

KRISTY WIEGELE — CUDDLE COTS PROGRAM

Statement by Member for Belmont

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [12.53 pm]: I wish to acknowledge the incredible contribution of one of my constituents, Kristy Wiegele, a midwife from St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital. Kristy, a resident in the electorate of Belmont, was recently nominated as a finalist in the 2020 HESTA Nursing and Midwifery Awards. I congratulate Kristy on being one of three finalists for this national award. Kristy was nominated for the award for her phenomenal fundraising efforts. She has raised more than \$70 000 to purchase a cuddle cot for every maternity hospital in Western Australia, including hospitals in regional areas.

The cuddle cots program aims to improve support for grieving parents who have experienced pregnancy loss. The cuddle cot circulates refrigerated air continuously underneath the baby bassinet, enabling families and parents to spend more time with their stillborn babies. Without facilities such as cuddle cots, families who have lost their baby through stillbirth are able to spend only a very short time with their baby.

Through her campaign, “A Midwife’s Gift”, over the past six years Kristy has raised more than \$70 000 to buy cuddle cots for maternity hospitals throughout WA and has also started a perinatal loss specialist program at St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital. Through her fundraising, Kristy has been able to provide families with a precious extra few moments with their stillborn babies, something that would be a true gift for grieving families who have experienced the tragic loss of their baby. I would like to commend Kristy’s compassion, dedication and commitment, and her incredible contribution to our community.