is essential that Fremantle has services that meet its ends. As a major population centre, entertainment hub, and with a working port, it is crucial that there are accessible health services in Fremantle.

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There is concern that Fiona Stanley Hospital, coming online in 2014, could actually mean a reduction in readily available health services, particularly for less mobile people in Fremantle. Worryingly, Fremantle Hospital's Alma Street clinic has given our community firsthand experience of the inadequacies of our current mental health system, which was confirmed late last year when the director general of Health, Kim Snowball, admitted the state's mental health system cannot keep pace with the level of demand. We can and must do better in this important area of health.

Along with health services, proper public education is the cornerstone of a healthy community. Ensuring there are suitable public high schools in the electorate was also a matter of much debate during the state election. The demographics of the electorate have changed rapidly and I want to work with both John Curtin College of the Arts and South Fremantle Senior High School to ensure they have the resources to carry out their work and they are responsive to the demands of the community they are in.

Far and away the biggest issue raised with me when I was campaigning was the current state of central Fremantle. There are retail vacancies and buildings in disrepair, but rents are still high. There was a very active debate taking place around striking the right balance between maintaining Fremantle's cherished heritage and ensuring the city is on the front foot for this century. Many of the issues being debated are in the remit of the Fremantle council. I share concern that forced council amalgamations would, amongst other detrimental outcomes, delay progress on council projects that are already overdue. In consolidating Fremantle as a regional metropolitan centre there are a number of state agencies that have crucial roles to play. The Fremantle Port Authority has responsibility for major redevelopment at Victoria Quay and south of the Port Authority building near Bathers Beach. Any developments in this area need to be sensitive to the heritage value of the sites, but they have huge potential, and they need to progress.

There are opportunities in the responsibility of the Public Transport Authority, too, in opening up Fremantle train station. Both the FPA and the PTA need to work closely with local stakeholders to maximise the outcomes for Fremantle and play their role in economic regeneration.

An example of state government neglect is in the heart of Fremantle in the warders' cottages next to Fremantle Markets. These heritage cottages are owned by the Department of Housing. But despite record public housing waiting lists, they have been vacant for nearly two years and are now derelict. These are beautiful heritage structures in the heart of Fremantle, and it is an indictment of the current government that this has been allowed to occur. A solution, which may involve the cottages being renovated and managed by Fremantle City Council, must be arrived at soon.

What a vibrant Fremantle had in the past was employment. Many of the local industries have either moved or are no longer employing in large numbers. I therefore support this government's decision to relocate a major department, such as housing, to central Fremantle, and for this to occur as soon as possible.

Members would be aware that the seat of Fremantle includes Rottnest Island, a very special place for many Western Australians. Here, too, there are many challenges facing the successful management of this precious resource. I am committed to ensuring that close attention is paid to what sort of development takes place on Rottnest, that holidays on the island remain accessible, and that the natural environment is protected.

I would like this afternoon to give credit to previous members of the seat of Fremantle. I would like to acknowledge my immediate predecessor, Adele Carles. In particular, I would like to give credit to Jim McGinty, who held the seat of Fremantle for 18 years and will be remembered for his significant achievements in advancing one vote, one value electoral reform in this state, as well as driving significant law reform in the area of gay and lesbian equality. He was, of course, a former secretary of the union now known as United Voice.

Earlier this year, I was very pleased to meet with one of the other former Labor members of Parliament who represented the seat of Fremantle, and that was John Troy.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.F. McGURK: John was keen to impress on me that although planning issues have been much discussed as central to overcoming local government economic doldrums, in fact in the past it was employment that was the source of Fremantle's vibrancy. I agree that it is crucial that we recognise that central to the state government's responsibility is the need to ensure that there are real, stable and permanent jobs. That is why, as secretary of UnionsWA, I was pleased to work in cooperation with the union of which I was previously an official, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, as well as the association representing engineers and planners, and the steel employees in this state, to lobby for local industry to gain an increased share of the engineering, design and manufacturing work associated with our big resource projects. As a result of that campaign, I think there was an increase in the amount of work that went to local manufacturers. However, the increased work was patchy

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and done in a piecemeal way. I believe that as policy makers we have a responsibility to be systematic, as well as transparent, in maximising outcomes from our large resource projects. Making sure that we have jobs after the boom, and using the exploitation of our natural resources to nurture feeder industries, is an issue that has continued to resonate strongly with the public, and it is an area that I am keen to continue to work on as a member of this house.

Another policy area in which I believe we can do a lot better is improving the rates of vocational training. Despite concerted efforts by both federal and state governments, over the last five years the number of apprentices in high-demand skill areas, such as engineering and construction, has actually declined, in a time of overall employment growth in these industries. In short, what we are doing to increase our apprentice numbers is just not working, and we have an obligation to redouble our efforts in this area.

I spent over five years as a member of the State Training Board advising the government on vocational training matters. I also spent many years representing workers in the manufacturing industries as a union official. It has become clear that those employers who in the past have taken responsibility for indenturing apprentices—the large public sector employers such as the Midland Workshops and the state engineering works and also the large fabrication workshops—are now either not operating or are not big employers. I believe we need to look at alternatives for who will take on the responsibility in the future for the important work of on-the-job training in these crucial and high demand skill areas.

As individuals, we are all the result of many influences. I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to the trade union movement, which I have been gratefully enriched by. I especially acknowledge the individual delegates I have worked with over many years, as well as so many other officials, too numerous to name. John Sharp-Collett and Keith Peckham were in the leadership of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union when I went to work with the union as a young woman, and they mentored, supported and gave me many opportunities so that I was in the leadership position as assistant secretary when I left that union. I believe that if women are to make significant inroads into non-traditional industries, deliberate decisions must be made by leaders at an organisational and industry level to actively promote women. Of course, this also applies to the many industries where women are underrepresented in numbers as well as in leadership positions.

I also met my friend Carolyn Smith at the time, when she was a boilermaker at the then State Energy Commission of Western Australia. She became a union delegate at that time and now, of course, is very capably leading the state's largest union, United Voice. I wish her all the best in her important work. I would also like to thank the staff who worked with me at UnionsWA. To all of you, and to my successor as secretary, Meredith Hammat, I would say good luck, but we all know that luck has nothing to do with it. I know that the ability of the small but quality staff at the peak trade union body will ensure that its affiliates speak with one voice and that they are innovative and firm in giving working Western Australians and their families an effective voice in Western Australia.

I will work hard during my time in this Parliament to progress issues that will improve the lives of ordinary people. This is a natural progression of my union work, which has been all about giving a voice and strength to people who might not otherwise be heard. I feel that in this place we have a special responsibility to do what we can to even the ledger and to promote policies that progress equity and justice where it is lacking.

Fremantle has a proud tradition of standing up to be counted. In 1919, waterside worker Tom Edwards was killed by police in a union riot, Fremantle's own Bloody Sunday. I would also like to pay tribute to Paddy Troy, a waterside union official who went on to form the miscellaneous workers' union and WA Trades and Labour Council. Paddy, the father of John Troy, whom I mentioned earlier, was fiery, compassionate and devoted to improving the lives of the workers he represented. Above all, he believed in unity, and I hope his spirit of mindful militancy will help guide me in my present journey.

Fremantle's rebellious traditions today manifest in a deep concern for the environment, a preparedness to take action and break new ground to ensure that we are living sustainably. Labor's track record—if you will excuse the pun—fits very well here. Locally, we are committed to rail transport, and in particular the reopening of the Fremantle railway line in 1983, but also in ending logging in old-growth forests and federally, pricing carbon. We want to continue to pursue good policies that are practical measures to protect the environment we live in.

Can I also acknowledge other important influences that have brought me to this place today: Arthur Clarke, Ken Travers and Roger Cook have all given me friendship, politics and a few late nights. Finally, what bigger influence can we have in arriving into adulthood than our own family? My father, Patrick, is here today and I thank him for his love. If I carry a tenth of his love of life with me, I will be doing well. His wife, Lois, provided as good a feminist role model as any teenage girl could want. But it is to my mother, Bette, that I would like pay

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special tribute to today. She brought up five children, often working two jobs and during times that must have been exhausting and difficult. We never did without and we have never been in any doubt as to her love and commitment to us. As they say in the classics, “Bet, this one’s for you.” I have been graced with a tribe of nieces and nephews, so much so that some of them have had their own children and I am now a great, or, as I like to say, excellent aunt. It would take too long to list them, but you know that you have been very special to me and it has been great to be part of your lives.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my husband, Mark. Calm, creative and intelligent, he has provided unwavering support in all my pursuits and I am very grateful for the love we share. I hope my time in Parliament is not too exhausting for him. His parents, Pam and John, are here today and I would like to thank them also for their support. The bonus of my relationship with Mark has been his son, Sam. Also placid, smart and creative, he put his talent on display creating a video for my election campaign. He is 21 next month and I look forward to sharing in the next chapter of his life.

I believe in the responsibility we all have to extend inclusion and to afford opportunity and the power that will extend to our community if we achieve our aims.

That concludes my address to the house.

[Applause.]

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): Before I acknowledge the next speaker, I remind members that when they enter the chamber, the Chair does not always see them, as his focus is on the member on their feet. If members are going to walk between the member on their feet and the Chair, please acknowledge the Chair to make sure that the protocol is upheld.

MR P.T. MILES (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.41 pm]: I would like to congratulate all my new colleagues who have come into this house: the new members for Joondalup, Churchlands, Forrestfield, Alfred Cove, Bateman and Perth. It was a very good victory on 9 March. It sure shows, when I look at the seat of Wanneroo, which went from a 0.7 per cent to an 11 per cent victory margin, that the hard work and dedication of not only me, but also the government and the ministers who supported me over the past four years definitely does pay off.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, let us keep the talk down.

Mr P.T. MILES: I also want to acknowledge some of my supporters and helpers. To start with, I would like to acknowledge my wife, Shelly, my son, Jacob, my daughter, Anna, and her son, Mark, for all their support over the past four years. Without family support, members cannot do this job. As members of Parliament, we all know that we are absent from birthdays and some weddings and funerals. The family is there to help support us to get through that. So I thank them yet again in this house for their support.

I also want to thank my campaign team: Colin Edwardes, Hon Cheryl Edwardes, who was my campaign manager, and the rest of the team. I thank them for their magnificent support over the past couple of years to see us through and to get a very strong victory in Wanneroo. I also want to acknowledge all the booth captains on election day. These are the unsung heroes who are quite often there from six o’clock in the morning, which might be their first shift, and sometimes they do not leave until eight or nine o’clock at night after the count when they go to the after party. They are Matt Blampey, Ryan Blake, Garrick and Jeremy Garvey, Dawn Fitzgerald, Jason Scully, Sue and Les McDonald, David Donis, Rosemary and Scott Edgar, and Adam and Skye Benkovic. In my election cycle, I had booth set-up teams, which was a first for me in Wanneroo. I congratulate and thank Scott and Warren Edwardes; Fletcher Pym and his Young Liberal Movement team; and Bonnie, Ali and Miles, who are part of the young Libs out that way. They provided support and help to set up our booths from about 3.30 or four o’clock in the morning. We had a very good show all through the day compared with some of the other campaigns that were run, which, quite frankly, packed up early in some instances. I also want to acknowledge that we did not pay for any of our booth workers; they were all volunteers. I had no paid workers.

Mr P. Papalia: What about security guards?

Mr P.T. MILES: I did not need any security guards in Wanneroo. I know I had some pretty nasty opponents, but I did not need security guards.

I also want to acknowledge the seniors who were able to do their little bit in the pre-polling stage by going out to man the pre-poll count at Boas Avenue, Joondalup. That ran for at least seven days, so we needed some people at that facility from nine o’clock until four o’clock. They looked after not only my campaign, but also the Ocean Reef, Joondalup and Butler campaigns. Without those people we would not have had such a good showing in

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those electorates, so I congratulate them. We had a very good party on the night and I know they enjoyed themselves.

My dedicated team has been with me from day one: Adam Benkovic, who came from Senator Chris Ellison's office; Sue McDonald, who started in our office as a newbie electorate officer; and also Sherryl Stiles, who started her electorate office time with Hon Jack Heitman, a former a member in the other place. That is my team. The experience of that team has helped me through the last four and a half years. The energy and commitment they put into the campaign definitely shaped my success. As I said, we increased the margin from 0.7 per cent to just over 11 per cent. That was done with support and help from the Premier, the member for Vasse and other ministers. The Minister for Planning, Hon John Day, definitely got a few phone calls and emails from me at various times of the night. I recall one incident when I phoned his chief of staff. I did not know, but his chief of staff was on a visit to do with the Square Kilometre Array—the radar up in Ian Blayney's electorate of Geraldton—and they were in Italy at the time. Obviously I just phoned at a normal time for me, as I do, and she answered. I thought, "Hey, my name pops up and they answer at three o'clock in the morning!" I understand she was a little drowsy the next morning, and the minister did inform me of that; but it was not my fault as I did not know the minister was away!

Mr A. Krsticevic: You work 24/7!

Mr P.T. MILES: Exactly! The minister has a very good chief of staff, Lorissa Kelly, because clearly when she sees my name pop up, she knows to answer it! I bet she will not answer me anymore, although she is waiting around here somewhere for me today as well.

I also want to acknowledge some of the people in the Premier's office whom I deal with on a day-to-day basis: Zak Kirkup, John Hammond especially, and also Sam Calabrese who was part of the Premier's office but is now obviously with the Minister for Transport's office; and the Menzies House team who have done an exceptional job. Ben Allen looked after me from day one and then he handed over to Jocelyn Griffiths towards the final few weeks of the campaign. It was very good and very exciting to work through some issues over the last four years, and to be able to use our resources in that office is tremendous.

I also want to thank the Liberal Party state director, Ben Morton, who has been able to guide us through some fairly rocky times in our campaigns. Without his calm and collected manner—not all the time I might say—we would not have got through things, or been able to see how we were going. I will not recount any issues, but anyway they were all sorted out and after the election we can now say that it is all sorted and we can move on and start another four years.

The boundaries of my electorate of Wanneroo have changed significantly, as they do nearly every couple of years. Under the new one vote, one value legislation that has really looked after the Liberal Party and the National Party, the boundaries change every four years so everybody gets roughly an equal baseload in their electorate. Prior to 2008, the electorate of Wanneroo had over 40 000 electors. That is quite a lot of electors for one metropolitan member to look after. Dianne Guise was the member for Wanneroo at that time. As we all know, we are trying to look after 23 000 or 24 000 people now. As I said, the electorate changed significantly. I lost the suburbs of Banksia Grove to Butler in the north and Darch, and 93 per cent of Madeley to Girrawheen in the south. In the next four years, with the growth that is anticipated in my electorate, I will probably lose another suburb or two either to the south or to the east. Obviously, that is yet to be decided.

