



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTIETH PARLIAMENT
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 8 November 2018

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) took the chair at 9.00 am, acknowledged country and read prayers.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES — EAST METROPOLITAN REGION

Petition

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills) [9.02 am]: I have a petition that has been certified by the clerks from 224 complying and 589 non-complying petitioners in the following terms —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say that the East Metropolitan Region lacks facilities for community members experiencing mental health crises. Our community in Ellenbrook has experienced the trauma that can arise from the inadequate provision of mental health and support services. We have seen the suicides, the drug use, and the violence that is a result. We have come together as a community to support the people most heavily impacted by these tragedies. But there must come a point where we say ‘enough is enough.’

We call on the Legislative Assembly and the Minister for Health and Mental Health to take action to address the lack of crisis care in the North-Eastern Metropolitan Corridor and provide an appropriate mental health crisis facility at St John of God Midland.

[See petition 115.]

PAPERS TABLED

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

PERTH FESTIVAL — 2019 PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.04 am]: I would like to inform the house of the recent launch of the 2019 Perth Festival, which promises to provide a significant contribution to our rich cultural and social lives over the summer period and deliver considerable cultural benefits to the Western Australian economy. Perth Festival is Australia’s longest-running international arts festival, enriching the lives of Western Australians and visitors since 1953. The festival is renowned for commissioning major new works, celebrating Perth’s unique qualities, and building a creative community through arts sector development and diverse audience engagement.

In its sixty-sixth year, and the fourth and final year for its artistic director, Wendy Martin, the festival is set to amaze and entertain crowds with a bold and innovative program. The 2019 program proudly boasts seven commissioned works from local companies under the banner “Made in WA”, including works from Black Swan State Theatre Company, Barking Gecko Theatre company, The Last Great Hunt, Ochre Contemporary Dance Company, Cat Hope and West Australian Ballet.

As a key driver of our creative economy, the festival promotes local innovation and cultural exchange with the world to boost skills, attract tourists and provide jobs. The festival brings us the world’s best artists and develops and showcases our own world-class talent, reflecting Perth’s location in one of the most dynamic regions in the world, in which more than 60 per cent of the world’s population lives. Perth Festival is a key attraction for tourists looking for special experiences and is an important cultural tourism attractor for the state.

A highlight of the 2017 Festival, *Boorna Waanginy: The Trees Speak*, is returning, reinterpreted as the 2019 Perth Festival free opening event, supported by Tourism WA. *Boorna Waanginy* will highlight Perth’s iconic Kings Park, our Noongar culture and the beauty of our unique environment.

Perth Festival is one of the much-loved and cherished events in the Western Australian cultural calendar, with survey responses from audiences highlighting its important role in our state’s cultural life, and delivering high-quality cultural experiences to the people of Western Australia.

Festival audiences continue to grow. The 2018 festival reported more than 450 000 attendances, an increase of 18 per cent from 2017, with new audiences increasing by 12 per cent. This trend is set to continue, with the 2019 program including classical music, theatre, dance, contemporary music, visual arts, Lotterywest Films, and the Perth Festival Writers Week.

The state government has been a principal partner of the festival for 26 years, proudly supporting the festival across a broad range of departments and agencies. The support from the state government and other partners ensures that the Perth Festival continues to build Western Australia's profile as a stimulating place for visitors and residents alike. The principal Perth Festival partner, Lotterywest, has supported Perth Festival since 1990 and has provided more than \$107 million over this period, including a grant of \$7 million for this year's festival.

This important cultural festival delivers significant benefits for Western Australians and visitors, and I would like to wish the Perth Festival a successful 2019 season.

The SPEAKER: Great performance, minister!

MINING REHABILITATION FUND — YEARLY REPORT

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [9.07 am]: I rise today to inform the house of the recently released mining rehabilitation fund yearly report, which is available on the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's website. This year's MRF report demonstrates the activities and achievements of the fund and its associated abandoned mines program in the 2017–18 financial year. The MRF report is an important transparency mechanism that demonstrates that the fund is being administered efficiently, and also provides an opportunity to showcase the excellent work being undertaken to address Western Australia's abandoned mine sites. Most notably, the MRF report highlights the continued high level of compliance across the industry, with more than 99.9 per cent of required reports submitted.

DMIRS has also published the detailed assessment information received on Western Australia's 19 000 mining tenements. This information is provided by tenement holders and is used to calculate the MRF levy payments; however, the data also provides a detailed dataset of all mining activities occurring under the Mining Act 1978. It is noted that activities on tenements under state agreement acts are not a part of the MRF reporting. Specifically, the dataset illustrates the considerable area of land currently under rehabilitation, with over 38 000 hectares, or 23 per cent of the total disturbance footprint of over 126 000 hectares, reported to be under rehabilitation. The differing types of disturbances include transport or service infrastructure corridors, 18 per cent; exploration or prospecting operations, 17 per cent; tailings or residue storage, class 1, 10 per cent; and waste dump or overburden stockpile, class 1, 10 per cent.

All the information relating to this year's mining rehabilitation fund is available on the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's website.

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY WA — “20 IN 20” GALA AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [9.10 am]: I rise to inform the house of the twentieth anniversary and awards of Women in Technology WA. On Saturday, 2 November, I had the great pleasure to join WiTWA, as it is widely known, for its gala evening to celebrate 20 years in WA. As part of this event, outstanding women working in technology fields were recognised through the “20 in 20” awards announced on the night.

WiTWA was established as a networking and mentoring organisation for women in the traditionally male-dominated field of technology. Over its 20 years, it has expanded to advocate for and champion women in the industry and encourage all young people to consider a career in the diverse fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. The goal to get more women and girls into STEM careers is an area of priority for the McGowan government. It will ensure that we harness the full potential of this state's population, drive long-term economic growth and empower women to challenge persistent stereotypes. With the projected growth in demand for technology-based skills, it is vital that we tap into the whole talent pool in building the capability for the state's economy.

The state government is proud to have supported a range of WiTWA programs, including Techtrails, a school program that motivates students to pursue science, technology, engineering and maths career paths. We know how important it is to address unconscious bias and gender stereotyping at a young age, to ensure that young girls are not turning their backs on science and technology. I acknowledge and thank all the dedicated volunteers of WiTWA, including their inimitable patron, Professor Lyn Beazley, AO. These women donate their time and expertise to the work of WiTWA in a shared mission to get more girls into technology and encourage all young people in WA to see how exciting a career in technology can be.

GOLDEN MILE TROTting CLUB — RACE MEETINGS

Grievance

MR K.M. O'DONNELL (Kalgoorlie) [9.12 am]: Greetings, Mr Speaker!

The SPEAKER: Greetings, member for Kalgoorlie!

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: My grievance today is to the Minister for Racing and Gaming and relates to Racing and Wagering Western Australia's decision to remove race meetings from the Golden Mile Trotting Club. The removal of local race meetings from the club has been very disappointing news for Kalgoorlie–Boulder. The club has been an important part of the Kalgoorlie–Boulder and wider goldfields communities since 1904—well over 100 years. It is one of the oldest clubs in the region and, with Kalgoorlie–Boulder celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, we can see that the club is well cemented in the region's history.

The Golden Mile Trotting Club has been at the centre of many of Kalgoorlie–Boulder's annual events. Its core business is, of course, racing; however, it offers so much more to our community, through its generous support of local charities. The club holds many fundraising events throughout the year, including “Give Me Five For Kids” and “Cash for Kilos Corporate Challenge”, raising much-needed funds for important causes. The club also provides opportunities for local groups to get involved and engage with the community, such as the Air Force cadets brigade, which takes on the role of manning the gates at events, where it receives donations toward national and international events. In addition to supporting local charities, the club is also behind bringing the community together for key community occasions, including New Year's Eve celebrations, providing a safe, family-friendly annual event. The club is a great supporter of local employment, with 27 paid positions employed for race nights at the club. Its events also provide opportunities for local small businesses, including food vendors and family entertainment, such as face painters and bouncy castle operators. Also, many local suppliers service the club, including horse feed suppliers and veterinarian services.

The charities, small businesses and groups that I have just mentioned stand to lose a great deal through the loss of race meetings at the Golden Mile Trotting Club, as will the greater community. This club is important to our regional residents. Like many country towns, we do not have the variety of entertainment and facilities that exist in the metropolitan area, so the club's value becomes so much greater. In addition to the support of residents, the club is strongly supported by local and Perth-based trainers, mining companies, small businesses and the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder. Those in the industry based in other parts of WA value the opportunity to attend race meetings in Kalgoorlie–Boulder. It provides them with the chance to enjoy many other aspects of the goldfields region during their visit. With many members of the goldfields community involved in the racing industry, there is concern that we may lose a number of these individuals, who choose to relocate closer to Perth, in the absence of local race meetings in Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

Losing residents can have a significant effect on the community, particularly as regional people are often involved in multiple community groups or activities. It is not unusual for someone involved in one activity, such as racing, to also be a community volunteer, as well as being a member of a local sporting team. When this person leaves town, they leave a gap in the community. If this person has a family, that is possibly four or five people leaving town, with the involvement of each of them in the community lost and having an impact on the rest of the community. The loss of residents is felt very strongly by regional towns and it is probably very difficult for people in the metropolitan area to appreciate the level of impact this has on a community. The same goes for the loss of key groups and facilities in regional towns. The community relies on clubs such as the Golden Mile Trotting Club for their support and the services they provide. This club has great potential and strong community support. It has submitted a business case for development and expansion, and I believe that, given an opportunity to prove its capacity for growth, under a trial arrangement, it would demonstrate the value of maintaining the race meetings.

I would now like to put some questions to the Minister for Racing and Gaming. On the basis of fairness and proper consultation, why, despite promises to the contrary, was the Golden Mile Trotting Club not given the opportunity to meet with the Racing and Wagering WA board prior to a decision being made to withdraw race dates and effectively close down the state's second oldest club? Is the minister aware that the claim by the CEO of RWWA, that local participation rates at the Golden Mile Trotting Club have dropped in recent years, is wrong and misleading, and that in 2017 locally trained starter averages were the second highest in the last eight years? Since the decision was made to withdraw race meetings from the GMTC, has the number of licence renewals increased or decreased this year; and by how many? Has the number of new applicants increased or decreased this year; and by how many? I have requested a meeting with the chairman or the board, and have had no response over quite a number of months. Could the minister please assist me in arranging or approving that meeting? I thank the minister for his time.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Racing and Gaming) [9.17 am]: I thank the member for raising this matter, and joining many others who have already raised this matter with me in recent times, both in this place and outside the chamber, and also in the other place. To that end, I acknowledge the member for South Perth for having raised this issue previously, and Hon Kyle McGinn, MLC, and Hon Colin Holt, MLC, both members in the other place, for having also raised the matter on behalf of the club. I acknowledge the member for Kalgoorlie for joining the ranks of all those who have previously raised the matter with me.

Racing and Wagering WA is the principal racing authority, established under an act of Parliament, with a specific task to act on behalf of the entire industry. I will quote from section 35 of the Racing and Wagering Western Australia Act 2003, “Functions in relation to racing in general” —

Without limiting the functions of RWWA under Parts 3 and 5, it is a function of RWWA —

...

- (b) to foster the development, promote the welfare and ensure the integrity of metropolitan and country thoroughbred racing, harness racing and greyhound racing, in the interests of the long term viability of the racing industry in Western Australia;

I know that individual clubs and individuals, since I have been the minister, feel aggrieved and that they are somehow the focus of RWWA, and that there is some sort of conspiracy or malicious intent associated with the way that they have been dealt with. The truth is that RWWA is acting on behalf of the people of Western Australia, and specifically on behalf of the entire racing industry of Western Australia—all three codes, all the many thousands of people who derive their employment and sustain themselves from the industry, and all the communities right across the state that see value in that industry. That is its role, and it means that, by necessity, at times it will make some hard decisions that impact on individuals or clubs, because it has to make those decisions on behalf of the entire industry.

The industry, across the board in all three codes, is increasingly witnessing diminishing crowds and returns. As we indicated when we announced that we would introduce a point-of-consumption tax and address the sale of the TAB to ensure that we provide certainty and sustainability for the entire industry, that issue needs to be addressed. The historical source of funding for the industry is diminishing. The way people bet and spend their disposable income on wagering has changed and that has eroded the historical source of funding, so we must address that. Part of addressing that means some tough decisions.

I have to respond to some of the observations the member has made, because they are not entirely accurate. Racing and Wagering Western Australia has worked collaboratively with the Golden Mile Trotting Club for many years. I am aware that the club has struggled to receive sufficient nominations to conduct a full eight-race card with full fields of 10 in each of the past three years. The club’s sustainability was questionable as it did not have a sufficient number of local trainers or horse numbers to stand alone, and it was heavily dependent on visiting trainers and horses to ensure that meetings could stand up. Unfortunately, the trend from industry appeared to be that participants were refraining from nominating their horses for the club’s meetings.

Following the 2016–17 season, the club race season was reduced from 15 races to 11. Last year, RWWA committed to working with and assisting the club. It did what the member is asking me to do now. It has done that already. It worked with the club and approved a hardship grant payment of \$30 000 to GMTC to assist the club to pay some outstanding debts. The 2017–18 season was also not well supported by local or visiting trainers, resulting in poor field sizes and fewer races being run. Only 22 per cent of race fields at Kalgoorlie were sourced locally. For the last three years, the Golden Mile Trotting Club has consistently run fewer races than Albany and Narrogin have, due to lower nominations, and it has had smaller field sizes.

Wagering data, while commercially sensitive, supports the downwards trend of GMTC. I have seen that data. It is not a conspiracy. We cannot reveal that data, but it confirms a downward trend. The decision by the RWWA board in March to cease allocating races to the club was difficult but necessary, as the cost to industry to support the club was not sustainable on an ongoing basis. This has been repeatedly explained to members of both houses and through representations made directly to my office. Subsidies that have been previously granted to the club are not sustainable moving forward as they are an expense to the rest of the industry. RWWA’s CEO, executive and senior leaders travelled to Kalgoorlie on 20 March this year to meet with the key stakeholders, including club president Michael Lucas and secretary–manager Esso Delaney, in addition to City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder CEO John Walker and Mayor John Bowler, to personally deliver the news of the board decision and the rationale for that decision. The club has been told.

I am running out of time. I want to address the member’s specific questions. As I indicated earlier, there has been a gradual decline across the industry in participation across all three codes and reduced participation numbers. I have a table that answers the questions that the member asked about the number of licences. There is one note to be made. At this time of the year, because some regions have not yet commenced their seasons, the numbers for drivers and driver–trainers are not as they will be. They will grow. We can see, historically, that they will be higher. They are a bit down because of that, so do not assume that the driver and driver–trainers licensing figure this year reflects any substantial drop. Until the season has commenced, we will not really know the full number, but there has been a decline over the last four years, regardless, in both those categories. I will table this document and provide it to the member; that answers the question that he has asked.

[See paper 2007.]

AGED CARE — CARNARVON*Grievance*

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [9.24 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Health and concerns aged care in Carnarvon. I have brought this major community problem to the minister on several occasions: the residents of Carnarvon and the Gascoyne region are watching the only aged-care facility in the region, Poinciana Lodge, which is run by the state government through the WA Country Health Service, deteriorate right in front of their eyes. Residents have been left wondering why they have been forgotten and why their aged-care facility faces funding cuts and construction delays after they have patiently waited for the facility to finally arrive at the top of the priority pile. Enough is enough. The residents of Carnarvon and the Gascoyne have had enough. Budget repair has been used as the reason that \$5.4 million has been taken out of this high-end aged-care facility, which was announced by the previous government in 2013. Back in 2016, it was to be funded by royalties for regions at \$16.9 million to start construction, clear the site and do the detailed plans, but the incoming Labor government ripped \$5.4 million out of the budget for this high-end aged-care facility. Enough is enough.

The people of Carnarvon were rightly excited, after years of watching family members and local residents having to relocate to other regional centres where there were vacancies in aged-care facilities. People have seen the plans and how the new aged-care facility was going to prevent people having to go down to Perth, Geraldton, Northampton or wherever they could find a position. The relocation of family members and local residents is very distressing for not only the elderly and frail individuals moving away from their families, friends and community they have lived in, but also those families and friends who have to watch what happens to their loved ones and rely on the kindness of strangers to look after them. The high-end aged-care facility is the responsibility of the federal government; we all know that. It is the responsibility of the federal government, but the federal government has taken the money away. We originally had \$10 million. This argument has been going on since 2007. The federal government changed the criteria for aged-care funding.

Then we worked as a community to restore \$10 million to try to get a private provider to come into Carnarvon to establish a high-end aged-care facility. We could not attract a provider to provide that service. Royalties for regions came along. Royalties for regions was a last resort to step in and deliver something that the federal government should have delivered, or the state should have delivered, as core government business of the state. In this case, the federal government allocated \$10 million. It took away \$10 million. We worked closely with the WA Country Health Service to deliver a 38-bed facility, to be funded by \$16.9 million from royalties for regions. The detailed plans, which were shown to the whole community right throughout Carnarvon and the Gascoyne, got to the point at which they were ready to go to tender, but the change of government meant that suddenly there was budget repair and \$5.4 million was ripped out, which has delayed, deferred and jeopardised this project.

It is a great shame that residents of Poinciana Lodge are now being moved to other parts of the state and often do not last too much longer after being shifted—maybe a couple of months. We saw the latest example, when Ron Cooper, who was 100 years of age, was moved down to the Swan Valley and passed away just recently, a couple of months after he had been shifted down. That could have been the result of some decisions by the family; I am not saying that it is totally because of not having a high-end aged-care facility in Carnarvon, but do members know what? If we had this facility, I reckon he would have remained in Carnarvon. There are many instances of family members being moved away and not lasting as long as they would have if they had stayed in their hometown of Carnarvon, in the Gascoyne, where they grew up and wanted to die.

I plead with the Minister for Health to put aside politics and the blame game because enough is enough. People are worried about where they are going to go once they get to that point. Carnarvon needs high-end aged care. The work has been done. An amount of \$1.5 million has been spent already, clearing the land and developing the detailed plans to go out to tender. I have asked this question several times before: why did the government cut the funding and reduce the number of beds from 38 to 21 when it knows that the facility is built for 38 beds? The facility has a cyclone shelter rating, which means that it cannot go down to 21 beds. I am concerned that this decision is retribution by the Premier for the people of Carnarvon and the Gascoyne in my seat of North West Central because of his dislike of me. I think that is unfair. It is unfair on the residents of Carnarvon and the Gascoyne, because I am sure that they see themselves equal to the people of Rockingham and Perth who have had no money cut from aged-care facilities like this; in fact, the opposite has occurred.

I need the minister to find that \$5.4 million. It is distressing that we have to find \$5.4 million when \$16.9 million had already been allocated in the budget—it was already there! Why did the government have to take it out? People's lives have been thrown into chaos. They were rightfully excited because finally we had broken the back of providing high-end aged care in the region, because we said that if the federal government and the health service would not do it, that was what royalties for regions was about. It is about delivering projects that do not get delivered by governments.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.31 am]: I thank the member for North West Central for his grievance today. I bear no rancour from his frustrations and the nature of his language. This project has been

hanging around for a long time. I acknowledge the member's advocacy for this, along with other members for his region, Hon Kyle McGinn, Hon Stephen Dawson and Hon Jacqui Boydell, who have all been advocates for this issue as well, but none as passionate as the member for North West Central.

I am sure the member will not mind if I engage in the blame game for a short while. As the member for Girrawheen observed in her interjections, this is the responsibility of the federal government. It is a blight on our system that where the federal government fails, often the Department of Health is required to pick up the pieces as the agency of last resort. This is a classic example. I give all members a warning: the National Disability Insurance Scheme is coming and I can see similar patterns of behaviour around the provision of disability services. Federal government programs fail, primarily because they are about providing resources to a functioning aged-care market, and many times in these regional areas we simply will not have a functioning market. That is simply the nature of it. It is because of that that it is left to us, as the member said, to pick up the pieces. We will do that. I understand and acknowledge the frustration of the community about this issue.

The member talked for some time about the delays or cutbacks in the funding. The Carnarvon aged-care facility is no orphan in that regard. The department adjusts its expenditure program all the time to meet the needs of both the budget and the capacity of the department to deliver. For instance, plans for the Karratha Health Campus were announced in 2010, but that was delayed for a number of years for reasons known only to the previous government. Upgrades to Collie Hospital were delayed from time to time. The Tom Price and Newman hospitals that were originally announced in 2013 are yet to be done, and funding for them has been adjusted from time to time. It is true that adjustments have been made to the timing and scale of the Carnarvon project. I acknowledge the member's arguments, which are valid.

The member for North West Central would be aware that there was an obvious division within the community about the way forward. It is fair to say that the perspective of both the member and, I should add, the WA Country Health Service on this argument has won out. There was a strong push, particularly in the Shire of Carnarvon, for an aged-care facility to be developed separate from the hospital campus and to be provided by a private provider. As the member observed, the private provider withdrew its offer when it realised that it was not a viable concern. The member would concede that an incoming government is within its rights to kick the tyres of a project to understand the nature of the project. I, too, agree with the WA Country Health Service that we need to provide aged-care services on that site.

The Carnarvon community is no orphan in the scarcity of aged-care places. This issue runs right across Western Australia, although it is more acutely felt in regional communities. Carnarvon is an example of a place with a particularly acute shortage of aged-care beds. The federal government has again been left wanting in its provision of aged-care places. I make the observation that WA's rate of operational residential aged-care places per thousand people aged 70-plus and Aboriginal people aged 50 to 59 years is the lowest it has ever been, at 62.9 places. This compares with the national average of 75.1 places. Western Australia's rate of operational residential aged-care places at 30 June 2017 was lower than any state or territory, except for the Northern Territory. In numerical terms, this equates to around 16 580 places. The Carnarvon community is feeling what is being felt right across the state, although in Carnarvon it is more acutely felt.

Currently, the total state budget towards the building of additional aged-care places is \$11.5 million. As the member observed, the state government has made several attempts to ask the federal government to step in. More recently, we made application under the federal regional growth fund for the federal government to make a contribution towards this. We invited the member, who joined us, the member for Durack—I am not sure of her response—and also some state Nationals members of Parliament to lobby the federal government on that. Disappointingly, that fund announced projects in only the south west and Bullsbrook in Western Australia, which was a particularly disappointing outcome given the expanse of the regions of Western Australia.

The member for North West Central is quite right to bring the grievance to this place today. It is important that the government puts its shoulder to the wheel and works with the member to produce an outcome that meets the needs of the Carnarvon community. We know that the current facility does not do that. As the member said, a lick of paint probably would not go astray in the meantime. The government will continue to work with the member to make sure we get a good outcome for aged-care patients in the Carnarvon area.

FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

Grievance

MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [9.38 am]: My grievance this morning is to the Minister for Health. Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder is a diagnostic term for severe neurodevelopmental impairments that result from brain damage caused by alcohol exposure before birth, and is caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy. This is an issue in communities across Western Australia. A study in 2012 found that, across Australia, 47 per cent of women consumed alcohol while pregnant, before knowledge of their pregnancy, and approximately 20 per cent of women continued to drink alcohol after they knew that they were pregnant. We know that alcohol can disturb the development of an embryo or foetus and can be harmful to newborn babies if passed on through breastmilk. FASD is one of the most preventable disorders. If a foetus is exposed to alcohol, it can result in a range of adverse effects

to the brain and organs of the unborn child and can lead to a staggering number of developmental delays, some of which we are only beginning to understand. Further, it is not easy to diagnose. A baby born with FASD has impairments that are permanent and that will negatively impact on their development.

A child with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder may have multiple difficulties with learning and understanding, brain disorders, memory problems, difficulty adapting socially, and unpredictable and unexplainable escalating behavioural problems. FASD affects the ability to think, learn, focus attention, and control behaviour and emotions. Children with FASD may also be impulsive and often have low self-esteem and mental health problems. These impairments may also lead to problems later at school, socially unacceptable behaviour, alcohol and drug use, and early interactions with the justice system. Babies born with this disorder may end up suffering a variety of problems that I have mentioned. It makes life difficult for them and hinders their potential. There are many obstacles for a child born with FASD that can lead to them being ostracised, having difficulties during the teen years and, as I mentioned, having continued challenges with mental health.

Due to its complexity, FASD is not always recognised as such and may not be diagnosed until well into adulthood, or missed all together. It has been called the “invisible disability”, with the same impact and devastation as an acquired brain injury. To add to the challenge, FASD is not recognised as a disability in Australia. This has flow-on effects with how services can be achieved and received, and how support can be provided to individuals and their families after a diagnosis. It is difficult to find the accurate number of babies born with FASD in Western Australia—the figures are yet to be measured accurately. Having said that, a statewide database is run out of King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women that captures all babies diagnosed with FASD. The statistics are damning for something that is preventable. In 2014, the Telethon Kids Institute suggested that 0.26 per cent of the population are affected by this disorder. That is nearly three individuals for every 1 000 people. A recent study of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder prevalence at Banksia Hill Detention Centre indicates that 36 per cent of individuals incarcerated at the facility meet FASD criteria.

Self-reported alcohol consumption in pregnancy is low. It has been suggested that this may be because of the very successful public awareness campaign over many years, and that people are much less likely to admit to drinking while pregnant due to it being socially unacceptable. Joondalup Health Campus is doing some great work in collaboration with the Telethon Kids Institute. It has the ORIGINS program, the largest project of its kind in Australia, which is following 10 000 families over the next decade with the focus of improving child and adult health. It is interesting to note, and I am pleased to hear, that as part of this study, the alcohol habits of both parents—mums and dads—are being collected and may provide some clarity on this issue in the future.

This disorder may be more prevalent in the overall population of WA communities that may be structurally and socially disadvantaged and which may have a complex array of difficulties present. It may be because there is a greater presence of poverty, domestic violence, and reduced educational and occupational opportunities. It could also be due to intergenerational and complex trauma. Support is needed. As I have mentioned, and will again, this disorder is preventable. Prevention begins with conversations around alcohol consumption during antenatal care and, if needed, referrals to support services.

I will take a moment to share a situation I heard about, once I looked at this issue, to do with a young boy in year 5 who was noticed to have anger management and behavioural issues. He made friends quite easily but had difficulties in other areas. I was told about one example, when he was in a school cooking class. One of the parents who was supporting the class had to remind this child three different times not to touch the oven and, lo and behold, a couple of minutes later off he went and touched the oven. One of the symptoms of FASD is short-term memory and the inability to connect and recall. From time to time, he shows aggressiveness in the playground with children who are considered his friends. It is very difficult for these friendship groups to understand the behaviours that they do not see all the time but would from time to time be exhibited. This child progressed to year 5 and no-one knew he had some of the criteria that met the FASD requirements. Where to from here? As I mentioned, additional support is needed in this area.

The nature and degree of adverse effects of alcohol exposure on the brain and organs of an unborn child are very difficult to predict. No alcohol during pregnancy is the safest option. We need to continue to create awareness in our community and I feel that there is a role for government to play. It is clear that FASD is having a detrimental effect on our communities and it is time that we look at this preventable disorder further.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.44 am]: I would like to thank the member for bringing this grievance today. I think that we will all look back on our time in Parliament and ask, “What were we doing when this issue was emerging?” As the member pointed out through the example of that year 5 boy, this is a very complex issue and one that will have a profound effect on our community. It is made even more complex by the fact that it is so hard to detect and understand the way it presents in a person’s life. We have to take this issue very seriously. If the statistics that the member mentioned about Banksia Hill—that 36 per cent of the residents at that detention centre exhibited some or more of the signs of FASD—that gives us an insight into how much of an impact, both financially and socially, this issue will have on our community. It is appropriate that she brought this particular matter to the attention of Parliament today.

The Mental Health Commission advocates strongly in this space to work to provide community education programs on the importance of abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy. I add that this issue is often raised as: “Great, women are now being blamed for FASD as well.” This is a parental issue; it is not a mother’s issue. This is one that we should all be taking great care with. In 2010, the Mental Health Commission delivered a culturally secured FASD prevention project known as the Strong Spirits Strong Future: Promoting Healthy Women and Pregnancies project. This project included a successful statewide media campaign, a small grants program and workforce training resources. The media campaign was independently evaluated in 2014 and the findings demonstrated that the campaign was highly successful in raising knowledge and awareness in the target audience. That will continue to be an important part of the work of the Mental Health Commission into the future. I emphasise that this work has only just begun and we will do more about it into the future. Returning to my previous grievance, the National Disability Insurance Scheme will surely become intrinsically involved in assisting young people and adults in managing their lives and the issues associated with FASD. Of course, this comes down to how we, as a community, form attitudes around alcohol and what we do to make sure that we reduce the negative impacts of alcohol on our society, because no impacts can be more profound than those on a child who has a lifelong struggle with FASD and the symptoms that come with it.

