

# August 2025 Newsletter



(On my way to the Midwinter Ball in Parliament House)

Hello Curtin,

In the last week in Canberra, I've been advocating for a bold 2035 emissions reduction target and learning more about the challenges ahead in regulating AI.

In the previous August weeks in Perth, in the lead-up to the Economic Reform Roundtable, I pitched a new idea about a progressive GST model, which was part of my submission focusing on intergenerational equity in our tax system.

I also put in a Curtin Submission to the Inquiry into Aged Care Service Delivery this month.

To find out more, keep reading!

Kate

# In Canberra



In the last week I spoke in Parliament about Artificial Intelligence, women's economic empowerment, and on two new bills that had been introduced: on a framework for managing gender-based violence in universities, and on cheaper medicines.

I spoke to the media about the need for a climate risk assessment framework, gambling reform, and joined a press conference with aid agencies about Gaza.

There were many meetings over the week, particularly about 2035 emissions reduction targets and plastics, AI, Gaza and foreign affairs. This included hearing from experts and stakeholder groups, as well as meeting with the Assistant Treasurer and with the Ministers for Climate, Home Affairs and the Digital Economy.

I co-hosted a Parliamentary Friends of Tech Policy event - we have a huge amount of work to do in this term to realise the benefits of artificial intelligence while guarding against the risks – we will need to have the right structures and guardrails in place to do both (and quickly).

I also chaired a heartbreaking roundtable about gambling reform to hear from people who have experience of gambling harm, experts and Usman Khawaja (who is now my favourite cricketer!). I asked the Prime Minister in Question

Time about gambling reform (again!). The answer was (still) underwhelming. I will keep pushing the Government on this.

Fun things this week included frocking up for the Midwinter Ball (a charity event organised by the Canberra Press Gallery) and a moment of typical Parliament House absurdity joining all the other politicians lining up to have our photos taken with a cute biosecurity dog! Some days this job really is a combination of the very serious and the very silly...

[Watch my speeches](#)

## 2035 Climate Targets

In the next month, Australia will set its 2035 emissions reduction target, a crucial step in meeting our international commitments under the Paris Agreement. I have been advocating for a 75% emissions reduction target – this would give investors the certainty needed for the transition and give us a seat at the table in global climate leadership. The science shows that even at this level additional warming is locked in, but we can't give up.

I am disappointed that the Government has not yet released the National Climate Risk Assessment – we need this vital information to be made public, to build appetite for an ambitious target.

## Progressive GST



Ahead of the Economic Reform Roundtable in Canberra, I released a model I had worked on with economist Richard Holden, showing how we could shift the tax burden from personal income tax to the simpler GST without it penalising low income earners.

An increase in the GST rate to 15% and removal of exemptions with a \$3,300 annual payment each year to every Australian would allow a reduction in personal income tax. Modelling shows that even before any personal income tax cuts, this would actually be better for the bottom 60% of income earners. Shifting the burden this way could also mean less drag on productivity.

This isn't the only change we need to make, but no one was willing to talk about GST in the lead-up to the Economic Reform Roundtable.

I raised this publicly in an attempt to broaden the national conversation about tax reform. We need to address intergenerational unfairness and we now have a few years to create permission and pressure for both sides of politics to think bigger, to ensure long-term viability and fairness of our tax system.

[Read my Post Column here](#)

[Watch my video here](#)

# Curtin Aged Care Submission

Older Australians are waiting too long for crucial support, with significant consequences. As part of the Senate Inquiry into Aged Care Service Delivery, we put in a submission on behalf of Curtin, drawing attention to the impact of delays in the roll-out of additional Home Care Packages.

[Read the Curtin Aged Care submission here](#)

## Pat Cummins fighting for Climate Action



I recently joined sports heroes from across the codes, cricket, footy, rugby, netball, soccer, and even lawn bowls, to hear about Sport Forever, a powerful new initiative founded by Pat Cummins.

Sport Forever is calling on the government to support a \$100 million fund to help community sporting clubs cut energy bills and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Their goal is to make 1,000 clubs more sustainable by

installing solar panels and batteries, reducing costs and sparking important conversations about climate resilience.

It was inspiring to see athletes and advocates come together with a shared vision: protecting the future of grassroots sport while taking real action on sustainability.

# Opportunities for young people

In my first Youth Advisory Group meeting since the election, I learned a lot about how 16-year-olds in Curtin are using and learning about artificial intelligence. I was pretty impressed at the sophistication of their knowledge and uses of AI, but shared their concern about some developments. This is a really useful forum for me, and they may also learn a thing or two about how Federal politics works.

I'm passionate about finding ways for young people to engage in our political system and there are two great opportunities open at the moment:

## **National Youth Parliament**

This five-day program in Canberra brings together 150 senior school students, one from each federal electorate, to explore the role of a Member of Parliament. Participants aged 16–17 will learn how bills are drafted, debated, and passed into law, while connecting with peers from across the country.