I am in an area of significant growth. That is why we have built three new primary schools over the past four years, and a new high school will come on-stream in Banksia Grove in 18 months. The government needed to bring this high school on-stream a little sooner than was anticipated due to the growth that we are experiencing. Also, there are now more people in Perth. As the Premier said yesterday in response to a question in this house, because our schools are furnished with the most up-to-date technology for our students to use—they are the best schools in the nation, which is proven by the discussions that we are having now—people do not necessarily want to rush into the private system. They are falling back into the public system, like up in Wanneroo. The number of students enrolled in the high school in Wanneroo, which is now called Wanneroo Secondary College, is increasing all the time. It now has over 900 students. It has been languishing around the 700 mark for many years, which put it under the risky radar of losing some of its resources. It has now been able to achieve a better number. Obviously, we are building on that success. When it comes to students, the school's return is exceptional. They have gone on to gain very important jobs, becoming lawyers, doctors and nurses, or enrolling in other major forms of education. The year 7 block will start later this year and the beginning of next year. That is another big transformation for that high school. The new Banksia Grove high school will start with year 7 and 8 on day one. We already estimate that over 400 students will attend that school on day one, which is quite impressive for a brand-new school.

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I am part of the Mitchell Freeway extension community working group. That extension was announced by the government in December last year. We had a six-month consultation period with the community. It became quite clear that a range of issues needed to be dealt with. It was not just the freeway that needed to be extended; other roads needed to be addressed and funded. That funding was given by the government in late November and the beginning of December. I also want to acknowledge the work of the member for Ocean Reef, Hon Albert Jacob. He was the chair of that working group at the time. I was the deputy. I will now become the chair of that working group. The new member for Joondalup, Jan Norberger, will be the deputy chair of the Mitchell Freeway extension community working group.

The urban corridor is growing exponentially. When we look at the growth potential and what is happening in the northern corridor, our population will grow by at least another 300 000 over the next 20 years; therefore, there needs to be road infrastructure. The train line is being extended to near Romeo Road, which is just past Butler. That is being built. It will be open in about 10 to 12 months. The rail line is down. All the sundry equipment is being fitted out, which is the overhead lines, the signals and all the rest of it. That is the sort of stuff that this government has been achieving in that corridor over the past four years.

The Mitchell Freeway extension will not only extend to Hester Avenue, it will hook the freeway up to the industrial area to the north of my electorate, to a LandCorp development called Meridian Park. We need to start the growth of jobs up to around 60 per cent in my electorate and its surrounds. At the moment we have around 38 to 40 per cent job growth in the area. That is why we have people travelling further south, into the city and beyond, and having to travel to Malaga to get to Canning Vale. We have Meridian Park to try to attract more local jobs. Connecting major infrastructure to the freeway extension will mean easier access. One of the major problems that LandCorp is experiencing with people not wanting to purchase land in Meridian Park is that access to it is not brilliant. The City of Wanneroo has 400 hectares of industrial land. It will obviously be able to capitalise on that, although it still has problems with a couple of moths—and some frogs the other day. The city is working through the appropriate approvals to move through that.

The Neerabup Road–Flynn Drive link will be constructed. There are other little roads that need upgrading to meet today's standards. Because those roads are funded by developers, they are partially completed. There are part-roads as well as footpaths going nowhere. Some of that stuff needs to be helped along in some capacity. The minister sitting in front of me, Hon John Day, will play his role in relation to developer contributions in the future.

I turn now to the Tonkin Highway extension. It was identified in the east Wanneroo land use documents a couple of years ago that there needed to be a bypass road through Wanneroo to link the industrial land of our north to the industrial areas of Canning Vale and further to the airports.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.T. MILES: The Tonkin Highway extension needs to be planned properly. Everybody has put it on maps to say it will go here, there and everywhere. I have asked the government, in its progress for the Perth–Darwin highway, to add that to that process because that is effectively where it will branch off in some way. I am waiting to hear how that work can be achieved. That will be through people from the Minister for Transport's planning department.

A lot has happened over the past four years—far more than I can talk about now. I know that other new members wish to speak about their election victories. There are some talks in Wanneroo about making major roads such as Wanneroo Road into larger roads. I am not supportive of that. I do not think those roads suit that. Wanneroo Road is not an Albany Highway or some large road such as that. So, we need to have some discussions about that in the not-too-distant future. I think that is why we need to push for the Tonkin Highway ring-road around the back end to stay there.

During the election campaign, my opponent from the Labor Party ran a totally different campaign from what the Labor Party ran. He did not talk about Metronet once. He did not talk about any of the Labor policies that were being run. In fact, it was a totally independent campaign through scare and innuendo.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): Members, could you keep the conversations down a bit, please.

Mr P.T. MILES: That was the campaign that they attempted to run, and it was all about anything but industrial land. My opponent, who is a councillor for the City of Wanneroo, attempted to say that industrial land was not wanted; there was no need to have it. Yet we have 300 000 people moving into our area. Apart from trying to get some political gain out of it, I cannot for the life of me understand why he wanted to say that toxic wastelands and chemical spills would be there and that there would be water and dust pollution—the whole thing—on areas

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of land that we need for job creation. Obviously, I will be taking that up through the local government because, as a councillor, Mr Treby needs to be aware of the conditions involved in his being a councillor.

One of the other aspects that I find very odd is that prior to the election the councillor wished to try to prevent some rural land becoming industrial land. However, he actually voted in support of it only last week. After the election he decided that the industrial land is a great thing and he supported the motion and agreed with it all. It just shows us that —

Dr A.D. Buti: Are you worried about it? Is he going to run against you in four years and kill you?

Mr P.T. MILES: No, no. He is now running for Labor to be a senator.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, please!

Mr P.T. MILES: Here we have a wannabe member of this house using any terminology that he wishes to try to scare people and run some sort of scare campaign in the media. Quite honestly, he failed because I won by 11 per cent. Therefore, the scare campaigns just do not work.

I will finish on this note: as a local government representative, he well knows the conditions of his being a councillor. He has definitely very much started to talk about what he will or will not do prior to anything going before his council. That is a very dodgy area. So, we will be looking at what he —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I do not want to have to call you, but I will shortly if you continue.

Mr P.T. MILES: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

I will finish on this note —

Several members interjected.

Mr P.T. MILES: The member would definitely know about it.

I will finish on this note: this government has a very good reputation of being able to consult, being able to —

Several members interjected.

Mr P.T. MILES: Eleven per cent; 11 per cent.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr P.T. MILES: The member needs to ask some of his people some questions so we can go in there. I will finish —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Mr P.T. MILES: I am very happy to finish on the note that Wanneroo is firmly in Liberal hands for the next four years by 11 per cent, which is something that has never been achieved by any Labor member of this house. Thank you very much.

A member interjected.

Mr P.T. MILES: Oh, hubris; new word for the day!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Balcatta.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Bassendean.

Ms M.M. Quirk: If only!

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): Members of the public gallery, you are very welcome to be here. You are not to participate in anything that happens here, but to simply be quiet observers.

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean) [4.06 pm]: Mr Acting Speaker, congratulations on your appointment, and congratulations to all other members elected at the election.

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It is an honour to give my first speech as the Labor member for Bassendean. Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that make up the electorate of Bassendean and the land on which we meet today. I pay tribute to elders past and present. When I was speaking to one of the Indigenous leaders in Bassendean only a few days ago he shared a little of his story as a member of the stolen generation. He was taken away and put in an institution when he was not much more than a toddler and then forced to work for nothing. I cannot imagine what it would be like and how it would feel to be separated from your family and treated so badly, yet he still spoke of his desire for all Australians—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—to live in this country together in harmony. I find the generosity of spirit shown by him and other Indigenous leaders towards non-Indigenous people to be quite incredible, and I thank them and him for it. I hope that during my time in this place I can at least contribute something towards making good the wrongs of the past and building a better future for Indigenous people here in their own country.

Some consider being elected to Parliament as an achievement in itself; I do not really see it that way. Rather, I feel as though I have applied to do a job for the people of Bassendean, and that, after a very unusual selection process, I have been given the nod. Getting here is not an end in itself; it is what I do with this opportunity that really matters to the electors of Bassendean and to the broader community. I take this job very seriously, I am up for the challenge, and I very much look forward to the next four years. I intend to work hard for the people of the electorate of Bassendean, whether they voted for me or not.

Of course, getting elected is not a solo pursuit, and I would like to acknowledge some very important people. Firstly, my family; I was extremely lucky to be brought up in a loving home. My mother, Marj, in particular is a marvellous woman from whom I learnt a lot of my values. She was always there to help others, and she placed little importance on material things or prestige. In fact, she had a healthy disrespect for those in high office, especially those who were more interested in the office itself rather than actually doing anything useful. Her advice was, “Do something with your life that assists others; don’t just think of yourself”; wise words many years ago and wise words now.

My father, Bernie, who is no longer with us, worked hard to raise a large family, and I thank him for that. Looking back, we did not have a lot, but the fact that he had secure employment—something that many people today do not have—contributed significantly to us having a good family environment. Thanks to my five siblings—Phil, Alison, Brian, Sue and Lorraine; no matter what we do in life, it is good to have brothers and sisters who are always there to remind us that we are still someone’s little brother. To my incredible partner and my two kids, I can say only thank you. Rachael is equally qualified as me, if not more so, to be standing here today. She is as committed to social justice as anyone I know. She was a great union organiser when I met her. She is now a committed environmentalist and, in all that, she finds time to be a great mother. She is not a mythical supermum; she is just a fantastic person who knows what is right and is prepared to work at it. Thanks to Sophie and Charlie who are great kids, and are here today. They are a great source of fun and advice and I thank them for that.

I must also thank the many people who generously gave their time to be part of the campaign team. I give many thanks to the ALP members in the electorate, but especially to those in the Bassendean branch, who worked very hard. To Kylie, Jai, Mark, Carol, Anne, Valda and Clive, thank you for all your help. To my old friend Teresa and to Irene, thanks for all the work you did with all those letterbox miles. Thanks to everybody at United Voice for all the assistance that you gave me during the campaign. Many of you are here today.

The Bassendean electorate is a great part of Perth. It enjoys kilometres of Swan River foreshore and relatively easy access to Perth and to the hills. The Bassendean township has a small-town feel to it and the electorate has a lot going for it. The people are great. I enjoyed the months of doorknocking that I did before the election. I had the odd door closed in my face, but overwhelmingly people were friendly and engaged. Wandering the streets and knocking on doors gives us an opportunity to see bits of a community that may otherwise ordinarily pass us by. Thanks especially to the people who invited me in and offered me water on those hot days.

Friendly as it is, the electorate of Bassendean exhibits some of the problems that face many parts of Western Australia. A shortage of affordable housing means that many are struggling to pay the rent or the mortgage and many of the children of Bassendean families will find it hard to buy there. They are being forced to buy in suburbs further afield without the services and facilities that Bassendean enjoys. In many parts of the electorate public transport is sadly lacking while traffic congestion gets worse every day. If every member of the cabinet had to use Tonkin Highway each day to get to work, we would have a train promised tomorrow. Residents in suburbs such as Beechboro, Kiara, Eden Hill and Lockridge do not get excited about the government’s promised airport train link because if they wanted to use it, it would first require a bus trip to find it. Needless to say Metronet was very popular in my electorate. A train line along Reid and Tonkin Highways would give real rail

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access to residents in the surrounding suburbs, rather than them having to rely on an inadequate bus service, crowded roads or the crowded Midland line. I do not intend to let this issue rest just because of the election result. The electors of Bassendean want and deserve better public transport and I will continue to work for that.

Another big issue in my electorate is the government's plans to privatise the new Midland hospital, which will replace Swan District Hospital when it closes. Across the political spectrum the majority of people in Bassendean, I believe, are opposed to this decision. The Western Australian government has a long history of managing world-class public hospitals for all Western Australians, yet the Court and Barnett governments have embarked on a hospital privatisation agenda. In the 1990s the management of both the Peel and Joondalup Health Campuses was handed to private companies. In the face of public opposition the usual assurances were given that the private operators had been chosen only after rigorous selection processes and they were well qualified to do the job. At Joondalup, it took the private operator just seven years of a 20-year contract to bail and onsell the contract. The same has just happened at the Peel Health Campus. History has shown that both private operators chosen by the government were woefully inadequate. Now both hospitals will be run by the same private company. The same private company will run the major public hospitals in the northern suburbs and the Peel region without ever going through a public tender process. Against this background, this government is now proceeding to have the new Midland hospital run by a private operator. No publicly released business case and no coherent explanation has been provided for why this is in the best interests of the residents in the eastern suburbs or the nearby rural areas that will rely on the new hospital. This decision is made even more remarkable because the private operator has been allowed to refuse to provide some medical services purely on the grounds of its religious belief. Not only will these services not be provided but also no patient will be referred to another provider to access them. It will be as though they do not exist. I believe health services in a public facility should be provided on the basis of medical science not on religious belief. I am sure the overwhelming majority of the public agree with this proposition. The government knows its decision is not popular. Prior to the election, it embarked on a taxpayer-funded ad campaign to extoll the virtues of the project. It also stopped referring to the new hospital as the Midland Health Campus and started referring to it as the Midland public hospital—an example of spin over substance. I will continue to campaign on this issue.

I look forward very much to working with the local community groups in the electorate. I would like to mention just a few of them. AshfieldCAN, the community action network, comprises a committed bunch of locals who want to see their suburb develop. The dedicated people at Brockman House work very hard in limited facilities to provide services for people in the Beechboro and surrounding areas. I look forward to working with them specifically in their search for larger premises.

To all the groups that form part of the Good Neighbourhood project, hardworking people who do amazing work to help support some of the most disadvantaged families in our community; and to the schools and childcare centres in the electorate who educate the next generation, I look forward to working with you to see our kids get the best start they can have in life. I especially want to mention the parents and citizens associations that do such important work.

Three local government authorities touch the electorate—the City of Swan, the City of Bayswater and the Town of Bassendean. Local government is important and I hope that over the next four years this government handles this issue wisely. Many sporting clubs work very hard in the electorate; most do so on a volunteer basis, and I look forward to doing what I can to assist them. We have a famous West Australian Football League club in the electorate, Swan Districts Football Club. Like most WAFL clubs, it is finding life difficult. It has a great youth program; it deserves to have a secure financial base. I also look forward to working with the businesses and the community members who hope to revitalise Old Perth Road, which has great potential. To the clubs and groups like the seniors groups, the RSL, the volunteer fire brigade, the churches and many others, I hope to be a resource to them and an advocate when necessary.

