

HOMELESSNESS — THE BEACON

**553. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

Before I ask my question of the Premier I would like to put on the record, on behalf of the Liberal opposition in the Parliament, our support for Hon Alannah MacTiernan. We wish her well as she battles with her medical issues. I was very pleased and thought it was quite inspiring to see her on the steps of Parliament today for the rally led by Belinda Teh.

Has the Premier ever visited Australia's largest homeless shelter, The Beacon, run by the Salvation Army in Northbridge?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Before I answer the question, can I also acknowledge Hon Alannah MacTiernan, who had the courage to come forward yesterday and announce the health battle that she is going through. I am sure we all wish her all the very best in relation to that. I also acknowledge Belinda Teh, whom some members will have met outside the Parliament. She has walked across Australia in support of voluntary assisted dying, which is quite an extraordinary effort. She is quite an individual. Also before I answer the question, can I acknowledge on behalf of the member for Baldivis students from Tuart Rise Primary School, who are in the gallery this afternoon, and prefects from Mount Lawley Senior High School who are also here.

As the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence outlined, the government is doing a range of things in relation to this issue. I would need to check my diary as to exactly which places I have visited, but I have visited a great many places to do with homelessness and have also on occasion assisted at soup kitchens and issues of that nature because I think it behoves us all to examine and make sure that we are aware of the issue.