

Kate Chaney MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN



Kate visiting the Stirling Women's Shed at the Stirling Leisure Centre, Scarborough - 22 April 2024

April 2024 Newsletter

Kaya!

It's finally raining!

Parliament didn't sit during April, so after a much-needed break with family over Easter, I've been able to spend time in the community in the last few weeks, which I love doing.

My team and I hosted my monthly Canberra Debrief and an update on the EPBC Act reform, and we just had our third Curtin Youth Advisory Group meeting tonight.

I enjoyed meeting with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in Subiaco, the Stirling Women's Shed, Claremont Football Club, Cycling Without Age and the new Wembley Districts Netball Club – and hearing about all the fantastic work these organisations are doing in our community.

I spoke on a panel on coercive control, and a panel about new climate research from the Oceans Institute. These events were informative about each topic but sadly, highlighted how much work there is to be done.

I loved being the guest speaker at the Western Suburbs VIEW Club and Friends of Lake Claremont Night Chats event and joined Reconciliation WA's post-referendum Little Yarn, as well as being a guest on three different podcasts. At these events, I covered topics like our Curtin Pathway to Net Zero report, life as an independent, improving our democracy and electoral reform.

I played a role in two citizenship ceremonies (Stirling and Claremont) and seven moving ANZAC Day ceremonies at the SAS, schools and councils across Curtin. I also attended the 'No More' rally against violence against women held in Perth on Sunday.

I met with WA Housing Minister John Carey and handed him our Curtin Housing Report. I also met with constituents on a typically broad range of issues, from community organisation and arts funding, to sovereign shipping capacity, unpaid carers, veterans' superannuation, environmental reform priorities, human rights issues in Iran and women supporting women.

There really never is a dull moment in this job and plenty that needs to be done!

On Sunday I was out doorknocking in Doubleview with 15 wonderful volunteers, asking people what they cared about and getting a sense of the challenges people are facing. Housing and cost of living came up consistently as priorities, with plenty of stories of people in their 20s not being able to move out of their parents' home.

With the budget coming up in a few weeks, I will be hoping for some cost of living relief for the people I have spoken to, delicately balanced against the risk of putting upward pressure on inflation with new spending.

If you pop into the office, you may notice we have a couple of new faces in the office, including Kath Dawson, our new volunteer coordinator, who is already having a fantastic impact.

Take care in the coming weeks and enjoy watching our bushlands finally getting a drink!

Kate



Kate and David Thomas, The President of the Claremont RSL Sub-Branch at the Claremont ANZAC Day Service - 25 April 2024

ANZAC Day

At ANZAC Day ceremonies this year, I was particularly struck by the stories about the long-term impact of trauma. Whether it was stories about fathers who never spoke of their experiences, or current serving personnel speaking about their own or their friends' experiences, the scars are real.

It really made me think about what an extraordinary thing it is to ask citizens to go to war.

It is very encouraging to see so many primary schools taking ANZAC Day commemorations seriously. Lest we forget.

Violence Against Women

After Bondi Junction and a spate of domestic violence deaths, it seems that violence against women is finally reaching a tipping point.

There is no magic answer - change will require coordinated effort from all governments, as well as our communities. We need well-funded accessible services, justice system reform and cultural change.

One aspect that is emerging as both an early sign of violence and a scourge in itself is coercive control. We need greater awareness about what constitutes a pattern of abuse designed to intimidate and better approaches to support women who find themselves in coercive control relationships.

If you think you, or someone you know, might be in this situation, the yourtoolkit.com self-assessment tool may be useful.

Everyone should have the right to feel safe.



Kate speaking with biodiversity experts and volunteers about the EPBC Act - 27 April 2024

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act - Bush BBQ

Many of you will know that the south-west of Western Australia, from Shark Bay to Esperance, is one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots, recognised as an area under threat. More than half its plant species are unique to the region, as are many animals, including critically endangered animals which rely on this habitat for survival. This hotspot includes the threatened ecological community of Banksia and Tuart Woodlands and Forests, in the Swan Coastal Plain, within our Curtin electorate.

We are fortunate in Curtin to have many biodiversity experts and countless volunteers who care and campaign for the protection of our bushlands and coastal habitats. We recently gathered many of these volunteers together for a Bush BBQ at the Friends of Lake Claremont Shed to discuss the major reform of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation legislation.

We are in biodiversity debt in Australia, we have failed to maintain valuable biodiversity and conservation data, our offset system has distorted the purpose of environmental legislation, and we must give decision makers the proper certainty and guidelines for the approval process. We had a great chat about these and many other pressing issues. At dusk we were privileged to see a little quenda who had come to listen in on the conversation!

I will continue to urge the Albanese Government to move ahead with reform urgently.

Active Transport Survey

Increasing walking and cycling is a crucial part of reaching net zero transport emissions that also improves health, reduces congestion, and makes our roads safer. The Federal Government is currently developing a national transport decarbonisation plan, and consistent with our Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero report findings, I want to promote active transport (walking and cycling) as a key solution that deserves more federal support. Volunteers with Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero are preparing a Curtin Submission on Active Transport and gathering community input through a survey on walking and cycling to school.

As most children live close to their primary schools, walking and cycling to school is a great opportunity to increase active transport trips. National rates of walking and cycling to school have declined from 75% to 25% over the last 40 years. In Perth, this is as low as 20%. To increase walking and cycling, people need well-connected, safe and convenient foot and cycle paths.

Our active transport survey for parents asks how your children usually get to school, and what prevents them from walking or cycling more often. You can find the online survey [here](#).

Volunteers will also be at some school gates with the same survey next Friday 10 May for National Walk Safely to School Day. Walk your kids to school and come and say hi!

If your school is not yet participating in Walk Safely to School Day, please encourage them to.

Events

Canberra Debrief – Budget Edition!

Date: 22 May 2024

Time: 5.30-6.30pm

Location: Hollywood Subiaco Bowling Club, Highview Park, 42 Smyth Rd, Nedlands WA 6009

Community Catchup

Date: 4 May 2024

Time: 9.30-10.30am

Location: Bradley Reserve, Corner of Farris and Hodges Street

Let's Get Transparent: The Fair and Transparent Elections Bill Discussion

Date: 7 May 2024

Time: 5.30-6.30pm

Location: Albert's Respite and Refreshments, 294 Cambridge Street,
Wembley

Register here: [Tickets](#)

Cost of Living Seminars - Individual Seminar

Date: 21 May 2024

Time: 5.30-6.30pm

Location: TBC

Register here: [Tickets](#)

Cost of Living Seminars - Small Business Seminar

Date: 13 June 2024

Time: 5.30-6.30pm

Location: TBC

Register here: [Tickets](#)

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 upcoming events!



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

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