

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from 11 May on the following motion moved by Ms J.J. Shaw —

That the following Address-in-Reply to Her Excellency's speech be agreed to —

To Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson, AC, Governor of the State of Western Australia.

May it please Your Excellency —

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [3.14 pm]: Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your election to the chair. I also congratulate the Premier, Mark McGowan; Deputy Premier and all cabinet ministers on this successful election. My congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy and to all elected members of Parliament. I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Noongar people, and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

It is a great honour and privilege to serve the people of Western Australia, in particular the Pilbara region, in the fortieth Parliament. People listening to me today or later reading the *Hansard* record might ask, "What makes this man tick? How did this chap get elected to this place? And what is he on about?" To answer those questions, I want to first tell you a bit about myself, my family and the journey of how I got here.

I was born on 26 March 1961 in India, in a railway colony town called Golden Rock in the state of Tamil Nadu. I am an Indian by birth and my community is Anglo Indian. I am of mixed English, French and Indian heritage and I am very proud to be an Anglo Indian. I come from a family of five; my dad, Joe Michel, worked as a fitter in a railway workshop from the age of 18 and retired at 60. I knew my dad to be very punctual and not take a day off in his life unless he was really sick. My dad loved poultry, and rearing pigeons was his favourite hobby. In fact, we had a small farm at home and never, ever bought poultry for the table. My mum, Lillian, was a loving and kind person; she was a devoted housewife and an excellent cook. She was ever willing to lend a helping hand to anyone. My parents were very devout Roman Catholics and we were brought up with strong Catholic values of faith, hope and charity.

My siblings, Dymphna and Jude, and I had a very simple upbringing but our childhood was filled with a lot of fun times with family as we all lived on the same street. The whole square was owned by my grandfather Gontran Michel. My parents were very loving but strict and they meant the world to me. I miss them dearly and I wish they were here, along with my aunt Rayonette, to share in this joyous occasion. My sister was a teacher but worked at the ANZ in Australia. She is now retired and lives in Melbourne with her family. My brother was a mechanical engineer with the Ministry of Defence in India. He now works at Yarra Trams and lives in Melbourne with his family. I have over 150 cousins and relatives living in Australia.

I started my studies at the Railway high school in Golden Rock till grade 3 and then moved on to a private school called Champion Anglo Indian High School in Tiruchirappalli, commonly called Trichy. I always loved the great outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and swimming in farm wells. I would jump at any opportunity to go hunting and fishing. This would get me into all sorts of trouble with mum. At school I loved hockey and took part in athletics, cricket and football. I was a very average student and never really took school seriously. After I finished my year 10 at Champion Anglo Indian high school, I went to another city in India called Bangalore, to continue with my education. Bangalore was a beautiful and elegant English colony for retired English officers in the armed forces who wanted to spend the rest of their lives in India. Bangalore was also called the garden city of India and is now the Silicon Valley of India. In Bangalore I went to live with my aunt Rayonette and her husband Rupert Stephens and started university at St. Aloysius college. My aunt was a very highly qualified teacher and a genius at mathematics. From a young age it was her desire to encourage anyone to have a good education and she spared no money or effort in pursuit of this.

My aunt played a very important role in my life. She took care of me as though I were her own child. She instilled strict values in me and taught me how to look after my finances and live within my means. I miss her down-to-earth approach, practical advice and counsel. I owe her a lot for who I am today. My uncle Rupert was very fond of me, but was hard on me at times. From a very young age, he taught me how to use my hands to do jobs around the house. I learnt a lot from him and I used to help him with his business. Every morning I would go for a jog and then distribute newspapers for *The Times of India* to earn a few bucks.

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I played hockey for my university and also for a local club. Hockey was once the most popular game in India. It was at university that I was introduced to politics. I was part of the Congress youth party. I then joined the Janata youth party until I left India in 1990. After university, I started a diploma course in air conditioning and refrigeration at a private college in Bangalore. I worked at Voltas, India's largest air-conditioning company, premier engineering solutions provider and project specialist. I moved on to Carrier—the pioneers in air conditioning. During my career at these international companies, I won many laurels for design improvements, good work practices and getting projects completed on schedule.

One day, my cousin Gordon Cooper brought home the Australian immigration forms to apply for skilled migration. At first I did not care, but he insisted that I fill out the forms with him. Both of us applied in 1988. My cousin applied under the information technology sector. To my amazement, my application was accepted and sadly my cousin's was rejected. He went on to work for IBM in Hong Kong. I landed in Melbourne on 15 August 1990 and lived with my sister, Dymphna, and her family in Melbourne. After settling in, I set off to find a job. To my frustration, I found that even as a skilled immigrant I could not get a job. This was unbelievable, as I had been told that there was a shortage of air-conditioning and refrigeration technicians in Australia. The shocking part was that wherever I applied for a job as an air-conditioning or refrigeration technician, I was repeatedly asked whether I had Australian experience. After about 15 interviews, I lost the plot and asked the manager who was interviewing me, "How am I going to get Australian experience if you do not give me a go?" This trend continues. Skilled immigrants need to be given opportunities irrespective of their work experience in Australia.

I migrated to Australia when I was halfway through my engineering degree in India, so I enrolled at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology to study a diploma in mechanical engineering, specialising in air conditioning and refrigeration. I got distinctions in two subjects. I continued my education when I moved to Perth and received the prestigious Allan Roberts Award for best performance in mechanical engineering from the South East Metropolitan College of TAFE. I enrolled to complete my associate diploma, but when I moved to Karratha, I found these subjects were not offered anywhere, so I discontinued my studies.

I have worked as an air-conditioning and refrigeration technician across Australia, from Coffs Harbour to Perth. Once I moved to Perth, I fell in love with Western Australia's rugged beauty. I love four-wheel driving and fishing. I love the weather—no more four seasons in a day! Every weekend I would be off fishing and exploring this wonderful land. Having previously travelled to carry out works in Karratha, I decided to move there permanently. I loved the beautiful landscape and I was captivated by the red sand. I joined Haden Engineering and worked at the Woodside gas plant as a site manager maintaining the air-conditioning plants. It was one of the best moves I have made. There was a great community spirit in Karratha, I had great friends and I got involved with local sports. I enjoyed every moment of it. The major points that come to mind whenever anyone asks me why I love Karratha are that I never fall sick or have an attack of hay fever and that I love the heat.

In 2005, I met my wife, Jacqueline James, on a holiday in Bangalore. In 2006, we decided to get married. But, before that, I needed to find out whether she would be happy to settle in Karratha. This was a nerve-racking time in my life—not knowing whether we would stay in Karratha or move to Perth or to Melbourne. When Jacqueline came over for a holiday in 2006, she fell in love with the place, the community and my friends. We decided that Karratha would be the place for us to start our married life. We married at the Dampier Palms and had a small celebration at my friend's house. We bought our house in Karratha in 2006. In January 2007, we went back to India for the big family wedding. We were married at the Sacred Hearts Catholic Church in Bangalore and had nearly 500 family and friends attend. My wife moved to Australia in 2007.

In 2010, we started our own business in partnership with a friend. We had two offices; one was in Karratha and one was in Port Hedland. In a matter of two months, I could not manage the Karratha business, so I took on two technicians. My wife was still working at a real estate company and she would do the company accounts in the evening. We worked very long hours building the business, and we went from strength to strength. In 2012, my wife gave up her job to help run the business. We expanded the business and diversified into electrical work. In 2014, I bought out my business partner and grew my business to 24 staff, including two apprentices. We completed a number of big contracts in Karratha and Port Hedland, including major maintenance contracts for the Department of Housing, Building Management and Works, the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia and Yara Australia fertilisers, to name a few. I have worked in Dampier, Roebourne, Point Samson, Newman, Marble Bar, Jigalong, Jimbelbar, Port Hedland, South Hedland and Roy Hill.

I was forced to invest in properties to house my staff locally, as we were unable to get rentals between 2010 and 2012. Small businesses struggled to get housing in the Pilbara with rents as high as \$3 000 a week. Many small businesses were housing their workers in tents in backyards. In 2015, work started to dry up in Port Hedland. A lot of people lost their jobs and businesses did not have much work. All of a sudden it looked like someone had turned off the light switch. Work became scarce, even in Karratha, after the construction boom. I, along with many

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contractors and retail outlets, would discuss the sudden downturn, which was a shock to everyone. Everywhere people were complaining of their issues: loss of jobs, loss of contracts, and high rentals and rates. Many of my friends lost their jobs after working for 30 years in Karratha or Port Hedland and they were forced to move back to Perth. A lot of small businesses had taken out three to five-year leases on residences to house staff and offices, which were scarce, because rents were pretty high. This also took a toll on a lot of businesses. We all felt that we had been pushed into a corner with no way out. Many businesses started to cut back on staff and to work on lean margins to keep afloat.

Around the same time a glut of housing was released by LandCorp, but it was a little too late. By now, Woodside, Rio Tinto and BHP were cutting back on staff and contractors, and there was a flood of vacant properties in the Pilbara. This continued, and owners were unable to repay their extremely high mortgages. Many workers who had invested in property in the Pilbara were forced to hand back the keys to their properties.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr K.J.J. MICHEL: I heard of people begging the banks to give them time, but the banks would not hear of it. It was heartbreaking to hear these stories. Property values dropped by more than 60 per cent. I was told that nearly 2 500 properties were repossessed by the banks and sold for a song. At the same time, I was told that the number of local contractors and local people used on local projects, especially in Karratha, was under 10 per cent.

In 2014, the Pilbara underground power project was rolled out in Karratha by the local council. Horizon Power made a mess of the first stage in Bulgarra and it blew its budget. The next stage of the project came at a time when businesses and property owners were really hurting. This caused a huge uproar in the community as it affected all businesses and people, including me. Business owners were still struggling with huge mortgages and high rates, and now with the extra burden of the underground power project. If royalties for regions contributed 75 per cent of the project's cost, why were property owners charged around \$3 000 per residential property and up to \$100 000 for commercial properties? The residents of Karratha did not want underground power. We went through numerous cyclones and never had drastic issues with our power. Once again, the local council was doing exactly what it wanted, irrespective of the opinions of ratepayers and residents. Local Pilbara people formed the view that the then member for Pilbara did not address any of these issues and did not think of them as a concern. Along with the local council and LandCorp, they continued to build the Pelago Apartments, Osprey Village and The Quarter, all of which lie partly vacant. Despite the drastic loss in property values, local councils continued to keep rates at the same level. Property owners struggled to repay their mortgages as rents had dropped drastically and many houses were left vacant.

It was these issues that totally frustrated me as a small business man. My wife and I spoke to Stephen Dawson, MLC, about issues with the underground power. This was also brought to his attention by a number of residents and he initiated an inquiry. Between 2014 and 2016, I met Hon Stephen Dawson on a number of occasions. Hon Mark McGowan, the then opposition leader, along with Hon Stephen Dawson met with local business owners in the Pilbara to learn about the issues we faced in the region. I have always believed in fighting for my rights from a very young age, in school and in university. Being involved with the unions when working in India and Australia also shaped my views on equal rights, believing in a fair go and looking out for my colleagues and workers. With my experience as a small business man, I have come to realise that I will always be a part of the Labor movement as I stand up for my rights and those of others and believe in fighting for a cause. The Labor Party is broad based and proudly capable of serving the needs of all Western Australians, working men and women, including those who work in their own business.

In 2016 at a Labor Party meeting, Hon Stephen Dawson casually mentioned that since I was so passionate about the region, I should put in my nomination. With the support of Hon Stephen Dawson, Port Hedland Labor Party president John Peters and his wife, Charlene, and my wife, Jacqueline, I put in my nomination. In October 2016, I was nominated as the candidate for the seat of Pilbara and the rest is history.

[Applause.]

Mr K.J.J. MICHEL: Minister Dawson was nominated the campaign director. The contest for this seat was going to be hard and much more difficult than originally thought. I was made aware by the Labor Party that, in its view, I did not have a chance of winning, but, as I said before, I am a fighter and I wanted to prove people wrong. I believed in the people's movement and we had a great people's movement going on in the Pilbara. The other parties were so sure of themselves that they did not think they needed to interact with the local community and listen to its problems. Against all advice, I started to doorknock in Karratha, some days with my wife and volunteers, but most days alone. The first few weeks were hard but, as weeks went by, I began to realise I had a very strong chance in this campaign. People were frustrated with the local councils and the member of Parliament because of their lack of understanding and empathy for what was happening in their region. I listened to people,

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sometimes talking with just one person for more than an hour. They were happy that I was willing to listen and slowly word spread. More people contacted me about their business issues and the problems they faced. My messages were simple: “A local voice in the Pilbara”, “Local jobs for locals” and “Local content in government projects”. We doorknocked in the rain and the heat and I had heat stroke, but continued after a day’s break.

The *Thelma and Louise* trip with Minister Alannah MacTiernan was amazing and I enjoyed every moment of my interaction with her. I was amazed at her political prowess and no-nonsense approach to tackling any situation head on. I also thank her for her personal contribution to my campaign, numerous phone calls and encouraging words of support. I hope she will continue to mentor me during my political career. Minister Bill Johnston also visited the Pilbara to support my campaign and help with a fundraising event. His enthusiastic approach and his knowledge of the mining, oil and gas, and energy sectors helped me to gain a lot of insight into these industries. I give him my thanks and appreciation for his support and help with the fundraising.

Being a long-time resident of the Pilbara, I have seen the ups and the greatest downturn in the history of Western Australia. I feel that, by and large, we have enough economic infrastructure but we lack good health services and we have to pay inflated airfares to Perth. We need to stop depending on the mining and oil and gas sectors and expand industry into agriculture, tourism, aquaculture and renewable energy. We need to make the north west regional area a place where we can encourage people to come and live. It has a strong, growing local population and not one where industry relies on fly in, fly out workers. For the Pilbara region to survive and sustain itself we have to make sure that local and state governments award contracts to local contractors in the region. My perception of a local business is a company that has its main office in the Pilbara region. We are happy to engage with Western Australian contractors but we need to ensure that they use local people and local contractors. I see a wasted opportunity in regional areas such as the north west as we cannot get Australian professionals such as doctors, surgeons, radiologists and other skilled professionals to come and live there. The state government needs to take a stand to ensure that specialists come and live there for a minimum of a year after they finish their studies and degrees.

I give my appreciation and thanks to Hon Stephen Dawson for his continued advice, help, support, fundraising and mentoring during my campaign. Despite his busy schedule all across the Pilbara and Kimberley, he found time to talk to me and support me during my campaign. I look forward to working closely with him, especially with issues we face in the Pilbara, and receiving his advice and support.

I give my thanks to John and Charlene Peters and Kerry Robinson, the three major campaign loyalists in Port Hedland who helped with fundraising, and for their very aggressive campaigning in Hedland and Newman. I also thank John and Charlene for taking care of me whenever I visited Port Hedland. I am grateful for their generosity and donation to the campaign. Tracey Heimberger played an instrumental role in introducing me to the Aboriginal community in Roebourne and other remote areas, and she taught me the value of community spirit. I am very appreciative of Tracey’s enormous support and encouragement during the campaign. I thank her for all the awesome photographs and Facebook posts. Kyle McGinn, a newly elected member of the Legislative Council, was an enormous support to me during the campaign and I cannot find words to thank him enough. I thank the Maritime Union of Australia and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union for their generous contributions to the campaign. Kyle and his team did an excellent job in setting up the polling booths late at night and manning them through the night. I thank Neal Guilmartin for his words of wisdom, help, advice and donation to the campaign. Randy and Anita Surrao were very dedicated supporters and I thank them for their donation, support and help during the campaign.

I give my thanks and appreciation also to Kate and Garry Wilson for their video recordings and photos. Others who put a lot of effort into my campaign include Paul Ferreira, David Fox, Tam Stubbs, Hakim Khan, Vicky, Libby Gaunt, John Gaunt, Ray Ward, Wouter Botes, Marcel Sladen, Aneesha, Samara and little Tia D’souza, Alex Coutinho, Becky Sullivan, Father Brian Ahearn, Father Bernard Balaraj, Joseph Almento, Nina, Fay, Fabio, and the Filipino and Indian communities. I also thank Morag Lowe, Arnold Carter, Jim Henneberry, Tony McCrae, Gail Victor, Jessie, Kelly Howlett, Pierre, Anitha, Frank, Gerry, Evelyn, Kylie Rogerson and Peter Foster. My oldest supporter in Karratha is the evergreen Mr Jack Renault, who, at 100 years old, is very astute and a great mentor to me. I thank Tricia Hebbard and Hannah Cartwright for their help and support after work and on the weekends. They worked tirelessly, and I will always be grateful for their help. We were joined by numerous volunteers on polling day, and I thank each and every one of them. To those who I missed out, please be assured you have my thanks and appreciation for your help in the campaign. Thanks also to all my supporters on Facebook.

I thank my sister and brother-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, niece and nephews for their contribution to my campaign. My brother-in-law, Des Hickman, is a very strong Labor supporter who encouraged me every step of

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the way. I thank my sister, brother and brother-in-law for taking the time to come from Melbourne for this occasion. I also thank my cousins Honey and Victor for their help and support through the years.

I thank the people of the Pilbara in Karratha, Hedland, Dampier, Roebourne, Wickham, Newman, Marble Bar, Warralong, Yandeyarra, Jigalong, Parnngurr, Punmu and the rest of the Pilbara for their support. I will be your champion in Parliament for the next four years. Thank you for placing your trust in me; I will not let you down.

Last but not least is my darling wife. Words cannot express my thanks for the hard work you put into the campaign, the long days, the sleepless nights, walking the streets with and without me, and always there to help me along the way. There were many times I did not thank you or show my appreciation as I became caught up with the campaign; that is no excuse. As the saying goes, behind every successful man is a woman. That is definitely the case for me.

I am honoured and privileged to be given this opportunity to represent the Pilbara community. I promise I will strive to achieve the best for my region and the great state of Western Australia. I also thank God and Infant Jesus for giving me this opportunity to serve the Pilbara people. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.42 pm]: I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today—the Noongar people—I pay my respects to their elders, both past and present, and thank them for their custodianship. I respectfully stand with you on the ongoing journey towards meaningful reconciliation.

I wish to offer my congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, upon your elevation to this important position. I have had the privilege of knowing you over many years, and you have been a strong advocate for regional Western Australia. I have every confidence you will provide excellent stewardship of the Legislative Assembly. May I also extend my congratulations to all members of Parliament upon their election or re-election to this place.

Today is my opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank the people of Belmont who have entrusted me to be their representative. It is an honour and a privilege. I will be a fierce advocate for my electorate. I will work hard to ensure that the trust bestowed in me is not misplaced.

Belmont is a great place to live. My husband, Pat, and I are proud to live in Kewdale with our two girls, and we love being part of such a close-knit community. During the course of the campaign we knocked on over 18 000 doors, and what really shone through was the pride in our area and a desire to preserve our unique sense of community. The electorate of Belmont has a rich diversity, both culturally and geographically. Perth Airport, the Swan River and Perth CBD are right on our doorstep. It takes in South Guildford and Hazelmere, Ascot and Belmont Park Racecourses, all of the City of Belmont and the Burswood peninsula. We are the gateway to WA.

During the campaign one of the issues that came up time and again was the concern about jobs. I spoke with thousands of residents across the electorate who were either unemployed, underemployed or lacked job security. They were deeply concerned about how they were going to make ends meet. I stood in front of both men and women who were reduced to tears. These circumstances are robbing them of hope for their own future and that of their children.

In my previous role as a financial planner with an industry superannuation fund I had firsthand experience of dealing with members in the maritime industry facing the impact of the economic downturn on a daily basis. The maritime industry, like so many others, has seen increasing casualisation and insecurity of its workforce. I met with members who had lost their jobs, had a dramatic reduction in shifts or had been asked to take significant pay cuts just to keep their jobs. This often led to severe financial hardship, the loss of their family home, relationship breakdowns, stress-related illness and emotional despair.

A government's role must be to plan for the future. That means diversification of the economy and investment in new industries such as renewable energy, technology-based and creative industries, as well as a continued investment in education and training, and the promotion of local jobs to militate against the worst effects of an economic downturn. Governments have a responsibility to ensure the long-term security and prosperity of their constituents. That is why I am so proud to be part of the McGowan Labor government. It is committed to creating more than 10 000 jobs and apprenticeships, it has already frozen TAFE fees, and it is dedicated to promoting industries in sectors important to my constituency like tourism, transport, local manufacturing and the racing industry. Secure, dignified employment is a critical pathway to ensure the future for all Western Australians.

As economic inequality continues to rise, there is an ever-expanding chasm between the haves and have-nots. Australia is a wealthy country; there is no reason anyone should be left behind. Collectively, we must not turn a blind eye to inequality. Currently, the top 20 Australian Securities Exchange chief executive officers earn more

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than 100 times the average wage; on the other side of the coin, the latest Poverty Report that almost three million Australians live below the poverty line. Shamefully, nearly one in five children lives in poverty.

Some people believe that economic inequality is just part of life. Barry Switzer, a former American football coach, once said —

Some people are born on third base and go through life thinking they hit a triple.

I am not one of those people. No-one should be deprived of the opportunity of a better life for themselves or their children due to their circumstances or postcode. We cannot fail to support the vulnerable in our community; if we do, humanity has failed. We have a duty to find a way to bridge the gulf. It starts by no longer treating those struggling to maintain a household on the minimum wage or experiencing poverty as second-class citizens; instead, we should employ compassion and respect to help them find a secure footing in the hope that they can go on to fulfil their potential in life.

Politicians should be bold in their pursuit of addressing inequality. As Barack Obama attested —

In the 21st century, the best anti-poverty program around is a world-class education.

A principle obligation of government is to provide a first-class education system so that people are furnished with the knowledge they need to ultimately secure decent jobs. Every single child is deserving of a quality education in order to help them reach their full potential, yet we still see clusters of disadvantaged students who are left floundering in underperforming schools. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds often face chronic educational shortfalls, with those from low socioeconomic backgrounds obtaining lower results than those from high socioeconomic families. Education is critical in shaping every individual's trajectory in life. Improving outcomes for all students, therefore, should be the constant goal of government. Labor is always committed to enhancing education outcomes, which is why we are restoring education assistants to classrooms across the state, and in Belmont we are investing a total of \$7.48 million into state schools.