I was very proud to represent the McGowan government at a recent food forum of the national assembly of health and agriculture ministers to discuss and regulate food labelling in Australia and New Zealand. I sponsored a motion that saw the mandatory use of pregnancy warning labels on all alcohol products. This issue has been kicking around since about 2009 or 2011, when the food forum examined the voluntary use of pregnancy warning labels on alcohol products. There was some adherence to that voluntary code, particularly amongst some of the big brewers, but many elements within the liquor industry simply refused to participate in that voluntary practice. There is nothing that moves more slowly than food regulations, particularly between Australia and New Zealand. I am very proud to say that since raising that issue in 2017, the food forum recently agreed to make food labelling mandatory on all alcohol products. This important decision to mandate effective warnings was made between Australia and New Zealand, speeding the spread across both jurisdictions.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand will develop a suitable warning message, pictogram and mandatory labelling to increase awareness at the point of purchase and consumption of the dangers of alcohol during pregnancy. This is long overdue, and at least now we can say we are moving in that direction. Recently I was very pleased to meet with a prominent member of the Australian Distillers Association. He gave me a big thumbs up and said it was fantastic because that organisation has been pushing for a mandatory warning system for many years, and that it is really pleased that the McGowan government has taken the lead with this move toward a mandatory system. This is part, member, of the progress that we will make in ensuring greater awareness of the harms of drinking during pregnancy; hopefully we can reduce the impact of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder on our community. We know FASD has a profound social impact, and we now know it has a profound impact on government resources and the provision of services. That is evident in the Banksia Hill Detention Centre, with those young people now coming into contact with the justice system. Because of FASD they do not understand the consequences of their actions or have a proper appreciation of the relationship between decision and action. We have to take a different approach. This will impact across all areas of government, and I thank the member for bringing the grievance on this really important issue this morning.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE — KARRATHA

Grievance

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [9.51 am]: I would like to thank the Attorney General, Hon John Quigley, MLA, for taking my grievance today. Yesterday I presented a petition to this house containing 119 signatures, urging the state government to establish a resident magistrate in Karratha to service that regional city and ease the strain on judicial resources in the Pilbara. This matter is a longstanding community concern, and I will briefly summarise the situation for members present.

In 2015, it was reported in the *North West Telegraph* that the sole Pilbara magistrate was drowning in work. At the time, the magistrate was responsible for eight Magistrates Courts across the Pilbara, including the Karratha and Roebourne circuits. The magistrate at that time called for a second permanent magistrate to be established, as is the case in the Kimberley. Karratha is currently serviced by a drive in, drive out magistrate from South Hedland, and a fly in, fly out magistrate from Perth. I would like to put on the record that the hard work these magistrates put in to administer justice in the Pilbara should be recognised.

Across regional Western Australia, permanent magistrates have been established in Broome, Kununurra, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Northam, Bunbury, Albany and South Hedland. The resident magistrates in these centres circuit out to surrounding towns and communities. Karratha is one of only two major regional centres in Western Australia that does not have a permanent magistrate. It should be acknowledged that Karratha is a completely distinct regional centre from South Hedland, with an important distinction being that Karratha is recognised as a city and Hedland is still recognised as a town. Community crime concerns have flared up over the

past couple of years in Karratha following infrequent spikes in opportunistic property crime. One of the concerns raised with me at a recent Karratha community crime meeting was that these opportunistic crimes seem to generally stem from repeat offenders.

Another concern is that current judicial resources are stretched between Karratha, Newman, Hedland, Roebourne, Wickham and Point Samson, and our local justices of the peace are also under a lot of pressure. Although not a silver bullet for solving these concerns, a resident magistrate would have a massive impact on our local justice system. A resident magistrate would be better equipped to deal with repeat offenders and would develop a deeper understanding of local community issues. A resident magistrate would also ease and streamline the work burden upon agencies that serve the court, including police, legal representatives and referral agencies. With business confidence returning to our region and jobs being provided for our Karratha locals, a resident magistrate would provide an invaluable service to the development of our city in the north west.

I recognise the City of Karratha and Mayor Peter Long, who have lobbied this and previous state governments on this issue for a long time. Obviously, I recognise that the crime concerns in my electorate are multifaceted and not confined to a single portfolio. I intend to write to the relevant ministers about the separate facets of these issues. I am also aware that establishment of a resident magistrate is at the discretion of the Chief Magistrate, and that the current arrangement at Karratha Magistrates Court is monitored and reviewed every six months. I would like to work with the government to ensure that our court is adequately resourced and able to deliver efficient and timely services for members of our community. I commend the McGowan government for providing two additional magistrates for WA in the 2018–19 budget, addressing longstanding community concerns across WA.

My questions to the Attorney General are: how is the McGowan government addressing the current strain on judicial resources in the Pilbara; and, will the Attorney General lobby the Chief Magistrate to establish a resident magistrate in Karratha?

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [9.56 am]: I thank the member for Pilbara, Mr Kevin Michel, MLA, for raising this grievance and for the advocacy he performs on behalf of his community. The community cabinet meeting we had in Port Hedland impressed me; the member approached me during that meeting, as he has before, over this issue. Geographically we are the largest state in Australia, with a population of 2.5 million people, of whom about 2.2 million live in the metropolitan area. We have to cover a large geographical area. The member has acknowledged that over this large state of ours we must be careful to allocate the resources of the court to make sure that all members of the Western Australian community have equal and timely access to justice. While in Port Hedland I met with the resident magistrate—Magistrate Ridley—at her chambers in South Hedland. She undertakes circuits to Karratha and across the Pilbara, and thoroughly enjoys her role. We are very fortunate to have a magistrate who does not see it as a stepping stone to the Central Law Courts in Perth and who is very dedicated to the regions, especially her circuit area in Port Hedland, Karratha and across the Pilbara.

Traditionally, Karratha was serviced by the magistrate circuiting from Port Hedland. In January 2014, a further magistrate was allocated to the Karratha listings by the Chief Magistrate to assist with an increased number of listings and allow the circuiting magistrate to concentrate on other courts in the Pilbara circuit. Between the two circuiting magistrates, Karratha receives two weeks a month. In the 2013–14 financial year, the magistrate was circuiting for three weeks a month. That was reduced to two weeks—one week a month was lost—because the average listing interval reduced from an average of 31 weeks to 15 weeks, and that is well within the standard of 19 weeks for getting to trial. The Chief Magistrate has to keep all the courts within this target range. As the member for Pilbara correctly stated in concluding his grievance, the Chief Magistrate, not the Attorney General, is responsible for allocating where magistrates sit, and I am not able to influence this decision. This can be found in section 25 of the Magistrates Act 2004. I assure the member for Pilbara that all circuits are monitored every six months to determine whether the courts are achieving their target dates evenly across the state.

In raising his grievance, the member for Pilbara spoke about incidents of infrequent and opportunistic crime. As Attorney General, I am not wholly responsible for this area, and I look forward to the member writing to me and other ministers to raise these issues directly.

As members of this house know, I have a significant law reform agenda, and this includes amending the jurisdictional boundaries of the District and Supreme Courts. We will now start reforming the Magistrates Court so that some of the charges of the Magistrates Court will be dealt with by criminal infringement notices. In addition, I have raised the retirement age of magistrates to 70 so that senior and experienced magistrates are on circuit. Further work is currently being undertaken by the Department of Justice to see how many more matters we can move from the Magistrates Court to criminal infringement notices.

As Attorney General, I am responsible for appointing judicial officers across all our courts. In this year's budget, as the member noted, we increased the number of magistrates in the Magistrates Court with a further two magistrates, because the previous government did not fill the position left vacant when Mr Lawrence retired. We filled that position and increased the size of the bench by two magistrates. We will continue to monitor this and, within the budget parameters, appoint more magistrates. I note that this is something that my predecessor failed to do on many occasions. He left vacancies in the Magistrates Court, which put stress on the system across the state.

In recent weeks I have also updated the Parliament on the changes that I have made to the Sunday court, which includes gazetting it and appointing its magistrates as magistrates of the Children's Court of Western Australia. These changes have enabled children taken into custody or remand after midday on a Saturday or Sunday to be granted bail to avoid unnecessary detention. Small changes like these will continue to make a difference, especially in regional areas.

In concluding my remarks, I again emphasise that the allocation of when and where magistrates sit is the responsibility of the Chief Magistrate. I will forward the *Hansard* of the member's grievance and my reply to the Chief Magistrate. I have every confidence in the Chief Magistrate of Western Australia, Mr Steven Heath, who himself has served in the regions and is a very capable Chief Magistrate. It is his responsibility to allocate the resources that the government is able to provide the court. I shall draw this matter to the attention of the Chief Magistrate.

ARMISTICE CENTENARY

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

On motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**, resolved —

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the house, at 11.00 am on Thursday, 8 November 2018, to observe one minute's silence in recognition of the Centenary of the Armistice, to be followed by statements from the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party—or a member deputised—up to a maximum of 15 minutes each to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice that ended the First World War; and for any other member to be able to make statements in reply up to a maximum of five minutes each, and for these statements to have priority until 12.50 pm, unless concluded earlier, or if not concluded at 12.50 pm, to continue after question time until concluded.

ANIMAL WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL 2017

First Reading

Bill read a first time, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Minister for Local Government)**.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [10.05 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

It is now 15 years since the Animal Welfare Act was passed by the Parliament in 2002, replacing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1920. Since then, no changes, other than consequential amendments, have been made to the act. Several shortcomings of the act have been identified, in particular the ability to regulate matters relating to the code governing the health, safety and welfare of animals, especially livestock. In its current form, the act primarily deals with the prohibition of cruelty to animals and it is unable to give full regulatory effect to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, which Western Australia, together with other Australian jurisdictions, has agreed to implement. The changes proposed will provide for the implementation of the standards by means of regulation.

In October 2017, when the Minister for Agriculture and Food first presented the bill to the Legislative Council, it included clauses that were intended to give inspectors additional powers of entry. This was to facilitate inspection of farm premises without the inspector needing to suspect or obtain evidence of an offence. The intention was to establish a modern monitoring and stewardship regime that would allow the regulator and industry to work together to develop and maintain compliance with appropriate standards for animal welfare.

Earlier this year, the draft bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation, which reported in June 2018. The committee supported proposed clauses 1 through 8 of the bill establishing heads of power to make regulations, but opposed the remaining clauses, including those that would have expanded the powers of entry available to animal welfare inspectors. In order to make progress on this matter, the amendment bill was amended to focus on the critical need—that is, the introduction of new regulation-making powers. To this end, the bill will restructure part 3 of the act, which deals with offences against animals, to include a new division that will provide for the making of regulations on the health, safety and welfare of animals and related matters, such as livestock handling facilities. These matters are addressed in the standards and guidelines that have been endorsed to date and cover the land transport of livestock, the farming of cattle and sheep and livestock saleyards and depots. Additional national standards are currently under preparation for the pig and poultry sectors. To give proper effect to these standards, government and industry will now need to work together to develop a credible compliance regime that will form future amendments to the legislation.

Under the amendment bill that I present today, the broad existing provisions on animal cruelty in section 19 of the act will not change. The defences in sections 20 to 30 of the act, which apply specifically to a charge of cruelty under section 19, will also not change. The original amendment bill also proposed to clarify aspects of the operation in the act and codes of practice. In view of concerns expressed by the Standing Committee on Legislation, the existing provisions relating to codes of practice remain unchanged, with the exception that a definition of “a code of practice” has been included in proposed section 94, which provides for the adoption of a code of practice by the regulations. The new text in proposed section 94(2)(d) states that a code of practice includes a standard, rule, specification or other similar document. This simple but important amendment makes it clear that the standards and guidelines can be adopted as a code of practice by the regulations. Finally, a consequential amendment to section 84 of the act is proposed, arising from the restructuring of part 3 of the act previously mentioned. Section 84 provides that failure to comply with a relevant code of practice must be taken into consideration by the court but is not sufficient on its own to prove cruelty. A proposed amendment is required to make it clear that this provision relates only to cruelty offences and not to a breach of the regulations, including the regulated standards.

Animal welfare has moved forward since the enactment of the Animal Welfare Act in 2002. We now have national standards that are intended to be enforceable in law that clearly set out what are and are not acceptable farming practices. Since 2012, when the land transport standards were endorsed, there has been steady progress, with the development of standards and guidelines covering cattle in 2016, sheep in 2016 and most recently saleyards and depots in 2018. These standards and guidelines are based on extensive consultation with stakeholders. They are endorsed by agriculture ministers of all jurisdictions and represent a significant improvement on the model codes of practice that they are intended to replace. The standards will be incorporated into regulations, which will be developed in accordance with Western Australian government requirements and in consultation with stakeholders. As is normal practice, the regulatory proposal will be the subject of review by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, where any concerns that members of Parliament may wish to raise can be thoroughly considered.

Effective and credible animal welfare is not a threat to agriculture. Indeed, community confidence in animal husbandry practices can only benefit the sector. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms L. Mettam**.

GENDER REASSIGNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Second Reading

Resumed from 7 November.

MRS A.K. HAYDEN (Darling Range) [10.11 am]: I rise to continue my very brief start to my contribution to the debate on the Gender Reassignment Amendment Bill 2018. I started off by saying that I want to put my comments on this legislation on the record and to support the words of our lead speaker, the member for Hillarys, that the Liberal Party will support this bill.

The reason this bill is required to pass with support from all sides of Parliament is that it is a simple bill and to make sure we are consistent. The role of Parliament is to ensure we deliver good responsible governance. This bill is required because of changes made to the commonwealth Marriage Act in December 2017. Members would remember that we had a very public debate on the Marriage Act that resulted in a plebiscite. I am proud to say that the federal Liberal government took the issue to the public for a vote because we run under a Westminster system. It is a democratic system and, as I said, it is our role as members of Parliament to deliver on good governance. When there is an issue as important as this that affects many people across the country, we deserve the right to put it out to the public to cast a vote. The public voted and the legislation was rightly changed to reflect the result of the vote. We need to respect what the community has voted on and what it has asked for. In December 2017, the federal Liberal government changed the commonwealth Marriage Act, and as a result we as a state Parliament need to make sure that we change our legislation that sits under that act so we are compliant and consistent and we are doing the right thing to deliver good governance. It is on that that we stand and support the bill.

Part of being a responsible government and delivering responsible governance is to make sure that we practice our democratic system. Our duty as members of Parliament is to make sure that our democratic system is always upheld. The democratic system is based on a set of ideas and principles, the first one being freedom of media. In this place we all know that the media has free access to Parliament, to members of Parliament and to freedom of information. In fact, the media has offices here in Parliament to ensure that access. With freedom of media we also have freedom of association and assembly. These are things that many countries do not get to enjoy. In some countries, meetings to talk about issues that the current government is opposed to do not always end pleasantly. Yet, in our democratic system we embrace freedom of association and assembly and enable it. As part of our democratic system we also have freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and, more modern, the concept of freedom and equality. We need to make sure that our freedom of speech and expression is upheld at all cost. That is our role here as members of Parliament. Equality goes hand in hand with freedom of speech and freedom of expression, and if we do not ensure that everybody in this place is equal, that everybody in this state and country is equal, we have failed our very own system. The reason I am standing here today is to make sure that those rights and our democratic freedoms are upheld.

Sadly, I feel that despite living in a First World country with these rights—being born here, having grown up here and having the privilege to enjoy our way of life—our freedom of speech is being diluted. It is often used as a justification for people to say awful things about specific groups, people and individuals simply because they do not share the same opinion. We need to make sure that our right to freedom is never diluted. On top of that there is the well-used phrase “political correctness gone mad”. We often find this misuse of freedom of speech targeting people who hold a different opinion, and those people remaining silent, too afraid to stand up and defend themselves at the risk of being misinterpreted. That is the risk of political correctness gone mad, because, heaven forbid, someone says something different from someone else. Instead, the silent majority remains silent and allows others to cast aspersions when they are not called for. I have to say that this debate could have been over and done with a lot quicker, and I am sure the minister would have liked to see this legislation go through, but unfortunately the outbursts we have heard from some Labor members have encouraged many of us to speak and stand up for our rights and freedoms. I found the outburst by the member for Perth extraordinary, and even the member for Southern River surprised me. They have made this debate about religion. They have made this debate such that if someone has a different opinion, they must be anti-homosexual. They have made this debate such that if a person has a religious belief, they have no right to stand in this place and have an opinion. I am sorry, I find that completely hypocritical. Equality and the right to speak are not owned by one specific group. Equality goes back hundreds of years and it did not start in this modern day.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: It started with racism, it started with women and it started with groups who have worked and fought extremely hard to be treated equally. Women in this Parliament are here only because of hardworking women dedicated to making sure women are equal. We are lucky to enjoy that and we need to embrace it.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

We need to embrace our equality. We need to make sure that it is not just one group that thinks it has the only right to stand up and talk about it. The member for Perth said the comments made by me and other members on this side were disgraceful, abhorrent, patronising and disrespectful, but I do not know how he thought we were talking about him. Maybe the member for Perth needs to realise that it is not always about him.

We were making comments about our opinion on the legislation. Not once did I reflect on an individual. Not once did I cast aspersions —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr T.J. Healy): Member, do you seek to take interjections?

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: No.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, please allow the member for Darling Range to continue her remarks so that they are not misinterpreted.

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I note that I did not interject on others when they were speaking in this debate.

This goes back to a member taking offence to someone having a different view or a different opinion from them. In this place we are going to disagree. We are always going to have debate. That is why we are here. Each member in this place is as equal as the other. We all joined parties that reflect our values, principles and beliefs. We were endorsed by our parties to run and to represent them at an election. We went to the electorate and stood for our principles and asked the community for its vote. In all our electorates the community voted us in on our principles and values, so every member in this Parliament has a chance to stand and speak and be equal to everyone else in this Parliament. Their opinion should be heard and respected without intimidation, bullying or being misinterpreted. I know that every time I stand it reminds members opposite of their really bad loss of the seat of Darling Range. The people of Darling Range sent a strong message that they are sick and tired of this government.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: There was a 9.3 per cent swing against this Labor government and the member it put into Darling Range. Those people demanded honesty, integrity and values. That is why I am here and not the Labor candidate. I stand for honesty, integrity and values. I have told the people of Darling Range that because they voted me in, I will not be afraid to stand for those values. I will continue to do so, whether it be on this or any other legislation.

In his outburst, the member for Perth said that he was going to name and shame members who spoke in this place. I remind him that we have a thing called *Hansard* that records everything we say. It goes up onto the Internet and our own pages on the Parliamentary webpage for everybody in the entire world to read, if they so choose. To say “name and shame” is very cute, to be honest. It is artificial because it is not as though we stood in a dark corner and whispered our views. We stood up, were held accountable and put our views into the public arena. Some members took advantage of this legislation as an opportunity to grandstand and belittle people who think differently. No-one in this place has the right to condemn someone else for having a different opinion. In my view, it shows immaturity to stand and call for the protection of rights and liberties, but condemn those who have different opinions.

We are members of Parliament and we are here to deliver good governance. This is not a sandpit in which someone can stand up to throw mud. We are responsible for delivering the best legislation that we can for the state and the community. The people of Western Australia expect that and they demand that we rise to a higher level than children in a playground throwing rocks and stones and name-calling.

This debate is not about religion or people being anti-homosexual. It is about delivering good governance, delivering on the vote that was put to the people of Australia and enabling that legislation to go through. Some Labor members have decided to take cheap shots and say that anyone who speaks against them has to be a religious right-wing weirdo or has to be anti-homosexual.

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member!

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: That is a very narrow and immature view. They need to understand that every member in this place has a right to stand and voice their values and opinions. The minute we do not do that, we fail our system, we fail in governance and we fail democracy. Freedom of speech and expression is not a one-way street. What made it even worse was that the debate the member referred to was on a conscience vote. I am lucky enough to be part of the Liberal Party. We have the choice to make a conscience vote on anything we choose. If we feel strongly about something, we are able to speak against that and vote accordingly. We have a majority Labor government, but its members are unable to exercise a conscience vote at all times. So when we have a conscience vote in this place, it is vitally important that every member respects their own colleagues’ points of view. I would be interested to know whether the member for Perth stood in caucus and gave the same speech to his colleagues and said that if they thought differently from him, they should be condemned, and are shameful and disrespectful. Did he wait to hide in Parliament to do that? I know that not all Labor members feel the same way as or agree with the views of the member for Perth.

The Liberal Party is about good and responsible governance. We are about making sure that our democratic system is upheld and our rights and freedom of speech is upheld. On that note, we will support this bill to make sure that it gets through and that we deliver on all those things. I hope that members who decided to use this as an opportunity to abuse those freedoms and rights will look at the oath they swore when they entered this place to deliver on democracy, governance and freedom of speech.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [10.26 am]: I follow the member for Darling Range to make a contribution to the second reading debate on the Gender Reassignment Amendment Bill 2018. I think it is an important bill that has been moved by the Attorney General, who is a noted reformer in Western Australia. I think he is up to his twenty-sixth or twenty-seventh bill to be introduced in this place. Similar bills have been introduced by this government such as the Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement Bill and the Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill. I am pleased that I am able to support this legislation, along with my party.

I have heard a number of contributions from members opposite. To my mind, the contributions of the members for Maylands and Bicton were particularly moving. Some contributions were not. The member for Darling Range discussed the member for Perth’s contribution, and I intend to get to that later in my speech today. I have to say that his was not a contribution that I found respectful.

I think the Liberal Party has a proud history and track record of recognition of individuals in our community who have been marginalised or under-represented, which is one of the many reasons that I am proud to be part of the Liberal Party. I believe that time and again we have stood up for the rights of individuals in our community. The value of the individual is ingrained within our DNA. Throughout history, the Liberal Party has a proud record of achievement on that. That cannot always be said for the historical views of the Australian Labor Party. When I look at contributions from even living Labor Party Prime Ministers and think about the social progress and reform that has happened in our country, I see that some of their views would be significantly out of date. In his inaugural speech, Prime Minister Keating said he thought that the coalition government was wrong to boast about getting women employed in Australia. He stated —

Husbands have been forced to send their wives to work in order to provide the necessities of life. Young mothers have been forced out of their homes by economic pressure ... In the last couple of years the Government has boasted about the increasing number of women in the work force. Rather than something to be proud of I feel that this is something of which we should be ashamed.

That is a comment of an Australian Labor Party Prime Minister, Paul Keating, in his inaugural speech in 1970. Australian Labor Party Prime Minister William Hughes said that the White Australia policy was one of its best achievements. The Prime Ministers of the Australian Labor Party voted time and again while in office to not see same-sex marriage legislated in the commonwealth Parliament. Yet, in contrast, to see the best possible example of ensuring rights and liberties are granted to individuals, we only need to look to the efforts of the Liberal Party of Australia. It was something that we did. The coalition government legislated for same-sex marriage. A bill introduced into the Senate by an Australian Liberal senator from Western Australia, Senator Dean Smith, redefined marriage as a union of two people, not specific to their gender.

We can never forget those amendments to the Marriage Act. Interestingly, when a postal survey went out, it was supported more broadly in coalition-held seats than in Labor Party seats. Members opposite might forget this convenient narrative, but people in 11 Labor Party-held seats voted against same-sex marriage in the postal survey compared with five seats held by the coalition. It seems to me that one could easily suggest that more Labor Party voters did not support same-sex marriage, as reflected in the marriage postal survey, than Liberal Party voters, but that narrative is conveniently forgotten by members opposite when they talk about social progress. Prime Ministers similarly voted against same-sex marriage proposals when they were in office. It took a Liberal Party Prime Minister to get that job done because Labor Party Prime Ministers seemingly lacked the moral fortitude and willingness to do so.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: This is not the only social progress reform that we have seen by the Liberal Party. The Liberals removed the White Australia policy. The Liberals ensured they had carriage of a referendum to recognise Aboriginal people in our state's census. Ken Wyatt was one of the first Aboriginal members of the House of Representatives and the first ever Aboriginal federal minister.

Mr I.C. Blayney: The first.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right. In relation to women, again, members opposite have weaved a convenient narrative that the Liberal Party does not care for women. I have heard it time and again from the member for Cannington, who often says across the house in a barbed attack on this party that somehow we do not care for the women of Australia and Western Australia. That is absolutely wrong. The Holt, Gorton and McMahon governments introduced policies to protect deserted wives and ensure legislation was introduced for equal pay. The Fraser government introduced family income supplements to ensure that low-income families were supported. The Fraser government signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Howard government created 2.3 million new jobs in Australia. More than half went to women because of the policies of the former Howard government. The Turnbull government introduced a \$100 million women's safety package to prevent family and domestic violence in households. Let us contrast that with the attitudes that we heard before of the Australian Labor Party's Prime Minister Paul Keating, who said that we should not be boastful about seeing women go into the workforce. Why is this so important to highlight? Why have we taken the opportunity to highlight the social reforms that have been put in place by the Liberal Party of Australia since its inception in 1945? There is a reason.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, do you seek to take interjections?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am fine listening to the hails of the member for Wanneroo, but I will continue.

Ms S. Winton interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I interpreted you to say you were not taking interjections.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is correct.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo and other members, please allow the member to continue his remarks.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members for Wanneroo and Morley, I call you both to order for the first time.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Why is it so important to recognise the important social reforms and social progress that have been forged by the Liberal Party of Australia? It is because time and again those on the left continue to suggest that those on this side of the house—the former coalition government and the Liberal Party—do not care for marginalised people and women. That could not be further from the truth. I have to take significant issue with the statements and the speech made last week by the member for Perth on this very bill. He said —

It is only a Labor government that delivers on social reform.

That is absolutely not the case. As we have seen historically with the Liberal Party, that is absolutely not true. In contrast, Labor Prime Ministers have said that the White Australia policy was the best thing that the Labor Party ever did. Labor Prime Ministers said that women should have been kept at home and not been in the workforce. That was an absolutely ridiculous assertion weaved by the member for Perth. During his contribution last week, he said —

We will never see a Liberal ... fight for the liberties ... when it comes to social reform.

If the member for Perth genuinely believes this, he is continuing to ignore our record of achievement in this place and federally. Shame on him that he believes absolutely that only his side delivers on social reform and social progress because that is not the case.

I listened to the member for Perth's contribution last week. I was already on three calls so I could not interject. I listened to him in this chamber. I have read *Hansard* since then. I watched the video as well. I have witnessed that speech three times. The member for Perth's contribution left me in a state of absolute controlled rage. I am absolutely disappointed with some of his contributions to this debate. I have heard the member for Perth speak passionately on a number of bills in this place. I heard him speak on the Historical Homosexuals Convictions Expungement Bill 2017. I heard him speak on the surrogacy legislation. I have developed a respect for what he has to say, but what he said last week was absolutely disappointing. I understand his passion but I think he ignores some of the fundamental facts that underwrite the Liberal Party's history in this place, and in Australia more generally, and makes us the most popular party in Australia's history because of our leadership on social reform, in particular, and progress.

When debating a normal bill, I probably would have copped it. I probably would not have gone through, as the member for Morley rightly points out, and watched the video and read the *Hansard*. I felt particularly aggrieved that the Liberal Party established that members were given a conscience vote on this bill. It was a conscience position. Traditionally, I am aware that members in this place do not attack others for having a difference of opinion in a conscience vote, but that is not what we saw. I will refer to some of the member for Perth's quotes about the Liberal Party and the surrogacy legislation during his contribution to this bill last week. He said that we have "been taken over by extreme evangelical forces", that this is a party that does not respect the rights of individuals, that we are a party that does not pursue social reforms because, again, we are dominated by the evangelical side, that we are patronising to all members of the LGBTIQ community, and that we have stooped so low that we do not understand the humanity of individuals. They are absolutely disgraceful comments from the member for Perth. He went on to say that we have elected officials who demonstrate abhorrent, patronising and disrespectful views to members of the LGBTIQ community in relation to members of this place. He said that they were pre-historic views of members of the Legislative Council.

I find those comments absolutely shameful. They were absolutely upsetting to hear because I stand in a party that respects the views and the will of the individual, and we support those who have been marginalised and ignored in our community for so long. The Liberal Party that I and all members on this side are part of could not be further away from the truth of that convenient narrative that was weaved by the member for Perth and his shameful comments, for which he should apologise. I will not stand and allow the member for Perth to conduct himself in such a manner and orchestrate such mistruths when it comes to the Liberal Party of Western Australia, because they could not be further from the truth. More than his generalised attack on the Liberal Party, he made some attacks on members in this place and their contributions. We heard what was said about the contribution made by the member for Darling Range. The member for Perth also reflected on the contribution made by my good friend the member for Hillarys. He said that the member for Hillarys' comments were shameful, patronising and disgusting. That is absolutely as far from the truth as could possibly be the case when it comes to my good friend the member for Hillarys. I have not met an individual who cares more about the rights, freedoms and liberties of the individual than the member for Hillarys. The comments that suggested the member for Hillarys was patronising, disgusting and shameful were absolutely absurd and he should be defended strongly in this place.

More than that, the member for Perth then went on to attack the member for Carine. When the member for Carine stated there should be criminal background checks for men seeking to access surrogacy, the member for Perth said it was a disgraceful comment that brought paedophilia into the debate. He said it was homophobia distorted into a deviant and sick argument. I was in this place when the member for Carine made his contribution, which could not be characterised at all as a sordid, deviant or sick argument. It was not homophobic at all. It was conveniently forgotten in the narrative woven by the member for Perth that the Deputy Premier agreed with what the member for Carine said. If members look at *Hansard*, which I encourage them to do, they will see that the Deputy Premier agreed that all criminal checks should happen and that he would never want to see something like that occur. The member for Carine continued his speech, agreeing with the Deputy Premier. That was conveniently forgotten by the member for Perth and other members opposite, much like the Liberal Party's history when it comes to social reform and progress. Suggesting that the member for Carine is homophobic, sick and deviant could not be further from the truth. I care deeply about my colleagues on this side, and I can tell all members now that the member for Perth absolutely got it wrong, particularly in his comments on the member for Darling Range, the member for Hillarys and the member for Carine. The member for Perth's comments were absolutely shameful and he should apologise. They were harmful, hurtful and upsetting comments for me to witness, and it was not even an attack on

me, but on members in this place whom I care about deeply. The member for Perth's speech was incredibly disappointing. I have already approached him and let him know that I thought his comments had upset members on this side of the house. I reinforce the point that the Liberal Party I am part of cares greatly for all Western Australians regardless of their gender, sexuality, race or religion, and regardless of their position or status in life. Time and again the Liberal Party has shown by its record that it cares for those individuals and for the rights and liberties of those individuals. That is why I am proud to be part of this party.

