

Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr John McGrath; Mrs Alyssa Hayden; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Dean Nalder; Ms Libby Mettam; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Dr Tony Buti; Ms Simone McGurk; Mr David Templeman

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**ANDREA RUTH MITCHELL**

*Condolence Motion*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [2.02 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Andrea Ruth Mitchell and tenders its sympathy to her family and friends.

Usually when we do these condolence motions, the house reflects on the lives of members we barely knew and often did not serve with. Maybe one or two of the older members would know them personally, but rarely more. But it is a great tragedy when someone passes away who barely finished their service to this house and who sat alongside or across from many of us in the chamber when you can still imagine them sitting in their old chair. It was with great regret that we heard of the passing of Andrea Ruth Mitchell, the former member for Kingsley. I would like to acknowledge her family and friends, who are in the gallery with us this afternoon.

Andrea Mitchell was born in Brisbane in 1956, to parents Ronald and Margaret. Although she started her life in Brisbane with an upbringing that she described as very normal, her father's work would eventually end up taking the family out to regional Queensland in Bowen. Then another transfer, five years later, would take her to Perth. It was only meant to be a short posting in Perth, but like so many others, the family fell in love with this city and the lifestyle it allows. Andrea would finish her schooling at Melville Senior High School before going to the University of Western Australia where she obtained her Bachelor of Physical Education and Diploma of Education. She initially started her professional life as a teacher and for 15 years she taught phys ed at schools like South Fremantle, Kent Street and Rossmoyne Senior High Schools.

From there her professional life would take her into sports policy and administration. Andrea held a number of roles at the Department of Sport and Recreation, including a role close to her heart managing the department's regional service. She also achieved the position of president of Tennis West, as well as serving as a director for Tennis Australia and the Hopman Cup. Notably, Andrea was the first woman to be elected president of a state tennis association in Australia and the first woman to be elected to the board of Tennis Australia. In 2000, she was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her work and achievement in this field. I understand also, from what her close friend Hon Peter Collier told the media, that she was made a life member, not to mention that she played tennis at a state level—quite an achievement. She held that role at Tennis West right up until her election to this Parliament in 2008.

Andrea Mitchell had what anyone would describe as a successful parliamentary career across her two terms as the member for Kingsley. She was a member of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People from 13 November 2008 to 16 August 2012 and she was chair from 18 June 2009. She was a member of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee from 24 March 2011 to 30 January 2013 and she was chair from 12 September 2012. She was an Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from February 2011 to the 2013 state election. Following that election, she found herself on the pathway to being a cabinet minister, serving first as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection from March 2013 to March 2016. Then in cabinet she served as the Minister for Mental Health; Child Protection from 31 March 2016 until the March 2017 election. I think her rise through the ranks, especially as someone elected without prior political experience, shows the esteem she was held in by her colleagues. In particular, as everyone in the Parliament knows, the Minister for Child Protection is a difficult and challenging role and unlike any other in cabinet. As the second ever Minister for Mental Health, she took on the portfolio at a time when the field was gaining a great deal of public prominence and the political sphere was beginning to comprehend its very significant importance.

I should also note that Andrea Mitchell used her time here to raise awareness of diabetes, serving as chair of the WA Parliamentary Diabetes Support Group. She was herself living with type 1 diabetes. Following what I am sure was a shock loss in 2017, Andrea, unlike many of her colleagues, stayed involved in public life. She was a trustee and an adviser to the Telethon Kids Institute. Professor Jonathan Carapetis said of her, and I quote —

“We were very fortunate to have Andrea ...

“Andrea not only had a deep understanding of the complex issues and systems in mental health, but a real and genuine empathy and connection.

“She made a great contribution to so many community organisations and will be very sadly missed.”

In political life, the members opposite are usually something of a mystery, certainly to me. You have to divine what you can about them from their public-facing persona. To us, Andrea was someone who just wanted to do a good job. She came across as a very, very decent, honest and honourable person. She was not a political warrior. She was not here to lob bombs or make political points. She did not seem to me to be particularly ambitious. She was just someone

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who was very happy to be here and play a role. In her inaugural speech, she noted that a political career was never a lifelong dream. She knew that the opportunities she received came with solemn and onerous responsibilities, but she was eager to rise to the challenge to serve her community and to serve her state. It is a great tragedy that she has passed away so soon, and it came as a shock to all of us because it looked like she had much more to give to her community.

On behalf of the government of Western Australia and the state Parliamentary Labor Party, can I offer our condolences to her family and friends on the passing of a very, very fine person.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.08 pm]: Andrea Mitchell's life was characterised by strength and compassion whether as a teacher, sports administrator, parliamentarian or cabinet minister. In the words of her friend and colleague Hon Peter Collier, she had the dual attributes of the capacity to be assertive and compassionate. She had the mindset to make tough decisions when required while at the same time considering the human element.

Andrea was born in Brisbane in 1956, the daughter of an accountant and the middle child in a family of three girls. After attending primary school in Brisbane, in year 5 her father's work transferred the family to Bowen in north Queensland. She attended the local high school rather than boarding school in Brisbane, and the five years spent in Bowen would give her an understanding of, and affinity for, both remote and regional areas and for public education. She grew up in a close family with strong community and Christian values.

In 1970, Ron and Margaret Mitchell had to relocate their family to Perth and soon decided to remain permanently. Andrea completed her schooling at Melville Senior High School before attending the University of Western Australia in 1972 where she was an inaugural graduate as a Bachelor of Physical Education, and also achieved a Diploma of Education. During her university studies, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, but she refused to let this define her life and carefully managed her illness without even resorting to a MedicAlert bracelet. Later she was to chair the WA Parliament Diabetes Support Group.

Andrea had a 15-year career as a physical education teacher, serving at South Fremantle, Kent Street and Rossmoyne Senior High Schools. She then transferred to the Department of Sport and Recreation, working successively as a youth sport consultant, an executive officer, manager of consultancy and manager of regional services. In this role, she sought to achieve community outcomes and improve the lifestyle of those people living in the regions. Her work took her not only to the major regional centres, but also as far afield as Kalumburu, Meekatharra and Quobba station.

Later, in her inaugural speech, she paid tribute to —

... incredible people throughout regional Western Australia who are committed to reinventing their towns and their industries and to growing the opportunities in the country.

Andrea firmly believed that sport was a vital part of community social fabric, building social capital and an antidote to ill-health and crime.

As a long-term member of the Hensman Park Tennis Club, and having played tennis at state level, Andrea became the first female president of Tennis West from 1996 to 2008. She was concurrently a director of Tennis Australia. Her dedication resulted in the award of the Australian Sports Medal in 2000. From 2003 to 2015 she was a director of the Hopman Cup, the only director based in Perth, although she attended meetings in different parts of the world. She became a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member of the Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association.

