

**STROKE**

*Statement by Member for Warren–Blackwood*

**MS E.J. KELSIE (Warren–Blackwood)** [12.52 pm]: Stroke attacks the brain—the human control centre. It changes lives in an instant. It blocks blood flow to the brain. Getting help fast is very important. It can impact how people think, behave, use words, swallow, see, feel, touch and move their bodies. Stroke can happen to anyone at any age. It is not something that just affects older people. You can be fit and have a stroke. Our family friend was a runner and surfer, and generally took good care of his health. He was taking his dog for their daily run when he was struck down by stroke. Living where we do in regional Western Australia, thanks must go to the first responders, both career and volunteer; our excellent healthcare service providers; and our local police. I also thank the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Emergency Telehealth Service. All their swift responses together helped to save his life. There are clear signs that someone may be having a stroke. The FAST test—face, arms, speech, time—is an easy way to remember the common signs. Check their face; is their mouth droopy? Can they lift both arms? Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you? Time is critical. If you think someone is having a stroke—acting wobbly, slurring words, cannot smile properly, is stumbling or droopy-faced—do not assume. Ask whether they are okay. You could save someone's life. You could save someone's career. You could save someone's family. We are very glad our family friend is still with us. His life and the lives of his family have changed. They have adapted to a new normal.