Finally, I give special mention to two groups that are very active in the Bassendean electorate. The first is the Bayswater–Noranda Community Bank. When I first moved to Bayswater in the 1990s, the shopping precinct around the Bayswater train station had three banks. Within five years, the last, the Commonwealth, which was my bank, announced that it was closing. Like others, I was angry at what the banks were doing and I also feared that the loss of the last bank would be a fatal blow to the shopping precinct. Rather than just get angry, I and a few others started a campaign to convince the Commonwealth Bank to stay there. My campaign experience with the union was very useful, and within weeks we had an event outside the bank, which involved hundreds of locals. We engaged the local businesses and local councillors. Community feeling was strong; there was anger at the loss of face-to-face banking, but there was also anger that a large corporation would not be there for the community. Ultimately, the CBA did not change its mind and it closed its doors, but we found another solution. We started our own community bank. We now have two branches, one in Bayswater and one in Noranda, with

Extract from Hansard

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more than 12 000 accounts and 730 shareholders. Our community bank was the first in metropolitan Perth. We return a good dividend to our shareholders and we return thousands of dollars each year back to the community in the form of community grants. The work is done by great banking staff, who are the key to our success, along with our well-regarded bank manager, Sean, and our board led by Barry McKenna as chair and Denise Beer as his deputy. I have been on the board since day one in 2000 and I am proud of what we have achieved. I mention the bank because on an occasion like this it is good to give the hardworking staff and board members some recognition for the work they do, and also because it is a great example of what a community can do when it decides to fight “city hall”—to use that expression. The sheer size and muscle of the big banks means that logically they should always win, but our community bank story shows what you can do when you have a go. We now have a thriving small business providing better banking services than we ever had, and a share of the profits go back to the local community. How good is that? It was also a pleasure to meet many of our shareholders and account holders as I doorknocked; it seemed like there was one in every street.

The second group that is well represented in the electorate and that I would like to give a special mention to is United Voice, the union for which I had the honour to work for more than 20 years, the past 10 years as WA secretary. More than 500 of our members live in the electorate of Bassendean. It is still an honour and a privilege to be a member of the union. United Voice members come from industries such as aged care, child care, health, education, cleaning, hospitality, manufacturing, security and disabilities. They educate our children; they care for our elderly; they keep our hospitals running; they make a disabled person’s life more fulfilling; they scrape us off the road after a traffic accident; they clean our offices when we have gone home; they stand guard while we sleep; they bake our bread; and they serve our drinks. United Voice members are likely to be there when we are born and when we are laid to rest. To do that, they work day shift, night shift and everything in between; they work on weekends, at Christmas and every public holiday; they work full time, part time and increasingly casual; they work two jobs; and they work hard—harder than most in this chamber would ever imagine—yet they are so often given little reward and little respect for what they do.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.J. KELLY: Most are women and most earn less than \$50 000 a year. Most struggle to pay their bills. They are typical of many Western Australians who are finding it difficult to survive in our economy. Many hang in there because they are committed to what they do, but increasingly they are finding that commitment alone does not pay the mortgage or the rent.

Western Australia is blessed with the resources that make it one of the wealthiest corners of the globe, yet the award rate of pay for a carer in aged care is less than \$20 an hour. We pay a qualified childcare professional less in their whole working life than some Western Australian executives take home in a single year. I will just repeat that: we pay a qualified childcare professional less in their whole working life than some Western Australian executives take home in a single year. Clearly this is not right. But in the face of this injustice, these workers are not accepting victims. As members of United Voice they are constantly pushing the boundaries of what our economic leaders say should be their lot—and they make a difference. If United Voice members in WA were doing the same job in many other countries, they would be minimum-wage workers; they would get the legal minimum in countries where that exists and nothing else. In WA, the legal minimum is \$16.52 an hour, or \$32 000 a year. Just imagine for a moment what it is like to live in WA on \$32 000 a year. What would be the standard of care in aged care, in hospitals, in child care or in disability services if our members were on minimum wages? The workers and the clients would suffer. But as a member of United Voice and under union agreements in WA a school cleaner earns \$21 an hour, an education assistant working with special needs kids earns \$26 an hour, an aged-care worker can earn up to \$22 an hour and a disabilities carer can earn up to \$23 an hour.

While I am on the subject of wages, I congratulate United Voice nationally for the \$300 million commitment that has been negotiated with the Gillard Labor government to lift the wages of staff in childcare centres by between \$3 and \$5 an hour. None of these wages won by United Voice members under union agreements are sufficient, but imagine the plight of these workers and their clients if they had not taken their own futures into their own hands by joining the union. In doing so, they have at least lifted their wages above the legal minimum. Given the valuable work done in representing these industries for more than 50 years in WA, it never ceases to surprise and amaze me that instead of applauding the work of the union, many in this house attack it. Few in this community or in this Parliament would dare to argue that a carer working in aged care earning less than \$20 per hour does not deserve more. We all nod and say something should be done to assist workers in industries such as aged care to get a just wage so that they can feed their families and stay in the industry to provide care for the elderly, but when these workers join a union and campaign for a better deal, they are often vilified for their efforts.

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Of course it is not just about wages; it is also about respect in the workplace. Workplaces can be very hierarchical and it is often the case that in the classic hierarchy our members can be seen to be less important and, in some cases, even expendable. One of the most stressful things in working life is to not have any control over when, where and how you work, especially when you are trying to juggle work and family life. The push for more flexibility leads to workers in our industries having more stressful and disjointed family lives and less time to do community work such as coach the local football team. If we say we believe in the family and family values, it is important to pay attention to industrial laws and how they impact on family life. Imagine the uproar in this house if, instead of having notice of sitting dates for the rest of the year, the government only ever put out a fortnightly roster that could include sitting over any seven days. Of course the roster could be varied at any time to meet operational requirements and at the Premier's sole discretion, and of course we would only get paid for the hours we worked on the roster, which could go up and down every fortnight. Sounds pretty awful, does it not? But that is the work environment many United Voice members face every day.

When I was doorknocking during the campaign, I knocked on the door of a woman whom I had not met before, but I had a note to tell me that she had previously been a member of the union. When she opened the door, I mentioned the union and she immediately told me how she had lost her job at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in the 1990s when the Court government privatised security. She said she felt that she was part of the team at the art gallery and she was hurt when the government made the decision that security was non-core—nice term that—and privatised the work. She reluctantly took a job with a private security firm and then lost it three years later when the contract was won by a new company that only employed guards with previous military experience. So she did a few years as a guard at a shopping centre before retirement, but she said it was not the same. She went from being part of the team working in an important Western Australian institution to being just another guard working wherever the company wanted her. She actually apologised for telling me such a long story, but she said that even though it was such a long time ago, it still affected her today. Of course, she did not have to apologise to me because I had heard many versions of that story told by workers impacted upon by decisions to privatise or outsource jobs. The personal message to each worker is, “You’re not wanted.” The effects are personal and economic as well. The low pay, the lack of respect for the work that people do, the constant push for more flexibility; these are the reasons why it is so important that unions such as United Voice exist. There are plenty of places around the world where unions do not exist and inevitably the average worker is worse off. So, to the new leadership team at the union—Carolyn, Pat and Kelly: congratulations on your new roles. To Nina, our president, and to the rest of the branch executive, the leadership group, the admin staff, the officials, the members and the delegates: thank you for everything that has happened during the last 20 years. United Voice makes an incredible contribution to the wellbeing of thousands of workers and their families. I know the union is in good hands.

I want to finish with one more story from my electorate. I recently spoke with a small business operator in my electorate. After years of hard slog, he was walking away from his business; closing up, not because he was a bad businessman, but because of an excessive rent increase sought by his landlord. He felt bullied by the way he was treated. After seven years he received a one-line email telling him he could leave or agree to the new terms. What does this story and the story of our member at the Art Gallery have in common? I suppose it is how we view people and how we view economics. I believe people are always more important than money. I believe that economics should be there to assist communities and not the other way around. These days we can be forgiven for believing that people are subservient to the market, not the reverse. The principal purpose of economic activity is to provide humanity with what it needs to live a fulfilling and dignified life. The economy is not an end in itself. This is not to say that circumstances beyond our control may mean tough decisions must be made, but the pain must be shared. Unfortunately in our economy the burden is often unequally shared and it is often borne by the people who can bear it the least. Not good enough, again, in one of the wealthiest parts of the globe.

In conclusion, I say this: whether we are born here or whether we came to Australia by some other circumstance, we are extremely lucky to live in a corner of the planet that has such incredible naturally occurring wealth and we should always remind ourselves that we, the current residents of Western Australia, did nothing to put the minerals in the ground. In these circumstances we can individually consume as much as we can for as long as we can and not worry about the person next to us or the people to come, or we can use these resources wisely and conservatively to ensure that, as a community, everyone can live a decent life and that there is a future for generations to follow. I believe that the latter approach is what makes us better people and what makes us a better community. We teach our kids when they are young that sharing is better. This should be our guiding economic principle as well. I know some people will say that it is more about growing the size of the pie rather than sharing what is there. I find that to be grossly inadequate. Firstly, in our community the pie is already pretty big. How much bigger does it need to be before everyone in Western Australia can have a roof over their head? Secondly, the world is full of countries where just increasing the size of the pie has not seen a fair standard of

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living for all. We need a healthy economy, but a healthy economy is one in which everyone is included. In Western Australia we are a long way from including everyone. That is why I believe in the labour movement. The labour movement and the Labor Party are two of the most efficient tools to ensure our economy looks after everyone, not just the few. That is why I am proud that I worked for United Voice for all those years; that is why I am proud to be in this place as a Labor member. That is why I am proud of our community bank, a successful small business that is dedicated to genuinely serving the community. Finally, as a Parliament we lay claim to being the leaders of this community. I believe true leaders should be judged not by the monuments they build but on how well they treat the least privileged in our community. That will be my focus in this Parliament and I look forward to the task.

[Applause.]

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): Thank you members and people in the public gallery, I give the call to the member for Kingsley.

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [4.35 pm]: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your role as Acting Speaker. I know I found the role very stimulating. It certainly engaged me more with the parliamentary process and I am sure that anyone who undertakes a role of Acting Speaker will also find the same, so I wish you well in your role. I also take this opportunity to congratulate all members who have been returned to the Parliament after the 2013 election. I know for all of us it was quite a long, hot campaign and it was well worth it for those who are back. I also want to particularly congratulate the new members of Parliament, because for you, and I remember my time not that long ago, when you actually go through the process, you wake up on the Sunday morning and say, “What happens now?” and you are just not sure what the next part of the process is. To all of you I say welcome to this chamber and to this place. It is a very special place. Treat the place and the position with the respect that it deserves and you will gain a lot from the experience, and you will be of great service to Western Australia.

I have to say that it is certainly a pleasure to come back to this Parliament as a member of the government. It is certainly reassuring to us to know that we are on the right track. It is certainly reassuring for me, because the members of my electorate confirmed to me that they agree with what I am doing, and they support what I am doing and what this government is doing. It is wonderful for me to know that we are moving in the right direction. I guess I am not really surprised, because that is my electorate, and we have already heard that others have had good swings in their electorates. That demonstrates to all of us that the people of Western Australia know what they are looking for. They know that it is important to have direction in this state. They know that it is important that we have a vision of where we want to go, and that we are getting there. It does not happen overnight. We cannot just suddenly build everything. We need to take our time and get the vision through.

It is also very important that we have a government that makes decisions. We can go through life and compile reports and evaluate the reports, and review the evaluation of the reports that were done initially. But we need to get going. We need to make decisions. I know that making decisions is not always the most popular thing to do. But inevitably, down the track, when something has been finalised, people say, “Wow! Isn’t this great! We should have done this sooner”. But at the time, it is not always seen in that way. Some people are good at seeing what something might look like down the track; other people are not. But whatever happens, we need to make sure that we keep making decisions and we keep going forward, and this government will do just that.

Another thing that is particularly important about this government is that it stands up for the issues that we have to deal with. There are lots of issues that we have to deal with, such as the federal government and the proposals that it keeps coming up with. We need to stand up for Western Australia, and we need to make sure that in whatever we do and whatever decisions we make, we as a state are better off and we are not just letting everyone else catch up to us.

I believe that the record of this government over the last four and a half years has been very, very good. The Minister for Health is not in the chamber at the moment, but the complete rebuild of the hospital infrastructure is really appreciated. As everyone says, if we are going to be sick, be sick in Western Australia, because this is the best state in which to be sick at the moment. Western Australia has wonderful hospital infrastructure not only in Perth, but also in regional areas. That infrastructure is there for everybody. I do not have a hospital in my electorate. It does not mean anything to just have a hospital there. But certainly for the people in my electorate, to have a very good health system is one of the benefits of the way in which this government is spreading the money around.

I am also particularly proud of the revitalisation of the education system that is taking place in my area. Many people have commented on the introduction of the independent public school system. Having worked in schools,

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albeit many years ago, I have no doubt that giving schools the ability to make decisions, to employ staff and to take a direction that suits their demographic and their students, is certainly making a difference.

It is good that the freeway is being expanded. Parts of the freeway have already been expanded. In my area, the expansion of the freeway north from Hepburn Avenue to Hodges Drive is important. It will make it possible for people to get home earlier. I certainly want to assure the residents and the commuters who have to travel through that area now that even though the works have been going on since January, they are progressing very well and will be finished by mid-July. The first lot of bitumen was laid this week, and the works will be finished before too long.

I also want to comment on the increase in the number of parking bays at the train stations in my electorate. I have two train stations in my electorate, and I share another with another member. I thank the government very much for the increase in the number of parking bays.

The member for Girrawheen mentioned that the route 451 bus service was ceased recently. I can assure the member for Girrawheen that, as has been the case with other bus routes, it was a trial. Another trial is also running, and we actually have plans to do the next part of that. So, trust me; that will not be dropped off our system altogether. My residents are well aware of that.

My electorate is a very residential electorate. One thing that has been very well received is the introduction of LED speed signs. As simple as it might be, getting so many of them out so quickly, and with a whole lot more to come, has certainly given the community a much greater feeling of safety for their children. It is great for the drivers too because they appreciate the extra warning they receive.

I am also very proud that this government has been so good at establishing marine parks throughout the Kimberley. Anyone who has spent time up there knows that that is absolutely essential. A number of members would have received emails from people about that issue over time. I could very confidently respond to them by saying that the Liberal–National government is making a huge contribution to keeping the environment of Western Australia in a strong state.

The government has had good support for the mining industry. We have not been just digging things up and getting them out of the ground. I acknowledge the former Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Hon Norman Moore, who will finish in the upper house before long. His contribution to that industry has been outstanding. An extension of the mining industry is the mining services industry. We need to keep looking at what will be the next future industry, what we need to be aware of and how we can stay ahead of the pack. We have been good at mining and we are going on to the next phase and exporting our mines services to many other countries. Those types of industries, albeit small in some ways, will be very much leading the way around the world.