As Andrea stated in her inaugural speech —

The sport and recreation industry is a people industry, and politics is about representing people and preparing the future for our people.

This belief helped impel her into politics in 2008 when she was endorsed by the Liberal Party to contest the district of Kingsley.

At the 2008 state election, she doorknocked 11 000 homes to improve the Liberal primary vote by 10 per cent to 47.7 per cent, and won the seat with a final 54.5 per cent and a swing of 4.6 per cent. In her first term in Parliament, Andrea's quiet competence resulted in her chairing the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People from 2009 to 2012. Subsequently, she chaired the Economics and Industry Standing Committee from September 2012 until the 2013 state election.

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As the member for Kingsley, she took on an active role in a range of issues, including public transport, the redevelopment of the Greenwood high school, the creation of a Greenwood educational precinct and the preservation of the historic Luisini Winery. Andrea made good use of 90-second statements in this house to champion not merely the achievements but the social role of local sporting clubs.

At the 2013 election, Andrea's dedication to the concerns and welfare of the electors of Kingsley resulted in her achieving 60 per cent of the primary vote and a final vote of 64.8 per cent. This represented a positive swing of 10.3 per cent that was among the dozen highest at that election. Following the election, she was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection. In March 2016, she succeeded Hon Helen Morton as the Minister for Mental Health; Child Protection.

Despite Andrea's comparatively short time as a minister, she introduced initiatives to assist the vulnerable and those at risk in rural and regional communities. As part of her \$15 million Western Australian Meth Strategy, 60 residential beds were provided, including 16 in the small town of Nannup; a 24/7 helpline was inaugurated for meth users; and a fly in, fly out mental health research steering committee was established. She was committed to restoring the strength of families to combat child neglect in East Kimberley. Prior to Christmas 2016, she devoted hours of private time to hand write cards to hundreds of frontline departmental staff, simply to show them her appreciation and to raise their morale.

Andrea's ministerial duties did not reduce her commitment to the district of Kingsley, so it was especially devastating for her to lose her seat by just 307 votes, a final vote of 49.3 per cent. This disappointment, however, did not diminish her service to the Western Australian community after March 2017. She was appointed as a commissioner with the Australian Sports Commission and as a trustee of Telethon Kids Institute. According to Telethon Kids Institute director Professor Jonathan Carapetis —

“We were very fortunate to have Andrea, as a Telethon trustee, as an adviser, as we launched our Embrace initiative around the mental health of children and young people ...

“Andrea not only had a deep understanding of the complex issues and systems in mental health, but a real and genuine empathy and connection.

Andrea and I were elected at the same time in 2008 and we shared an office for a long part of our time in this place. The one thing that I can say about Andrea is that she was a fundamentally decent person. Her fundamental decency shone for all to see. She was very community focused. She was incredibly hardworking and diligent. I never heard Andrea have a bad word to say about anyone. No matter what was happening in this place, no matter what was happening out in the community, I never heard her say a bad word about anyone ever. She was always utterly professional, utterly compassionate and devoted to her community. In saying that, I do not think I ever heard anyone say a bad word about Andrea, which I think, for members in this place, would be a very rare thing to say about a member of Parliament. Generally, there is somebody who would have criticism about the character of any MP who puts themselves up in the public eye, but not Andrea—Andrea was an incredibly compassionate person. I went through some very, very tough times and Andrea was always there. She was always there as a friend, as support, and her compassion and empathy were her other outstanding features.

I find it somewhat ironic that after leaving Parliament, Andrea's health deteriorated with the onset of serious heart problems. I find it extraordinary that somebody who had such a tremendous heart for other people and such tremendous compassion and empathy for other people would find themselves with a failing heart, unable to support themselves.

Andrea was so stoic. Her constant stoicism kept her health problems from the public eye and were known only to close family and friends. She never complained. Her death at Fiona Stanley Hospital on 4 April came as a deep shock to her many friends on both sides of politics and the wider community. She was deservedly loved and respected for her quiet wisdom, her dignity and her compassion.

We express our deep sympathy and appreciation to Andrea's mother, Mrs Margaret Mitchell; her sisters, Janet and Glynis; her brother-in-law, Mark; her nephews, Mitchell and Matthew, her niece, Bronte, and their partners; and to all those grieving her loss. Indeed, we all share in grieving the loss of a tremendous friend, a wonderful human being and a truly decent contributor to the state of Western Australia. On behalf of the Liberal Party, I say vale Andrea Mitchell. I express and share our deep condolences to the family and to all her friends and the community who are still struggling to come to grips with her sudden departure.

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA)** [2.19 pm]: I rise to make a contribution on the passing of Andrea Mitchell, a much loved and respected member of the Liberal Party and member of this chamber. I wish to express my sincere condolences to Margaret and the family members who are here today, who join us in the Speaker's gallery. Andrea served in the Western Australian Parliament from 2008 to 2017 as the member for Kingsley and also as the Minister for Health and the Minister for Child Protection in the Barnett

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government. Her time was marked in this place as someone who would roll up her sleeves and get on with the job methodically and diligently. I had the great pleasure of serving alongside Andrea in cabinet for a short time and I found her to be focused, thorough and decent. The portfolios she held are two of the most difficult to navigate, with complex and very challenging issues to be dealt with on a daily basis, and she did that with great compassion and thoughtfulness. I have the greatest respect for anyone who has held those portfolios and for the work they do in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

As a teacher in her former life, Andrea came to Parliament with a background in education, ensuring that Western Australians understood the importance of lifelong learning and physical education. As a senior manager within the Department of Sport and Recreation, she also came to Parliament with a passion for this sector and for how grassroots involvement in sport could have positive community outcomes, particularly in regional communities. We shared the belief that sport and recreation has the power to influence our health and wellbeing, and can also be a powerful tool to promote further education outcomes, justice, community development and social connectivity.

In particular, I enjoyed working with her on the development of the Get on Board and Lead—GOAL— program which was designed to encourage and facilitate greater representation for women both on and off the sporting field and in the sporting sector. Her experience and insight was of great assistance to me and she was willing to work with me and my team on getting the policy settings right to drive change in the sector that she was so very passionate about.

One of the many things I admired and respected about Andrea was that although she held a metropolitan seat, her heart and mind were also focused on the vast lands beyond the Darling scarp. She had a passion for regional WA, which was evident in her inaugural speech when she talked about the importance of regional development, stating —

My experience has demonstrated to me that we have an amazing state and that there are incredible people throughout regional Western Australia who are committed to reinventing their towns and their industries and to growing the opportunities in the country. This has led me to firmly believe that we must develop our state outside of Perth.

My colleagues in the Nationals WA and I wholeheartedly share this sentiment. We found it very easy to discuss matters pertaining to regional Western Australia with Andrea as we deliberated on policy and the role of government.