I reinforce the point that the member for Perth's speech was a gross overreach; it was misleading and deceitful. It was bitter and it was based on a premise of falsehood that was conveniently concocted and constructed by the left to somehow demonise or show that the Liberal Party has no moral fibre. I will tell members that time and again the history of the Labor Party has shown it to be a party of no moral fortitude, no spine, no willingness to ensure there is important social reform and social progress in the Commonwealth of Australia. It is only the Liberal Party that delivers on social reforms. It is only the Liberal Party that cares for individuals. It is only the Liberal Party that has a history of achievements when it comes to the liberties and rights of the individual. That is our history. It is a history that I am proud to be part of and for which the Liberal Party legislates accordingly. We respect all sides. We respect all people inside and outside this chamber, and we respect their views, which is more than I can say for the member for Perth and his disgusting contribution last week on this bill.

MR A. KRSTICEVIC (Carine) [10.43 am]: I, too, want to make some comments on the Gender Reassignment Amendment Bill 2018. I acknowledge the contributions made by the members for Darling Range and Dawesville and I would like to congratulate them for standing up and doing what we encourage all Western Australians and all Australians to do—to speak up, tell the truth, say how it is and not be scared to hold views and express them. They should not expect to be tarred with a brush by minority groups who want to try to discriminate against and put down the majority, who are decent people and who want to see good outcomes for everybody in Western Australia. It is good that the member for Dawesville went through an extensive list of successive Liberal Prime Ministers who have fought for the rights of minority groups, the rights of women and the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer community and the amazing outcomes that have been achieved over so many years. It seems to me that members of the Labor Party are envious, jealous and disappointed that they were not leading those charges back when history was being made. Today, I suppose in the context of those massive changes, the achievements are still significant but much smaller and in most cases are supported by the Liberal Party, but the Labor Party is trying to take credit for them, saying that they are the moral custodians of this.

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke interjected.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: It is interesting that the member for Murray–Wellington keeps yelling out how someone voted. These sorts of votes, for example, on the marriage equality debate, are conscience votes. What members opposite are saying now in this Parliament is that, “If you have a conscience vote and don't vote how they voted in that conscience vote, then you are wrong; you are bad and you are evil.” They are saying if 60 per cent of the Australian people believe something, then 100 per cent of members of Parliament should vote that way; no-one should represent the other 40 per cent. Nobody should have a different view. That is absolutely ridiculous and to stand up and scream, “How did someone vote on a conscience vote?” when that is what this Parliament and the federal Parliament has declared in these situations is an absolute disgrace to members who would speak against that. I think that is an absolute disgrace. They should be ashamed of themselves if they are abusing people who voted in a certain way in a conscience vote. I cannot believe that they would be doing that. I just shake my head. Obviously, the member for Dawesville went through the statistics on the 11 Labor electorates voting against marriage equality and only five Liberal electorates voting against marriage equality in the referendum. What does that say?

Several members interjected.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: As the member for Dawesville said, the Labor electorates that these 11 members represented voted against marriage equality but the members who represent their communities chose to vote the opposite to members of their electorate. They did not follow their electorate.

Several members interjected.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I applaud them for voting according to their conscience. I applaud them for voting for what they believe in. I do not think that they needed to vote according to their electorate just because it voted one way and Labor Party supporters in those electorates said, “We don't want you to support marriage equality. We want you to vote against it.” Those members made a conscience vote and said they were not going to listen to their electorates and voted for what they thought was right for Australia. They made that decision based on what they thought. Likewise, other members voted otherwise and some members voted to abstain.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You can't vote to abstain.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: They did not turn up.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr T.J. Healy): Can I assume, member, that you are not taking interjections?

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: No, I am not taking interjections.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, please respect that.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I have already heard enough interjections being made on other members and I am referencing some of those points. I think members need to have a close look at that and what message we are sending to people in the community. If we cannot speak from the heart, openly, honestly and transparently in this Parliament on a conscience vote, let alone in any other situation, we are telling people of Western Australia, “You have no right to speak up on anything. You need to keep your mouth shut. You need to listen to what we tell you because we know what’s going on and, if you do say anything, you can be bullied and attacked by anybody who chooses to bully and attack you because that’s what we do here. That’s the example we set for you. That’s the standard we have set at this point.” I think the silent majority needs to be scared. There are things they may not like, but they do not speak up. Yesterday, I spoke at the Local Government Association of Western Australia conference. One of the topics was interest groups in the community and the fact that although there are not many of them, they make a lot of noise and influence the decisions of councils. It is about being conscious of the fact that the vocal minority is having a lot of influence. In this place, a vocal minority of people believe that members who make statements in a debate on which they have a free vote should be abused and attacked. That is particularly the case when those members are not attacking anybody in the context of their speeches but are asking valid questions and for information to be shared about various bills.

As members know, the Gender Reassignment Amendment Bill 2018 has come into this place as a consequence of the passage of the commonwealth Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017. All speakers on this side have indicated that we support the intent of this bill. The history of the Liberal Party is that we have been the champions of minority groups for a long time, and we will continue to do that. However, that does not mean that we will not raise concerns and ask for points of clarification. That does not mean that we will be scared to speak up. When our views are misrepresented, when people fabricate our intentions, and when people in this place are not honest and put things on the record that could not be further from the truth, that needs to be called out, because it does not respect the issue that we are discussing and the contributions of members to the debate. If members opposite are passionate about an issue, they should not disrespect that by twisting it in a way that is not true. I would not say they are just trying to win cheap political points. I think they are just proving themselves to be idiots. When people read what they have said, they say, “Hang on. That’s not even close to what the situation was at that point in time.” When members opposite do that, they disrespect themselves and the bill they are discussing. They also disrespect the people they are supposedly representing and the interest groups they are passionate about. That is wrong. I respect all those groups. People should not disrespect those groups just to try to win political points.

I want to quickly reflect on one point that was made by the member for Perth in his speech. He attacked a number of members on this side, in particular the member for Hillarys and me, and also the member for Darling Range. He quoted from my contribution to the debate on the surrogacy bill. I also want to quote from my contribution, because it is good to look at the entire statement so that we can put things in context, rather than selectively pick a quote and try to interpret what that means, which is what members in this place do all the time. I said —

The member for Armadale has helped me refine my point—that the Surrogacy Act 2008 should have provided for criminal checks. I am not saying that it should be any different now all of a sudden because we have single men or same-sex married men; that is not the reason that I think we need to have criminal checks. I think it needs to be right from the beginning.

The member for Armadale then said —

I’m glad I could help.

I continued and said —

Thank you very much, member for Armadale.

It is an important point because it is not about discriminating, it is about the responsibility of the state government, when it introduces legislation that allows things to happen under the control and watchful eye of the state, to make sure the child is going into the best possible environment.

I have had a number of people in the community look at these words, and the words I said before that. Every one of those people has said to me that they see nothing wrong with those words—it makes sense; it is obvious. As the member for Dawesville said, at the time I used those words, even the Deputy Premier agreed with what I said. He said —

That would be a concern for me if that was the case ...

He meant if people who have criminal records—obviously certain degrees of criminal records—were able to get access to surrogacy. I will not repeat the words I said before that and the words that the member for Perth put on the record. I will give him a degree of respect by saying he was upset about that particular component of my words. Even though there was nothing to be upset about, he was upset about it. So I will not repeat it and put it on the record again, but people can go back and have a look at it. I want to make reference to the second point that I made.

The Deputy Premier, and also the member for Armadale and the member for Hillarys, who are both lawyers, did not find anything I had said to be of concern, offensive or inappropriate.

The member for Morley said today: why would we need to have a criminal check for someone who has access to children? I mean, seriously? That is basically what she said. I find it amazing that she would ask that question. I think I made a valid point in asking that question and raising that concern. I did not do that for any ulterior motive. I only asked whether criminal checks will be done in the case of surrogacy; and I then said, if they are not, I am concerned about that. We have Working with Children cards. A person who wants to work with a child needs to go through the criminal check process and be signed off. However, when we raise criminal checks in the context of surrogacy or adoption, all of a sudden we are homophobic. I mean, seriously? I have to shake my head.

Funnily enough, the only people who interjected on me during that debate were the Deputy Premier and the member for Armadale. Nobody else said a word. Nobody else put anything on the record. There was no yelling and screaming. There were no crazy interjections, as there usually are. There were either points of clarification —

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: We were talking about surrogacy, Deputy Premier, and debating the criminal checks issue, which was a valid discussion, and the Deputy Premier clarified that. It was all fine from that point of view. The fact is that two lawyers in this place raised the issue of criminal checks in a way that put that doubt in my mind. I am not a lawyer, and I am not aware of that level of detail. I therefore thought it was valid to raise that point. I did not see anything wrong with that. The member for Perth got all excited about that. There are probably other reasons why he got excited about it. There are probably other reasons why he wants to attack the member for Hillarys and me on a regular basis. I am not sure what those reasons are, but he seems to be very focused on us.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Think about it! Think about why that might be!

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Well, the member for Hillarys is Greek; I am Croatian. That could be one reason. Maybe he does not like Europeans. I do not know. I am not sure. There might be other reasons, Attorney General. Off the top of my head, that is the first thing I can think of.

The SPEAKER: Members, let us get back to what we are doing, please.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I am not going to guess, as the Attorney General is asking me to do. I do not know. I have not given it a great deal of thought.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Your own member is on his feet.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: The member for Armadale is a very professional and highly educated lawyer. I have a lot of respect for his views. He normally yells at me and interjects if I say anything that he thinks is not heading in the right direction. The fact is that he was very supportive of what I said and did not have an issue with it once I had clarified my point. The fact is also that the Deputy Premier did not have an issue with what I said. The member for Hillarys likewise raised that important point in his contribution. That put that into my mind. Therefore, it is very disappointing that the member for Perth has ulterior motives and likes to try to paint the Liberal Party in a light that it is not. He was very disrespectful to us in making those assertions. He was not telling the truth. He was deliberately trying to mislead this Parliament and mislead the people of Western Australia.

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Member, you cannot say “deliberately” mislead the Parliament. Can you withdraw that.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I withdraw that.

Debate Resumed

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: He was misleading in his statements about the comments made by the member for Darling Range, the member for Hillarys and me. I thought he would have had more respect for the debate in which we were involved because it was a serious issue. We treated it respectfully in all our contributions and we wanted to make sure that people knew that in the history of the Liberal Party, we have always supported minority groups and showed equality. We wanted to continue in that vein and make sure that we had a respectful debate. It is disappointing that that debate ended up where it did. At the time, no-one was speaking up against what we had discussed—and they should not have, because we were not raising anything controversial. We were asking simple, straightforward questions and wanted simple clarifications. I hope that people have learnt a bit from this. Certain pieces of legislation that come to this Parliament deserve a high level of respect. They all deserve to be treated respectfully, but there are certain things that deal with people, their lives and their emotions that need to be considered with a lot more care and responsibility. At the end of the day, members are just bringing disrespect upon themselves and when people read their contributions when they are shown to others, it diminishes people’s respect for them as members of Parliament across the board. I wanted to make sure I put those few things on the record.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

ARMISTICE CENTENARY*Statement by Premier*

The SPEAKER: Members, I ask all members to stand to observe a minute's silence for the recognition of the Centenary of Armistice.

[Members and officers stood and observed a minute's silence.]

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [11.02 am]: This Sunday will be 100 years since the eleventh hour of the eleventh month of 1918 when hostilities finally ceased after five years and four months of brutal warfare. For 100 years, that date has lived in our historical memories. For us here today it is a historical fact, something taught in history classes, something learned by children when they attend assembly each November and something evoked when we see poppies on lapels. It is strange to think that given the amount of time that has passed, the living memory of the Armistice has essentially gone from us, as is the nature of passing time and human mortality. It is worth dwelling on the fact that the eleventh evokes different things in us and in our children from those it would have evoked in our parents and our grandparents.

For those of a certain age in 1918, the Armistice was real; they would remember where they were and what they were doing at that very moment when they heard the news that the guns would finally fall silent. Their memories were intrinsically tied to their emotions—feelings of joy and elation and grief and loss, memories of those who would not be coming home and dreams that would not come to fruition. These feelings were innately tied to the trenches of the Western Front, the cliffs of the Dardanelles or the deserts of Palestine. These feelings were tied to years of waiting for loved ones to come home or the knowledge that they would live out the rest of their lives never to see their loved one again.

It is difficult to comprehend the scale of the Great War today. World War I captured the lives of millions. It affected countries all over the world. It converted Europe into an inferno of nationalism, militarism, stupidity, death, destruction and warfare. After decades of rising competitive tensions on the continent, many of the great powers were far too eager to let themselves be dragged into the conflict and to test the arsenals that they had spent decades building up. There was a lack of desire to avoid conflict and, it must be said, a wilful German immaturity that made conflict hard to avoid. It is almost inconceivable that a clerk from Subiaco, a timber cutter from Manjimup or a stockman from Meekatharra could be caught by it and that Gavrilo Princip could shoot the Archduke of Austria-Hungary and that would mean that within a year or two, your son whom you loved and raised and had hopes for his life in Victoria Park, Bunbury or Kalgoorlie would then be shot to death on a rugged peninsula in Turkey or a muddy field in France, with you never to know his last moments or thoughts and never to really understand how that could happen at all, let alone happen to you.

So much of the last 100 years of history has been shaped by the First World War—its causes, its developments, its aftershocks. It invoked the Great Depression, the rise of fascism and communism, arms development, the Second World War and, indirectly, the atomic age. Strangely, the dramatic shifts in society and technology produced some positive developments in our modern world, such as women in the workforce, medical science developments and the beginning of the end of colonialism. Just as a failure of statesmanship resulted in the outbreak of war, a failure of statesmanship resulted in the second. The peace was lost due to a failure to decide whether we wanted to punish or rehabilitate Germany, followed by the failure to stamp out the re-emergence of German militarism in the 1930s. If I were a mother or father in WA who lost my son in the Great War, I would have again wondered: Why? It was supposed to be the war to end all wars. Why was the peace so badly lost? Why did my son die? Why must my grandson go to fight in a war created by the failures of the first?

It is hard to overstate the impact of World War I on communities in every corner of Australia. Over 330 000 Australians embarked on service overseas. Of these, 61 514 were killed or died from wounds or disease. Thirty-two thousand Western Australians enlisted for service in the Great War, which represented nearly 20 per cent of the male population of the time. More than 6 000 of these men were killed. Thousands more were wounded and suffered from disease and illness. This war affected every town and every suburb across Western Australia. To give an example, some research was done recently about the enlistment from the Bunbury–Wellington area. Around 2 300 men and women from the area served in the war and more than 500 lost their lives. The area suffered 50 per cent more casualties than the national average. In every community, we will see a memorial or monument dedicated to those who served and those who died. It always strikes me as amazing that if we walk down a street in Subiaco, South Perth, Kalgoorlie or Bunbury, we are walking down the same streets that those people walked down. If we go into an old house built prior to 1914, there may well have been a mother who learned of the loss of her son and cried at the sink, sat in grief in the lounge room or stared at the photo on the mantelpiece of the boy she would never see again. We do not often think about this connection to history, but it is there and it is always around us. All over the state, all over the regions, so many towns and so many suburbs lost a whole generation.

I mentioned that the war impacted on every part of this state, and this Parliament was no exception. It was sobering to read the words of my predecessor, John Scaddan, saying to the Assembly on 5 August 1914 in this very spot

that war had broken out with Germany. Members of this chamber were amongst the ones who responded to the call to serve. Eight were granted leave from Parliament to do so. In total, 49 members of the Western Australian Parliament would serve in the Great War. I should mention that I was recently written to by a Mr Brian Jones regarding acknowledgement of the former member for Subiaco, Lieutenant Bartholomew James Stubbs. Lt Stubbs was Mr Jones' step-great grandfather, and was the only member of the Western Australian Parliament killed in action during the war, at the Battle of Polygon Wood in Belgium by machine-gun fire whilst leading his troops just a few days before he was due to be re-elected to Parliament unopposed. It should be noted that Lt Stubbs felt a certain amount of guilt for being due to receive a parliamentary salary while serving, feeling he had no right to any monetary benefit while the nation "was passing through such a crisis." Instead, he donated it to charity. Then Agent General Sir Newton Moore cabled to Western Australia the news that Lt Stubbs had tragically died in battle. He wrote —

... Mr. Stubbs was so familiarly and popularly known. Few men in public life within recent years could lay claim to such a wide circle of friends. ... In Parliament he was esteemed by members of the Labor Party as a loyal adherent to the cause in which he had labored for so many years, and by his political opponents as a clean and manly fighter. His removal from the public life will leave the community poorer, but he has died as he lived—working and fighting in the interests of his fellows.

For many years following the end of the war, I am told that members here commemorated his passing each and every Remembrance Day. It has been many years since his name has shown up in *Hansard*, so I believe it is appropriate it appears here once again.

The commemoration of Remembrance Day has evolved greatly over the past century, from the initial call from Australian journalist Edward Honey for two minutes of silence on the very first anniversary of Armistice in 1919. Four years of continuous brutal modern warfare changed the way humanity marks conflict. The myth of glorious battle began to be broken as news of the realities of war reached home. No more bronze statues of generals on rearing horses. Instead, the solemn cenotaphs were more fitting to mark what had occurred. I visited some of those cenotaphs in France and Belgium and they are often surrounded by some remarkably large cemeteries, full of white headstones. When I read the headstones I saw the depth of emotion, the death of a soldier incurred. I read out some of these now. This one for a 29-year-old, put on by his parents, states —

GONE
AND THE LIGHT
OF ALL OUR LIFE
GONE WITH HIM

Another one states —

REST HERE IN PEACE
YOUR PARENTS' HEARTS
ARE BROKEN
MUM AND DAD.

Another states —

NOT GONE
FROM A FATHER'S MEMORY
NOT GONE
FROM A MOTHER'S LOVE
R.I.P.

Following World War II, Armistice Day became Remembrance Day, to speak to all war dead. I have a memory of an Anzac Day, one of my earliest memories of such things. I was growing up in a country town in New South Wales. It would have, I think, been 1977. I was standing in the sun with my mum, listening to the speeches and watching rank after rank of hundreds of men, many of them World War I veterans, marching by in their suits and trilby hats. For each of them that Anzac Day, or any Remembrance Day, would have held great personal meaning. It is a time to think of mates gone, dreams dashed, memories dredged up and the nation they fought for. Time has passed since 1918 and indeed since 1977. Although we have new generations of veterans from conflicts in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq, it is far less common for an Australian alive today to have a direct connection to wartime, whether on the battlefield or on the home front than it was then. As the lived emotions and memories of those who lived through war time faded, the day's meaning has evolved.

The day becomes a lesson, a reminder to all Australians of the bravery, resilience and selflessness that we possess. When the situation demands it we can show in spades that the Anzac story, and the story of the Great War, is that

the innate passion, determination and quality of Australians is unfathomable and that the young men and women of Australia enlisting and serving 100 years ago were capable of amazing things. They were capable of resilience in the direst of circumstances, capable of heroism beyond their years, possessing a sense of humour that belied the situation they had been placed in by their seniors and superiors, showing the mateship that has become legend. Is it any surprise that the youth of today, who have driven the resurgence of interest in Anzac and Remembrance Day are well versed and educated in the madness of war, rather than the myths of glory and adventure? In moments of self-reflection on Anzac Day, on Remembrance Day, they ask themselves, “Would I be able to handle all of that? How did my grandparents and great-grandparents face what they faced? What would I do, hard up against the wall of a trench when the whistle blew and it was my turn to go over the top?” In return, they find comfort and courage in the fact that these were ordinary Australians blessed with the qualities to face the un-faceable and that they have the capacity in them as well. But it is up to us as leaders to make sure that we never call upon the qualities of those we represent in vain.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Leader of the Opposition

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [11.16 am]: I support the Premier in his remarks. With Sunday being Remembrance Day it is appropriate that time to be set aside in Parliament to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. We celebrate our democracy and our freedoms thanks to the sacrifices of those who served our country and that is why it is appropriate that today we acknowledge their sacrifice in our institution of democracy. Every year since 1919 at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we have stopped to observe one minute of silence to remember those who served our country, and those who died defending our nation and freedoms that are so often taken for granted. One hundred years on from the ending of World War I, Australians, young and old, continue to mark this occasion and reflect on the sacrifices made. Over time many traditions enjoy less support in recognition. I am pleased that the same cannot be said of our acknowledgement, commemoration and appreciation of our service men and women who served our country in conflicts over the years. Our support through the many generations has remained as strong as ever. It is important and appropriate that we continue to remember the sacrifices for they define our nation, explain our history and demonstrate our character.

Charles Bean, Australia’s World War I official historian, landed with our troops in Gallipoli in 1915. He was not a soldier, he was a journalist, but he epitomised the Australian spirit. He stayed with the troops on the front line through the entire war and refused evacuation when he was wounded. He was almost killed twice on the same day, 31 July 1916, at Pozières. It was at Pozières that a mortally wounded Australian asked him, “Will they remember me in Australia?” More than 102 years after that question, we ask, “Do they remember me in Australia?” We say, “Yes.” Australia was 13 years young when it entered the war to end all wars. In 1914 we had a population of fewer than five million people, so the following numbers highlight the impact and significance of this great war. Throughout the course of the war 330 000 Australian soldiers saw active service. Approximately 60 000 were killed, 82 000 were wounded in battle and a further 88 000 suffered a variety of illnesses and injuries. Of the people who attended the war there were 230 000 casualties, or 70 per cent. By December 1918, 104 000 Australian soldiers had returned from service as invalids. These are staggering numbers. They paint a picture of devastation; yet, despite these figures, the war was a success. As described by the Australian War Memorial, after several months of hard fighting on the Western Front, the Allies broke through the Hindenburg Line on 29 September 1918. The German army was beaten and within a few weeks came the Armistice. The Armistice of Compiègne between the Allies and Germany came into effect at 11.00 am, on 11 November 1918. The guns fell silent on the Western Front. After more than four years of unimaginable bloodshed and destruction, the war was finally over.

At home in Australia, large crowds gathered in capital cities to celebrate the end of the conflict. That conflict came at a price—a devastating price—to our young nation, but that was the cost of freedom. It was, after all, the war to end all wars. Let me remind members—60 000 young men were killed, with 230 000 casualties. That was the price of securing our freedom. That price is why we enjoy our lifestyle, freedom and the democracy that we enjoy today. In many respects, those freedoms are taken for granted, which is why it is important that we take the time to acknowledge those events of a century ago. The eleventh of November became known in Australia and other Allied countries as Armistice Day to remember those who died in World War I.

World War I saw more than 70 million people mobilised and left up to 13 million dead. As many as one-third of those people have no grave. The Allied nations chose 11.00 am on 11 November as the time and day for the commemoration of their war dead. The time coincided, as I said, with the fall of the guns. I find it interesting that quite often—this includes Australia—conflicts and wars define a nation. For Australia, it defines us in a positive way. As the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, articulated last month —

Every nation has its story. This is our story.

At no time in history has Australia had as great an impact on international affairs as we did in 1918.

It was the year of victory.

But as with defeat, it brought tragedy—65 000 Australian casualties, 14,664 dead.

That was in the year 1918 alone. He continues —

In the blood soaked quagmire of Passchendaele in October 1917, Australia had sustained 38,000 casualties in eight weeks. Thirty five Australians were killed for every metre of ground taken.

In March 1918, the Germans took it all back in just three days.

Dr Nelson went on to describe the ongoing events leading up to Armistice. He said that Australia's resilience and perseverance prevailed. We punched above our weight and we were a force to be reckoned with. Our role in that conflict has defined us as a nation and as an ally. Dr Nelson told of the bloody aftermath of the war and of young men from all nations losing their lives too young. He described the determination and tenacity of the Australians in the heat of battle, a characteristic that aptly describes our nation today—determined and tenacious. He also quoted Charles Bean, who later wrote of the Armistice —

It is over. The enormous effort of the men—yes, and women and children ... is finished.

...

... Australia will settle down to carve out her new and splendid future.

...

We are free to be happy again. Sixty thousand Australians bought us this happiness with their lives.

It is a profound statement.

It has taken the sacrifice of 60 000 young lives to enable us to enjoy our freedoms today. Regrettably, as we all know, World War I was not the war to end all wars. Conflict around the world has remained a constant since that terrible war. Following World War II, the Australian government agreed to a proposal from the United Kingdom that Armistice Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who fell in both World Wars. Since then there have been other significant conflicts. Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day. Armistice Day commemorates the silencing of the guns on 11 November 1918 and the sacrifice of war. Remembrance Day commemorates the loss of Australian lives, and the service of Australians, from all conflicts. On 11 November, we acknowledge the service to our nation of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We also acknowledge those who have served our nation and returned. Many have returned with injuries—some physical, others non-physical, but certainly debilitating. We owe them all a debt of gratitude and our unconditional support. Our service personnel through the generations have, at the various conflicts in which our nation has been involved, put themselves forward to defend our freedom. They were prepared to lose their lives—many did—so we did not lose our freedom. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Such is the fact that international conflicts have been part of our lives through every generation that those who have served our nation include some of our own colleagues in this chamber. I acknowledge and thank those colleagues in this chamber who have served our nation in conflict: the members for Churchlands, Warnbro and Willagee. Their service to our nation is much appreciated by all Australians. We thank you as we thank all who have served our nation.

As members are aware, there is a wonderful floral tribute on the front steps of Parliament House, a two-metre tall wreath of crocheted poppies, which is on loan this week from The Western Australian Returned and Services League. Each poppy has been handmade and is a beautiful addition to the front steps to mark the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the end of the World War I on 11 November. Poppies have become synonymous with Remembrance Day. The remembrance poppy was inspired by the World War I poem *In Flanders Fields*. It is a poem that I hear often on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events that I attend at schools and the RSL. I imagine every member in this chamber has had that experience. Indeed, I am extremely proud of the effort and commitment of our schools in acknowledging our service men and women on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. They are reflecting the wishes of the mortally wounded Australian who asked, "Will they remember me in Australia?" I enjoy the recital of *In Flanders Fields* at schools. It is a poignant, sombre poem. The poem was written by Dr Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae from Canada. He wrote the poem in 1915 after witnessing the death of his friend and colleague Lt Alexis Helmer, a fellow soldier, who died the day before. The opening lines of the poem refer to the many poppies that were the first flowers to bloom in the churned-up earth of the graves of soldiers in the spring in the Belgian area, Flanders. It is said that Lieutenant Colonel McCrae was the first person to describe the poppies as a flower of remembrance. It is amazing to see the many poppies growing in the gardens throughout the suburbs of Perth at this time of year. I will conclude by reading into *Hansard, In Flanders Fields* —

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

Dr McCrae died of pneumonia before the war was over.

Statement by Member for Moore

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore) [11.28 am]: I rise on behalf of the Leader of the National Party to recognise and commemorate the Centenary of Armistice, which, of course, falls on Sunday, 11 November 2018. One hundred years ago, a pact was signed by the Allies and Germany to end World War I, with the order for hostilities to cease at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, a day we now recognise as Remembrance Day. It is a day on which we remember the heroic actions, efforts and sacrifice of all those who served, especially those who lost their lives in war.

Australia's involvement in World War I began on 4 August 1914, the day that Germany and Britain went to war. Prime Minister, Joseph Cook, and opposition leader, Andrew Fisher, pledged their support to Britain. The outbreak of war was greeted with much enthusiasm. For our young nation, it was seen as a great honour to fight alongside Britain and have the opportunity to prove ourselves as a country. Ultimately, the price was very high. For Australia, the First World War remains the costliest of conflicts in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of around five million people, 416 809 personnel enlisted. More than 60 000 were killed, and 156 000 soldiers of the 331 000 who served overseas were injured or taken prisoner. The First World War had a huge impact on Western Australia. Nearly 40 per cent of Western Australian men aged 18 to 44 years volunteered, enlisted and served in the Great War. This had a significant impact on our fledgling state. The State Records Office of Western Australia states that this period stretched the resources of the state and created both social cohesion and disruption. The deaths of thousands of young Western Australians in war decimated a generation and devastated families and communities.

I would like to reflect on the role Western Australia played in the war, including regional Western Australians. Jeff Hatwell's book *No Ordinary Determination* puts a focus on some of the great heroes regional Western Australia produced in World War I, particularly Percy Black, a prospector from the goldfields, and Harry Murray, a timber contractor from the south west. Hatwell recognises these two extraordinary men who made enormous contributions to the Anzac tradition. Starting as the crew of a machine gun at Gallipoli, their courage and natural abilities took them to high rank and earned them many awards for gallantry. Harry Murray finished the war as the most decorated infantryman in the British Empire, and Percy Black, who lost his life on the Western Front, was regarded as the bravest man in the Australian Imperial Force. These men typified the bravery, leadership, mateship and courage that would become an integral part of the Anzac legacy—a legacy that all Australians still aspire to today.

In the early days of World War I, Australia pledged 20 000 men to the wartime efforts. Western Australia's quota was 1 400, but many, many more volunteered. The first recruits were sent to Blackboy Hill—the present day suburb of Greenmount—for training. These men would go on to help form the 16th Australian Infantry Battalion, and would go on to serve in Egypt, Gallipoli and many operations on the Western Front, including the Battle of Hamel on the German front line in northern France. If Gallipoli was one of our darkest days, the Battle of Hamel was one of Australia's greatest successes in World War I. This operation saw Australian and American infantry, supported by British tanks and coordinated by Lieutenant General John Monash, commander of the Australian Corps and Australian Imperial Force, place a significant dent in the German frontline, capturing the village in just 93 minutes. Tactics used during that battle were able to be replicated at a larger scale and have widely been recognised as a decisive moment in World War I. It saw two Australians—Thomas Axford from South Australia and Henry Dalziel from Queensland—awarded the Victoria Cross for their conduct during battle.