Of course, we are not finished yet. I have touched on only a couple of things and could go on and on. I can assure members that we will do a lot more over the term of this government. As I mentioned earlier, good government does not just do short-term projects that fit into the election cycle. It is very important to have a vision and do things for the longer term. We do not always get things done in the four-year term, but we will get them done.

I thank the people of Kingsley for returning me as their member of Parliament. I mentioned them earlier and talked about their commitment to what we do and how we do it. I can assure them that I will continue to work and advocate for them right throughout this term. Some of the most important issues for my electorate are education and law and order. They are the things that matter to them and I am very proud that the electorate of Kingsley always has—I have to put this in the right terms—the least amount of crime. We do very well and are in the top five electorates around the state. I am very proud of that. We have a very community-focused neighbourhood that keeps its eyes on each other without being nosy.

When I look back at what has happened in my electorate since I was elected in 2008, I do not necessarily see major infrastructure projects because it is not that sort of electorate. As I said, it is very residential and focused on the community. However, I do see a change in the people. I sense enthusiasm and optimism among the people and can see that they are confident, not that they will be looked after by this government—they do not want to be looked after; they want to be served by this government—but that they know this government is working for and supporting them. They also know that the government does not have it easy and that there is not just a bucketload of money. They are working things through and will make sure that they have a good future for themselves and their families. They like the fact that this government supports a small government. Many of them are small business people and contractors. They like the idea that we support the non-government sector. Many of them volunteer in non-government sector roles and they can see the benefits of the support we have given that sector over the last couple of years. They know that because of the way we operate, our recurrent

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expenditure will remain at a better level than if our debt went into recurrent expenditure. They also recognise that our state is growing very fast and that this causes issues. However, as I said before, they do not expect instantaneous solutions for transport and housing issues, but they have confidence in the government and know that those issues will be addressed in a timely and effective way, and they are seeing that occurring.

I am very proud of the people in my electorate; they make me feel very comfortable when I am out and about. They are very diverse and very interesting. People probably do not tend to think of the people of the electorate of Kingsley as being very environmentally focused. We have a major regional park in the area and many smaller parks. The people in my electorate are very concerned about the Yellagonga Regional Park. I am at the southern end of that park. I am amazed at the number of homes in my electorate that have solar panels. I am amazed at the number of retirement villages that have solar panels. Those people want to make a valuable contribution to society, and they see that as a way to effectively do that. A number of residents and friends groups protect the bushlands and the regional parks in my electorate. Some of the big groups, such as the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park, have work days regularly. People join the group or just come and work on the site. There are three sites just around Lake Goollelal. The Woodvale Waters Land Owners Association does not have to look after its part of the Yellagonga Regional Park. Its members are required to do only five metres off the road, but they go right down. They clean up the graffiti, do the planting and other things as well. The Friends of Shepherds Bush Reserve has newly been formed and I look forward to working with this group on the Shepherds Bush Reserve. Many other people just clean up as they go. They go out walking in the morning and they pick up rubbish, take it home and put it in their bin. They do not expect other people to do it for them; they do it themselves.

Schools in my electorate work very closely with the community and with parents. It is not a matter of sending the students to school, leaving them there and not dealing with them. It is a very engaged community. I am very proud that these schools are developing wonderful young people. My schools do not just do the curriculum that needs to be done; they provide other opportunities for the development of young people. They stimulate our young people, and in many ways they also teach them about community service. They look outside the electorate as well. Woodvale Secondary College has a sister school relationship with a school in China, which is also linked with the City of Joondalup. Greenwood College has had a great improvement in its academic and cultural performance because of the broader outlook it has taken and because of the quality teachers in the area.

To sum up, residents in my electorate work hard. They volunteer in the community and with other organisations; they do not always have to be right in the electorate. A lot of care is shown for other people. They take an interest in what is occurring in this state and in the country. It is not just about the little area that they find themselves living in. My constituents are involved in many industries and many businesses. I can describe them as small business operators, contractors and middle management, and that diversity is very interesting. They actually follow what occurs in federal and state politics, and we have some quite interesting discussions.

Leading up to and during the last election, I was very enthused by the interest of young people in what was going on. I know a lot of young people were not involved as such, but I was very pleased with the number of 17 or 18-year-olds, particularly in my area, who dropped by to see whether there was anything they could do. They had learnt about it in school and they just wanted to find out what was really going on. I was very enthused by that. It is important that we are conscious of the need to make people understand what is involved. I would like to thank the schools that have a very active civics and politics class. I think it makes a difference, certainly in the families with parents who talk about it.

I would also like to thank those people who often just came in for work experience and the others who just came through. Emails arrived from people I did not know asking whether they could find out what really goes on with a member of Parliament.

As a side issue, I would like every 18-year-old who is already an Australian citizen to have the opportunity to take the oath that other people take when they become Australian citizens. I find that very inspiring. We could address some of the other issues of the young people who perhaps do not have the same sense of commitment to this country that new citizens have when they take the oath. I would love to see that somehow become available to them.

I was extremely honoured when the Premier offered me the role of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; and Child Protection. For me, it is an exciting learning curve. I have had indirect involvement, but not direct involvement. I have always taken the approach that while I am in this place, I want the opportunity to learn as much as I can and not just stay with the things that I know. I welcome this opportunity. I found the briefings and the meetings very inspiring, and most refreshing. I must be honest. I was not sure where I would be at with some of that; but because I have always been an advocate for intervention and

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proactivity, I am most impressed with the departments and the commissions, which also have that approach. We all know there has been review into mental health and we have a way to go, but I am a big believer in minimising the number of times that we get to acute situation by addressing things along the way. Another thing that I found most impressive was that they have shown they are about relationships and working with people and not treating people in isolation. It is about people, families and support services so that we can manage the acute situations. That applies to both mental health and child protection.

Also, in the area of disabilities, once again, Western Australia is far ahead of the other states.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: That is because we have an approach that is people focused and not systems focused and we work with the person and the family. I know that many people are coming over to Western Australia to see what we are doing.

I must also reflect on the state of Western Australia, because when I first stood in this place I said that I was working for the state of Western Australia. I will continue to do so. We are very, very fortunate to live here. We are very fortunate that people before us have made decisions so that our state is as good as it is, and I commit to continuing in that vein.

Our education system is better than any other in this country; our health system is better than any other; our system to support people with disabilities is better than any other. Our future, the future of everyone in this state, is better than in any other state. Our opportunities in this state are better than in any other state. We must continue to develop large and innovative projects for our future. We must continue to encourage education opportunities and broaden the opportunity of science, innovation and education by growing our educational precincts and expertise. We must continue to bring people and companies to our state so that they invest here as well. The reason I am very confident about this state is because I believe this Liberal–National government will continue to do these things. Thank you.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [4.52 pm]: I rise today to make a few comments in relation to my electorate of West Swan. I want first of all to pass on my best wishes to all new members elected to this Parliament. I like listening to inaugural speeches, because we get an understanding of where people come from. It is very interesting to hear people's backgrounds and family stories. Most speeches seemed to include a strong mother figure, which is quite extraordinary and shows the importance of the role of a mother, in particular, in creating confident children who then aspire to bigger things.

I would like to join my colleagues who have acknowledged the significant contributions to this place by former Labor members, including John Kobelke, Tom Stephens, Eric Ripper, Carol Martin, Tony O'Gorman, Martin Whitely and John Hyde. I acknowledge all their work and, in particular, their enormous experience in this Parliament, their significant contribution to the WA community and also how they were role models to many of us as new members. John Kobelke, the former member for Balcatta, was very diligent and had an incredible work ethic. As a retiring member, the amount of work that he did in the last days of the Parliament was incredible. I wish them all the best in the future.

I would again like to put on record my thanks to the West Swan community for putting its trust and support in me for another term. The member for Girrawheen mentioned that, like her, I went through a significant redistribution, which is a difficult thing for all members of Parliament. But, more importantly, it is difficult for community members who rock up at each election and who try to understand which seat they belong in, and how that links into the federal seat and the local council. As I said, my electorate was subject to a significant redistribution. I picked up the suburb of Ellenbrook. Again, I would like to put on the record my thanks to the people of Ellenbrook for putting their trust in me and electing me. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped me during the election campaign. There are too many to list, and I am sure I would miss a few. I had enormous support throughout the community. I held a function a number of weeks ago to personally thank those people. Many of these people are not traditionally involved in the Labor Party and have not worked on elections previously. They did a great job on the day and in the lead-up to the election, whether by doorknocking or looking after a polling booth. They had to deal with quite an aggressive and intimidatory election campaign, which in some cases involved bullying. I have a lot of respect for my team that helped me; in particular, some of the younger people—that is, 17 and 18-year-olds—who have had to put up with bullying and some terrible behaviour.

I would like to thank Daniel and Olivia in my office for their service and the help they have given me and the community over the past four years. I hope and trust that they will be with me for another four years. I also want to put on record my thanks to my husband, Tim, and acknowledge my little children, my 17-month-old twins Lucia and Alessandro, and Grace, who continue to make my life very, very enjoyable.

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I now turn to the key issues affecting the electorate. Like many of my colleagues, this time around the Liberal Party made significant commitments in my electorate. In many instances, it seemed to copy commitments we made and also spend a bit more money advertising those commitments. Today I want to go through the range of commitments made in my electorate of West Swan and again put on record that the community expects these commitments to be delivered. Unlike the example of the Ellenbrook rail line, which the government failed to deliver, we believe that it now has an obligation to deliver all the other commitments it made to my electorate. I want to go through them. The first commitment relates to Gnangara Road. In June last year Labor committed up to \$12 million to duplicate Gnangara Road. It is a significant road stretching across the east–west corridor and it services not only my electorate but also the electorates of many of my neighbours, particularly the member for Swan Hills and the members for Girrawheen and Wanneroo. It is a vital piece of road infrastructure that Labor acknowledged last year needs to be duplicated. In November last year, the government matched Labor’s commitment and matched its duplication. We expect that that road should have these works under way over the next two years—in 2013–14 and 2014–15. It is a key piece of infrastructure that is vital to the entire community, not only the West Swan community but also other communities and surrounding suburbs.

I want to talk briefly about the rail line to Ellenbrook. The government failed to deliver its commitment and we are still unsure whether it will build or deliver any improved public transport infrastructure to the Ellenbrook community. It was a massive broken promise and something that was raised with me constantly during the campaign. The government needs to take public transport infrastructure seriously. Labor had a very good plan—the Metronet rail plan. This plan basically would have connected the suburbs with the city and also have an east–west connection. It meant that people in Ellenbrook could be connected to Morley and the airport and could go on to the Joondalup line. From what I have seen, it was the best and most comprehensive plan to deal with congestion in our suburbs. Nothing I have seen from the government side can even match what was developed by the Labor Party in the lead-up to the last election. We are still unclear whether the government will deliver its election commitment of a rail line to the airport, and there are also significant question marks over whether the government is committed to the Metro Area Express light rail system and whether it has the funding to deliver it.

Back to Ellenbrook, I believe the government seriously needs to build a mass transit system to Ellenbrook. The new estates along the corridor all demand better public transport. Other election commitments along that corridor I want to mention include the Lord Street–Reid Highway intersection. The government committed to put in traffic lights at this intersection by 2012, but there are still no traffic lights.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is a long time waiting for traffic lights!

I again call on the government to deliver a commitment made four years ago to deliver traffic lights at the intersection of Lord Street and Reid Highway.

Another commitment that Labor made, which the government did not match, related to expanding youth facilities in Ellenbrook. I talked to a lot of people in Ellenbrook about the need for more facilities for young people. I believe that the police and community youth centre model should have a permanent home in Ellenbrook. It would be of significant advantage to the community. It is something that the Liberal Party did not match but I still think is a huge priority for the people of Ellenbrook.

Another key facility that the Liberal Party matched was a new swimming pool in Ellenbrook. I put on record that information in a flyer sent out to all the people of Ellenbrook stated that Natasha Cheung and Colin Barnett would invest \$7 million in the Ellenbrook recreation hub, including a 50-metre pool and a kids’ pool. Of course there were numerous things in the mailbox committing to this new swimming pool. Numerous signs were put up around the place committing to a swimming pool. There is huge demand for a swimming pool in Ellenbrook. The Liberal Party and the government committed to that swimming pool. We expect to see that delivered. I will be meeting with council over the next number of weeks to see what progress has occurred in respect of that swimming pool.

The last thing I want to mention about the Ellenbrook area is the Perth–Darwin highway. It is the member for Swan Hills’ new number one project.

Mr F.A. Alban: It was always my project.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: His new number one project is the Perth–Darwin highway. Initially there was a commitment for it to commence in 2014. It is now predicted to commence in 2016. It is again predicated on commonwealth money. This is the new number one commitment from the member for Swan Hills. I hope it happens. It will help

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with traffic congestion in the area, but I am not holding my breath given the performance of this government in its non-delivery of the Ellenbrook rail line:

I want to move to Ballajura and some of the commitments made by the Liberal Party. Some of those commitments matched Labor's commitments to Ballajura. The first is the police station. As members in this house may recall—I have spoken a few times about it—the Liberal Party closed Ballajura police station back in 2009. It closed the Ballajura police station with no consultation. It had a significant impact on the feeling of safety in the community. It was the number one issue raised with me in the lead-up to the election. I raised it numerous times in this Parliament, as members on this side will attest. I asked numerous questions and wrote numerous letters to ministers about the need for Ballajura police station. I calculated that for 1 352 days the Liberal Party ignored the need for a Ballajura police station. For 1 352 days it said, "We don't need a Ballajura police station. This hub model is the way to go and we don't need a Ballajura police station." Twenty-five days before the election—that is after ignoring the issue for 1 352 days—the Liberal Party came out and promised a new Ballajura police station. The Liberal Party not only promised a new Ballajura police station, but also committed to it having 21 police officers; and not only would it have 21 police officers, but also it would be a 24/7 police station—it would be open 24/7. That was the commitment made by the Liberal Party to the people of Ballajura. We know because there were flashing road signs, can you believe, throughout the suburb of Ballajura, telling people that the Liberal Party was committed to not only a police station, but also one which had 21 officers and which would be open 24/7. The people of Ballajura expect and demand that that police station be delivered in the way specified by the Liberal Party during the campaign—21 officers, 24/7, and they expect it to be delivered in the next two years, as was promised.

The other commitment that was made in relation to Ellenbrook was about a new high school, and I will be talking about this issue more fully in later weeks. But there is a need for a new high school in Ellenbrook. The site has been specified; it is in north Ellenbrook. There is a need to start building that as soon as possible because of the significant numbers in the existing Ellenbrook high school. It is something on the agenda but I think we need to try to get that going as fast as possible. Labor had committed to have the opening of the first stage in 2015; the current government has committed to 2017. We need to try to bring that forward to ensure that the youngsters—the teenagers—in Ellenbrook —

Mr M. McGowan: Youngsters?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I do sound old! We need to ensure that the children of Ellenbrook, and Aveley in particular, have another high school to attend.

