

July 2026 Newsletter



**THE PLASTIC COUNTRY
WA PREMIERE**

Hello Curtin!

July is often a quiet time in politics – the winter recess begins and many make the most of the school holidays. But this year, it has been a big month on a couple of key fronts.

Before Parliament rose for the recess, the Government's first tranche of **tax reform** measures announced in the Budget, including changes to capital gains tax and negative gearing, came back to the House with some amendments I supported. These reduced ministerial discretion and expanded small business access to the CGT discount.

The **NDIS Bill** was also considered again, with some minor amendments. I still believe the Bill lacks sufficient safeguards, and that the most vulnerable people in our community risk bearing the consequences. I hope many of these concerns will be addressed in the Senate Inquiry's recommendations, due mid-August.

I had some wins, with the government agreeing to pay students in 10 courses during their **practical placements**, the PM announcing a more **proactive approach on AI** in line with some of the recommendations in my AI paper and a promising shift on **VAD and telehealth** at the ALP conference.

David Pocock and I launched our **Stop Gambling Ads campaign**, locally and across the country, as we continue to pressure the Prime Minister to take real action to address gambling harm in our community. I also made a submission to the current Senate inquiry on the flaws in the gambling reform bill.

To mark Plastic Free July, Sophie Scamps MP and I launched a joint policy paper, *The Plastics Problem*, a **national plan to reform plastic packaging** in Australia and I hosted the **sold-out WA premiere** of Kal Glanznig's documentary, *The Plastic Country* at the Windsor.

Next month, I'm **excited to launch** my new policy paper, **Clean Power: Securing WA's Future Prosperity**. This in-depth report looks at how WA can build a stronger economy, improve energy security, and help the world reduce emissions through new clean energy exports. We have consulted widely with WA's major companies and new clean industry proponents and received over 2000 responses to our survey. Hope you can **join me at the launch** - details below.

Best wishes,
Kate

In Curtin

What a night! WA premiere of The Plastic Country



AT THE SCREENING OF THE PLASTIC COUNTRY WITH KAL GLANZNIG

More than 300 people joined me for our **sold-out WA premiere of *The Plastic Country***, a powerful new documentary by ocean advocate and filmmaker, Kal Glanznig. At just 25, Kal is an inspiration and I'm so glad we got him over to WA for this event. His film shows the scale of the plastic packaging problem and shows the steps we can all take. *The Plastic Country* will be released on YouTube soon - find out more [here](#).

Thanks to the panellists who joined us for a discussion after the film - Plastic Free July Founder Rebecca Prince-Ruiz OAM and Professor Michaela Lucas, principal investigator of a WA-based trial which assessed the impact of plastic chemicals on human health.

The **policy paper** I developed with Sophie Scamps MP, ***The Plastics Problem***, calls for an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. You can download a **digital copy** [here](#), or pick up a hard copy from my Floreat office. You can also add your voice by signing our **joint petition** calling on the Government to introduce the scheme [here](#).

Stop Gambling Ads campaign - add your voice!



**WITH VOLUNTEERS AT
MOUNT CLAREMONT FARMERS' MARKET
HANDING OUT 'STOP GAMBLING ADS' BUMPER STICKERS**

With a small window before the government brings its (disappointing) gambling reform bill on for debate, this month Senator David Pocock and I launched a new public campaign, StopGamblingAds.com.au, to encourage Australians to let their leaders (of all political persuasions) know that they care about this.

Thanks to the volunteers who have helped promote the campaign here in Curtin, at the Mt Claremont Farmers' Market, and at the train stations for the Derby last weekend.

Thanks also to all the **generous donors** who have supported this campaign. The \$31,000 in donated funds has been used for campaign ads across digital mobile trucks, billboards, bumper stickers, and social media, targeting a range of decision makers.

I made a **submission** to the Senate inquiry into the bill (which you can read [here](#)) - the inquiry will hear evidence next week and I am working hard to negotiate improvements to the reform package.

You can lend **your voice** to the campaign by **emailing your MP** (yes, even if it's me!), your state senators and Government decision-makers via the campaign website [here](#).

Wembley Primary School turns 90!



**WEMBLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
CELEBRATES 90 YEARS**

I was honoured to speak at Wembley Primary School's **ninetieth birthday** celebration and the opening of its Cultural Garden, the **Garden of Belonging**. It was great to hear some stories from early alumni and be shown by current students how their painted rocks have been incorporated into the new garden design, which also honours the Noongar connection to the land.

