Kate Chaney MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN

SPRING NEWSLETTER

EDITION 17 2026



Continuing to hold the Government accountable

Across the winter parliamentary break and into the spring sittings, I've kept working on the issues that matter to our community.

Artificial intelligence is reshaping our economy faster than government policy can keep up. Further to the policy paper I published on AI in May, I have been pushing the Government to **properly fund the AI Safety Institute,** our first line of defence against the harmful impacts of AI, and require mandatory reporting of AI incidents. I am now on the Joint Select Committee on AI, working towards recommendations on how Government should manage this crucial issue.

I also introduced a Private Member's Bill to **legislate safeguards for automated decision-making** in government, so we never see a repeat of Robodebt. Based on concerns from constituents about the use of automated decisions in aged care, I pushed the Government for greater safeguards. After sustained pressure, the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors eventually introduced a bill to ensure a human can override these decisions. We also had an important win for veterans with the **reversal of the $5000 cap** on their allied health care.

Ahead of the International Day of Democracy, I joined my crossbench colleagues to call out Labor's pork barrelling. **Grants funded by taxpayers shouldn't be used to win votes.** We need enforceable standards that require grants to be awarded on merit, through competitive grants, so trust in our political system can be restored, regardless of who is in Government.

I've also been closely scrutinising the Government's and other parties' migration policies and their implications for our economy and society. **We need evidence-based policy not just politically expedient talking points.** I'm working with experts and the Curtin community to put forward a migration approach that meets the needs of our community.

Plastic packaging reform has been topical in recent months. I hosted a screening of Kal Glanznig's documentary, *The Plastic Country*, and continued pressing the Environment Minister for urgent reform. It was deeply disappointing to see the Government quietly abandon its promised national packaging standards. Industry, businesses, environmental groups and community were all ready for change - a rare moment of unity - but the Government reneged.

I'll keep holding the Government to account because we must be better prepared for the big challenges ahead.

Stay safe. Be kind.

Kate



Read my new report!
Clean Power: Securing WA's future prosperity

Drawing from consultations with more than 50 industry leaders and energy experts, and survey responses from 2,300 Western Australians, I've published a report about decarbonising WA's economy, diversifying into clean energy exports, and the policy changes needed to get us there.

Read more inside this edition, and download a copy of the report here

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join me at these local events – I want to hear from you!

MIGRATION POLICY FORUM

Monday 2 November

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
The Boulevard Centre
99 The Boulevard, Floreat

Free ticketed event, registration essential.

Migration is one the hottest topics in our national debate and it deserves a thoughtful, constructive conversation. Join me to share your views on building a better system that works for Australians and migrants alike.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Tuesday 10 November

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
The Morris
2 Morris Road, Innaloo

Pop in to hear what I've been working on in Canberra, ask any questions you have or raise any issues with me. All welcome.

GRANTS WRITING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 11 November

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
The Boulevard Centre
99 The Boulevard, Floreat

Free ticketed event, registration essential.

Do you help run a community organisation in Curtin? Join me for an expert-led workshop to learn tips and tricks to find relevant grants and write successful applications.

CHRISTMAS CATCH-UP

Tuesday 8 December

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Matilda Bay Foreshore (near the gazebo)

Drinks and nibbles provided.

For the last Community Forum of the year, you are invited to join me and my team for drinks and nibbles, to hear about the highs and lows of the year and raise any issues with me.

For all event details and to RSVP, scan the QR code or visit katechaney.com.au/events



AUTOMATED DECISION-MAKING

Protecting Australians from unchecked automation

Problems in aged care and NDIS assessments have drawn attention to the lack of safeguards when the Government uses automated tools to make decisions about your life.

The Robodebt Royal Commission flagged this gap more than two years ago.

While the Government has agreed to provide human override for aged care decisions (after much prompting!), we still don't have **standards for automated decisions** across Government that cover transparency, mandatory human oversight for high-risk decisions, and a right to review. We need this in place before more automated decision-making systems are rolled out across all Government agencies.

Tackling the Government's weak gambling reforms

The Government's gambling reforms, which were made law in August, are very disappointing.

While there are some good parts, we now have a complicated framework that's full of holes, built on a fake 'balance' favouring the gambling industry ahead of Australians.