They are a number of the commitments made. Labor also committed to building a new primary school in Caversham, similar to the commitment for south Landsdale. Caversham has a number of growing estates, such as the Brookleigh and Taylor estates, with a huge population catchment. Basically, it is a young community, with young children needing that school. I will be advocating to get that Caversham primary school built as soon as possible.

I want to quickly touch on some other issues in my electorate before I pass on to one of my colleagues. I will outline these issues, because there is not enough time to go into a lot of detail today. I want to again go through the issue with the chicken farm at 60 Cheltenham Street, West Swan. I think there has been some progression since the last time I spoke. However, currently, it is not a sustainable solution, and there needs to be some movement in relation to this chicken farm. As I have said in this house before, there are a number of chicken farms in my electorate, and they create significant planning issues because of the rural and the urban interface. There needs to be a proper planning policy and proper guidelines to try to deal with this issue, because to achieve the affordable housing targets and the land release targets, we need to free up land on our fringe. Some of the buffers created through these processes interfere with and discourage further development.

I will deal with some of the issues that I have with antisocial behaviour in some homes in my electorate. Last year we pursued an issue regarding a particular situation in a Homeswest property in Ballajura. It ended up that the matter was sorted out, but there are a number of issues throughout my electorate in relation to, basically, some unsatisfactory goings-on in homes affecting the people around them. It is normally in some block of units in which the neighbours are elderly Homeswest pensioners who have been living there for decades, and the impact on their lives and their circumstances is horrendous. I have a number of issues in front of me at the moment, and I will be raising them with the Minister for Housing. I think Housing needs to be better resourced to deal with these matters, because satisfactory outcomes do not seem to be achieved in satisfactory time frames on some of these matters. Like I said, they are tricky, especially in circumstances when people are living in units next door to where there is drug dealing or other unsatisfactory or illegal behaviour. Evictions are tricky, but there needs to be a balance so that the neighbours can feel safe in their homes and so that pensioners who have

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been living in their units for decades without being caused distress are not subject to enormous stress and pressure when someone moves into those units. I have a number of issues I will be raising with the minister.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I have been dealing with the last issue I want to raise since the election. It is in relation to an elderly woman who has basically lost everything through what I believe are inappropriate dealings with a real estate agent. It is in circumstances like these that we not only realise the role of members of Parliament, but also the role institutions have in protecting and assisting the vulnerable. I have met with an elderly woman who has an adult disabled son who is in, I think, his 30s. She has basically lost everything. She has been through the court process, but had to defend herself because she was not in a position to get assistance and have lawyers, as her opponent did. I hope to be able to do something to help this person, but this has brought home to me that we need to be much better at, and much more vigilant about, helping the vulnerable in our society, particularly when those vulnerable people are up against people with a lot of money and some very good lawyers. I am not sure what legal avenues are left open to her, but we will be pursuing everything we can to try to help this lady. She is an elderly woman with an adult disabled son and she has nowhere to go. As members of Parliament it is our duty to try to make sure that systems are in place to try to protect and help these people, and to ensure that people are not abused and have rights when dealing with the most powerful in the community.

I want to quickly thank my colleagues for electing me to the shadow cabinet positions of planning, finance, government accountability and women's interests.

Mr M. McGowan: It is an eclectic mix!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: An eclectic mix with issues about which I will speak at other times.

The planning portfolio is of significant interest to me, given the number of planning issues in my electorate. I deal with planning issues on a daily basis, and it is an area I am particularly interested in. Of course, being shadow Minister for Finance means holding this government accountable for the bad decisions it makes on a daily basis that have seen net debt increase from \$3.6 billion to a predicted more than \$20 billion. We will hold this government to account on some of its promises in relation to revenue relief through payroll tax exemptions, and we will be holding the government to account on delivering all of its election commitments. We will also be ensuring that there is proper expenditure of government money to try to reduce the significant increases in debt that have occurred under the existing—not new—Barnett government.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [5.14 pm]: I take this opportunity to rise and make some comments about the Governor's speech, which was delivered eloquently in the other place a week or so ago. In doing so, I congratulate everyone who has been elected to this place for the thirty-ninth Parliament.

First of all, I want to make a few comments about some interesting tactics we saw during the election that was held a month or so ago and how those tactics affected the numbers in this place. In the lead-up to the election we saw in many electorates a plethora of paraphernalia, signage, outrageous "flaggering"—is that a word?

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: "Flaggering", if that is a word, of council by-laws. The Liberal Party is totally guilty of basically trashing any local government by-laws relating to signage and of totally disregarding the local authorities. When I rang my local authority about a couple of Liberal Party signs, they said, "It is no use us prosecuting them now because they will just take it to the Supreme Court." That is the sort of government we have. In the lead-up to the election, the Young Liberal liberation front, in their Hummers and their SUVs, arrived in the afternoon, some of them towing cherry pickers. They arrived at the election polling booths and up went the cherry picker and up would go the signage in trees, over public buildings and on verges. Up went the signage and the bunting and the little fairy lights. Then of course we saw scenes similar to the Patrick debacle down in Fremantle many years ago; the Rottweilers came out and the security guards were stationed at all entrances that were yet to be opened for the election the next morning.

Mr J.M. Francis: This is just Mandurah!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: This is everywhere. The Rottweilers and the paraphernalia were out there and the security guards stood to attention, being paid very well, while the Young Liberal liberation front drove around chucking bog laps and making sure everything was ready. They did that in the dead of night. Then of course we saw —

Dr M.D. Nahan: Young Labor does not exist. They have to be paid.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 17 April 2013]

p111c-145a

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Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What is the member for Riverton's problem? He has a problem, does he? No. I will not take an interjection from the member for Riverton.

The election happened and we have some interesting numbers in the house. There is no doubt about that. I am the Whip, and it is very lonely when we go for our first vote and there is fewer people on our side than we hoped would be. This is a warning to the members over on the other side, particularly the newbies. I have listened to a number of the inaugural speeches over the past day or so and I was impressed with the member for Alfred Cove. Mind you, I have to say, there was not a lot that he had to improve on given the former member! However, he was very impressive—I mean that honestly—as was the member for Churchlands. It is interesting that those two members have replaced two Independents, but I will not go any further in my comments about either of the members that they replaced. The problem that the members for Alfred Cove and Churchlands in “particulia” —

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Particular. There is another word for members!

The problem they have created is that there are disgruntled members over there behind them. It is an interesting thing. The first question that should have been asked in this house when we had our first question time is: who decided on the seating plan? What an interesting study of human behaviour. Who is responsible for the government's seating plan? There was the National Party absolutely tearing at the wonderful member for Eyre, a great, magnificent and honourable bloke, wherever he went, whether it was in Boulder, Esperance, Sandstone—I do not know whether that is in the electorate, but anyway—Grass Patch or Norseman. No matter where he went, there was the National Party creeping up from behind the trees, darting out from the bushes and saying, “We're gonna get ya! We're gonna get ya, Graham!” They nearly did. Then what did the wonderful government do when the member for Eyre was returned? It put him in amongst the nest of vipers that is the National Party! The government put him there! It said, “Graham, we've got a great seat for you, son; we're going to put you right among the same people who tried to tear you apart.” And that is what they did, so the poor member for Eyre sits over there in amongst the vipers from the National Party, and their numbers have grown. They have; we know that. National Party members are everywhere. They even contested the seat of Mandurah. The people of Mandurah have not seen a National Party person since 1924, and that was when only about 200 people lived in Mandurah.

But let us look more at some of the other placements in this place. My very good friend the member for Swan Hills is not here; I hope he is watching and listening. That man deserved a ministry, but what did they do with him? They sent him up the back. By the time we have the next rearrangement of seats in this place, he will be sitting over there in the Speaker's gallery. They put him as far back as possible. Then, of course, I glance over and see a couple of new members up there, one of whom will make his inaugural speech shortly; I will be listening very carefully, I might say. Then the government put the member for Southern River close to us and as far away from the Premier as possible. The government would have said, “We've got a cunning plan here; because he causes a few problems with prostitution and other issues that we cannot possibly discuss or debate because he is going to get up and have problems with it, we'll put him as far away as possible over with the Labor mob and, hopefully, we'll forget about him.” But we will not, because he is very tall. We have already seen him a number of times scissor-kick over the pole when he was almost caught out having to vote with the government on something. He did a Tony Abbott and could not quite get out of the chamber fast enough. He darted away; he scissor-kicked, for the new members. Member for Alfred Cove and member for Churchlands, do not think that because you are new and have some talent—it is very clear you have—that the government likes you. No! The disgruntled member for Murray–Wellington, who is not in the chamber—I am sure he voted for the member for Hillarys during the election of the Speaker—is seated over there amongst the National Party vipers, of course, with all of them around him. He is not happy, because every time someone with talent wins a seat on the other side, that is another step back.

Now, my good friend the member for Swan Hills will probably have to wait until he is the father of the house in a future Parliament before he gets his guernsey, and even then he will probably be made Speaker. God help us if that happens! What I can tell you is this: you new ones have to understand that you may have been elected but you are not necessarily popular. In fact, you are probably more popular on this side of the house than you are on your own side, because you are now competition. Every time the member for Alfred Cove or the member for Churchlands stands up to make a speech, there will be grumbling from behind. There will be the old muttering of, “Oh, there he goes again; he's up again; have a look at him; there he is again; there he is.” That is what will happen; I guarantee it. What does the government do to those who get up and have a bit of a go? It promotes them. That is why the member for Jandakot is a minister now. Where is he? He was here earlier today, but he has gone. He has probably gone to check on some incarceration problem he has now. I want to give that clear

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message to you new members because it is a very important one. I feel that I need to share that with you because I do not want to see you wither on the vine. I particularly do not want my very good friends, who have now been pushed to the back, pushed to the side and shoved out, to miss out, because they will. They know that. What a pity they are not on the old parliamentary scheme, I would say, because they know that their future is very, very forlorn.

Speaking of important issues now, I want to thank the people of Mandurah for re-electing me. Some members of this place would say, “How did that happen?” I tell members now that the way it happens is simple: we have to live in the area we represent; we have to make sure we imbed ourselves in the community; and we have to believe very clearly and concisely that we want to see the best happen for our community. That is what I have always attempted to do, and if members continue to do that, quite often the people will actually respond and support them.

I have been banging on in this place about a range of things but I want to highlight something tonight to the Minister for Police—and she is not here! Here is the message to those two new fellows again: I was the biggest lobbyist for the Minister for Police in the last Parliament getting a guernsey. She got it. So just remember: if I am behind you, members, you have every chance that you are going to make it—every chance!

On policing, what has the government done to the Peel region policing? It has done a disastrous thing. It amalgamated it in 2009 and it has not worked. The hubbing system has not worked for us down there. We have a resourcing issue that the minister refuses to recognise. Now in Mandurah, unfortunately, in my view, we have come to the crossroads. We now know that our brand is ultimately at threat because of the unfortunate high-profile crimes that we have experienced, particularly in the last little while. Part of the response to that has to be a greater policing presence and greater policing resources. Unfortunately, those pleas from me, the member for Warnbro and the community have fallen on deaf ears in this government. It has refused to accept that this model of hubbing has failed, particularly in our fast-growing region of the southern corridor into the Peel region and the major regional city of Mandurah.

I repeat to the minister: Mandurah should be a hub in its own right. It has a growing population that will continue to grow over the next couple of decades. We have a huge range of social and economic-related issues that are impacting on crime and it is now absolutely apparent that the minister must recognise the mistake that was made by the Barnett government in its first term. Return the Peel police district as it was constituted to its former self. Resource it dramatically so that we can address the growing concerns about community safety in Mandurah and the growing concerns about police not being able to respond to calls because they simply do not have enough resources out there. The police have to cover a much greater area with a greater population growth with the same resources. Quite often in Mandurah at night the police have only three vehicles on the road at any one time. They are now policing the areas of Singleton and Golden Bay. At the police commissioner’s community meeting last July the people of those two communities said, “We believe we live in a police-free zone”—and I do not think they are wrong. The police minister must therefore address this issue. She must understand the importance of the growth down there and the importance of proper resourcing and proper policing.

I want to mention a matter very quickly, as I will not take my full time. I want to congratulate my good friend the member for Darling Range for his appointment as Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; and others.

Dr A.D. Buti: And Youth.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: And Minister for Youth. I want to congratulate him, but I want to raise with him—and I have raised it—the issue of St John Ambulance Australia Cadets. He has written back to me and to the cadets at St John’s, but I have to tell him that he must understand the issue. The issue is simple: the cadet program at St John’s has been running for decades. It is highly successful. The St John Ambulance hierarchy and the board, which should be made accountable for their support of the administration of St John Ambulance, want to expand the number of children and young people who are taught first aid in schools. No-one disagrees with that; it is an admirable objective in line with the objectives of St John’s itself. However, many people involved in the ambulance cadets—parents, trainers, kids and young people—who have been through that program and moved on into professional careers in paramedics, allied health et cetera, are simply saying to me, to other members of Parliament and to their community, that the cadet program should be allowed to continue side-by-side with this new proposed program of delivering first aid in schools. They are two different entities. The cadet program delivers very key, focused objectives. It trains young people who become brilliant marketing and positive branding elements for St John Ambulance itself. In Mandurah and other places in Western Australia where there are ambulance cadets, these kids and young people are out wearing their badges and uniforms,

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proudly demonstrating to all and sundry in their own communities how wonderful they are as young people and what a positive contribution they make to their communities.

Ms M.M. Quirk: And working out the value of community service!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: And they are working out the value of community service and being great citizens. They are fantastic citizens. I think that the minister should become directly involved in meeting with Mr Tony Ahern, who is the CEO. I have no bones against Tony—he has a job to do—but I think the clear message has to be that the community, particularly those people who have been involved in ambulance cadets and indeed those who are involved now as trainers and participants, sees that the cadet entity can and should be maintained. The cadet entity will complement the expanded proposal for the new youth program that aims to deliver first aid education to young people and children in schools. It is admirable. Therefore, I am asking the minister to become intimately involved in that because I think he should. The minister sent off the Department for Communities to meet as part of the steering committee that has been established, but I reckon he has to take a more hands-on role because there is still a view that they will do this by stealth. The view is that they will simply put off doing it until after December and they have made the time line a bit murky by saying, “We’re no longer planning for it to happen by December.” I tell the minister: the community meeting that I went to at headquarters a couple of weeks back had 250 young people, parents and supporters who all showed how much they believe in this cadet program and how important it is that it be maintained.