As a member of Parliament, I am focused on providing children with a quality education. I also want to ensure that schools are a safe environment for children. Research shows that one in every four students in Australian schools are affected by bullying and that children who are bullied are three times more likely to develop depression. Academic achievement and emotional wellbeing should go hand in hand in our education system.

As a mother with two young daughters, I want them to get the best education possible but I also want them to grow up afforded every opportunity in a society that is free from gender discrimination and inequality. In 2017 we should not need to be talking about gender inequality. However, the facts are that the gender pay gap has remained firmly fixed for the past 20 years. Here in WA the pay gap is the highest in the nation at nearly 24 per cent. Statistics point to the fact that there is a gender pay gap favouring full-time working men over full-time working women across a multitude of occupational categories and industries. As a financial planner, I have seen the financial impacts that this inequality creates. Women's superannuation payouts at retirement, on average, are over 40 per cent less than those of men. Therefore, women are more likely to experience poverty in retirement and be far more reliant on the age pension. If we do not commit ourselves to addressing the pay gap, we risk continuing to set up women for precarious financial futures.

A recent report by the Sex Discrimination Commissioner revealed widespread discrimination directed at pregnant women or women returning to work post-parental leave, with one in two women experiencing discrimination, and one in five made redundant, restructured or dismissed during the pregnancy and return-to-work process. The results also showed that no industry or sector was exempt. Additionally, an earlier report by the commissioner showed that a quarter of women experienced sexual harassment in the workplace. As someone who has personally experienced sexual harassment in the workforce, I can speak to the crippling effect such humiliation has on one's confidence. As a young woman working in the financial services industry, I learnt that, even with the protection of the law, if there is a culture that is sympathetic to discrimination and harassment, people in positions of power will, and often do, turn a blind eye. Governments need to lead the way to change this culture.

The issue that has the most catastrophic impact on women is domestic violence. When we continue to see one woman die every single week at the hands of an intimate partner, governments at every level are compelled to act. Research shows that domestic and family violence is the leading preventable cause of death, disability and illness in women aged 15 to 44 years. The royal commission into domestic violence in Victoria stipulated in its report —

The causes of family violence are complex and include gender inequality and community attitudes towards women.

Allowing violence against women to continue at such horrific rates sets the national tone on the topic of equality. Legislative and policy measures are required to address this national crisis, otherwise nothing will change. As

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a country, we should be done with defining the problem, we understand it and now we need action, funding and substantive political will. We need to start showing that, as a society, we value women.

One of the great movements in Australian history—one that has had a profound effect on addressing economic inequality—is the Australian union movement. It is responsible for so many things that we all take for granted now: a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work; sick leave; penalty rates; holiday pay; and, with the Hawke–Keating Labor governments, unions helped bring in superannuation. We must remember that these reforms were not borne out of the business lobby or simply due to market forces; these were hard fought for by the union movement, often against extreme pressure and opposition.

During the campaign I was often asked why I wanted to go into politics. For me the answer was easy: because I want to be an advocate for working people. As Labor members of Parliament, I believe we need to be vigilant in our continued pursuit of the protection of workers’ rights and their safety. It is simply unacceptable that in 2017, on average, we see a construction worker die every 10 days or that we still see workers across agriculture, transport, mining and manufacturing regularly injured or killed at work. I am proud of the Labor Party’s history and connection to the union movement. Fighting to protect workers is important and noble work. I stand here today and say thank you to the union movement.

I ran for the seat of Belmont in 2013 and narrowly lost. One of the positives to flow out of that experience was meeting so many locals. After the election loss, I continued to receive calls from locals wanting my assistance with their issues. They were not concerned by the fact that I was not a member of Parliament; all they wanted was action and advocacy. This led me to establish the Belmont Community Group with some good friends and a number of local residents. We set about running grassroots campaigns on local issues. We opposed the forced council amalgamations, we fought for more police resourcing in our area, we pushed for a farmers’ market and we worked with residents to oppose high-rise developments. This was inspiring work, and I met thousands of locals during these campaigns. It showed me that people power really can work. As a member of Parliament, I will always act to amplify the voices of local community groups in my electorate, ensuring they are heard.

As well as advocacy and community activism, another passion of mine is the arts. I served as a board member and chair of the Film and Television Institute of WA for nearly 10 years. I believe in the production, promotion and protection of local art forms and culture. It is critical to continue to see local content on our local screens. Art is part of our collective narrative, our identity and our story. Peter Bazalgette, the former Arts Council England chief, eloquently articulates the importance of the arts in our culture when he said —

Take the collective memory from our museums; remove the bands from our schools and choirs from our communities; lose the empathetic plays and dance from our theatres or the books from our libraries; expunge our festivals, literature and painting, and you’re left with a society bereft of a national conversation ... about its identity or anything else.

And I agree.

Growing up in a political household, robust debates and philosophical discussions were part of our daily routine around the dinner table. Politics was part of the fabric of our family life. My parents became activists during Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War. My dad, Barry, was a member of Parliament and minister in Victoria for many years. Whilst my mum, Helen, pursued her own successful career, she was always right by dad’s side.

Robert F. Kennedy once said —

The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better.

This quote resonates with me, because this was the underlying message from my parents throughout my upbringing. There was always an unspoken rule in our household: that you had a moral obligation to work towards helping others, not just yourself—that we should never turn a blind eye towards injustice. Activism was always encouraged and we were taught never to accept the status quo.

And so, arriving at this very important place has not been a solitary passage. It has been a journey assisted by my family, friends, supporters, unions and volunteers, over many, many years. I would like to take the opportunity to thank some of those people personally.

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms C.M. ROWE: To my mum and dad, you have been truly instrumental in helping me achieve my dream. You have supported and inspired me always, and I am truly grateful. You have been my greatest supporters and always had faith in me. I am blessed to have your love and support and I hope you both know how much I love you. Peter, Lee and Michael Gardner and Jai Stevens, my most beautiful in-laws, without your support on the home front,

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

I do not know where I would be. Thank you for your support. Tom Hodgkins, my brother in law, you have always been like a brother to me and you are hands down one of the kindest and most generous spirited individuals I know; thank you for your constant support. Hon Samantha Rowe, my sister, the MLC for the East Metropolitan Region, you have always been my role model, my best friend and a truly superb campaign director. As a sister, I do not think it is possible to be more loved than I am by you. I love you dearly and thank you for all you do. My husband, Patrick, you have been by my side over the last ten years and your love and support never wavers for a second. Your endless love, intelligent guidance, constant support, quick wit and great cooking are so deeply appreciated. I love you and I thank you from the very bottom of my heart. Bobby and Rory, my two girls, my love for you is boundless. I hope that I can set an example for you both, that you can set goals, have dreams, chase those dreams and one day achieve them, through hard work and perseverance. Dare to dream and dare to chase that dream fiercely. To my many friends across the country who have been part of the journey and cheered me on endlessly over many years, I thank you. To my very dear friend and mentor, Stephen Price, thank you for your guidance, friendship and faith in me. And to Matt Dixon, you have been there, as a true friend, through thick and thin, thank you.

This truly was a team effort, in every regard. To my campaign team, Merrilyn Ercegovich; Lauren Cayoun, my field coordinator; Claire Comrie, my tireless campaign manager and dearest friend; and Sam Rowe, my campaign director, I am truly indebted to you all. Thank you for giving it your all over a very long time. To WA Labor federal MPs, Senator Glenn Sterle, Senator Sue Lines, Senator Louise Pratt, Matt Keogh and Tim Hammond, I sincerely thank each of you for your ongoing support and assistance. I would like to thank the Labor Party and its members. I have been a member of the party since I was 16, and as a former assistant state secretary to the party I know that it exists primarily due to the commitment and passion of our members. Our members are dedicated to seeing a fairer and more progressive society, and they are the ones who roll up their sleeves to make it happen. I wish to acknowledge and thank Patrick Gorman, the secretary; and Lenda Oshalem, the assistant secretary of WA Labor for your support and friendship. To the former Labor Member for Belmont, Eric Ripper, you have been a wonderful supporter and mentor. You should be proud of all you achieved during your career. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Mal Bryce, the former Labor member for the seat of Ascot. To the many volunteers, it was entirely humbling to have people dedicate so much of their personal time to help my campaign. I simply could not have done it without you guys. To the many people who donated to my campaign; to the branch members; the supporters who had a yard sign; those of you who came out doorknocking on very, very hot days, made countless phone calls, letterboxed and helped out on polling day; and to those who flew across the country from Queensland, Victoria and Canberra, to help my campaign —what can I say? Wow! Thank you to each and every one of you. You know who you are and I am ever so grateful. To the unions who have supported me, thank you. I would like to especially thank Mike Zoetbrood and the Australian Workers' Union team, Peter O'Keefe and the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Tim Dawson and the Transport Workers' Union of Australia, Christy Caine and the Maritime Union of Australia, and Mick Buchan and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union. Again, the work you do is invaluable.

Finally, as members of Parliament we are provided with a unique opportunity to positively influence public debate and shape the future of our state. A good government's role is to ultimately protect and invest in the welfare and aspirations of the people it represents. I am committed to pursuing an agenda of equality and being a tireless advocate for my community in Belmont. In finishing, I believe each of us has the capacity, and indeed the obligation, to contribute to and improve our society. As my political hero, Robert F. Kennedy, once said —

Let no one be discouraged by the belief there is nothing one person can do against the enormous array of the world's ills, misery, ignorance, and violence. Few will have the greatness to bend history, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. And in the total of all those acts will be written the history of a generation.

[Applause.]

MR S.J. PRICE (Forrestfield) [4.06 pm]: Mr Acting Speaker, thank you, and can I congratulate you on your election to your position and also the Speaker on his election to his position in this house. May I also thank the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and all of the support services here in the house who have been outstanding in their support and assistance to me and all the new members.

It is with a great deal of pride and humility that I stand here before you today in this house as the proud member for Forrestfield, in this the fortieth Parliament of Western Australia—as a proud member of the McGowan Labor government and as a proud member of the Australian Workers' Union. The magnitude of the honour, the privilege and the trust the electors of Forrestfield have bestowed on me will not be forgotten and never taken for granted. I promise to do my best for them all of the time.

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

Can I start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, the Whadjuk–Noongar people, and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. Aboriginal people were first recorded in the Forrestfield electorate area at the time of colonisation in 1829. The Beeloo people inhabited the area in which the Shire of Kalamunda is now located and were a subgroup of the Whadjuk people. According to the Kalamunda Library Service and researchers Carol Mansfield and Marcia Maher, the Beeloo lands covered an enormous area, which was bounded by the Canning River on the south, Melville Water on the west, and by the Swan River and Ellen Brook on the north. The eastern boundary was a bit harder to ascertain, as it seems that the tribe liked to traverse the ranges looking for food and to get out of the wet, and they moved to the much drier east, as far as present-day York or Beverley. I thank them for their custodianship of the land.

I was born in Bunbury and moved to Harvey, a small south west town about two hours from here, when I was five months old. I was the youngest of four children to Margaret and Darryl. Originally dad, his brother and father ran and owned Price Motors, the Holden dealership in Harvey. After a number of years, dad left the dealership and he and mum took on the Harvey newsagency, which they ran for about 15 years. Due to some health challenges that dad had, they sold the newsagency and took on a less onerous role as proprietors of the Harvey health food shop, which they ran until they retired.

Unfortunately, my dad passed away just before the election this year, but I am joined today by my mum, Margaret, my brother, David, and my sister Jane. Unfortunately my other sister, Amanda, was unable to make it. Thank you, mum and dad, for everything. You taught me the values I have today and brought me up to be the person I am. I miss you, dad.

After attending Harvey Primary School and Harvey Senior High School, I completed my secondary schooling at Bunbury Catholic College. This was followed by a stint at university that did not quite work out as planned, and after a number of years, I left! This, at the time, seemed like a good thing to do; however, reality does not take long to kick in when one is looking for a job and does not have many skills with which to get one. Fortunately, a friend was able to help me get a start on a goldmine as a fly in, fly out worker. This was an extraordinary opportunity that led to the sequence of events that has brought me here today to stand before the house.

At that time it was very difficult to obtain work within the mining industry; fly in, fly out work was even more unusual and gold was only \$US400 an ounce. Working at that mine allowed me to pick up some valuable skills and experience, which enabled me to take advantage of future employment opportunities. Two life-changing occurrences also happened at that mine: it is where I first became a member of the Australian Workers' Union, and it is where I met my wife, Melanie.

I left that mine after nearly five years to try to get a job back in the city. I went to another goldmine for a while and then, in 1995, I was able to secure a job at an alumina refinery just out of Yarloop. There I worked as a rigger–crane driver on a maintenance crew in an area known as OC2. I also became more involved in the AWU onsite at the refinery. It was here as a delegate, then a senior delegate, and finally as a site convenor, that I learnt the true benefit of being part of the union movement. It was also here, during the AWU elections of 2005, that I first met Bill Shorten—then national secretary of the AWU—and a young national organiser by the name of Paul Howes. After watching and being involved with Bill and Paul over the following years as they reinvigorated and reunited the AWU, it was with a sense of anticipation and excitement that I made the approach to work for the Western Australian branch of the AWU.

After 12 years at the alumina refinery, I left at the end of 2006 to start as an organiser for the union in January 2007. I was privileged to be appointed as the assistant secretary in December 2007, and then secretary in July 2008. I remained as secretary of the union until I was preselected, after which I stepped down to enable a smooth transition for the new leadership team and allow time for Mike Zoetbrood to establish himself as the new secretary.

This also allowed me to concentrate on the upcoming campaign. Any campaign is a team effort, and I had one of the best teams going. I would like to wholeheartedly thank Marie Liau, who was my campaign manager. Thank you, Marie. Without you, I am sure I would not be standing here today. I was the beneficiary of your wisdom, your experience and your strategic thinking. You had a campaign plan, which we stuck to, and the result speaks for itself.

Without the constant support and guidance of my good friend and campaign director, Senator Glenn Sterle, I would not have been able to undertake the campaign I did. “Sterley”, you are one of the best. Thank you for everything—not only over the last 12 months, but for the decade before that as well. Your continued support and mentoring is something I will always treasure.

To the rest of my incredible team, I would like to put on the record my eternal gratitude, thanks and appreciation to the following people: Fiona Sterle, Karen Newby, Cheryl Potkura, Ben Wholagan, Joseph Creese, Peter Brisbane, and Shaun Hawkes. Thank you also to Terry and Carmela Izzard, Geoff Madigan, Alethea Raspa,

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

Chris Demonte and Molly Blumears. A special thankyou also goes to my staff, Natalie and Peter; thank you for your patience, commitment and understanding as well. To the many, many volunteers, party members, union members and community members who helped on the Forrestfield campaign, thank you, thank you, and thank you again. I could not have done this without all of you. Thanks also have to go to my now parliamentary colleagues, state and federal, and to Patrick Gorman, Lenda Oshalem, and everyone at party office. I would not have been able to do this without all your help.

I would also like to acknowledge the unwavering support from the AWU, both state and national. To Mike Zoetbrood, Brad Gandy and the AWU WA branch, thank you for your constant encouragement, support and belief. Thanks also to Daniel Walton and Misha Zelinsky, respectively national secretary and national assistant secretary of the AWU. It is great to have Misha in the gallery this afternoon; thank you for everything. To previous national secretaries of the AWU Scott McDine, Paul Howes and Bill Shorten, thank you. None of this would have been possible without your encouragement, guidance and support over the years. To my good friends and other AWU state secretaries Ben Swan, Ben Davis, Ian Wakefield and Peter Lamps, and the New South Wales trio of Russ Collison, Wayne Phillips and Richard Downie, I thank you all for your continued friendship and advice.

I must also record my thanks to all the unions who helped out—not only on my campaign, but all the campaigns, especially the Use Your Power campaign by the Australian Services Union and the Electrical Trades Union. In particular, I say thank you to Mike Zoetbrood and the AWU; Peter O’Keeffe and the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Union; Tim Dawson and the Transport Workers Union; Christy Cain and the Maritime Union of Australia; Mick Buchan and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union; and Wayne Woods, Les McLachlan, Steve McCartney, Caroline Smith, and their respective unions.

Prior to the seat of Forrestfield being established in the 2005 redistribution, it was part of the Midland, Belmont and Thornlie electorates. It is home to more than 27 000 people and is made up of three distinct areas, interwoven with various forms of industry and semirural properties. We have High Wycombe and Maida Vale in the north; Forrestfield and Wattle Grove in the centre; and Orange Grove and Kenwick, and parts of Maddington, in the south. This is the third election for the seat of Forrestfield, and, on each occasion, there has been a change of local member. I certainly intend to stop this trend! The voting intentions of the Forrestfield electorate are very clear. I would be a very unwise member not to learn from the hard lessons learnt by those before me over the last three elections. I also acknowledge the former members for Forrestfield—Nathan Morton, and, before him, Andrew Waddell, the current president of the Shire of Kalamunda.

Located in the foothills, the Forrestfield electorate is the gateway to the hills region, including Kalamunda, Lesmurdie and Pickering Brook, and also the Swan Valley region to the north. With rapid growth and development in suburbs such as Wattle Grove, Forrestfield, High Wycombe and Maida Vale, the electorate of Forrestfield has a very big and bright future. It is just a shame that parts of the electorate cannot even access ADSL1, let alone the national broadband network. I will continue to work with the Shire of Kalamunda and the City of Gosnells to ensure that development within the areas of Maddington and Kenwick in the Forrestfield electorate continues. I will strongly advocate for continued government investment in vital infrastructure projects to enable future redevelopment in these areas, which will also allow for the creation of future employment opportunities.

A significant number of constituents have raised issues with me regarding policing in the electorate of Forrestfield. During the campaign, I committed to extending the opening hours of the Forrestfield Police Station until 7.00 pm. I am pleased to confirm that the Forrestfield Police Station will be open until 7.00 pm as from last Monday, 8 May. I realise policing issues are not only Forrestfield issues, and I am pleased that the McGowan government has a comprehensive plan for tackling some of our most immediate policing challenges.

The Forrestfield–Airport Link project is a significant piece of infrastructure for the state and for the electorate of Forrestfield. We have the opportunity to plan the future development and infrastructure needs of the adjacent area to take maximum advantage of future development potential. This project will allow the establishment of new residential and retail developments. The development fits perfectly into the WA Labor metro hubs proposal and will enable the establishment of next generation industries and create local jobs for local people. We have to take advantage of its location in relation to the opportunities associated with becoming a major logistics hub to service the aviation, transport and surrounding industries into the future. We need to ensure that training opportunities and facilities are central to this development. This is the pathway to employability for local residents. This approach needs to be supported through improved educational opportunities resulting from increased resources being made available to the local schools.

I would also like to make special mention of a few very important local groups: the Lot 20 Adelaide St Community Awareness Group, the Foothills Information and Referral Service—also known as FIRS—and the Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands.

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

Adelaide Street in High Wycombe is a unique street for all the wrong reasons. The residents on Adelaide Street and within the surrounding neighbourhood of Jacaranda Springs are caught up in a terrible set of circumstances regarding planning, development and environmental issues. I will continue to advocate and work with the group with the aim of achieving a satisfactory outcome for them. FIRS provides a number of vital services to the people in the Forrestfield electorate who are in desperate need of assistance. It is also a platform for many community groups and play groups to operate within the area, bringing together the diverse community of the electorate. Unfortunately, FIRS has some significant financial challenges ahead of it. Sometimes, biggest is not always best, and I will continue to fight to maintain this very important local service. The Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands perform an amazing role in protecting and re-establishing this globally unique wetlands in Kenwick. Their work in ensuring this area is revegetated and cared for is amazing and I will continue to support them in any way I can.

My previous role as secretary of the AWU allowed me a unique insight into the challenges confronting the state's economy and the working people of Western Australia. In my view, the current attack on penalty rates is one of the biggest challenges we will see on workers in this country. The fact that only a small group of workers have been singled out as inferior to others and therefore deserve a lesser penalty rate is disgraceful. The point I need to stress here and make sure every working person understands is that this will affect everyone, and most importantly of all, it will affect our children. These cuts are meant to take effect from 1 July 2017, and it is a Saturday. As sure as night follows day, when you walk into your local coffee shop on Sunday morning, 2 July, there will not be extra staff employed to serve you because penalty rates have been cut. Your skinny decaf soy latte will not be any cheaper because penalty rates have been cut. You will not even notice the change unless you are the person serving that skinny decaf soy latte, and you have had your penalty rates cut.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr S.J. PRICE: You might be one of those people who think that cutting penalty rates does not impact on you because you might be on a contract or on an annualised salary. If that is you, you are wrong. You may not be able to physically see it on your pay slip, but an amount for penalty rates would have been included in the overall construction of your total salary. The attack on hospitality and some retail workers is only the first salvo. We need to do what we can to protect penalty rates. This is not the end game. This is only the beginning. The end game is to get rid of penalty rates—full stop.

Another area that we need to focus on and ensure there is an improvement in support and resources is workplace occupational health and safety, focusing on workplace deaths. Occupational health and safety in WA workplaces is very complicated. We have the Resources Safety division, which is responsible for resource sector workplaces; EnergySafety, which is responsible for the technical and safety regulation of all the electrical and most of the gas industry in Western Australia; the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, which is responsible for safety in the offshore industry in commonwealth waters; the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, which is responsible for safety on railways; the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which is responsible for safety in the maritime industry; and Worksafe, which is essentially responsible for all other workplaces. On average, a Western Australian worker is killed every 19 days. This is according to a Worksafe report released in September 2016, which states that 19 days is the average number of days a person is fatally injured in a workplace in Western Australia based on a five-year period from 2011–12 to 2015–16—19 days!

