

LAURENCE “LAURIE” KERR — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Kingsley

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [12.58 pm]: I stand today to speak on the life of Laurence “Laurie” Kerr. Born on 12 May 1958, Laurie had a passion for football and in 2002 was the chairman of selectors for the Kingsley Football Club. That year both the seniors and reserves teams made it to the grand final. In October of that year, the Kingsley Football Club players and staff went to Bali to celebrate the end of the season and the success they had. Laurie was with them. On 12 October 2002, less than 12 hours after arriving in Bali, many of them were inside the Sari Club when a terrorist bomb was detonated. The club lost seven members that night and many others were injured, including Laurie. Even as he suffered burns to 20 per cent of his body, Laurie still assisted in rescuing others. Laurie and I sat in my office last year and he told me of the horrific events of that night and the ongoing physical and psychological pain and impact it had on him. Laurie was still struggling, angry and frustrated but he also had a great sense of humour. My team, along with the office of the member for Cowan, Anne Aly, and the Red Cross, was helping Laurie with housing, medical assistance and Centrelink matters, and when I spoke to him only a few short weeks ago, he was the happiest I had ever heard him and was talking about getting a dog. Laurie passed away on Saturday, 13 June 2020. Laurie is survived by his four children, Tristan, Aaron, Brittany and Allira, and six grandchildren. My sincere condolence to his family, friends and the Kingsley Football Club. Rest in peace now, Laurie.