

March 2026 Newsletter



Hi Curtin,

As March closes, the war in Iran and its global impact are top of mind for most.

At a local level, I'm well aware of how worrying this is for households in Curtin grappling with increased costs of living. The combination of rocketing fuel prices, valid fears about the shock to global supply chains and an interest rate rise is making life tough. With the highest rate of EV uptake in WA, some in Curtin are insulated from the fuel price spike, but we are all likely to be affected by reduced fertiliser supply and increased freight costs.

Donald Trump's lack of a clear strategy or exit plan again reminds us that the international rules have changed and we are in uncharted waters.

In the three March Parliamentary sitting weeks, I continued to push the Government on the housing crisis (including reform to Capital Gains Tax/negative gearing), AI safety, gambling reform and protecting our natural environment. I also called out the government's overdue responses to more than 50 parliamentary inquiries which are sitting in "Albo's Too Hard Basket".

Back home, it was wonderful to take in the stunning Sculpture by the Sea and celebrate International Women's Day 2026 at MLC, including a great chat with Year 8 students who shared their wise perspectives on social media and navigating digital spaces.

With Easter and Passover this week, I hope you and your family have a chance to enjoy time together and feel grateful for the simple things as we reflect on this difficult time globally.

Best wishes,
Kate

In Canberra

Gambling: 1000 Days of Government Inaction



It is more than 1,000 days since the Murphy Report was delivered, but the government has not implemented any of the report's 31 recommendations – despite what the PM says!

Watch my question to him in Parliament last week (linked in the button below) and his response. I pointed out that the PM has misled the House - no action taken by this government was in response to the Murphy Report - they were all underway before the report was tabled.

The lack of action demonstrates a government that is captured by gambling and media vested interests, ignoring the insidious normalisation of gambling as part of sport.

This week I introduced a private member's bill, Stop Gambling Ads, to Parliament, which seeks to phase in a complete ban on online gambling ads over a three-year period, including on TV, streaming services, social media and at sporting grounds.

With the lack of action, the gambling companies continue to innovate. I hosted an event for parliamentarians last week to hear from Deakin University and Headspace about the ways gambling companies are now targeting young women.

I've been fighting for gambling reform for 1000+ days and will continue to hold the government's feet to the fire on this issue.

[Watch my question to the PM](#)

[Watch my speech in Parliament](#)

[Watch me introduce my PMB](#)

**Inquiry Reports:
Accountability is Not
Optional**



The government is ignoring the Parliament's best work. Parliamentary inquiries bring together Members and Senators from across the political spectrum to sit together to consider complex issues and develop recommendations grounded in expert advice.

Since 2022, the government has failed to respond on time to 50 completed inquiries. More than half of these responses are now overdue by more than a year, and a quarter have been languishing for more than 18 months.

This silence shows a lack of respect for the 3,500 experts, industry bodies, academics, and everyday Australians who contributed to these inquiries, sharing their time and expertise because they believed the government would listen. When reports on urgent issues like online safety, energy security, and migration are ignored, the trust of the community is squandered. Parliamentary inquiries must not be used as a "too hard basket" to park difficult issues; they must lead to meaningful action.

Since I drew attention to this issue a few weeks ago, the Government has now tabled 8 of these overdue responses and has told me that more are on the way - I will keep the pressure up for the remainder!

AI and Automated Decision Making



Robodebt is a tragic, stark reminder of what happens when a culture of compliance replaces a culture of integrity. It showed us that when governments automate decision making without human oversight, the consequences can be dire.

Unfortunately, there is nothing in place in relation to automated decision making to prevent another Robodebt from occurring.

Next week I will be releasing my new policy paper, 'Fairer and Faster Government Decisions: Safeguards for automated decision-making in government', to push for transparency, decision-level safeguards and review mechanisms when the government is using automated decision making in the delivery of services. My policy paper will be available to download soon, you will be able to find it [here](#).