We were greatly saddened to learn of Andrea's passing, far too soon for someone who still had so much to contribute. On behalf of the Nationals WA, I offer our sincere condolences to her family and friends. Andrea was a genuine individual, a hardworking local member and someone who made a contribution through her role in this Parliament and in her community.

**MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [2.22 pm]: I never thought I would rise during my time in this place to speak on a condolence motion for Andrea Mitchell. Her death came as quite a shock to me and, I am sure, to many others. In thinking about her today, it has caused me to reflect on some of my time with Andrea. I first met Andrea before entering Parliament when she worked at the Department of Sport and Recreation. She was on a selection panel that was formed to engage consultants to review sporting facilities throughout the state for a number of key sports. My company, Syme Marmion, was fortunate to be selected to review West Australian Football League and country league facilities, and from this job we managed to leverage work from a lot of other sporting organisations, and for that we were very grateful.

Andrea and I were both from the class of 2008, which in itself created a unique bond. In addition, we sat next to each other in Parliament. We shared many private conversations and, conveniently, we held similar views on many issues. One day in Parliament I noticed that she looked different and she said it was because she no longer wore glasses. A result of her successful cataract operation is that I, too, no longer wear glasses. I must say that it is one of the best things I have done, and I will always remember Andrea for that.

Andrea and I shared a common interest in tennis, having both been members of a number of clubs and also pennant players. Andrea, of course, played at a much higher level in her prime than I did. Before entering Parliament, Andrea was a director of the Hopman Cup and was still actively involved in the competition through her role with Tennis Australia. Each summer, Andrea would invite me to the Tennis Australia box for one of the Hopman Cup sessions, and that experience of seeing some of the world's greatest tennis players will stay with me forever. I recall her laughing at a text she received whilst watching the Hopman Cup with me, and it turned out to be from John McEnroe. Apparently, they were regular text sparring partners. From the texts she showed me, John has a wicked sense of humour.

My electorate office is located in a medical precinct, so recently I saw Andrea after her appointments. It was always nice to talk to Andrea and share a laugh about what was going on in Parliament and the state of our politics. Andrea was an incredibly hardworking, passionate, loyal and humane woman, who exulted the very highest ideals of being a member of Parliament and a minister. She never put people down and always addressed the issue, not the person.

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She genuinely cared for her electorate and constituents, and they cared for her. The Parliament is richer for Andrea having been part of it.

I know that the loss of her seat of Kingsley in 2017 hurt, and it is a testament to her tenacity that Andrea, stronger than ever, continued to work in the sporting sector, which she was so passionate about, along with her charitable works, including Telethon.

I never knew the full extent of Andrea's condition, but in hindsight, that typified her very nature: a modest, self-effacing woman who quietly achieved a great deal more than the majority of people will ever know. My research officer, Elliot Smith, worked for Andrea for a few years while she was the member for Kingsley. He holds very fond memories of Andrea and her family and, along with many of us, we deeply miss her friendship and wise advice. On behalf of my family, my staff and Elliot, I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to Andrea's mother Margaret, her sisters Glyn and Janet, and her extended family who are in the gallery this afternoon.

**MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth)** [2.26 pm]: I rise to speak on the condolence motion for Andrea Mitchell. Andrea was not only a colleague, but also a very good friend of my wife and I. I did not meet Andrea during my time as a journalist; I met her after I was elected to this place at a Liberal Party function. We got talking about politics and she sort of hinted that she might be interested in becoming a member of Parliament, and I encouraged her to do so. We were delighted when she won the seat of Kingsley. Andrea, as other people have said, was just an amazing person. She would not talk about herself or her achievements. I was the member for South Perth but Andrea did not tell me that she once worked at Kent Street Senior High School, which back then was in my electorate. She also did not tell me that she and her sister Glynis won the ladies doubles championship at Hensman Park Tennis Club in 1982. I was there one day, because I was a patron of Hensman Park, looking at the honour board and I saw the names of Andrea and her sister. She said, "Oh yes, we won the ladies doubles." That was typical of Andrea. She did not have a bad word to say about anyone. She was very professional.

I remember watching her when she was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; Disability Services; Child Protection. There was a very difficult bill that came up—I cannot remember what it was, but there were a lot of clauses—and Andrea sat at the table representing the minister throughout the whole process of that bill. I said to myself at that time, "That's an outstanding performance." Obviously the Premier thought the same because a couple of years later Andrea was made the Minister for Mental Health and the Minister for Child Protection. She was not only a capable person, but also had a really good work ethic and was always totally prepared for any task that was put in front of her.

My wife and I will both miss meeting up with Andrea at the tennis. As the member for Nedlands said, we also went to the tennis to watch the Hopman Cup as Andrea's guests from time to time. I covered sport as a journalist, but to be at the Tennis Australia box and meet some of the former greats of the game was really great as a sporting fan. Andrea had a passion for the sport and wanted to promote the sport at all times. She was such a great lover of tennis. My condolences to Andrea's family and friends. All I can say is that it was a huge shock when Hon Peter Collier sent us a text message about Andrea's passing. It was a jolt to all of us. We will always remember her as a great colleague, a very loyal colleague and someone for whom we had so much respect.

**MRS A.K. HAYDEN (Darling Range)** [2.29 pm]: I wish to add to the comments made by my colleagues on an outstanding human being. Andrea Mitchell was one of the kindest, most thoughtful and genuine individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Like many of my Liberal colleagues here today, Andrea and I entered Parliament together in 2008. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be standing here today, mourning and reflecting on the contributions made by one of our own 2008 team members. Sadly, over the past few sitting weeks, we have held a number of condolence motions. They have been for former members who made their contributions to Parliament some time ago. They went off and enjoyed many healthy years after their political careers. Unfortunately, today's motion finds us recognising Andrea's contribution far too soon, making today a very emotional and sobering moment. At her young age, we lost her too early and I know her passing has created a massive hole in the lives of her family, friends and colleagues.

I want to acknowledge Hon Peter Collier, who is with us today. Mate, I know you lost your soul mate. Andrea and you shared a special friendship and a bond that can never be replaced. Your shared love for tennis and politics welded you like no other. But, take comfort, Peter, knowing that you got the opportunity to find such a good friend—a friendship that many do not ever get to enjoy during their lifetime.

