

January 2026 Newsletter



Hello Curtin,

Today's news of a suspected murder-suicide in Mosman Park is shocking and devastating for our community.

My thoughts go out to the friends and relatives of this family, as well as the first responders, and the neighbours and local community who knew them. This heartbreaking loss of four lives will have lasting effects throughout our community.

I hope the police investigation will provide more information soon about the circumstances that led to this tragic event.

I encourage everyone impacted by this news to hug their loved ones and reach out to support services if needed.

Many people I speak to at the moment feel a bit raw – our social cohesion and accepted norms feel threatened – by the Bondi terrorist attack, the bomb scare at the rally in Perth on Monday being investigated as a potential terrorist act, civil unrest in the United States and the undermining of long-held assumptions around the international rules-based order. Mark Carney's Davos address called out the geopolitical rupture many are feeling.

I'm feeling both the weight of what we face as a country, and a deep sense of purpose. The challenges ahead here in Australia are substantial: climate action after a brutal summer of bushfires on the East Coast, structural reform to address housing affordability, restoring trust in our democracy and safeguards to guide the rapid rise of AI.

These are complex challenges that will require political courage, collaboration, and honest conversations to overcome. I recognise how lucky I am to live here in Curtin – despite all the challenges facing the world, we have plenty to inspire gratitude.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

Best wishes,
Kate

In Canberra

Tackling Hate Speech and Strengthening Gun Safety



(I wrote a message in the condolence book on behalf of our Curtin Community to the families and loved ones of those killed at Bondi).

Parliament was recalled for a special sitting in January to address antisemitism and gun reform in the wake of the horrifying Bondi Beach terrorist attack.

While it was important to act quickly, and these laws are a step forward, the process was far from ideal. I was disappointed that both bills were introduced, debated, and passed within a few hours - a ridiculously rushed timeframe that made proper scrutiny nearly impossible.

Despite this, I worked with the crossbench to push for better protections and greater transparency. The amendments I put forward, and those of my crossbench colleagues, were not adopted by the Government. Ultimately, I voted in support of these new laws to send a message that antisemitism in Australia is not consistent with our values and to reduce the likelihood of future hate-motivated terrorist attacks.

Combating Antisemitism and Hate

The new criminal and migration laws are designed to disrupt hate groups and protect our community. Key features of the laws include:

- **Designating Hate Groups:** The Minister can now outlaw organisations that commit hate crimes (like neo-Nazi or radical Islamist groups), making it a crime to support or join them.
- **Tougher Sentencing:** Racial hatred is now an "aggravating factor" in federal crimes, leading to harsher penalties.
- **Visa Reforms:** It is now easier to cancel or refuse visas of people intent on spreading racial hatred.

Antisemitic incidents in Australia rose by 300% last year. These laws send a clear message that demonising people for their race or culture is not who we are. I fought to expand the protections introduced by the new laws to include other religions, the LGBTQIA+ community, and people with disabilities, because everyone deserves to feel safe in Australia.

It is a positive impact of these laws that the neo-Nazi group, the Nationalist Socialist Network, announced it will disband in anticipation of this legislation being passed.

Smarter Gun Laws

The Bondi Beach tragedy highlighted gaps in our licensing system. The perpetrator's son had been under ASIO investigation, yet the family still held legal firearms. The new gun laws address this by:

- ASIO Vetting: Intelligence services can now assess if an applicant (or their household) poses a security risk before a license is issued.
- National Buyback: A scheme to remove dangerous weapons from our community.

With more guns in Australia today than before Port Arthur, these common-sense checks are vital to keeping them out of the wrong hands.

Balancing Free Speech

I take our fundamental freedoms seriously, including the need to consider very carefully any limitations on free speech.

The contentious racial vilification offence (which did not go as far as the existing WA law) was not included in the legislation.

While I supported the introduction of a "hate group" power in the new laws, I pushed for an amendment to ensure organisations have the right to appeal ministerial decisions that designate them a hate group.

[Watch my full parliamentary speech](#)

[Watch the introduction of my amendments](#)

In Curtin

Curtin Residents Honoured



The Australia Day Honours List is an opportunity to pause and celebrate the extraordinary people who live and work right here in Curtin: thoughtful leaders, problem-solvers, community champions and experts in their fields. On behalf of our community, I offer my warmest congratulations and my thanks for your service.

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, the Governor-General, has announced the following Curtin residents as Honours recipients.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

- Ms Noor Blumer AM – For significant service to the law, to the legal profession, and to the community.
- Dr Anita Bourke AM – For significant service to the community, and to radiology.
- The Honourable Ian Campbell AM – For significant service to the people and Parliament of Australia.
- Dr Ronald Edwards AM – For significant service to the environment, and to the community.
- Mr Robert Fitzpatrick AM – For significant service to plastic and reconstructive surgery, and to the community of Western Australia.
- Mr Desmond Freeman AM – For significant service to interior design, and to vocational education.
- Dr Barry Lewis AM – For significant service to biochemical paediatrics and genetics.

- Professor Jessica Meeuwig AM – For significant service to marine conservation and research.
- Mr Graham Spencer-Laitt AM – For significant service to the community of Western Australia through philanthropic governance and benefaction.
- The late Mr Gene Tilbrook AM – For significant service to business, and to the arts.
- Professor Wei Wang AM – For significant service to predictive and personalised medicine.
- Professor Minghao Zheng AM – For significant service to orthopaedic research and regenerative medicine.