As a member of the 2023 Murphy inquiry, I heard all the evidence about why partial ad bans don't work. One of the **amendments I proposed** in the House – a statutory review to consider the actual impact of the reforms – was passed in the Senate. So, in a few years the Government will need to face up to reality if these changes have had no impact. I introduced my own Private Member's Bill for a full phase-out of gambling ads, and I'll keep pushing for that and other evidence-based reforms to reduce harm and break the nexus between gambling and sport.



GAMBLING REFORM



DIGITAL DUTY OF CARE

Strengthening laws to make online spaces safer

The Government has finally released its Digital Duty of Care draft legislation, and it's a step in the right direction.

It requires digital platforms to proactively prevent online harm, with strong protections for children, and choice about algorithms for adults. More than 90 per cent of you told me you wanted these types of reforms in **my Curtin community survey.** But the reforms could be strengthened.

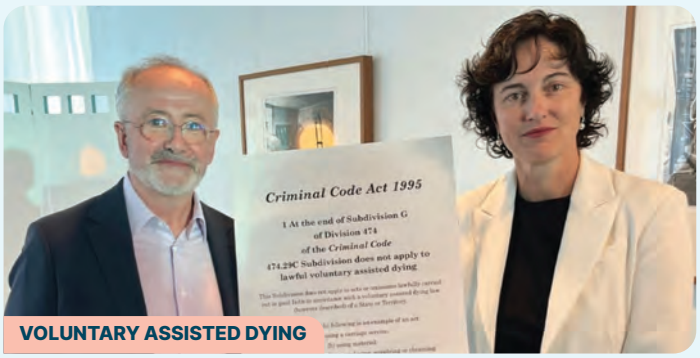
Penalties are far lower than in the EU and UK. There are few protections for adults and the Minister is given broad powers that need to be narrowed.

Restoring fair access to end-of-life care

Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) is now lawful in every state and territory.

Yet a 2005 Commonwealth provision criminalises doctors discussing VAD by phone, email or video call – a conversation that is perfectly legal in person. I called on Parliament to debate my Private Member's Bill to **fix this outdated provision**, which denies equitable access to VAD, particularly for people outside the major cities.

My motion was voted down, despite Labor's National Conference resolving a week earlier to remove barriers like this for end-of-life care. I've met with the Attorney-General to confirm my willingness to work constructively to address concerns about safeguards, and equitable access for terminally ill patients.



VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

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SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Advocating for Curtin's world leading researchers

Ambitious Australia, the independent review of Australian research, development and innovation, is a bold blueprint for reform.

To ensure we're supporting and growing local expertise, I've pushed the Government to adopt the report's 20 recommendations. Local biotech and life science companies have told me the **R&D Tax Incentive changes** in the budget will hurt the sector. I'm pushing for a scheme that recognises the support activities and timeframes researchers need.

Medical breakthroughs take time: WA innovation spray-on skin gained Australian approval in 2002 but didn't secure US approval until 2018, beyond the 15 years proposed for therapeutic goods under the R&D tax incentive. If we want more world-leading innovations to start and stay in WA, support needs to match the long timelines of groundbreaking research.



IRWIN BARRACKS

Building our community infrastructure

In February, the Department of Defence announced the sale of Irwin Barracks in Karrakatta as part of a national divestment plan.

The barracks is a remarkable site, the size of 38 football ovals, with huge potential to enhance our community. What happens next with the site is being shaped right now. The Department of Finance is inviting ideas about how this land should be redeveloped. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and I want our community's voices at the centre of the decision-making - now is the time for long-term thinking.

I encourage local groups to speak up now via the Department of Finance 'Defence Estate Audit' website about what we want to see in the heart of Curtin: public open space, community facilities, schools, sporting grounds or housing.



CLEAN POWER

Securing WA's future prosperity

I'm really proud of *Clean Power: Securing WA's Future Prosperity*, a major report my office launched in August about how our state can build lasting prosperity through the global energy transition.

Peter Klinken, former WA Chief Scientist, and Rachel Howard, from Mission Possible Partnership, joined me for the launch to discuss how WA can seize this moment. Through **new clean energy exports** like green iron, WA can build a more resilient, future-proof economy and help the world tackle climate change. The report sets out practical, achievable steps to get there.