I finally will very briefly talk about my electorate of Mandurah in the Peel region. I mentioned the concern I have about policing and the impact of under-resourcing. We have seen some high-profile crimes and burglary spikes in Mandurah in particular, which I am afraid are giving us a bad name and have the potential to damage what is a good brand. I do not want to see that happen. There is a lot of investment by people down my way, but if the Minister for Police does not fix it, it could indeed damage our brand. I do not want to see that happen. The regional identity issue is one that I will finish on in my last two minutes. This place must understand that the City of Mandurah sees itself and will continue to see itself as a regional city identity. We believe in it and we believe that we should be acknowledged for that. That is why we are still absolutely disgusted by and disappointed in the amount of royalties for regions funding we have received from this government over the past four and a half years. The Peel region, which produces the third-highest amount of royalties in Western Australia, received a pittance compared with other regions in the state—a pittance! It is not acceptable. It is totally inequitable. When we have a region with the population growth that ours has and a higher than average number of low-income earners, a higher than average number of people on fixed incomes, and a higher number of families who need assistance and support, we have every criteria that says give us a better deal. The Minister for Regional Development has consistently told me that he is happy with how the cake has been cut. I tell the Minister for Regional Development that he is absolutely wrong; he is devaluing the people of the Peel. He is devaluing the people of my region and he has done that consistently in every budget in which royalties for regions funding has been delivered. Give us more, we deserve more; that is indeed our right.

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [5.35 pm]: Before I commence my speech, I say to the new members of the house, congratulations on winning a seat. They may be like me in that when I first came to this house and I first heard the member for Mandurah speak in full flight, I actually thought that perhaps his brain was not much bigger than that of the seagulls in Mandurah! In fact, I thought at one stage that perhaps if his brains were dynamited and they exploded, there might not be enough to ruffle his hair! But I have learnt that when he stops being in full flight and gets serious, he has a lot of very, very worthwhile things to say. With that little preface, I commence my speech.

At the commencement of my second term as the member for Southern River, it certainly gives me much pleasure to make a contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate by outlining some of the achievements that we have been able to make in Southern River, and at the same time highlighting what I want to achieve for my constituents and the wider community this current term. The reason I am able to participate in this debate, and hopefully many more debates to come over the next four years, is that people who live in the electorate of Southern River first gave me the opportunity to represent them in the 2008 election. At that election I was told by many that I was wasting my time and that I could not win the seat because it was a safe Labor seat, but I managed to get across the line by 686 votes. Then four and a half years later, the people in my electorate most graciously endorsed my work with a further 16 per cent swing, allowing me to hold the seat now by a margin of almost 18 per cent. I have to confess that I never dreamt it could be possible to have the honour of having 64 per cent of electors giving me their primary vote, and after the distribution of preferences, it works out that just a little over two-thirds of people voted for me. Some people have asked me what I did to achieve such an outcome. I believe there are a number of contributing factors.

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First, I have a great team in my office who share my values and who provide warm-hearted, generous, genuine and timely service to my constituents. Second, I have a great team of volunteers who supported me throughout the term with letterboxing my newsletters and other circulars, and the seniors, and not quite so seniors, who so diligently help with mail-outs. Third, I have a great team of volunteers who helped out in the election campaign with doorknocking and, of course, on polling day. In fact, I had more people at some polling booths wearing my T-shirts than there were voters. Fourth, I believe that many of my constituents have valued and appreciated my efforts to be available to them and that I take a genuine interest in their issues. I have done my utmost to live up to my slogan that I used in the 2008 election, which I continue to use on my stationery—that is, “Putting people first”. I will comment more on that in a moment. Fifth, I attribute some of my success electorally to working very positively and closely with my federal members, Ken Wyatt, the member for Hasluck, and Dr Dennis Jensen of Tangney, whose electorates overlap mine. Sixth, and last but not least, I attribute my success to the wonderful support of my wife, Jenny, who often accompanies me to events and represents me when I cannot be at community events due to parliamentary commitments and who also does a lot behind the scenes. Those who were lucky enough to get a Christmas card from me probably noticed that it was handmade. Jenny handmade 300 Christmas cards for me to send out. Thank you, Jenny.

Back to the slogan “Putting people first”, I came up with that slogan because I believe that many people have the perception that members of Parliament are motivated by staying onside with their political parties or just by building political careers. I want people to know that my motivation for entering politics was that I wanted to be a voice in Parliament and in the community that was committed to upholding our traditional Judaeo-Christian values—the values that have made our nation the envy of many, and the values that have made this nation one that many people from all over the world wish they could call home. I have said it many times at public gatherings and in my electorate that I would rather go down fighting than support something that I do not believe in. One of the core Judaeo-Christian values is that every human being is made in the image of God, and therefore has inherent value and dignity far above anything else in the whole creation. That core value historically has given rise to the western value of the importance of the individual and the dignity of every human being. I found that while not everyone in my electorate, of course, shares my Christian faith with me, most people acknowledge that the Judaeo-Christian values were the founding values of our nation and have made our nation the great and the tolerant nation that it is, and that this tolerance is also what gives us our genuine freedom of religion. Indeed, I have many good friends in the various cultural and non-Christian religious communities in my electorate, such as among the Sikh, Hindu and Muslim communities. Most of the people I speak with in my electorate acknowledge that the undermining and the increasing rejection of those traditional Judeo-Christian values in our homes, in our schools and in our media, and even in our Parliaments, is having a profound and undesirable effect on our society. I have been most encouraged by the number of people who have come up to me in the street and at shopping centre car parks, or have sent me emails, to express their appreciation for the fact that I have stood up for those values. In the week leading up to the election, I had six phone calls from people whom I had never met or heard of, but who said that they have always voted Labor, and they would be voting Labor in the upper house, but in the lower house, they would be voting for me, because they appreciated what I stood for and what I had done in my first term in the electorate. Indeed, for me to have been honoured with 64 per cent of the primary vote in a seat such as Southern River means that there must have been a lot of people who would traditionally have voted Labor or Green but who decided to give me their support. That so many people valued and appreciate my efforts is heart-warming.

I say to all those who voted for me, and also to all those who did not vote for me, be assured that I am unwaveringly committed to putting people first and to upholding the dignity and the value of every human being. Indeed, that is what motivated me to use the processes available to me in this house to seek to provide additional protection to franchisees. That won me widespread support among small business owners in my electorate, and also throughout the state, and even in other states. It is heart-warming to know that because of the battle that I fought hard in this place, it appears that in the federal arena there will now be bipartisan support for implementing the legislation that I sought to have brought into this place.

But my commitment to upholding the dignity and inherent value of every human being is also why I cannot, and will not, support the legalisation of prostitution in this state. I say that because for the state to legalise prostitution is for the state to condone the sexual abuse of women. In effect, it is to say that women who are so desperate as to be willing to sell their bodies do not deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. The prostitution bill that came before this house in the last Parliament certainly had some excellent provisions in it, and I commend the former Attorney General and his staff for their work on that bill. But I have to say that to legalise prostitution is to condone something that should never be condoned. It is true that prostitution will never be eliminated completely from a society. But I put it to members that domestic violence will never be completely eliminated from a society either. However, as a society we believe that domestic violence is unacceptable, and

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we use the resources of the law, and our social workers and so on, to fight against it. We will not tolerate it. Likewise, that should be our attitude toward prostitution.

Mr P. Papalia: So what are you going to do about it?

Mr P. ABETZ: I believe, having been to Sweden and having seen what they have done with their legislation, that that sort of legislation is very worthwhile.

Mr P. Papalia: What is your government doing about it?

Mr P. ABETZ: That will remain to be seen.

I turn now to some local issues in my electorate. The most pressing issue that faced my constituents when I was elected in 2008 was the traffic congestion from around 6.45 am to 9.00 am, and from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm, on Nicholson Road and Ranford Road. I am delighted to say that my efforts to procure funding for the Nicholson Road–Garden Street roundabout upgrade eventually bore fruit, and that stage 1 of that work was completed recently. That work, together with the upgrade of the Nicholson Road–Bannister Road intersection by the City of Canning, which was long overdue, and which was finished on 13 April, just a few days ago, has meant that this bottleneck of traffic, which used to delay people by up to 20 minutes, has now been completely eliminated in the mornings. Stage 2 of the project—the slip-road into Yale Road—will be finished shortly, and that should certainly make a difference to the traffic flows in the afternoon. I wish to put on the record my sincere thanks to the Minister for Transport for making funding available for this project and to the City of Gosnells, which also part-funded it and carried out the work in a timely manner. This is an example of a project in which a comparatively small sum of money has made an enormous difference to the quality of life for the local citizens.

Although it is good to talk about achievements such as the removal of this traffic bottleneck and the rollout of the LED 40-kilometre-an-hour speed signs at our local schools, much still needs to be done in my electorate. There is the challenge of Ranford Road, for example. I have worked closely with the City of Canning on this issue and I commend its staff and commissioner for their support. The traffic flow on Ranford Road impacts the residents of not only the City of Canning, but also Gosnells and Armadale. I value the support that those two cities have also lent in my pursuit of this project. The road reserve on Ranford Road is wide enough to accommodate three lanes each way. The third lane is now desperately needed from Bannister Road to Nicholson Road—or to use local landmarks—from the Canning Vale Markets to the Livingstone Marketplace Shopping Centre. The addition of this third lane in both directions is estimated to cost a total of \$6 million. The third lane on Ranford Road would be used as a bus lane on peak hours, just as it is on South Street, thus enabling buses to run on schedule to and from Murdoch station, encouraging more people to use public transport to get to and from work and their social engagements.

That brings me to another public transport issue—the Canning Vale train stations. Members of this place since 2008 will know that I have been advocating strongly for the extension of the Thornlie line through to the Mandurah line just north of Cockburn Central as a matter of urgency. It is a very costly project and is estimated to cost around \$250 million-plus. That includes the rail stations, the laying of the rail and the grade separations for rail overpasses and so on. My constituents acknowledge that until we get more revenue from Canberra, particularly through the GST, this project will still be some years away. However, one aspect of it that could be done is building the 398-bay car park that will be part of the Canning Vale Markets railway station on Ranford Road. This car park could act as a satellite car park for the Murdoch station car park. Because many buses run down Ranford Road and South Street to Murdoch station, no extra bus services would be needed. It is not lost on the residents of Canning Vale that the Liberal Court government had plans to put the train line through Canning Vale and that it was the Labor Gallop government that took it away and the Labor Carpenter government that removed it from its long-term plans. After my successful advocacy for this rail link, strongly supported by the Cities of Gosnells and Canning, it was pleasing to see it added to the long-term rail plan for Perth. It was also good to see that even the Labor Party put it on its Metronet plan.

Dr A.D. Buti: When will you build it?

Mr P. ABETZ: When we get the money.

Dr A.D. Buti: When will that be?

Mr P. ABETZ: We made no promises about when.

The other issue is sports facilities. One of the big issues in my electorate and surrounding areas is the lack of sportsgrounds. Although developers generally do a good job of putting parks and passive recreation areas in their estates, there are simply not enough sportsgrounds in the area to cater for the sporting needs of the many sporting clubs that cater for the literally thousands of children in my electorate. To give members an idea, I went along to

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the Canning Vale Junior Football Club enrolment day. I got there about 12 noon and it had already enrolled 400 kids for that season and it was expecting 600, including the Auskick kids. That is not to mention the Canning Vale Senior Football Club, the soccer club, the cricket club, the hockey club, the rugby club and more. After a long search for suitable land that might be able to be developed into sportsgrounds, I came across lots 166 and 167 Clifton Road. One lot is owned by the state government and the other is owned by the City of Canning. Together, the lots make up a site of over 130 hectares. It is an old disused sand quarry. It has been great to see the cooperation between the City of Canning, the City of Gosnells, the Department of Planning and the Department of Sport and Recreation in working together to create a draft master plan for this big site. The site has some environmental issues because it is located on the edge of the Jandakot water mound, so some areas probably will not be able to be used for sports fields. We are getting very close to the completion of the initial draft master plan. I was delighted that the government allocated \$500 000 in the last state budget for the City of Canning and the Department of Planning to do the preliminary planning. There was also \$500 000 in the forward estimates for this coming year to do some of the initial works to get that project off the ground.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P. ABETZ: The area is in need of further planning and development, but it will certainly be very valuable to have a regional sports facility in the area. A recent report commissioned by the government indicates that there is a need for another 55 hectares of sportsgrounds in the southern area. This 130-hectare site that is available could potentially provide for that shortfall. To create a single voice to the government on this project, I took the initiative to form the Canning Vale Community Sporting Inc association. I invited all the sporting clubs in the area to be part of the association so we could have one voice to government on this project.

Although we have local issues, the state also, of course, faces some serious challenges, which I hope to make a contribution towards addressing in this term of government. The state faces a massive problem in the area of alcohol and drug abuse. It is a problem that has a massive human cost. It certainly has a massive dollar cost in policing, health, mental health and social costs. But when we consider that in most emergency departments over a weekend, close to half, and in some hospitals over half, of all presentations are alcohol or drug related, it gives an indication of the cost to our health system. Police tell me that something like 70 per cent of their call-outs are drug or alcohol related. If we could deal with the drug and alcohol problem in our community in a constructive way and reduce that problem significantly, we would be able to either reduce the cost of our hospital and health services or at least shorten the waiting lists for some seniors to get operations such as hip replacements and so on, and the police would be able to respond much more quickly to other matters such as burglaries and get on top of some of those types of things.

To give members an idea of the size of the problem, in Western Australia half a million children live with parents who have a problem with either alcohol or illicit drug use, and that is not to mention those who have been taken away from their parents. In Western Australia the alcohol consumption rate is 12.7 litres of pure alcohol per capita, which is the seventh-highest in the world. I am certainly very hopeful that the review committee undertaking the current review of the Liquor Control Act 1988 will seriously consider the 60 recommendations of the Education and Health Standing Committee report on alcohol that was tabled in this Parliament in 2011. There has been a lot of debate in the media just recently about secondary supply laws, which basically say that a person is not to supply alcohol to a minor or juvenile unless that person has obtained the consent of that person's parent or legal guardian. Most states have that provision already, and it strengthens the arm of parents in trying to prevent their children from drinking alcohol at a premature age, given that alcohol consumption for boys under the age of 25, and for girls under the age of 21, is damaging to the brain; so the longer we can delay children drinking alcohol, the better it will be for their long-term health. We certainly should not think that the secondary supply of alcohol laws are a major cure-all for all alcohol problems; they certainly are not, but at least they will make a useful contribution. The 60 recommendations that the Education and Health Standing Committee made in its report, "Alcohol: Reducing the Harm and Curbing the Culture of Excess," certainly addressed many other issues, which I will not go into now.