As I stand here in this place tonight, Madam Deputy Speaker, and look around our side of the chamber, I wish to congratulate all the new and re-elected members and want to draw your attention to the number of female members who were elected. This is a fabulous outcome for the people of Western Australia, and credit needs to be given to the WA Labor Party for our affirmative action policy. People have been critical of gender policies or female quotas previously. They are right, we should not need them, but when the willingness to change is less than committed, it certainly ensures there are improvements, and actions speak so much louder than words. As a father of four daughters, gender equality is something that is dear to my heart. It is disgraceful that Western Australia has the highest gender imbalance in Australia when it comes to wages. There is no acceptable reason for this. WA continues to have the worst gender pay gap in the nation, with women earning around 24 per cent less than what men earn, compared with that really good average of only 16 per cent less across the nation. This is not good enough and this is why we need strong policies and legislation to ensure gender equality and to drive that change. The issues that could lead to workplace gender disparity are not new and all of them can and should be addressed. We need to ensure that women can maximise their earning potential and can return to the workforce. We must ensure that there are family friendly employment arrangements and flexibilities in place to facilitate this and that every person is paid appropriately. We must ensure that our daughters can aim for the sky.

I have saved my final thanks for my wife, Melanie, and our four beautiful daughters, Abbey, Erin, Rani and Tia. I am extremely fortunate to have the family I have. Without their unwavering love, belief and support, none of this

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would have been possible. To Mel, our girls and everyone who has supported me and to all of the people in the Forrestfield electorate; thank you. I will not take your trust and belief in me for granted and I will always work as hard as I can in your interest in order to repay the faith you have shown in me. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys) [4.30 pm]: Thank you, Deputy President —

Several members interjected.

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Deputy Speaker—I need to make the transition from one house to the other. It is a great honour and privilege to be standing in the Legislative Assembly of the Western Australian Parliament as the member for Hillarys. I praise God for the magnificent blessings he has bestowed on my family and me throughout our lives. I pay respect to our sovereign and thank Her Excellency the Governor for addressing us at the opening of Parliament. I congratulate the Speaker on his election to the position. I point out that the Speaker and I have three very important things in common: we both have a great name; we both saw the light and moved to this wonderful state from Victoria; and, most important of all, we both support the mighty Collingwood Football Club.

I congratulate every member of Parliament for their election to this place and I sincerely wish the new government the very best because, irrespective of which political party we represent, our first and most important duty is to represent the best interests of all Western Australians. That is what I am here to do and that is what I intend to do for all the time I am here. This may be the third parliamentary chamber to which I have been elected in my life, but my sense of duty and service to my electorate and to our state does not diminish in the slightest with the passing of the years.

The recent election campaign was the toughest I have ever personally been involved in, in more than 30 years in politics. Just like every member in this chamber, I chose to go into politics knowing that politics is a tough game and not one for the faint-hearted, but I did not choose to be subjected to daily vitriolic abuse, to have me and my family threatened and intimidated or to be racially abused. No person in Australia in 2017 should have to explain to their children what “wog” means after they have heard that word yelled at them at a shopping centre by a person who really should know much better.

Everyone else seems to have had their say on the Hillarys campaign except for me and my family. We are expected to grin and bear it, to turn the other cheek and to rise above it all. But I speak up today because death threats, slashed tyres and racial abuse do not belong in any part of Australian life—not now; not ever. I hope no candidate from any party has to endure them ever again. After all, we need more good people to put up their hands to run for public office.

Despite every obstacle placed in my way, I managed to get elected, and for that I owe a huge debt of gratitude to many people. First, of course, I owe it to the residents and voters of the seat of Hillarys. Throughout the long and tough campaign, I was heartened and encouraged by so many local people who would come up to me at community events, shops, sporting clubs and local schools to express their support and encourage me to continue. That is why I am so proud to represent our local area in Parliament. Every single day, I will work diligently to make our area and our state an even better place to live. I will advocate strongly for the things that matter to our local residents and my office door will always be open to listen to them and assist them in any way I can.

A special thankyou in all this must go to my family. My Greek name is not Peter. It is Panagiotis, but in Greek the name Peter means rock. In our family, my wife, Karalee, is my rock and the person who keeps the whole show on the road. She has been an absolutely amazing support to me and I could not have done any of this without her. Thank you, my angel, for everything. The kids—Andrew, Angelica and Zoe—have grown up around politics and their fun-loving nature certainly improves our spirits even on the darkest days. Ross and Nicolette likewise have lived politics for all their lives—more than 20 years now—and to have been by my side at all times in support. My parents, Argyrios and Nicoletta, are the people who have guided me through my life and instilled in me the values that I still hold true today—love for family, thrift and savings, respect for others, and the certainty that the individual who is prepared to work hardest for what they really want will triumph in the end.

I also thank my sister, Rani, and her husband, Peter. I wish them well in the health struggles that they are going through right now. My cousin Ourania Katsambanis, or “Nitsa” as we call her, is like a second sister to me and an indispensable part of our family. She was again by our side in March when we needed her most. My mother-in-law, Diane Tilvern, is a strong local support for us, and, of course, she was the first of our family to move to Hillarys almost 30 years ago.

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

I could not have got here without the enormous hard work of my wonderful campaign team, and I want to pay tribute to them for all they have done for me and my family. I refer to the campaign chairman, Brent Fleeton, the deputy chair, Daniel White, the members of the Robe River Club and all our tireless field workers; I will try to name all of them. I apologise if I leave anyone out. I thank Nick Warland, Ben Moore, Alex Daniel, Christine Hamilton-Prime, Adam Walker, Jessica van Zwam, Louis Hutton, Ahmed Suliman, Josh Hughes, Frances Herd, Adam Gangemi, Stefan Deselys-Claite, Sharni Cutajar, Tony Brooks, Sarah Panizza, Troy Clayton and Sandy Evangelisti. I acknowledge the great support from the Moore division through Ian Goodenough, Kevin and Sue Fairman, Colleen Bartels, Kate Taylor, Matt Holliday and Michael Strachan. My brilliant campaign officer Jonny Heron was an amazing source of support and advice, as was the Liberal Party campaign team headed by Andrew Cox and Sam Calabrese. I thank all those people.

The Katsambanis clan certainly answered the call and I was really lucky to have my dad here. I was really lucky to have my father, my son Ross and my cousin “Nitsa” all offering their support when it was most needed. I want to thank my amazing Liberal Party friends across Australia, who were only too willing to lend a hand when needed. I thank my old mate Hon Bernie Finn, Michael Hughes, Harry Hughes, Henry Blacketer, Hamish Jones, Frances Henderson, Brent Crockford, James Duncan, Chris Jermyn, and Dylan Pedersen. The solid freedom crew was back in town for another election like they were in 2013. I give extra special thanks to my former upper house leader, Hon Peter Collier, for all his guidance and support, and to my friend and colleague Hon Liz Behjat, who proved once more that she is an absolutely brilliant campaigner. I wish her and her family every success in the future. The ongoing support from Senator Mathias Cormann and Senator Michaelia Cash has been invaluable, as has the political wisdom of Hon George Cash. I must also thank one of my longest standing friends in politics—Michael Kroger. He has been by my side for more than 30 years and I know I can count on him any time I need assistance or political wisdom. Thanks very much, Michael.

I am a proud Australian but I am also immensely proud of my Hellenic roots. Being Greek and being a Greek Orthodox Christian are intrinsic parts of who I am as a person. I pay special tribute to the entire Greek and Cypriot communities of Perth and Western Australia. They embraced me and my family and made us feel at home within the local Greek community when we first moved here, and they were there by my side during the election campaign. I thank the clergy, the local community leaders and all people of Greek origin who have contributed to so much of this state over many generations and will continue to do so in the future.

The 2017 state election needs to be forever a reminder to the Liberal Party of what happens when we lose touch with our values, and how those values when put into practice are the best values upon which to build a better and more prosperous future for every resident of Western Australia. We must no longer be just a party of government; we must be a party of smaller government. We need to champion lower taxes, rather than just say that we will raise taxes less than the other mob will. We need to cut red tape in a meaningful way so that everyone, from tradespeople and small business owners through to the volunteers at the school fete or the junior sports club canteen, can see a real reduction in the bewildering set of often nonsensical rules, regulations and paperwork that they are confronted with in their daily lives. We do not need to do this for ideological purity. We should do this because lower taxes and less red tape allow people to get on with making a better life for themselves and their families. They inspire businesses, especially small businesses, to grow and create more employment opportunities. More jobs mean that more people get to have control of their own destiny and can proudly provide for their families. Over the past 200 years free enterprise and market capitalism have been the forces that have lifted more people out of poverty than ever before and have built a more prosperous, healthier and better world. As the party for small business, smaller government, lower taxes and less red tape, we should start promoting these values as the basis for improving the living standards of every family in the future. The Liberal Party has a proud record of helping those in society who need a hand due to age, disability or personal circumstances, but we should not build a hammock for those who do not want to pull their weight or subsidise those who simply do not need a handout.

One of the most fundamental things required to build a strong, cohesive and prosperous society is for us to have a sense of safety and security in our homes, our streets, our suburbs and our towns. There is no doubt that today many people, especially the more vulnerable members of our society, do not feel as safe or as secure as they deserve to feel. The causes of crime are many and complex, but, sadly, the consequences for victims of crime are only too familiar. That is why I unashamedly always stand with law-abiding citizens and with victims of crime. I support our police, who do a great job under the most difficult and confronting circumstances. I will never apologise for supporting tougher sentences for dangerous criminals who commit serious crimes, especially crimes that hurt others. I will continue to champion mandatory minimum sentences for offenders at the most serious end of the spectrum, such as murderers, drug traffickers, serious sex offenders and particularly those who commit offences against our children. Although the previous Liberal government made a start by introducing mandatory jail sentences for those who assault police, there remains unfinished business, especially with the most hardened serious criminals in our society, and that includes drug traffickers.

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During the election campaign the new government talked a tough game on crime. I sincerely hope it will be tough on crime now that it is on the treasury bench. If it is, I will applaud and support it, but if it is just the usual political rhetoric that is quickly ditched post-election, I will be right here holding it to task and continuing to stand up for the rights of victims of crime and law-abiding citizens.

Our corrections system, especially our juvenile justice system, is an area in which I would really like to make a difference during my time in this place. We know that most crimes are committed by those who have offended before—the so-called recidivist offenders. We also know that recidivists more often than not start off offending at the lower end of the scale and escalate to more serious crimes over time. Although often dismissed as a pipedream, if we could intervene and put these people on to a different and better pathway early on, we would reduce crime, reduce the impact of crime on our society, have far fewer victims of crime and eventually require fewer jails or detention facilities. The overall benefits to our society are obvious and clear, which is why we should not dismiss attempts to reduce reoffending but, instead, support them and seek best practice. I do not have all the answers in this area and nobody else has come up with a fail-safe solution to stop criminals reoffending, but I know for sure that the answer is not to let more dangerous criminals onto our streets. We will not solve the problem by throwing open the doors of our prisons and letting out offenders who the criminal justice system and our society have already determined need to be in jail. That would be our society's worst nightmare and lead to more crime and more victims. Instead, we need to examine the programs that have been put in place in Western Australia and in other places to see what works and what does not work, and adopt only the best practices that have been proven to give better outcomes. But at all times we cannot lose sight of the fact that keeping dangerous criminals behind bars is the necessary cost of keeping Western Australians safe.

Sadly, when costs and government expenditure are mentioned in modern day Western Australia, the elephant in the room must be addressed. We do not get our fair share of GST. As I pointed out as far back as my first speech in the other place, we also miss out on our fair share of nearly all types of federal funding. I said then that we were approaching crisis point and that unless the matter was addressed, we would need to consider whether the federation was still relevant to us. The people of Western Australia spoke loud and clear at the recent election. They no longer care about the politics, the niceties or the intricacies of GST reform. They are demanding that the problem is fixed immediately and that WA finally get a population-based share. They do not care who fixes it or how it is fixed; they just want it fixed. Right now federal politicians from every state need to stand up and prove that I was wrong in that first speech I made four years ago when I said that the problem with Canberra was not that it does not understand Western Australia, but that it simply does not care about Western Australia. I do not think I need to expand on the pitfalls that will be faced by those who continue with this dismissive attitude.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: By getting our rightful share of GST, we will finally be able to genuinely improve the lives of Western Australians. During the election campaign, the people of Hillarys made it clear to me that they were extremely concerned about the opportunities that would be available to future generations. Every parent and every grandparent wants their children and grandchildren to have a better standard of living than they did. That can only be achieved by ensuring that employment opportunities are abundant now and into the future so that young people can be confident that they will be able to find and keep a job, buy a house and start their own family in Western Australia, rather than having to go interstate or overseas. The role of government in providing such opportunities is one of the great political debates of any era, and it has been discussed for centuries, but all the evidence suggests that the best way to achieve a more prosperous society is for government to get the taxation settings right and to let the private sector get on with creating more jobs. When we get our GST back, the first priority of government must be to cut job-destroying taxes such as payroll tax, stamp duty and land tax.

As members of Parliament, we must also look at successful examples of how critical government services and infrastructure can be delivered better and more cost-effectively by the private sector. Joondalup Health Campus, in the heart of the northern suburbs, is a prime example of this. It has been delivering high-quality health care to the people of my electorate, including my family, for more than 20 years. The Productivity Commission uses Joondalup Health Campus as the prime example of how all Australian governments can use the private sector to reduce the ever-growing costs of the health system without compromising quality. Too often it is said that governments are great at repeating the mistakes of the past. It is time they started replicating their successes too.

Back in 2010, my family and I decided to make Western Australia our home because, like so many other people who have settled here in the past decade, we worked out that this was the best place in the world to raise a family. It is a place where people are rewarded for their hard work with a wonderful standard of living and they become part of a fabulous local community. In 2010, we chose Hillarys to be our local community in Western Australia and we soon became an active part of many local groups, including play groups, the Whitford Family Centre, Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club, Whitfords Junior Football Club and Whitfords Junior Cricket Club. As the

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member for Hillarys, I will remain an active member of our local community, and I am an active part of all those groups and many more, but now I get the extra bonus opportunity to be so much more. I intend to be a strong and effective voice in our state Parliament for residents of Padbury, Craigie, Sorrento, Hillarys and Kallaroo.

Our area is generally seen as relatively prosperous but we have lacked rigorous representation for far too long. This is reflected in a lack of basic state government infrastructure that other places take for granted. Our local schools do a wonderful job and are fantastic proof that independent public schools work to give better education opportunities for young people. However, ageing school buildings at schools such as Hillarys Primary School and Springfield Primary School can no longer be simply patched up. The 40-year-old buildings at these schools need to be rebuilt to allow the teachers and the local school community to continue their great work in modern facilities. For people who live in my local area, easing congestion is critical. Congestion costs their businesses money and, even more importantly, costs them precious family time. Throughout the campaign, locals told me that the mess on the Mitchell Freeway in the mornings needs to be fixed immediately. We need an additional city-bound lane on the Mitchell between Hodges Drive and Whitfords Avenue—and we need it now. The previous government set aside funds for this work to be done and I call on the new government to honour this commitment because it is vital for residents not just in my electorate, but across the entirety of the northern suburbs.

I will continue to campaign strongly for other important local projects, such as lights for sporting ovals so that young people can remain active, and support local early childhood centres that provide a solid foundation for lifelong learning. I will continue to advocate for keeping our local streets safe through important road safety initiatives such as improved intersections near school drop-off points, staying tough on hoons and improving cycling infrastructure. I will also fight to see the stamp duty concessions become a reality for seniors who are downsizing. This would reward our seniors for their many years of contribution to our society and will stimulate our housing market by providing a better choice of accommodation and making housing genuinely more affordable for new home buyers.

Deputy Speaker, today I begin a new chapter serving the people of the Hillarys electorate as their local member of Parliament. I will continue to work tirelessly to make my local area and Western Australia an even better place to live in the future. Thank you for the indulgence of the house.

[Applause.]

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Parliamentary Secretary) [4.53 pm]: Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Noongar people, and pay my respects to their elders past and present. I congratulate the member for Albany, Peter Watson, on his election as Speaker and, of course, you on your election as Deputy Speaker. I congratulate the Premier Mark McGowan on leading an emphatic victory for WA Labor and all the newly elected members in this place.

I am in the fortunate position of making my second inaugural speech, though I am a little bit less nervous this time. Coming from the Legislative Council, I am quite practiced at making long, meandering speeches, but I will try to contain myself for this one. I am really thrilled to stand as the member for Morley in this place. It is a particular thrill to be here with so many other Labor members of the McGowan Labor government. I am excited about the next four years and what we can achieve together. My recent election to the Legislative Assembly has been a real journey for me, having spent the previous Parliament in the Legislative Council as the member for East Metropolitan Region. Picking up the east metro spot for Labor in 2013—a very difficult election for us—was in some ways unexpected. At that time I was acting assistant secretary of United Voice and would very happily have continued down that path. It was a very eventful four years for me, both personally and professionally.

In my valedictory speech in the other place I said that I was hoping for a quieter few years. I have changed my mind! I want the next few years in government to be exciting, busy and productive while we work together to implement our agenda. I have a strong connection with the community and electorate of Morley, which takes in the suburbs of Morley, Noranda, Dianella and Nollamara; the suburb of Morley is split across four electorates. My parents bought their first house on Guildford Road in Bayswater. Indeed, my father still lives there. I spent a large portion of my childhood growing up there and attending local schools, with a number of memorable moments. I smoked my first cigarette at the bus stop outside John Forrest Senior High School—I will not tell you how old I was, mum! While running for a bus, I was hit by a car outside the old Morley bus station and instead ended up in an ambulance. I generally spent too much time hanging out at the then brand-new Galleria Shopping Centre in the late 1980s.

I was motivated by a number of things to run for the seat for Labor: the total lack of development in the nearly 30 years since I was at high school; the broken promises of the previous government about the much needed improvements in public transport; the strong connection I built with local parents and citizens associations, community groups and residents as the upper house member; and, of course, my family and I live in the area and

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we love it. Moving from a held spot in the upper house to run for what was a Liberal seat against a two-term incumbent was a risky strategy, but I firmly believed it was the right thing to do for the community and the Labor Party. To win government we had to win Morley, so I put myself forward as a genuine alternative for the electorate and, gladly, it paid off! It must be said that this was not a task I undertook on my own. I had huge amounts of support from many quarters who are here today, and I will go over that later.

Morley is a great area. It is close to the CBD and the river. There is lots of diversity and local businesses, great schools and strong areas of community. The suburbs in the seat are quite distinct in character and there are some challenges. I will talk a little about each of the areas. Morley, although mostly residential, has a very strong commercial district with many small and medium-sized businesses that are owned by local people. However, it is under-serviced by public transport and suffers from chronic congestion. The Walter Road–Wellington Road intersection is a shocker and is, frankly, choking local businesses. People who live close to the commercial area around the Galleria go elsewhere to shop to avoid this nightmare. The area lacks cycle paths, integrated public transport, pedestrian zones and, of course, a train. In Morley, the car is king and people take their lives into their hands when they walk around and cross local roads. Navigating it safely with a pram or wheelchair is virtually impossible. I am excited about the prospect of developing this area into a modern, thriving hub over the next 30 years.

Noranda is a peaceful suburb with beautiful parks, although the imposing NorthLink freeway is changing that for many residents in both Morley and Noranda. I do not think anyone truly understood the scale or local impact of this enormous road. Of course, there is no doubt it will benefit local businesses and ease congestion but it threatens the ongoing viability of at least one local school, a key environmental asset and, in many instances, it will push more cars onto quiet residential streets. There seems to be a culture of over engineering many of these projects in which a single interchange appears to take over a good portion of a suburb. It seems these road engineering principles dare not be challenged regardless of what bush, forest, houses or existing community infrastructure may be in the way. We must look at smarter options for these projects and make more effort towards making them more sympathetic to the existing environment. Both Noranda and Dianella, despite being close to the transport hub of Morley, are public transport black holes. Those suburbs are geographically spread out, and unless people live close to a major road like Benara Road or Alexander Drive, they cannot catch a bus. Dianella, where I lived until very recently—I now live at the Morley end of the electorate—is also a very peaceful suburb. There is not a cyclepath to be seen—a missed opportunity given its proximity to the city. Residents tell me they crave more vibrancy and activation of local areas, and I have to agree. It is also worth noting that a recent national survey had Dianella as one of the suburbs across the country suffering the worst mortgage stress. The unemployment rate and job insecurity is really biting in those middle-income areas.

Another area suffering in the current economic climate is Nollamara, which has almost double the state average of unemployment. I love Nollamara for its diversity, for its previous member, for its mix of new arrivals and people who have lived there for more than 30 years. Recent overdevelopment of blocks without adequate supporting infrastructure has created some social and practical challenges for residents. In all, it is a great area to represent and live, and I hope to look over this speech at the end of my time as the member for Morley—whenever that may be—and see that we have addressed many of these issues.

I have always believed that in public life we should be open about what we believe in. I will outline the set of principles by which I will be guided when making decisions in this place. I am, and have always been, a strong believer in choice. Women and women alone should have the right to determine their reproductive outcomes. This hard-fought-for right was consistently undermined by the previous Liberal–National government through its privatisation of Midland Public Hospital to a Catholic provider, and the systemic tightening of funding and bureaucratic processes that significantly limited access to family planning and termination services to women in our state, particularly in regional areas.

Choice does not end there. It also applies to birth choices. Compared with most other countries, Western Australian women have limited access to a range of safe birthing choices. The World Health Organization states that ideal rates of caesarean section should be between 10 per cent and 15 per cent. On 2013 health department figures, the WA C-section rate was around 34 per cent, with one private hospital at a staggering 55 per cent. We compare poorly internationally. Many countries have managed to keep their caesarean section rate low, despite facing the same medical issues Australia does. An emphasis on medical intervention has undermined the confidence of women's own ability to give birth naturally.

I also believe, at the other end of life, that we should have the ability to make our own end-of-life choices when faced with a chronic and terminal illness. The circumstances in which we currently allow our loved ones to die, frankly, lack humanity.

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I support marriage equality. It is so overdue that, frankly, we just need to get on with it and end this discrimination. To my good friends in same-sex relationships who have and do not have children, I think you should be able to experience the joys and misery of marriage and divorce just like the rest of us if you chose to!

