

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

My new role

After a swearing in ceremony on Tuesday, last week became my first week as Minister and what a hectic time it was.

Being re-elected as the Member for Bunbury was an immense honour and to also be selected for the front bench by Colin Barnett was the icing on the cake.

I must admit, I'm daunted about the challenges that lie in front on me but I am so keen to get on with the job.

And in this new position, I am confident there is a great deal I can achieve for Bunbury.

I'll have access to the ears of our Premier and Ministers and I will continue to highlight our local needs and bring them to the forefront.

GP crisis

The recent turmoil at Forrest Family Practice has caused alarm bells to ring throughout our community but unfortunately they haven't been heard in Canberra.

I was bitterly disappointed to hear recently that one of the city's finest and most respected GPs, Dr Mike Munroe, was instantly dismissed by his employer Primary Health Care.

His dismissal also prompted the resignation of one of his colleagues.

While I am not yet privy to Primary Health Care's reasons for the dismissal – I am gravely concerned by the consequences.

I have therefore written to the company highlighting how precarious our doctor shortage is.

I have also written, once again, to the Federal Minister for Health Nicola Roxon asking her to declare Bunbury a 'District of Workforce Shortage' following this most recent turn of events.

Sadly, both the past and present Federal Governments have rejected my previous requests for this declaration which would allow a big recruitment of overseas-trained doctors to fill these voids.

There is no doubt the morale of our doctors and support staff is plummeting and the future for GP services in Bunbury looks bleak without urgent intervention.

Congratulations

I take this opportunity to send a special and public message of congratulations to my daughter Lisa and her new husband Joe Russo. Lisa and Joe were married on the weekend and she made me a very proud Dad.

Wishing you a long and happy life together.

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