

Kate Chaney MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN



Kate on ABC's Afternoon Briefing with Greg Jennett - 19 March 2024

March 2024 Newsletter

Kaya!

How can it be the end of March already? It's been a crazy month, with half the month spent in Canberra, and for me, most of the other half spent in hospital with one of my kids.

My son had a staph infection in his arm bone, which involved 4 operations and a lot of worry. Like all the families I know, we manage the daily juggle of busy lives and kids and every now and then there's a crisis, which is a good reminder of what really matters.

Luckily he is out of hospital and recovering now – thanks for all the support we have had from family, friends, my team and constituents this month. It gave me renewed appreciation for our medical professionals, and carers, who look after loved ones year-round and need to be appropriately recognised and supported.

This month, coincidentally, we also completed a committee inquiry into the recognition of unpaid carers, with some recommendations for better support.

On other fronts, our first Youth Advisory Group meeting of the year focused on what young people can do if they want to contribute to climate action. Our next topic is cost of living. We hosted a Menopause Forum with Embrace Change to provide practical tips and demystify this important stage of life and a Duty of Care Bill online forum to discuss the concept of parliamentarians having an explicit duty to future generations.

I attended the launch of Sculptures by the Sea and I made it to a few festival events too – it's great to see people out and about in Perth at this time of year.

In Parliament, I introduced the Fair & Transparent Elections Bill in the House and David Pocock introduced the same legislation in the Senate. This was the culmination of a lot of discussions I've had with the crossbenches in both houses. It presents the Government with an opportunity to do a suite of electoral reforms now, in time for the next election. I will keep putting pressure on the Government to improve transparency and not put it off to the next term.

There were a number of pieces of legislation that were rushed through in the last week, which I was not happy about. We saw some technical changes to oil and gas approval processes, which I did not support, and new powers to make asylum seekers cooperate with being sent back to their countries if they are not recognised as refugees. I was particularly unhappy about the speed with which these important issues passed through the house – they are serious issues and deserve sober consideration.

On the upside, this week we saw a ban on the import of all vapes (other than to a pharmacy). Lots of constituents have contacted me about the insidious increase in tobacco addiction we are seeing because of vapes, especially in young people. We saw the new vape store in Subiaco being shut down after strong community resistance last year – I hope reducing the supply of vapes into the country and increased coordination of enforcement will put an end to this worrying trend.

If your kids are excited about the footy season starting, you may want to watch out for gambling ads on the AFL app. It seems that even if you say you are under 18, gambling ads still pop up. I have been pushing the AFL to fix this 'glitch' in the app. On that note, we are still waiting for action on gambling reform...

All the best for the Easter break – I'm looking forward to some time with family and chocolate!

Kate



Menopause Forum with Embrace Change - 7 March 2024

Menopause Forum

Earlier this month I was lucky enough to meet the lovely Rebecca and Emma from Embrace Change who ran a discussion for constituents around the changes that women go through during Menopause.

It was a delightful experience to sit with so many wonderful women and hear their first hand accounts and their advice for this transformational time in our lives.

Thank you to Emma and Rebecca for speaking to us and to everyone who attended and shared their stories with us.

Fair and Transparent Elections

This week as part of a continued integrity push, I introduced my Fair and Transparent Elections Private Members Bill in Parliament.

Federal election laws are in dire need of reform with transparency lagging behind state jurisdictions and 'dark money' being a dominant factor. Voters should have the right to know who is supporting political candidates whether by traditional donations or 'cash for access' dinners and be protected from outright lies in political advertising.

The Fair and Transparent Elections Bill features major donor donation caps and builds on my Restoring Trust Bill of August 2023. Reforms sought are based on three pillars of improving transparency, reducing financial influence and levelling the playing field. Independents and the Greens in both the Houses unified to support my Bill. Co-sponsors of the Bill in the Senate included David Pocock and Jacqui Lambie.

Unifying the Crossbench means that the government now has a pathway to reform in terms of my Bill where transparency is paramount and political competition is ongoing.

To hear more, come to the 'Fair and Transparent Elections Event' at 5:30pm



Kate announcing the Fair and Transparent Elections Bill 2024 - 25 March 2024

A win for community advocacy! My objection to a local betting license.

I was pleased to hear that the Town of Cambridge rejected The Sporting Globe's request for two electronic betting terminals to be installed in this family friendly venue. Floreat locals had expressed to me their concern about the impact this would have on both the surrounding neighbourhood and the shopping centre. Like a number of constituents who contacted me, I made a submission to the Town of Cambridge setting out my objections to this application – the need to reduce the impact of gambling harm, protect children and resist the normalisation of gambling in sport.

Since being elected I have heard many stories about gambling harm. Given that Australians lose more by gambling than any other country in the world, I will continue to advocate for tighter controls on gambling and a ban on online gambling ads. I am keenly waiting for the Government's belated response to our multi-partisan parliamentary committee unanimous report 'You Win Some, You Lose More'. Hopefully we won't be disappointed.

The Report into Recognising Unpaid Carers

Last week in Parliament, the Social Policy and Legal Affairs parliamentary committee released our "*Recognising, valuing and supporting unpaid carers*" report.

Carers supporting family members or friends with disability, mental health issues, chronic health conditions or aged-related frailty play an essential and undervalued role in the Australian community. The report makes it clear that the current *Carers Recognition Act 2010* does not achieve its aims to recognise and support carers. I am really pleased the 22 recommendations for reform we made in the report include the creation of enforceable rights for carers as well as the development of a National Carer Strategy.

I thank the carers who provided personal evidence to the inquiry and urge the government to accept all the recommendations of the Committee.

You can watch my speech [here](#) and read the report [here](#).

Play Our Way Grant Program

The Play Our Way Grant Program aims to address the barriers that women and girls face when participating in sport and physical activity by delivering quality facilities and sport participation experiences where the need is greatest.

The Play Our Way Grant program is open for applications until 29 April 2024 12pm AWST.

To learn more about the grant program, visit my website [here](#).

Events

Canberra Debrief

Date: 17 April 2024

Time: 5.30-6.30pm

Location: Doubleview Bowling Club

Community Catch-up

Date: 4 May 2024

Time: 9.30-10.30am

Location: Bradley Reserve

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](#)

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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