I joined the Labor Party because I felt strongly then, and still do, about working people's rights, equality, access to education, health and services regardless of their income, postcode or birth circumstances. I am a product of the government education system. If we do not address the current appalling equity issues around gender, it will remain a fact that our daughters, when they graduate from university if that is what they chose to do, will immediately earn less than their male counterparts. That gap will widen further as they progress in the workplace. They will have fewer opportunities to obtain senior positions and promotions, and our daughters will have less superannuation. All those factors mean they will have a higher reliance on government support in their older years, with a high likelihood that they will end up in poverty and/or stuck in an unhealthy and dangerous relationship. Economic independence for our girls should not simply be a lofty ideal. So much is at stake here that it should be viewed as an essential outcome of any government when measuring its success. Pay equity and equal access to economic opportunity are key to this success.

Although women's participation in higher education and paid work has increased, industrial segregation remains entrenched. According to the Workplace Gender Equality Agency the most senior roles are heavily male-dominated, and only 37 per cent of all management categories are female. Australian women are in part-time employment at three times the rate of men, and not by choice. A recent report by Conrad Liveris on the analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that for every underemployed man aged between 25 and 34 years old there are four underemployed women. So, when women are not being paid less than their male counterparts, they are clustered in low-paid professions like cleaning, child care and aged care, and even in those professions they are screaming for full-time work and the majority are unable to get it. A couple of weeks ago I was chatting to one of the cleaners at Hale House. She is a registered nurse in an aged-care facility. Registered nursing requires extensive study; it is a very skilled profession. Even so, she supplements her income with cleaning because she cannot get enough hours in the aged-care facility.

Along with a daughter I have a son, and like all mums I worry about his future. Women are not the only ones struggling in the new and emerging employment markets. Young people are bearing the brunt of the significant trend downwards of full-time jobs. When I started my career after graduating 20 years ago, it was a given that if we got a job it would be full time. Not so now. Many supplement their income with hospitality and cleaning. Not being able to get a full-time job impedes their ability to even rent—let alone buy—a property, get finance for a car or plan for their futures. Being aged 40 I am, sadly, no longer considered young, and I have been guilty of the odd eye roll at “young people”. But we should be in no doubt as to the challenges faced by young people today. It is more expensive than ever to access higher education or training, and no matter what level somebody is educated to it is harder to obtain a job that will actually cover their living expenses.

We need an economy that supports everyone. Over the election period I spoke to so many conservative voters who feel the economy has tipped too far away from ordinary people, and feel that we as decision-makers have not focused enough on the things that directly impact people's lives. An important role of government is to curb some of the harsher aspects of capitalism on the population, while supporting growth and job creation. We can do both. That is why now is such a particularly important time for our state to have a Labor government. Labor can innovate in ways necessary to stimulate and diversify our economy. Only Labor will do so while protecting the most vulnerable from the harsher aspects of this brutal economic environment we find ourselves in.

I want to touch on Parliament and the abject lack of progress and reform made in the past nine years. Every organisation must evolve and reform if it is to remain relevant and to survive, and Parliament is no exception. In the last term I was forced to resign from a committee to take leave to have my baby so that another member could replace me for that time. That was all because of one antiquated standing order. Despite, yes, months of negotiation, the Liberals in the upper house refused at the last minute to agree to a simple amendment that would have allowed the temporary substitution of a member mid-inquiry because of absence through either maternity leave or illness. Demanding someone resign from a position to take maternity leave is illegal in the real world. If an employer did that we would expect them to suffer the full force of the law. Backfilling someone on leave is a scenario dealt with every day in workplaces, yet those simple concepts were beyond the Parliament of Western Australia.

I have no doubt there will be some internal eye rolling about me banging on about this again. Well, I can assure members that I will go on and on and on until it is addressed. If we are to truly represent, we must be prepared to support diversity.

I will now get to the inevitable call for breastfeeding in the chamber. As MPs we have to return to Parliament quick smart after having a baby—often within weeks. That is our choice. Ironically, the government has a strong

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policy supporting breastfeeding in maternity hospitals, yet we make it entirely prohibited in the Parliament. It is a point of deep sadness for me that my son stopped breastfeeding when I returned to Parliament. Despite the constant, awful expressing, it simply did not work. There seems some irrational fear from members, particularly those on the other side, that to allow this reform will turn the chamber into some sort of chaotic creche.

Ms S.F. McGurk: It already is!

Ms A. SANDERSON: Indeed, it will probably lift the standard!

In reality, it will be used by one or two members with young infants on occasion, in order for them to participate in important debates or divisions. It has been suggested that we have a pair system for that. This is simply another way of excluding nursing mothers. Why should we be shunted off into a quiet room while the important business carries on without us? In Australia a number of Parliaments have successfully grappled with this issue and moved to address it. The House of Representatives and the Senate allow breastfeeding, as do the ACT and Tasmanian Parliaments, and the New South Wales Legislative Council. Internationally, the Parliaments of Iceland, Spain, the European Union and Argentina are all examples. I also support the concept of a family room up here. The family nights in the dining room are delightful, but totally impractical. Your other half has to get a suit on or get dressed up, get the kids up here and bring them up at the worst time of day. The children have to sit nicely in the dining room and then you see your partner off home to deal with all of the fall out of tired, cranky children while you stay here for the rest of the night. Although that might suit some members, it does not suit everyone. These changes are small and frankly the community expects them. This is not about looking after ourselves, but broadening our appeal to those who may wish to run for Parliament in the future, instead of self-selecting early out of the process because it is too hard. I am optimistic about the prospect of changes in this place with the election of a new Speaker, and soon President, and so many women in the Parliament. Sadly for the Parliament, the vast majority of the new women are only on the Labor side, which is not good overall for democracy.

There are so many people to thank and it is really hard to know where to start. Many, many people have supported my journey. I want to thank United Voice members for their incredible support for me and so many other people who sit here today. The political process is heavily stacked against working people, particularly low-paid working people, yet they are the ones who most often bear the brunt of government and economic decisions. These people should have a voice.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms A. SANDERSON: As a union representing mostly low-paid women facing a relentless drive to lower wages, strip penalty rates and reduce working conditions in a demanding economy, you are the only thing standing between members and minimum-wage poverty. I am proud to work with you all now and into the future. It is important to me to have a good network of support, particularly of women. Carolyn Smith and Sue Lines, two women in the Labor movement I have admired for many years, are always a source of incredible support. You have taught me to be fearless and not to back down when you believe deeply in something, and you have always got my back. There are not too many people I trust to boss me around effectively, and, Sue, as my campaign director you did an outstanding job, keeping us accountable, on target and lifting us up when we needed it. Cheryl Davenport, my EMILY's List mentor, is a legendary Labor woman, though I am sure she will be embarrassed by my saying so. You have left a true legacy in Western Australia and I hope I can make even a portion of a difference to people's lives in my time in this place. To Patrick Gorman and Lenda Oshalem, the leadership team at the party office, I have to say you led an outstanding campaign and congratulations to you. The sheer volume of people we spoke to over the last year attests to the kind of campaign we ran. It was positive and focused on people, and the community responded strongly to it. Thank you to Tom Beyer for the relentless doorknocking and phone schedule, for the kilos I lost in the process and for your willingness to get out there yourself and push us all hard, although I think I did pull rank once when you were insisting on taking our volunteers out in hurricane conditions! To all of the incredible local volunteers—too many to name—you came out in pouring rain or 40-degree heat and humidity. It has been such a pleasure getting to know you all and none of this is possible without you. I look forward to a long friendship with you all over the coming years. To my good friend, Lisa Jooste, who doorknocked with me for the past 12 months, I cannot tell you how much I value your friendship and support. Alicia Anderson, and Misccka, the campaign dog, thank you for lifting us all up when we needed it and for your outstanding navigation of digital media. To Dominic Rose and Naomi McLean, who have been with me since I entered the Legislative Council in 2013, my decision to run for Morley meant deep uncertainty for you both, but was met with nothing but excitement and support. I have loved working with you both over the last few years, and you simply cannot put a value on knowing that things are well looked after. Special thanks for keeping everything going when I had my son and allowing me the short space to really enjoy him in the early days. Dom, I have been lucky to work with such a good friend. I have become so accustomed to seeing you every day and working with you that your absence has left a big hole.

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To Kate and Julian, my long suffering parents: mum, I know you would not have chosen politics for me. It is a rough business, but you guys have always supported me in every aspect of my life. It is ironic that it is not really until you become a parent that you truly understand what your parents do for you, and you have been incredible parents. To my partner, Phil, who I have known more than 20 years, that is a long time to know someone before getting to know them on a different level. Sometimes I think we have crammed 20 years of life events into the last three, but there is no better person to share it with, and you have brought warmth, humour and joy into mine and Chloe's lives. There is no doubt it is hard going doing this job and having a young family for us and our partners. I made the decision to run for Morley when I was around seven months pregnant with our son. I could have stayed in the upper house and in many ways it would have suited our family life much better, but you never hesitated in your support, and that is not to say that it is always easy for you. The unpredictable nature of both politics and small children means these two are not comfortably matched, but we tackle the daily challenges together on an equal footing and I feel very lucky to share my life with you and to have your support to follow my dreams. My daughter Chloe, you came along at just the right time. You brought sunshine into my life when it was most needed. Watching you grow into a funny, smart—too smart sometimes—and gorgeous girl is a delight. To my son Hugo, such a happy soul, you have brought us all together with your cuddles and fun and you take the sting out of any bad day. My children are a constant reminder of what is really important.

Ultimately, thank you to the voters of Morley for putting your faith in me as your representative. Particular thanks to the many long-term Liberal voters who supported me at this election—'tis not a task I undertake lightly. I cannot say that I will be perfect, but I will give it everything I have and do the very best that I can for you and our community.

[Applause.]

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley) [5.17 pm]: I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. I make that acknowledgement not merely because it is important to pay our respects, but to recognise that there must be a proper appreciation of the importance of connection to country.

Madam Acting Speaker, this evening I wish to speak to three separate constituencies: firstly, to the people of Western Australia; secondly, to the people of Mount Lawley; and thirdly, to the honourable members assembled in this chamber. I speak first to the people of Western Australia. Let me introduce to you the neighbourhood and community I now have the great honour and privilege of representing. Mount Lawley is geographically the smallest electorate in the state, yet it has all the diversity that our great state enjoys. It stretches from Wanneroo Road and Morley Drive to the shores of the Swan River, and takes in places named in the language of the custodians of our country, like Yokine and Coolbinia, and suburbs named for symbols of religious significance, like Menora. This last one is appropriate in a region that holds the largest Jewish population in the state. It has the best Jewish school in the state, Carmel School in Dianella, and it has best Muslim school, the Australian Islamic College, also in Dianella. Whilst we are on education, it has the terrific Mount Lawley Senior High School and the renowned Perth College. At the Edith Cowan University Mount Lawley campus we are blessed with the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, one of the pre-eminent performing arts schools in the country. We have community-based early learning and childcare centres and wonderful primary schools like Mount Lawley, Coolbinia, Yokine, West Morley and Sutherland Dianella. We have Catholic primary schools like St Paul's, and Infant Jesus School in Morley, and TAFE campuses like North Metropolitan TAFE in Lord Street. We have wonderful sporting and community groups like the Coolbinia Bombers, the Mount Lawley Inglewood Roos, the Beaufort Street Community Centre, the Dianella Community Centre and the Yokine Community Playgroup. We have thriving Kenyan and Greek expatriate communities and people from all over the world. Just last week, I was honoured to attend a citizenship ceremony in my community and witnessed as scores more people swore an oath of allegiance to our great country. We have industry, we have small businesses, and we have a thriving cafe and retail scene along Perth's best-known street, Beaufort Street. We have an active and energetic LGBTI community, and a terrific constellation of older Australians, centred on a wonderful retirement community in Menora, who have contributed so much to our history and yet who remain so passionate about our future.

It is no surprise that our thriving community relishes and protects its diversity, for we also have those who have fled dictatorships, holocaust survivors from Nazi Germany, and South Africans of all colours and creeds who have fled the abhorrence of apartheid. Too many of my constituents know first-hand the devastating consequences when politicians and demagogues divide communities with hate on the basis of race and fear.

This is the first time the seat of Mount Lawley has ever been won by the Labor Party, but the Labor Party is well-known and well-respected in the suburbs that make up most of the electorate. I acknowledge the former member for Yokine, a great friend and former Labor government minister, Hon Bob Kucera. Bob, you were by

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my side for so much of our campaign, and everywhere we went, people were rushing to greet you. You have left an indelible mark on our community and I thank you. Your joy in my victory seems to outshine my own!

I want to thank the people of Mount Lawley for placing their trust in me to be their representative in this place. In the short period since the election, I have had an opportunity to reflect on our campaign to win the seat of Mount Lawley. Together with my tireless campaign team, we campaigned on our vision for the future of our community and, more broadly, for the future of Western Australia. To those who fear that the mainstream political parties are growing too close, I tender as exhibit a this most recent state election. We on this side of the chamber advanced a socially progressive and economically responsible agenda—a classic Labor blueprint built around jobs, health, education, and public transport. In Mount Lawley, we put an emphasis on responsible investment back into our community, as well as restoring integrity and discipline to our financial affairs. There was and is a deep philosophical difference between the progressive and the conservative sides of politics. We on the progressive side recognise and respect the active role that government must play on its side of the social contract. We staunchly opposed the privatisation of Western Power.

I pause at this point to convey my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the Mount Lawley campaign team, without whom I would not be in this place this evening. Hon Alanna Clohesy, MLC, a member of the other place, has diligently advanced the interests of all her constituents in East Metropolitan Region, and has dedicated her life to public service, but has done so with a full-hearted and full-throated commitment to social justice. Lan, I hope to emulate your achievements, but also your methods. Thank you. Our campaign manager, Dennis Liddelow, is tireless, accommodating, sympathetic and passionate, and an inspiration to the team. I also thank the campaign committee of Rewi Lyall, Brad Geatches, Hope Smith, Tim Dymond and Mia Onorato Sartari. To the two field organisers, Ben Latham and Jack Eaton, it is so good to have you both on board for the next part of the journey. You recruited and inspired a terrific team of activists and volunteers.

I had the pleasure of being preselected as Labor's candidate for the seat of Mount Lawley in February 2016. Within weeks, Phil O'Donoghue was by my side week in, week out as we knocked on doors throughout the electorate. For more than a year, we knocked on doors and spoke to voters, constituents and neighbours, and even some friends—and, Phil, it was always a delight to have you out there with me.

To our countless volunteers, such as Aaron Mackrell, Sonia Gurrin, Emily Baldwin and Joe and Hazel Butorac; the many other doorknockers, such as Eugene Duggan, Mike Hatzidakis, Tom French and Jai Wilson; the letter-boxers and leafletters, like Mima Comrie and Phil Kennedy; the phonecallers like Pete Mudie, Lee Smoire, Amy Bracegirdle, Caleb Gardiner, Andy Skinner and Brock Oswald, and everyone else—many of whom I am sure to have forgotten, for which I am sorry—you were an incredible source of encouragement and support, united as we were in a common goal, but for an amazing variety of reasons.

I personally had many reasons for wanting to succeed in this endeavour, but there was one reason that kept coming up time and again. Parliament has a tremendous role to perform in our society, and it needs to perform that role well. So often, people would tell me that they had been put off politics by the divisiveness, bickering and pettiness of our politicians. They were disappointed by so many broken promises, and by a government that had lost belief in the important role of government in society. A recent poll by the Lowy Institute found that only 42 per cent of 18 to 29-year-olds agreed with the proposition that democracy is preferable to any other form of government. Members need reflect only on what I said earlier about the danger of demagogues to know precisely where I stand on this issue.

Too many of our earlier generations of Australians have sacrificed too much for those of us with the privilege of serving in this chamber to allow this state of affairs to go unchallenged. There has been an eroding of credibility in this institution that must be reversed. Our history and our heritage are littered with the souls of the faithful departed who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend and advance our freedoms—be they the miners on the goldfields of Ballarat who made a stand at the Eureka Stockade and took an oath on the Southern Cross, be they our diggers across too many wars, or be they anyone who has challenged unjust laws with the aspirational and clear-sighted aim of advancing a fair Australia.

It was because I felt I could make a difference, advocate on behalf of my community, and restore some credibility to our democratic process that I decided to nominate as the Labor candidate for Mount Lawley. I have always voted Labor. When you are raised by a father who is a tradie and a mother who works as an education assistant, you are raised on the classic Australian working-class and middle-class values of looking after your mates, looking after those less fortunate than you, and looking after the community. You are raised on the values of reward for hard work and effort and of contributing your fair share. You are raised with a view that you should always give back more than you take.

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With these values as my guide, I left home when I was 19 and moved to Western Australia. Two great friends, Dave Turk and Tim Huggins, and their families welcomed me when I arrived in Perth and helped me get on my feet. I had the great privilege of studying at the University of Western Australia, and for a time served as a representative on the university senate, the student guild and as president of the National Union of Students. In Western Australia, we are blessed with world-class educational institutions that produce outstanding graduates. We need a government that recognises the importance of diversifying the economy and supporting these institutions in the pivotal role they play in that endeavour.

After I graduated from UWA, I began working at Slater and Gordon, renowned as the most progressive law firm in Australia. I want to thank my colleagues from Slaters who have provided inspiration, support and encouragement along the way. To those on the eastern seaboard—Marcus Clayton, Hayden Stephens and James Higgins—thank you. During my time at Slaters, I had the honour of working alongside some outstanding legal practitioners—Tricia Wong, Luisa Dropulich, John Fiocco, Alex Illich and Toby Borgeest being foremost among them—but also of working on fascinating and worthwhile cases that reflected my values. These included advocating on behalf of a security guard who had been racially vilified; women who had been discriminated against by their employers for having had children; and native title and Indigenous claim groups that faced the might of resources companies that seemed to have scant regard for traditional connections to country or for the preservation of ancient cultures.

My day-to-day work was, however, much more prosaic. Routinely, I would help workers who had been injured at work or prosecuted for standing up for their mates. During this time I met Mick Buchan who, when I started doing workers' compensation cases at Slaters, was the occupational health and safety representative at the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union. Mick's mantra was that the members should always come first. As everyone in this chamber will know, Mick has risen to become the secretary of the CFMEU and one of the most thoughtful and respected union leaders in WA. So to you, Mick, and to the officials, organisers and members of the CFMEU, you have been steadfast in your support. Thank you. Dare to struggle, dare to win. In addition to helping members of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, I was also privileged to work extensively on behalf of the State School Teachers' Union and its president, Pat Byrne, and the Asbestos Diseases Society, and Robert and Rose Marie Vojakovic. Each of these organisations and the people who dedicate their working lives to them have provided an inspiration to me. It is these people who understand the myriad trials and tribulations faced by ordinary Western Australians and who do everything in their power to help.

There is nothing quite like sitting down with Rose Marie Vojakovic to hear the story of a young woman in her 40s who is dying from mesothelioma because she played with deadly asbestos dust and fibres when she was a little girl in Wittenoom. There is nothing quite like hearing that because she is a single mum, her young kids will be left without a parent. There is nothing quite like hearing her describe how the dust fell like angel's wings. If I had done nothing else in my career, these stories would have provided enough inspiration for me to seek election to this place. As you watch these victims die, as all your clients inevitably do when they have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, you are astounded by the hard-heartedness of an earlier generation of lawyers who obfuscated and delayed legal cases, awaiting the death of the plaintiff, to help their negligent clients avoid liability and punishment. To those lawyers though, I say: through your actions you provide inspiration to people like me, for only this place has the power under our constitution to introduce industrial manslaughter laws and hold guilty employers to account. Thank you for inspiring me to run for Parliament.

Sadly, industrial manslaughter is not confined to victims of asbestos diseases, as some of my colleagues have already said this evening. It remains prevalent throughout industry, particularly in the transport and construction industries. When we see backpackers come to our beautiful state, with no training, experience or skill, and take jobs on construction sites only to have their lives cut short, we know something is horribly wrong. When I see these workers die, I am motivated to do everything I can to improve workplace health and safety. When you consider the circumstances of their deaths, you do not think it is industrial manslaughter, rather, it is bloody blue murder. For so long as I have the honour of being in this place, members can rest assured that improving workplace health and safety will be an unwavering commitment.

Before I finish, I want to speak to every person who has the privilege of being in this chamber. Firstly, let me congratulate all of you on being re-elected or elected for the very first time. Let me turn to the duty that rests with every person here. You have chosen to become representatives of your community. Presumably, you have done so because you are passionate about the future of our great state. For that I commend you. Now is the time for us to put aside historical differences and focus on what WA needs. Our task is to look to a clear-sighted future built on the proper foundations of democracy, liberty, equality and community. To these three pillars of an inclusive society I would also add the great objectives of compassion and sustainability.

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As the neoliberal project of the last 40 years slowly unwinds, it falls to us to strike a new accord, a new social contract. Speaking to the voters of Mount Lawley during the election campaign, they knew that a collapse in commodity prices was not the fault of the previous government. Whenever I pointed to the state of the economy, traditional Liberal voters would respond with, “That’s not the government’s fault; they don’t control commodity prices.” But these same voters would have to agree when I pointed out the parlous state of WA’s finances, the profligate spending and the terrible assumptions that were characteristic of the previous government. These same voters would demur when I suggested that that same government had blown the mining boom by failing to diversify our economy and capitalise on our natural economic strategic advantages. These same voters would agree that the privatisation of Western Power was the most fiscally irresponsible strategy for addressing this state of affairs. People throughout the electorate were undoubtedly influenced by the effective and disciplined campaign that was run in opposition to the privatisation of Western Power by the Electrical Trades Union headed by Les McLaughlin, and the Australian Services Union and Wayne Wood.