This was based on expert engagement and a survey of 830 Curtin residents and I will use it to put pressure on this Government to legislate some safeguards. Before government is able to realise any efficiency benefits from AI, we need to get the basics right.

Fuel Crisis

The war in Iran has created global uncertainty and supply chain shocks and draws attention to our ongoing reliance on a geopolitically volatile and concentrated market for fossil fuels.

With the repercussions likely to last months or years, even if there is a swift resolution to Trump and Netanyahu's war in Iran, the government is trying to walk the line between politically and economically desirable actions - some relief is expected by Australians, but anything that will contribute to inflationary pressure creates new risks.

Unfortunately, the reality is that we need a price signal that will reduce global demand for oil by 10 million barrels/day and the impacts for fertiliser and freight costs across many sectors will be considerable.

I am focused on trying to scrutinise the responses put forward by government in a measured and timely way - last week's bill to increase penalties for price fixing was purely performative.

[Watch my speech from last week here](#)

This week, the Government introduced more urgent legislation to halve fuel excise for three months, which should reduce the cost of petrol by 26.3 cents per litre. Although I didn't get to speak, I welcome the immediate relief it will provide to people but urge the Government to remain focused on the longer-term task of building a cleaner, more resilient transport system.

The Government also introduced legislation which would enable it to financially support the purchase of additional cargoes of fuel and strategic supplies, including critical minerals. I spoke about this legislation in Parliament, calling for greater accountability, transparency and oversight to ensure public money is used responsibly.

[Watch my speech from this week here](#)

It's Our Gas

While Australian households are feeling the pinch of rising energy prices, it is jarring to see the huge profits being made by gas companies that pay very little to export our resources. The current system is fundamentally broken - the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) was originally designed for the oil industry to allow companies to pay off large investments before being taxed on resources. But it has never been fit for purpose for the gas sector. As a result, the federal government actually collects more revenue from the tax on beer than it does from the PRRT - a staggering reality that highlights how little the public benefits from our own resources.

The upcoming federal budget presents the perfect opportunity to fix this broken tax structure. At the very least, Australians should keep more of the windfall profits from war. And more broadly, Australians should be fairly compensated for the extraction of our limited assets.

Alcoa and WA's Northern Jarrah Forest

The people of Curtin care about WA's jarrah forests and the recent fine and exemption for Alcoa has prompted much concern.

I urge the Government to take a rigorous, transparent approach to the strategic assessment process underway for Alcoa's future operations. Before any further exemptions or long-term approvals are granted, it must be unequivocally demonstrated that the social, cultural and environmental impacts of Alcoa's operations can be properly prevented, not merely managed.

[Watch my speech here](#)

Tax Reform: Capital Gains Tax



After years of standing up in the Parliament to raise the issue of tax reform, it's great to see it finally being discussed in the lead up to this federal budget. Many people in Curtin have helped put Capital Gains Tax reform on the national agenda by writing to me, responding to surveys and participating in an online event about this issue.

The mood across the nation is changing. Australians overwhelmingly want to live in a society where fairness is valued, and young people have the access to housing that their parents had. Now is the time for the government to act. Reforming CGT is not a silver bullet; it won't end the housing crisis on its own, but it's one step among many needed to create positive lasting change in the housing market.

The Failure of the "Job Ready Graduates" Scheme - share your thoughts

In 2021, the Morrison Government introduced the Job Ready Graduates scheme which halved the cost of STEM, nursing, and teaching degrees while doubling the cost of many humanities and social sciences. The goal was to "nudge" students into specific careers.

Five years later, data shows students didn't change what they studied - the policy simply made university harder to afford. In Curtin, I know many students are feeling the weight of this increased debt.

If you are a student or a recent grad, let me know what you think by completing my Job Ready Graduates survey by this Thursday.

Your feedback will be incorporated into our Curtin community submission, to build the evidence base needed to push for a fairer higher education funding model.

[Take part in my 3 minute survey here](#)

GST: Standing Up for WA



I recently made a submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into how GST revenue is distributed among the states.