The 16th Battalion trained at Blackboy Hill before heading to the eastern states where they joined with troops from South Australia to train at Broadmeadows, north of Melbourne. On 21 December 1914, the 16th Battalion returned to Western Australia via ship where they anchored in Albany, although the troops on board were not permitted shore leave. It was in Albany that the full convoy of Australian troops assembled, and were joined by another regiment of troops who would go on to make a lasting legacy for themselves—the 10th Light Horse Regiment from Western Australia. The 10th Light Horse Regiment began as the Western Australia Mounted Infantry in the early 1900s, with units existing in Perth, Guildford, Geraldton and Bunbury, and first came together as part of the Boer War. But it was in World War I that it really came into its own, serving as an integral part of the Gallipoli campaign. The regiment's actions at the Battle of the Nek were immortalised in the final scenes of Peter Weir's film *Gallipoli*. It was also involved in the Battle of Hill 60, the last major assault of the Gallipoli campaign.

Hugo Throssell, who was born in Northam, Western Australia, received the Victoria Cross. According to my notes, the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* states —

On 29–30 August 1915 at ... (Hill 60) ... Second Lieutenant Throssell, although severely wounded in several places, refused to leave his post during a counter-attack or to obtain medical assistance until all danger was passed, when he had his wounds dressed and returned to the firing line until ordered out of action by the Medical Officer. By his personal courage and example he kept up the spirits of his party and was largely instrumental in saving the situation at a critical period.

Throssell was buried in Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth, with full military honours, and a statue of Throssell is now located in the Avon Street Mall in Northam.

Historical accounts describe the convoy of 10 000 Australian men and 2 000 New Zealanders who shipped out from Albany on 31 December 1914 as one of the finest contingents that ever left Australia. For many of these men, the coastline around Albany would be the last sight of their homeland.

I would also like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Western Australian Aboriginal servicemen including James Dickerson of Gingin, Larry and Lewis Farmer of Katanning, Charles Hutchins from Busselton, William Jackson of Bunbury, Fred Lockyer from Perth, Randell and William Mason from near Albany, Arthur McCallum from Albany, James Melbourne from York, Gordon Naley from Eucla, Frederick Sayers from Busselton and Claude Shaw from Gingin. At a time in Western Australia's history when Aboriginal people had very limited rights or opportunities, these brave men served and were recognised as equals in the AIF.

Western Australia's political leaders were not exempt from serving during World War I. The Western Australian Parliament has had 122 members serve in either World War I or World War II, with five members, Arthur Abbott, Edward Corboy, Evan Davies, Hugh Leslie and Hubert Parker, serving in both World Wars. Eight members of Parliament undertook active military service while serving in Parliament, including Bartholomew Stubbs who was the first member of the Western Australian Parliament to die in battle—in Belgium in September 1917. Many more were wounded during military service. We thank them for their courage and their service and sacrifice.

I mentioned earlier the Anzac values and how we aspire to live our lives upholding these values. The Anzac legacy truly began at Gallipoli—a military disaster where thousands of young Australians senselessly lost their lives; however, the qualities shown by these young men serves as an example to us all. Patrick Lindsay, in *The Spirit of the Digger*, reflects on what set these Australian and New Zealand soldiers apart. He said —

Soldiers everywhere reflect, and are only as good as, the community from which they are drawn. It follows that Australians have the essence of the Digger within them. The spirit emerges when the individual calls on it in times of need. The image of the Digger is derived from an intricate amalgam of qualities: each has been proven in the heat of battle and has been personified at various times by remarkable members of the tribe. Chief among these qualities are mateship, courage, compassion, endurance, selflessness, loyalty, resourcefulness, devotion, independence, ingenuity, audacity, coolness, larrikinism and humour.

Mateship, courage, compassion, endurance, selflessness, loyalty, resourcefulness, devotion, independence, ingenuity, audacity, coolness, larrikinism and humour—the Anzac legend that began in 1914 lives on today. I will always be eternally grateful to those who fought for our great country. We recognise the 100-year anniversary of Armistice Day and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Statement by Minister for Health

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [11.37 am]: I want to acknowledge the contributions of the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Moore on behalf of the National Party. I think that they did great honour to this place. They placed on record the significant impact that the Great War had on our community, and the proportion, the sheer magnitude, of the casualties amongst those service men and women both during warfare and on return. It must have had a profound effect on our community. If the experiences of warfare have such a significant impact on our community, the way we respond, acknowledge and remember these events defines us as a community. I must say that as a young Western Australian I struggled with participation in these sorts of services. As a young Western Australian growing up in the shadow of the Vietnam War, and as a staunch pacifist, I was always anxious about what my participation in these sorts of ceremonies did. I particularly feared that it would legitimise the exercise and gloss over the extraordinary wrongness and, as the Premier said, stupidity of warfare. We had very solemn, predominantly male, singularly white events to remember these efforts. I felt they were unfairly exclusive and I did not feel I belonged. We had the writings of Wilfred Owen to simply remind us of the impact that the Great War had on individuals. I think it is fair to say that as a young Western Australian I was not a great participant in memorial services, be they Anzac or otherwise. But I have found since that time that as we as a community change and remember these events in different ways—they become more inclusive, they become more human, and they become much more real for me, and I think for many young people in Western Australia.

I am not trying to say I am young anymore, by the way, but for young people in Western Australia they are much more meaningful. From that point of view, I think that these sorts of observances have become much more

profound and significant. I acknowledge the words of the Leader of the Opposition, who talked about the role of schools in that process. When I was young we never heard about the Aboriginal soldiers. I want to acknowledge the words of the member for Moore. We never heard about those people who had no rights but went overseas to defend the rights of others within Australia. Of the 183 Aboriginal men who volunteered, 83 of them served overseas. Three of those 83 Indigenous Western Australians who served were recipients of the Medal for Gallantry and 12 of them died on the battlefield, including one soldier at Gallipoli, Trooper Dickerson, as the member for Moore said. It is sad that those soldiers had no rights when they came back from war.

We never heard about the role that women played in warfare. As the Minister for Health, I want to acknowledge the nurses who served overseas. More than 3 000 civilian nurses volunteered for active service during the First World War. Many doctors acknowledged that the care that nurses provided on the battlefield saved more lives than the doctors' medications and operative skills. We hear more about those things today.

I also want to acknowledge the work of John Schnaars from Honouring Indigenous War Graves, which is a small group of returned servicemen who discover the graves of returned Aboriginal soldiers through forensic research. They often have no gravestones or public acknowledgement of their service, so they place humble memorials to their service.

For me, the modern observance of remembrance in events such as the Invictus Games is a much more human, inclusive and modern observance and acknowledgement of warfare. I stand in this chamber today and will stand with the members of the Kwinana community on Sunday to very proudly and, for me, in a fairly recently discovered way, say —

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Geraldton

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [11.42 am]: The early stages of World War I began as a clash of twentieth century technology and nineteenth century tactics, which explains the losses. Australia's involvement in the First World War began when Britain and Germany went to war on 4 August 1914. Both Prime Minister Joseph Cook and opposition leader Andrew Fisher, who were in the midst of an election campaign, pledged full support for Britain. As in other places, the outbreak of war was welcomed by many in the community, which seems quite extraordinary in retrospect. Our troops landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 along with troops from New Zealand, Britain and France. They then moved to the Western Front with commensurate huge losses.

As others have said, for Australia the First World War remains the costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416 809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60 000 were killed and 156 000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. It is worth mentioning the losses of some other countries. France lost 1.4 million soldiers; Russia lost somewhere between 1.7 million and 2.2 million soldiers; the United Kingdom lost 744 000 soldiers; and Germany lost two million soldiers. By the time the Australian Imperial Force divisions arrived in France, the war on the Western Front had long been in a stalemate, with opposing armies facing each other across trenches that stretched from the English Channel to the Swiss border. The development of machine guns and artillery favoured defensive over offensive operations, which compounded the impasse that lasted until the final months of the war.

Industrialisation had meant innovations such as heavy artillery that was used from behind lines, trench warfare, tanks—toward the end of the war—and the use of aircraft and gas. It is not possible to talk about Australian involvement in World War I without mentioning the genius of General Sir John Monash, who learnt to coordinate the use of infantry, aircraft, artillery and tanks. He was knighted on the battlefield by King George V. That was the first time that had been done for 200 years. Australians led by Monash were decisive at Hamel on 4 July and in later battles from 8 August at places such as Peron and Mont St Quentin. Those battles played a massive part in Germany's surrender on 11 November.

The effects of the war were also felt at home. Families and communities grieved for the loss of so many men and women increasingly assumed the physical and financial burden of caring for families. Social division also grew, reaching a climax in the bitterly contested and unsuccessful conscription referendums of 1916 and 1917. When the war ended, thousands of ex-servicemen and servicewomen, many disabled with physical or emotional wounds, had to be reintegrated into a society that was keen to move on from the past. Internationally, it led to the creation of the League of Nations, which was quite ineffective. It also led to the demise of the four massive empires: the Russian Empire—after the Russian Revolution—the Ottoman Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the German Empire. Russia went on to endure 74 years of communism. The weak German constitution, reparations and the Depression led to the rise of Hitler. Historians argue about the degree to which World War II was a resumption of World War I, but in many ways it was. Noted British historian A.J.P. Taylor made a very telling comment. He stated —

Though the object of being a Great Power is to be able to fight a Great War, the only way of remaining a Great Power is not to fight one.

I acknowledge that 11 November will also be the 100th anniversary of Polish independence. I look forward to attending the service at Villers-Bretonneux on Sunday.

Statement by Member for Murray–Wellington

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [11.46 am]: I, too, rise to speak on this significant motion. The date of 11 November 2018 marks an important occasion for all Australians as we commemorate the Centenary of Armistice, and honour all those who have served our country.

Over the four years of the First World War, Western Australia saw almost 20 per cent of its male population enlist for service. Australian soldiers gained a strong reputation for their spirit, mateship and a contribution that was beyond their numbers. It was the first time that Australia played a major role in a battle and took on vital roles in some of the war's most important victories.

Despite not yet having equal civil rights, many Aboriginal men also wanted to contribute to the war effort. From Western Australia alone, 133 Aboriginal men volunteered, with 83 of those serving overseas as soldiers. Although not all were accepted to volunteer because they were not of European descent, those who were accepted served with distinction. Of the 83 Indigenous men who served, three were recipients of the Medal for Gallantry, and 12 were killed in battle.

It was not only men who participated in the war effort. From the beginning of World War I, women were involved in the war. Edith Cowan offered the support of the Western Australian women's movement to the war, and women led the formation of the Australian Comfort Funds, which provided clothes and other comforts to the Australian soldiers fighting overseas, including over one million knitted socks for soldiers and the funding needed to provide over 12 million cups of coffee. This fund was a massive logistical exercise and it was women who managed and administrated it.

Women also played an important role as nurses, with approximately 3 000 Australian nurses serving during the war. The service they provided helping ill and injured soldiers was crucial throughout the war, as well as often dangerous, with four Western Australian nurses dying as a result of their service.

There was, of course, a great cost to Australia's participation in the Great War. A total of 6 000 Western Australians who went to war were killed, and thousands more were injured or contracted diseases. In total, nearly 62 000 Australians were killed in the war.

Almost every person in Western Australia was affected in some way by the war, and the pain that this caused remained in our community for decades following the war's end. A lot of this pain was physical, but much of it was also psychological and emotional pain that was not always seen. This pain affected not only those who served, but also those around them.

At 11.00 am on 11 November 1918, the Armistice that ended the First World War was signed, and the fighting on both sides ended. Armistice was celebrated right across Australia, and many towns now have their own memorials recognising those who served and those who lost. One hundred years on, we honour all those who have served for our country, pay tribute to those who never returned, and recognise how their sacrifice allowed us the freedoms we enjoy today.

A dear close friend of mine, Patricia Briggs, a highly respected member of the community from South Yunderup, wrote a poem that highlights of the importance of Armistice, which states —

The services are over
 The band has marched away
 The wreaths around the cenotaph
 Announce Remembrance Day.
 We're here to celebrate the end
 Of "The War to End All Wars"
 To remember those who fought and fell
 To honour a noble cause.
 We glance at the neat engraving
 On a column of sculpting stone
 And read the names displayed there
 And feel they were not alone.
 I see the name of John D. Bray
 A name I never knew.
 I hope his folks were present
 To pay their John his due.
 He must have been a local
 Perhaps from a farming clan,
 Who down the busy working years
 Have revered this special man.
 I wish him fond remembrance
 From a family, from home,
 Not just his name as a soldier
 Etched into cold, grey stone.

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we will remember them.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Warren–Blackwood

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [11.51 am]: I, too, want to make a couple of comments today. I want to acknowledge the very good speeches made by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Moore and contributions from their respective parties, touching on a range of issues that are very, very valid as we stand here today recognising the 100-year anniversary of Armistice. These occasions trigger different emotions in all of us. Not many of us do not have extended family or friends who have in some way been part of a war in history. I want to talk about one of those today. It is pleasing to see the acknowledgement of the contribution of Aboriginal people, who in recent years have been acknowledged on a broader scale across our nation, a comment the member for Moore made. I have made speeches here before on this subject.

One of the other issues that has been raised and one that triggers emotions in me is that when all those ships left the harbour in Albany, not only were a stack of soldiers on board, but also 7 500 horses were on board. The contribution of horses to the war effort was significant. Some very tragic stories came out of those events.

The Premier touched on one of the points that I want to make today. A number of communities in my electorate are of reasonable size; probably the biggest has 8 000 people. A lot of small communities in my electorate have a war memorial. It never ceases to amaze me when we stop to look at those memorials and see the number of names on them. The number of names often does not reflect in any way the size of those communities. Obviously, some of those communities were bigger than they are now but some were considerably smaller. It always sits strong in my mind the impact that those losses would have had on some of those small regional communities that in many ways were much more isolated than they are today, and to lose family members and in many cases a demographic that was almost predominantly male, young, in their teens in many cases and early 20s, and also our youngest and fittest. I cannot begin to imagine the impact that those losses would have had on people in those very small communities when they got a letter in the mail, a telegram or whatever sort of communication they had, to let them know that they had lost a loved one on the other side of the world. That is terribly tragic. I guess it is these occasions when we drive past those epitaphs when we remember the cost of these wars and conflicts that it goes well beyond those who were on the battlefields; it goes into all our communities and, as has been said today, it has moulded our communities, our nation and our state in many ways.

Of course this is also an occasion to not only just talk about the First World War, but also to reflect on and acknowledge those who have contributed and paid the ultimate price in all the wars that have occurred over time. As the Deputy Premier mentioned, it is not something that any of us want to celebrate but we want to acknowledge and understand how it has moulded our state and our nation. We have our little fights across the chamber. Our freedoms and democracy are the things that others have fought for. We take for granted that we can stand in this place and debate a particular bill that might be going through this place. Those are the things that people fought for and lost their lives for.

Finally, I want to acknowledge all those who are currently serving our country in many areas where there is a level of conflict. In some cases, people are still losing their lives and making the ultimate sacrifice.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Balcatta

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta) [11.55 am]: Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak today, a few days short of the centenary of the Armistice in World War I, a war that saw such a sacrifice of life and the lives of Western Australians. On 14 April 1919, only a few short months after the end of the war, a meeting was held at John Tyler's produce store on Main Street and the Osborne Park RSL was formed by returned veterans. Shortly after, the Perth Road Board donated two blocks of land near Cape and Main Streets to the sub-branch for their own hall, and in 1930, thanks to local community fundraising, and with bricks made by their veteran members, it was opened by Sir Talbot Hobbs and still stands today.

It has been a great honour, firstly as a local councillor and now as a local member of the Legislative Assembly, to have been involved with the sub-branch for over a decade. I feel privileged to have had the friendship of World War II veterans such as Fred Birnie, Bill Sullivan, Ted O'Sullivan and Tom Fisher, who would speak of World War I veterans and the history of the sub-branch and the local area.

In 1915, *The Daily News* reported on a send-off for soldiers in the Osborne Park district —

Seldom has the Agricultural Hall at Osborne Park held such an audience as assembled last night to do honor to the "soldier boys" who are booked for the front. Since the commencement of the war, Osborne Park has given its quota, and at the famous landing at the Dardanelles the names of several of the boys appear in the roll of honor. ... A stimulus was evidently given to recruiting in the Park, and last night amongst the 80 odd soldiers tendered a send-off, were gardeners who had given up the spade for the bayonet, woodcutters who had cast aside the axe for the gun, dairy hands who had given up the milk

can to handle the “dixie” at the camp, and florists who had laid aside their secateurs for the purpose of “grafting” in Turkey land. The hall was absolutely packed, and even outside there was a big crowd ready to honor the boys from the Park.

Mr Veryard, M.L.A., presided, and as member of the district, said that he had been called upon to participate in many functions in Osborne Park, but the gathering that night eclipsed all others. It showed that Osborne Park was proud of the boys. ... That night many of the soldiers present were on their final leave, and before many days they would be on their way to the front, and it was indeed a glorious tribute to the district to see such a representative body of men eager and willing to fight for their country.

...

Mr. J. Tyler, president of the Agricultural Society, in a spirited address, announced that the society was presenting each man with a fountain pen, suitably inscribed, wishing him God speed and a safe return, together with a parcel of stamped postcards, so that the soldiers from the Park could write to the society, and at its monthly meetings nothing would be more welcome than one of those cards from the boys at the front.

I also note that after tea and coffee and light refreshments had been served, at the call of the soldiers, ironical cheers were given for the Kaiser.

I would also like to pay tribute to the many animals that were integral to the Australian war effort, both in practical and psychological roles, during times of war and conflict. Animals played many roles with our servicemen in the First World War: the donkeys, camels, horses and other animals used as transport for soldiers and equipment; the dogs who located injured soldiers and tracked the enemy; the pigeons used to carry messages; as well as these and other animals that were adopted as mascots and pets providing much-needed companionship and support for our troops. Almost all never made it home.

This Armistice, my family and I will also remember a young Scottish-born Western Australian named James Winning, a 21-year-old orchardist and former secretary of the Bedfordale Agricultural and Horticultural Society, who, along with his brother Douglas and my great-grandfather Hugh, enlisted in 1915. Although Hugh spent most of the war on the Western Front, James was sent to Gallipoli as a member of the 11th Battalion, landing soon after enlisting.

On 6 August, James was shot and killed in the hours before the commencement of the Battle for Lone Pine and he now rests not too far from where he fell at Shell Green.

A few months after this death, James’s sergeant wrote to *The Daily News* —

“I wish to give you what little news I can of ‘Jim’, who, you will have heard by the time you get this, has died like the young hero he was. My time is short, so I will come to the point by saying that, though wounded himself, he deliberately went to the aid of another wounded man, in doing which he was hit again fatally. His body was brought in later, and given decent burial. His Bible is in possession of one of our officers, who would be glad to send it on.

On the anniversary of his death in 1928, James’s family—my family—put the following verse into a notice in *The West Australian*, which I will finish on, in memoriam not only to James Winning, but to all Western Australians who fought in the Great War. I quote —

Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away ...

Statement by Member for Churchlands

MR S.K. L’ESTRANGE (Churchlands) [12 noon]: Mr Speaker, 100 years ago, over 60 000 Australians lost their lives and 137 000 were wounded in the bloodbath that was World War I. As a percentage of forces committed, this equalled a casualty rate of almost 65 per cent, which is one of the highest casualty rates amongst the British Empire forces. It was the war that forged the Anzac spirit. It was a war that came at an enormous cost to our nation through lives lost, bodies broken, spirits shattered and families and communities devastated. How will we ensure that our society honours the values of those tens of thousands of Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice?

We think that warriors of 100 years ago came from a time of harder, tougher upbringings—they did. Many were just out of school in a time when school included harsh discipline and corporal punishment. Homes were stricter and beds were often thought colder and harder. We may reflect now that our children are raised today by helicopter parents in softer housebound environments and where poor school behaviour gets a young student a counselling team to support and nurture them—not the cane.

Do we have the stuff of those World War I warriors of 100 years ago, today—today in these softer times? Do we, a First World country with an advanced economy—a lucky Australia—still produce the bravest of the brave? The answer is yes. We saw this recently during the Afghanistan War. It was most publicly recognised through the incredibly brave exploits of Western Australia’s Victoria Cross recipients, Mark Donaldson, Ben Roberts-Smith and Daniel Keighran. They all showed the highest mark of valour to place their own mortal bodies in the way of bullets and bombs to save others. Many, many lesser known brave Afghanistan and Iraq veterans walk amongst

us in our everyday lives here in Western Australia. They have left the army and lead everyday lives and face everyday challenges like the rest of us, like the brave men and women who served in medical evacuation teams in Afghanistan and who were flown in helicopters into hot combat fights, exiting their aircraft onto the battlefield with bullets zipping around and at them while they tried to save the wounded.

Through the actions of Australian soldiers throughout the wars of the last 100 years, we know that what we call the Anzac spirit, which was forged at the beginning of World War I and reinforced on the Western Front, still lives on in the characteristics and qualities of the Australian soldier today, which can be replicated in all walks of life—to be professional; to train hard and practice, practice, practice; to perfect the individual and team drills; to keep your sense of humour; and to be reliable so that you will not let down your mates. To not let down your mates is the most common thread of being an Australian soldier, in danger, in wars over the last 100 years. The one common fear they dreaded the most was letting down their mates. Overarching all of these qualities is courage: courage to believe in and stand up for our country, Australia; courage to volunteer to sign up; courage to train hard; courage to be the best you can be; courage to leave your loved ones at home and deploy to a foreign land and into a combat zone, without really knowing what awaits; courage to do your absolute best, regardless of the conditions, all in the name of Australia; and moral courage, which is something that can be taught from an early age—the courage to stand up against those who may be swayed to do the wrong thing and to set them right.

All these characteristics and qualities are what we must continue to strive to instil in our children, for they are the future. This is what will ensure that our society honours the lives of those tens of thousands of Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice 100 years ago.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [12.04 pm]: On Sunday, we remember that 100 years ago, on 11 November 1918, the First World War ended. The guns fell silent and we celebrated, as we have for 100 years, the memory of all those who risked their lives for our safety. We have come to know them as Anzacs—brave Australians who fought four bloody years of brutal conflict. It is through tremendous good fortune that most of us alive today will never face what faced our Anzacs. Most of us will never witness the horrific sights and sounds of battle. Most of us will never be confronted by soldiers and armies trying to slaughter us. And most of us will never be asked by our country to make the ultimate sacrifice. More than 100 years ago, our country did ask this. It asked whether Western Australians and Australians more broadly would be prepared to risk making the ultimate sacrifice. Mr Speaker, 416 809 Australians were prepared to do this and almost 62 000 lost their lives. On Sunday, we remember them. We remember that 100 years ago, the First World War ended. It was a war that began when Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914, and Australian Prime Minister Joseph Cook and Leader of the Opposition Andrew Fisher declared that Britain would have Australia's full support. This support was greeted with great enthusiasm. For many Australians, it was unquestionably the right decision. On Sunday, we remember that this decision remains the costliest conflict in terms of death and casualties in Australia's history. Along with the almost 62 000 Australians who died, 156 000 more were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

In 100 years, Australia has changed dramatically. The country Australians fought to protect 100 years ago is very different from the country we know today. We do not know what our original Anzacs would have thought of today's Australia but we know what they thought of their Australia. They thought so much of it that they were prepared to risk their lives for it. I know that we all want to live in an Australia where we would be prepared to do the same—to live in a country we are so proud of that we would be willing to make that ultimate sacrifice.

In Joondalup, there was a moving tribute last week. From 1 to 4 November, the City of Joondalup hosted its third annual Kaleidoscope Festival. It is a world-class light and technology festival for which artists from around the world again came together to put on a free event full of light illuminations, projections, art and live performances for over 80 000 people. It is Western Australia's largest light and illuminations festival and there was a spectacular installation that saw Joondalup's Central Park transformed and renamed Armistice Park in celebration of the centenary of Armistice. Visitors were invited to take a single poppy and place it on the poppy wall during the festival and in time for the Remembrance Day service that will be held this Sunday. Yesterday, I was fortunate enough to attend the opening of the Anzac Memorial at Currabine Primary School, with representation from the Joondalup City RSL and my parliamentary colleague Mark Folkard. It is a place for students to reflect and will be used as an outdoor classroom. I am sure students will learn many skills there, including those of our Anzacs. Among these skills are courage, sacrifice, endurance and mateship.

Our Anzacs were courageous. We know that. Our students know that. But it is important they learn that you do not have to be an Anzac to be courageous. In fact, although they may have displayed their courage on the battlefield, that is not where our Anzacs first learnt it. Like the students at Currabine Primary School, they were once young Australians faced with many of the same challenges that young Australians face today. Tomorrow, I will attend a Remembrance Day service at Edgewater Primary School. It is another community, a group of students, parents, support staff, teachers and community members that will stand for a minute's silence to remember.

Although the First World War was fought, in the main, far from Australia, its effects were felt by all Australians. It has become known as the war to end all wars. When the war ended, thousands of ex-service men and women returned. Many were disabled with physical or emotional wounds. Our society was challenged as it considered how to reintegrate these Australians and rebuild. Society did rebuild, but it did not forget. And so we do not forget. We do not forget the Australian men who enlisted in the war or the Australian women who served in trying conditions. We do not forget that 100 years ago we promised to remember them. So, this coming Sunday we will do just that. On behalf of the Joondalup community, I will lay a wreath at the Centenary of the Armistice Remembrance Day service at Central Park in Joondalup, which is from 10.45 to 11.30 am.

Statement by Member for Carine

MR A. KRSTICEVIC (Carine) [12.09 pm]: Near the French town of Fromelles, the scene of one of Australia's worst days of war, stands the almost lifelike *Cobbers* sculpture. The memorial depicts the valour of Sergeant Simon Fraser from the 57th Australian Infantry Battalion, who risked life, limb and court martial by returning to the bloody battlefield to rescue an unnamed fellow Australian soldier during the fighting in Fromelles on 19 and 20 July 1916. The sculpture dramatically highlights the courage of the brave Australians who fought during World War I. According to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, almost 2 000 Australians died in the Battle of Fromelles. In one night, Australia lost more men in the Western Front conflict than the combined casualties of the Boer, Korean and Vietnam Wars.

This nation's commitment to the cause can never be underestimated. Australia dedicated considerable manpower to the fighting around the world—from Gallipoli in Turkey to the Western Front in Europe. Our commitment to the various battles cannot be disputed. Our World War I soldiers, and those in other international battles over the following 100 years, fought for our freedom—a right all Australians enjoy to this day and one that we should never take for granted. We need to ensure our wonderful country remains free. By doing so, we guarantee that the sacrifices made by those men between 1914 and 1918 were not in vain.

To mark a century since the end of what was supposed to be the “war to end all wars”, this week members of the North Beach RSL sub-branch will conduct a two-day walk from Fremantle to Charles Riley Reserve. They will make that trek in honour of Sergeant Fraser, and, on its completion on Saturday afternoon, the men, who themselves have given service to this country, will unveil a plaque on the branch's Wall of Honour to mark his bravery in battle. The group of 30 from the sub-branch believe this is the least they can do to thank the veterans who have gone before them. The president of the North Beach RSL, John Rolfe, told the *Stirling Times* this week that, “men returned home during and after the war maimed, diseased and shell-shocked”. Tragically, Sergeant Fraser did not return from France. He was killed on 11 May 1917 and buried, along with too many of his mates, at Bullecourt. His death came just a few days after he was promoted to second lieutenant, a rise reflecting his commitment to his corps.

For most Australian soldiers, particularly those involved in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign, the final sighting of their beloved Australia was from Albany in Western Australia's south. So this state has a very strong emotional attachment to the men, and women, who went off to serve all of us in overseas battles.

On Sunday, we mark a Centenary of Armistice—the end of World War I—and reflect on all who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. Just as we honour the service of Second Lieutenant Fraser, we must remember the actions of all service men and women with tremendous gratitude. I urge all Australians to take a moment during the one minute's silence at 11.00 am on Sunday to reflect on how wonderful a nation we have become on the back of their Great War effort.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Baldvis

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.12 pm]: The Great War changed the world. It is interesting to go back in time 100 years, to this very chamber, in fact, and recall what members in this place said and heard. Courtesy of the Whip, I have a copy of the *Hansard* from 12 November 1918. The day's sitting began at 4.30 pm, when the then Speaker took the chair and read prayers. The then Premier, Sir Henry Lefroy, then quickly moved a motion to mark the end of the Great War. During the debate on that motion, the Premier made the follow comment —

The time has come when Great Britain and her Dominions with the Great American Republic, and I trust France alongside of us, may be able to say that in the future, or at any rate in our time, the world shall not be devastated again by such a war.

The then Leader of the Opposition, Philip Collier, put similar views. He said —

I hope that now we have peace, it will endure for ages.

Those men would not have known, of course, that barely 21 years after those words were uttered, the world would again be involved in global conflict. That day's sitting ended barely 45 minutes later. The motion on the celebration of the end of the Great War was put, and, on the call of the then Premier, members sang *God Save the Queen* and *Rule Britannia*.