One of things with illicit drugs that I believe is really worth exploring is the Swedish approach to dealing with drugs. The Swedes at one stage had the highest illicit drug use in the western world; now they have the lowest drug use rate. The way the Swedes dealt with the issue was to make it an offence to be under the influence of an illicit substance. If a policeman or a teacher were to see someone stoned, that person would not be arrested in the formal sense of the word and taken to a police station; they would be taken to a drug rehabilitation facility where they would be tested. If they test positive, they are given a choice: either stay at that facility and go through compulsory rehab or go to the courts; and 98 per cent of the people choose to stay in the rehab facility. The result is that 70-something per cent of the people who go into compulsory rehab come out the other end of that rehab process and never re-offend. That has led to a huge reduction in the drug problem in Sweden. The executive

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director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said that in Sweden's case the commitment to prevention, law enforcement, demand reduction and treatment over the past 30 years had made that big difference. It is encouraging to see that our government is also taking rehabilitation seriously, having just granted funding to a facility in Northam that is run by the Fresh Start Group, which is best known through the work of Dr George O'Neil. It has been granted ongoing funding for its residential rehab facility.

Education is also a big challenge for us in this state, and I am thankful for the excellent work that the teachers and principals do in my electorate in providing an excellent service, both at state and independent schools, for our children. One of the key issues that teachers and principals tell me about is that the biggest challenge they face is that parents need to learn to be parents. So many parents want to be their kids' friend and they let the kids rule the roost, rather than as parents saying, "No, you need to do this", and setting boundaries and laying down rules and what they expect of their children. One principal told me recently that he had just received an email from a parent saying, "Don't bother sending me SMSs or emails if my son is playing truant. I can't get him to school, but if you want to give him detention you have my support." Here is a parent with a 14-year-old saying, "I give up", and that child's behaviour would have started a lot earlier than that. All too often teachers tell me they can see that a five or six-year-old rules the roost at home and that then creates a whole lot of other issues.

There is another issue that I believe we need to work on. I was pleased to hear the Premier make an announcement this morning about a working group on Aboriginal issues. From going to Warburton on a regular basis, running a holiday program for Aboriginal children up there, it was disturbing to see so many kids who do not learn to read and write. I wish I had a tape recorder with me at the time when I spoke to the late Livingston West, one of the elders from Warburton. After I had been going up there for a few years, he asked me to have a chat with him. We sat under a tree for about three or four hours one afternoon. He gave me the whole history of Warburton and his life story and all that. He told me that when he was a kid growing up in the mission days, his parents would go off on walkabout but leave him behind on the mission station so he could get an education and so on. With tears in his eyes, he said, "I can read and write but my grandkids can't." Afterwards, as I reflected on that, I thought about the fact that we had missionaries who were not trained teachers teaching these Aboriginal kids to read and write. Today, with big budgets, we send qualified teachers to Warburton and other remote communities and it is not happening. What is going wrong? There are a whole lot of issues concerning social welfare, government handouts and things that have changed the dynamics of those communities significantly. One of the big things was that the missionaries had a relationship with those kids and the families. The relationships within Aboriginal communities are what enable people to provide input. If a teacher goes up there fresh out of uni, expecting to be there for a year or two maximum, it is not going to work. The other thing is that we need to send teachers up there who are trained to teach English as a second language. The Ngaanyatjarra language is the mother tongue of a lot of those kids. They go to school and the teacher speaks beautiful English but they do not have a clue what is going on. If they do not have a clue what is going on, it is not a particularly exciting place to be. We certainly have room to work on that issue.

In the last couple of minutes that I have, I want to say that in my electorate of Southern River housing has never been an issue before but it is increasingly becoming an issue. When families break down, the single parent has great difficulty being able to afford housing or access affordable housing. While we are doing much to improve the stock of affordable housing, it is certainly an area that we need to keep working on.

Let me wrap up my speech by saying I believe that in its first term, the Barnett Liberal government has taken great strides in making Western Australia a better place to live, work, learn and play. I look forward to continuing to work with the Premier during this term to improve the lives of people not only in Southern River but also throughout Western Australia.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [6.04 pm]: Firstly, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on becoming Deputy Speaker of this house. I also congratulate you on your elevation, having come from the other place to this place. It just shows that good people realise that it is best to come to this side of Parliament than remain on the other side. Welcome to that very elite club of being an upper house member and now being a lower house member.

I congratulate the new members on their victory. They should really relish the time that they have in Parliament because it is a very unique place and a place of opportunity where they can make a difference. They should not lose sight of being able to make a difference because they can if they use their time in this place wisely.

The election was a great result for the National Party. I think the National Party has its highest representation ever in the state Parliament, with seven lower house members and five upper house members. It was a great result because it is a very cohesive team. It was a great team that took us to the 2013 election; an election that

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delivered us the result that we worked hard to get. We worked hard because we represented solely and firstly our electorate—that is, regional WA. We are looking after our constituents who, for many years, have been neglected. Some say 40, some say 60 years of neglect has occurred in regional WA. The National Party has been able to reverse that in a very short time with a program called royalties for regions.

I would like to congratulate the Leader of the National Party, Hon Brendon Grylls, for firstly coming up with that wonderful program and leading the Nationals to not only balance the power in 2008, and ensuring that he could secure my vote in 2009 and secure victory in 2013, but also for making the bold move to change from the Central Wheatbelt seat to the Pilbara. The people of the Pilbara have one of the biggest advocates not only for their region but also for regional WA and for Western Australia generally in their representative, Brendon Grylls. I look forward to him becoming more sunburnt and drinking lots more Emu Export and really becoming a man about town in the Pilbara, as long as he does not wear an akubra hat! I wish him the best of luck in his endeavours as the member for Pilbara.

The new Deputy Leader of the National Party, Terry Redman, will make a fantastic deputy and, who knows, a future leader of the National Party when the time comes. What he has been able to achieve in his past portfolios and in his electorate speaks volumes.

I thank my other National Party colleagues for their support over what has sometimes been a difficult time since transferring, switching sides, defecting; whatever people want to call it. I notice that none of my former colleagues are in the chamber but that shows us what they are all about. I changed sides in 2009 to join the National Party to ensure that I can best represent my community, and I believe I have done that. I believe that the election result on 9 March proved that the decision I made to leave the Labor Party and join the National Party was backed by the community that I represent. It was not just a get-over-the-line win; it was a win that really showed support for what I did for my community. It showed support for the National Party, support for royalties for regions and support for someone who listens to them and delivers on what the community has been asking for for many years—as I said, some say 40, some say 60 years of neglect by previous governments. Congratulations to my colleagues in the National Party.

Members cannot win elections without key supporters. I thank Tom and Margaret Day. Tom was my opponent in 2008, and he got right behind me. He ensured that I had the key support needed to win the seat of North West Central. He and his wife, Margaret, have done a fantastic job. Lex Fullarton was also one of my former opponents. It is amazing how everyone lined up behind me after 2009. He has always been an Independent, but the day that I left the Labor Party is the day that he got right behind me and ensured that I had not only his full support but also the support of the people who supported him. To Lex Fullarton and his wife, Julie, thank you very much. I thank Dudley Maslen, the former shire president of Carnarvon. I have got to know Dudley extremely well over the past 10 years. He has played a pivotal role in where Carnarvon is today, and a role in teaching someone like me to solely represent the community I have been elected to represent. I think he has instilled that in me. We went through some difficult times after the 2010 Carnarvon floods; which I have spoken about many times in this house. It forges friendships for a lifetime when people have to go through these natural disasters. I thank Dudley Maslen and all the other people who helped in the campaign, including my booth workers and Shane Aylmore who drove me around.

One of the challenges of being the member for North West Central is the size of the electorate, which is the biggest in the state. Compared with other electorates, my electorate has the least number of people, but it is the largest by far. It covers just under 8 500 square kilometres. I think there are 17 towns in that space, but there are only 9 700 voters or thereabouts. The distances are quite challenging, so to have a key support base right around the electorate is crucial.

As we know, and as new members will find out, we really need to have a good team in our office. If members do not have good staff, I suggest that they should really consider what they are doing as members of Parliament, because they are key to and pivotal in doing our day-to-day work and dealing with our constituents, especially when a member has a large electorate and is always travelling. People often say, “Where do you live, Vince?” I know that my former colleagues over there will always tease members who may not live in their electorates. Probably 63 per cent—it may be closer to 70 per cent now—of Labor Party members do not live in their electorates, but I can put my hand on my heart and say that when I am not sitting here in Parliament, I am travelling around my electorate. When I am asked, “Where do you live?” I can say, “I live out of a suitcase; I live out of a car; I live out of a plane; but we also reside in Carnarvon and Perth.” So, I challenge anyone to go around with me to see what the member for North West Central has to endure to represent their community.

Going back to staff, as I said, I want to sincerely thank Doriana Mangili, who has been a loyal electorate officer for the past three and a half years. Her work has been just amazing. As I said, when there is a natural disaster

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such as the floods, we have to deal with the community and its issues after such a large disaster that affected everyone's life at the time and is still having that effect today. Doriana, in particular, dealt with a lot of the issues that plantation owners and the community faced as a result of damage to their houses and their crops—you name it. I cannot speak highly enough of Doriana. Noelene, who has come on the scene over the last six months, did a tremendous job to put together the campaign.

The electorate is very diverse. As I said, it is the largest electorate in the state. It covers the Pilbara and the towns of Onslow, Pannawonica, Paraburdoo and Tom Price. It has the challenges of mining and what that brings. We have seen what has happened in Karratha and Port Hedland. Onslow is experiencing a change in environment, and the challenges that the local community there face are very difficult because the town is not starting with a lot of the infrastructure that already existed in places such as Karratha and Port Hedland. There are huge challenges, and members will hear me highlight in this place over the next four years what is needed and what we need to do as a government to try to ease the pain of the locals, because those locals are putting up with billions and billions of dollars of investment that will ensure that members' communities and members' electorates get the benefits of that investment, which has a huge effect on a small town such as Onslow.

The Gascoyne has its separate challenges from Exmouth down to Shark Bay. Exmouth has growing pains because towns close to Onslow will benefit and feel the pain from what is happening in the resource sector, but as the oil and gas industries keep escalating, Exmouth will have the problem of trying to weigh up the challenges between the resource sector and tourism. As we all know, Exmouth is a sought-after tourism destination worldwide, so it has its challenges to get that balance right without affecting the environment. There are tough challenges ahead.

Coral Bay has been one of those issues that has been talked about forever and a day; it also became an election issue I think back in 2005 with the "Save Ningaloo" campaign. Coral Bay needs to be normalised and turned into a proper town so that people who actually live there—not the transient population—can access a teacher, a school and good health facilities. We need to do that by normalising it and providing the opportunity for people to purchase their own house. They currently cannot do that in Coral Bay. The only way the environment will be protected—that is what everyone is concerned about and what the campaign was about back in 2005—is by ensuring there is a proper plan that really reflects what is happening; that is, that people live in Coral Bay. It is a town; let us make it a town. The government needs to move quickly to ensure that the Baiyungu people, who have assisted this state through amenities for Coral Bay, are able to have freehold so that they can provide housing for people in Coral Bay. It is critical and very important to state tourism, but it is also very important to the people who live in Coral Bay. Between 250 to 300 people live in Coral Bay. Some remote communities have a full-blown school and a teacher for each of the six kids. Coral Bay has no teacher. Dozens of kids—some as young as five years old—travel to Exmouth to go school. I think it is crazy in this day and age that we can provide schools for remote communities, yet we have a community that is considered to be a transient population; we need to make sure it is normalised.

There are challenges right throughout the electorate. Like I said, it is a very large, diverse electorate. It encompasses the Shire of Murchison, Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra, Wiluna and Sandstone, and it is a vastly different part of the world. The Gascoyne has tourism and the Pilbara is the economic powerhouse, and the impact of the resource sector is slowly taking shape. The Murchison really relies on tourism. Mining comes and goes. It relies on ensuring that projects like Oakajee take off because it will provide that boon to those smaller towns. They need an increase in population and an increase in jobs, and I believe Oakajee will definitely provide that. Challenges exist right throughout the north west in attracting industry and then working out what will be sustainable for these towns. All these places, particularly the Shire of Murchison, have been able to use their royalties for regions projects to provide amenities these towns have never before had, such as water parks, main street upgrades and housing for council staff so that they can actually get staff to take on jobs. They have been able to achieve these things through the country local government fund, which has been pivotal in the small towns in not only making sure they can deliver some of what the community wants, but also grow their town and provide the services that communities expect their local government to provide.

They have also been able to look at ways they can improve tourism. Towns like Cue, Yalgoo and Sandstone have been able to upgrade their caravan parks. The simple upgrading of caravan parks has meant that instead of having 10 people a day come there during their tourism season, they can now have 60 or 70 people. Having 60 or 70 people stay one or two nights makes a hell of a difference to that town's economy. They have been able to use their royalties for regions money to drive their economies in these small towns.

Mt Magnet has been able to build a museum. Having a museum to make sure that the history of Mt Magnet and the region is showcased adds another string to that region's bow. When people stay in the caravan park, they have somewhere to go to. These towns have made a small investment compared with other towns in my

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electorate. However, they have made a tremendous economic difference to people's lives because, for the first time, these towns have had investment. Previously they have had to rely on the gold rush or something along those lines to ensure that their towns get a leg-up and grow.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: So, as I said, these towns have their challenges. One thing that I want to see myself doing is making sure that I can represent my community and the challenges that we face as a state. It has been talked about today; it is great to see the member for Southern River and the Premier talk about issues facing our Aboriginal people in Western Australia. We can talk about royalties for regions, the Pilbara and all the wonderful things we have been able to achieve as a political party and as a government, but one thing we and successive governments have failed in—we will continue to fail unless we make some radical changes—is ensuring that we have a game plan for communities in the north of this state and all over Western Australia generally. We need a game plan to try to tackle some of the disadvantages that Aboriginal people face in not only my electorate, but also your electorate, Madam Deputy Speaker, and the electorates of the member for Pilbara and the member for Kimberley. For too long we have ticked a box and not been able to truly deliver or assist Aboriginal people. How do we do that? If I knew the answer, I would not have to stand here and give my thoughts. I would not have to go around my electorate and see Third World communities and people with Third World diseases right in our backyard, such as a two-year-old kid with rickets in Mt Magnet whose family takes food out of her mouth.

We have a major, major problem in this state and we need to try to tackle that. How do we do that? Firstly, anyone listening to 720 this morning will know that they were talking about crime and what is the best measure of prevention or whether we should build jails. We really need to look at ways in which we can build communities, build people's self-esteem and give Aboriginal people the ability to have lives in which they are not living in Third World houses or living with Third World disease. We have all these programs out there that have been funded by government, both state and federal. We have programs that work and programs that do not work. I would like to see the state government set up an audit of what is happening in my electorate in the north west and also in regional WA. Then we can find out which programs are working and which are not so that we can make the tough decisions and enhance the programs that work for people in Aboriginal communities or towns that have large Aboriginal populations. It is tough to audit and find out what is working, but the only way we can start to make inroads is to know what we are dealing with, to know what is out there and to know what is working and what is not.