It is often remarked that if you want a friend during your time in Parliament, get a dog! Today, I want to bust that myth. Andrea was a friend to many of us. Although she came from a very successful career in the world of tennis—president of Tennis West and Tennis Australia; director of the Hopman Cup; and awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her outstanding contribution—Andrea was one of the humblest, most dignified and genuine individuals that I have ever had the honour to know. She somehow found a small piece of time for many of us. I know that Bill,

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the member for Nedlands, and Andrea always found time to sit and share a glass of wine every week. If, for some reason, I did not bump into Andrea in the halls of Parliament and have a coffee, I would get a call from her saying, “Hi, how are you going?” It was for no other reason than just to touch base. We both shared a love for bling and each year tried to outdo each other with sparkling birthday gifts—the cheaper and more sparkly the better! It was our way of pushing back on the expectation that, on becoming a member of Parliament, we would tone down our shared passion for bright, sparkling things. I still proudly use my imitation diamanté computer mouse, pink gel glitter pen and sparkling champagne stopper and think of Andrea every time I do.

Andrea was a very private person when it came to herself and her needs. It was only after my husband suffered a heart attack that she admitted to her own condition. Even from her hospital bed during one of her hospital visits, she called me up to see how Terry was going. It was only after my probing that she admitted she herself was laying in hospital. Andrea always put others first and I can only imagine how hard the past few months have been for her family and friends. I pass on my sincere condolences to you all. We lost Andrea in the midst of COVID-19, which prevented many of us from attending her funeral. Today has been our chance to acknowledge and thank Andrea for her true friendship and kindness, and for her compassion for her community. I share my memories and comments not just for myself, but on behalf of my fellow 2008 colleagues who are not in the same privileged position as I am to do so today. Andrea was an extremely popular, respected and loved member of our team and we do miss her. I know that she would want everyone to continue to live their lives to the fullest. It is on that note that I close with a quote from Marilyn Monroe: “Never let anyone dull your sparkle”.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys)** [2.34 pm]: It is really tough to stand up and speak about a colleague and a friend and, most importantly, a wonderful person that Andrea Mitchell was. We all wish that we did not have to do this today but, unfortunately, these are the circumstances. I first met Andrea at a Liberal Party function after my family moved to Western Australia. I think the function was at her own home. Right from the first time I met her, I was struck by her commitment to her community and to doing the best for the people of the Kingsley electorate whom she represented. I got to know her a lot better after my election to this Parliament in 2013 when I was in the other place. Shortly after that election, Andrea had a minor shoulder operation and could not drive for a while. She lived just across the freeway from me so it was very convenient and easy for me to give her a lift in every morning when Parliament was sitting. I got to chat to Andrea a lot during that time. I got to understand the real compassion she had for people, the love she had for her own community and the desire she had to leave her community better than it was when she came into Parliament. I also got to understand her great intellect and her work ethic, which was apparent to anyone who got to know her. I got to understand the love she had for her family, her sisters and her mother and the very special bond she had with her niece, Bronte, and her nephews, Mitchell and Matthew. You could not spend too much time with Andrea, of course, without finding out about her love for Gracie, her cat.

Andrea was a tireless worker in everything that she did. Members have heard already about the work she did in the tennis community, as a player and an administrator and as someone who promoted Western Australia as a place to hold tennis events, particularly through the Hopman Cup. She carried on that passion when she became the member for Kingsley. Because we are in adjoining electorates, my voters in Hillarys continue to benefit from the projects that Andrea championed and delivered for the local area. The third northbound lane on the Mitchell Freeway going from Hepburn Avenue up to Hodges Drive was completed during her term of Parliament and she advocated for it very strongly. The additional 210 parking bays at Whitfords train station and the extra 170 parking bays at Greenwood train station mean that people do not have to get to the train station by 6.30 am in order to get a car park. That was done through her strong advocacy and determination to deliver positive, tangible, real outcomes for her community. Andrea and I shared a vision that we campaigned for in the 2017 election to add a third lane to the Mitchell Freeway going south between Hodges Drive and Hepburn Avenue. Now, through a combination of federal and state government funding, the funding has been committed to and I look forward to that being delivered as soon as possible.

As Minister for Mental Health; Child Protection, Andrea really sparkled and got to show her capacity to absorb a heavy workload and the issues that really matter to people who were touched by those two portfolios, and to articulate them. I attended a number of mental health seminars that she held at which not just her understanding of the issues, but also her ability to relate them to real-life consequences for families that were grappling with issues in those portfolios, was extraordinary. That is where her compassion and desire to make a difference really stood out. In looking through Andrea’s career, I went back to her maiden speech. She made a comment at the time that reflected her belief in how a community should operate. It is also prescient for the times we are living in now. She said, I quote —

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Community engagement is critical to the success of our society, and this has been demonstrated on many occasions—unfortunately, usually when there has been a crisis.

As I said, those words stood out to me, particularly in the times we are living through today.

Andrea was a lady of great dignity. She had an incredible work ethic. She was a genuine person—what you saw was what you got. She was a private person with her own issues, but extraordinarily warm and giving to others. She was a quiet achiever, but if anyone looks at her achievements in life through education, sport and being a member of Parliament, they will see that she was a wonderful achiever and a wonderful Australian.

I pass on Karalee's and my sincere condolences to Andrea's mother, Margaret; to her sisters, Janice and Glynis; to Bronte, Mitchell and Mathew and their families; and, of course, to her great soulmate, Peter, who misses her every day. We know what you are going through, mate, and we sympathise with you. As I said at the start, it is unfortunate that we get to say these words, but at least we get to say them. Andrea Mitchell was a wonderful person and a wonderful Western Australian.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands)** [2.40 pm]: Andrea Mitchell was a very decent, caring, thoughtful and intelligent person. When I heard of her death, it came as a shock; I did not know that she had been dealing with such a serious illness. She was a very private person.

During my first term in Parliament, I got to know Andrea more closely than I had beforehand through Liberal Party circles. Condolence motions are not usually a time to rebut other speakers, but, Premier, although Andrea carried herself with a calm exterior and demeanour, I do think she was ambitious! She was ambitious to make a difference, so it came as no surprise to me, and no doubt to colleagues here today, when she was elevated to cabinet by Premier Colin Barnett and became the Minister for Child Protection; Mental Health. We were sworn into cabinet together. We would often compare notes in Parliament. I could rely on Andrea for her good judgement and her measured assessment of situations and people.

As a parliamentarian, Andrea was a first-rate performer. I remember the effort she put into the complete reform of the Mental Health Act. She led the amending legislation through this chamber as the lower house representative on that bill. It was incredibly complex and difficult legislation, but Andrea sat at the table in the middle of our chamber and handled every clause methodically and carefully while under incredible scrutiny by the opposition of the day. She never got flustered. She dealt with every single clause as it came up and every question that was put to her. She worked her way through that very large and difficult piece of legislation professionally and carefully and handled it extremely well.

