

# February 2026 Newsletter



Hi Curtin,

February moved fast in Canberra, but the conversations sticking with me are the ones I've had here at home - from UWA Orientation Day to door knocking in Scarborough and meeting with constituents in my office. At UWA, students told me

housing remains their biggest issue, and both at UWA and while door knocking, I heard growing concerns about social cohesion.

With growing support to reform the Capital Gains Tax discount in Curtin, I've continued to press the Government to act in the interests of young people to alleviate the intergenerational inequity in housing.

Thank you to those of you who turned out on a very warm evening to hear from Dr Catherine Williams of the Centre for Public Integrity about the challenges we face in an era of misinformation. Identifying reliable sources of information and staying safe online is a growing concern for many of us, as well as the polarisation caused by each of us living in our own online echo-chamber.

My work on gambling reform and frustration with the government's lack of response to the committee inquiry after nearly 1000 days prompted me to look into the broader issue of ignored inquiries. I'm now drawing attention to the government's failure to respond to 55 parliamentary committee inquiries it commissioned since it came to power.

My crossbench colleague, Independent MP Dr Monique Ryan, and I are working to get more federal funding for medical research delivered to researchers, including for some excellent work undertaken in WA.

And this week, I released a Progress Report on Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero that many of you worked with me on in my first term. The Report details where we are moving ahead, and where we are falling behind as we decarbonise our community.

Beyond the policy work, our community has faced some deeply challenging and emotional moments recently. In Parliament, I shared some of the pain being felt in Curtin from the devastating murder-suicide in Mosman Park, and the terrifying bomb attack in Perth on 26 January.

I've heard from many community members about the trauma caused by these events and how, as a country, we might address the circumstances that give rise to events like these.

Best wishes,  
Kate

## In Canberra

# Government is ignoring Parliament's best work

Parliamentary committees produce some of the best work in our political system.

Senators and MPs from across the country and the political spectrum come together to work through difficult issues away from the spotlight. But right now, this constructive work has become a black hole into which expert testimony, community experience and months of effort quietly disappear.

Since the Albanese Government was elected in 2022, more than 100 House committee inquiries have been completed. Of these inquiries, the Government has failed to respond to 55. [Read my Op Ed here.](#)

Responses to reports are due within six months. Half these report responses are now overdue by more than a year; 25 percent by more than 18 months.

The reports being ignored deal with serious issues. They cover some of Australia's most urgent policy challenges: terrorism, illicit drugs, online safety, migration, plastic pollution and energy security.

More than 3,500 experts, industry bodies, academics and everyday Australians have invested significant time and resources to inform these 55 inquiries in good faith. They do so because they believe the government will listen, and they hope it will have the guts to act.

I'm putting pressure on the Government to respond to all these reports and encouraging my crossbench colleagues to do the same, because accountability matters. [Watch my speech in Parliament here.](#)

## **Supporting students to complete professional placements**



We need to support easier pathways into higher education for all students, not just those from wealthy backgrounds. Financial barriers should not prevent talented people from pursuing careers that our community desperately needs.

I have been advocating for the Government to expand the Prac Payment Scheme to include allied health and medical students. Students face significant financial strain while completing their mandatory clinical placements. They should be able to focus should be on their training and development without the burden of 'placement poverty'.

I was pleased to meet and listen to Seniru, the President of the Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA). He shared the real-world challenges students are facing right now and did a fantastic job speaking up on their behalf.

[Sign this petition calling for an expansion to the Prac Payment Scheme](#)

[Listen to my conversation with Seniru](#)

## **Capital Gains Tax reform is on the agenda**

I'm particularly proud that the people of Curtin have helped put Capital Gains Tax reform on the national agenda ahead of this year's federal budget.

I've been discussing reforming the CGT discount with the people of Curtin and raising it in Canberra since I was elected in 2022. In November last year, 240 constituents participated in my online tax reform for housing workshop and more than 80 percent of participants supported reforming the CGT discount.

Surprisingly, owners of investment properties were very well represented at the event (67%) and were also supportive of reform, recognising that even if they benefit personally, the current tax system makes it very challenging for younger people to buy a home.

This work follows our 2024 community survey of more than 370 people in Curtin, that showed 76 percent of respondents supported creating a more level playing field for home buyers by reforming the CGT discount and negative gearing.

Tax reform is not a silver bullet to ending the housing crisis, but we must do everything we can to curb growing intergenerational inequity - housing is a fundamental necessity, not just an investment for growing wealth.

[Watch my speech here](#)

# Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children



I welcome the introduction of the National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Bill. Given the disproportionate disadvantages faced by First Nations peoples, especially the over-representation of young people in out-of-home care and youth detention, the establishment of this Commission is a vital step forward.

