

Kanowna Belle Mine — Fatality — Adjournment Debate

HON JOCK FERGUSON (East Metropolitan) [10.00 pm]: I rise tonight to address another tragic event that has taken place in the mining industry. It gives me no comfort to raise it in the house and to bring members' attention to it. On Friday, 7 August, at the Kanowna Belle underground mine, which is some 20 kilometres north east of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 26-year-old Daniel Williams was found with no vital signs. He is believed to have fallen from an iron ore path while working 900 metres underground. It is the fourth fatality in the mining industry this year, and the eighth in the past 14 months. Mr Williams was a loving family man and leaves behind a two-year-old child and a partner. He was a young man who was highly respected. He loved life; he loved his job, and he has unfortunately been taken away in tragic circumstances.

I am sure that everyone in this place would agree that safety at work is paramount, and it is the basic right of every worker and every worker's family to expect that workers will return home to their loved ones in the same condition as they leave to work on a shift. I believe that the employer has done everything it can to assist the family, and that should indeed be applauded, but that only assists them in the short term. Let us not forget those who have been left behind and the impact on the child and his partner for a considerable period of time to come. I am sure that the condolences of everyone in this place go out to the family, his partner, his mother, his father. This place should be doing everything it can to try to assist in making sure that tragic events such as this should not happen in the future.