

NATIONAL PERINATAL DEPRESSION INITIATIVE

Statement by Member for Collie–Preston

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [12.50 pm]: It is my pleasure to support the call made by one of my constituents, Collie woman Amy Lewis, for the federal government to reinstate the National Perinatal Depression Initiative, a very valuable program that was recently scrapped in the federal budget. Amy has bravely spoken out about her own personal struggles with perinatal depression to outline how important this mental health program is and how valuable it has been for new parents struggling with perinatal conditions. She took it upon herself to start an online petition that called upon the federal government to recognise the importance of this program and how much good it has done in the seven years since its inception. The program provided early screening, diagnosis and treatment options for thousands of Western Australia families. Considering the condition will affect one in seven mothers and one in 10 fathers, the community need for such a program is clear. Amy was disappointed to find out that her petition could not be accepted because federal Parliament does not recognise electronic petitions, but I believe she still deserves recognition for her efforts in bringing this issue to the public's eye. Amy's effort in collecting more than 2 000 signatures in support of bringing this important program back are highly commendable and have the support of many people in this house. Since the petition cannot be formally recognised, I would like to table it here for members to be able to read and understand the details and intentions of Amy's campaign. Well done again, Amy. You have done your community and many mums and dads around the country proud.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]