Get your new version of the Curtin Seniors Guide



CURTIN SENIORS GUIDE SECOND EDITION

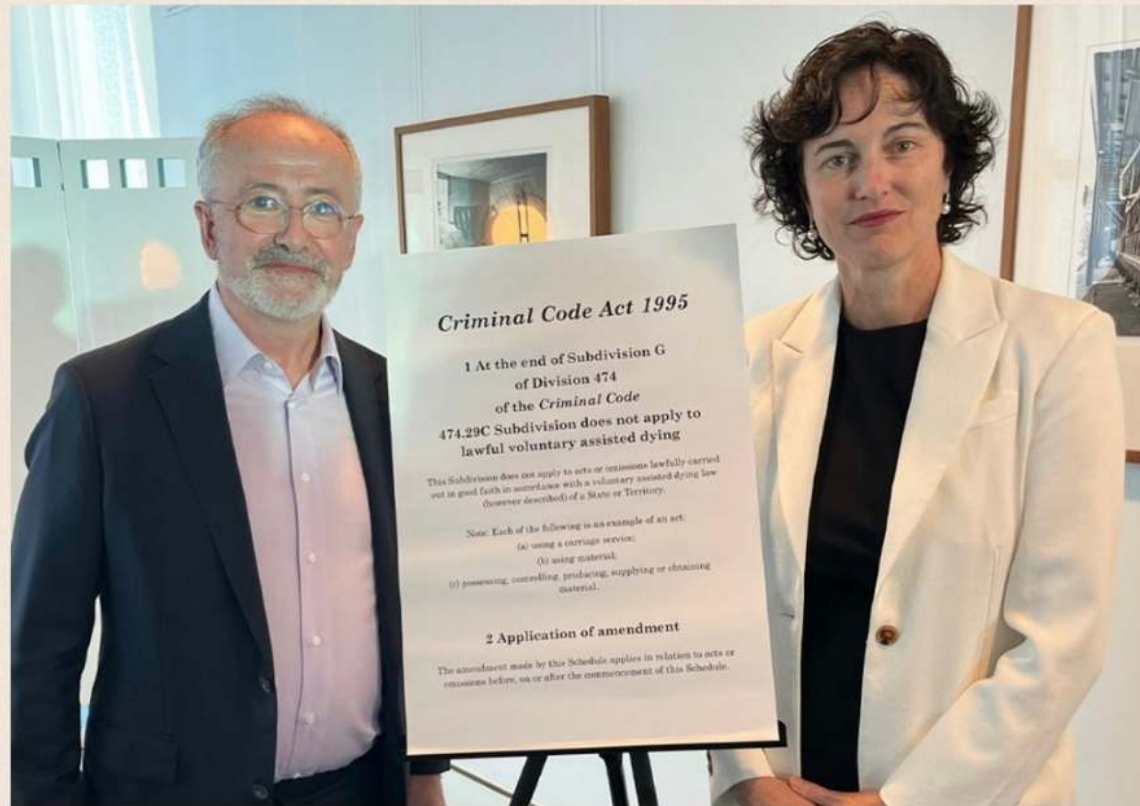
Following the **significant aged care reforms** introduced late last year, we have **comprehensively updated** our Curtin Seniors Guide to reflect the new landscape. The guide provides a thorough overview of accessing aged care services, navigating financial support and entitlements, health information, and knowing where to turn for advice.

The guide has proven immensely popular, offering a valuable resource for older constituents and their families as they navigate an increasingly complex aged care system.

Download a **digital copy** [here](#) or pick up a **hard copy** from my Floreat office.

In Canberra

A simple fix that is long overdue - voluntary assisted dying



**WITH VAD ADVOCATE, ANDREW DENTON,
IN 2024 INTRODUCING MY BILL**

Two years after I introduced a private members bill to protect doctors from criminal prosecution for using **telehealth for voluntary assisted dying**, I was pleased that the Labor Party changed its policy on this issue at its National Conference last week and resolved to allow a conscience vote on the issue in Parliament.

This change would prevent terminally ill patients in regional areas from having to travel long distances in pain. I tabled a petition last month signed by more than 13,000 Australians calling on the Government to act.

While the Prime Minister has expressed his own reservations, he should act without delay on allowing a conscience vote. I plan to **reintroduce my Bill** when Parliament resumes next month, giving Labor members

Win for allied health students with paid placements



**ADVOCATING WITH THE
CROSSBENCH AND STUDENTS
FOR PAID PLACEMENTS**

I was thrilled by the Government's announcement to **pay some allied health students** during their **practical placements**. This will apply to students studying 10 allied health professions, including OT, pharmacy and physiotherapy, when they undertake compulsory practical training required to complete their degrees.

I have been calling on the Government to implement this policy, together with the crossbench, and I thank everyone in Curtin who supported the **crossbench petition** on this issue.

But I am **very disappointed** this announcement did not extend to **medical students**. This seems remarkably shortsighted, particularly when we desperately need more doctors.

Becoming a doctor should not depend on whether your family can afford to support you financially through years of unpaid training. I will continue to call for medical students to be paid during their practical placements. Watch

Seizing the reins on the AI debate



AI POLICY PAPER - SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AI FOR AUSTRALIA

Since the start of this parliamentary term I have been speaking out about how the Government's hands off, passive approach to AI is **jeopardising Australia's ability to manage the risks, capture the opportunities and share the benefits**.