Firstly, let me put on the record my gratitude to both Les and Wayne and to the rank-and-file membership of their respective unions. Secondly, let me congratulate them on running an excellent campaign that put this issue squarely in voters’ minds. To them, I say this: do not be put off by the criticisms of those who say you should not have run this campaign. Too often it seems that those who criticise unions for making public comment are the same who portray themselves as defenders of free speech. You cannot have it both ways. When you have a bad, unpopular policy, you have to accept it is a bad, unpopular policy.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: The voters of Mount Lawley whom I spoke to agreed that the privatisation of Western Power was a bad policy. These same voters also agreed when I suggested that everyday Western Australians needed stable, well-paying jobs and personal economic security in an economy encouraged by an activist government with a plan for jobs. The small businesses along Beaufort Street desperately need an improving economy and customers who can spend money. Ultimately, the people of Mount Lawley recognised that the neoliberal Institute of Public Affairs philosophy of government getting out of the way and letting the market decide had failed the people of Western Australia and resulted in ballooning debt and deficit. It had resulted in cuts to education and cuts to health. It had resulted in increased crime and a scourge of drugs. The people of Mount Lawley realised that without a plan for economic recovery centred on local jobs, too many people would be too poor to play an active role in society. For those champions of freedom without equality opposite, Madam Acting Speaker, through you, I ask this: what is the point of having freedom to do everything when you cannot afford to do anything? The people of Mount Lawley know that there is no point. They now look to a Labor government to whom they have given a ringing endorsement to implement that activist state and lead an economic recovery based on fairness and equality.

After the train smash that was the economically irresponsible Liberal government, once again it falls to Labor to make things right. And we will, whilst maintaining good schools, good hospitals and a properly resourced police force, because we believe that as a society we are better when everybody is okay. There is an emerging consensus in the developed world that only when prosperity is shared equitably can economies become and remain resilient. Once inequality and disparity take hold, economic nationalism destroys the neoliberal program. The IPA philosophy is condemned to the dustbin of history and we must look to a new theory of equitable economic growth in a sustainable environment. Can we do it? Yes, we can! When I look around this chamber, I am filled with optimism about our ability to accomplish this task, blessed as we are in this place with so many who have so much experience, combined with my fellow new parliamentarians, armed as they are with their energy, enthusiasm and intelligence.

As I conclude, let me speak to those I love, without whom I would not be here. Mum and dad—thanks for instilling in me those values that are so much a part of who I am. To my sister, Marni, and my big brother, Marcus, thanks for keeping me modest, giving me guidance and for always being so supportive.

Thanks to my housemates from Leura Street—Tim Huggins, Eric Heenan, Mike Preston, Ivor King, and Ryan Batchelor. All those years ago, you helped shape my political philosophy and my world view. Together you represent a terrific spectrum of political thought from social democrat, through to liberal democrat, through to libertarian. Interrogating our ideas and defending them in debate serves only to strengthen our conviction. To the three people who have been instrumental in providing encouragement and support, and without whom I would not be here today—Chris Prast, David Scaife and Tim Hammond, MP—I say you have kept my head in the game, my feet on the ground and my eyes on the prize. Each in your own way you have provided inspiration by virtue of a philosophy you live; namely, the life you lead is the lesson you teach. Thank you for your advice, your encouragement, your support and your counsel.

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Finally, to my wonderful family—my wife, Tara, and my sons, Willis and Otis. To Tara, thank you for everything. Thank you for your patience and your perseverance, for your kindness, thoughtfulness and strength. Thank you for always reminding me to stay true to what I believe. To my two sons, Willis and Otis, when you came into this world you provided me with the last spark of inspiration I needed to pursue this dream, this goal. It is my responsibility to pass on to you two boys a better world than the one we have inherited. The best way I know how to achieve that is by being a passionate campaigner in this chamber for our community and our state. Unless someone like me cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It is not.

Let me finish with hope. I hope to bring energy and enthusiasm, passion and compassion, thoughtfulness and diligence to this role. I hope to repay the faith and trust that the people of Mount Lawley have placed in me and provide a clear and articulate voice as a dedicated advocate. To the people of Mount Lawley, thank you.

[Applause.]

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.44 pm]: Before I begin my speech, I welcome to Parliament the Macedonian ambassador to Australia in the Speaker's gallery.

It is a great honour to rise as a member of the Mark McGowan-led WA Labor government after our resounding victory that has found us with 41 of the 59 seats in this place. With renewed vigour I accept the endorsement that the people of Thornlie gave me in the election campaign. It is an honour and a great encouragement to hear the tremendous speeches that are being delivered by our new members. It gives me enormous faith in the institution of Parliament that people are so committed to the Labor cause and serving the people of Western Australia and so passionate about their task. It makes me feel that the Parliament of Western Australia will be in good hands well into the future.

I went through my third election campaign, and it was one fought on a number of key substantial issues for the electorate. People were particularly aware of the issue of the privatisation of Western Power. The people of Western Australia now have a dislike for the whole concept of privatisation and the sense of selling off the family silver. People prefer the idea that an asset such as Western Power should be maintained in public hands so that it can deliver a return to the state and cope with various technological changes. Some people put to me that Western Power could be privatised because, after all, the network would no longer be required in an age when people are going off the grid and moving to a combination of renewable energy sources. People suggested that if we move to solar photovoltaics and store energy in batteries, we would no longer have a need for the grid. But then we have seen things advance further, as is the way with technology. People are now beginning to realise that the grid could become more important than ever, because many people will want to trade via the grid the surplus electricity that they produce. We have heard talk about the uber-isation of our electricity network. The grid could remain and become even more important. That is why it should remain in public ownership.

The reasons for our win were many. Causes for concern included people feeling the threat of job losses and the decline and slowing down of the economy. The impact of the massive \$40 billion-plus debt on our state's economy from the deficit weighed heavily on the minds of voters in the seat of Thornlie. Local issues were also very much at play. People were interested to hear about the vision that various parties had for the electorate. Who was looking at the needs of the electorate and coming up with the plans to deliver on those? The 2017 election saw a change in the configuration of the boundaries. The previously named electorate of Gosnells, which I held for two terms, became the seat of Thornlie. A change in boundaries enabled me to canvass to be the representative for the more residential part of Maddington. It was a sobering experience to be campaigning in an area that I had not previously held and, to be honest, with which I had not had a lot of contact.

I went into the area of Maddington and found out the needs of the people there. The area is on the cusp of a redevelopment opportunity. It is relatively close to Perth, depending on how we draw the lines; it is perhaps 14 kilometres from the Perth CBD and it is very well-connected to all kinds of transport infrastructure. Very evident is that vast substantial expanses of land are underused and really ripe for redevelopment. The City of Gosnells has had the desire to create a Maddington town centre in the planning process for a long time. This has been held back for far too long. We could say that perhaps we missed the opportunities of the last residential property boom because the city was not able to deliver on its plans. The city's inability to move things along was not its fault. A lot of the fault rests with the previous Barnett Liberal-National government. It sounds like a relatively minor thing, but under Albany Highway, at the gateway to an area that is ripe for redevelopment, a Water Corporation pipeline is too close to the surface, which prevents the opening up of Albany Highway and the development of a road through to Kelvin Road and the old Maddington oval, which would provide for residential development.

The former government's inability to see the development opportunity amazes me. I remember writing to the previous Minister for Water to state that this project has been on the books for a long time and to ask whether the minister could see a way to bring forward the maintenance of the water pipeline. I gather it is a main trunk line

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that comes down from Canning Dam and connects into the scheme water system and it is a substantial piece of infrastructure, but it has to be maintained and updated. I was very keen to find out from the government whether it had it in mind to perhaps move the pipeline and do the maintenance on it earlier than intended. The answer I received from the previous minister was that, no, it would not do it. It is true that it has a hefty price tag. It is around, would members believe, \$10 million to shift a water pipeline and for other associated works. It is a high price, but that project is essential to the redevelopment of the area that I now represent.

With plans for that in place, we can really look forward to some very good and affordable development that is relatively close to the city centre. It will provide a mix of housing that is very appealing to young professionals, tradespeople, retirees and a range of other people. It will be the ideal development opportunity for people. That is a very exciting prospect and we really should be looking to advance it. I am pleased to say that in going into the election campaign, I was able to make the commitment to the people of Maddington that a Mark McGowan-led WA Labor government would shift the pipelines and the subsequent improvements and redevelopment would create the Maddington town centre. That is a very exciting prospect for us. That defines our vision for the outer suburbs. The previous government had so much focus on inner-city projects instead of focusing on the areas where people live. I think that was a great shame. It meant that many people felt that they had missed out on the proceeds of the boom. I am very pleased that that will be turned around during the course of this government's term.

I want to go to some issues that came up during the election campaign. I think this one will be of interest to all members. I managed to run an election campaign—this is getting down to the brass tacks of election day, although people might say plastic waste—with election day booths that did not have plastic bunting. I was able to see from the voting results that the plastic bunting at my booths made no difference to the outcome. Let us go into plastic bunting a little. It is always quite colourful and there is often a slogan on it—often there is a positive pitch and then there is a negative pitch. I was able to do a controlled experiment because I had two shared medium-sized booths with bunting. It was interesting when I looked at the percentage of the vote. My overall primary vote was 52.65 per cent, which I was very pleased with. I had some bunting at my two controlled booths. At Wirrabirra Primary School, where I had some bunting, I scored 53.4 per cent, which was slightly higher than my overall primary vote. At Gosnells Primary School, where I also had some bunting as a part of this controlled experiment, the overall primary vote was lower at 47.7 per cent. Plastic bunting is very interesting. When the average voter goes to the polling booth, they see this plastic-strewn area around a school that they normally identify as being a fairly tidy community asset. They see it covered in stuff that they think must be expensive and unnecessary. I think they often see it as intellectually offensive. Most voters go to the booth with a pretty fair idea of who they are going to vote for. Who has ever heard of a voter going to a polling booth and saying, “Gee, I’m going to vote for that party because I thought they had the best bunting”?

We spend a fortune on this stuff. Environmentally, it offends anyone of sound mind. As I say, it is often somewhat offensive intellectually. It is also a huge impost on the good volunteer effort that all of us rely on. In past campaigns, I have had to call on volunteers to go out at midnight or 4.00 am—at all hours—to put up plastic bunting to try to outdo the opponent's plastic bunting. That is an absolute waste of good volunteer effort. As I say, my results show that it made no discernible difference. My opponent spent a fortune on bunting, and his primary vote was particularly low. I do not think there is any evidence to suggest that bunting makes a difference on election day. I look forward to further discussion during the next four years in the lead-up to the next election. It might sound like a minor thing to people, but I think it relates to a broader issue, and that is how we, as the institution of Parliament, relate to Western Australians. It is all very well for us to do all we can, as of course we should, to reinstate confidence in this institution of Parliament, to re-engage members of the community and to help them realise how they can use this place for their own advantage and betterment. We have to do that, of course. People visiting Parliament and working with members on issues and members having lots of community engagement, being out there in our communities and talking to voters is the best antidote to the cynicism that exists towards the institution of Parliament—that is for sure. We have to carry on with that and show that we are people of dignity and great credibility. I do not think plastic bunting adds to the sense of stature that we want to give to the whole democratic process in Western Australia. I am not sure about a lot of other jurisdictions, but it would be an interesting study to see how many other jurisdictions go to the same extent with plastic bunting as Western Australia does in elections. I noted that during the course of the French presidential election, it was done in a fairly sober way. Each candidate is allowed the equivalent of one of our corflutes on a metal or wooden board, and that is all there is at the polling booth. There is no saturation of materials; nor, to the best of my knowledge, do people hand out how-to-vote cards, but that is a story for another day. There are clearly better ways of doing things.

I had some information about myself at the booth and I chose materials that were re-useable. I had teardrop flags that I can use at different community events. I also had some A-frame signs. Every piece of campaign material was chosen on the basis that it could be used on another occasion. That is something that we should be looking towards in the future. As I say, it is not a trivial issue; it relates to this much broader malaise that we have. Fortunately, I think the

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people of Western Australia have led the way in 2017 by showing that the community is bigger than some of the events that we saw in 2016. We saw 2016 marked internationally by votes that were dominated by the worst of political campaigning—populism and nationalism. I think that has been left behind. The elections in the United States and the Brexit vote strike me as an outrageous manipulation of the views of many. It was all through pandering to the worst fears of those in the electorates—the fear of strangers and some weird notion that their country could be made better by building a wall or by leaving the European Union so that other Europeans could not come into the country freely. Those sorts of absurd ideas are already proving to be incredibly detrimental to those nations and I hope they will remain in the past as sad landmarks on the political landscape of 2016.

The election of the McGowan government was a great occasion. It was an occasion that showed that the people of Western Australia were able to see through a lot of the hoopla and the big spending and realise that governments have to conduct the affairs of a state in a sober manner and in a manner that is within the bounds of a budget. The government has to respect the views of the people and take them on a journey with it, and if it hears that something like privatisation is not working, it would be crazy to go on with it. That is one of the things that I believe cost the Liberal Party dearly in my area. I am almost thankful to the Liberal Party. When I heard that it was sticking to the idea of privatising Western Power, I thought that there was a very strong likelihood that I would have a win, but I had no idea that the win for the whole of the state would be as handsome as us winning 41 of the 59 electorates. It was really heartening to see the good sense of the community. I now feel that incredible sense of responsibility that comes with being a part of the government. I can commit only to doing my bit to making sure that the people will continue to feel a strong sense of connection with this government and will feel very proud of it and will be able to understand where we are going and that they are along with us for the whole of this journey, as we all seek to make the state of Western Australia a prosperous place and a place that has all kinds of opportunities.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [7.00 pm]: Mr Speaker, Whip and Leader of the House, please accept my sincere congratulations on your appointments.

One of the most important things for me to do in my inaugural speech is to acknowledge the Bindjareb people on the land on which I am the local member. I pay my respects to their elders past and present, and I feel honoured to have my office situated on their boodjar. I also want to acknowledge the Whadjuk people on the land on which we stand today and pay my respects to their elders past and present. Today I want to acknowledge the Bindjareb people of my region as the first peoples and as the traditional owners of the land. I also want to acknowledge that there were different Aboriginal groups within Western Australia prior to European settlement, each with their own distinctive language, customs and lore. Under Aboriginal lore and custom, Aboriginal people have cultural responsibilities and rights in relation to the land of which they are the traditional owners. Aboriginal people have a living spiritual, cultural, familial and social connection with the land. Aboriginal people have made, are making and will continue to make a significant and unique contribution to the heritage, cultural identity, community and economy of the Murray–Wellington electorate and Western Australia. Historically, the Bindjareb people were an important traditional group, as many of the Aboriginal groups would come from inland regions over the scarp and trade with them. The Bindjareb region was a place of celebration and ceremony, where the Bindjareb people played an important role. I am looking forward to continuing to build a positive working relationship with the Bindjareb people as I support them to take a leadership role once more.

Mr Speaker and Premier, I am truly thankful to be part of the fortieth Parliament along with the other 40 WA Labor Party members elected. As the saying goes, life begins at 40, so as I see it, we are at the stage where we are at the peak of attaining our greatest. It also simply means that it is the start of fresh new beginnings for most of us here in Parliament. I stand here today in this fortieth Parliament with hand on heart to let my community know that I will never give up to ensure that our electorate is provided with recognition and support, which it has not been given by past governments.

Being here today would not be possible without the forceful support of our brilliant volunteers, who were the backbone of our grassroots campaign. This was a team effort. First, to David Scaife, my campaign manager, and my supportive husband, Charlie Clarke, who was our campaign field organiser—thank you so much for your work and all of your assistance. There are too many in the union movement whom I want to thank for their tireless and ongoing support, but in particular I wish to thank Steve McCartney of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union for his guidance over the years in our fight to protect workers' rights. For his gracious assistance and mentoring, I thank the Leader of the House, the member for Mandurah. To my dedicated, hardworking, loyal electorate staff—Lisa Cook, my electorate officer, and Zoe Jones, my research officer—thank you for the tireless contribution you have provided to not only me but also the constituents in our electorate.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge some guests who are part of this significant night. They include representatives from the Shire of Murray—chief executive officer Dean Unsworth, shire president Maree Reid and

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 16 May 2017]

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Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

shire councillor Patricia Briggs, who was the former candidate for Murray-Wellington in the 2001 state election. Also here tonight is Pinjarra Senior High School principal Rob Lawson. To my friends of many years and to friends I have made throughout the campaign, thank you. I thank all the AMWU organisers and staff for all their support and encouragement. My thanks go also to the Clarke family—you have accepted me as part of your family and supported me throughout this journey.

My greatest achievement is my children, Steve, Christina and Cassandra, whom I am so proud of. Thank you for making motherhood so easy, because you are all so incredible, talented, funny, independent and fearless. Last but certainly not least is the one man to whom I owe so much—the love of my life, my husband Charlie Clarke.

I have worked a portfolio of careers in my lifetime and the shared thread that runs through them all is the values of effort and devotion, as they are directly proportional to the outcome. I was an owner-operator of a lunch bar at the age of 19, so I know all too well the struggles of small business owners—long hours and balancing precarious finances to make sure that we did more than just simply get through. I worked in the fertile and febrile media landscape of the 1980s, before having children. Following this I learnt how to balance a domestic life with a career at all ranks in the banking and health industries, from sales and customer service up to management. I know how important it is to guarantee that you deliver on your word.

I am so proud to be a part of this Parliament when it contains the largest number of female politicians that it has ever held. In standing here tonight I would like to take a moment to recognise two women in particular who were the forerunners for me and other female politicians in Australia. The first of these women is May Holman, Australia's first female Labor politician. May Holman held the Dwellingup-based seat of Forrest from 1925 until her death in 1939, making her the first woman in the British Commonwealth to serve in a Parliament for more than 10 years. She was actively involved in Labor Women's Central Executive and Young Labor, was a strong believer in equal pay, and played a crucial role in introducing the Timber Industry Regulation Act 1926, which was one of the first acts to bring health and safety regulations to timber industry workers. The other woman is Australia's first and as yet only female Prime Minister, Hon Julia Gillard. Ms Gillard has been a strong role model for me and, I am sure, many other fledgling Labor MPs, not just during her time in Parliament but also in her post-political career. She stood up to misogyny in politics and is a strong advocate for mental health and women's rights. In the face of significant hurdles she achieved a great number of positive reforms for the country both as minister and Prime Minister across workplace and industrial relations, health, disability care and education. This included the introduction of the Fair Work Act, plain packaging legislation, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Gonski reforms. I am exceedingly proud that I stand here today as the first woman to represent the seat of Murray-Wellington. I draw inspiration from these two great Australian women as I begin my journey.

Murray-Wellington, originally known as Murray, was one of the original seats contested at the 1890 election. It has only once been held by Labor—between 1989 and 1993 by Keith Read. The electorate includes three local governments, which throughout my campaign were very vocal that this chamber needed a refresher course on the geography of the region, as governments have seemed to overlook it for quite some time. At the northern end is the Shire of Murray, which encompasses the towns of Blythwood, which in 1842 was one of the original European settlements; Coolup and West Coolup, which have an incredible community spirit; Fairbridge, which is renowned for its historical value; and Dwellingup, which has an amazing discovery centre and is a historical timber town. The surrounding timber towns of Holyoake, Inglehope, Marrinup, Meelon, Myara, Nambeelup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, Oakley and Point Grey were razed during the 1960's Dwellingup region fires. The shire includes Pinjarra, which has a rich history and is where my office is based; Ravenswood; North Yunderup; South Yunderup, with its unique canals on the Murray River; Stake Hill, with its exquisite acreage blocks; Teesdale; West Coolup; West Pinjarra and Whittaker.

The Shire of Waroona covers the towns of Hamel; Lake Clifton, which I have a personal connection with as I spent a lot of time there growing up in the 1970s; Nanga Brook; the tight-knit and welcoming community of Preston Beach; Wagerup; and Waroona.

At the southern end of the electorate is the Shire of Harvey. It incorporates the town of Australind, named as a combination of Australia and India, which last year reached the milestone of 175 years since settlement. Australind has seen a strong population increase through the development of residential estates such as Kingston and Treendale. The shire includes Binningup, a strong beachside community; Brunswick, which has just opened its new Pioneer and Community Wall honouring 17 pioneer families; Cookernup, which has one of the strongest senses of community that you will see in any town and great Wednesday catch-up morning teas at the community hall; Harvey, which has the region's most incredible war memorial; Beela; Hoffman; Leschenault; Mornington; Myalup, another wonderful beachside community; Parkfield; Roelands; Uduc; Warawarrup; Wellesley; Wokalup and Yarloop.

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

The January 2016 bush fires caused devastation to the communities of Yarloop, Waroona, Preston Beach, Harvey, Cookernup, Lake Clifton and Hamel. The fires destroyed 181 homes, along with the historic Yarloop Workshops and town hall, and, sadly, took two lives. The Ferguson Report outlined a number of recommendations following the fires. Implementing those recommendations will be crucial in reducing the possibility of another fire as catastrophic as this occurring again and I have made it clear to the community that I will fight for this to happen. Nearly a year and a half on, the town of Yarloop is still trying to rebuild, with the primary school reopening this year and families re-establishing their lives. It is important that the people of the community receive the help they need in the long and difficult process of resurrecting their town.

One of the things that makes the region so incredible is its unique environment. The Dwellingup forest is part of the state's irreplaceable jarrah forests and holds historical significance to the local Indigenous population and the Dwellingup community at large. The area is home to a unique range of native flora and fauna, including a number of endangered species. Another key asset to the Murray region is its waterways and wetlands that include Lake McLarty, Lake Mealup and the Peel-Harvey estuary, which is the largest in south Western Australia. The region's waterways and wetlands serve a number of purposes to the area, including agriculture, protecting and feeding native wildlife, and being used as a source of recreation.

There are a range of threats to these waterways, including those associated with water acidification, declining water levels, land clearing and litter. It is of utmost importance that support is given to the community groups that are educating the public about the environmental significance of the region and to the groups that are contributing to the conservation of our environmental assets. It is also vital that Indigenous groups are given the opportunity to show others the cultural significance of our environment. The continued conservation of our forests and wetlands will safeguard our native animals from extinction, allow the region to continue to be further developed as a tourism destination, and encourage recreational activities to continue. We must remember that the interests of industry are inseparably tied to protecting the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Fracking is an issue that many people within the wider community are passionate about. Many people living in regional areas, particularly the south west region, are worried about the impacts that fracking will have on their lives and their environment. The lack of safeguards and assurances of safety, consequences of maladministration, intense use of water, seeping of chemicals, waste and impacts on human health are all concerns that people have made clear in regards to fracking. Introducing fracking into the south west threatens a sum in excess of \$1 billion that the region annually adds to the local economy through tourism, as well as the dairy, beef and wine industries that the region is internationally renowned for. The only way to make sure that our environment is protected, that our health is protected and that our industries are protected is to place a statewide ban on unconventional gas operations. Let us "Lock The Gate" on fracking in WA!