After Andrea and I became ministers, we were put together in an office, so I got to see a slightly different side of her. A lot of her electorate office work was done in her parliamentary office; she would catch up on her constituent work, which all of us MPs have to do. I saw how hard she worked for her electorate and how very compassionate she was for the people of her electorate of Kingsley. I know that she was devastated by the election result of 2017. It is funny; today I was reflecting on Andrea in preparation for this condolence motion. I went through my phone and looked at the text messages between us of years ago. It is interesting when you get to revise some of the conversations that you had with a colleague. What I got to experience in being a colleague and a parliamentary friend of Andrea was that she had good humour and she was a realist. She was a hard worker and was very fair. When I saw her in and around Liberal Party circles after the 2017 election I noted that she always remained upbeat and future focused. She was okay; how was everybody else? Throughout our time as parliamentary colleagues and at events, we would often find ourselves sitting next to each other and having a chat, a catch-up, sometimes over a drink. Andrea was truly respected and admired by all of us.

To Andrea's friends and family here today, we all remember Andrea with fondness and we all miss her.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville)** [2.45 pm]: I never had the opportunity to meet Andrea Mitchell when she was a teacher or a sports administrator; rather, it was when she was a candidate in the 2008 election for the district of Kingsley and I was working at the Liberal Party head office. As the Leader of the Opposition has already said, Andrea was the perfect candidate. She doorknocked 11 000-plus homes, tirelessly worked and tried her very best to put the district of Kingsley first. As a candidate, she showed the electorate of Kingsley that she would work very hard and that that hard work would reflect her commitment should she be elected—and she was. The transition from candidate to member of Parliament was almost seamless. She had already proven herself to her community and her ongoing contributions in this place when she stood up and represented Kingsley were done in a way that few other members could emulate. She did the Liberal Party very proud in her representation in this place.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr John McGrath; Mrs Alyssa Hayden; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Dean Nalder; Ms Libby Mettam; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Dr Tony Buti; Ms Simone McGurk; Mr David Templeman

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I have had the opportunity to work with many candidates but my experience of working with Andrea from time to time—it might have been out in the district taking photos or working up some local issues, for example—was that she was always really warm and engaging. I was particularly young at that time and that being an issue never entered her mind. Sometimes candidates push back on that because they do not like the idea of a younger person providing guidance or advice. Andrea was never like that. She was always warm and embracing. Although I was in Kingsley for a temporary period—I was going back and forth between there and the head office in West Perth—she made me feel part of the team. Her team mentality was obviously a part of her contribution in sport and as a teacher, but also to this place. A number of members have already reflected on her time as a parliamentary secretary in this place. I remember vividly conversations with former Premier Barnett as we watched Andrea on television in the office shared by Premiers while she very methodically went through the reforms to the Mental Health Act. Premier Barnett and all of us were incredibly in awe of the meticulous nature that Andrea went through that debate. I do not think there was a part of that bill that she did not know. Of course, not being the minister, there is not the same level of expectation that she would know the legislation, but she did—she knew it line by line. The same tenacity and methodical way that she used when she was a candidate and a member of Parliament was used when she was a parliamentary secretary and, ultimately, a minister. As the member for Hillarys said, she leaves behind a legacy for not only the northern suburbs, but all Western Australians, and it is one that her friends and family should be remarkably proud of. They should also be very proud that she was a Liberal Party member of Parliament representing the district of Kingsley.

For many of us, Andrea's passing was sudden. I, for one, will miss the support she gave me after I was elected. I got the sense that she never stopped after the 2017 election. She kept on going; she trusted in the process. She wanted to continue to contribute to Western Australia in some way, shape or form. She supported me on a range of issues, particularly in the mental health space. I will greatly miss the sense of calm I felt when I spoke with her. She would engage with me with warmth, generosity and compassion and as if nothing else in the world mattered except our conversation. She had a way of making you feel very special. There was a serenity that came from interacting with her and I will miss that a great deal. I will miss the opportunity of not having had more of those conversations with her, because conversations like that with Andrea are something all of us are going to miss.

She leaves behind an incredible legacy for the Liberal Party and the district of Kingsley, a legacy of which her family and friends should be incredibly proud. To Hon Peter Collier, a friend of all of us in this chamber, we know how much her loss means and how it has impacted on you. We all stand together in this chamber with you and her friends and family in grieving the loss of Andrea Mitchell.

**MR D.C. NALDER (Bateman)** [2.49 pm]: I, too, stand in support of this motion today to share some further anecdotes about the experiences that I had with Andrea Mitchell. But, first, I want to pay my respects to the family and friends of Andrea Mitchell. Like many of my colleagues, hearing about her death was a shock to me as well. I had seen a little bit of Andrea throughout the last 12 months of her life because she had returned home to her roots. Something that I was not aware of early on in my time in Parliament, because I identified Andrea so well with Kingsley and just assumed that that is where she was from, is that she grew up elsewhere and had a close affinity with where I live. It was great to see her back in the local community.

I wish to share an anecdote. We talk about Andrea as being kind and caring, but I saw Andrea as someone who had a steely resolve to fight for the things that were important to her community. Some of the experiences that I had with Andrea—in addition to the stories about extra lanes on the freeway that were mentioned by the member for Hillarys—were about how the Greenwood train station lacked the right sort of protection, or bike shelters or bike paths, and things that connected her community with public transport, that would result in both safer walking and safer riding for people in her community. They were some of the things that she used to champion on a regular basis with me as the former transport minister. I do not know how many times I had to visit the Greenwood station at Andrea's insistence. I saw a steely resolve when she believed that something was the right thing for her community—that the station was not up to the same standard as other stations—and she did not want me to forget what was important for her community. I share that anecdote because she was caring, compassionate and kind, but also had a steely resolve to achieve outcomes not for herself, but for the people who lived in her community. For me, she earned a great deal of respect for what she did for her local community.

I take this time to pass on my respects to her friends and family.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse)** [2.52 pm]: I rise to contribute to this condolence motion. Today we acknowledge the life of an outstanding human being—Andrea Mitchell. From the outset, I extend my condolences to family members,



Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr John McGrath; Mrs Alyssa Hayden; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Dean Nalder; Ms Libby Mettam; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Dr Tony Buti; Ms Simone McGurk; Mr David Templeman

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her mother Margaret, sister Glynis and other family members, as well as our colleague Hon Peter Collier, who I know was such a great friend and soulmate.

I knew Andrea for a very short time in this place. I came into Parliament in late 2014. My first experiences with Andrea were of a very personal nature. She provided much support to me as a very new member of Parliament, being elected in a by-election. I was always surprised about how much time she gave people, how carefully she listened to everybody, and how she made you feel like you were the most important person in the room.

I was also taken aback when I heard her speak for the very first time in this place. She was a lady of great humility, but also a woman of great strength and the perfect advocate for the portfolios of mental health and child protection. Although she was compassionate, she was also very strong and had a steely resolve. She had as much heart for the people of Kingsley as she had in terms of her ambition and her strength in those important portfolios of mental health and child protection.