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

- Dr Kenneth Elliott AO & Mrs Jocelyn Elliott AO – For distinguished service to international relations through humanitarian medical care in remote regions of Burkina Faso.

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

- Dr Stephen Davis OAM – For service to international relations, and to the Indigenous community of the Northern Territory.
- Dr Geoff Knight OAM – For service to paediatric medicine.
- Mr Brett Pollock OAM – For service to the community of Mosman Park, and to men's health.

Meritorious and Military Awards

- Mr Andrew Matraszek ESM & Mr David Thomson ESM – Emergency Services Medal.
- Ms Joann Wilkie PSM – Public Service Medal: For outstanding public service to fiscal management.
- Ms Sarah Nixon – Commendation For Distinguished Service: For distinguished performance as a Medic in Iraq on Operation OKRA.
- Warrant Officer Class Two Corey Rocca CSM – Conspicuous Service Medal: For meritorious achievement in support of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

**2026 is the International
Year of Volunteers**



The United Nations has designated 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, highlighting the important role of volunteers in achieving global sustainability goals.

The key themes and goals of this initiative are to celebrate and recognise volunteer contributions, encourage volunteer participation, and build environments that support volunteerism.

One of my favourite parts of my job is meeting all the volunteers across Curtin who power our community.

Join my Volunteer Spotlight series:

To celebrate, I'm featuring a local Curtin volunteer on my social media every month, to highlight the people who make our community so vibrant.

- Are you a volunteer? We'd love to share your journey.
- Do you run a volunteer organisation? Tell us about a team member who goes above and beyond.

Whether you're part of a surf rescue crew, a local beach clean-up, a hospital auxiliary, an animal shelter, or simply keeping an eye on an elderly neighbour - your contribution matters.

Help me celebrate the meaningful impact volunteers make every day across Curtin.

[Share your story or nominate a volunteer](#)

Changes for dual UK citizens - travelling soon?

From 25 February, Australian citizens who also are citizens of the United Kingdom must enter the UK on their UK passports, or with a Certificate of Entitlement in another valid passport.

These dual citizens are unable to obtain an ETA or visa to enter the UK. Alternatively, you can apply to give up (renounce) your UK citizenship or status.

Smartraveller

Read this article for more information

Grant Opportunities

National Volunteer Week Grants

The 2026 National Volunteer Week Grants are now open for applications and will be closing on Friday 13 February 2026.

Volunteering WA, with generous support from Lotterywest, is offering organisations across Western Australia the opportunity to apply for a grant to host an event or activity which recognises and thanks volunteers during National Volunteer Week (18 - 24 May 2026).

If you intend to apply for this grant, I can help with a letter of support to accompany your application. Please email kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au as soon as possible.

Read for more information

Get Involved

Colouring-in Competition



Let your child, or your inner child, unleash their artistic side and win a book voucher!

Colour the illustration (button below) featured in my hardcopy Summer Newsletter and send it back to me by post, email or dropping by my office:
Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Avenue, Floreat WA 6014.

I'm displaying the returned artworks in my office window, so come and check them out. **Competition closes on Monday 2 March.**

[Find out more](#)

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

WHO DO YOU TRUST AND WHAT CAN YOU BELIEVE?

A discussion with Dr Catherine Williams from
The Centre for Public Integrity, about information
integrity in a world of misinformation and deepfakes.



Thursday 19 February



5:00 PM- 7:00 PM (5:30 PM start)



City of Perth SLSC, City Beach



Who do you trust and what can you believe?

Join me in a discussion with Dr Catherine Williams from The Centre for Public Integrity about information integrity in a world of misinformation and deepfakes. This is a ticketed (free) event, please rsvp at the link below so you don't miss out!

Date: Thursday 19 February

Time: 5:00 pm (5:30 pm start) to 7:30 pm

Location: City of Perth Surf Lifesaving Club, 181-183 Challenger Parade,
City Beach

[Get FREE tickets](#)

PROGRESS UPDATE EVENT

You're invited to join me for the launch of the report, to hear the findings and discuss how we can continue to lead on climate action.

We will also hear local perspectives on the immediate, practical benefits of installing solar, batteries, and home electrification to reduce emissions and save money.



Wednesday 25 February



5:15 PM - 7:00 PM (AEST)

See my 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!

Net Zero update



actions taken by federal, state, and local governments across five key

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progress? And where is the 'ambition gap' leaving us behind?

Contact Us

You're invited to join me for the launch of the report, to hear the findings and discuss how we can continue to lead on climate action. We will also hear local perspectives on the immediate, practical benefits of installing solar, batteries, and home electrification to reduce emissions and save money.

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Chil The Boulevard and Floreat Ave
W: www.katechaney.com.au **PO Box 186**
P: 08 9388 0288 **Floreat WA 6014**

Date: Wednesday 25 February

Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

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

Location: Tiger Bar at the Claremont Football Club

Whether you're a policy nerd (like me) or simply looking for the best way to electrify your own home, I would love to see you there!

If you would like to unsubscribe from these emails,

Get FREE tickets

Community Forum

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

Date: Monday 16 February

Time: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: Found Subiaco