

Kate Chaney MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN



February 2023 Newsletter

Hello!

It's the end of the first sitting fortnight in Canberra for 2023. In this fortnight, the Government has been focused on passing legislation on housing and a welcome announcement about a more compassionate approach to refugees stuck on temporary visas.

We are still working through other legislation, including the establishment of the National Reconstruction Fund, the complicated (but important) Safeguards Mechanism and the Referendum Enabling Legislation.

I have used additional parliamentary speaking opportunities to talk about transparency and integrity, refugees, the Voice and vaping (see detail and links to speeches below).

In recent weeks, one of my committees has finalised a report on the referendum enabling legislation and I have been doing public hearings on community safety in the NT, the application of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and gambling reform with my other committees.

I also had 1:1 meetings with Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Ed Husic, Minister for the Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek and Treasurer Jim Chalmers, I attended a First Nations Referendum Working Group co-chaired by Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and Special Envoy for Reconciliation Patrick Dodson and I joined crossbenchers for a meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Yesterday I had a great chat with Michelle Grattan for her [podcast](#) - we covered a lot of ground!

I'm looking forward to a few weeks back in Curtin and some events where I can hear what you care about (details below).

Kate



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.



Update from Canberra

Refugees

Earlier this week, I welcomed the Government's announcement that around 19,000 refugees on temporary visas are now eligible to apply for permanent residency. For some, this ends a decade of uncertainty.

Permanent residency will mean these people can fully participate in society and commit to their life in Australia, from getting a university degree to buying a home.

Many of you have contacted me, asking for Australia to show a more compassionate approach to the treatment of refugees. I've done my best to voice these concerns in Canberra [\[view my speech last week\]](#) this is a significant step in the right direction.

I would like to thank all the community groups in Curtin who are advocating for and supporting refugees like Jan Ali Haidari (image below) who will finally get the chance to be reunited with his wife and three kids.

Donation Transparency

I continue to draw attention to the need for greater integrity in politics, with revelations this month that the Communications Minister received \$19,000 in donations from Sportsbet, when she was Shadow Minister in charge of online gambling, and the discovery of \$300,000 in donations from Gina Rinehart's company to the Liberal party, via a third party.

Both the major parties benefit from the lack of transparency, and it is only through community pressure that we will get change on this.

I spoke about the secret Liberal party donation [\[view here\]](#) and asked the Prime Minister about the impact of the Sportsbet donation [\[view here\]](#) this week.

The PM's commitment to real-time donations and a threshold of \$1000 is a good start, but there is more work to be done to close the loopholes.

The Voice

The Indigenous voice to Parliament remains a big talking point in Curtin. I know many of you are keen to know what the referendum will involve and what the outcome will mean.

I recently added Additional Comments to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' report on the referendum enabling legislation, emphasising the need for truth and transparency in the referendum process [\[read more\]](#).

I will be holding events on the Voice during the year, to ensure that we all have the opportunity to hear from Indigenous leaders and experts. I'm keen to ensure that we reduce misinformation and are able to have an open, honest discussion about what the Voice is and isn't. If you want to hear why I support the Voice, you can watch my recent speech on it in the Federation Chamber [\[view here\]](#).

Vaping

After concerns raised in the community, I have started putting pressure on the Government to urgently address the dramatic increase in the number of people, especially young people, taking up vaping.

I'm hearing growing community and expert concerns about how easy it is for kids to buy vapes over the counter, some containing nicotine.

To end the vaping black market, I believe we need a ban on importation and supply of all e-cigarette products (except by pharmacies for smokers with a prescription).

If you have thoughts on this public health disaster-in-the-making, I'd love to hear from you. You can hear the Motion I moved on vaping in Parliament [here](#).

Housing

The Government has passed its Housing Legislation Package, establishing a \$10bn Housing Australia Future Fund and establishing the Housing and Affordability Supply Council.

While this legislative package is not perfect, it is a significant commitment to housing at a time when there are huge waiting lists for social and affordable housing and rental vacancies are at a record low. You can hear my speech about it [here](#).

Below: Afghan refugee Jan Ali Haidari is now eligible to apply for permanent residency.