Andrea was certainly very principled and she made a valuable contribution to this place. Her legacy will be that of a person who was never personal and made significant contributions to public life. It is a tragedy that her life was taken too soon.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton)** [2.54 pm]: I would like to make a few comments. Andrea's funeral was one of those that we suffered under the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us who loved and knew her were unable to attend the funeral except by Zoom. It left us feeling as though something was missing, but that is the life we have to live.

I, of course, came to know Andrea when we were elected in 2008, and I met her first in Parliament. We sat next to each other, and I got to know her as you do over these long hours of debate in Parliament. I came away with a general statement: she is a different one from most of us. That comes from where she came from. She was not prone to yelling out to the other side of the chamber. She was not prone to partisan statements. She was calm, collected, thoughtful and pleasant to everybody. That is an oddity for a politician! She was a good one, and that came from her background. She came from the teaching and community sector, where you have to work with everybody. Politics does not matter, especially in sports. It is put on the sideline and is not relevant. She had learnt to work with everybody. She also worked through the bureaucracy. She knew the pros and cons of the bureaucracy extremely well.

I guess the best accolade I can give to Andrea is that when I became Treasurer, we were doing a lot of cuts and I was getting advice from a helicopter position—Treasury—and was getting lobbied by ministers all the time. Members might be surprised to learn that you cannot take the lobbying of ministers verbatim every time; they are pushing a line. But when I came up against some difficult social issues, I would seek out Andrea. She was informed, compassionate and decisive, knew the community, and she was my adviser on many things, particularly on social issues, but across the board. That is the contribution she made to her community and to this Parliament—to us—and we will miss her deeply.

**MR A. KRSTICEVIC (Carine)** [2.57 pm]: I, too, would like to add to the condolence motion today. I first met Andrea Mitchell and got to know her very well after her election in September 2008. We spent eight and a half years regularly catching up for coffees and talking about our experiences in Parliament and the issues in our electorates. I think it is a testament to Andrea when we listen to the things that are being said about her here today—how people speak about what she was like as a member of Parliament and in our interactions with her. These were the qualities and attributes that she always displayed and lived by. As the member for Riverton said, she was not what we would call a typical politician in this Parliament. She was not aggressive and she was not loud, but she was assertive. She made her points. She achieved the outcomes that needed to be achieved in a quiet and resolute way. I really valued and appreciated the way that she went about her parliamentary business. She was a very good example to all of us about how we can achieve and succeed without being too aggressive and too negative in the things that we do in this place.

I did not think about it earlier, but it is interesting that when I was reflecting in my office, I noticed I have only one photo on my noticeboard. It has been there since 2009. It is actually a photo of Andrea and me. There are a few other people in the photo, but it is interesting that that is the only photo—apart from my children—that I have in my office of community events, and she happens to be in that photo. It has always been on that noticeboard—I do not know why—but it will stay there for many, many years to come, I hope. It is nice to reflect on the fact that she has always been there in my office.

I caught up with her on a number of occasions after she lost office in 2017. She was always positive and upbeat. A number of times over the years, even during that parliamentary period, I would ask her how she was, because

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I could tell that there was something wrong and that there were issues with her health. But never once did she actually mention anything or complain about anything; she was always positive and upbeat and her strength was absolutely amazing. She always focused on the positive.

As the member for Riverton said, it was unfortunate that we had to go through a Zoom funeral. I did hear the Speaker speak during the funeral, along with Hon Peter Collier, who spoke with such passion, compassion and strength, as did other speakers. It was a real testament to her to listen to all the events that were mentioned during that Zoom funeral. It was unfortunate that I could not be there in person, but that was the circumstances.

Andrea was one of the only people who was able to get me to a quiz night. She used to have a fundraiser that Hon Peter Collier would emcee. I absolutely hate quiz nights! People who know me know that I do not go to quiz nights. Andrea was the only person I made an exception for to go to a quiz night. When we spoke about it, I said, "Andrea, I'm only coming here because of you. If it was anybody else, I wouldn't be coming to a quiz night!" She knew that. To be honest, even when I was at the quiz night, I think I spent more time flitting between different tables and chatting to people, rather than participating with my team. It was not to get the answers; it was just because I am not a big fan of quiz nights. They are too much hard work. It was great to be able to go, obviously, on that occasion. Andrea also used to hold events in her home in Kingsley, and it was great to be able to go along and participate in those.

Andrea obviously went way too early. I know that she was passionate about her electorate and passionate about helping people in the community. That passion continued after she left Parliament as well. I really am inspired by what she was able to share with me during my time of knowing her. Hopefully, I will be able to display some of those qualities myself into the future.

To her family and friends, she was an outstanding individual who achieved so much and was so humble in the process. You should all be very proud of the person she grew to be and the role model she was to each and every person she came in contact with.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [3.02 pm]: I also rise to acknowledge Andrea. I recognise Margaret, Andrea's mum; Andrea's sister Glynis and brother-in-law Mark; Mitchell and Ebony; Matthew and Arrianna; Bronte; Hon Peter Collier, who was such a friend of Andrea's; and also Andrea's friends up in the gallery. I first met Andrea 36 years ago when she accompanied my wife, also Andrea, down to our farm in Katanning. The two Andreas were friends from tennis, teaching and basketball. I think perhaps her job was to vet this farmer whom my wife had just met and maybe quality control! Anyway, it was great to meet Andrea. I could not get her out to do any sheep work or the like, but it was certainly good just to get to know her at that time. She also stayed with Debra Koch and her husband, Brian. Deb is up in the gallery today.

I played tennis with both Andrea and her sister Glynis at Hensman Park Tennis Club. Glynis is a fantastic player in her own right who played much state grade for Hensman over the years. We played in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Others have spoken about Andrea's parliamentary history; however, I would like to highlight her excellent sport and tennis admin roles, in which she excelled. In 1991, she was appointed vice-president of Tennis West, and in 1996, she was appointed president of Tennis West, which she held for 12 years. In 2000, she was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her contribution to sport. From 1997 to 2007, Andrea served on the board of Tennis Australia and was the first woman to attend in a representative capacity, which was a great effort. I think Andrea paved the way for many women in tennis. There is now an organisation called Women in Tennis, and I know Andrea was really probably the mainstay and the first person to be part of that.

Andrea was a phys ed teacher for 15 years and then moved into a managerial role at the former Department of Sport and Recreation. Then in 2008, as we know, she became the member for Kingsley until 2017. Of course, she had her ministerial roles for child protection and mental health, as mentioned.