This is a significant move toward doing what successive governments have failed to do: listen, act, and build the structural accountability needed to ensure these children are not left behind.

The Commission will only succeed if its findings actually drive Government action. I look forward to seeing the Government respond and actively listen to the recommendations that come from this new body to ensure real change occurs.

[Watch my speech here](#)

## Ocean Protections

The introduction of the High Seas Biodiversity Bill is a major win for the environment. This bill will ratify the Global Oceans Treaty, allowing Australia to finally start safeguarding the high seas. The high seas are beyond the jurisdiction of any single country, and currently, only 1 percent of them are protected.

The international treaty came into effect earlier this year, and Australia is the 86th country to ratify it. I am proud to have fought hard for the introduction of this bill to ratify the treaty.

I wrote to the Minister, and spoke in Parliament about why acting to protect the high seas matter. I will continue to work to ensure this bill passes through Parliament so we can protect our blue planet for the future.

# In Curtin

## O-Day at UWA!



Orientation Day at UWA is so much fun and makes me want to be back at uni!

For the fourth consecutive year we tempted students with blue slushies and I had some great conversations about the issues that matter to them. We also conducted two surveys – one online and the other with gumnuts, to gather some information about their concerns.

For the 180 students who filled out our online survey, housing affordability, the cost of living, and climate change were the dominant issues. It was also notable that in the space of half an hour, ten 18 year old men raised the issue of social cohesion with me.

And given that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, I was honoured to see the Liberal Party stall getting on board and also handing out blue slushies (a slightly different shade)!

## **Who Do You Trust and What You Believe?**



Dr Catherine Williams, Executive Director of the Centre for Public Integrity, joined me last week to discuss information integrity in an era of misinformation and deepfakes.

The world is changing and the knowledge institutions and sources we rely on for reliable, evidence-based information must be protected from misuse of AI, biased algorithms, and worsening government transparency. Maintaining social cohesion and our ability to make sound decisions rely on trust in the integrity of information.

There are a lot of things that need to happen in this space, but we could start with a Digital Duty of Care that puts the responsibility for online safety on tech platforms and improvements in media and digital literacy for all Australians.

It was a wide-ranging and challenging topic and I was thrilled that more than 120 people attended in person – on a hot evening in City Beach – while a further 1300 people have viewed the recording online.

[Watch the event recording](#)

# Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero Progress Report



Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero was a significant piece of work that many of you worked with me on in my first term. This week, I launched a Progress Report to update you on the progress made – or not – on the steps we need to take as a community to reduce our carbon emissions.

The Report is a scorecard for our community to assess the action taken by Federal, State and local governments. You can pick up a copy of the Report from my office or download it online at the button below.

Thank you to the 80 people who attended the Report launch this week. Special thanks to Chris, Gemma, Ian, Fiona and Eveline who each shared the changes they have undertaken to reduce their carbon footprint in their homes, vehicles, greening and waste.

[Net Zero Progress Report](#)

**Medical Research Matters  
in Curtin**



I am working with the Independent Member for Kooyong, Dr Monique Ryan, to advocate for more Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) money to be distributed to researchers in the next Federal Budget.

Western Australian researchers have been responsible for seven of the 17 Australian drugs approved by the US FDA, yet we only receive four percent of federal medical research funding. This is despite of the fact that our local researchers consistently have their projects rated highly by the MRFF.

The MRFF was established to provide a sustainable funding stream for life-changing research. It is now a \$24 billion fund, yet it only distributes \$650 million each year. This is far less than was originally intended. Health benefits for everyday Australians

are waiting to be unlocked, and we need the Government to live up to the promised potential of this fund.

Curtin punches above its weight in medical research. Our electorate is home to world-class facilities working on everything from rare childhood diseases and Indigenous health to diabetes and cancer therapy.

I visited the MedTech Innovation Hub recently to check out some game-changing local inventions. VeinTech is a smart ultrasound technology that finds the right vein in one go, and LubDub is wearable patch with biosensors offering affordable cardiac care.

Dr Bappoo discussed some of the challenges MedTech faces in WA, including a lack of awareness and visibility despite significant success, and inconsistent application of national research and development incentives.

[Join the campaign](#)

## **Standing Against Violence: Boorloo Bomb Attack**

On the first sitting day this month in the House of Representatives, I moved a motion regarding the terrorist act that took place in Perth on 26 January. This motion was originally introduced by Senator Lidia Thorpe in the Senate. The Government allowed for an hour of debate for my motion, giving MPs time to formally condemn the attempted bombing and acknowledge the deep harm this terror attack has caused.