As I have said, the Great War changed the world. The very fact that I exist today is a result of the endless consequences of this war—the consequences of changed lives, and of lives ended too soon—which continue to echo through the ages. The experiences of one British soldier at the front led to him migrating to Australia, bringing with him a young girl, who would become my grandmother and live to a ripe old age of almost 103 years. My great-grandfather served in the 253rd Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. I have a picture of him taken at Aldershot just before they departed for active service in 1916. Another picture shows him with his mates in a French farmhouse near the front, smiling and nursing newborn puppies. It was a moment of joy in a very bleak time. His daughter Nellie Hird was a toddler back in Britain. I still have the embroidered postcards that he sent to her from France. He survived the war, but, like so many, never quite recovered. He had suffered from mustard gas attacks, and doctors advised him to migrate to the fresh, dry climate of Australia for his health. He died in Australia at a young age. But he brought a little girl to Australia who would become my grandmother.

Another consequence of the Great War was the group settlement scheme. This scheme was responsible for bringing my other grandmother to Western Australia from the United Kingdom. The scheme brought to Western Australia soldiers and families looking for work in post-war Britain to become farmers in our south west. The then Premier, James Mitchell, earned the nickname “Moo Cow” Mitchell for his obsession with the scheme as a way of establishing a major dairy industry in Western Australia. My grandmother Irene Hughes was a young girl when she arrived with her family to live in a group settlement near Manjimup. She lived in a tent made of hessian and tin cans, with a dirt floor. There were group settlements across the south west, each identified by a number. Group settlements also brought the first settlers to an area later known as Baldivis, the electorate I now have the privilege of representing. In fact, the very name Baldivis was formed from the names of the three ships that brought group settlement families from the United Kingdom to the area—the *Balranald*, *Diogenes* and *Jervis Bay*. Today, major roads in Baldivis are still called Fifty Road, Eighty Road and Sixty Eight Road, all named after group settlements.

As members can see, 100 years after the Great War, our world today is still marked and altered by that momentous and tragic event, with consequences that have echoed through the decades. While we reflect on those consequences, it is only fair that we also reflect on what we now do not have because of the Great War—the men and women who are not in this chamber today because their forebears did not survive the fields of France or the cliffs of Gallipoli. What ministers, Premiers or Prime Ministers did we not have because of that war? What policies and legislation did they not deliver? What did our state and nation not have? Today, 100 years after the end of the Great War, we shall remember them—those who fell, and those who never were.

Statement by Member for Hillarys

MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys) [12.17 pm]: Mr Speaker, on the eve of the Centenary of the Armistice that brought an end to the Great War, it is appropriate—indeed, it is incumbent upon us—to record in this place the events that unfolded 100 years ago. The Great War was one of the epoch events in this country’s history. With a population at that time of just under five million, it touched every part of life, every level of society and every family in every town of every state in Australia. Historian Bill Gammage observed in his acclaimed work *The Broken Years* that their lives were changed forever, and on such a scale that the impact on Australia and the world was immeasurable.

Yet for many who boarded the boats that gathered in Albany on that famous first day of November 1914, it began with such promise and enthusiasm. They were bright-eyed and seeking adventure, and, for most, going to distant lands they had never heard of or had only read about in school history books. Gammage noted that when the war was declared, most of that early avalanche of volunteers was roused by a sense of adventure. Great wars were rare, and short, and many eagerly seized that fleeting opportunity.

Over the subsequent years, the struggles at Gallipoli, the extreme heat and terrain of the Middle East, and the muddy waterlogged hell of the Western Front, soon revealed the full horrors of war. Modern warfare and its conduct changed in front of their eyes. The year 1918 began much like the preceding year. During the spring offensive, Operation Michael was yet another setback for the allies. After regrouping, a breakthrough was achieved at the French village of Villers-Bretonneux. Had the second battle of Villers-Bretonneux occurred on any day other than Anzac Day, it is arguable that the feats there would be as well known today in Australia as that of other more well-known campaigns. The Hundred Days Offensive finally brought an end to it all. A young Australian, Lieutenant General John Monash, particularly shone brightly during this time. Having first secured his reputation at the Battle of Hamel, his war plan of a coordinated approach of tanks, aircraft, artillery and machine guns had achieved a brilliant victory for the Allies. Later, this was repeated in a number of other successful battles and provided a template for larger offensives during the final three months of the war, most notably at Amiens and the breaking of the Hindenburg Line, where ultimately, German resistance was left in ruins. Today, Sir John Monash is rightly considered one of this country’s finest wartime generals.

The past four years of the Anzac Centenary has seen a welcoming resurgence of interest and recognition in not only the Great War, but also all conflicts that Australians have fought in. Like the original Anzacs we speak of here today, our veterans of more recent conflicts upheld a similar Anzac tradition of leaving our shores to defend the values and ideals of our nation. Poignantly, one day in the not-too-distant future, only veterans from these later

wars will fill our Remembrance Day services. What started as an assassination on a Sarajevo street in late July 1914 sparked a war the likes of which the world had never before seen, that only finally ended four years later with the old world order upended, revolution and much of the world's geopolitical landscape reshaped. Around 417 000 Australians enlisted during the Great War. Incredibly, this represented nearly 40 per cent of the male population aged between 18 and 44. More than 60 000 were killed and 156 000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. As has so often been the case since Federation, Western Australia punched above its weight. More than 32 000 Western Australians served, of whom over 7 000 were killed, died of wounds or illness. Their names are listed at the State War Memorial forever more and their memory remains eternal. That generation of Australians, those “great-hearted men”, as historian Charles Bean called them, are all gone now, but the imprint they left behind and the legacy they etched into the Australian spirit long endured well after their voices fell silent.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Girrawheen

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [12.22 pm]: The 100th anniversary of the Armistice of World War I is significant. It was the war to end all wars, according to H.G. Wells. Alas, that proved not to be the case. In recent years, commemorations have moved away from generic declaratory statements about courage, bravery, sacrifice and mateship. Instead, our conversations and stories are much more nuanced. We now ponder the toll of post-traumatic stress disorder and those with shell shock, unfairly branded as cowards. We now appreciate that in battle, our soldiers, despite their courage, followed battle plans and orders from the higher-ups that were sometimes fatally flawed.

More people now know about the travails on the Western Front. Although they are not as well known as Gallipoli, the names of towns like Fromelles, Ypres, Villers-Bretonneux and Hamel are synonymous with the extraordinary efforts of Australian soldiers.

I have a connection with Pozières. Historian Charles Bean famously observed that the Pozières ridge is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth. In July 1916, three Australian divisions attacked German positions and over the next six weeks incurred 24 000 casualties, 6 800 dead and five Victoria Crosses. One of those soldiers was a stockman from Koolunga in South Australia, John Wilfred Sykes, or Wilf to his mates—my maternal grandfather. He was injured on one of the first days of action there.

Our family has followed his service through the marvellous archive at the National Library of Australia. Original records have been scanned and placed online and that brings the action much closer. We can read the handwritten entries, many in beautiful copperplate, recording injury, transfer to hospital or another battalion, promotion and even the contracting of the dreaded and ubiquitous trench foot on more than one occasion. At Anzac commemorations at Landsdale Primary School, it was terrific to see the work that the students had done to trace their relatives in this way.

Through war, we have bonded with ally and foe alike. We need look no further than the touching words of Kemal Atatürk, the man who defended Gallipoli and became President of Turkey, inscribed at Anzac Cove and at the memorial on the Albany foreshore. Whether a Johnny or a Mehmet, the fallen all had mothers who mourned their loss.

Likewise, Australians have enduring ties with France.

In April 1918, Villers-Bretonneux was captured by the Germans, who prevailed against exhausted British troops. The town was destroyed—houses, the school, everything—and terrified villagers were in the process of fleeing. They were shocked, hurt and unsure where to go or what to do. Everything they owned was destroyed. Where would they be safe? Australians were called to assist to hold the line against the advancing enemy. Witnesses said that forlorn, terrified women leaving the town became overjoyed when they realised that the Australians were arriving. The villagers turned around and retraced their steps, calling out “Vive l’Australie!”—long live Australia!—such was their faith that the Australian forces would hold back the Germans. Reinforcing their confidence was the gruff reassurance from the Australian soldiers, “Fini retreat, madame; beaucoup Australiens ici”—no more retreat, madam; many Australians here. General Pompey Elliott declared —

I was never so proud of being an Australian as I am today ...

The Australian fighting spirit meant that the town was recaptured. It was a costly battle with 1 200 soldiers lost. That display of courage has forged a lasting relationship between the people of Villers-Bretonneux and Australia. If we visit, despite the passing of years, we will see ample evidence of the town's great affection for Australians. Each year, just like us, the townsfolk remember Anzac Day with special events. There is an Australian war cemetery and a new museum featuring the stories of the magnificent efforts of Australians in the battles in France and Belgium along the Somme river. What becomes clear to visitors is the many other signs of the close bonds and friendships formed. The school was destroyed in the battle and it was rebuilt with donations from Australia. Schoolchildren helped the fundraising effort and the Victorian Department of Education and Training also contributed. The school was appropriately renamed Victoria. The new school opened on Anzac Day in 1927.

“N’oublions jamais l’Australie”—never forget Australia—is inscribed in the school hall. Woodcarvings on pillars in the hall depict Australian flowers and animals. There are other signs of strong connections. The main street is called Rue de Melbourne and there is a cafe called Restaurant Kangourou.

The grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the saved villagers attending that school have many years later demonstrated that they have clearly not forgotten Australia. In 2009, the children of Villers-Bretonneux raised \$20 000 for a Victorian school that burnt down during the bushfires.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for South Perth

MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth) [12.27 pm]: The First World War remains the costliest conflict in deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million people, 416 809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60 000 were killed—as the Premier said earlier, more than 6 000 of them were Western Australians—and 156 000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. World War I is still regarded as possibly the deadliest conflict in history and the question remains: did it have to happen? On Sunday, I will attend the Armistice Day—also known as Remembrance Day—service held each year by the South Perth branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia to recognise those from the district who served in that conflict and, more importantly, those who lost their lives. In more recent years, on Anzac Day at that service we have been joined by young members of the local Turkish community, who express the same concerns about a war that claimed the lives of so many of their forefathers in the battle against the Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli. They, too, ask the question: why? Yes, 100 years ago, World War I had a terrible impact on the South Perth community.

Local historian Anthony Styan has identified 256 First World War servicemen and 14 nurses associated with the community of South Perth. Of these, 34 men were killed in action or died from wounds during the conflict. South Perth men and women served across all theatres and service branches. They received the following decorations and honours: one Victoria Cross; three Distinguished Service Orders; one Royal Red Cross, nursing service; three Military Crosses; two Distinguished Conduct Medals; eight Military Medals; two Meritorious Service Medals; and six mentions in dispatches.

Lieutenant Lawrence Dominic McCarthy spent his early childhood at the Clontarf Boys Orphanage, which is now within the boundaries of the City of South Perth and in my time has always been in the electorate of South Perth. He is believed to have been born in York, where his parents died when he was very young. On 23 August 1918, Lieutenant McCarthy and his D Company sergeant attacked several German machine-gun posts, captured 460 metres of trench line and as many as 50 enemy soldiers. For this feat he was awarded the Victoria Cross and his second Croix de Guerre, a French military honour. Two sets of brothers from South Perth, Ralph and Hugh Barber, and Francis and Pierce McEnroe, were both killed in action during the war. The South Perth mayor at the time, and member of Parliament, Alex Clydesdale was instrumental in establishing the Ugly Men’s Voluntary Workers’ Association, which despite its odd name became a statewide charitable service dedicated to raising funds and securing employment for returned soldiers and their families after the war. It went on to run the iconic White City attraction on the Perth Esplanade in the postwar period, as well as a similar establishment in South Perth, the Como Carnival.

The South Perth Returned and Services League of Australia was particularly strong, and its concert party The Whizz Bangs toured widely. Henry Kagan “Harry” Kahan, who was editor of the sub-branch newsletter, *The Barrage*, and secretary Morris Mundy were prominent South Perth citizens and instrumental in the formation of civic institutions for the community, such as the community hospital, the Horticultural Society and many others. The Morris Mundy Reserve in Kensington is named in honour of the late Morris Mundy. The Ugly Men’s Voluntary Workers’ Association was established in Western Australia in 1917 with a membership drawn mainly from the lower and middle working classes. The Ugly Men initially organised busy bees and raised funds and built houses for war widows. Later their fundraising was directed to supporting cases of hardship in the general community, and they provided handouts such as cash, food, bedding, clothing, boots and blankets. South Perth Ugly Men’s association members built houses for men who had returned from war and held activities to raise money for war widows. A tiny house built for William Miller Kirk at 49 Arlington Avenue, South Perth, was immortalised in a 1918 photograph as their first job completed.

As a member of this place, I would like to thank Parliament for the opportunity to speak about this important centenary that we will all be remembering on Sunday.

Statement by Member for Perth

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.32 pm]: I stand to briefly reflect upon a critical point in our nation’s history, marking 100 years since the end of the First World War. I want to acknowledge all the great speeches that we have heard and the detailed stories of many fine Western Australians. As we have heard, the Great War remains Australia’s costliest conflict and it would both define our nation, but also have a lasting impact on the lives of the men and women who returned, and their families. Some still say that Remembrance Day or Anzac Day is a celebration of war or that it has had its time. They are wrong because they do not understand

what ceremonies like Remembrance Day stand for, what it means for many Australians. At the heart of our remembrance tradition is the critical truth that the peace and freedom that we enjoy today and in years to come has always come at a price. Ordinary men and women made the ultimate decision to give their lives so that we can enjoy the incredible life we have in Australia today.

The member for Warren–Blackwood said that we all have a family connection to this day and he is right. My father was very passionate about Remembrance Day. He had a dream that one day the *Ode* would be said at every school event and assembly across Western Australia. My father was in the 2/2nd Commandos, which was the predecessor to the SAS—400 men who undertook guerrilla warfare in East Timor. They went to East Timor among the fears of a Japanese advance towards mainland Australia. Hopelessly outnumbered and unable to hold the airfield, they retreated into the mountains from where they would wage guerrilla warfare against the Japanese. With their wits and skills, they tied down thousands of Japanese troops in that campaign, diverting the enemy from heading to the Kokoda Trail. My dad’s troop, the 2/2nd Commandos, became the only unit within the entire 8th Division to face the Japanese in early 1942 and remain an integrated fighting force. At one stage, it was considered lost for a year. I always wondered what went through my father’s mind during this time. It is fair to say that when he returned from that war, he was affected forever.

Of the men in the First World War, or my father’s journey, it is always hard to imagine the personal courage and bravery needed to fight for their life in hostile and foreign conditions, and to lose mates right before them with home and family so very far away. But the one thing we can do—I say this at every ceremony—is honour their service by passing their individual stories on, like my father’s, from generation to generation; to take a moment of time every year, whether it is Anzac Day or Remembrance Day, to remember the freedom we enjoy and all those, like my father, who did everything to ensure it.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie

MR K.M. O’DONNELL (Kalgoorlie) [12.36 pm]: I rise to talk specifically about two soldiers. Private James “Jim” Brennan was born on 9 October 1917 in Laverton. He worked as a stockman at Tarmoola Station in the northern goldfields. He was one of the 5 000 Aboriginal soldiers who served in the First and Second World Wars. He enlisted to serve in the Second World War in August 1940. As part of the Western Australian 2/28th Battalion, he was deployed to north Africa with allied forces at the Battle of El Alamein in 1942. His battalion suffered heavy casualties and he was one of hundreds of Australian soldiers captured and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in northern Italy. In April 1943, he was transferred with other Australian prisoners of war to work on rice farms. He escaped the prison camp in September 1943 and joined the Italian resistance to fight Nazi forces and Italian fascist militias. In company with another Aboriginal POW from Queensland, Edward Albert, Jim remained on the loose in northern Italy during the winter of 1943–44. They spent seven months avoiding capture with the aid of Italian civilians who provided them with food and shelter. They were recaptured in 1944 and transferred to a German POW camp to serve out the rest of the war. Jim was repatriated. He arrived in Australia in early July 1945 and was discharged before Christmas 1945. He moved to Menzies after the war where he, his wife, Myrtle, and their family played a prominent part in the town’s history. He founded the Eastern Goldfields Aboriginal Advancement Council in 1965. In 1984, Jim was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to Aboriginal welfare. Jim died in the year 2000.

Keith Payne was born in Ingham, Queensland, on 30 August 1933. He attended Ingham State School and then became an apprentice cabinet-maker. During this time, he also served with the 31st Australian Infantry Battalion in the Citizen Military Forces. He joined the Australian Regular Army in August 1951. Following initial training, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, 2RAR. After transferring to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in 1952, he was sent to Japan as an infantry reinforcement. Later that year, he was sent to Korea, where he joined his unit. He served with the battalion until it left in 1953. He then joined the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. Later in 1953, he returned to Australia. In December 1954, Keith married Florence Flaw, a member of the Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps. In 1955, he was promoted to corporal. In February 1960, he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, RAR, based in Queensland. He was promoted to sergeant in 1961 and deployed to Malaysia in 1963. He was injured during an operation on the Malay–Thai border in October 1964; however, he remained on duty and returned to Australia with 3RAR in 1965. He then spent a brief period with the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and was then appointed as an instructor to the officer training unit at Scheyville, New South Wales.

In February 1967, he joined the Second Royal Pacific Islands Regiment in Papua New Guinea. That same year, he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 and returned to Brisbane. In February 1969, he was appointed to the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam. Several months later, he commanded the 212th Company of the 1st Mobile Strike Force Battalion when it was attacked by a strong North Vietnamese force. His company was isolated and surrounded on three sides. His Vietnamese troops began to fall back. Wounded and under heavy enemy fire, Keith remained and held them off by firing his weapons and throwing grenades. Despite being surrounded, he spent the next three hours looking for wounded soldiers, eventually finding 40 men in enemy-dominated

territory and bringing them back in. He was later evacuated to Brisbane. Keith received his Victoria Cross from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1970. He was made a Freeman of the City of Brisbane. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star from the United States and the Republic of Vietnam awarded him the Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star. Keith has been a strong advocate for the rights of returned soldiers and their families. He spends numerous weeks and days in the goldfields helping Aboriginal communities. Keith Payne is my friend. He is our oldest living Victoria Cross recipient.

Statement by Member for Mirrabooka

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [12.40 pm]: I would also like to celebrate the Centenary of Armistice, the end of what was supposed to be the war to end all wars. I would like to commemorate my grandfather who served our country in World War I.

My paternal grandfather, Arthur William Freeman, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1916, two years after the war began and two years after he married my grandmother, Adelaide, who carried the name of her South Australian birthplace, a reflection of her German immigrant heritage. Arthur left a toddler and infant to take the oath of allegiance at Blackboy Hill. After training in field artillery reinforcement in Melbourne, he sailed back to his British birthplace on the SS *Orsova* on 1 August 1916. He began his active service on 3 March 1917. Until 13 February 1918, he served on the battlefields of Bullecourt, Messines, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele and Péronne.

From 8 March 1918 until 18 January 1919, Arthur was sent to the Somme region, Villers-Bretonneux, Hamel, Amiens and the Hindenburg Line. As a member of the Ammunition Columns, he, along with other soldiers and four mules or horses, would cart ammunition, much of the time having to calm the animals because of the bombardment and hazards on the journey to the field guns. Photos reveal the peril they faced, particularly in places such as Hellfire Corner where they were under constant fire by the Germans. Ammunition Columns drivers would have to whip up their horses to get through without casualties. Soldiers would often need to stand between the two lead mules or horses to prevent them from bolting with the cargo of ammunition when there was fire or shelling. Many animals and men suffered the terrifying consequences of their lives being under constant threat. Many died and the men who lived had nightmares that tormented their future dreams.

My grandfather served between March and November 1918 under the command of Lieutenant General Monash. For the first time, the five divisions of the Australian Imperial Forces operated together and they made many of the gains that led to the end of the war and the Armistice. It is an honour that my grandfather made a difference in bringing peace to Europe.

The Armistice may have signalled the formal end to the war, but my grandfather's posting continued beyond November 1918 until April 1919. My father, Arthur, who was named after his father, was seven when his father died, most likely as a consequence of his service. Having lost his father so young, my father often wondered about the Belgian postcards that his father sent during his time in Charleroi, Dinant and Namur. In 2014, my father and mother trod my grandfather's path to learn of his experiences. They were grateful for the warmth of the Belgian people, including Claire Dujardin, a historian who has written about the Australian soldiers who were billeted in Belgium after the Armistice. In her paper she notes that after four years of German occupation, the Australian soldiers were welcomed. They also met with Marie and Bernard Delattre, whom they accompanied to a commemoration service that the then Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, attended in June 2014. My father learnt that his father had bivouacked on open fields west of Bailleul—it would have been cold—where they were ordered to dispose of the mules and horses, which, having served them so well, were not able to return to Australia. My grandfather returned to Australia to work with his Austrian–German father-in-law, Mick Sommer, in his business, the Union Bakery, in Kalgoorlie. Although my Austrian great-grandfather was not interned like so many Australians of German heritage, the reunion of these two people illustrates the futility of war in which ordinary people, such as my British-born grandfather, fought German folk whose mixed ancestry, values and principles of peace and equality were shared by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As we remember the fallen soldiers this Sunday, Remembrance Day, we also remember those who returned from war, such as my grandfather, and their families, who came from very mixed backgrounds, and the troubles that came from war.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.45 pm]: I also support the comments of the previous speakers in recognising the 100th anniversary of Remembrance Day. Similar to the member for Mirrabooka, I want to reflect on the experiences of my family and share some similarities between our stories.

Remembrance Day is a special day in most of the Commonwealth of Nations to recognise the end of the First World War and, subsequently, the sacrifice that men and women made in defending their nations. When I reflect on this important day and the millions of people killed in war, I have mixed emotions. My father, Peter Honey, served as a mechanic in the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the Second World War. He had

no formal qualifications as a mechanic but had grown up on a farm and, as a young man, had run a garage in Kulin. Like many farmers, he could turn his hand to any mechanical task and repair anything with the proverbial 12-gauge wire. My father served most of his time in New Britain, the main island of Papua New Guinea. In my father's case, joining the army was a pivotal and positive change and something he reflected on positively. He had a strong sense of duty and keenly felt the need to defend his family and country from Japanese forces. He relished the challenge of repairing everything from aircraft to tanks with limited resources and drew on his bush mechanic skills to craft replacement parts from the limited resources available. He loved the interaction with the Papua New Guineans and formed good friendships with members of the local communities. He was a keen fisherman and, along with his colleagues and the local men, built a fishing boat that was used during breaks. My father enjoyed the ordered life of the Army and the camaraderie of his mates. Perhaps the main legacy for his family from his time in war was his abhorrence of wearing hats indoors and reminding us that we would have been on a charge if we had done this in the Army. It was also very important that we did not walk in front of him. We learnt to skip to match his step. He would refer to the time only in the military 24-hour clock and could not stand a lack of punctuality.

My grandfather, David Honey, served in the 10th Light Horse and 3rd Machine Gun Squadron in the Middle East. He was a farmer in Kulin who joined the Army in February 1917. My dad was only 15 months old when my grandfather enlisted. My uncle David was born after he left for Palestine. One can only imagine the enormous distress that my grandmother must have felt with a husband going to war and having to run the family farm and business with two very young children. My grandfather's experience in the Middle East had a much longer lasting impact on his family. He was affected by gas during the conflict and suffered serious respiratory health problems for the remainder of his life. He died at the young age of 65. My mother and aunties told me that the majority of men who came back from the First World War were very badly affected by their experience. They witnessed mass killings and agonising deaths from untreatable illnesses, such as dysentery and sepsis, which today we consider simple to treat. My father mentioned the distress that was felt by soldiers who were required to shoot their horses before they returned to Australia because of quarantine concerns. These were the horses that they had mostly brought from their own farms that had been their faithful companions during the horror of war. We have much better recognition of the issues associated with post-traumatic stress disorder affecting returning service people today; however, at that time, it was typically referred to as "shell shock", and individuals were left to their own devices to cope upon their return from service. My ultimate reflection on this important day is to honour the service of the men and women who have made so many sacrifices to give us the life we have today. We enjoy a quality of life that is the envy of the world.

I also reflect on the important role that we play as representatives of, and leaders in, our community. Our role and my commitment is to do everything that we can to ensure that disputes are resolved by political means and without the need to resort to war.

Lest we forget.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 8105.]

PERTH ELECTORATE — SCHOOL P&Cs

Statement by Member for Perth

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.50 pm]: I rise today to acknowledge the incredible hard work of my local Perth P&Cs to improve their local schools. I want to give a shout out to Mt Hawthorn P&C, under president Scott Yelland, which has been driving great changes, like the complete transformation of the school oval. A big thankyou to Kyilla Primary School P&C, under the leadership of president Andrew Taylor, which continues to kick goals with the Kyilla Farmers Market. The North Perth Primary School P&C, under president Heather Barkes, has strongly advocated for the parent community this year, and continues its brilliant fundraiser, Harvest 6006. The Highgate Primary School P&C holds some spectacular events and makes the school community events fun! Congratulations to president Brian Watt and team. Aranmore Catholic Primary School P&C, under the highly energetic Elle Skuja-Gonzalez, pulls out ripper fundraisers. It was great to go to the retro bingo night this year. Finally, the Sacred Heart Primary School P&C, under president Gary Brown, really makes an effort to bring the school community together with an active schedule of events. Thank you for all the work you do. You are champions for your community. We love your work!

LEIGHTON BATTERY, BUCKLAND HILL — HERITAGE TUNNELS

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.51 pm]: On Monday, 29 October, I was given a guided tour of the World War II Leighton Battery heritage site tunnels located at Buckland Hill, Mosman Park. I was guided by the president of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA, Mr David Carter. Leighton Battery was one of the key strategic defence lines in Western Australia during the Second World War and was a critical part of "Fortress Fremantle", defending the strategically vital port of Fremantle and the associated allied submarine fleet. In the early 1900s,

Buckland Hill was identified as a first class observation point for gun batteries. It provided a key vantage point for observation and signalling. In 1941, two weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, an anti-aircraft site was commissioned at Buckland Hill. The site comprised over 300 metres of tunnels, which housed a variety of ammunition, communications, gun crew rest areas and observation posts. The site ultimately comprised three 5.25-inch dual-purpose coast artillery-anti-aircraft guns and a 3.7-inch anti-aircraft gun. The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA has a core of 30 active volunteers who run the site. Tours of the tunnels are run every Sunday from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm but you can visit the general area anytime. I encourage all members and their families to take advantage of touring the site.

MURRAY–WELLINGTON ELECTORATE

Statement by Member for Murray–Wellington

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [12.53 pm]: I stand to speak on a number of events and achievements that have occurred across Murray–Wellington over the past few weeks. Throughout October, the Brunswick Agricultural Society and the Waroona Agricultural Society both hold their annual agricultural shows. This year, the Waroona ag show had 18 800 people through the gates, while the Brunswick ag show had 16 000. Congratulations to both shows on another fantastic year, but a special congratulations to the Waroona Agricultural Society for putting on the biggest show it has ever held, as well as the biggest show overall.

Last Friday, I was privileged to be able to open the new science laboratory at Carcoola Primary School. It is one of the first schools to receive a science lab under the McGowan government's science labs in schools program. The science lab is the first purpose-made facility for the school and will make a huge difference in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics education that students receive. I commend Carcoola Primary School for the work it has done to secure this facility for the school. Harvey Primary School is currently in the process of installing its science lab, and Parkfield Primary School in Australind has recently been announced as a recipient of a science lab through round 2 of the program. I look forward to seeing the new facilities at both of these schools. I thank the McGowan government for introducing this important program.

As we are heading into summer and the fire season, I want to thank all those who work and volunteer in our emergency services organisations. The men and women who are part of these services often put themselves in dangerous situations to ensure the safety of the communities they serve and do so because they care deeply about their communities. Please stay safe this season, and thank you in advance for the hard work you all do.

Lastly, congratulations to the 2018 AFL Premiers, the West Coast Eagles.

KAYLA CARLINO — FUNDRAISING — YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Statement by Member for Carine

MR A. KRSTICEVIC (Carine) [12.54 pm]: Kayla Carlino is an amazing 19-year-old student at Curtin University, who is currently in her second year of physiotherapy studies. Kayla wanted to contribute to the community, specifically in the area of youth homelessness. Kayla chose to organise a quiz night to raise funds for her chosen charities. As her father, Steven Carlino, had been a quizmaster, and her mother, Janine Carlino, had helped organise five quiz nights for Kayla's primary school and local sporting club, it seemed like the perfect fit for her and her family. Kayla and Janine decided that the funds raised would be spread between local charities, the Perth Homeless Support Group and Kids Under Cover. Over three months both Kayla and Janine were actively involved in asking for donations from the community. With the help of her brother, Matthew Carlino, her cousins Liam Wood and Callum Wood, and close friends, they hosted the quiz night on 5 October 2018. A total of 240 people attended the quiz night at Warwick Community Hall. It was a huge success, with \$10 004.50 being raised. A donation of \$6 137 was made to Kids Under Cover and \$3 866 was donated to the Perth Homeless Support Group. I wanted to bring this fantastic young leader to the attention of members and ask them all to join with me in commending Kayla on her selfless and generous contribution to helping homeless youth.

BASANT FESTIVAL

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot) [12.55 pm]: Today I acknowledge two very important events in our cultural calendar. I was fortunate enough to join tens of thousands of Western Australians at the Basant Festival at Langley Park on 28 October to welcome in spring. Basant is one of our flagship multicultural events. It was a spectacular display of the diversity of multicultural music, food, arts and culture, which brought Western Australians together in a celebration of life. It was a beautiful spring day in Perth and the skies were decorated with kites being flown by all ages. Everyone enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere. It was great to see my parliamentary colleagues jump on stage to learn some Bollywood dance moves. I give special thanks to the event organisers, Muhammad Salman and Ali Mardan Shah from So Change Inc. This organisation works with many volunteers to provide the homeless with meals and to improve employment outcomes for migrants and refugees.

