

June 2026 Newsletter



**THE SPEAKER'S VISIT TO
DOUBLEVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hello Curtin!

This month there was big news in the Community Independent movement, with an announcement by two of my Independent colleagues – Zali Steggall and Allegra Spender, that they are forming a new political party called **Community Strong Australia**.

I have discussed this development at length with my crossbench colleagues over many months. Ultimately, my position has remained that I do not need a party structure right now to undertake the work I was elected to do – representing you and finding solutions to the challenges facing our community. But I will continue to work constructively with Zali, Allegra and the rest of my crossbench colleagues.

When door knocking, I ask people to list three words to describe the country they want to live in. The values that come out consistently across Curtin are: fairness, inclusivity, prosperity, safety and community-focus.

These are the values I take to my work as your Independent MP.

At a time of increasing polarisation, this is a good reminder that as Australians there is more to unite us than to divide us.

This month, I joined with community members at an information session to hear the Government's plan for the **divestiture of Irwin Barracks**. I am pleased that public consultation is now underway after questioning the Minister about when the Government would get the ball rolling. There's a long way to go and more community engagement will be needed.

A few weeks ago, I organised a meeting for **small hospitality business owners - the heart and soul of our community** - to hear about the challenges they're facing right now and their thoughts on the federal budget. They told me that they are really feeling the squeeze and they don't feel that the Government has their back. I will keep passing this message through in my Parliamentary work.

The next step in my work on **decarbonising WA's economy** (which I spoke about in last month's enews) was hosting a public workshop to understand community views on values and trade-offs. Climate change and the global energy transition, rising international conflict and supply chain shocks, and declining prosperity at home, mean we cannot rely on 'more of the same' to provide future resilience and prosperity in the WA economy. We can address these challenges by pursuing decarbonisation and economic diversification.

I've had a few sitting weeks in Canberra this month, where the Parliament has been working through the tax changes, better tools for the eSafety Commissioner to enforce the under-16s social media ban and increasing attention on the long-awaited gambling reform (expected in the next few days).

Read on for more of this month's work in Canberra and community engagement in Curtin.

Best wishes,
Kate

In Curtin

Thank you, Mr Speaker



**DOUBLEVIEW PRIMARY STUDENTS
UNFURL THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG**

I was pleased to host the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick MP, in Curtin this month, as he visited Doubleview Primary School with the giant flag that flies above Parliament House in Canberra, as part of his **parliamentary education program**.

Doubleview Primary was the 198th school the Speaker has visited, and I was very proud of Yas, who was the first student in all those visits to correctly answer a question about one of the Parliament's oldest traditions: Why does the Speaker get 'dragged' to the Speaker's chair upon their appointment? Yas correctly answered that historically it was a very unpopular position to hold (the Speaker was sometimes beheaded!) and no one wanted to do it.

The Speaker has since given me a replica of the House of Representative's mace, a symbol of the authority of the House and the Speaker. I will take the mace to future school visits as part of my civics education work.

