

# Kate Chaney MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN



## November 2023 Newsletter

Kaya!

Despite the majority Yes vote in Curtin, the resounding national rejection of the Voice last month has made it a difficult time for First Nations people across the country.

For the 700 volunteers for Curtin for Yes, there has been a sense of sadness but also a willingness to commit to taking the next step, whatever that might be. We do need to be patient. Aunty Liz Hayden, a Noongar Elder, said to me 'It isn't up to us to heal this wound in the country, but you can bet we will be asked to do it.' We need to take time to listen and think, and then take responsibility and rebuild.

In due course I will get back to the Curtin for Yes volunteers with some ideas of next steps we might take collectively, but in the meantime think about what you can do in your life – listen, learn, understand, support – to contribute to the shift we need to see.

In Parliament, there has been a lot of polarisation and point scoring on some key issues in recent weeks, including the Gaza conflict, immigration detention and the referendum. I feel very lucky to represent an electorate that largely

understands that these are complex and nuanced issues and oversimplifying them and using them to score points doesn't help.

Watching the devastation in the Middle East is heartbreaking. As I am writing this, the first glimmer of hope has just been announced with a temporary ceasefire in exchange for the release of hostages. I condemn the atrocities of Hamas and am horrified by the devastating loss of life in Gaza. As my colleague Zoe Daniel has said, we need to be able to hold both these truths simultaneously.

I am also very worried to see a rise of anti-Semitism in Australia, as well as Islamophobia. As we confirm at every Citizenship Ceremony, 'In Australia, everyone can be proud of who they are - and everyone should be respected, valued and feel a sense of belonging.' Please hold this thought and call out any behaviour you see that undermines this.

On immigration detention, I think it is a good thing that the High Court has ruled we can't lock people up indefinitely. It is also true we need to keep our communities safe and retain the right to choose who comes to our country. We will see more debate on this in the new year after we see the High Court's reasons.

Outside these very polarising issues, I've spoken in Parliament on a wide range of topics in the last month, including:

- integrity (electoral reform, truth in political ads, lobbying, post-Robodebt reform);
- climate/environment (WA Climate Change Bill, Burrup Hub, the ONI Climate Risk Report and EPBC reform);
- youth and inclusion (Indigenous youth incarceration, youth mental health, gambling); and
- economic issues (housing, industrial relations, scams).

You can find all my parliamentary speeches on my website [here](#).

On a personal note, my eldest has just finished year 12, so we are entering a new phase of parenting, very proud of George and remembering how much fun it is to be at that stage of life.

Have a great month and stay cool in this very early heat.

Kate



## Electoral Reform

Since introducing my Restoring Trust Bill, I've been meeting with the Government and other stakeholders to promote the electoral reforms it contains. The Minister has indicated that he would like to get consensus on an electoral reform package, which is an admirable goal. I'm ensuring he knows that if a consensus can't be reached, there is a significant package of reforms that could be passed in both houses, focusing on improving transparency and reducing lies in political advertising.

I also spent a couple of hours with UK philosopher and author A.C. Grayling this month, who has written a few books on democratic reform. This was an extraordinary treat (#lifegoals!) and reminded me the Community Independent movement and the crossbench are on the right track with reforms to strengthen democracy.



## Curtin Housing Forum

We had our second Curtin Housing Forum this month and heard from a range of experts on policy ideas from community members to address the agreed housing issues in Curtin – lack of affordable housing to buy/rent, lack of diverse housing options and a tax system with misaligned incentives. Natalie Sangalli, Steven Rowley, Rowan Clarke and Nic Brunsdon gave us their diverse perspectives, as a community housing provider, an economist, a developer and an architect.

There are no simple solutions, but we identified key policy shifts at a Federal, State and Local level and the need to work together to get there. A summary report is being prepared, email [kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au) if you are interested in receiving a copy.

## EPBC Act Reform

We are still waiting to see the reform plan for our key piece of environmental legislation, the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. We have high hopes for this once-in-20-years review, but it's taking a while.

We are very lucky to have an extraordinary number of experts in this area living in Curtin and this month I met with some of them to identify priority areas for reform. As the reform process continues, I will tap into this expertise and the broader community to inform my advocacy.



**Curtin Calendar 2024**

**Kate Chaney MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CURTIN

## Curtin Calendar

Curtin is a place full of creative talent! Thank you to all the photographers and artists who submitted pieces for consideration for the 2024 Curtin Calendar. The calendar is being printed and will be available soon – if you would like a free calendar, please email [kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au) and we

will let you know when it is hot off the presses!

Thank you to Jack Joyner for the stunning cover photo taken at Perry Lakes.

## Volunteering in the community

A chance to wrap yourself in JOY!

If you want to experience what it is like to volunteer and have a few hours before Christmas, these groups are looking for people to wrap presents at the various locations below. Just bring your happy face and cheerful holiday spirit.

**Foodbank WA** - 9-24 December at Claremont Quarter.

**HeartKids** - 9-24 December at Karrinyup.

**The Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research** - 10 December at Scarborough Amphitheatre. To get involved, email **[volunteer@perkins.org.au](mailto:volunteer@perkins.org.au)**

**Events**  
**Breast Cancer Care WA** - December Westfield Shopping Centre, Innaloo. To get involved, email **[volunteers@breastcancer.org.au](mailto:volunteers@breastcancer.org.au)**

## Canberra Debrief At the Matilda Bay Foreshore

**Date:** Wednesday, 13 December

**Time:** 5-6.30pm

**Location:** Matilda Bay Foreshore

Join Kate for the last catch-up of the year for some drinks and nibbles and to hear about the final 2023 parliamentary sitting weeks.

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

We look forward to seeing you there.



## 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.

## Contact Us

**E:** [Kate.Chaney.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kate.Chaney.MP@aph.gov.au)  
**W:** [www.katechaney.com.au](http://www.katechaney.com.au)  
**P:** 08 9388 0288

**Electorate Office**  
Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave  
PO Box 186  
Floreat WA 6014

Authorised by Kate Chaney MP, Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave, Floreat WA 6014

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