

**LEGACY WEEK**

*Statement by Minister for Veterans*

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Veterans)** [2.22 pm]: This year Legacy Week ran from 30 August to 5 September, with the annual Badge Day Street Appeal on Friday, 4 September. The Badge Day Street Appeal is the major annual fundraiser for Legacy, which saw approximately 500 volunteers and uniformed collectors stationed across Perth and Fremantle. To their great credit, approximately \$90 000 was raised. The theme of the 2015 Legacy Week was “risk”—for each serving Australian who risks everything, a family does the same. An Australian Defence Force member risks losing their life or their health, while their family risks losing a loved one and the life that they hold so dear.

During the Badge Day Street Appeal, I had the honour of meeting some truly inspirational Legacy beneficiaries. When Suzanne Haviland’s husband, leading aircraft maintenance engineer Peter Haviland, returned from serving his country, he experienced a poor reception, as did many other Vietnam veterans. Worse still, his own father, a World War II veteran, told Peter he had not served in a “real war”. Peter suffered greatly from post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, yet he always reminded Suzanne that if anything were to happen to him, to contact Legacy. Suzanne did contact Legacy and was immediately supported by Legatees who understood her experience. Not only were there people to provide comfort and to listen, but also practical assistance to get her finances in order was provided. Years later Suzanne knew that she would give back to Legacy, and today she is the secretary for the contemporary young widows committee.

I also had the pleasure to meet 18-year-old Kirstie and her 19-year-old brother Jared Morrison, who lost their father at the tender ages of three and four respectively. Sapper Andrew Morrison had served his country in Somalia and then died tragically during a training exercise in the United States. His wife, Kim, was left a widow at the age of 29 with two young children. Kirstie told me that the Legacy camps she has attended for as long as she can remember have been invaluable in helping her to even comprehend the loss of her father, whilst bonding with other kids who had experienced similar loss. Kirstie said that she cannot imagine how she would have grown up without Legacy in her life.

Legacy currently cares for 90 000 widows and 1 900 children and disabled dependants throughout Australia. In Western Australia, Perth and Fremantle Legacy have more than 7 000 widows and widowers registered, as well as 50 children, students and disabled dependants. On behalf of Legacy, I would like to pass on my appreciation to all the members of both houses who supported Legacy Week.