Unemployment and the need for job creation are major problems that the region is facing. At 11.5 per cent, the unemployment rate in the region is nearly twice as high as the state's unemployment rate. Many people are left with no choice but to leave the area to find work, and many that manage to stay travel long distances to make a living, with approximately half the working population employed outside the area they live in. Local jobs and local manufacturing of "Made in Australia" products is essential to growth in WA.

We must ensure government contracts have the right ratio of tradies to apprentices. This is vital to ensure jobs and growth in all regions. The lack of this support is causing a loss of manufacturing jobs in Australia and the opportunity to train our youth and upskill our current workforce to a standard we can be proud of. Apprenticeships are declining due to the lack of job opportunities and the rising cost of training. This has a detrimental effect on our skilled workforce, which in the past has been highly regarded and recognised internationally. We need to limit the quantity of raw materials and resources leaving our shores to be used in manufacturing overseas and bought back as produced goods.

One-fifth of the population in Murray-Wellington are under the age of 14, making high quality education fundamental to the growth and future of the community. The electorate covers 22 schools, 14 of which are public. These schools are all facing different challenges, including limited resources, ageing facilities and both increases and decreases in student numbers. Pinjarra Senior High School, the largest school in the electorate, saw an increase of over 200 students when year 7s were amalgamated with high schools, yet currently does not have any of its own facilities to hold assemblies or host performing arts. Providing aid to these schools is paramount to the overall success of the region.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE: As I previously said, one-fifth of the population in Murray-Wellington are under 14, so there is a need for policies that explicitly address the needs and aspirations of young Western Australians that are not simply welfare provisions. Young Western Australians are more remarkable than many of us in this chamber

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and are the greatest resource of this state, yet are hindered by inexcusable unemployment rates, housing affordability and now rising costs of education, which we know to be the surest means of social and cultural mobility. We are losing them to the east and overseas, where they can see venture prospects and an opportunity for usefulness. We must foster an entrepreneurial spirit and keep skilled workers in Western Australia.

Access to efficient and effective health and mental health services is rightly a watermark by which we, as community members, value our state. The availability of health and mental health services will always be an important issue, especially in regional areas where the tyranny of distance compounds suffering, where services are stretched beyond their means and where access to services is difficult—especially for specialist services, such as cancer treatment—or is near impossible for those without financial or familial support. Although we have two limited-service hospitals in the electorate, many people have to travel to Mandurah, Bunbury or Perth for health care. Because of this, a lot of people rely on mobile healthcare services provided by at-risk not-for-profit organisations. Continued government support for these organisations will ensure that these important resources can keep running. The higher rate of instances of mental illness in regional areas is well known, and, for many, is not best served by the criminal justice system. However, the increased difficulty of accessing support and the regional stigma associated with mental illness means that people in the country do not seek or are not able to receive the support they need. We must lessen the burdens.

The state prospers—the Labor Party too—when we propose bold policies designed to improve the material wellbeing of economically embattled voters; when we reach out; when we are responsive and compassionate to the plights of those who have been disregarded, forgotten or hurt by the previous government; when we acknowledge that our political compromises have substantive and meaningful effects on the lives of vulnerable people; and when we lead with research-based best-practice policy and virtuous conviction, and are not blinded by ideologues. Whenever we cannot reconcile on an intractable issue, may all of us be reminded that there is no inconsistency between ensuring jobs growth and protecting workers' rights. There is no inconsistency between growing our industries and defending the environment. There is no inconsistency between a criminal justice system and hope and dignity for those affected. There is no inconsistency between fiscal responsibility and safeguarding social protections.

[Applause.]

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo) [7.23 pm]: May I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to the position.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and pay my respects to their elders. I thank the Clerk and the staff of the Parliament for their assistance since I was elected. They have been both professional and personable in assisting me as a new member of Parliament. I am very grateful for their patience.

The path that has led me to standing here tonight is a long one. It is a path on which many people have inspired me, encouraged me, supported me and, at times, carried me—this is going to be good! As my previous 27-year career as a teacher would suggest, I did not aspire to be standing here but, rather, I have been a conviction community activist. A conviction parliamentarian is what I aspire to be in this place. I have been labelled feisty, determined and a troublemaker. I will endeavour to be all those things and more in this place, but, Mr Speaker, I ask for your guidance and direction.

At the outset, I want to thank Hon John Quigley, MLA, who saw in me something that I did not. He always believed that I had the ability and passion to be a champion for the people of Wanneroo in this place. I thank him for his characteristic dogged determination over an extended period in persuading me to pursue this goal and his continued counsel as I strive to be the best that I can be in this place. To the people of Nowergup, Carabooda, Neerabup, Wanneroo, Tapping, Carramar, Ashby, Pearsall and Hocking: I thank the voters in my electorate for bestowing their trust and faith in me. I am humbled by their overwhelming vote of confidence in me. I believe that my strong and extended local connection to the district—having lived in the Wanneroo area for over 40 years—together with my experience as a local teacher were very important factors in my win. I acknowledge that my support came from voters who want their voices heard, their priorities valued and their aspirations for themselves and their families to be central in my thoughts in representing them. These are the people I will keep talking to and I will keep listening to for the next four years.

Wanneroo has a proud and long history as a pioneering district. Wanneroo traditionally has been a major centre for market gardening. The area's agricultural sector is a significant contributor to the local economy and the state's agricultural exports. For example, in 2014–15, Wanneroo contributed an estimated \$147 million in gross value agricultural production, which is 38 per cent of the total produced in the Perth region. This local horticultural industry provides a valuable resource of fresh vegetables and fruit for the Perth market. This industry is facing

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a number of issues, including the pressure of increased urban expansion, and limitations and uncertainties on groundwater extraction. Very little progress has been made to provide certainty for growers and landowners in the last eight years. We have made a commitment to form a reference group of growers and stakeholders to develop an informed approach to the water issues facing the region to ensure that horticultural and agricultural industries can continue to develop and thrive in a changing landscape.

Our community continues to experience incredible growth. The population of the City of Wanneroo, in which my electorate falls entirely, grew from around 114 000 to 160 000 between 2006 and 2011 on the census data. The population was estimated to grow beyond 200 000 in 2016. As such, the city is well known as the fastest growing local government in Western Australia. This growth has been driven largely by young families moving into the electorate. We have a very multicultural community, with over 40 per cent of residents coming from overseas. Wanneroo plays host to the biggest single citizenship ceremony anywhere in Australia. This year's Australia Day citizenship ceremony welcomed 800 residents from 49 countries.

Unfortunately, Wanneroo also has challenges, none bigger than its continuing high unemployment rate. Wanneroo's unemployment rate has grown 81 per cent since March 2013. The unemployment rate in Wanneroo is significantly higher than the state average. Additionally, every day, over 60 per cent of our residents leave the local area to go to work. This government's priority is the creation of jobs. Our plan for jobs is specific strategies that focus on the northern suburbs. We are committed to seeing the Meridian Park Industry Estate in Neerabup, an area of nearly 400 hectares of industrial land, reach its true potential. Bringing Meridian Park under the proposed industrial lands authority will allow us to diversify our economy and encourage new jobs in smart industries in our local area. That is what the people of Wanneroo deserve.

I am also delighted with the swift action taken by this government to successfully negotiate the redirection of billions of dollars of federal funds from the cancelled Perth Freight Link. Importantly, we now have funding in my electorate for key infrastructure projects. The government will deliver overpasses at key intersections along Wanneroo Road, as well as dualling a dangerous stretch of Wanneroo Road from Flynn Drive. This is an investment of \$146 million into Wanneroo that will create 805 jobs. I am proud to be part of a government that is swiftly delivering on its commitments in Wanneroo.

I started this political journey unintentionally when I led a grassroots campaign that saw us protect Lake Nowergup from the encroachment of mining. I intend to remain a local and active advocate for my community. I am delighted that, as the member for Wanneroo, I will be able to work towards letting the world know about this secret jewel in Wanneroo and to deliver on the government's commitment to provide better access for all of us to enjoy it. Wanneroo has had strong representation by women in this place previously. I take great inspiration from two strong previous Labor members for Wanneroo, Jackie Watkins and Dianne Guise. They have set the bar incredibly high for me.

Some of the people who knew me when I was younger will not be surprised to see me standing here tonight. I am a migrant to this great country of ours, having arrived with my parents, Hans and Sigrid Fenn, sister, Elke, and brother, Mike, on 11 May 1973 from the town of Dieburg in what was then known as West Germany. Forty-four years later, to the day, last Thursday, I had the honour of being sworn in as the member for Wanneroo. I was eight years old on my arrival, and English is my second language. My parents had little money, little language, no formal qualifications and no family support in a foreign country. My parents literally came with nothing but hope and a dream, and a dogged determination to create a better life, as do many migrants who come here. We first stayed in Fairy Meadow, near Wollongong. The rent was \$35 and included food. I have vivid memories of lining up in the cafeteria for our food each day, hoping the lady serving would be generous with the ice-cream scoops of mashed potatoes, which was so unusual to me. At the same time I remember dad getting thinner and thinner, and mum pining to cook her own meals for us, and I remember the scratchy grey blankets to cuddle up to at night in bed. Food and family are things so many of us take for granted and are a great comfort to us all, and I cannot imagine what it was like for mum and dad during that first year. I also remember dad coming home from the steelworks covered in black soot. He earned \$75 a week, and my parents quickly realised that they had to strike out if they were going to make any progress. Dad quickly found a job as a brickie's labourer, earning \$150 a week, with the opportunity for weekend work too, and finally we moved to a flat in North Ryde, where mum and dad could finally cook for us, and get second jobs in factories, driving delivery trucks and doing continuous weekend work to save up a deposit for a house, which they did in less than two years. In 1975, we were off with our new Falcon, trailer and the 25 per cent deposit required in those days for a house built off the plan, across the gravelled Nullarbor Plain to Yanchep, on the other side of Australia.

I have always loved school, and learning English seemed to come easily to me. Going to school and doing the best we could was a priority for my parents. They had each left school early in life—dad, when he was a boy,

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to wander the world with the merchant marine, and mum as a 14-year-old to earn money as a shop assistant to help her family. She had desperately wanted to stay at school—she was very clever and loved it—but she just never got the opportunity. Educational opportunity and economic aspirations to own their own home drove my parents. So with roots firmly established by way of a mortgage and home ownership, my parents again quickly found work—dad as a school gardener at Yanchep District High School and mum as a school cleaner, positions they both kept until retirement. My parents have always had low-paid work and made huge sacrifices to make ends meet. Their incredible work ethic, dedication to family and absolute honesty has been instilled in me.

After graduating from Murdoch University with a primary teaching degree, I took the opportunity to work and live across the state, including in the goldfields town of Norseman, and Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley, and to the tropical isolation of Cocos Keeling Islands, where I met my husband, Paul, before relocating back to Perth to start our family. I look fondly back over my time in remote communities as a period of great personal and professional growth. Those formative years as a teacher have served me well, and my time working with the Aboriginal community in Fitzroy Crossing and the Malay community on Cocos helped to shape my world view. The students in both these communities speak English as a second language, and perhaps that shared bond with my students in those places most shaped my teaching.

My most recent appointment has seen me working in the field of gifted and talented education. For the past 12 years I have been a primary extension and challenge coordinator with the Department of Education. It was also a time when I achieved the status of level 3 classroom teacher. I have enjoyed my time advocating for the special needs of our brightest students. We should be striving to nurture giftedness in all domains, ensuring that we celebrate intellectual giftedness in the classroom in the same manner as we celebrate athletic giftedness on the sporting field and musical giftedness in the school band. I have long paraphrased from a quote when I talk to people who challenge me and say that gifted and talented education is elitist. In simple terms it goes like this: there are more poor people than rich people; it follows then that there are more gifted poor people than gifted rich people. When we do not invest in gifted education programs in our public education system, when we do not do all we can to provide these students with opportunities, the students who will suffer the most are those gifted students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The rich can afford to take their children to violin classes on the weekends. For our bright students, an education is an opportunity to reach their potential. For many bright students who come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, it is a way to a better future.

We all have memories of special teachers who have had an influence on our lives. As a student, I had extraordinary teachers, such as Glenn Capelli and Jenny Silburn, who left lasting impressions during my time at Wanneroo Senior High School, now known as Wanneroo Secondary College. As a teacher in the various contexts in which I have worked, I have been inspired to be a better teacher, and a better person, by many of my teacher colleagues, in particular the late Kay Brooks, Kim Winton, Sue Daly and Kirsteen McCrory. These women in particular have mentored me, supported me, challenged me and influenced me throughout my career. I count them as dear personal friends.

Educational research confirms what teachers and most parents have always known—that the teacher is the single most important driver of student achievement, after family background. As John Hattie explains, successful education comes back to —

... the person who gently closes the classroom door and performs the teaching act—the person ... who is alone with students during their 15 000 hours of schooling.’

I want also to read a quote by Haim G. Ginott from *Between Teacher and Child* —

I’ve come to a frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my personal approach that creates the climate. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or dehumanized.

We all instinctively know this to be true. Our daily mood makes the weather. How we treat teachers will have an impact on how teachers treat our children. Western Australia pays its teachers well compared with the rest of Australia, but how we treat our teachers and educational support staff is the key. I believe that morale amongst staff in schools is at the lowest point of my working life. Teachers are leaving the profession in large numbers. We need to do better to retain our graduate teachers. The number of workers’ compensation claims and the extent of stress leave accessed in the sector are indicators that teachers are under pressure. There is an increasing casualising of the workforce, and increased barriers for movement for staff between schools, and increasing workloads around administrative tasks and audit processes are taking their toll.

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Perhaps we need to start humanising the education sector. The reforms of the previous government have resulted in an increasingly detached workforce in which teachers spend more time applying for their positions, engaged in audits and performance management reviews and less time discussing their students or planning lessons. Teacher Registration Board requirements are extremely onerous and time consuming and take teachers away from teaching. More teachers are feeling abandoned and unsupported as they grapple with increased behaviour issues and violence in schools. Many teachers describe a workplace culture in which some teachers feel unsupported and blamed for being unable to manage difficult students. Workplace bullying is on the increase. Monitoring teacher performance has become an industry in itself, with new initiatives such as videoing the teacher and surveying students being increasingly introduced, all in the name of improving teacher skills, but is viewed by many teachers as an extra burden with no measurable positive results for improved student outcomes. School leaders are challenged by the significant shift in administrative burden that they are not always prepared or equipped to manage. In the same way as teachers are increasingly taken away from planning, our leaders are taken away from educational leadership. The lack of mobility within schools is creating a two-tiered public education system in which there are not enough incentives to make a contribution in regional schools that need our best and most passionate teachers. Schools are increasingly competing against each other for staff and students on the one hand and are expected to build collaborative relationships on the other.

Without incentives or pathways, we will further disadvantage our country and regional schools, which need good teachers, and metropolitan schools, which need those teachers with those life experiences, having lived and taught in the bush. The provision of equitable education services to all Western Australians is essential. Teachers make a difference, so we must have a system that attracts and retains enthusiastic graduates, as I was, and experienced teachers to go and work in very challenging and remote and regional areas of our state. Although financial incentives are one important driver, the other driver is allowing teachers to be able to transfer back into the metropolitan region.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: In August 2016, the Education and Health Standing Committee released a report on the independent public schools initiative. It found that this initiative has exacerbated existing inequalities in the public school system, reinforcing a two-tiered system. Finding 12 of the report is telling. It states –

The Independent Public School initiative has not had any discernible effect on the outcomes of students at Independent Public Schools, nor non-Independent Public Schools, for both students with additional needs, and those without.

Not surprisingly, finding 4 states –

The professional capacity of school staff has a greater effect on student outcomes than autonomy.

I agree with recommendation 1, which concludes –

The Department of Education should focus on improving teacher quality and teaching practices as the most influential methods of improving student outcomes.

That brings me back to the beginning. Improving teacher quality and teaching practices will happen when we let teachers get on with the job of teaching rather than talking about teaching. It is the teacher's mood that makes the difference. We need to reboot our schools to think about teaching and education as a human endeavour. Teaching is a noble and most rewarding profession. The majority of teachers are self-reflective, continuous and flexible learners who are deeply motivated to be their best and do the best for their students. We need to shape a bureaucracy in which we trust teachers more. We need to encourage a bureaucracy that collaborates with teachers, who do actually know best. We need to create schools that allow our teachers to be the best they can be. There are many schools out there like that. We need every school to be like that. I am heartened by new teachers like Amy Blitvich, who is doing great work. There is great enthusiasm by young teachers, and we have a great future.

Without a doubt, my status as a local schoolteacher connected me in real ways to people I met during the campaign. In an age when there is significant and deep-rooted negativity and hostility towards politicians, I found this confronting. The trust placed in us as teachers to care for and nurture our children is very powerful indeed. The trust our community places in us to represent teachers in Parliament is significant and powerful too. We need to hold ourselves up to the highest standards of integrity because, like teachers, we as elected representatives have an enormous opportunity to make both instant and long-lasting differences to the lives of individuals, families and communities by the decisions we make in this place. I do not take that responsibility lightly.

I would like to thank Hon Sue Ellery, the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. I congratulate her for being the first woman to become Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. She has been an inspiration to me.

Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Mr Stephen Price; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Amber-Jade Sanderson; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton; Mr Terry Healy; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Zak Kirkup

I would like to pay a special thank you to Carolyn Smith for her faith in me. Carolyn is a fierce warrior and leader, fighting to protect and improve the working conditions and pay of our lowest paid workers in a variety of key workplaces and industries, including hospitality, aged care and education assistants. I extend my gratitude to all the United Voice family who supported me so generously. That Burgundy Wave was a tsunami in Wanneroo, and there are too many of them to thank individually now. Our connection is based on the shared belief that workers deserve a fair go and that we must have voices in this place that defend and protect the working rights of our most vulnerable workers. I pledge to you all to be one of those voices.

I want to also thank my team and many volunteers for their unyielding belief in me and each other to bring back the seat of Wanneroo to the Labor Party. We were constantly reminded that Wanneroo was a bellwether seat, having always been held by the government of the day since the electorate's inception in 1989. I thank Dr Anne Aly, the member for Cowan, for her support and advice. She is another Labor woman leading the way.

A very special thank you goes to my campaign manager and field organiser, Paul Winter and Carlie Germs, and my entire campaign committee. I also want to make a special mention of two volunteers in particular: Robert "Bob" Russell-Brown's and David Leith's commitment to our great Labor Party and their belief in me to champion those values as the member for Wanneroo means a great deal to me. I thank them for letting me vent relentlessly, frequently and often outrageously at all times of the day and night, including during 92 wobbles on the side of the road. To all my wonderful volunteers, I cannot repay you. I hope I can be worthy of your trust in me. Our achievement in getting such a big swing is in no small part due to every single one of you who dared to share my dream and mad ways.

I want to also recognise the support of the Community and Public Sector Union-PSU Group, the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union and the Electrical Trades Union of Western Australia for their work and support. Unions have been and always will be an important part of our community. I have been a proud member of the State School Teachers' Union of WA all my working life. The things we take for granted and the things we all as a community benefit from—union members or non-union members—have come from collective action by our unions. Universal health care, superannuation, the eight-hour working day and the minimum wage exist because of unions.

To Patrick Gorman and Lenda Oshalem, my sincerest thanks and congratulations for a most brilliant victory. It has been a privilege to be part of this state campaign that delivered this historic win to the WA Labor Party. It was nice to drink from that elixir too. Even the Leader of the Opposition in his opening remarks during the opening of the fortieth Parliament congratulated us on an emphatic victory, and emphatic it was. It was a victory forged from the hard work and commitment by the Labor Party when in opposition. You cannot get around hard work. It was a victory forged from WA Labor developing positive policy positions in a range of important areas. Most importantly, it was a victory forged from reaching out into our community to talk to and listen to the people of Western Australia.

I have been inspired by many women in my political career, many already mentioned tonight. To Nat Sangalli, a fellow grassroots advocate, I owe a great thanks. I would also like to acknowledge Hon Alannah MacTiernan. She sets a very high standard for public office indeed and she continues to be an enormous influence on me. I would also like to acknowledge all my women Labor colleagues who are part of this Mark McGowan government. I am so proud to be part of this Parliament with you. We are setting a wonderful example to women.

Winning has been a real joy for so many of us across this state. It will all be for nothing if we do not affect real change for the good people of Western Australia who elected us. I look forward to working with all members on both sides of this Parliament in the best interests of those we serve.

Finally, because I know I will cry, I would like to thank the three most inspiring women in my life—my three daughters, Meg, Emma and Kate. You make me want to make the world a better place. To my husband, Paul, I thank you for letting me be me.

[Applause.]

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River) [7.49 pm]: My name is Terry Healy and I am the very proud but humbled member for Southern River. I acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people, the traditional owners of this land on which we meet and acknowledge the resilience of their people and of their elders past, present and emerging. Before I do anything in this place, I dedicate my speech today and my work in this chamber to my incredible wife, Catherine Chakulunta-Healy, our daughter Heaven, and our future children. I owe everything to my wife. She is my rock, my soulmate, my partner in life and my comrade. My community should probably have elected Catherine instead, as she is not only a better representative than I, but also more caring and more of a community advocate. Our families endure so much and I acknowledge that the only way we managed the last 18 months was by the sacrifices my wife and child have already made. Heaven, our daughter, is amazing and has just transformed and

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enriched our lives. Although I commit myself to the people of Southern River, I also dedicate myself to being the best dad and husband that I can be, because I think I will be a better member of Parliament then. I am lucky to also have a very large and loving family. I also have several mums and dads: my mother Rosemary who, as a single mum, raised me since I was 18 months old—I owe so much for her sacrifices and her love; my dad Terry Snr, for his love and guidance; my mother Martha; my dad Pete; and my dad Papa Khoza. Cath and I have also lost two of our mothers, Mama Aida and Mama Veronica, well before their time. We know that they join us today in spirit and will always be there to guide us.