Tackling our plastic problem



CLEANING UP CITY BEACH

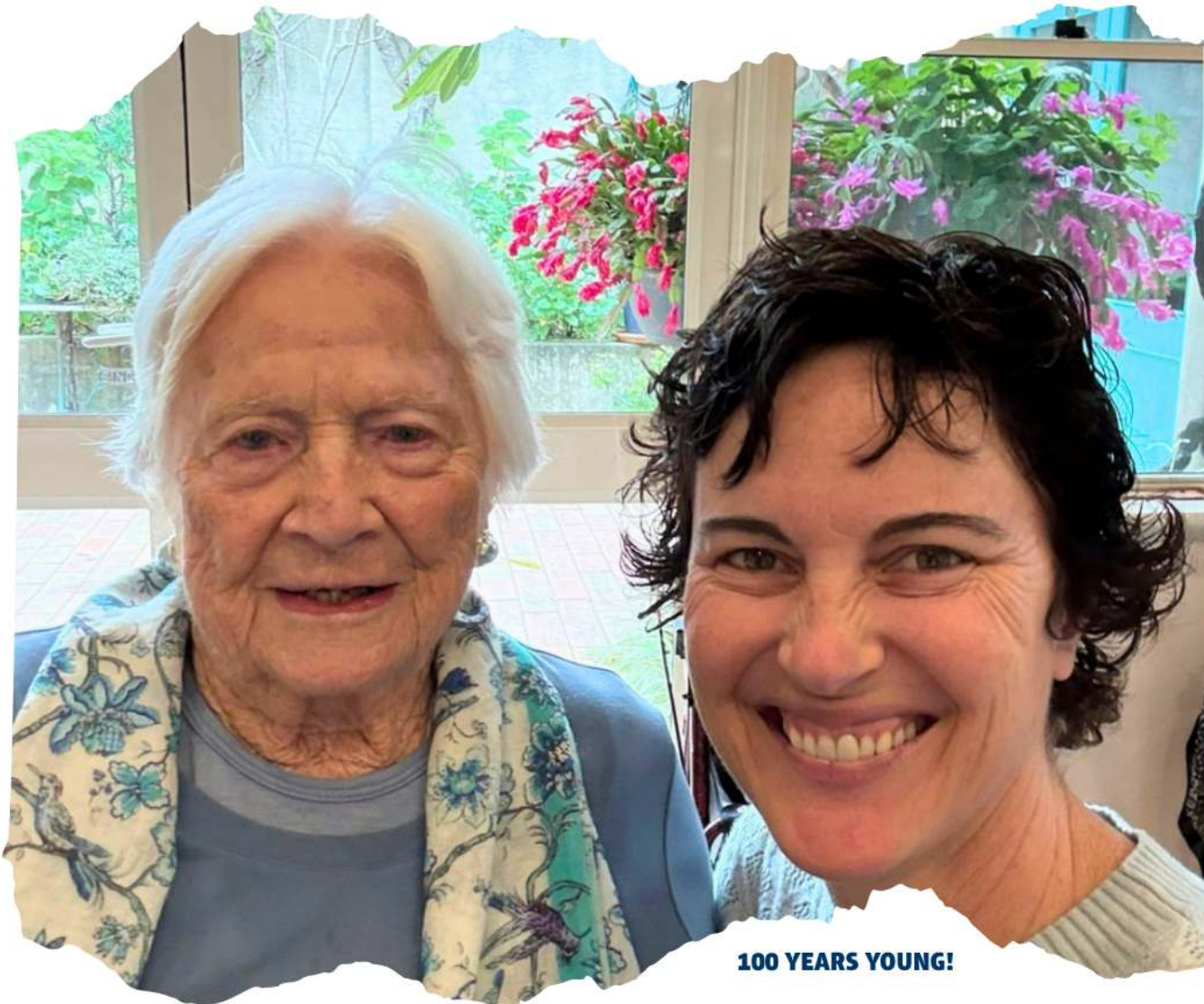
Australia is among the world's highest plastic users, with only 14 per cent of it recycled. The rest goes to landfill or breaks down into the microplastics now found in our food, water, the environment and our bodies. Households currently foot the bill for the disposal of plastic packaging. There is growing agreement about how we can fix Australia's plastics problem.

I'm working with my Independent colleague, Dr Sophie Scamps, to set out a **practical national plan to reduce plastic use and pollution**. Tomorrow we will launch a joint policy in Parliament House. I'll share more about this in next month's enews.

Watch my recent speech on this issue [here](#).

Don't miss the Curtin community screening of the documentary *The Plastic Country* and panel discussion on 22 July, which will focus on what we can do about this problem individually and collectively. Details of the film screening are under the Events section below.

A special birthday message



My family don't make many appearances in my work communications, but I cannot pass up the opportunity to wish my grandmother, Delphine Anderson, a very special birthday.

Happy 100th birthday, Gran! Thank you for the wisdom and humour you have shared with our family for a century. A milestone worth celebrating.

In Canberra

Driving AI policy



LAUNCHING MY AI DISCUSSION PAPER

I launched my **Artificial Intelligence Discussion Paper** to outline actions the Government should take now to ensure we control our AI future. After meeting with more than 30 experts and surveying our community, I've outlined 18 policies in the Discussion Paper that deserve immediate attention.

