

Kate Chaney MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN



August 2023 Newsletter

Hi!

Even the less sporty among us (me!) are getting caught up in Matildas fever this month, celebrating the way the whole country has embraced women's sport. It's such a positive message. I won't be giving up my day job, but I have been schooled in ball skills by some enthusiastic young constituents.

On the Parliamentary front, I introduced my first Private Member's Bill last week, the Restoring Trust Bill, which contains 13 reforms to our electoral system. While Private Member's Bills rarely become law, it sets out some baseline reforms around transparency, reducing financial influence and leveling the playing field, that are hard to argue against. Now I will do my

best to encourage the Government to include them in its electoral reform response.

Between sitting weeks I went up to the Garma Festival in North East Arnhem Land. I first went to Garma 14 years ago and it's where I learned a lot about the importance of listening and working in respectful partnerships, as well as the strong and enduring culture of the Yolgnu people. It was a good reminder of the importance of the Voice and the need to reinforce a simple message about listening.

I will be starting some work on the vexed issue of housing in coming weeks. It's so complex and I want to develop a deeper understanding of what matters to people in Curtin in relation to housing, so I can advocate for solutions that will meet the country's short-term and long-term needs. I will be relying on the generosity of the community to give up your time and share your views, so we can develop workable solutions. You can express your interest in participating below.

Enjoy the cool crisp days - based on the Northern hemisphere, we are likely to have a hot summer ahead.

Kate

Restoring Trust Bill

My Restoring Trust Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives last Monday.

The Bill aims to improve transparency, reduce financial influence and level the playing field in Australia's elections.

We deserve to know who is influencing and financing our political candidates before we cast our vote.

Thirteen changes to electoral and political donation law are proposed by the Restoring Trust Bill.

Key elements of the Bill include:

- Requiring real time disclosure of political donations over \$1000*
- Legislating truth in political advertising*

- *Banning political donations from Government contractors (such as the Big Four consultancies)*
- *Banning political donations from social harm industries, including tobacco, alcohol and gambling companies*

The Restoring Trust Bill has broad support of the parliamentary crossbench, democracy think tanks, civil society organisations and academics (pictured below).

Going forward, I'll be meeting regularly with the relevant Minister to push for these much-needed reforms as part of the Government's response to the inquiry into last year's Federal election by the parliamentary Electoral Matters committee (which I sit on).

With community pressure, we can convince the Albanese Government to adopt elements of the Restoring Trust Bill.

You can support and find out more about the Restoring Trust Bill [here](#).



Curtin Housing Forum

Australia's housing shortage is being felt right across Curtin and is raised by constituents regularly with my office. I know young Australians, renters and mortgage holders are going through a particularly challenging time at the

moment.

To better understand our community's needs and priorities and inform solution development, I will be holding the first of a series of Curtin Housing Workshops in September. This workshop will be focused on understanding the issues and priorities around housing for those living in Curtin. We will hold a further policy forum once we have identified what matters to you.

I'll take the ideas raised in these workshops to Canberra and advocate for them in Parliament.

To register your interest in attending, please follow this [link](#)



The Voice to Parliament

My team and I have started doorknocking homes throughout Curtin and raising awareness in public spaces ahead of the Voice to Parliament referendum. Feel free to ask any questions you may have about the upcoming referendum if you see us on your street. Or you can join us!

We've already had hundreds of constructive conversations about the Voice in the Curtin community. It is great to see that people have a real desire to fully inform themselves on the Voice to Parliament before heading to the polls.

As a country, we are really bad at addressing issues impacting First Nations Australians. When you are bad at something, you seek advice. That's why I'm supporting the Voice to Parliament.

This sentiment was reinforced for me earlier this month, at the Garma Festival in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory (pictured below).

The 13 clans of the Yolngu people come together annually for 'Garma', or two-way learning.

Through the festival, they generously invite others to witness their ceremonies, song lines, languages, dances, kinship and law and discuss the issues of the day.

There were many discussions about the need to listen through the Voice.

Being there served as a reminder the Voice is about changing lives, not scoring political points.

If you would like to know more about the Voice, or how you can volunteer, please visit this [webpage](#).



Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero

Curtin's Pathway to Net Zero report will be published next month!

This comprehensive document maps out practical steps the Curtin electorate can take to achieve net zero emissions.

The Pathway focuses on five areas of reform; electricity, buildings, transport, urban greening and waste.

We will be presenting this report to State MPs and to candidates for upcoming local government elections, to offer them some suggested policy priorities for their communities. It will also inform my policy priorities at a federal level.

Follow this [webpage](#) for updates on the Curtin Pathway to Net Zero!

Pictured below is my team and I carrying out a native verge makeover in Shenton Park, which is one of the practical steps we can take to help achieve net zero.



Put your hand up for your local council!

In the last 18 months I have met so many engaged, passionate people in Curtin, with great ideas, a strong sense of service to community and a willingness to give.

I have also learned that you can't sit around waiting for someone else to fix problems!

*If you think the system is broken, remember that we are the system!
Democracy only works if people participate.*

Local Government elections are coming up in October. So many important decisions affecting our daily lives are made locally.

If you are passionate about contributing to our community, please consider running for your local council in October!

Nominations open 31 August and close 7 September.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Plastic Free July

It was great to have so many discussions about reducing plastic usage in our daily lives during Plastic Free July last month.

Hundreds of people in Curtin signed up for my team's weekly Plastic Free July challenges this year.

Sarah and Damian (below) did an incredible job of eliminating ALL plastic consumption in their Wembley Downs home this July! Hear more about their journey in this [video](#).

Unfortunately, it is really hard and expensive to achieve this. We need bold government action to help solve our plastics problem.

Our Curtin Pathway to Net Zero report will include policy priorities to reduce Australia's overall plastic consumption.

In the meantime, you can visit this [resource](#) to see the my Plastic Free July challenges and find local businesses that offer plastic-free alternatives.



Humanitarian Intake Increase

I welcome Immigration Minister Andrew Giles' announcement that Australia will restore its humanitarian intake cap to 20,000 places.

This cap was cut under the previous Coalition Government.

Minister Giles announced the humanitarian intake restoration last Friday, a week after I asked him about the Albanese Government's commitment to treating asylum seekers with compassion in Parliament.

You can watch that question and the Minister's response [here](#).

Events

Canberra Debrief at the Claremont Hotel

Date: *Thursday, 17 August*

Time: *6.30pm - 7.30pm*

Location: *The Claremont Hotel, 1 Bay View Terrace, Claremont*

Cost: *Free*

Come hear from Kate about the last Parliamentary sitting fortnight in Canberra.

You'll have the chance to ask Kate questions and express any concerns that you may have.

The Canberra Debrief will be held upstairs on the terrace.

Community Catch Up at 3 Sheets on the Lake

Date: Thursday 24 August

Time: 6.30-7.30pm

Location: 3 Sheets on the Lake, Woodlands

Come along and share your views or ask questions on the issues you care about.

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!



Support your independent voice in Parliament

Donate to help keep an independent voice in Parliament. Your donation won't buy influence or access but will assist me to continue doing politics differently. You can [donate here](#).

**Kate
Chaney MP**

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN

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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