I support the amendments made in 2018, that guarantee WA now subsidises the rest of the country no more than 25c in each dollar of GST we raise.

This restores fairness, reduces volatility and incentivises WA to develop our natural resources in the national interest.

[Read my submission here](#)

In Curtin

Securing Our Fair Share of Medical Research



A recent visit to the Harry Perkins Institute was a powerful reminder of the world-class innovation happening right here in Curtin. Western Australia consistently punches above its weight in medical research; our state has been responsible for 7 out of only 17 drugs approved by the US FDA after being developed in Australia.

Despite producing over 40% of these global breakthroughs, WA receives only 4% of federal funding. Currently, the Medical Research Future Fund holds \$24 billion, yet the Government is falling \$350 million short of its annual \$1 billion distribution target. I am working closely with the Independent Member for Kooyong, Dr Monique Ryan, to ensure the next Federal Budget prioritises a fairer distribution of these funds. Unlocking this investment is essential to delivering the health benefits everyday Australians deserve.

Summer Colouring-in Competition



A huge thank you to all the fabulous kids who dropped into the Floreat office to submit their entries for our Summer Colouring-in Competition!

It was a joy to see my office windows transformed into a gallery of local talent. With more than 70 entries - the youngest being just three years old - it was a difficult task to narrow down the winners. We awarded prizes across four age groups, plus a special sibling prize for a standout team effort. It was lovely meeting the winners as they dropped by to collect their book vouchers. I hope you all enjoy your well-deserved book shopping!

PROSH



Congratulations to the UWA students who brought a bit of joy and surprise to our streets on a Wednesday morning this month, selling the (not always factually or politically correct) Prosh newspaper to raise money for charity. This tradition has continued since 1931 and this year's charities were On My Feet and Perth Homeless Support Group.

Deirdre Croft



It was lovely to meet with Deirdre Croft, an amazing Curtin local and disability advocate, who appeared in an Australian Story episode, 'Raising Richard', sharing her experience caring for her profoundly disabled son, and the confronting question she now faces about who will look after Richard when she is gone.

Deirdre's kindness and enthusiasm are contagious as she looks to help parents and carers in similar situations to herself. I spoke about the experiences she and other parents have had navigating the challenges of our disability support system in Parliament this month.

Treebate

To help expand the urban tree canopy across Western Australia, the State Government has launched the Treebate initiative. Eligible residents can claim a rebate of up to \$150 for the purchase and planting of a native tree on their private property. Native trees are perfectly suited to our local climate and provide vital habitats for our unique wildlife.

Each year, there is a set allocation of 10,000 rebate payments available. To be eligible, the tree you choose must be a native species that reaches a canopy height of at least three metres at maturity. When you make your purchase, ensure you keep your itemised tax invoice and take a photo of the

Social Media

• The ServiceWA app: This is the fastest and most secure way to claim. Don't forget to follow me on social media. It's the best way to keep up-to-date. Simply log in with your Digital ID, head to the "Offers" tile, and follow and find out about my upcoming events!



claims will close and reopen again the following year.

Instagram

Facebook

TikTok

Bluesky

Nominate a volunteer star Contact Us

Is your sporting community home to a volunteering star? **Electorate Office**

E: Kate.Chaney.MP@aph.gov.au Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave

W: www.katechaney.com.au WA Local Sporting Stars Volunteer Recognition Program

P: 08 9388 0288 **F:** 08 9388 0288 **PO Box 186 Floreat WA 6014**

volunteers within our sporting community.

We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar Peoples as the Traditional

custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Our programs will celebrate the many aspects that the Elders have passed on to us:

sport, recognising youth leadership, inclusive participation, innovation, long-standing service and all-round excellence for a club or sporting team.

If you would like to unsubscribe from these emails,

[Nominate a Local Sporting Star here](#)

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

April Community Forum

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

Date: Wednesday 22 April

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Location: The Albion, 535 Stirling Highway, Cottesloe

RSVP