I'd love to hear your thoughts on the paper and which of the 18 policies is your key priority. You can read the Discussion Paper [here](#).

I'm constantly working to further the conversation on AI regulation and online safety.

This week in Question Time I asked the Minister for Communications about the Government's progress on establishing a **Digital Duty of Care** (one of my 18 policy priorities). I have concerns the Government is moving too slowly and the scope of the duty will not comprehensively address emerging and future risks. We need an overarching Digital Duty of Care that will futureproof online safety as AI and technology develops.

Watch my Question [here](#).

Pushing for stronger gambling reforms



**PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF
GAMBLING HARM MINIMISATION**

June marked three years since the Murphy Report on **online gambling harm** was presented to the Parliament, and the Government has now released an exposure draft of its long-awaited reforms. The reforms are not the full ad ban recommended in the Murphy Report, and I will work to strengthen the Government's partial ban by moving amendments in the House of Representatives and working with colleagues in the Senate in coming weeks.

I've been pulling out all stops to drive an improvement in this Bill, through the Parliamentary Friends of Gambling Harm Minimisation, and through a Suspension of Standing Orders about the poor consultation process, with my Independent colleague, Dr Monique Ryan. Watch my speech [here](#).

We know what good reforms look like – the Government has the answers – they are all in the three-year-old Murphy Report.

Keep an eye out for a campaign I am working on with Independent Senator David Pocock on gambling reform. The next month may be our last chance to improve the reforms in this term.

Elevating youth voices in Parliament



YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAKING ABOUT SOCIAL COHESION

I was pleased to co-chair the recent meeting of the **Parliamentary Friends for Young People** to hear from three passionate and articulate young speakers on social cohesion.

Thank you to Raghu, Mich and Ruba for their considered, insightful and thought-provoking contributions. And to the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition for organising the event.

We have a responsibility to create spaces for the next generation to speak up about issues that are important to them, actively listen, and share decision-making opportunities.

Are you, or do you know, a young person with an important issue that needs raising in Parliament? See the **two** speech writing opportunities **below** to elevate young voices from Curtin.

Get involved!

Plastic Free July

Sign the plastics Pledge on 1 July!

This year there's an extra reason to take part in **Plastic Free July** - Australia is making a world record attempt for *the most people to take the pledge on a single day!*

Sign up at plasticfreejuly.org on 1 July to be part of the world record attempt.

My First Speech

If you had Parliament's attention, what would you say?

The annual **My First Speech** competition provides senior secondary school students with a platform to connect with, and learn about, the work of the Australian Parliament. Students in years 10, 11 and 12 are invited to write a 3-minute speech as a newly-elected MP, focusing on a topic they are passionate about.

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!



Select **Instagram** will be read out **Facebook** during Youth Voice **TikTok** Parliament Week (12- **Bluesky** 26). This is your moment to have your voice heard in Parliament on an issue that is important to you.

Contact Us

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Events

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

If you would like to unsubscribe from these emails,

Come along to a community forum to share you thoughts and hear about what I've been working on in Canberra:

Thursday 23 July

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Albion Hotel

535 Stirling Hwy, Cottesloe

Tuesday 25 August

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

St Brigid Bar

251 Scarborough Beach Rd, Doubleview

To RSVP for all events, visit the Events page of my website [here](#).

July film screening

Join me for a special film screening of *The Plastic Country*.

To coincide with Plastic Free July, and the launch of my new plastic packaging policy paper, I'm hosting a screening of ***The Plastic Country***, a film written, directed and produced by Kal Glanznig. The film runs for 70 minutes and will be followed by a panel Q&A.

Come along and learn more about the impact plastic is having on our health and environment.

Date: Wednesday 22 July 2026

Time: 5:30 for a 6:00 pm start

Venue: The Windsor Cinema (98 Stirling Highway, Nedlands)

RSVP: Registration is **FREE**, but seating is limited. Please register [here](#) to confirm your attendance.