To the Chakuluntas back home in Zambia, we also send our love. “Ine ndine mwana wochedwa Chakulunta Healy”, which in Nyanja means, “I am a proud Chakulunta Healy.” Cath and I are also blessed with many siblings. In Australia they are Julie, Erin, Kris, Linus and Maddy, and in Zambia they are Don, Bridget, Tamika, Pharoah, Boki, Hope, Suzyo, Madaliso and Khoza. These form part of the Chakulunta Healy Tubbs McGregor Franz Tucker Dunn Spartalis Lombardo Parkers. I mention my grandparents, Margaret and Bob McGregor, who would be very proud today. They were long-time residents of Thornlie, where I spent much of my youth. My grandfather uncle Bob was also a resident at Riverside Gardens Estate and Brightwater Huntingdale within my electorate, which is very special to me. Thank you to my best friends Mo, Steve and Matt. I also acknowledge my best friend Craig Kunze, whom we lost some years ago, and the Kunze family. I know Craig is looking down on us all here today. I also thank our good friends Christelle and Laurent, as it was at their wedding that Cath and I reconnected and began our romantic relationship. I also thank our church community, the Old Apostolic Church of Australia.

As a teacher myself, I also acknowledge my many teachers, but in particular, the work of Mrs Lorna Joy, Mr Paul Colombini and Mrs Jane Kavanagh for their guidance and encouragement. I owe a very special thank you, of course, to the well-over 100 volunteers who were a part of “Team Terry” and their efforts in Southern River. The fact that I stand here today is only due to thousands of volunteer hours doorknocking and phoning, persuading, fighting and working for the people and families that I am now honoured to represent. Together we connected with our community and gained its support to build trains, fund schools and restore a focus on local jobs. To our volunteers here tonight and watching online, all of this is due to your hard work. I can say that I stand here, but I know they all stand with me.

I want to thank my campaign team. Thank you to Sue Ellery. I wish to acknowledge that last week Sue Ellery became the first female Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council in Western Australian history. I congratulate her on this. To the rest of our core team, Cara, Lucy, Julie, Em, Kim PB, Pierre and Andrei: thank you. There are also so many special people who have played a role, and those people know who they are. To those here tonight—I can hear my daughter—and many watching online, I give my thanks. I congratulate the Premier and Deputy Premier, and our team at party office, led by Patrick and Lenda, as well as the many seen and unseen people who played their role in bringing us to government. I also make mention of our awesome team in our Southern River electorate office, Di, Kelly and Chris. I have also worked with some incredible statesmen and stateswomen in Glenn Sterle, Chris Evans, Norm and Ros Marlborough, Kate Doust, and the member for Warnbro. Each have their flaws, but they all show me a lifetime of service to their community, something that I seek to emulate.

I thank our local papers for providing fair and impartial coverage of the election campaign. It is an outstanding service to the people of Southern River. I thank the Gosnells council, their incredible CEO and staff, and Gosnells residents for the honour and privilege of being one of their Gosnells councillors. As a councillor I learnt not only the privilege of representing and advocating for my community, but also the importance of transparency and accountability in all levels of government. I commend the work of the state member for Perth in this field. It was very important to me in my time on Gosnells council that I was able to have passed Gosnells first online gift and travel registers, which provide greater levels of transparency and accountability for my community. I mention the incredible Gosnells councillor, our Mayor, Olwen Searle; Councillor Bill Wiffen; and Pat Morris.

Work has already begun on delivering our commitments. We will build Metronet, in particular the circle line, with two Canning Vale train stations. We will build two new primary schools in my community, after no new primary schools were built in Southern River in eight and a half years. No more families will be told that they are not families, Western Power is safe, jobs will stay here in WA, TAFE fees have frozen, and my students will once again get apprenticeships in WA. My community has once again elected representatives who will work for them. I stand in the shadow of an incredible member for Southern River in Paul Andrews. Even today when I doorknock—yes, I have already been out doorknocking since the election—people mention to me the incredible work that Paul did in our community. If I were to be even half the member of Parliament that Paul Andrews was, I think I would be doing well. I also thank Gim Andrews for her incredible support. I also acknowledge the service that Peter and Jenny Abetz made in our area.

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I stand here as a former teacher of Southern River College and of Canning Vale, but I seek to be a champion of all schools: all students, educators and families. Although I am honoured to be the representative for Southern River, I already greatly miss being a teacher in Southern River. I miss my students. I do not know whether they miss me; they are likely happy to have a break from grumpy old man Mr Healy. I was proud to teach in Gosnells, but I was not proud of what the Barnett government was doing to my kids. Make no mistake; an attack on them was an attack on me. When I started at Southern River College, we were lucky to have the hard-working Chris Tallentire as our local MP. His guidance has been an incredible influence on me. During the 2013 election, I was a representative on our school board at Southern River College, as was Peter Abetz. Mr Abetz and Mr Barnett promised that all pre-1980s schools would be redeveloped, including Southern River. An important promise was made that was then broken. Following the Liberal win in 2013, we as a school were then told that not only would our school not be redeveloped but also our funds would be cut. *The Sunday Times* listed Southern River College as the fourth worst cut of all schools in WA. Then TAFE fees started rising, and would rise well over 500 per cent. My students in Gosnells and Southern River were being attacked, and the Liberal government supported and proposed these moves. A conversation with Sue Ellery about what I could do to help my students led me to take a break from teaching and stand as the Labor representative for my community.

My election fulfils a family commitment made 113 years ago when my great grandfather, Councillor James Healy, stood as the very first Labor candidate for Canning, which then covered what is now Southern River. Although he did not win when he ran in 1904, I stand here proudly in his memory. James Healy was a Fremantle councillor and I am very proud that he was this community's very first Labor candidate. One local newspaper stated that Mr Healy had a fluent tongue, and should he be elected, he would be very useful to his party when they wanted to insult the Speaker. On that theme, I also congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election. I look forward to working with you as your Acting Speaker.

The year 1904 was when Labor first formed government in WA under the first Labor Premier, Henry Daglish. Although James Healy was not an MP in that government, as I have said, he was certainly proud to help us get there. The minority Daglish Labor government of 1904 laid the foundation for what was, until 2017, WA Labor's biggest election victory, when we won 68 per cent of the assembly seats in 1911. This fortieth Parliament has 69.5 per cent of seats held by Labor members, the highest number in Western Australian history to date.

I mention another Healy who took a stand locally on freedom of speech. My great-uncle Kevin Healy was a member of the Communist Party of Australia and in 1949 was charged with sedition for his political membership. He was later acquitted. He argued in court that he had a right of freedom of speech and that whilst a communist, he was a passionate Australian first and that free and open debate was not sedition but actually a core right within our democracy. A very Healy thing, he represented himself at his trial, and I quote his final statement —

The issue in this case is the right to hold and express political opinions ... and a decision of acquittal is essential to safeguard free speech and political freedom.

We in this place must protect all political freedoms and freedom of speech in our community even when we do not agree with the other point of view.

Madam Acting Speaker (Ms J.M. Freeman), I seek to inform this Legislative Assembly more about who I am, and I declare an interest. I am a member of many community organisations, and I declare that as a member of Parliament I will help advocate for the causes that they represent. I have been a member of Scouts WA for almost 30 years. I cannot emphasise enough the incredible role that my Scout leaders played in raising me—Kevin and Colleen, and later Rhonda and Barry Green and an army of other leaders—as I became a cub, scout, venturer, club leader and rover, and now fellowship member. I am proudly a Queen's Scout and Baden Powell Scout. I will always stand up for Scouts, as I cannot guarantee that I would have even made it through my youth without my scouting family.

I am proudly a member of Gosnells Lions. I am also the local Santa Claus, and every December in Gosnells and Southern River I am on the back of a Lions Christmas sleigh as we traverse the streets. Can I say that as a candidate and now member of Parliament, it has been interesting to doorknock my local homes and have my horrified students answer the door. However, nothing beats being dressed as Santa and knowing the names of all the local teenagers as Santa goes past on his sleigh, leaving them very confused.

Balloons are a big part of my life and have been for almost 15 years ever since my best friend Mo gave me an incredible book by Dr Patch Adams. Patch wrote about his drive to make things better than what they were, and for him medicine and clowning were a vehicle to achieve this. Mo and I began working with balloons and running motivational workshops. We learnt to make balloon animals, and we started visiting hospitals and aged-care homes with balloons. I am not sure whether the Minister for Health would still allow me to visit our hospital emergency waiting rooms with balloons, but it may be that Mo and I will visit the minister one night and take him with us.

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I was also lucky to be part of a group that brought Patch Adams to Perth to speak to Western Australian medical professionals and the Fremantle community. Our local medical teams responded very well. I would love to bring Patch back to Western Australia again.

I am very proudly an advocate for blood donation and made my first bleed when I was 17. As a universal donor—O-negative—I started by donating every fortnight. Last year, making that regular diary appointment made me the youngest person in Australia to have made 300 blood donations. This is a title that I am keen to relinquish. I am very pleased that two of my local 17-year-olds—Tenuun Sanjaadorj and Luke Thomas, one of whom is here tonight—have begun donating blood already with the plan to beat my record, and nothing will make me happier. There are, of course, some things about Red Cross that need to change and move with the times. We need the Therapeutic Goods Administration to amend the discriminatory practices of its blood donation regulations for gay and bisexual men. The regulations are based not on a rational risk assessment but rather an unfounded 1980s fear that there was some kind of inherent link between being gay and having AIDS. We should screen donors. However, instead of screening donors for the gender of their sexual partner, we should screen them for the safety of their sexual activity. It does not matter whether a person is gay or straight. If a person engages in activity that puts them at high risk, they should not be allowed to donate. If a person is at low risk, they should be able to donate. I became aware of this when I brought groups of my friends to the Red Cross to donate and some who were gay were turned away, to their and my embarrassment. Some 15 years ago, I sought the advice of a great Australian, Rodney Croome, and I decided not to protest this issue by ceasing to give blood but rather to donate every fortnight and raise this issue in every one of my interviews at every donation. I will continue to lobby the TGA and support the work of many who also fight for this cause.

I will continue to seek more blood donations. I issue the challenge to all parliamentarians to make one blood donation this year if they are able to do so. National Blood Donor Week is next month, in June. I have organised for a bus to be available during that week to collect the first group of MLAs and MLCs from all parties, and I will send members the details. I will also be seeking to encourage my local high schools to develop further their youth blood donor programs.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr T.J. HEALY: My university studies began at Curtin University. I owe so much to the life skills and relationships that came from my time at Curtin University and as Curtin University Student Guild president. I certainly mention Mo Meredith, Jane den Hollander, Lance Twomey, Val Raubenheimer and my fellow student representatives as incredible Curtin influences on me during this time. My Curtin journey is also why and how I joined the Labor Party. The Gallop Labor government made a promise as part of its 2001 election campaign to restore student guild membership. I will admit that I was sceptical. As a guild, we were approached by Graham Giffard, education parliamentary secretary to Alan Carpenter, and Kate Doust, who worked with every Western Australian student guild and every Western Australian university to develop, negotiate and design what would become the amenities and services fee legislation and would improve the lives of thousands of students across Western Australia. It was this consultation and commitment by these members of Parliament that inspired me to join Labor and to start volunteering my time at every election since. I saw that when we as a party of progressives stood together, we could achieve more, and that consultation and mediation with community and government, coupled with a majority of members in Parliament, meant that we could together enact worthwhile and lasting change. My Curtin studies also gave me the opportunity some seven years ago to interview Mark McGowan as a then shadow minister as part of my Masters of Public Policy, in which I did a paper on political and ministerial influence on the public policy cycle. I still remember our now Premier when he stated that evidence-based policies were far superior in policy strength and better for the community than projects based on egos or whims. One example of that is that we need a Canning Vale train line, not only because the community tells us so but because research and evidence shows that it will address congestion, stimulate business and promote jobs, and not because a leader needs a monument to themselves.

I am proudly a progressive. I believe the best days of our community are before us, not behind us. I believe that no matter what a person's postcode is, every person in Western Australia deserves access to quality education and health, and a safe community. I believe in a more equal and equitable Australia. Mine is a family of migrants. Just because one group of Australians arrived here slightly before another group of Australians gives no-one the right to hate or discriminate. Certain political parties make the decision to incite fear and hatred of migrants, Indigenous people and other groups for political gain. I will fight the racism and homophobia of any politician or party, always.

I was also honoured to be in Canberra for the 2007 apology to the stolen generation and the commonwealth Parliament's first ever Indigenous Welcome to Country. Our Indigenous community deserves respect, and I seek to help restore that. I also seek to follow this up in action, not just words. I was honoured to have Robert Isaacs and Reynold Indich perform a traditional smoking and Welcome to Country ceremony at my electorate office

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when we moved in last month. I congratulate the Speaker for inviting Mr Isaacs to be a part of this Parliament's opening last week. I would also favour, in consultation with our local elders, an acknowledgement of country into our Parliament's daily procedures. These are important practices that are part of moving forward together as a community.

I have also been part of two great education unions, the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia and United Voice. These two unions represent some incredible educators in our teachers, education assistants, school cleaners and gardeners—core parts of our school communities. For me, being a union member is about consensus, bringing workers and employers together for the greater good, and having safe working conditions and equitable rates of pay while also running a functioning business. It was my experience working as the union representative at my school that we would reach consensus and that we each had to give and take and negotiate, and the school, the students and the community were the better for it.

Although I am new to this place, I have many friends here already, many in our own caucus, but also some on the conservative side. The member for Vasse is a uni friend of mine from Curtin. The member for Churchlands, Sean L'Estrange, is one of my old high school teachers. I recall that he and Mr Colombini once played Roman guards at our school Easter assembly, where I was Jesus, and they made me carry the crucifix to the front of the assembly and they crucified me. Mr L'Estrange, you have crucified me in the past; there may be one day in the future when I get to return the favour!

An incredible life moment for me was performing the very first same-sex marriage in Australia for my two good friends Dennis Liddelow and Stephen Dawson. I had been a civil marriage celebrant for many years, and when the ACT government declared it would move ahead with marriage equality in December 2013, Dennis, Stephen and I discussed travelling to Canberra where I would perform their wedding and be a part of the celebrations. With a core group of friends, we descended on Canberra the night of the law change and raced to the front steps of the Australian Parliament on the stroke of midnight and, before a crowd of friends and TV cameras, I performed the very first same-sex marriage ceremony in the nation. The ACT government had arranged for Telstra Tower, which overlooks the Australian Parliament, to change its light sequence and as we finished the ceremony the sky actually shone like a rainbow.

This Parliament does not need another marriage equality advocate; it has enough already. Marriage equality should not still be an issue in 2017. In years to come, our children will wonder why this was even an issue. I believe marriage equality is already supported by an overwhelming majority of Australians; we are all just waiting for the federal Parliament to have a free vote on it. Marriage laws will change and Australia will have marriage equality soon and, on that day, I hope to conduct a marriage ceremony again, but this time at midnight on the steps of the WA Parliament, and of course all members are invited.

As a teacher, I was also part of one of the many WA Safe Schools programs. I seek to place on record the good work that this program does in supporting all students. During the election campaign, mention was made about a very hateful and anti-gay message that was trying to hijack this program for its own purposes. Safe Schools provides schools and teachers with anti-bullying resources to assist staff to support all students. It is not a "gay lifestyle" program, nor are my lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, intersex, queer students "abnormal", as the former member for Southern River said to me at a school boardroom meeting. WA Labor's commitment is to fund this program so that those public high schools in WA that make a decision and choose to access the resources can. Tomorrow, 17 May, is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. I am proud to stand as the member for Southern River in this chamber to contribute to stamping out homophobia and hate.

I also seek to call out gender inequality. I believe that men and women should be treated and represented equally. We will be a better Legislative Assembly if we actually represent the 50–50 gender balance of our community. In this chamber, only 18 women sit in the 59 seats. Today, there are more women in this place than ever in this Parliament's history, but it is still not good enough. Including the Legislative Council, only 30.53 per cent of members of the Western Australian Parliament are female. Out of 41 Labor MLAs, 15 are female, or 36.5 per cent; the Nationals have one female; and the Liberals have two, or 15 per cent.

I quote one of my local predecessor's first speeches. Sheila McHale stated —

Women represent 50 per cent of the population, yet only 21 per cent of this House ... are women. That is not good enough for our community and it is not good enough for us.

That 21 per cent is now 30.5 per cent, but I reiterate Sheila McHale's words —

That is not good enough for our community and it is not good enough for us.

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The Labor Party needs to actively recruit and support female candidates to meet and then exceed its affirmative action targets. We can always do better. I now turn to the Liberal and National Parties and ask that they adopt affirmative action targets, as I cannot do this without them.

I called upon some female leaders, Amy Hart and Allyson Murray from Southern River College, to put this to members in their own words. According to my notes, they said —

We believe that in order for our parliament to be a reflection of our society, gender equity has to be achieved, with women making up 50% of parliamentary representatives. To us, as women who are about to graduate and enter society as active and engaged citizens, having representatives that reflect the population, will ensure that everyone benefits. In order to make laws for the benefit of all, the parliament must represent the entire constituency.

The Gosnells and Southern River communities rely on jobs, training and employment to support their families and aspire to further pathways and opportunities in life. Training and skills development are the pathways out of certain cycles for my students and community members. The unfair increases in TAFE fees hurt all Western Australians, but my local residents felt them the most. We have already let down several years of young people who could not afford the debt that TAFE then represented. It was not a matter of getting a loan, as many from my community could not even afford to repay the debt, so seats at TAFE went empty. This will disadvantage my community for years to come.

Many out-of-work local residents, often former fly in, fly out workers, informed me during the election campaign that they wanted to retrain but even they could not afford the increase in training fees. The TAFE fees freeze is commendable, but the well over 500 per cent increase was irresponsible to begin with. The freeze on fees for four years at least allows my community to plan their potential studies without fear of further increases. TAFE should never be about whether a person can afford the fees. TAFE is an incredible public institution that should be about access and equity.

Residents in my electorate have just voted to support Labor to continue to build rail lines in our community. Labor will build the Thornlie rail extension to Cockburn and two very overdue Canning Vale train stations as part of Metronet. Only Labor has a track record in building rail in WA. Labor built the Mandurah and Thornlie rail lines and Labor will build the circle line. It will finish what the previous Labor government began.

I speak of the train lines we will build, the schools we will better maintain, the opportunities for aspiration that we will strengthen, but it is not only this that makes a community. We also need more community halls, youth facilities, sports fields and recreation facilities to provide for the thousands more families in my electorate.

I believe that one of the biggest issues in Gosnells and Southern River is reported and unreported domestic violence. It has been my experience that domestic violence in Gosnells and Southern River drives poverty, unemployment and homelessness. It is also a block to education and literacy and it leads to disadvantage, drug use and the cycles of crime that imprison my community and lock in cycles of disadvantage. It was my goal as a councillor to do more than we did. It will be my goal as the local member to do more than we do now. I commend this government on appointing the state's first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. Matt Keogh said it well when he stated —

We must also ensure that we have adequate, available and fully supported domestic violence services and adequately funded legal assistance and community education.

I will work with the federal member for Burt to achieve this.

I mentioned earlier that I was brought to this place because a group of people threatened my school and my students. Now I have 15 schools that I stand as guardian over, and I will protect them from those who would do them harm. I quote a great teacher, Professor Charles Xavier —

I feel a great swell of pity for the poor soul that comes to my school looking for trouble.

I will work hard every day to continue to earn the trust placed in me. We now have so much work to do. Let us get to work. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [8.18 pm]: I would like to commence my inaugural speech! Sorry, I was getting caught up in the production line of new Labor members from the class of 2017. It is so refreshing to hear so many new members speak about their commitment and the reasons they have come into this place. It was very interesting to hear the speech by the new member for Southern River. He talked about his participation in the first gay marriage

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in Australia. I am sure that the former member for Southern River would be incredibly upset to be in this house witnessing that speech by the member for Southern River.

In the short time I have available I would like to re-emphasise the great announcement by the McGowan government and the Minister for Transport about the Denny Avenue stretch of road in my electorate, which was voted in a recent RAC survey to be the most dangerous stretch of road in at least the metropolitan area, maybe even in Western Australia. I want to go into the history of Denny Avenue. Since I came to this place in October 2010, I have been advocating that there needs to be a separated crossing at Denny Avenue, but one transport minister after another in the former government refused to listen to those concerns of the community. I worked in unison with the late Don Randall, the former federal Liberal member for Canning. We sought to have Dean Nalder come out and meet us on site, but he refused time and again. During the Canning by-election that was called as a result of the untimely death of Don Randall, the then minister appeared in a photo with the then Liberal candidate for Canning, Andrew Hastie. Time and again, the then minister would not meet the sitting members at the state and federal levels; he said that he did not need to come out and see us as he knew the physical location of Denny Avenue. But somehow he was able to find time for a photo opportunity with the Liberal candidate. That was incredibly disappointing to me and my community.

We had the Minister for Transport and the member for Darling Range out at Denny Avenue last week, because the upgrade of Denny Avenue will benefit not only my community, but also the constituents of the member for Darling Range. It was very exciting to have the minister there. She said that this project will not only separate the crossing, but also be used as a catalyst to revitalise the whole CBD of Kelmscott. It is part of our Metronet plan. It is not just a transport plan; the whole design and planning will try to enliven our communities around the railway line. I am pleased that Denny Avenue is a catalyst for part of that. It is the first of the 31 crossings that this government has committed to fixing; Denny Avenue is the first off the block.

Of course, the Minister for Transport has great experience with Denny Avenue, because she, like me, was a graduate of Kelmscott Senior High School and had to cross that road on a daily basis. If it was bad then, it has become a lot worse since because of the increase in traffic in the area due to the increase in the population and the establishment of the Spudshed Fresh Food Market along Denny Avenue. If people do not realise how bad Denny Avenue is, they should go there any time of the day, but particularly at peak hour. The train station is within 200 or 300 metres of the railway crossing, so the boom gates are down all the time, and there is about 180 metres between the railway line and Albany Highway. It is a disaster. It is a great announcement for me and the member for Darling Range.