I wish parliamentarians and all Western Australians a very happy Diwali, which is the festival of lights. I congratulate the Indian Society of Western Australia on a highly successful two-day event at Claremont Showgrounds, coinciding with its fiftieth anniversary. I thank ISWA president Surya Ambati for his wonderful work promoting the welfare, social, cultural and educational aspects of Western Australian Indians, via the support of the many Indian associations we are proud to have here.

**WHITFORD FAMILY CENTRE
BAMBARA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Statement by Member for Hillarys

MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys) [12.57 pm]: I would like to acknowledge two significant milestones in my electorate. On 28 October, Whitford Family Centre celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Since 1988, it has been a much-loved and respected neighbourhood centre that serves approximately 400 families every year and continues to be an integral part of the Hillarys community. However, recent changes to the funding model for neighbourhood centres proposed by the McGowan government have caused concern for local families and for the centre's 12 staff. These changes disadvantage local neighbourhood centres such as Whitford Family Centre, which may not have the technical skills or resources to devote to preparing the lengthy and time-consuming tender documents required to obtain funding. The centre's community is hopeful that its recent tender submission will be successful so it can continue its great work. Hopefully, the government will review the process in the future.

Bambara Primary School, which is located in Padbury, celebrated its fortieth anniversary last Sunday with a fete that included music and songs from the school band and choir, market stalls, and food and drink. Bambara is a small school with around 170 students, but it has a steadfast vision to nurture and prepare its students in readiness for the challenges of the twenty-first century. It really lives up to its motto: "We are the future". Both Whitford Family Centre and Bambara Primary School are outstanding educational facilities that play essential and valued roles in my electorate. I congratulate them both on their significant anniversaries.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 to 2.00 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NEGATIVE GEARING — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

909. Mr D.C. NALDER to the Premier:

I refer to Bill Shorten's attack on Western Australian households with his negative gearing and capital gains tax grab. Can the Premier explain how Labor's policy makes housing more affordable, as Bill Shorten claims, if house prices will not go down as the Treasurer claimed yesterday in this place?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Bateman for the question.

At the outset, I am impressed that Mr Shorten and federal Labor have announced a significant policy to provide Australians with advice about how federal Labor will pay for its commitments at the next federal election. We should all be impressed by the policy honesty of federal Labor on this matter. The argument of the Liberal Party, as I understand it, is that the changes suggested to be put in place by Bill Shorten will drive down the supply of housing and drive down the price of housing at the same time.

Mr D.C. Nalder: Demand.

Mr M. McGOWAN: If the member follows market economics —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman! I heard you the first three times.

Mr M. McGOWAN: If the member had done economics at high school, he would know that this is a nonsense. It is a nonsensical argument that if supply is driven down, the price is also driven down.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Labor has made a commitment that the negative gearing arrangements that currently exist will be grandfathered for all existing properties and, under the policy, new houses built will be negatively geared for investors. But for investors buying houses after the policy comes in—presumably sometime next year, if Labor is elected—negative gearing will not be in place. That is a fairly reasonable way of putting in place a policy to ensure that Australian taxpayers get some policy honesty on how the federal opposition is going to fund its election promises. I have read lots of columns and most economists think it is quite a reasonable way forward.

NEGATIVE GEARING — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

910. Mr D.C. NALDER to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. On the basis that the Premier supports Bill Shorten's tax policy, why is he refusing to stand up for Western Australians, many of whom are suffering from the effects of negative equity?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As the Treasurer pointed out yesterday, the member is part of the government that put up land tax three times while in office. The member wrote a column for *The West Australian* saying that the government he was a part of was —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: I want to hear the answer.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member wrote a column saying that the government he was a part of was anti-jobs in Western Australia.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: In fact, some of the things he wrote about the former government were so harsh and hostile that even I would not have said them. A lot of misinformation has been put out there around this policy. It is very clear that it is grandfathered, which means, for those of you who are not familiar with that term, the existing investors who have a negative gearing policy will be allowed to continue it into the future. That is the policy that has been released by the federal opposition.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Therefore, the claim that hundreds of thousands of investors in Western Australia with existing investment properties will be hit by this policy is not accurate—that is my understanding—and it will not apply to new home builds. It will apply to someone like the member for Bateman—a person of some means—who buys an existing property after the next federal election if Bill Shorten is successful and the policy is brought in. When the member buys an existing property, he will not be able to negatively gear it; but if he builds a new property, he will be able to claim negative gearing. That, to me, is not a bad policy.

ARMISTICE CENTENARY — RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

911. Mr D.R. MICHAEL to the Premier:

Before I begin, on behalf of the member for Bunbury I welcome to the gallery students and staff from Bunbury Senior High School.

I refer to Sunday's Centenary of Armistice. Can the Premier outline to the house how the state government is supporting the RSL in commemorating this significant and historic event?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for his question and members from all sides for their quite beautiful speeches earlier today when we marked the centenary of Remembrance Day. I acknowledge that some members will be making further speeches after question time. It was a beautiful occasion and a lot of fine, well-researched words were said in this Parliament about this historic anniversary.

I hope that the people of Western Australia get to learn of all of these events that I will outline to the house. We wanted to ensure that there were many commemorative events across Western Australia in the coming days; therefore, through Lotterywest, we have provided \$300 000 to RSLWA to help commemorate more than 50 events across Western Australia. For those community members who are interested, the commemorations in Perth have already begun. We have started planting 62 000 hand-knitted poppies around the Flame of Remembrance and at Kings Park to symbolise the 62 000 Australians who were killed in the First World War. I urge all Western Australians to look at that; it will be really quite magnificent. On Sunday morning there will a ceremonial service at Kings Park that will begin with a military gun salute. The guns will be fired every half hour from 9.00 am until 1.00 pm, when they will go quiet to symbolise when the guns fell silent on the Western Front. People can go to a service in Kings Park, but I know that around the community on Sunday the RSL will also be putting on services. A community picnic will be held in the gardens at Government House on Sunday afternoon. The *Field of Light: Avenue of Honour* exhibition is being held in Albany. It was launched on 4 October with the state government providing \$300 000 in support of it. I am advised by you, Mr Speaker, and by the Governor that it is a marvellous display. It is appropriate that that is occurring in Albany. Another \$50 000 from Lotterywest will fund further

activities in Albany around Remembrance Day, in particular the “Others Eyes: The Armistice Day Choral Project”, which will bring together Noongar elders, returned servicemen and women and community choirs for a performance at the field of light on Remembrance Day. That will be a beautiful event for members of the community to attend. Buildings at landmarks in Geraldton and Kalgoorlie, and the Vlamingh Head Lighthouse, will be lit up with a projection of poppies. Tonight, a poppy will be projected onto Albany Town Hall, which the men marched past in 1914. Fremantle’s Maritime Museum and St George’s Cathedral will be lit up with poppies over the next three days. The significance of the poppy will be recognised on each of those buildings.

Just this week, I was very pleased to turn the first sod on the new headquarters of the Western Australian branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia in St Georges Terrace, which obviously has been worked on by governments of both persuasions over the last few years. We were very pleased to provide a whole range of support to RSL branches around the state—Osborne Park, Dawesville, Chidlow, Bicton–Palmyra, Cockburn and Kwinana—for a range of upgrades in this the anniversary year. I will not dwell on the subject—we dealt with it earlier—but the centenary of Remembrance Day is a very significant occasion for Western Australia, Australia and, indeed, the world. We all need to take a little time to ponder what others did for us.

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

912. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Premier:

Before I get to my question, I would like to support the statement the Premier just made.

I refer to the Premier’s 2013 promise, his Treasurer’s 2017 promise and the Langoulant inquiry recommendation to establish a parliamentary budget office, and to the unanimous support yesterday in the other place for a committee to investigate the establishment of this office. Will the Premier now join his Labor colleagues in the other place in support of a parliamentary budget office?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! The Premier will answer the question.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am unaware of any motion in the other place.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: They are investigating the PPO and they will take a year to report.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Leader of the Opposition raised this issue last week or the week before.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am advised that there is a vote in the other place to examine the establishment of a parliamentary budget office.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Will you support that?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will absolutely support examining the establishment of a parliamentary budget office, which is exactly what we said we would do before the last state election. It is true that in 2013 we made a commitment before that election; before the last election, we did not. We said we would look at the matter.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Treasurer! Leader of the Opposition!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Let me just make one point on the logic of the Leader of the Opposition’s stance: if a party made a commitment two elections ago and has to deliver it two elections hence, then I look forward to the commitment of the Leader of the Opposition, in the next election campaign, to Metro Area Express light rail. I look forward to that. After the next election, if members opposite are elected, the then opposition will be able to ask where MAX light rail is, because the Liberals promised that back in 2013.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

Mr M. McGOWAN: If that is the logic of the Leader of the Opposition as to how promises have to extend through the years, why do we not go back five elections or 10 elections? Why do we not go back and look at the White Australia policy? Let us go back and look at the ban on the export of iron ore to Japan. Why do we not hold ourselves accountable for those commitments that were made elections before? That is the logic the Leader of the Opposition is pursuing.

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

913. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Why does the Premier not just be honest and cop it sweet? The Treasurer promised a parliamentary budget office.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: He promised it; read *The West Australian*! Why does the Premier have to be dragged kicking and screaming by the opposition, and now his own upper house colleagues, to implement his own policies?

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, that was too long. You must get to the point with a supplementary. You have the opportunity when you do your first question.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Come on!

The SPEAKER: I beg your pardon?

Dr M.D. Nahan: What was too long?

The SPEAKER: First of all, I call you to order for the first time. I said that you should get to the point when you have a supplementary question, instead of making a statement. That is what I said.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I explained why commitments made a few elections prior do not actually apply in the current term.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I gave the Leader of the Opposition what I thought were some pretty good historical examples. If his argument holds, Australia would go back to war in Vietnam, because that was a Liberal promise back then. He cannot say that commitments made a few elections past are the commitments that hold at the following election.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I want to make it absolutely clear: the Treasurer did not commit to the establishment of a parliamentary budget office. What we said was that if we were elected, it was something we would examine. I am happy that the upper house committee has indicated that there will be an examination of this matter. That is what will happen. That is what we will do. If the government decides to implement a parliamentary budget office, we will advise the Leader of the Opposition in due course.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

914. Mr T.J. HEALY to the Premier:

I would first like to acknowledge the fine students of Bletchley Park Primary School from my electorate who are here today.

I refer to the commitment the Premier made to this house yesterday to provide an update on the use of Huawei technology within government. Can the Premier now advise the house whether he is aware of any instances of Huawei technology being used by government and, in particular, any ministers; and, if so, who were they and what technology did they use?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I did make a commitment yesterday to examine this issue in light of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition claimed that Rockingham train station, at which the government is not establishing wi-fi, is somehow going to ensure that HMAS *Stirling*, about 10 kilometres away, will suddenly be compromised because that wi-fi, which we are not putting in, will somehow transmit information to Beijing. That was the argument by the Leader of the Opposition. I thought about that argument overnight. I did indicate in my answer that we would have a look at who had used Huawei technology in government. We have had a look.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Was there a national security warning then?

Mr M. McGOWAN: No, no; the member will be interested.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Mr M. McGOWAN: You will be interested, Mr Speaker. Which ministers have used Huawei phones? Let me start. Mr Paul Miles used a Huawei smartphone for government calls and emails, using a government-provided SIM card, although I suspect that if the Chinese government was listening, it would not have got much sense out of what Mr Miles was saying. There is more.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are on three.

Mr M. McGOWAN: There is more. Mr Joe Francis used a Huawei smartphone for government calls and emails, using a government-provided SIM. He was the Minister for Emergency Services; Veterans—and a submariner to boot! Who knows what Joe was up to! Mr Barry House used a —

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, I am getting interrupted; there is a little bit of sensitivity over there. Mr Barry House, the President of the Legislative Council, for whom the member for Vasse worked, used a Huawei wireless modem for government business. What was the member for Vasse doing while this was happening? Was she some sort of agent? I will have to refer her to ASIO! It then turns out that in July 2014, Mr Dean Nalder, the then Minister for Finance, met with the CEO of Huawei Australia to discuss strategic opportunities for the state government with Huawei. Mr Speaker! Oh my goodness! We have a nest of spies on the other side! But hold on; there is more. Members will love it. In April 2010, the previous Liberal–National government signed a whole-of-government telecommunications contract. Through this whole-of-government contract, Huawei mobile handsets and wireless modems were made available through Telstra, Vodafone and Optus to government. Oh my goodness! Maybe before people come and throw stones, they should check whether they are in a glass house.

LIVE EXPORT

915. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I refer the Premier to the positive visit of the federal agriculture minister David Littleproud to Western Australia this week and his declaration that he will never close the live export industry —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Start again.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I refer the Premier to the positive visit of agriculture minister David Littleproud to Western Australia this week and his declaration that he will never close the live export industry.

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I ask —

- (1) Will the Premier confirm his support for the trade, which is so important to farmers and industry participants in my electorate and many other part of the state?
- (2) Will the Premier convince his federal leader, Bill Shorten —

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mirrabooka.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: — to reconsider his commitment to phase out live trade, of which the sheep component alone is worth \$250 million to Western Australia annually?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

It takes me back, getting this question from the member for Roe. I remember earlier this year I was getting question after question on this issue, day in, day out, and then the federal government closed down the trade and he stopped asking me questions. Now he has decided to ask me questions again. Why was he not asking me questions when the federal government closed down the trade? Why would that be?

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, you did.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members of the National Party.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I know some of you do not ever leave the inner suburbs of Perth, but out there is a bunch of —

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, the Premier is answering your own member’s question and he cannot hear the answer. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I went for months without a question on this issue because the commonwealth closed it down and now it has reopened it with a range of changes, which I must say I think are positive. They have reopened it with a range of changes and now the member for Roe is suddenly emboldened again to ask questions. Does he not think it is somewhat hypocritical that he was not asking me the questions when the commonwealth government closed it down? Does he not think that is a little bit hypocritical?

Mr P.J. Rundle: They didn’t close it.

Mr M. McGOWAN: No, he does not. He is quite shameless.

I will tell members what happened when the current federal government came to office. Mr Barnaby Joyce, one of the titans of the National Party, one of its fearless leaders—I saw him in action at the National Drought Summit, and it was memorable! I put it that way; memorable—removed the animal welfare capacity from the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. Then we saw animal welfare issues occurring, which happened on the *Awassi Express*. I think what happened on the *Awassi Express* was shameful, disgraceful and disgusting. I said to everyone here, and I will repeat it again: if there are any further examples of that, I think the industry should close, and a whole bunch of people in the industry in senior positions have told me the same. We will wait to see what happens with the industry as time goes on. I also note that in Western Australia there is a meatworks industry that employs Australians and there are opportunities for the trade for the sheep to be processed through the meatworks industry of Western Australia as well.

LIVE EXPORT

916. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Premier, in today’s *The West Australian*, referencing the GST, Mr Shorten was quoted saying —

... Mark McGowan and I worked together for a long time to secure this.

Is the Premier going to work together to provide certainty to WA’s sheep industry?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Mr Speaker, the member for Roe has conflated two issues. I am pleased that this government worked hard to secure a better GST arrangement for Western Australia. I am very pleased, and I hope and expect, that it will pass through federal Parliament next week. But we will urge that there is a great deal of haste in resolving that issue in the federal Parliament next week. It appears that the member for Roe is already conceding defeat for the federal government. He is already saying they are not going to be re-elected! That is the implication of your question, is it not?

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is not! Okay. So the member is asking me about the federal opposition, which is not in government and cannot implement a policy, and whether I am going to work with people who are not in government and who cannot even implement a policy, so they will not implement that policy; is that correct? It is Thursday afternoon, member for Roe. It is good fun; is it not?

PUBLIC HOSPITALS — ACTIVITY-BASED FUNDING

917. Mr S.K. L’ESTRANGE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the “Administrator National Health Funding Pool Annual Report 2017–18”, tabled today—he will have seen it. Can the Minister for Health explain why, when we see ambulance ramping increasing, emergency department wait times blowing out and elective surgery waitlists surging, that activity-based funding from his government to public hospitals decreased from \$2.22 billion in 2017 to \$1.92 billion in 2018, a cut of 13.5 per cent?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

It is of no surprise, or no secret, that we are in open dispute with the federal government on its funding around activity-based funding at the moment. The reason for that is that despite the fact that there was a long-term commitment from the previous Rudd–Gillard government that the federal government would fund 50 per cent of activity growth, and that Tony Abbott, prior to the election at which he was elected Prime Minister, said that he would maintain that funding, it was cut back to 45 per cent of activity growth. In addition, one of the most astonishing things of all is that the base on which all this is calculated goes back to the 2015–16 financial year and there was agreement that this was the previous base for activity-based funding, but the federal government has come back and said, “We’ve had another look at all the states and have decided that the base is actually here.” That means that despite the fact that there has been activity for which the hospitals around Australia have been paid in

relation to activity-based funding, the federal government is saying, “We are now going to take back the funding that we gave you in 2015–16, the funding we gave you in 2016–17 and the funding we gave you in 2017–18.” This is a very invidious position for all state health jurisdictions to be in. Our state is no orphan in this. We receive an overall funding hit of about \$11 million. I think the Victorians receive a funding hit of about \$200 million. This is something about which the health ministers have been in debate over the past six or so months and on which we cannot reach agreement. I notice that the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory has elevated this dispute between the states and commonwealth to the Council of Australian Governments chief ministers council and that we are looking for a speedy recovery. In relation to these numbers, I think the member for Churchlands will find that these are in hot dispute between us and the federal government, and that that is the case for every single state government, including, by the way, both the South Australian and New South Wales’ governments.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS — ACTIVITY-BASED FUNDING

918. Mr S.K. L’ESTRANGE to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. The actual report shows that the commonwealth has increased its activity-based funding to the state. It increased it in 2018, but due to the minister’s cuts it is now \$220 million less than in 2017. The commonwealth funding has gone up, the state’s has gone down and we are now \$220 million short. Which services in public hospitals are being cut?

The SPEAKER: Members, can I say one thing: I have said it before, supplementary questions are —

Dr M.D. Nahan: Oh yes!

Suspension of Member

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the fourth time.

As the member has been called to order more than three times, I now suspend the member from the service of the house until the adjournment of today’s sitting.

[The member for Riverton left the chamber.]

Questions without Notice Resumed

The SPEAKER: Member, I was saying about the supplementary, it has got to be to the point and part of the question; it cannot be a new question.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Be very careful; be very careful.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

On the supplementary, the activity that is reported in the central pool funders is essentially based upon the calculation of that activity. It does not report all activity, so the member should not rely upon that to get an understanding about the actual activity that takes place in Western Australia. It is based on a range of factors, including what the federal government considers the activity it should be funding. I am happy to provide the member with a briefing on it because I find the way the federal government calculates these things confusing, but I can assure the member that we are doing as much activity as we ever have; in fact, more so. We are continuing to do that at a lower cost to the taxpayers of the state because we have a health system that is becoming more efficient and more effective, and we are putting patients first.

BENTLEY HOSPITAL

919. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Health:

I would like to acknowledge the remarkable year 6 leadership team from Notre Dame Catholic Primary School in my electorate, their wonderful teacher and the school principal, who are here today in the Speaker’s gallery.

I refer to today’s announcement by the federal Labor opposition that it will commit almost \$11 million to Bentley Hospital should it win the next election. Can the minister outline to the house how this funding would complement the support the McGowan Labor government has already provided to the hospital, which was neglected by the previous Liberal–National government for eight and a half years?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question, but before I answer, on behalf of all members assembled, I acknowledge the passing of Dr Graham Dale, an anaesthetist from the south west and avid cyclist, who unfortunately lost his life very recently. On behalf of all members, and particularly the member for Bunbury, I pass on our condolences to his family and friends for their tragic loss.

This is an important announcement, and it is a vote of confidence by that most frequent flyer to Western Australia, Bill Shorten, a man who understands Western Australia and is committed to putting patients first, and working with the McGowan government to make sure that our health system is there for all Western Australians. In particular, we welcome the investment of \$10.9 million to renovate and refurbish the Bentley Health Service. It is a very welcome commitment, and it is good to see the members for Victoria Park and Cannington looking like the cats that have got the cream, and acknowledge their strong advocacy on behalf of their constituents. It is also a testament to the campaigning that Hannah Beazley, the Labor candidate for the federal seat of Swan, is doing.

This contrasts sharply with the treatment by the previous government of Western Australia, which held the sword of Damocles over the maternity services at Bentley Hospital for years, threatening to close down those services. If it were not for the strong protests from the community and the members for Cannington and Victoria Park, the previous government would have been successful in closing down those maternity services, which cater in particular for people from our multicultural community.

This funding commitment builds upon the Bentley Mental Health Service and the East Metropolitan Youth Unit that we opened earlier this month, providing great health care for young people suffering mental health issues in the community. This funding will see upgrades to maternity services to reduce wait times, improved pain management services and improved patient privacy. It will fund major improvements to mental health services; improve security and amenity for patients, including outpatients; upgrade facilities for rehabilitation patients; provide better patient–visitor access through renovation of the entrance and waiting areas; and provide better facilities for doctors, nurses and other hospital staff, including upgrades to the staff dining room.

It is clear that Bill Shorten and his Labor team are listening to the people of Western Australia. It is clear that they are joining the McGowan government in putting patients first, and ensuring that people everywhere get the health care they need, to make sure that we continue to provide a world-class health system. I am very proud that we have been successful in securing this investment, and that the Shorten Labor team is working hard with the McGowan government to ensure that, if Labor is elected at the federal election next year, all Western Australians will benefit from ongoing investment in this state.

RESOURCES SECTOR

920. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the Ellenbrook and Bullsbrook Youth Services. Thank you very much for coming in today, guys.

I refer to recent claims that apparently Victoria is Australia's hub for mining and resources. Can the minister outline to the house whether this is correct; and, if not, can the minister advise the house how Western Australia is doing the heavy lifting in this sector and creating jobs?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

I was surprised to receive an invitation to attend the International Mining and Resources Conference in Melbourne from my good friend Tim Pallas, the Victorian Minister for Resources. He invited me to come to Melbourne for IMARC, because Melbourne was the mining hub of Australia. I want to make it clear that I was pleased to go to Melbourne to correct the record. I will come back to Mr Pallas's comments in a minute, but I will just make it clear that although Victoria produced \$1.6 billion worth of minerals in 2016–17, in the same year Western Australia produced \$86 billion worth of resources. Victoria did have the largest increase in exploration expenditure, by percentage, to March 2018, when its total expenditure for the year was \$74 million, compared with the \$1.2 billion invested in exploration in Western Australia. Victoria has 11 000 employees in the resources sector as of February of this year, compared with 112 000 here in Western Australia. Historically, Victoria has 13 goldfields that have each produced over one million ounces, which is a considerable production over the history of the state, but Western Australia has produced 255 million ounces of gold. Let us make it clear: Western Australia, with over half the resources output for this nation, is where the heavy lifting is done.

I want to make it clear that the reason we are successful at mining is not just that we are lucky enough to have resources in the ground, it is that we have entrepreneurial business people, the technology and the application of that technology to the mining and resources sector, skilled workers, and the regulatory framework to deliver for the resources sector. We have 350 mining equipment and technology service companies, and 900 petroleum equipment and technology service companies. This is the hub for Australia and Asia for the mining industry.

I will finish by saying that I compliment Tim Pallas, because he understands that we have to be positive about industry to get the most out of it. That is why I am always disappointed looking across at the Liberals, who want to be negative about Western Australia's resources sector. They always want to complain about the sector, and they are always saying how bad things are instead of going on about how well we are doing in this state, because this state is doing the heavy lifting for the resources sector in this country.

NATIONAL PARKS — VISITOR SAFETY

921. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the recent tragic death of a young man, and a separate incident involving a woman found unconscious by State Emergency Service personnel in the Kalbarri National Park.

- (1) What is the government doing to improve safety for the increasing number of visitors to our national parks, including the upgraded Kalbarri National Park?
- (2) Will the minister commit to rolling out a comprehensive safety plan for visitors to all national parks, including those not familiar with Western Australian conditions?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I do not normally represent, but I am happy on this occasion to represent the Minister for Environment, and I thank the member for advance notice of the question. At the outset, on behalf of all of us in this chamber, I extend condolences to the family of the young man whose life was lost at Kalbarri National Park. It was a terrible accident, and we all feel for his family and friends.

- (1)–(2) National parks and conservation areas, like many remote parts of Western Australia and the wider Australian continent, represent a degree of threat to whomever travels through them. That is just by virtue of the environment that people encounter, the nature of many of our remote areas and the likelihood that people will risk passing through those areas in an unprepared fashion. People travelling to remote localities of Western Australia, not even necessarily in the summer months, who are not prepared and do not heed the advice of authorities and departments such as the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and people who operate the parks and other regions that are not national parks, risk their lives. That is just a fact. It is part of the attraction of Western Australia's remote regions and its national parks. We would not want to remove all risks, firstly because it is impossible, and secondly that would deprive people of the experience—the encounter with nature that they seek by going to these places.

Visitors to national parks are encouraged to plan their visits to these areas and take notice of information provided by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on its website and in park brochures and signage. I join the Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson, MLC, in urging people to take care in national parks and elsewhere in the state, and to make sure that they have adequate water supplies following this incidence of suspected dehydration. There have been others in Kalbarri and other parts of the state in recent times. It is a very sad fact that on occasion people have gone unprepared into these locations. We should always take water and other safety measures, such as wearing hats and sunscreen and being aware of the forecast weather conditions. Visitor safety signage in Kalbarri National Park and the park brochure provide comprehensive information about heatstroke, dehydration and dehydration management. Other safety information for the park is provided on the DBCA website.

With respect to the second part of the member's question about a safety plan, the minister advises me that his department has a comprehensive visitor risk management program in place for national parks and other such areas. A lot of the response to the threat of people going into places unprepared for the environment they are about to encounter is not about eliminating risk; it is about risk mitigation and managing risk. People should assess the risk and do everything they can to mitigate that threat. That is what DBCA does. Risks and hazards posed to visitors are addressed through a wide range of on-the-ground mitigation measures, as well as communication through signage, brochures and website information. Online alerts are also provided in the case of emergency such as bushfires and other potentially dangerous conditions.

The government wants people to visit our national parks. I welcome the member's observation that more people are going to our national parks; that is a wonderful thing. I and the government encourage that; however, we always encourage people to be aware of the risks, take the advice available to them and ensure that that risk is mitigated.

NATIONAL PARKS — VISITOR SAFETY

922. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Tourism:

I have a supplementary question. I bear in mind that the minister is representing another minister, so I will not ask for detail, but does the minister consider that the department should be asked to re-examine its risk management processes in light of recent events?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I am absolutely certain that the department has reassessed its processes for mitigating risk in light of this and other incidents over recent years. It is a constant practice to ensure that any risks of this nature are mitigated to the best possible degree. That is the responsibility of the agency, and I am sure it is conducting an analysis of what occurred. Because there has been a death, it will be subject to other investigations and inquiries and I am sure that advice will be provided following those inquiries, and that the DBCA and minister will respond.

ALBANY ELECTORATE — PRE-ELECTION PLAN

923. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I ask this question on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition. I refer to the Premier's pre-election plan for Albany, and I quote —

It's a plan that focuses on the things that really matter to WA families—jobs, safer country roads, health and education.

Will the Premier explain why his actual plan for Albany includes privatising the Albany wind farm, thereby sidelining local Albany workers and businesses who were employed to maintain it?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I think there is a trap there. I think the Leader of the Opposition deliberately got himself thrown out and gave a false question to the member for Scarborough to make her look stupid!

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It was a cunning plan on his behalf to set the member up in that way. I have no idea what the member is talking about —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: You demean the position of Premier with this nonsense!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Right. I have no idea what the member for Scarborough is referring to, but I will say this: Albany is one of my favourite towns. It is a marvellous place. It has been well represented now for the last 17 years by one of the finest members for Albany I have ever seen!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I want to hear this!

Mr M. McGOWAN: We have a terrific member for Albany! He won the seat unexpectedly and has held it in every election since. He has done a great job representing the people of Albany, and Albany has benefited as a consequence. It is now a city that I think is one of the pre-eminent places in regional Australia for people to live, have a great lifestyle with great community facilities, and good employment prospects. I think a lot of that comes down to the hard work of the member for Albany.

ALBANY ELECTORATE — PRE-ELECTION PLAN

924. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Premier's answer applauding the actions of the member for Albany, can the Premier advise whether the member for Albany has contacted him with respect to these businesses and workers who no longer have work at Albany wind farm; and, has the member for Albany approached the Premier's office to get \$6.6 million of funding for the GenesisCare cancer centre?

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: You said he was a great member. My question is relevant to his answer. He didn't answer anything about the wind farm.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, you have asked your question! Even though I am hurt by it, I want to hear it.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

My God, this is the worst opposition, I think, in the history of Western Australia, and that is saying something! I mean honestly, it is! Look at its questions! Look at the way it acts in here! Look at the Leader of the Opposition —

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I mean honestly. I saw the looks on your faces when the Leader of the Opposition got thrown out and the way he acted, and you were embarrassed.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: You were. You were. You were.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I have sitting two to my right, the Minister for Energy. If the member has any of these claims, he could have been asked. I have the Minister for Health sitting to my right if the member is asking about some health-related issue that I am unaware of. I am proud of all the work we have done in Albany, and I am proud of the work the member for Albany has done.