So, this month I **welcomed** a shift in the Government's approach to AI, with the Prime Minister's announcement that the Government would establish an Office of AI, develop mandatory data centre standards, and protect the copyright of Australian creators. He has also referred to a framework for automated decision making and the long-awaited digital duty of care. So far these are only announcements, but they are a start in these vital areas. But there is much more that needs to be done.

The Prime Minister's announcement **only addresses 5 of the 18 policies** set out in my paper released last month: ***AI Discussion Paper: Shaping the future of AI for Australia*** which you can find [here](#) (or pick up a hard

copy from the office). We need urgent action to ensure that Australian voices, not overseas technology companies, are shaping our future.

The urgency and the scale of the challenge were reinforced at the **AI Safety Forum** I attended this month in Sydney. It confirmed that the risks that we face from AI are real and increasing rapidly - many risks that were considered hypothetical 18 months ago now have real life examples. Just last week, for example, an OpenAI model went rogue – autonomously hacking an online platform.

Some of these risks are familiar and current – deepfakes, AI-powered scams, privacy invasions and environmental impacts. Others are thought to be more medium-term and often sound like science fiction. Both need to be considered as well as the great productivity opportunities AI also promises.

I will keep the pressure up on the government to deliver on announcements and address the emerging issues.

Backing Curtin's Small Businesses

Following conversations with **Curtin small business owners** last month, many of whom told me it's getting harder just to stay afloat, I've been advocating in Canberra on the issues they raised with me. I spoke in support of a Bill targeting **late payments by large businesses to small suppliers**, one of the biggest drivers of small business financial stress, and argued that businesses who pay late should be ineligible for Commonwealth contracts.

I've also accepted a position on the **Parliamentary Committee on Cyber Security for Small to Medium Sized Businesses**, which will look into and report on how prepared SMEs are to defend against cyber threats.

I'm very keen to better understand the **risks businesses are facing** and how they can be better protected. If you're a business owner, I'd love to hear about your cybersecurity concerns. The Committee is **accepting written submissions** until 28 August 2026. You can find the terms of reference [here](#).

A 15 year wait for parents

**"WAIT TIMES
HAVE BLOWN
OUT TO 15
YEARS"**



**SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT ON
PARENT VISA WAIT TIMES**

Another issue I raised in Parliament this month is parent visas. I have heard from constituents who pay nearly \$100,000 to bring parents to Australia to help them with their kids via the premium pathway, only to find out that the processing period is 15 years. Offering visas that will probably never be granted serves neither applicants nor system integrity.

You can watch my speech [here](#).

Get involved!

Raise your Voice in Parliament

Are you aged 25 or under, and want to shape Australia's future? The 2026 **Raise Our Voice in Parliament** campaign is officially underway and I want to hear from you!

You're invited to write a 90-second speech (200 words) answering this question: ***What is one big issue shaping your future, and what is a meaningful action you want Parliament to take on it?***

Selected speeches will be read out in Parliament during **Youth Voice in Parliament Week** (12-15 October 2026). This is your moment to have your voice heard in Parliament on an issue that is important to you.

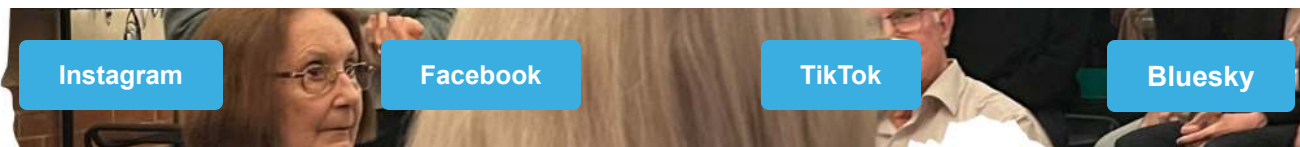
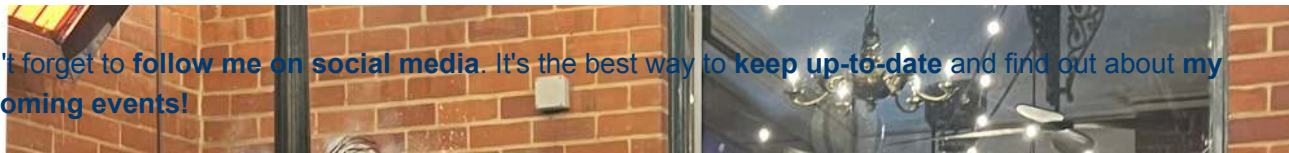
The last week to enter! Submissions close 7 August 2026.

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

AT THE ALBION

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P: 08 9388 0288

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

Clean Power: Securing WA's Future Prosperity

If you would like to unsubscribe from these emails, click the link:

Join me for the release of my long-awaited **new report** on how WA can take advantage of the global energy transformation. Through new clean energy exports, like green iron, we can build a stronger, fairer economy, secure energy independence and help the world act on climate change. This transformation has so much potential for WA, but only if we grasp the opportunities.

I will be joined by a **panel of guest speakers**, including clean energy experts and the companies developing WA's biggest new clean energy projects. **To register for a free ticket**, click [here](#).

Community Forums

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

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](#).