Next week a very significant event, hosted by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the member for Victoria Park, Hon Ben Wyatt, will be held at Parliament to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the release of the “Bringing them home” report, which was the result of an inquiry instigated by the Keating government. By the time the inquiry had been completed and the report was published, the Howard government was in power. Of course, the Howard government did not instigate the inquiry, it did not want the inquiry and it had to deal with a report that it did not want. Its response to that report was quite disgraceful. I had a very strong personal and professional involvement in that inquiry because, at that time, I was working at the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia and I was the coordinator of the stolen generations project. We interviewed about 500 Aboriginal people who had been removed. I personally interviewed about 250 people. It was probably one of the most worthwhile projects I have ever been involved with in my life, but there were stresses involved in interviewing over 200 people, who, in many respects, relayed tragic situations that they had never relayed to any other person. It was, of course, stressful for them. We at the Aboriginal Legal Service failed those clients by not providing counselling services; we did not have the resources for that. We also did not provide counselling services for the solicitors and court officers. For a number of years after that experience I did not want to do any interviews of any sort. But it was incredibly worthwhile and we made a number of submissions to the national inquiry. When the “Bringing them home” report came out, it was with great joy that I saw that many of our submissions and recommendations formed part of the final report, including the reparation model that was adopted by the Human Rights Commission. Basically, that reparation model was not just about money. There were a number of parts to it, including the need for an apology, the need for a guarantee that there would not be a repetition of that human rights wrong and the issues of compensation, reparation and a form of restitution, and rehabilitation. It did not see that the only form of compensation was money. Money really is a symbolic gesture more than anything.

As we know, Prime Minister Howard refused time and again to make a parliamentary apology. He made a statement of regret in Parliament without specifically mentioning the stolen generations. We had to wait until 2008 for the first parliamentary sitting of the Rudd government. There are many views of Kevin Rudd as Prime Minister, and many of them are not very positive, even from our side of politics, but when the history of the commonwealth Parliament is written, there is no doubt that the apology statement will be one of the main historical

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moments of that Parliament. Whatever history will say about Kevin Rudd, at least he will be remembered as the Prime Minister who made that statement. It was quite a beautiful apology, which I believe he crafted himself. Of course, there are many other things that need to be done; an apology in itself is not enough. The power of that apology was quite significant and it should have been made years previously. It is a shame that the Howard government refused to engage in making an apology. If I remember rightly, when the “Bringing them home” report was released, the Western Australian Parliament, under the premiership of Richard Court, made an apology within a couple of days.

Mr W.J. Johnston: It was moved by the then Leader of the Opposition and seconded by the then Premier.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Of course, the Premier at the time, Richard Court, who is now the ambassador to Japan, has personal experience in this area because he has an adopted Aboriginal child. I interviewed her mother, who is a stolen generation person. One thing people in Perth realise about the Aboriginal community is that the linkages are incredibly close and complex, and also news travels very quickly. People do not have to worry about email; news will travel very quickly.

Presumably, every member has received an invitation to that event next Thursday. I am not sure that that is the case—maybe it is not. There will be an acknowledgement of the twentieth anniversary of the “Bringing them home” report, which is one of the most significant documents in Human Rights Commission history and in public policy history in Australia and Western Australia, and the Aboriginal Legal Service had a major part to play in that. Of course, words are cheap; words on a piece of paper and even oral words are very cheap. There are many things that still need to be done in the Aboriginal space. It is very complex. Even at the local level in the seat of Armadale, which has one of the highest Indigenous populations of any metropolitan seat, there are some incredibly complex problems in the Indigenous community, but there are also many positive stories. We must be careful not to always harp on about the negative stories; we must also champion the positive stories.

The member for Darling Range and I are working together, because in some aspects our communities have many similarities and common features. We want to be able to say to any child in our electorate that they can do anything they want. A child who lives in the western suburbs often will think that they can do anything they want, and that is fantastic, but I want any child in my electorate to think that they can do whatever they want. That obviously starts with their education at school, but it starts even before that. Often it is too late by the time they start school. It starts at home. In some respects, school is the easy bit—a lot of things can be done at the school level, but the home level is more difficult. I am sure the new Minister for Child Protection and also the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence are very well aware of those issues. We really need to start trying to ensure that when children attend school, they have already received an education at home. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I was at a board meeting yesterday of one of my primary schools where 65 per cent of the school population attends school only six out of 10 days on a fortnightly basis. In other words, from grade 1 to grade 6 they are basically missing out on one year of schooling. They are often behind the eight ball when they come to school and then during those six years at school they are missing about a year of schooling. That is just appalling. With those words I will sit down and enjoy hearing more of the speeches by new members.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [8.30 pm]: Before I begin I would like to thank all those who have joined me in the gallery this evening. What the Liberal Party lacks in numbers on this side of the house I have tried to make up for in the gallery, so thank you everybody!

Mrs L.M. Harvey: You’ve done a good job there.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Thank you, Deputy Leader. I would also like to congratulate the member for Albany on his elevation to the position of Speaker, and all those installed as Acting Speakers. My congratulations also go to our state’s thirtieth Premier and his cabinet and parliamentary team for what was an emphatic victory. I would like to offer my best wishes to all members of this place, who have been elected to the fortieth Parliament.

I would like to take the opportunity at the outset to thank the people of the district of Dawesville for their confidence in electing me as their representative. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent such an amazing community and will work hard to ensure that their confidence in me has not been in vain. For much of the last 30 years of my life, my entire drive, my entire dream, has been to represent the people as a member of this place. Tonight represents the culmination of that long-held dream. Often when hearing about my interest in politics and where I would like to be, many people would ask why it was that someone, especially a young person, would ever want to be a member of Parliament. To me it was always a very simple answer—I have always wanted to serve the people of Western Australia and help contribute to make Western Australia a better state. This evening I intend to outline what it is that I hope to achieve and give a preview of the journey that I have had that led me to this place.

I am, in perhaps contrast to the mould of politicians, not one who wants to talk about myself too much. I think it is far better to talk about the issues. However, it is important to acknowledge that I am a very small part of a far

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larger and more interesting story. I can trace the desire to be a parliamentarian to the front steps of my grandmother's home in South Fremantle where, during the summer break between years 5 and 6 at Woodlupine Primary School in Forrestfield, I was telling my gran, who sits in the gallery here tonight, that I wanted to grow up and become a marine biologist. As a reasonably chubby child, she told me that I was far too fat for that career choice and would likely get eaten by sharks. As a young boy from a struggling eastern suburbs working family, I quickly resolved that I did not want to get eaten by sharks and instead would like to serve the people of Western Australia as a member of Parliament.

When I talk about my family as those who have struggled, I do so fondly. For much of my childhood and adolescence my family never had a lot of money but always worked hard. My mother emigrated to this country at the age of 19, fleeing the household she grew up in which was full of alcohol abuse and domestic violence. She met my father on the Dampier to Wagerup gas pipeline project and then later moved down to Perth with dad, and has worked at the same pharmacy in Forrestfield for the last 30 years as a retail assistant. My dad, who since the age of three did not have a father, left his home in Dianella at the age of 16 to become an apprentice plumber. He is a striving, continual small business operator, who has worked in earthmoving and civil construction. That work has meant that he has gone on to contribute to resource projects right around WA. My parents have worked incredibly hard to be where they are today, and like many Western Australians, they have been heavily reliant on the buoyancy of our state's resource industry. When times were good in WA our family flourished. When times were tough, as they are now, our family has sometimes barely managed to keep their heads above water.

No matter how much my parents were struggling they always taught me that it was important to care about what was happening in the world around us. I fondly recall my mother, then a member of Greenpeace, teaching me at a very early age about the importance of looking after our environment. At our kitchen table over dinner she would speak about the need for me to protest the French nuclear testing in the Pacific Ocean, or for governments to do more to address pollution. Dad would also ensure that I was well aware of what was happening in domestic politics. He would always ask me before dinner—see previous statement about chubby child—who the Prime Minister, federal Treasurer, state Premier and state Treasurer were before I would be able to eat my dinner. I am immensely proud of both my parents for all that they have done, sometimes unknowingly, in getting me here today. Only in a place full of opportunity like Western Australia could my parents, who have battled their entire lives, build the foundations to send their only son to Parliament. To my parents, thank you for all that you have done. I am incredibly proud of you both and I love you deeply.

Together with my mother's environmental activism and my dad's interest in the domestic political landscape, I gained an appreciation from a very young age for our nation's democratic institutions. This appreciation was further refined during my time at Governor Stirling Senior High School. Until it was completely rebuilt by the former Premier in 2009, Govo was a dilapidated 1950s public high school in Midland. What that old brick and asbestos building lacked in school amenities, though, it made up for in the quality of its teachers and students. I should take this opportunity now to thank my fellow graduates from Govo, who have been with me throughout this entire journey and who join us in the gallery this evening. My thanks in particular to Carl Scarfone, Steven De Rosa, Daniel Murphy and Christopher Mark Baisden and his wife Vanessa Murphy. As students growing up in Midland we were surrounded by near poverty and economic depression. The teachers from Govo were our shining lights to a better future. One in particular left a mark. I would like to take this opportunity this evening to also acknowledge the contribution of Mr Tony Granich. Mr Granich is also in the gallery this evening and was my history teacher from 2001 to 2004. He not only taught us about the history of WA, but also gave us hope for our future. Recognising my intense desire in politics, in 2001 he gave me a copy of Machiavelli's *The Prince* and continued to encourage me to follow my dream. Mr Granich, I could not be here without you. Thank you for your contribution and your inspiration.

It was during a visit to the Midland Town Hall in 2004 that I decided it would be a great idea to hand a business card to the then Prime Minister, John Howard, which read "Zak R.F. Kirkup, Future PM". After telling Mr Howard that it would be "pretty soon" until I held the top job, the handing over of that business card became a catalyst for my arrival here today. I was quickly recruited to join the Liberal Party by former state director Paul Everingham, and a year after graduating from Govo I volunteered as an assistant to the Swan Hills campaign, helping out Vince Taskunas, who was the campaign manager at the time. In 2006 while I was going to uni—the first of my family to ever do so—I quickly grew tired of what I saw was a suboptimal use of my time. Without telling my parents, I started volunteering as a junior research officer for the then leader of the WA opposition. That clandestine volunteer gig, facilitated by Jason Marocchi, brought me to the WA Parliament, and it was then and there that I knew that I wanted to serve the people of Western Australia in this Legislative Assembly. I went on to work for the late Senator Judith Adams, accompanying her to Canberra and also to wheatbelt communities, where we would hold town halls. My time with Judith taught me about the importance

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of connecting with those you are elected to represent. After a range of tests conducted by the federal secretariat I was then asked to join the WA Liberal Party head office as a campaign officer under Mark Neeham. Our efforts bucked the trend during the 2007 federal election and saw us gain seats when other states lost them and government was handed over to then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. I then went on to become deputy state director, under Ben Morton, and with a huge effort from many members on this side of the house we went on to secure victory in the 2008 state election. The alignment of all these experiences and election victories saw me offered what I considered to be the most defining career I have ever had until my election to this house. At age 22 I was asked to join the office of the twenty-ninth Premier. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Cottesloe for the opportunities he gave me. I am confident that history will reflect on him as having been one of the most important Premiers to have ever served this state. It will be my lifelong privilege to have worked for the former Premier as one of his advisers and to have stood beside him as one of his candidates. To the member for Cottesloe, thank you for all that you have taught me and, most importantly, for your contribution to this great state.

Few would ever understand what it means to work as an advisor to a WA Premier. It is a career that takes all that is given and still expects more. If it is done right, there is no such thing as a work–life balance. The work of a policy adviser absorbs the weekends, and means missing family events and spending incredibly long, sometimes gruelling hours on a single issue. However, the opportunity to help create and implement policy that benefits this great state is one that I will cherish forever. I greatly enjoyed being a policy adviser, not only out of a deep respect for the member for Cottesloe, but also because I wanted to do everything possible to help him deliver a better government and better state.

Of everything that the former Premier has ever given me, none was more important than the opportunity he gave me to find the love of my life. Michelle Gadellaa, who is also in the public gallery tonight, and I both worked for the Premier at the same time in his office and, in the halls of 1 Parliament Place, we fell in love. Michelle, at aged just 27, you have been thrust into the position of being the partner of a parliamentarian—a daunting responsibility that you did not seek out. I am so thankful for all that you have sacrificed, all that you have given, all your support and all your wisdom. I am in constant awe of all that you continue to achieve as a young professional woman. You are faultless, truthful, beautiful and intelligent. I am so proud to call you my better half, and I am blessed to have found you. For the benefit of all in this place, I will save the more emotional indulgences for our wedding in 263 days' time. However, suffice to say, Michelle, I would not be here if it were not for you. Thank you, and I love you greatly.

After the 2013 election, and recognising now that I had found the person whom I hope to marry one day, I sought to leave the volatility of politics and gain experience in the private sector. I secured a job with BGC, working for some of the finest men I have ever come across. With the help of Kelvin Ryan and Julian Ambrose, who are in the gallery tonight, I was able to commercialise my skill set and genuinely contribute to a company with a proud heritage in Western Australia. There are many people around Perth—Perthonalities, as they are sometimes called—who could learn much from Kelvin and Julian. These men spent far more time working and helping others than they spent on self-promotion. I would not have stood for preselection without either of them. They are both titans of Western Australia, and I am proud to call them my friends.

The sobering reality is that my time in BGC never really quenched my unrelenting desire to enter politics. I loved working at BGC, but I loved the idea of working for the people of Dawesville that much more. I was encouraged by a number of people in the gallery here this evening to seek preselection. I should take this opportunity to specifically thank the team known only as ICQ. To Samuel Calabrese, Ben Allen and Tom White, thank you for your encouragement; you are all far better men than I could ever hope to be. After my preselection, the 2017 Dawesville campaign committee was formed, and we undertook an exhaustive effort to win a seat that, in the 23 years since it was created, has only ever been held by two Liberals, in Arthur Marshall and Dr Kim Hames. They are two men who have given me great counsel since preselection, and I thank them both for their contribution. As evidenced by my presence here today, we went on to hold Dawesville in what was the most difficult electoral circumstance in the history of our party. I am incredibly thankful to the more than 230 people who volunteered and gave their time or money or both to our campaign. In particular, I thank those who served on my campaign committee and join me in the gallery this evening: Amanda Burton, Linda Christie, Glenda Cooper, Robert Cooper, Kim Hames, Cory Harding, Tony Iannello, Ron Taggart, Gaynar Sanders and Phil Vergone. My thanks also go to state director Andrew Cox and deputy director Samuel Calabrese and their team for their contributions to my election.

Locally, we worked hard to ensure that we met and spoke with as many people as possible. We did not take the district of Dawesville for granted. We listened to the concerns of our community and worked hard to raise, on their behalf, issues that they had raised with us. I wanted to ensure that people knew that how hard I campaigned would

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be how hard I would work if I were elected as the member of Parliament. I again thank the people of the district of Dawesville for their support, and in particular those who shared their experiences and issues with me during the campaign.

I am proud of Mandurah and the Peel region. Our unique and beautiful environment is exceeded only by the generosity, strength and warmth of our community. Too often we focus on the many challenges our town faces, and it absolutely has its fair share, but there is a much deeper story to Mandurah. It is a story of people who stand up, volunteer, help each other out, and smile and still say hi when they are out walking on a Sunday morning. It is a story in which people face those challenges head on, and I am proud to have their backs. I am thankful that I am not alone in this respect.

In Mandurah, there are actually two representatives in this place that look after our community and more often than not they have been from opposing political parties. As a result, the members for Dawesville and Mandurah have a historic and established special relationship that I do not believe is replicated elsewhere in WA. Indeed, the former member for Dawesville, Arthur Marshall, told me that, between these two members, there would always be a master and an apprentice. By virtue of his age, experience, service and what appears to be partially thinning hair, I suspect I am indeed now that apprentice, and it is a pleasure to be so to such a good man. Leader of the House, thank you for your guidance, counsel and support up to and since my election to this place. I look forward to continuing to work with you for many years to come.

As I look to those many years to come I think it is important to also reflect on the history of this Parliament. It is worth noting that we are standing in the very place that voted in favour of a series of oppressive and draconian pieces of legislation that sought to restrict and oppress the rights of all Aboriginal people, which has also included members of my own family. In 1904 Thomas Kirkup was forbidden by the Geraldton magistrate to marry his fiancée because he didn't have the consent of the Chief Protector of Aborigines. As a result of measures passed in this house, Aboriginal people could not marry freely, because it was the view of this chamber that they should try to "breed out the colour" of Aboriginal Australians. My grandfather, Brian, was born in 1941, an Aboriginal man from the midwest, and as a result of decisions made in this place, for much of his life he was unable to own property freely, to move freely, to own a business freely or to marry freely. When my father Robert was born in 1962, his Aboriginality meant that he would not have been counted as an Australian in the national census held four years after his birth.

My family history is not unique. For centuries of European settlement, Aboriginal people have been discriminated against, segregated and oppressed because of decisions made where I stand today. I do not mention this to be controversial. We should never forget the past. However, I believe we are all far better served, in the spirit of meaningful reconciliation, by coming together as Western Australians.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Recently, an unfortunate hostility has engulfed members of the community. There are those who seek to redefine many of the events and principles we consider important to our national identity. They suggest we should change the date of Australia Day, or have a separate national anthem. We should not allow the discourse in our community to be exploited by those wishing to perpetuate the pains of our past for their own ideological gain. Instead we should celebrate the opportunities to continue to work together, in partnership, to build a better state. The recognition of my family's history will continue to remind me that our place in this Parliament is to forever guard against the infringement of personal rights and freedoms that have been granted to us by God.

In all decisions we make in this Parliament, we must now not allow ourselves to be dictated to out of fear for the direction of contemporary commentary of the day. Instead, we must adopt a long-term view to always represent, protect and serve all Western Australians no matter their race, religion, gender or sexuality. In the adoption of that longer term view, I would like to outline what I see as two challenges that confront our state over the coming years to which I believe this Parliament should take action to address. We all know that Western Australia's prosperity has been dominated by the agriculture and resources industry. In a globally competitive environment, though, I fear these two industries alone will not maintain our state's economic dominance. In order for WA to continue to go from strength to strength, we must continue to diversify our economic base. With that in mind, I put to this place that we need to enable our state to become a world leader in embracing new technologies.

As at 2017, the global economy is edging ever forward towards the commercialisation of a range of new, disruptive technologies that will prove ever-challenging for governments to address. Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, diversified energy generation and storage, genetic engineering, memory technology and quantum computing are just some of the areas that we know will have a substantial impact on western societies once commercialised. Sadly, though, for all of Western Australia's entrepreneurial spirit,

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governments past and present have not accommodated those emerging industries and ideas as much as I hoped we would. We cannot expect to be competitive and leaders in the Asia–Pacific region if we still debate whether or not basic concepts like Uber and Airbnb have a place in our society. As the youngest member of this chamber and, indeed, of the Liberal Party, I hope to frame the discussion that we should embrace, not reject, these emerging technologies. Our state needs to have openness towards these new and disruptive ideas. This Parliament should seek to introduce a flexible legislative environment to allow these technological advances to take hold and to flourish right here in WA. Like every new technology, they will present challenges to the nature of our society but I am certain that with typical Western Australian zeal, we will overcome them and, in so doing, we will build an even better state and continue our dominance in the Asia–Pacific.

In the theme of continuing to help build an even better state, I wish to raise the only other issue that I believe this Parliament should address as a matter of urgency—that is, the equality of the GST. Already touched on this evening by my friend the member for Hillarys, we all know that WA does not receive its fair share for what it contributes to the Federation. Every sandgroper in WA knows that the GST system is fundamentally broken insofar as our state is concerned. For too long this broken system seeks to compensate mendicant, backward states like Tasmania for turning their lonely island, to quote the twenty-ninth Premier, into a national park. For too long, this broken system punishes WA for its success. For too long, all members of this place have fought hard with little or no change within the Federation.

I have a message for my federal parliamentary colleagues this evening: Western Australians are sick and tired of the enshrined inequity that is the GST. We are sick and tired of continuing to contribute so much to this nation and receiving so little in return. We are sick and tired of supporting a Federation that is culturally, societally and, importantly, financially predisposed towards supporting the eastern states. Western Australians are fed up that for far too long we have operated within the bounds of procedures, agreements and convention. They do not care how they get it done; the people of this state want this issue resolved soon.

That is why, if Western Australia is to continue to be the great state that I know it to be, we need to exercise far more financial and intergovernmental independence than we currently do in order to force a change. So long as this inequity continues, I urge this place to commence a responsible, considered and staged withdrawal of the majority of the intergovernmental agreements in which WA is a participant and move towards greater financial independence. Where it can, where there is no negative impact to our national security or provision of vital services, the Western Australian government should start to rid itself of this cooperation with Canberra if the inequity continues. These may seem like drastic measures but we are not elected here to uphold unfair agreements made in the meeting rooms of Parliament House in Canberra. We are here to listen and take action on behalf of those who elected us, and they are crying out for more action to be taken.

We must not continue to sacrifice our state’s future in order to provide an even greater future and greater fortune to states like South Australia and Tasmania. This Parliament needs to do all it can to rally against the notion that WA should continue to lick the boot that kicks us. For my part in this place here, I will do all I can to try to restore that equality or help move us closer to intergovernmental and financial independence. We need to stand up for WA and we need to get our fair share which will, in turn, ensure that our state government is well resourced to help continue to build an even better WA. Our Parliament should embrace new concepts and technologies while ensuring that we protect the personal freedoms of our citizens. We should ensure that our historic economic contributors continue to earn us our fair share of the GST.

I am blessed today that my lifelong dream has come true. I have the honour of representing the citizens of the district of Dawesville and serving the state of Western Australia, whose citizens represent the fabric of the greatest state in the greatest nation on earth. The people of WA deserve representatives and a government that listens to them and acts on their behalf. We in this place should never forget that we are here to serve them first and foremost. I again thank the people of the district of Dawesville for their votes and their confidence. I will do all I can to ensure that as your elected representative, I will work hard for you and work hard with everyone in this place to help make WA an even better state.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.

House adjourned at 8.57 pm