Once we work out that very simple fact—the outcomes being delivered by these programs that a lot of money is being put into—then we can work out a game plan and where to go from there to develop a policy that will be around for 20 years, not programs which are working and which these community groups have to fight year in and year out to get funding for. Rather than delivering a program that will help kids, young adults and the elderly, people are sitting down doing the paperwork to work out how to access the funding to continue programs that they cannot put 100 per cent of their time into. They are too busy looking at ways to see how they can get the next round of money. A strategic plan needs to be established that will be in place for 20 years to allow those who want to make a difference the time to get the outcomes needed. It should not be because some bureaucrat tells them they can have funding for a year and that is all because they did not get the outcomes the bureaucrats set out rather than allowing the program the time to get the outcomes the group knows it can achieve. It is challenging. There is a lot of focus on infrastructure and not enough focus on recurrent funding to help not-for-profit groups to deliver these much-needed programs around regional WA.

A debate was held today about whether we build prisons or work on crime prevention. I would have thought that investment in crime prevention will ensure that facilities such as remand centres or prisons do not have to be built at a cost of hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars when we can probably deal with some of these issues at a fraction of the price. They are the challenges.

The other challenge is to see government not just change the way it conducts its business; it also needs a partnership with Aboriginal organisations to ensure that the native title they have received filters down to the people. We find in the Pilbara that a lot of the native title money that goes to organisations benefits only a select few. We need to bring Aboriginal corporations to the table and partner with them to make sure we can see that money flow down to the people. There is no point signing half a billion, one billion or two billion dollar native title deals, and, despite all that money, there being no benefit and people still living in Third World conditions with Third World diseases in the community. I think it needs to change; we need to see that filter down to the people and stop that money going into the pockets of accountants and lawyers. Often we find that is where a lot of the money is tied up. If legislative change is needed to ensure partnering with government native title

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recipients, that is what we need to do. We need to find ways that we can change what has happened in the past to really make a difference in the future. I think, at the end of the day, it would have a net benefit to the taxpayer, which is important, but it would also have a net benefit to Aboriginal people across the state. We as representatives need to tackle some of those really difficult issues facing us as a state government and, more importantly, issues facing Aboriginal people today because we have failed as governments in the past and I think we can make a difference by making those changes and doing what is right for the community.

The electorate of North West Central is a great place to be. I represent great regions, but we have some serious challenges. I am standing here today representing the North West Central seat so that I can do the best I can as the local representative. Thank you.

MR J. NORBERGER (Joondalup) [6.29 pm]: Madam Deputy Speaker, it is an honour to deliver my first speech to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia tonight. I begin by congratulating you on your appointment to the position of Deputy Speaker of the house and I also congratulate all those who were elected or re-elected on 9 March.

To be afforded the privilege of representing the people of Joondalup, such a diverse and progressive electorate, is humbling to say the least, and I sincerely thank the people of the electorate of Joondalup for their faith in me to be our community spokesperson in this Parliament. I may at this point also acknowledge my predecessor, Mr Tony O’Gorman, who served the community of Joondalup for over 12 years. Whilst we may have differed in our vision for Joondalup’s future, there is no denying that Mr O’Gorman cared greatly for our community and its many establishments. I wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

The electorate of Joondalup covers approximately 30 square kilometres, taking in the suburbs of Craigie, Beldon, Heathridge, Edgewater, Connolly, Joondalup CBD, Joondalup and parts of Currambine. The electorate is bounded by Whitfords Avenue along the south, Marmion Avenue along the west and Mitchell Freeway and beautiful Lake Joondalup along the east. The northern boundary is a combination of Moore Drive and Burns Beach Road.

Sir Charles Court laid down his vision for the north west region of Perth in 1976. As part of that vision, he saw a deliberately planned city centre with an accompanying transport network as a key component. Today Joondalup is rapidly realising this vision, having been voted the world’s most liveable city by the United Nations in 2011. Much has been achieved but many more opportunities still await fulfilment. Joondalup is a city on the move. Within the context of this financial year alone, close to \$1 billion worth of commercial projects are approved, committed to, underway or completed. Likewise, within the surrounding suburbs a new generation of young families are making their home in the area and contributing actively to local community groups, sporting clubs and schools.

Many significant institutions help to define the character of Joondalup. The key aspect of Joondalup’s identity is rooted in the Joondalup Learning Precinct. This dedicated area of the city is home to Edith Cowan University, the West Coast Institute of Training and the Western Australia Police Academy. These institutions are constantly evolving their provision of innovative and quite often class-leading educational outcomes to Joondalup and indeed to the state. Joondalup’s reputation as a hub for education and training goes beyond the borders of the Learning Precinct. Organisations such as the Motor Industry Training Association and the National Electrical Contractors Association along with many other specialised registered training organisations call Joondalup home and service a diverse range of industries.

The schools of Joondalup—be they primary or secondary, public or private—are outstanding establishments of educational excellence, and I pay my respects to the outstanding group of principals, teachers, staff and volunteers who work so very hard to offer our children the best possible start in their academic life.

Joondalup is also home to a vibrant retail business scene crowned by Lakeside Joondalup shopping centre. With the impending addition of Myer and many more specialised stores to this modern shopping centre, Lakeside Joondalup will soon be the largest shopping centre in Western Australia. Health and related specialist services are another key component of Joondalup. At its core lies the outstanding Joondalup Health Campus which is, as a result of this state government’s recent investment of \$393 million, one of the largest hospitals in the state. The campus employs more than 2 500 staff, boasts 650 beds and is soon to be home to a unique clinical school run in conjunction with some of the state’s leading universities.

I also make mention of the recently opened Shenton House, a unique collaboration between the Anglican Church of Australia and Perth Radiological Clinic, boasting state-of-the-art cancer treatment facilities as well as cardiology and sleep disorder consultation suites. Investment in hospitality and tourism within Joondalup is

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exemplified by the significant investment made by Joondalup Resort as it nears completion of its state-of-the-art function centre. This is in addition to the already award-winning resort and golf course. The \$11 million function centre will accommodate up to 400 guests and will be a valued addition to Joondalup. Add to all this a vibrant business park, entrepreneurial small business people and a growing cafe and restaurant culture, and it is easy to see why Joondalup has become the commercial heart of the north west metro region. But institutions, businesses and facilities on their own do not make a community. Indeed, they are tools, amenities and places of employment, but the real heart of any community lies in its people. Joondalup benefits from not only a diverse range of age groups but also a diverse range of cultures. A large proportion of our community was born overseas, with a strong contingent from the United Kingdom, Europe and a growing number from South Africa. Joondalup is filled with vibrant and talented people. Throughout my campaign, I was continually inspired by the drive and aspiration that permeates the community around Joondalup. The electorate is blessed with a broad mix of tradespersons, professionals, self-employed people, active stay-at-home parents and community-involved retirees. The people of the electorate of Joondalup are also avid volunteers, supporting parents and citizens associations, school boards, local sporting clubs, community groups and a wide variety of charitable organisations. I cannot stress enough how humbling and honouring it is to be the representative for such a delightful community in the Western Australian Parliament. I am truly proud to be a part of the Joondalup community.

Looking at Joondalup through the lens of high-level policy requirements, a high-growth community such as Joondalup has obvious needs in the areas of transport, health, education and employment. Given the fact that Joondalup is a hub for commercial, educational and health services in the northern suburbs, transport is of critical importance. The widening and extension of Mitchell Freeway along with further investment in rail and associated infrastructure will ensure that Joondalup remains accessible and capable of necessary future growth. Ensuring that bus services throughout the area remain networked with other public transport services as they evolve is also critical. A key advantage of becoming the capital city of the northern suburbs is the ability to offer jobs locally. By supporting the ongoing commercial development of the city centre and surrounding business precincts, an ever-growing number of people will be able to find fulfilling employment opportunities much closer to their homes, whilst at the same time enhancing the services and amenities available to residents of the northern suburbs. I am delighted that the state government will be developing substantial commercial premises in the city to accommodate upwards of 500 public servants. It is my hope that this initiative is just the beginning of government and private enterprise fully realising the opportunities available to them in and around Joondalup. Joondalup is home to a vibrant collection of small businesses, each of which provides local services and local employment opportunities. I feel strongly about supporting small businesses by reducing bureaucratic red tape and unnecessary regulatory burdens. As such, I look forward to being a strong advocate for this state's outstanding small business sector.

The issue of law and order certainly featured heavily in the feedback I received from my community. The sense that offenders are dealt with too lightly by our courts was a repeating theme. I believe that the strong re-election of the Liberal–National government serves as a strong mandate to introduce tough laws against crimes of violence and hooning to name but a few. Our communities are looking toward their elected members on this important issue, one which is in our power to address.

Western Australia is facing a decade of unparalleled opportunity but also significant challenges. Although we certainly are a state rich in natural resources, we must ensure that we excel in other key enterprises also, such as agriculture, tourism and science. I am looking forward to lending my support and experiences to the Liberal–National government as we strive to place Western Australia in the best possible position to capitalise on our opportunities and address the challenges.

As I embark on this new chapter of my life in respect to the work I will undertake in my electorate and the Parliament, I reflect on the unique journey I have taken to arrive at this point. I arrived in Perth with my family at the age of seven from Hamburg, Germany. Like so many others, my parents, Lothar and Baerbel, chose Perth because of its exceptional climate, pristine beaches and the many opportunities this maturing state and capital offered to newcomers. Along with my two sisters, Sabrina and Susanne, I grew up around Joondalup, where I attended school, played in local sports clubs and attended church. I watched how Joondalup matured and grew around me from humble beginnings of barely a building or two and a small Wanneroo Hospital to the bustling city it is today. Soon after graduating from high school at Prendiville Catholic College, I enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force, a decision with which I credit many of my subsequent successes. My time in the Australian Defence Force matured me, and taught me discipline and esprit de corps. I served our nation for six years—honourably discharged from the RAAF with the rank of corporal. In 2001 I moved to East Timor to run a number of companies owned by an Australian couple in Darwin. My time in East Timor was magical. This

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beautiful country with its beautiful people stole a part of my heart. Running a business in such a fast-paced emerging economy was unlike anything I had ever undertaken before. I truly believe that I learnt more about business in three years there than I could have picked up in a mature economy in six. East Timor is also special for the fact that it was there that I met my wonderful wife, Mira. Here was someone with the most generous heart and determined will I had ever met. Mira and I married in 2005, just prior to the completion of my contract. When we returned to Perth, we settled straightaway in my familiar home of Joondalup. By March last year our family grew by one with the birth of our son, Daniel, whom you may hear in the public gallery tonight! As exciting and varied as my career and life has been, nothing can compare to the blessing of becoming a father.

My return to Perth saw me take up the position of state commercial manager for Toll Priority, part of the Toll group of companies. Working for Australia's largest logistics company, with an excess of 30 000 employees, allowed me to benefit from the commercial discipline and rigour with which such organisations operate and indeed thrive. For the last five and a half years I have had the opportunity to not only live locally but also work there too. As group general manager of a local training and recruitment business I was delighted to take a small family-owned business and see it develop over the years to a point where we employed over 120 staff. As a company we focused on working within Western Australia's growing resources industry and in doing so I was able to travel throughout the state and work with many wonderful Indigenous communities. I treasure dearly this time and the friendships I made along the way. Working so closely with some of the state's largest mining houses highlighted to me the intrinsic value and benefit that our resources industry affords our state. I am looking forward to working with the government to continue promoting investment in this important sector of our economy. I am proud to bring with me to this Parliament a diverse and distinguished career in the corporate sector. Having managed organisations both large and small, here in WA and indeed overseas, I have had the opportunity to work in the aviation, logistics, training, recruitment and resources industries. I gladly bring to bear upon my new role as a member of this chamber the experience gained through these positions.

Ultimately though, my desire to serve my community in Parliament was not a result of my professional career but rather a broader continuation of another passion, which is volunteering. I have enjoyed serving my local community in a number of ways over the years, be it in support of local events, festivals and functions or through helping local church initiatives and mentoring emerging business leaders in the community. I enjoy helping people and I see my role as a member of this Parliament as an important continuation of that philosophy—helping the people of my electorate, and indeed of Western Australia, in the best way I can.

In regard to my personal beliefs, I am a passionate defender of the family unit, and believe that stable, supported and happy families are the bedrock of any society. Governments can, and indeed should, provide good services and good policies but can never replace the important function of a loving family. I am deeply grateful to have grown up in a loving family environment. It was not perfect but then again no family is; however, it was grounded in love and built upon respect for our parents and society as a whole. I believe in the undeniable value and worth of every person and believe that everyone has something to offer that society needs. I am proud to live in a country that is inclusive and welcoming of diversity. Let government provide the framework by which people can achieve their own destinies, not create an environment of dependency.

I believe strongly in supporting those in our community who require assistance or support, but our focus should be on building up the individual to a point at which they are able to, wherever practical, support themselves and eventually support others.

The process of presenting oneself to the community in the lead-up to any election is simply not possible without the help of dedicated family, friends and volunteers. I feel blessed to have had so many people offering their time and resources over the last 12 months. There are far too many to name here now but it would be remiss of me to not mention a special few.

To my wife, Mira, I owe a debt of gratitude that I doubt I can repay in just one lifetime. Her support, love and understanding have provided me with faith and energy beyond my own capabilities. To my whole family, each of whom helped me in their own unique way, I say thank you. To my good friend Ian Goodenough, who mentored and encouraged me throughout this journey, I say thank you. To the support of countless friends, community volunteers, members of the Liberal Party and parliamentary colleagues, I say thank you. Also worthy of special mention are David and Cindy Harding; Albert and Cecylia Jacob; Senator Michaelia Cash; Hon Michael Mischin, MLC; Hon Peter Collier, MLC; Carlo and Niki Hormozi; Kate and Ryan Johnson; Dave Anson; Josh Antram; Michael Strachan; Nicky Cook; Bec Walton; Kate Burns; Peigi Farquhar; Mandy Fougere; Tony Penna; Beth Hewitt; Patrick Vuillat; Ross Slater; Stephan Kruger; Sherryl Paternoster; Peter Ramshaw; Cam Sinclair; Shane Ball and Tony Brooks. Finally, I make a special mention also of my friend Paul Olckers.

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In closing, my sincerest desire is that I will represent our state and my community with the utmost energy, integrity and passion. I do not take the office that has been bestowed upon me for granted; but rather, in humility and gratefulness, I set forth to serve my community to the best of my ability.

I wish all of my fellow members the very best for the thirty-ninth Parliament and beyond, and thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to share my opening address this evening.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr J.H.D. Day (Leader of the House)**.

House adjourned at 6.47 pm