Events

Panel Discussion on The Voice

Day: *Thursday 23 February*

Time: *6 - 7.30pm*

Place: *Curtin University*

I will be speaking about The Voice to Parliament at an event hosted by Senator Patrick Dodson (ALP). Other panellists include Senator Dorinda Cox (Australian Greens).

Please register to attend or find out more information:

kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au

February Community Catch Up

Day: Friday 24 February

Time: 11am - 3pm

Place: UWA O-Day Festival

Community catch-ups are my opportunity to hear from you on a broad range of issues. This month, I'll be at UWA's orientation week where I'm hoping to hear what matters to young people in Curtin.

Politics in the Park

Day: Tuesday 28 February

Time: 5.30 - 6.30pm

Place: Lake Monger Recreation Centre, on the veranda

Hope you can join me for a debrief of the past two sitting weeks kicking off an exciting start to the Parliamentary year. We will also be hearing from Marian Hillam, who lives in Curtin and is an active advocate for and supporter of refugees and asylum seekers.



Stronger Communities Grants Programme 2023

Expressions of Interest are now open

The Stronger Communities Grants Programme provides funding from **\$2,500 to \$20,000** for small capital projects that deliver social benefits to communities.

Find out more

Eligible projects include fit-outs and upgrades of community buildings, sports facilities, bike paths, park furniture, IT technology and more. Incorporated not for profits and local governing bodies are eligible to apply.

Energy Efficiency Submission

Thank you to everyone who participated in my household energy efficiency survey. We received 347 responses, which formed the basis of a Curtin Community Submission to the National Energy Performance Strategy consultation.

We found that the biggest opportunities for improving household energy efficiency lie in electrifying homes. Even amongst our highly engaged sample, battery storage, electric stovetops and hot water heat pumps (or solar hot water) were not common. The submission recommends incentives and assistance to help households electrify. Read the full submission [here](#).

Kate in the News

Chaney ramps up attack on funding rules

By DAVID COHEN
Australia's two major political parties have failed to disclose the source of large chunks of their fundraising, according to Curtin MP Kate Chaney.

Ms Chaney used the partisan call again for reform in political funding.

"Last year the ALP and the Coalition spent \$242 million," she said.

"The federal Liberal Party failed to disclose the source of 50% of the money it raised and the ALP also hid 40%."

Neither party answered queries from the POST about the non-disclosures.

Federally, political parties are not obliged to disclose donations under \$15,200. That means donors can split payments across numerous state and territory branches.

third parties and associated entities and covered the real extent of their financial influence over the political system.

"Voters should know who is funding political candidates before they vote, not eight months later," Ms Chaney said.

"Under the current reporting system, a member of the public would need to spend weeks delving into hundreds of financial reports and unravelling a complex entanglement of branch and third party links to reveal just a portion of political funding sources."

Last year Ms Chaney declared donations to her campaign on her website as they were made (Chaney revealed funds POST, February 28, 2022).

"There should be transparency in politics," Ms Chaney said at the time.

"I think we're leading on transparency in the country.

It's pretty important to me."

This week a federal Liberal spokesman said: "It's a bit rich for Kate Chaney to complain about the political fundraising system, when her campaign received over \$1.3 million, more than half of which came from the wealthy donors behind Channel 200."

Political parties have thousands of members across the country and some of their funding comes from multiple small payments, like membership fees.

The Liberal Party conducts its fundraising in strict accordance with the disclosure regime established under the Electoral Act. The major political parties' financial disclosures are also subject to regular compliance reviews conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission.

The Federal Labor Party did not reply.



Kate Chaney

The Hon. Kate Chaney MLC

Change date, Chaney says

Ms Chaney's independent federal MP has requested the 2025 election be held in year Australia Day (January 26).

She said the date was chosen to add more time to voters to choose the date, with the current date meaning the election was held on the same day as the day after Christmas.

The federal government argued the election was already set for 2025.

Curtin MP Kate Chaney said a change to the date would be a "significant change" to the election process.

"I think it's important to have a date that is not only a day of national unity but also a day of national reflection," she said.

Ms Chaney recently said she would support the 2025 election to be held on the day after Christmas, regardless of the date.

"Before the referendum to hold the election in the year 2025, we had a date of 2025. I don't think there needs to be a date in the referendum of year 2025."

APR 2022, 10:30 AM

Support your Independent voice in Canberra

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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