Speaking with First Nations leaders and constituents who were there that day, it is clear just how terrifying the experience was. Through this motion, the House stood in solidarity with the First Nations people affected by this attack and condemned all acts of violence and racism.

[Watch my speech here](#)

## **A Community in Mourning: Mosman Park**

The suspected murders of Leon and Otis Clune and the suicide of their parents in Mosman Park have sent shockwaves through our community. This tragedy brings profound sadness, but also anger, frustration, and some division. At the very center of this event were two children whose lives were precious. They deserved safety, opportunity, and the chance to grow into their futures.

For young people living with disabilities who are forming a view of themselves, this is a terrifying story and it's vital we remind them that their lives are precious.

For families of people living with disabilities, this may stir up anger, memories of your hardest moments, or fears for the future. It is clear this tragedy has reopened conversations about how our society sees disabled people, how we support families, and how we can support people in crisis.

A coronial investigation is currently underway to determine the facts. This will likely be followed by an inquest so we can examine the broader circumstances that led to this crime.

[Watch my speech here](#)

## **Free trees and plants in the City of Stirling - coming soon**

Help create cooler, greener, and healthier neighbourhoods! Shade trees and waterwise plants not only conserve water but also provide homes for local wildlife. As part of the City of Stirling's annual Free Trees and Plants program, eligible residents can apply to receive:

- Up to four free trees (tree guide coming soon)
- One plant pack (10 WA native waterwise plants).

Registrations open at 10.00am, Wednesday 25 March 2026.

This is a very popular program and spots fill fast - mark your calendar!

[Find out more here](#)

## Grants

**Volunteers contribute an enormous amount of time and energy to our community and many organisations could not operate without them.**

**I'm excited to share the following information and invite Expressions Of Interest (EOIs) for the 2025/2026 Volunteers Grants Program by the Department of Social Services.**

**Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 will be available to eligible not-for-profit community organisations to support the efforts of their volunteers.**

Details of the grant and the guidelines are linked here: [Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#).

Please read the guidelines carefully for eligibility criteria and expression of interest information before you submit an EOI.

### **KEY DATES FOR EOIs AND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

- 1.** Complete the [Expression Of Interest Form](#) (EOI) and submit by **Thursday 26 March, 2026** to nominate your organisation.
- 2.** The EOIs will be assessed by the Curtin Grants Selection Committee. This committee will be comprised of representatives from councils within the Curtin Electorate.
- 3.** Successful nominees will be notified by the office of Kate Chaney MP in early May 2026.
- 4.** Successful nominees will invited to apply for the Volunteers Grant through the Department of Social Services (DSS) by 29 May 2026.

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Volunteer grants can be used to:

- Purchase communication or insurance items that will benefit any of a community organisation's volunteers.
- Purchase items for the main purpose of supporting a community organisation's volunteers.
- Fund volunteer-run activities within the community organisation for the main purpose of supporting volunteers.

More information on the grant criteria is linked here: [Grant Opportunity](#).

Please email my office if you have any questions about this grant.

Good luck!

## Get Involved

**Your old phone could be a  
lifeline for survivors**



Decluttering your house? Your old phone could help someone escape violence.

My Floreat office is an Authorised Drop Location for DV Safe Phone. Since September, we have given more than 70 phones a second life!

Donated phones are wiped, repaired if needed, and provided at no cost to domestic violence survivors and law enforcement agencies across Australia, offering a safe way to call for help and connect with support.

Please log out of your iCloud/Android accounts so the phones can be easily unlocked/accessed, and then drop it at my office: *Cnr of The Boulevard & Floreat Avenue, Floreat 6014.*

# Events

## **Community Forum**

*Bring your questions or issues and hear what's been happening in Canberra!*

**Date:** Thursday 19 March

**Time:** 5:30 – 6:30 PM

**Location:** St Brigid Bar, 251 Scarborough Beach Road, Doubleview

[RSVP here](#)

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## **Mt Claremont Farmers Market**

*Say hello outside the market and share your thoughts on Curtin's most pressing issues.*

**Date:** Saturday 7 March

**Time:** 8:30 – 9:30 AM

**Location:**

Mount Claremont Farmers' Market,

Mount Claremont Primary School 103 Alfred Road, Mount Claremont

[See my events](#)

# Social Media

Don't forget to follow me on social media. It's the best way to keep up-to-date and find out about my upcoming events!



[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[TikTok](#)

[Bluesky](#)

# Contact Us

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## **Electorate Office**

Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave

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*We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.*

Authorised by Kate Chaney MP, Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave, Floreat WA 6014

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