

WORKPLACE FATALITY — PILBARA

Statement

HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral) [5.31 pm]: I rise today with a pretty heavy heart to talk about something that seems to happen way too often and it happened again last night. Last night, another worker was killed on the job up in the north west at a mine site near Paraburdoo. Obviously, investigations are taking place now to find out what took place, but yet again another worker is not able to go home to their family. Thirteen workers have been killed this year and we are not yet at the end of the year. That does not include workers who have committed suicide, because those deaths are not counted as workplace fatalities. This worker went to work and deserved to come home in the same shape that he went to work. If 13 people in this place of work lost their lives, there would be a lot more kicking and screaming going on than currently goes on for workers in other industries. In 2018, we should not be seeing any worker killed. We should not be having to deal with families losing a loved one and friends having to mourn the loss of a loved one. There is a family out there right now that will not see their loved one again. There are workmates who will never see him again either. We need to do a lot better. There are a lot more things happening in Australia to get better at these things. Queensland and the ACT are looking at new laws to try to enforce better safety standards. In WA, we need to get a lot more on top of the fact that this is not going away. There have already been 13 deaths this year and we are not at the end of it. Eight of those deaths were not on mine sites; four were. Last year, along with Madam President, I attended the Eastern Goldfields Miners' Memorial. It was the first year that a worker's name had not been added to the wall. That was a sign of moving forward and a sign that there had been improvements. But now I stand here talking about a worker's death at a mine site in the Pilbara. I genuinely believe that we can do better in this space, and we must. It is us in this place who ensure that workers are represented properly and that these types of things do not happen.

I give my condolences to the family. I hope that they get through this. I also give my condolences to the friends of this worker. They did not deserve to lose somebody. It is unacceptable for this to happen. We should definitely acknowledge that this worker has lost his life and do better to ensure it does not happen again.