EOI's are now open! [Find out more here](#)

## **My First Speech Competition**

Open to students in Years 10, 11 and 12, this initiative invites young people to imagine themselves as newly elected MPs and deliver a 90-second speech on a topic they care about. One winner from each year group will be flown to Canberra with a parent or guardian to present their speech live and take part in a special program at Parliament House.

Entries close at 11.59pm AEST on Monday 15 September

Submit your entry via the [My First Speech website here](#)

Please share these with any high school students you know.

# In Curtin

# Leading medical research in Nedlands



(With the great minds behind the 'PERTH' trial)

We have an amazing centre of medical research here in Curtin, doing globally leading work.

This month I visited the Harry Perkins Institute to learn about the 'PERTH' trial (Plastic Exposure Reduction Transforms Health – see what they did there?), a fascinating study investigating microplastics and their impact on human health. It was slightly horrifying to learn how pervasive plastic is and how hard it is to design research to test its impact, because we can't get away from it.

I also visited the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD), which is working to improve outcomes for people affected by asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma and asbestos-related lung cancer. WA is (unfortunately) a hotspot for these diseases, which makes their work on early detection and new therapies, locally and globally important.

Both visits were a powerful reminder of the importance of investing in research and listening to the science that shapes our health and future.

# Early Learning Climb Preschool



Apart from a useful discussion about the challenges facing childcare centres and small businesses in Curtin, at Climb Preschool in Innaloo I also got to read the kids a story to celebrate Book Week. Three-year-olds are the best. I loved their Book Week costumes, especially the Minions!

## Science Week



An afternoon at the Forrest Research Foundation's Open Day for National Science Week left me feeling inspired by the incredible science happening right here in WA.

From black holes to baby hammerhead sharks, meteorites to trapdoor spiders, prostate cancer to galaxy collisions, researchers are exploring the mysteries of our universe and improving lives through cutting edge new insights.

It was a brilliant reminder of the curiosity and dedication driving scientific discovery in our community.

## **The Tav Turns 50!**



It was so much fun catching up with some old uni mates and celebrating generations of stories with the UWA Student Guild, to celebrate the 50th birthday of the UWA Tavern. There were a number of others there who, like me, met their spouse at the Tav!

## Let's Re-tree!

Two new urban greening initiatives from the WA State Government are now available to help make our neighborhoods greener.

### **Treebate**

For the next four years, up to 10,000 Western Australians each year can claim a rebate on the purchase of native trees to plant in their backyards.

### **WA Tree Recovery**

If a tree has been lost due to the Polyphagous shot-hole borer, a \$150 rebate is available for every tree replanted.

Both rebates can be claimed via the ServiceWA app or by submitting a paper claim form.

Learn more about Treebate [here](#)

Learn more about WA Tree Recovery [here](#)

# Garma Festival



This month, I joined 3,500 attendees at the Garma Festival, hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation in Arnhem Land, to witness one of the most intact Indigenous cultures in Australia. The dance, song and art serve as a backdrop for the formal discussions and informal conversations about where

## Social Media

While the Federal government's road shift to economic empowerment makes some sense, the failure to meet the Closing the Gap targets was the subject of most of my conversations. 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!

What I learned was that the main thing Government could do at this point is



Instagram



Facebook



TikTok



Bluesky

Last week, more than 1500 organisations within Curtin received the first of

## Contact Us

you to contact my office if you would like help finding a grant to benefit you or your organisation. Contact [kath.dawson@aph.gov.au](mailto:kath.dawson@aph.gov.au)  
**E:** [Kate.Chaney.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kate.Chaney.MP@aph.gov.au) Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave  
**W:** [www.katechaney.com.au](http://www.katechaney.com.au) PO Box 186  
**P:** 08 9388 0288 Floreat WA 6014

**Electorate Office**

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

**Some grants open now or closing soon (see more on my website):**  
Authorised by Kate Chaney MP, Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave, Floreat WA 6014

**Local Capability Fund** – Closing 4 September 2025  
If you would like to unsubscribe from these emails,  
Up to \$50,000. Provided by WA Department of Energy and Economic Diversification. Helps local businesses enhance their ability to supply products or services for key projects.

[Local Sporting Champions | Australian Sports Commission](#) – current round open until 31 October 2025.

# Events

## Community Forum

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

**Date:** Wednesday 10 September

**Time:** 5:30pm - 6:30pm

**Location:** Morris Hotel, Innaloo

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## A Chat with Dr Saul Griffith - **TICKETS ALMOST SOLD OUT!**

*Join me for a conversation with Dr Saul Griffith, Chief Scientist at Rewiring Australia, on the opportunities and benefits of electrification.*

**Date:** Thursday 11 Sep

**Time:** 5:30pm - 7pm (arrive at 5:15 for a 5:30 start)

**Location:** Rooftop Bar, Claremont Hotel

[Get tickets or join waitlist](#)