NATIVE TITLE

925. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to working collaboratively with Aboriginal people and promoting agreements with native title groups.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house the McGowan Labor government's approach to reforming native title processes in Western Australia?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on the native title determinations that have been finalised this year?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I thank the member for Girrawheen for that question.

- (1)–(2) Nowhere else in Australia is the Native Title Act used more extensively than here. I think I have mentioned before in this place that in 2017 we reached a milestone position, whereby for the first time the number of native title determinations exceeded the number of outstanding applications. Since the Native Title Act passed federal Parliament, 86 native title applications have been determined in WA, covering over 1.5 million square kilometres. I think we are now at the point of most people appreciating and understanding that native title as a legal concept is now well regarded and understood, and as a result we recently merged the native title unit with the Aboriginal policy unit. In my view, native title is no longer a legal issue of contention, and we can and should manage it under the broader context of agreement-making with Aboriginal people. I suspect that 2018 will prove to be the year that we proceed with the most determinations on record. So far there have been 10 determinations of native title, of which eight have been made by consent. At the moment we expect a further six consent determinations scheduled for the remainder of the year, bringing the anticipated total to 16 for 2018. It is worth noting that of those settled this year, the wait of the Mayala applicants, off the Kimberley coast, has been particularly long. Their application was lodged in 1998, making it over 20 years that they have been waiting for the determination of native title. Native title was recognised on 4 October 2018 on over 3 800 square kilometres of sea and islands north of Derby, basically the Buccaneer Archipelago. I want to congratulate the Mayala people for their long, long wait. As we all know now with respect to the south west settlement—otherwise known as the Noongar claim—on 17 October, the Native Title Registrar registered all six of the native title agreements. We are currently waiting to see whether any objections will be lodged with the Federal Court. I suspect there might be but, hopefully, we can proceed with that sooner rather than later. Similarly, in respect of Geraldton, an alternative settlement process was started. An offer was made in August last year to enter into a negotiated alternative settlement with the traditional owners of the Geraldton region. This covers some 48 000 square kilometres of land and water. When finalised, it will resolve four very longstanding native title claims. It is proceeding well. The court has given us a very tight time frame to, hopefully, have the Geraldton alternative settlement process completed by December 2019.

When we talk about native title, to be honest, we are talking about Western Australia and, to a lesser extent, Queensland. As a state, we are progressing very, very well. Now that it is native title, despite the rocky and hostile start to native title—I think most people in this place will remember how native title was perceived—it is now very much an accepted part of the legal landscape and embedded in the agreement-making processes between government, industry and native title holders. Between now and Christmas, I look forward to resolving those six outstanding terminations.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.

ARMISTICE CENTENARY

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Statement by Member for Dawesville

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [2.51 pm]: Following on from the contributions of opposition and government members in this place, I also would like to recognise the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. A distance of 13 063 kilometres away from the Western Australian Parliament stands the Latin Bridge in Sarajevo. As we know, it was the northern end of that bridge where, on 28 June 1914, a rogue terrorist assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and Sophie, the Duchess of Hohenburg. Their deaths would lead to a declaration of the Great War one month later. This war would change the course of our nation's history and of western civilisation forever. As someone interested in military history, I am fascinated most by World War I. It was a war that tore apart old empires, started new nations, thrust civilisation into the twentieth century and cost the lives of millions across the globe. It was a war that started with felt hats, cavalry and mass infantry marching with bayonets and ended with highly mechanised warfare, tanks, chemicals, aircraft and the most rapid technological change in human history. World War I in my mind was a channel of human history from old to new that would form the basis for much change that we take for granted today.

All this, as we know and mark today, came at a great cost. Millions of people died in this war. More than 60 000 men from Australia were killed, and more than 156 000 were wounded. From our child nation, with a population of fewer than five million people, more than 416 000 men enlisted to take up the fight on behalf of the commonwealth against those central powers. In the first general European war since the Battle of Waterloo, nearly 100 years prior, Australia was called up and made a significant sacrifice in its early years to defend king and country. There are many stories of heroism, of the forming of our national identity and of the Anzac spirit as a result of the First World War. It is a distinction that has been with us ever since.

There are men and women who gave much, both overseas and at home. According to the Australian War Memorial's project database, one man from Falcon and 10 men from Mandurah enlisted in the war. While these men went on to fight on the other side of the globe, exceptional efforts were made by a number of residents in Mandurah who stayed behind but still gave much. In particular, there is a park in my electorate named after Robert and Dorothy Dalrymple called Dalrymple Park. They were the headmaster and sewing mistress of the first school established in Mandurah. Together with the schoolchildren, they made remarkable financial contributions to those affected by war. This is the type of community spirit that is not uncommon, especially in Mandurah, these days.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the Mandurah and Dawesville RSL sub-branches, which do much to support and recognise local veterans, both past and present, who have served. In particular, I would like to recognise Mandurah RSL president, Brian Dillon; Dawesville RSL president, Bill Bryden; and vice president, Bart Mavrick, for their continued leadership of this important organisation at a local level in Mandurah.

I visited the ladies of the Dawesville RSL on 8 September, who spent a significant amount of time contributing to the 62 000 handmade poppies that many members are wearing today and can be found at Kings Park and on the front steps of Parliament. This Remembrance Day, I will be honoured to be joining members of the Dawesville RSL in unveiling a plaque at the Dawesville War Memorial in commemoration of the end of the First World War and recognising the men and women of Australia who made the ultimate sacrifice. The plaque will read "Our freedom came at a high price". It will serve as a local reminder for generations to come that the peace we enjoy today should not be taken for granted, for it cost our nation dearly.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Southern River

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River) [2.54 pm]: I also would like to make a contribution. I rise in respect of the hundreds of men and women from Gosnells and Southern River who have lost their lives and who have served our nation in World War I and in conflict since. I also acknowledge the centenary of the Armistice on this Sunday. I would like to quote an article from *The Daily News* of 26 February 1917 —

On Saturday afternoon in the Roads Board Hall, Maddington, an honor roll, erected to the memory of the men who have enlisted for the front from the Gosnells district, was unveiled by the Premier ... The hall was filled to overflowing when —

The Premier —

praised the splendid response given by the men of the district to the call of the nation. The number of names inscribed on the roll totalled approximately 200, which —

The Premier —

said, was almost a State record.

I proudly wear a purple poppy today in acknowledgement of the animals that died in conflict. This Sunday at our Gosnells remembrance service, I will be wearing a red poppy in remembrance of the soldiers—men and women—who lost their lives. Again, I acknowledge all those who have served, all those who have given their lives and also those who have returned with physical and mental burdens. I also want to acknowledge our RSL locally, which guides the memory of all of us of those we have lost locally.

I would like to thank the Gosnells and Kenwick RSL for erecting on their wall of remembrance a plaque to my grandfather, Private Robert McGregor, who served in the 2nd/12th Field Ambulance unit as a stretcher bearer during World War II. I would like to acknowledge my father, Terry Healy, a full private during the Vietnam War in the 2nd transport platoon, 5th company, Royal Australian Army Service Corps, who served between 1967 and 1968. My father played a very significant role in the founding of the WA Vietnam Memorial in Kings Park. I would also like to acknowledge in Kings Park the poppy ladies, who have brought together well over 60 000 handmade poppies. I would like to acknowledge my old Venturer leader, Sue Bouwmeester, who is one of the leading poppy ladies. As a young person, through Scouts, Sue took me to local war memorials for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and has done so very well with many scouts and young people. I acknowledge her comrades Judy Welch, Enid Schoonraad, Katie Dunkley and Wendy Moss, who have led the hundreds of people from Western Australia

who have handmade those poppies over the course of this year, including people from my community of Gosnells and Southern River. It is important to remember that each of those poppies represents a person we have lost. To all those who serve and have served, we say thank you.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Vasse

MS L. METTAM (Vasse) [2.57 pm]: The Busselton War Memorial has 180 World War I names remembered with honour. Of those named, 27 were killed in action and a further 10 died of their wounds or disease in Gallipoli and the Western Front.

I would like to use the limited time I have to acknowledge two notable men from Busselton who enlisted and are remembered with honour on the Busselton War Memorial. Private Alfred Fordham Savage was the first man in Busselton to enlist in the Army after Australia entered World War I. Among the first ashore at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 was the WA-raised 11th Battalion and within those ranks was Private Alfred Fordham Savage. Alfred Savage was born in Busselton in 1894 within a settler family. His father was James Savage and his mother, Hannah. After schooling, Alfred worked as a sleeper hewer at Kirup and answered the call to arms, after war was declared, and was first through the doors at the Busselton enlistment depot on 1 September 1914. He was given service number 481 when he joined other recruits from throughout the state at Blackboy Hill in Greenmount, near Perth. After surviving the horrors of Gallipoli and attaining the rank of sergeant, he went on to serve on the Western Front and was tragically killed in action on 10 August 1918. Alfred Savage is buried at Heath Cemetery, Somme, France.

William Henry Francis Willmott was born on 16 May 1895 at the family property “Reinscourt” in Busselton. He was the eldest son of William and Margaret Willmott. On 5 April 1916, at the age of 21, Henry enlisted as a serviceman. He had been working as a farmer at the family property “Basildene” in Margaret River. He was sent for training to No 58 depot at Blackboy Hill Camp in Perth on 10 April 1916 and was assigned service number 6355. He was a private with the 16th Battalion and was later transferred to the 32nd Battalion. After several months of deployment to various frontline and reserve locations, Henry went to the 2nd Army rest camp at Ambleteuse in France for two weeks. After a brief rest, his unit was deployed to Poperinge and then to the front line near Polygon Wood in Belgium, where they were subjected to heavy bombardment from the Germans. They were eventually relieved and pulled back some miles from the front.

On 8 October 1917, Henry was on the front line again at Ypres carrying duckboards to the front. The next day, the 32nd Battalion moved to the front line at Zonnebeke, opposite Celtic Wood, where they relieved the 10th Battalion and were subjected to continual heavy enemy artillery fire. On Friday, 12 October, Henry suffered severe gunshot wounds to his right leg, left foot and right forearm. His records state “gunshot wounds” but his injuries may well have been caused by shell blast, considering his unit was still being subjected to continual heavy artillery bombardment. After admittance to the general field hospital in Étapes, Henry was evacuated to England aboard the HMHS *St Patrick* on 22 October 1917. Henry’s right leg was amputated the following day at the 3rd Western Hospital in Cardiff, and he was transferred to a hospital in Southall, England, where his artificial leg was fitted. This never hampered Henry. After arriving home, he went back to farming and was able to ride a horse without any sort of impediment. After being discharged, Henry returned to the farm property “Sandilands” in Busselton, which he managed for his aunt until his death in 1947. His artificial limb continued to cause considerable pain but he decided he would enter politics and became the MLA for Sussex—now Vasse—from 1938 to 1947 until his passing on 2 May 1947.

The Willmott family has a war diary that Henry kept and it is very poignant as it shows the incredible horrors that men faced on the Western Front.

On behalf of the Vasse electorate, I would like to extend my gratitude to those who have borne the physical and psychological wounds of war, and for their service to our nation. I also extend my gratitude to the families of those who loved and supported them.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Swan Hills

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills) [3.02 pm]: I rise today to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice, marking 100 years since the end of the First World War. Over 32 000 Australian men enlisted to serve between 1914 and 1918—almost 20 per cent of the nation’s male population. Over 3 000 women served as nurses and many thousands more supported the war effort at home. Australia’s participation in the war came at a high cost. Thousands of lives were lost and the emotional, psychological and physical pain experienced by those who served during the Great War lingered in our communities for decades. It remains our most costly conflict.

I express my community’s deepest gratitude for the sacrifices made by those brave men and women, and indeed for those who have served our nation in all conflicts and operational theatres, and particularly those from Swan Hills. I represent one of the few electorates in WA that is home to a large community of active Defence Force personnel, mainly stationed at RAAF Base Pearce in Bullsbrook. I take this opportunity to also thank those men and women for their current service.

I would also like to acknowledge and give sincere thanks to those returned service personnel who continue to contribute to our community. The Swan Hills RSL sub-branches provide incredible assistance and camaraderie to our returned service personnel and their families. Their commemorative services bring us together in remembrance, reinforcing civic virtues and allowing us to express our shared gratitude. They deliver various forms of assistance to veterans and provide important opportunities for friendship and support.

Earlier this year I was privileged to give the Anzac address at the Bullsbrook RSL and was moved by the incredible attendance at that event. This year, the Ellenbrook RSL's Anzac service also attracted well over 5 000 attendees. I understand that branch is the state's second largest.

In 2017, the Chidlow District RSL sub-branch was formed to commemorate that community's rich military history, stretching back to the First World War. I was honoured this year to plant a tree at the Chidlow War Memorial, along an avenue of other trees planted over the decades, in memory of the town's fallen.

I would particularly like to acknowledge one Swan Hills constituent for his service to community, and that is Nanda Warrant Officer Class 2 Frank Mallard, who I believe embodies the Anzac spirit and epitomises service. Mr Mallard's extraordinary contribution to our nation and local community was recently acknowledged when he was named WA's 2019 Senior Australian of the Year. He has previously been awarded the City of Swan's Citizen and Senior Citizen of the Year. Frank is a proud Yamatji elder and is also a member of the stolen generation. He served in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam as a sapper in the field engineers before serving with NATO in Croatia as a logistics officer. On leaving the military, Frank continued a career of service as a prison officer. Despite his post-traumatic stress disorder and Parkinson's disease, Frank is an incredibly active member of the Ellenbrook RSL. He has a deep and abiding commitment to current and former service men and women. Each year he organises veterans' health week events and a range of other occasions to recognise our service personnel.

Frank has an astonishing civilian voluntary career. He worked with Amurri Divine Mercy Hospital Foundation to establish a hospital in Nigeria. He actively volunteers with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Association of WA and chairs the Catholic Church's Voice of the Voiceless Ministry of Saint John Paul II. Frank Mallard exemplifies the Anzac spirit that first entered the Australian consciousness 100 years ago. He is selfless, stoic and resourceful. He never seeks recognition and he has devoted his life to the service of others. I thank Frank for his remarkable contribution to the nation and our local community.

On the commemoration of such a significant event in our nation's history, I also remember the sacrifices of so many other thousands of Australian service men and women. They gave so much in order that we might continue to live in peace and prosperity. We are eternally indebted.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Darling Range

MRS A.K. HAYDEN (Darling Range) [3.07 pm]: On Sunday, 11 November 2018, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War. One hundred years ago, on 11 November 1918, silence fell across the Western Front after a long four-year battle. An armistice was signed resulting in the end of the First World War. Exhausted Australians, including Western Australians, could finally stand down. It is well known that the fighting reputation of our men and women far outweighed any other in proportion to numbers. Sadly, this victory came at a heavy cost to our country. Communities and families in homes across Australia lost loved ones. More than 60 000 people never returned home. That grief is something that I do not believe we could ever come close to appreciating. It is because of this sacrifice and loss that we stand each year to stop, remember and honour the bravery and commitment made by so many to allow us to enjoy our way of life.

When remembering, we also acknowledge the men and women who served our country and those who are still serving and protecting us today. Many of us here today have personal family connections. Growing up, this was often discussed. We talked about the impacts on so many families, not just those we had lost but also the ones who returned so different from how they left. Unlike some of our experiences, there were families that did not have their stories told. Today I wish to thank my good friend Anna Wyatt for sharing with me the stories shared in the book titled *They Served With Honour: Untold Stories of Western Australian Aboriginal Servicemen at Gallipoli*. In 2015, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal history research unit compiled the stories of 13 Western Australian Aboriginal servicemen. Their life stories have been shared within this book. Stories that have never been told or have been untold for so long have now been acknowledged. I wish to thank them and their families for their sense of duty and their sacrifice and for sharing their stories with us.

This Sunday, hundreds of outstanding volunteers at RSLs around our state will hold services across our communities. I would like to thank and acknowledge all those involved in planning and developing the many services and events that honour our service men and women. Attending these services, along with the Anzac Day services, is always an honour I look forward to. This Sunday, I will proudly join the Serpentine–Jarrahdale RSL to remember, acknowledge and thank them and to honour their spirit.

I close by quoting —

We remember the soldiers, who fought and died.
 And all their mates fighting by their side.
 We thank the soldiers who kept us alive,
 And the times in war they had to survive,
 We will always remember the men,
 Who gave their life to defend.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Forrestfield

MR S.J. PRICE (Forrestfield) [3.10 pm]: On Sunday, we commemorate the Centenary of Armistice, marking 100 years since the end of the First World War—the Great War; the war to end all wars. Unfortunately, sadly, as we know, this is not true. In 1914, there were over 179 000 men living in Western Australia. Over the next four years, 32 000 of them enlisted for service in the Great War. More than 6 000 of these men were killed and thousands more were wounded and suffered from disease and illness. According to the Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society and the Kalamunda RSL—I thank both organisations for their assistance and for continuing to ensure that our history is remembered and not forgotten—on the Kalamunda and districts honour board it is noted that 120 people enlisted in World War I, on the Maida Vale honour board it is noted that 18 people enlisted in World War I and on the Wattle Grove honour board it is noted that 21 people enlisted in World War I. Sadly, 21 people from the Shire of Kalamunda did not return home after World War I. On Sunday, I will attend the Kalamunda RSL Remembrance Day ceremony at the Kalamunda memorial. I thank the Kalamunda RSL for all the great work it does.

On their return, thousands of men carried the visible scars of the war; many others carried unseen mental wounds that darkened their lives and those of their families. Still today, after experiencing service around the world, many of our returned service men and women come home with these same issues, and we need to ensure that we continue to support them as best we can.

Fortunately, the Armistice was signed at 11.00 am on 11 November 1918, ceasing all fighting, and soldiers on both sides of the Western Front laid down their arms.

Today I would also like to acknowledge, as others have done, the many Indigenous soldiers who served in the First World War. One hundred and thirty-three Aboriginal men from Western Australia volunteered, with 83 of them serving overseas. I would also like to acknowledge the more than 3 000 women who played a role and served in World War I.

In 2015 I was fortunate enough to travel to the Western Front with a group of Darling Range Sports College students and other mentors on the Senator Glenn Sterle Western Front tour. On this tour, we attended many of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial sites and other battle sites along the Western Front. This included visiting Villers-Bretonneux and Tyne Cot, where 12 000 people are buried. We went to the Bayernwald trenches, which is a set of original German trenches from the Western Front from 1916 that have been preserved and restored. People can walk around in these trenches and get a pretty good feeling of what it must have been like at the time. We also went to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele. We went to the battlefield that is now referred to as Flanders Field. We went to Hill 60 and Caterpillar crater. Members may or may not know about those particular areas, but a lot of Australian tunnellers were involved in that part of the war. The tour culminated in a dawn service on Anzac Day at Polygon Wood Cemetery in Belgium, as the Premier alluded to earlier, which was an incredible experience. We also had the privilege of attending and laying a wreath at one of the *Last Post* ceremonies that are held at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres. Members may or may not know this, but every night since the Menin Gate Memorial was built, a *Last Post* ceremony has been held. This is to honour all the men and women from the British, commonwealth and ANZAC forces who died in the defence of Ypres. Of the battles that took place at the Western Front, I think about five battles occurred at Ypres. The *Last Post* has been played every day at the Menin Gate Memorial since its establishment and on 9 July 2015, they played the *Last Post* for the 30 000th time. It has been played every day since and it continues to be played. It is played by the world famous buglers from the Last Post Association, which comprises a group of volunteers who turn up every day to play.

I want to finish by saying that we need to ensure that we continue to pay appropriate recognition to those who defended our rights and way of life and that, by doing so, it is not glorifying war but is remembering the cost of war, and this is remembering those who died before us.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Nedlands

MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands) [3.16 pm]: I also rise to acknowledge all those people who lost their lives in the wars, particularly World War I and World War II. Indeed, the Assembly has an honour board in the Speaker's gallery that lists all the members of Parliament who have served in wars and who are deceased.

A member: They're not all deceased.

Mr W.R. MARMION: Sorry—some are still alive.

I want to acknowledge three who served in both World War I and World War II. Because the member for Bunbury is here, I will start with James Murray, who was the member for Bunbury. He served in both World War I and World War II. Edwin Wilkie Corboy, the member for Yilgarn and then the member for Yilgarn–Coolgardie, served in both World War I and World War II. Arthur Valentine Rutherford Abbott, who was mentioned by the member for Moore, was the member for North Perth and then the member for Mount Lawley and served in both World War I and World War II. Arthur Valentine Abbott was a well-known lawyer. He married my great-aunt Daphne Marmion. In fact, I did not know that I was related to Val Abbott until I became a member of Parliament, because Val Abbott and my great-aunt Daphne separated when their only son was quite young. I wondered why my cousin David Abbott was called Abbott and I found out when I became a member of Parliament that his father was Val Abbott. He is in my family tree and got through the war. Another member of my family, Colin Crammond, unfortunately enlisted in World War I at the age of 36 and got killed at the Nek at Gallipoli. He was unmarried. I spoke to a member of the family earlier today who said that, on Colin's death, his sister received two handkerchiefs and his pipe. They were the only three things that he brought back from the war. That obviously had a fairly large impact on that side of the family.

Another great-aunt was engaged to a very outstanding young man who, unfortunately, did not come back from the First World War. He was also killed at Gallipoli. A bit has been written about this particular person. He was engaged to my great-aunt Molly Marmion. A gentleman by the name of Ross McMullin has written a book titled *Farewell, dear people: Biographies of Australia's lost generation*. I will refer to some of that book's text published in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 10 November 2012. This is a story about Alexander Phipps Turnbull. In 1906, he attended what later became known as Hale School. He came first in Latin, Greek, French and English, and was captain of the school and its dux. He became the state's fourth Rhodes scholar. Having law in mind as a career, he opted to specialise in jurisprudence at Oxford University and continued to record exceptional results. In 1910, final honours in jurisprudence at Oxford University were awarded to 60 students, with only three students getting first-class honours—he was one of them. His future was going to be back here in Western Australia at a firm called Parker & Parker. People might have heard of it but it does not exist anymore. It used to be one of Perth's big law firms in those days. Alexander was engaged to my great aunt, Mollie Marmion. Unfortunately, he did not return from the war. Without going through his whole career, he was in the third group of soldiers who had to come out of the trenches, knowing that they were going to die. His fiancée, my great aunt, lived to the age of 93 and never married. The war impacted many people and we should recognise all those people who suffered in both wars.

Statement by Member for Maylands

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands — Deputy Speaker) [3.21 pm]: Lest we forget.

Over 60 million animals served in the First World War. Of the 400 000 horses that left Australian shores, only one came home. Australian troops were sent 160 000 Walers, of which 121 324 went to Africa, Europe, India and Palestine. When peace was declared on Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, the Australian Light Horsemen were shocked to learn that their faithful companions were not coming home. Very distressing stories came back of men who were forced to shoot their friends and dependants rather than leave them to die alone, and 3 000 horses were destroyed. Animals generally endured worse conditions than the soldiers, often being exposed to the elements with inadequate shelter. Like their carers, animals were subjected to artillery fire and gas attacks. Gas masks for dogs and horses were not developed until a long way into the war. It has been estimated that eight million horses and one million dogs died during the First World War. In November 2004, the Animals in War Memorial was unveiled in London's Hyde Park. This monument is dedicated to all the animals that served and died alongside British and allied forces in wars and campaigns throughout time. Those animals had no choice. The Australian War Memorial in Canberra also has a monument acknowledging the contribution of animals in wartime.

Trapped behind enemy lines during the war with fewer than 200 men still alive, three messengers were sent out on a perilous last-ditch mission to let headquarters know their position—it was their only hope. Two were killed at once and the third was also hit. Blinded in one eye and with a chest wound and one damaged leg, the determined courier struggled a further 25 miles to deliver the message before collapsing. The bombardment ceased and 194 men from what became known as the United States' Army's "Lost Battalion" were rescued. The messenger was not a soldier but a female carrier pigeon called Cher Ami. She survived her battle wounds from October 1918 and she even had a wooden leg carved for her. She was awarded the French Croix de Guerre medal for bravery. Cher Ami was one of 100 000 homing pigeons that carried messages to and from the trenches from 1914 to 1918. Where other methods failed, pigeons had a success rate of 95 per cent and save hundreds of lives.

Rags, an abandoned, stray French bull terrier, adopted by the US infantry division, was gassed, shelled and partially blinded, but he survived the war. This was partly because he could hear the shells coming before the soldiers, so he was an early warning system too. Many members will recognise the story of Warrior because it has been immortalised in the play and film titled, *War Horse*. Warrior, ridden by General Jack Seely, survived massive casualties at the battles of Ypres, the Somme and Passchendaele and lived until 1941. Warrior arrived at the

Western Front with General Seely on 11 August 1914 and stayed throughout the war surviving machine gun attacks and falling shells at the Battle of the Somme. He was dug out of the mud at Passchendaele and twice trapped under burning beams, surviving many charges at the enemy and proving an inspiration to soldiers he was fighting with. His newspaper obituary stated —

“The horse served continuously on the Western Front till Christmas Day 1918 ... I have seen him, even when a shell has burst within a few feet, stand still without a tremor—just turn his head and, unconcerned, look at the smoke of the burst.”

Despite suffering several injuries, he survived and returned home to the Isle of Wight where he lived with the Seely family until his death at the respectable age of 33. He was awarded the Dickin Medal, which has been awarded 66 times to animals—32 to pigeons, 27 to dogs, three to horses and one to a cat. I wish I had time to go through the stories of some of the other animals that are recognised by the Dickin Medal. The Dickin Medal states, “For Gallantry: We also serve”. The purple poppy, which I and some of my colleagues are wearing today, is in recognition of the animals that died during war.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot) [3.26 pm]: I am privileged and honoured to say a few words and to show my respect. One hundred years ago on Sunday, an armistice caused all fighting to cease and allowed soldiers on both sides of the Western Front in the First World War to lay down their arms. The significance of the centenary for Australians and Western Australians cannot be understated, given the distressing cost of war to thousands of families whose loved ones were killed, and thousands more who went on to live with devastating physical and mental wounds.

In 1914, more than 179 000 men were living in Western Australia. Over the next four years, 32 000 of them enlisted for service in the Great War. At the time, that was almost one out of every five men who enlisted to fight for their country. More than 6 000 of these men were killed. Thousands more were wounded and suffered from diseases and illnesses. The Treeby family was one such family that could not escape the horrors of war. The Treeby's were a pioneer family headed by Joseph and Emma Treeby who, in the late 1890s, moved from South Australia to Western Australia or, more specifically, the Jandakot agricultural area. This part of the sandy, food-growing land was later named Banjup in the early 1900s. The Treeby family took up a block with the help of their three sons, Ernest, Harold and Fred, and had soon cleared enough land to start a vegetable garden. The whole family, including Emma and the Treeby daughters, worked at the market gardens seven days a week. When the time came, all three Treeby sons dutifully enlisted for war, as well as one grandson. Sadly, Fred was killed in action and Harold was wounded. The service of the Treeby sons as well as 11 other local men is commemorated in the Banjup Memorial Park, which was established in 1920 as an avenue of 14 trees and now displays a memorial plaque. Of the 14 Banjup men who served in the war, six were killed in action, four were wounded and the remaining four returned to Australia. The Banjup memorial has the unfortunate honour of recording the highest number of men killed in action and wounded on a percentage basis of any war memorial in Western Australia. During my time as a local government councillor for the City of Cockburn, we excised an old sand mining area in the suburb of Banjup to create a new suburb, which of course needed a new name. I had the privilege of being part of the decision to name the new suburb Treeby, in honour of the family's services.

I want to talk today about another important aspect of the services in the Great War that is close to my heart. Australian and Indian militaries have a long history of shared sacrifice, from Gallipoli to Tobruk. Up to 15 000 Indian soldiers were involved at Gallipoli. The Indian military were all professional soldiers, as opposed to the Anzacs, who were volunteers, so they really were critical in fighting efforts. An amazing bond was formed on the battlefield between the Australian and Indian soldiers, which can best be summarised in the words of Captain Frank Coen of the 18th Battalion —

‘They are magnificent and are doing wonderful work here,’ he wrote. ‘I am bursting with admiration for these dusky friends of ours. I have seen many instances of their devotion to duty, their self-sacrifice. God bless them. Their hearts are as big as the land they come from.’

One unique soldier was an Indian Anzac, Private Nain Singh Sailani. Despite being of Indian heritage, Sailani was not a soldier in the Indian regiment, but rather a private in the Australian Imperial Force. At a very moving ceremony last year, we paid tribute to the centenary of his passing. His service is worth mentioning here today. Sailani was not part of an Indian force fighting side by side with Australians in the First World War, but an Australian soldier, so he would have been an ultimate link between the two forces.

It is fitting on the final sitting day before Remembrance Day to commemorate all our defence force personnel. I pay special tribute to the soldiers and nurses who served in the First World War and to the many who never returned. We recognise how their sacrifices shaped the freedom we are able to enjoy today.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Burns Beach

MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach) [3.31 pm]: Lest we forget those brave who gave their lives so we could live ours—that is actually the full statement of lest we forget. Let us think about that statement—for those brave who gave their lives so we could live ours. In the remembrance of Armistice Day, we must not forget that in 1914, 32 000 men enlisted from Western Australia. In total, 330 000 men enlisted from Australia and saw service overseas, of whom 61 514 never returned. More than 20 000 do not have graves. They do not have a place. They do not have a grave for a poppy or a headstone for a flag—they are just a memory. For my family, this means a lot. My father saw service in Vietnam with the Special Air Service. My brother saw service in East Timor and Afghanistan with the 2nd Commando Regiment. I have another brother who is a corporal in the Army currently, and I have another brother who served in the Navy. My own service was in East Timor during the troubles. My family knows what service is, and in time we will find what the price for that service will be.