Our best future lies in leading the clean energy transformation rather than waiting to be disrupted by it.



BIRD FLU

Preparing and protecting our local wildlife

H5N1 bird flu has arrived in Western Australia.

It is a highly infectious strain of avian influenza that affects birds and a range of mammals. If you see sick or dead birds or wildlife, don't touch them. Note the location, time and what you saw, then call the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.**

We can all help by giving our birds the best chance to avoid or recover from bird flu by preventing cats from roaming, keeping dogs on a leash, cleaning bird baths regularly (or emptying them) and avoid feeding birds. If you want to do more, get in touch with BirdLife Australia or one of our local environmental groups. We can all make a difference.

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

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Kate Chaney MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN

OUR COMMUNITY





1

KARRINYUP

St Mary's Anglican Girls' School

On my recent visit with Year 7 girls, I shared my journey into politics, my aspirations for our community and how I work to represent them as the Member for Curtin. The girls threw themselves into a parliamentary simulation to learn how laws are made, with students voting on a hypothetical bill to lower the voting age to 16. Luckily, they were more polite than the real thing!



2

WOODLANDS

Anita Staaden's joyous environmental art installation is made of net and rope found washed up onto the beach. These beautiful ocean-themed sculptures were crafted with the help of the Woodlands Community of Christ congregation and local community to draw attention to the issue of coral bleaching.



3

WEMBLEY

Happy Birthday Wembley Primary School!

It was a joy to help Wembley Primary School celebrate its 90th birthday in July, with students showing me around the new Garden of Belonging, a smoking ceremony, dancing, music and an incredible cake!

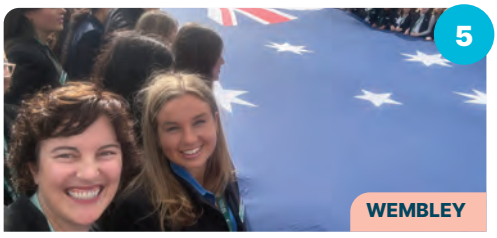


4

MOUNT CLAREMONT

John XXIII College visit

I loved visiting my old school to speak to year 11 and 12 Politics and Law students about life as an MP and how parliament works. They had great questions about the role of independents, social media and how politics is changing. I'm hoping some will also choose to serve in politics in the future - my predecessor Member for Curtin, Celia Hammond, was also a JTC alumna.



5

WEMBLEY

Micaela, a member of my 2025 Youth Advisory Group, represented Curtin with distinction at the inaugural National Youth Parliament. The Newman College student was one of 150 young Australians selected to travel to Canberra to take part in leadership activities, committee discussions, policy debates and mock parliamentary proceedings.

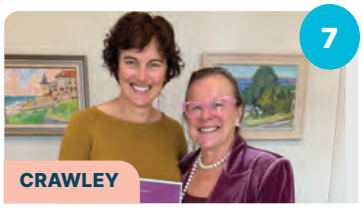


6

STIRLING

Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony

The Government announced a $5,000 annual cap on the allied health services veterans can claim through their Veteran Card. I heard from local veterans about what it would mean for them and raised concerns with the Minister. In mid-September the Minister announced that the cap would be withdrawn. This is good news. Thank you to our veterans for your service. Pictured with representatives from the City of Stirling.



7

CRAWLEY

Congratulations to Fiona Wood AO, for winning the Royal Society's Royal Medal for inventing spray-on skin, which has transformed burns care around the world. This is a great example of the innovation we can nurture right here if the Government listens to her recommendations in the Ambitious Australia report.

8

Idle Off! Reducing fumes at school pick up and drop off.

Did you know that one minute of a car idling emits enough pollution to fill 150 balloons? Switching off the car engine while waiting at the school gate reduces children's exposure to toxic fumes and helps the environment. I was delighted to launch the Idle Off campaign at Mosman Park Primary School to encourage this simple step.



Attention Curtin artists and photographers!

It's that time of the year again – entries are open for the 2027 Curtin Calendar.

Our annual calendar showcases photos and artwork created by Curtin constituents of their favourite places or features in the electorate. If you are a local artist or photographer and have an image of something you love in Curtin, please send it to kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au by 30 October 2026.