I remember my sister-in-law Kerry and my wife, Andrea, driving out to Kingsley to Andrea's first launch, probably around 2007. I suspect Hon Peter Collier hosted that. I certainly have many memories of Andrea throughout the years. Without fail, if I ever attended the Hopman Cup, Australian Open or the ATP Cup, there was Andrea, quite often with Hon Peter Collier, hosting some of the great past tennis players of Australia—the likes of Evonne Cawley, Margaret Court, Neale Fraser, Fred Stolle and Ashley Cooper. She was always flying the flag for Tennis West, Tennis Australia, the International Tennis Federation and any other organisation involved with tennis, so she was a great advocate. She also managed many of our state junior tennis teams over the years, which is also a role that both Hon Peter Collier and now her sister Glynis have been involved in. Glynis is now working with the Pizzey Cup team along with my wife, Andrea. Certainly Andrea's sister and Andrea herself have been involved in tennis for

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many, many years. I have a quote from our current president of Tennis West, Jan Truscott, which I think sums it up very well. She said —

“Champions of tennis are always thought of as the players, but in this case, Andrea was a Champion administrator, working tirelessly behind the scenes to grow our sport, strengthen our major events, and develop our promising young players”

“The WA Tennis Community will be forever grateful for what Andrea has contributed to our sport. She was a pioneer for women, a hard-worker, and an incredible advocate for tennis.

The WA Parliament has recently lost two great tennis people in both Andrea and Arthur Marshall.

I would like to also pass on condolences from Terry Redman, who worked with Andrea in cabinet. He pointed out to me the fantastic work she did in remote communities with him. He has asked me to pass on his apologies today.

Just in closing, I think Andrea had a great affiliation with our regions through her sport and rec roles, her teaching career, her tennis roles and her work in the remote communities. She understood the regions. On behalf of not only the Nationals WA, but also my wife, her sisters and myself, I pass on our condolences to not only Andrea’s family but also Hon Peter Collier, her close friend.

Vale, Andrea.

**MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton)** [3.08 pm]: I wish to speak only briefly. Andrea was a valued and trusted friend. She was one to give wise counsel if ever asked to. In many ways, I always felt she was a steel fist in a velvet glove. I was elected along with Andrea and 12 others as the Liberal class of 2008. I met the others only when I arrived in this place as a member of Parliament. I hosted Andrea in my seat of Geraldton, along with Michael Sutherland and Albert Jacob, for a few days during our first term, which was an enjoyable way for your colleagues to get to know you and your corner of the state. Andrea and I planned a similar trip to go from Geraldton north to Exmouth, but sadly we never got around to doing it; we ran out of time. Like others have said, I genuinely appreciated her interest in the regions. As Minister for Mental Health, Andrea came up to Geraldton in late 2016 with the then Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, to announce the Liberal commitment to redevelop Geraldton hospital. Her knowledge and commitment to her portfolios was immense. She is one of those people I feel genuinely lucky to have known. I would like to give my sincere sympathies to her family and friends.

**MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley)** [3.09 pm]: I rise today to contribute to this condolence motion for Andrea Mitchell. In her inaugural speech in 2008, Andrea said of the people of Kingsley —

They are people who support the principles of hard work.

I believe that she also supported the principles of hard work and brought that to her time as the third member for Kingsley. In fact, in the months after the 2017 election, the most common phrase I heard in my electorate was, “You have big shoes to fill.” That is testament to the support and affection so many in our community felt for Andrea.

Having been one of her constituents, I met Andrea a couple of times through my work with my children’s school and other local community groups. I deeply respected her dedication to, and love of, our community. She was well liked and hard working. So many in our community were saddened and shocked to learn of Andrea’s passing in April that I thought I would use the rest of my time during this condolence motion to give voice to their thoughts and their words and put on the record acknowledgements from the community she shared with me.

The Kingsley and Greenwood Residents Association expressed its sincere regret at the passing of Andrea Mitchell and recognised the dedication and hard work of Ms Mitchell in representing the electorate of Kingsley, especially the projects she supported in Kingsley and Greenwood.

I refer to my notes. The Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park said —

Andrea supported the environmental work of the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park, attended work days and dealt with the many issues surrounding midge problems in the wetlands. Our sympathy to her family and friends, farewell Andrea.

Warwick Residents Association president, Justin Pereira, posted on Facebook —

She was an incredibly genuine and kind person who cared deeply about her community. When we were first establishing the WRA and finding our feet Andrea was always there to support us and offer her assistance, and came to every single meeting she could. She was a great supporter and friend to many.

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He said that Andrea always had time to listen to people and help no matter how big or small their issue. His post continues —

Personally, as a young person navigating the ins and outs of politics and local government —

As he was trying to get more involved in his local community —

she was always there to encourage me and offer her advice.

He said that for her, neither his age nor their differing personal political views were a barrier to her warmth or kindness. The post concludes —

On behalf of the WRA and the entire Warwick community we would like to extend our deepest condolences to Andrea's family and friends. She will be sorely missed.

I recently put a notice on my Facebook page asking community members to contribute their words to this condolence motion. I will read those now. I refer to my notes —

Fay Schilling: A wonderful caring woman admired by all who knew her. I'll never forget her kindness to my daughter and grandson.

Lesley Wintle: Beautiful lady, worked with her at South Freo SHS.

Sharon Pengally: Andrea was such a delightful lady who did so much for our community in her time of office

Veronica Pannell: RIP so much respect for people who give service to the broader Western Australian community. Your service demonstrates your compassion and true focus on human rights, everything that is essential in espousing the community we want to see in the future. You are missed by all in our human rights focused community.

Paul Moore: Such sad news, she worked hard for the people in her electorate.

Vicki Ellery: Think of her often ... a wonderful lady on so many levels

Jan Standen: Sleep peacefully Andrea

Debbie Heron: So sad. A wonderful lady and will be sadly missed. She was a really good friend to my son **Jonny**

through politics and gave him so much love and support. Condolences to her family

Alisa Moody: she did a lot for the area. My friend worked for her. Lovely lady.

Justine Hogg: Very sad to hear this news. Andrea was so supportive of local schools and our Kingsley community

Kayla Mckee: in primary school we went on an excursion to the parliament house and met Andrea, she was so lovely to all us kids

Pam Wilcox: I met with Andrea a few years ago. She helped me with a petition about the play parks in woodvale.

Trevor Nicolls: Lovely lady who supported a lot organizations in her area.

Will be missed

Thoughts are with her family

Margaret Cohen: She was a beautiful lady and did help the Wanjoo Seniors when she was in office

And finally —

Tania Maxwell: Wonderful lady that did all she could for Kingsley in such a positive way. Did so much for people all her life

As you can see from this selection of comments made by the Kingsley community, Andrea was very much a respected member of our community who will be remembered for her hard work and her dedication. On behalf of the Kingsley community, I pass on condolences and sympathy to Andrea's family and friends.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale)** [3.15 pm]: Within 24 hours of coming to this place in October 2010, a very friendly face came up to me, and that was Andrea Mitchell. We had an instant connection on two fronts, a love of sport and both of us had degrees in physical education from the University of Western Australia. I happen to have had Andrea's sister Glynis in my class at the University of Western Australia. Glynis was an outstanding tennis player.