My family also has strong links to the First World War, as we have a relative who did not come home. Further to that, he has no grave. He is now only a name on the wall of remembrance. We must remember, now that all the veterans from that conflict have gone. Whose role is it to remember? I say it is for all of us, not by words but by deeds. From our children at their schools to current veterans, the Returned and Services League of Australia and our community at large, we cannot forget.

I will tell the house about Sergeant Thomas William Folkard, MM. We know that he enlisted in Queensland. We know that he was married. We know he was a member of the 52nd Battalion and was shot and wounded at Messines. That name may not mean much, but members will have all seen the movie *Beneath Hill 60*. The member for Forrestfield discussed that battle scene, as he has been there. Thomas received wounds from that battle after the detonating of a mine. Thomas recovered from his wounds and returned to his unit prior to the battle of Villers-Bretonneux. We know a bit about him. He was a bit of a larrikin, as he was demoted to corporal at least once before returning to the rank of sergeant prior to the battle of Villers-Bretonneux. The 13th Brigade, which comprised four battalions including the 52nd, was by this stage a battle-hardened infantry unit that had seen the worst of the fighting on the Western Front. We know about that. On 29 March 1918, the Germans broke through the lines and were closing in on a small village known as Villers-Bretonneux. To stop the breach, four Australian infantry battalions were sent to stop the advance. They faced 13 German tanks for the first time and at least a division of troops who were spearheading the advance. That night, the Australians attacked and took back Villers-Bretonneux and stopped the advance. I can only imagine the fixed bayonets under the light of the artillery fire and the horror the men faced. I believe that this was possibly the first time the German advance was stopped in the war. The Germans would attack again with mustard gas and more tanks later on. I can only visualise how someone would survive that horror. Thomas survived the second attack, but on 11 April, he and others went into no-man's-land. According to my notes, his citation reads —

For gallantry ... on the 11th April 1917 near REINCOURT after the withdrawal from the HINDENBURG LINE these men [2645 T.W. FOLKARD ... DICK ... DOBE ... HOARE ... HATTON ... ONIONS ... HOLDEN ... UPCHURCH ... SEE] under the command of Lieutenant JULIN of 52 Battalion volunteered in spite of continuous —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo.

Statement by Member for Wanneroo

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo) [3.36 pm]: I, too, rise to make a contribution on this important motion. It has been a privilege to hear my fellow members' contributions, which have been so varied and so very powerful. This Sunday, Australians across our country and people all around the world will come together as one in silent reflection on the Centenary of Armistice and the tragedy that was World War I. It is believed that more than 16 million people worldwide, including more than seven million civilians, died in World War I. The death, dislocation and impact cannot truly be imagined by us today, living in modern Australia. The devastation caused by the war was so great that Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that the population of Australia declined in 1915 and again in 1916, the first and to date only times in recorded history, post-Federation, that this has occurred. Every single city and town was affected and every single family was touched. Entire communities were devastated and families lived with the impacts for generations.

Prior to becoming the member for Wanneroo, I was a schoolteacher. I reflected on how I commemorated Remembrance Day as a teacher with my students over the past 27 years. When teaching at Cocos (Keeling) Islands, which has a strong military history, my students were part of incredibly formal and moving ceremonies like the ones many of us will attend on Sunday. During my time at Fitzroy Crossing teaching predominantly Aboriginal students, our Remembrance Day activities were more informal, focused on highlighting that more than 1 000 Indigenous Australians fought in the First World War. Many more attempted to enlist but were denied on the grounds of race. Those who managed to successfully enlist enjoyed equal pay and generally equal treatment with all soldiers—a rarity at the time. I have always spent it with children. I am delighted that so many children will attend ceremonies on Sunday. I have no doubt that the growing support for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day is due in no small part to the growing role played by our schools in teaching our children about history.

Many of us are parents and grandparents. All of us share our lives with young people in one way or another. It is our duty to explain to them what this day means to us. We can do this in so many simple ways. Talk with children about it throughout the year—not just on Remembrance Day, but at other times too. This kind of discussion can be short, simple and matter of fact with young children, but as they get older, we can really start to share some hard truths with them. They are truths such as the fact that men and women went off to war. They left their mums, dads, wives, husbands and, in some cases, kids to trudge off to war. They left the comfort of their home for the cold, wet trenches and left the calm of Australia for the constant fear of war elsewhere. It is likely that those people were afraid, very afraid. It is likely they were cold and hungry and endured seeing friends die right next to them. They went to sleep each night not knowing whether it would be their last. They did all of that for us. We should be grateful for that every day and we must talk to our children about that. Make those conversations with children personal. If there are any relatives or friends who went to war, tell children about them. I have a grandfather I never knew. My father did not have a father. I need my children to understand that. It is my duty to make my children think about what that would have been like. We need to talk to children about family members who were lost in war, to help children realise that sacrifice is not an abstract thing—it is not about other families; we all have connections to war. Maybe it was a great-grandmother who lost a younger brother or husband. It is likely that she and her family sent them off as a hero to fanfare and love and later got a letter saying that he had been killed in action, overseas, a long way from home. This makes it real. We must tell these stories to our children. We can take our children to a ceremony and attend school ceremonies, and when we see what children are learning at school we can use those conversations at home to reinforce and even expand on what they have learnt. We must talk to our children about what they are learning at school. We must also tell our children that there are Australian soldiers who are in the line of fire today; they are on peacekeeping missions or in war-torn areas and they are in danger. They are risking their lives even now on behalf of our country, and we must tell our children that.

Young Australians are increasingly looking for and finding meaning for what it means to be Australian. Young people are pausing on Remembrance Day to remember individual sacrifices made in our name and devotion to duty. Remembrance Day is not about war, but about love and friendship, love for and between friends, and love of our family and our country. It is about honouring men and women whose lives were devoted to not only themselves but also to us, and in their last moments to one another. Their legacy is a safer and more peaceful world for our children. It is our privilege and duty to ensure that their great sacrifice continues to be remembered and honoured. We must talk to our children to make it so.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Leader of the House

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [3.42 pm]: There are rare moments in the history of the Parliament when motions of such importance and solemnness are debated, and this debate is one today. I congratulate all members who have made a contribution to the debate today—the acknowledgment of the Armistice on 11 November. I acknowledge the deeply personal stories of members who presented today their connections through their families and friendships with the enduring Australian story that is the memories and recognition of the Anzac legend. We have heard from members about their communities. When we look at the communities that we represent in this place, many of them were only very small—some of them did not exist. But of course throughout Western Australia and Australia there are towns, suburbs and cities that have enduring stories that collectively make up our Australian story. That is why on Sunday, wherever we may be, wherever we may gather, the memory of those who served this country is a remarkable recognition and acknowledgment. It does not matter whether it is a small country town in the south west, in the north, the goldfields or a suburb of Perth, the great thing is that the enduring legacy of our collective Australian story will be remembered. It reminds us always to look thy last on all things beautiful, every hour.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Bicton

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [3.44 pm]: I rise to speak on the Centenary of Armistice. One hundred years ago this Sunday the guns fell silent on the battlefields of the Great War—the war that was to end all wars. Our young nation and the world were changed forever. The actions of the Anzacs on those battlefields has passed into legend, with the principles of service, sacrifice and mateship forged in those distant places at the core of what we know as the Anzac spirit and form much of what we define ourselves to be as Australians. The word Anzac has come to stand for the qualities that Australians have seen their forces show in times of war and conflict. These qualities collectively make up the Anzac spirit and include endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, and mateship—qualities that are still seen today within those who serve in combat and non-combat roles in our contemporary military. The stories we hear of the Anzacs and the wars and conflicts since are often stories of combat, great deeds and monumental failures experienced on the battlefield. But what of the stories of the men and women whose military service to our country is based off-field in the vital roles of engineering, logistics, hospitality, health care, science and chaplaincy? I am not suggesting that those roles are not seen as important both within our armed forces and in our communities; it is simply that their stories are not heard so often.

The story of Private John Simpson and his donkey is by far the most well known of these stories and the legend of the “man and his donkey” has come to represent the symbol of all that was pure, selfless and heroic about the Anzacs. English-born John Simpson had found his way to the Yilgarn goldfield of Western Australia shortly before the commencement of the Great War. On 25 August 1914, he joined the Australian Imperial Force at Blackboy Hill camp. Allotted to the 3rd Field Ambulance, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, he embarked from Fremantle on 2 November for Egypt. Private Simpson landed on Gallipoli with the covering force at dawn on 25 April 1915 and quickly befriended a donkey to carry leg wound casualties to the dressing station. Day and night he worked cheerfully and unconcernedly amid fierce shrapnel and rifle fire, carrying the wounded from the head of Monash Valley down Shrapnel Gully to the beach. His inspirational work and good fortune however were to be short-lived. On 19 May he was shot through the heart and buried on the beach at Hell Spit. In 24 days he rescued over 300 men.

I will add one other story here today of non-combat service. Although this story is known by only a handful of people, it nonetheless provides illumination on the importance of non-combat roles in war, and I take great pride in adding it to *Hansard*. It is a story of an engineer with the Australian Defence Force, a builder of roads through the jungles of Papua New Guinea during War World II. That engineer was my grandfather, Alfred Gordon Hams. We hear many stories of young men who lied about their age in order to enlist and do their bit for their country. Most often they are the stories of underage enlistees who bumped up their age. At the time of his enlistment Fred Hams, as he was known, was officially too old to join the ADF, which at that time had an upper age limit of 40 years. At 41 he was one year past that age, but so determined was he to contribute to the service of his country that he took a year off his age upon enlistment in order to do his bit for Australia.

Fred was experienced in road building, having worked for some time for a local contractor who built roads around the district of the Victorian Gippsland country shire where he lived with his wife, May, my grandmother, and their children Gordon, Margaret, Neil, and my father, George. The colonial capital of Port Moresby on the south coast of Papua was the strategic key for the Japanese in this area of operations. Capturing it would both neutralise the Allies’ principal forward base and serve as a springboard for a possible invasion of Australia. The development of a road network for allied military forces was essential for the protection of Australia’s northern border. Fred’s skills would be invaluable to these efforts and he was not going to let something like militarily defined old age deter him. He would go on to complete his World War II service and return to build a successful family business based on the engineering skills he had further developed during his time in Papua New Guinea. I thank my grandfather and all those who have served and continue to serve in combat and non-combat roles in our military forces. We enjoy the freedoms we have today because of them.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Thornlie

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.48 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the 100-year anniversary since the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918. I acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice of millions who lost their lives, including many Western Australians. I salute the more than 32 000 Western Australians who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force to serve in World War I. The horrid tragedy of war must not be forgotten and never glossed over. Too often in war, including in the Great War, declarations and decisions to deploy were made by older men who never went to battle themselves. Instead, they sent millions of young men to fight to the death; to fight until their injuries stopped them; to fight and suffer profound physical and psychological scars; to fight and bring tragedy and trauma to their families and communities—scars that lasted for generations. Walk around Kings Park and read the inscriptions of the commemorative plaques and we see inscription after inscription marking the deaths of young people who never made it to their twenties or their thirties. For us, 100 years later, we remember their sacrifice. We remember, but we must also learn—humanity must learn.

The 1918 Armistice was signed in a railway wagon in a forest clearing near Compiègne in northern France. It was signed at 5.15 am, and the ceasefire came into effect at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. I think of those whose lives were lost, or whose lives were forever damaged. I think of the many people from Gosnells who served, the names recorded on the Gosnells Primary School Honour Roll and at the War Memorial. The original Armistice was valid for only 36 days, but it was renewed on several occasions until 28 June 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Arguably, the terms of that treaty led to the humiliation of a nation and the rise of ultranationalist politics. On 3 September 1939, World War II began, with more horrific tragedy on an unimaginable scale.

Humanity must learn. One lesson we have learnt over the last 70 years is that when nations combine together in mutually beneficial trade agreements the incentive to use war to achieve power and wealth is removed. The Treaty of Rome and its subsequent agreements is a fine demonstration of this. We remember the sacrifice of so many. To honour their sacrifice each of us must work to eliminate the circumstances that can lead to war. Demonisation of people of other cultures and creeds has been used to manipulate the minds of otherwise reasonable beings. We must guard against this and counter it when it arises. That is how we can honour the fallen.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police) [3.51 pm]: This Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. It is not an exaggeration to say that our nation found a common identity for the first time in the trenches of Flanders, the steep slopes of Gallipoli and the deserts of Palestine. It was at once a national tragedy and a national triumph. Every community in our nation suffered a hideous culling of its young, strong and brave. From the Cenotaph at Kings Park to Albany and Bellevue, Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie, all communities of our young state have found ways to remember the destruction of a generation.

Some of those communities played a particular part in preparing our young men to go and fight. In representing the electorate of Midland, I represent a region that was settled in the early years of the Swan River Colony, where the impact of the war effort was colossal. Midland and the Midland Railway Workshops were patriotic and keen contributors to the war effort. The War Memorial at the workshops, set up by the workers themselves, commemorates 70 fallen comrades who had worked at the Midland Railway Workshops. Many have mentioned Blackboy Hill today, also in my electorate. Referred to at the time as Helena Vale, it was a very broad area around Midland, and is now known as Greenmount. Young men were trained there, and many have described Blackboy Hill as the birthplace of Western Australia's Anzac forces. Only 12 days after the declaration of war, the first volunteers arrived at Blackboy Hill. In all, some 32 000 men trained at Blackboy Hill. That represented 11 per cent of the population of the state of Western Australia at the time—not 11 per cent of the young men, but 11 per cent of the entire population. Over 6 000 of those young men did not return. They died on active service.

One of the young men who trained at Blackboy Hill was Hugo Throssell, son of a former Premier of this state. Hugo went on to serve with the 10th Light Horse, and was awarded a Victoria Cross for acts of bravery in the Gallipoli campaign. He later married writer Katharine Susannah Prichard, and they settled in a cottage in Greenmount, in what is now known as the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre.

I pay particular tribute to the young men who passed through Guildford, in my electorate, on their way to war. At the beginning of the war, the South Guildford remount depot became the headquarters for the eighth battery of the gunners, and the grounds were used for the training of the Western Australian 10th Light Horse. The 10th Light Horse fought as infantry at Gallipoli, being involved in the famous offensive at The Nek, and in the battle for Hill 60. The regiment went on to fight again as mounted infantry, taking part in the great cavalry charge at the Battle of Beersheba. Guildford paid a heavy price for its contribution to the war. Seventy-one of its young men did not return home. In this, it is no different from so many other Western Australian communities, marked and diminished by war.

It is a mark of the strength and resilience of Guildford and communities like it that they were able to recover from that war, weather a depression and then fight another war all over again. Those communities emerged from the great cauldron that was the first half of the twentieth century stronger, wiser and more able to continue the great work of building a community worthy of those who had served it so nobly.

Statement by Member for Bunbury

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [3.56 pm]: At 11 o'clock on Sunday, 11 November, communities all over Australia will come together in recognition of the 100th year since the Armistice was signed. It is a moment for reflection and, as we have heard in the house today, it is a moment of intense emotion for many people. As with so many members in this place, my own family has been touched by both the First and the Second World Wars. As a child, I remember my father, Thomas Smith Punch, as being very different from other dads. He was an old man, he always coughed, and he was always in hospital with chest problems. It was not until later in life that I found out that he had actually been gassed in the First World War. As a young man of 18, he enlisted and was sent to France, and fought at the Battle of the Somme. I do not have a lot of details about his time there. He would not speak about it, but I did find out from my mother that he was one of three brothers, two of whom did not come home. One was killed in a naval action, and one was machine-gunned while fighting alongside my father. My father subsequently took out that machine-gun post that killed his brother, and I am sure that in doing so he ended the lives of equally young men on the opposite side. My mother told me that he received a battlefield commission for that action. I have only a few pictures of my father, but one is of a very young man proudly wearing his officer's uniform. He looked very different from the man that I later knew.

Later in life, I married, and found that my father-in-law, Fred Brown, who lived in Attadale for many years, had served with the Australian Army at Crete. In May 1941 Crete was invaded in one of the first battles in which paratroops were used. Fred, along with many other Australian troops, was captured and imprisoned in Germany. They were often cold, hungry, intensely bored and separated from family. When I knew him, he seldom spoke about the war. In fact, he would not, but he had a passion for always making sure that there was food in the house and that no-one in the family would ever go hungry. He dedicated the rest of his life to Legacy and the Lodge of Remembrance, and he never forgot.

We are all touched by war, by the honour of serving one's country, and the sacrifices and the pain that people experience. Today, I have three sons, and the youngest is about to go on deployment with the Australian Defence Force to the Middle East. He has been well trained and he is incredibly supported, and so are we as his family. It is with a real mix of pride and apprehension that Helen and I will see him go, and I cannot help but think about

how my father's parents felt when my father left, and how Fred Brown's parents felt. The Defence Force today embraces family—wives, husbands, partners, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters—but we can never forget our history and those brave people who have gone before us, and the impact of their sacrifice on their families and their communities who live on. They have given so much.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [3.58 pm]: I firstly congratulate all members of Parliament on their wonderful contributions today. I rise to make a small contribution about a date that I think is so important to all Australians. At 11.00 am on 11 November 1918 on the Western Front the guns fell silent after four years of warfare. Armistice is defined as the suspension of fighting. That enabled the peace settlement to be secured, and I am sure members of all sides are pleased that happened. It has been mentioned that one in five—about 32 000—Western Australian men enlisted, and 6 000 did not return. I acknowledge those many families left behind on farms in regional communities, and metropolitan communities. Many in farming communities did it very tough, and many lost their beloved sons, nephews, brothers and fathers. I do not think any of us can understand how difficult those times were, and how difficult it was for those left behind.

Within the electorate of Roe there are many reminders of the sacrifices made. One is the Muradup memorial, which was built by the community of Muradup. Every year an Anzac service is held in Kojonup, and then the Kojonup and Muradup communities come together at the Muradup memorial. It is a fantastic tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for us. I pay tribute to the descendants of the small communities spread throughout the wheatbelt and electorate of Roe. Their family members sacrificed their lives to protect our way of life and democracy. Australia has a fantastic democracy, and those sacrifices gave us that opportunity. Every year I attend an Anzac memorial service, whether at Katanning, Esperance or a smaller town within my electorate. The popularity of those services is increasing, and I believe they give our kids a much better chance to understand and appreciate the sacrifices made. I feel that over the last 10 to 20 years we have seen a real increase in our kids' understanding of the great sacrifices made.

I briefly acknowledge Sonja Andrews and her RSL group in Esperance, which recently launched the World War 2 app that has enlightened many members of the public not only in Esperance, but also right around Australia, on the sacrifices made. There were also fantastic displays in the Esperance Civic Centre that gave the community and kids of that region the opportunity to see the conditions during World Wars I and II.

I also acknowledge sacrifices made by the Aboriginal community, as mentioned by the member for Moore earlier today. Many enlisted, including one person in particular from Katanning. I also acknowledge the support and nursing staff, and the many others in the background. I acknowledge the sacrifices made.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Member for Armadale

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [4.03 pm]: It is lovely to follow the great contribution of the member for Roe.

I begin by acknowledging the service in conflict zones of the members for Warnbro, Willagee and Churchlands. This weekend we and our local communities will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. When we stand for a minute of silence at 11.00 am on 11 November, we will pay our respects to the thousands who died or became very damaged on the battlefield. Many people from my electorate of Armadale and surrounding areas went to the Great War. The very enterprising former Mayor of Armadale, Linton Reynolds, has collated a number of stories and statistics for the local region that can be found at the BirtwistleWiki website. He should be congratulated on his outstanding efforts.

While reflecting on the damage to and loss of life of Australians who served in the Great War and other wars, we should also think about those from other nations who died in all wars. The member for Geraldton, as did another member, mentioned some other countries. The member for Geraldton mentioned the Polish fallen. I would like to reflect on the role of my ancestral country, Italy, in the Great War. Italy did not enter the war until 1915, after the signing of the Treaty of London. It was then on the side of America, France and Britain, and therefore of course Australia. By the end of war in 1918, 600 000 Italians had died, 950 000 were wounded, and 250 000 were severely maimed. Many of their offspring ended up in Western Australia, and I pay my respects to them.

The member for Baldvis said the Great War changed the world. Indeed it did, but it unfortunately did not prevent future wars. The member for Kwinana mentioned that in his younger days he felt uneasy at Anzac celebrations—I probably felt the same. But I remember as a very young child going to Anzac ceremonies in Collie, and not feeling that uneasy. I remember fallen Vietnam veterans being commemorated at the Anzac ceremony in Collie. Those who are old enough will remember the way we treated Vietnam veterans, and that is something we should never be proud of. We have moved on, and Anzac Day or Remembrance Day is now not a time to celebrate war but a time to reflect on war and its consequences, including the loss of generally very young lives that were cut down way before their prime.

To conclude my brief comments, I reiterate that if possible we should always seek to avoid war—sometimes it is not possible—and always respect those who fell or were injured and carried those scars for the rest of their lives. Member for Churchlands, I think you were outside when I acknowledged your service.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: No, I heard. Thank you.

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [4.07 pm]: I join members in noting the end of the World War I conflict. Of course, the war continued until the following August, until the signing of the peace treaty. That treaty went on to be a source of conflict between the wars, and led directly to the European component of World War II. So, arguably, the war to end all wars continued through that whole period. It is a little-known fact that as many Indians were killed at the Gallipoli landings as Australians, and that hundreds of thousands of Chinese were involved on the Allied side in Europe who worked as, effectively, labourers to support the Allied effort on the Western Front.

We should never underestimate the impact of war on those who return. I want to briefly note the effect that participation in World War II had on my father. I mentioned this in my inaugural speech. He suffered from what at the time was called war neurosis but would now be called post-traumatic stress disorder. It led directly to his death in 1965, when my mother by then had eight children. The oldest was aged 15 and the youngest was me at the age of two. My mum used to talk to me about my father going off to the veterans hospital in Sydney every so often for treatment and the impact that had on her and the fact that, particularly for his last four years of life, he was not able to work. The point I am making here—I am not talking about myself but rather the impact on my father—is that it is not just soldiers and the impact on their families from those who fall in battle or even those who are injured in battle. Although there is no question of the impact that has on people's families—the Premier in his moving contribution this morning made it clear about the impact on the families of the fallen—it is also true that there is enormous impact on others, even when service men and women return. We are now starting to pay attention to post-traumatic stress disorder for returned service men, and that is appropriate. We need to always be looking for ways to support people who are impacted in that way. Unfortunately, it was not previously talked about. For many years, people's mental health impacts from war service was something that was not properly taken account of and there was not sufficient support for people in that position. We are all pleased now that it is not just the impact on the battlefield; it is the impact on the person that is now being considered. I must say, I cannot believe the number of tours of duty that are required of soldiers in modern conflicts such as the Afghanistan conflict. This continuously putting people back into harm's way is clearly having a significant cumulative impact on the servicemen.

I finish by commenting that of course Australia's World War I service was done by volunteers. Almost alone amongst the allies and amongst the participants on both sides, we had a volunteer army. When conscription was proposed, not only did the nation vote against conscription for use in the European theatre, so did the soldiers in the trenches. Of course, we allowed the soldier in the trench to have a say on elections and on the referenda. On those occasions, the soldiers voted against conscription. Even though it was a massive volunteer army, it had all the impacts members have talked about. They did not want to see people forced to be part of that, so I pay tribute to those servicemen who have struggled on behalf of our nation.

Statement by Member for Pilbara

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [4.12 pm]: I am honoured to rise today to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice. This Sunday marks 100 years since the Armistice was signed at 11.00 am on 11 November 1918, marking the end of World War I. The Great War is the most significant and costly war in Australia's history to date. In 1914, over 179 000 men were living in Western Australia. Over the next four years, 32 000 of them enlisted for service in the Great War, which represented nearly 20 per cent of the male population at the time. More than 6 000 of these men were killed. Thousands more were wounded and suffered from disease and illness. Tragically, more than 20 000 Australians rest beneath unnamed tombstones. To add to this, there are many others who lie undiscovered, and their physical remains are lost to us and their families. We may never know the full stories of nearly 200 young men from Roebourne and surrounding districts, including Cossack, Whim Creek and remote stations, who enlisted in the armed forces.

The Great War started about 50 years after Roebourne was established, and the impact that the loss of life had on the Pilbara was devastating. About one-third of local Pilbara soldiers died at war, compared with about 15 per cent of soldiers Australia-wide. And back at home, Roebourne residents frequently had to go without basic necessities when supply ships diverted for the war effort failed to arrive at Point Samson. There was not one town or region not touched by the war; not one community that did not lose someone through injury, poisonous gas or as a prisoner of war. We pay tribute to these soldiers who fought; the nurses who served and the animals and families who suffered in the Great War. We also pay tribute to those from past and present conflicts and those affected by them.

I would like to pay my respects to Merv Stanton's family. Merv Stanton was Port Hedland's last World War II veteran and he passed away last year. After enlisting in the Army during World War II as part of the 3rd Australian

guerrilla warfare group, which fought the Japanese off the north-west coast, Merv called Port Hedland home in 1942. Since his time in the war, and as part of the RSL community in Port Hedland, Merv was known for his generosity, humour and yarns, including loading the first manganese ship at the port. I would like to pay my respects also to the Lockyer family. Arnold, Edgar, Albert, Elliott and Eric Lockyer were five Indigenous brothers who grew up near Whim Creek and set off to fight for their country in World War II. Only three would return home. In 1945, Arnold was among several pilots shot down and captured by the Japanese in Indonesia, and Eric was killed in action in Borneo. The Lockyer brothers served and defended Australia at a time when Indigenous people were socially, economically and politically disadvantaged. The Lockyer brothers hold a special place in the history of the Pilbara, and there is a memorial commemorating their commitment and dedication to their communities and to their country at Whim Creek. In the Great War, 133 Aboriginal men from WA volunteered, with 83 of them seeing overseas service. Of the 83 Indigenous Western Australians who served, three of them, Corporal Augustus Farmer, Corporal Stanley Hedley and Private Alfred Rawson, were recipients of the Military Medal for gallantry; and 12 of them died on the battlefield, including one at Gallipoli, Trooper Dickerson.

I would like to pay my respects to soldiers of Indian origin who served in the Australian forces. Records show that five Indian origin soldiers were recruited in South Australia; four in New South Wales; one in Victoria and two in Western Australia. I would like to take this opportunity to honour and pay my respects to approximately 62 000 Indian soldiers who died in World War I. There are many stories that we may never hear of soldiers who gave their lives serving our country. We honour all our defence force personnel in past and present conflicts, but we especially pay tribute to the soldiers and nurses who served in World War I, including the many who never returned. We recognise how their sacrifice a century ago shaped the freedom we are able to enjoy today. We remember those who have fallen, and those who returned to never be the same again.

Lest we forget.

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [4.17 pm]: In rising today, I want to endorse the sentiments in the Premier's statement this morning. I think he captured much of what I would have said. There have been many other fine contributions. I have not heard them all but I particularly want to endorse what the Premier had to say. I also want to acknowledge the role of some of the RSL members in my electorate. Ashley Vince, president of the Eastern Regional sub-branch of the RSL, has done a fantastic job leading that sub-branch in the time that I have been a member of Parliament. He does an incredible job on days such as Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans Day or Remembrance Day. The sub-branch holds services in Guildford, Bassendean and Bayswater. Ashley does a tremendous job. A couple of years ago he presided over all those ceremonies with a couple of broken ribs after having had a fall. Not even that deterred him. To Ashley and his team, I thank them for their commitment to the ongoing delivery of services in recognition of our returned service men and women. I also pay tribute to Bob Hobbs, who is ex-Navy and is also a member of the Eastern Regional RSL sub-branch. He regularly comes into my office to photocopy and do a few other things. As well as being a hard worker for the sub-branch, he also manages to entertain my electorate staff with his terrible jokes! I just wanted to mention Bob.

As well as remembering those who have died in the service of our country, I think we need to remember that those who come home need as much care and recognition as anyone. It is a terrible fact that so many of our ex-service men and women end their lives when they come home because they cannot deal with the trauma that they have experienced through active service. We need to provide that level of care and support to people who have served their country overseas. It is an inevitable consequence of war that people will come back damaged, both physically and psychologically. To honour them on days such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day is simply not enough. It is an absolute tragedy that so many of our ex-service men and women cannot find work. Many become homeless. They also suffer from mental illness and ultimately many commit suicide. On a day like today we need to remember that the people who come home need to be cared for as much as the people who lost their lives need to be remembered.

I also pay particular tribute to the Indigenous men and women who fought for our country. Many of them in the Great War and the Second World War and beyond served in our armed forces at a time when Aboriginal people did not have equal rights in Australia. I can only imagine how distressing it must have been for those serving men and women to risk their lives overseas and then come back to Australia and find themselves being treated as less than full Australian citizens. I know a number of other members have mentioned that, but on a day like today I want to specifically mention our Indigenous men and women who have served.

Finally, I want to say that the best way that we can honour those who have lost their lives, or who have served our country overseas, is to ensure that war never happens again. I know that is something that will probably never be achieved, but war is a terrible thing. War is evidence of diplomatic failure; failure in our international relations. War inevitably causes the loss of life and it causes immense damage to everybody who encompasses it. The best thing we can do to remember our men and women who served for us is to ensure that war is the absolute last option, not the voice of nationalism. As parliamentarians, we have a special role in that, even in state Parliament.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

On motion without notice by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**, resolved —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 20 November 2018, at 2.00 pm.

House adjourned at 4.22 pm