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I also had the chance to travel to China with Andrea, and that was a very enjoyable trip. Then, as has been mentioned, the Mental Health Bill 2013 came to this place for which Andrea had responsibility. If I remember correctly, there were about 589 clauses and we prosecuted every single clause. We divided on many of those clauses. Throughout that period, which I think went for two or three weeks, Andrea remained calm and collected and did not give us much! I think we got up only two amendments. She was very, very precise in her responses to our questions. It was obviously an audition for a greater role, and shortly after that she became a minister.

I got to know Andrea throughout those years. She was always very friendly. Of course, members of the Liberal Party have spoken very warmly about her, but I can assure you that many people and I think everyone on this side of the chamber who interacted with Andrea would also hold those views. To Glynis, her mother and the rest of the family, my greatest sympathies.

Vale, Andrea Mitchell.

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Community Services)** [3.16 pm]: Mr Speaker, I rise, as have many members of this house, to speak of my impression of Andrea Mitchell. She was also my predecessor as Minister for Child Protection so I want to make a few comments. Again, as others have commented, I was very shocked to learn on the news of her passing far too young.

After her time at university and then teaching, including in my electorate in South Fremantle and Kent Street and Rossmoyne Senior High Schools, and a period at the Department of Sport and Recreation, she came into Parliament in 2008. Andrea Mitchell spent a period as a parliamentary secretary and then, as members have commented, she was appointed Minister for Mental Health; Child Protection in 2013. She held those positions in the government until 2017.

Andrea and I were from different sides of politics, but as a member of this place I always experienced her as gracious and courteous. There are two particular initiatives she launched as Minister for Child Protection that are still very much part of the work of the now Department of Communities. In early 2016, Andrea launched the “Building a Better Future: Out-of-Home Care Reform” plan, which aimed to better meet the complex needs of children in care as well as prevent more children coming into care. Upon entering government, I recognised the momentum this important first step had generated and the need for the community services sector and government to work on modernising the child protection system to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. That work is still progressing today, and I want to acknowledge Andrea Mitchell’s role in starting this journey.

In late 2016, Andrea launched the public consultation for the statutory review of the Children and Community Services Act. At the time, she noted that the review coincided with a significant period of reform of the child protection system and that it would give all stakeholders, particularly Aboriginal Western Australians, the opportunity to have their say. We are now on the cusp of seeing that process come to fruition, with the amendments to the Children and Community Services Act having passed this chamber and now under consideration in the other place.

Having served as Minister for Child Protection for almost four years, I know that this job can show us not only the best of our community, but also its darkest and most challenging sides. This role of responsibility for our most vulnerable children and families can weigh heavily. Anyone who has been a Minister for Child Protection and has dedicated their service to members of our community deserves our praise and thanks. I know that others in this place were as shocked as I was to hear of Ms Mitchell’s passing. I wish to extend my condolences to Andrea’s family on their loss.

Vale.

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [3.19 pm]: I would like to make a brief contribution. In doing so, I acknowledge all the family and friends who are here this afternoon to honour the late Andrea Mitchell’s service to the state, the Parliament and the community of Western Australia.

Any of us who had the opportunity to have a conversation with Andrea would know how much she was respected, particularly in the regions throughout Western Australia. When moving around the regions, it was very clear that if one mentioned Andrea’s name, one would hear very positive comments, particularly from those in the sport and rec field. Obviously, Andrea Mitchell made a wonderful contribution in that sphere.

In 2014, along with the Attorney General, the member for Butler, I had the great honour to be part of an important delegation under the stewardship of the former Speaker Hon Michael Sutherland. The Attorney General and I were the Labor members on that trip to Tokyo and other parts of Japan; Andrea as the member for Kingsley was asked to attend on behalf of the Liberal Party, along with the former member for Swan Hills, Frankie Alban. It was a very interesting collection of people. I think one thing that is demonstrated for all of us in politics is that we need to

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 17 November 2020]

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Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Bill Marmion; Mr John McGrath; Mrs Alyssa Hayden; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr Dean Nalder; Ms Libby Mettam; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Ian Blayney; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Dr Tony Buti; Ms Simone McGurk; Mr David Templeman

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have opportunities outside of this place, which is an essentially adversarial experience, to get to know people. It was a great opportunity for the Attorney General and I to not only go on that important delegation to Japan, but also experience the companionship, friendship and camaraderie with the late Andrea Mitchell. Some members have spoken in this condolence motion today about Andrea's poise, but she had an extremely good sense of humour. I want to relate just one story that, for me, epitomised Andrea's humour and her great capacity to see the good and funny things in life.

When we arrived in Kobe, which was early on in this important delegation to Japan, we went to a school in that prefecture. It was quite interesting. As we know, the Japanese people are very respectful and have a very respectful disposition. When we arrived at the school in our little bus, the whole school had turned out to welcome the delegation. As the delegates alighted from the bus, the Speaker, of course, in front, and then we trailing behind, it was like a rock-star greeting. This was a secondary school. The students were there waving, and I remember that we all did a bit of a wave. We then went to a display of robotics. Andrea and all of us gathered around and listened to the students. We did not know Japanese, but the students were being interpreted for us, although a lot of them spoke good English. Then we were asked to go into a traditional tea ceremony. The member for Butler is looking at me wryly! We went into the traditional tea ceremony. Andrea and the Speaker and I, of course, and Frankie—sorry, Frank Alban; I called him Frankie—filed in, and, of course, we had to take our shoes off, as is the tradition. We all took our shoes off. The now Attorney General was the last to appear in this tiny little tea house. I always remember the guffawing, giggling laugh of Andrea Mitchell, because she looked down, as did we all, and unfortunately the Attorney General, having taken off his shoes, had exposed his large big toe that was poking out of a hole in his sock. Of course, this could have caused a great diplomatic problem, but Andrea's response was perfect. I remember her giggling all the way through the ceremony, but in a very restrained way, and on the way back that evening, she and we all recounted the experience.

People come into this place for only a short time, in many respects. On behalf of the Labor Party and all members, I pass our deepest condolences to Andrea Mitchell's family. Her story is part of the collective story of this Parliament of Western Australia. It is a long history. Andrea Mitchell made an important contribution to the story of the Parliament and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, and we will remember her with great fondness.

Members: Hear, hear!

**The SPEAKER:** I ask members to rise and support this motion by observing a minute's silence.

Question passed; members and officers standing as a mark of respect.