

# John Castrilli MLA



## **Foundation supports women in community**

On Friday I was very pleased to attend and speak at the community breakfast held in Bunbury by the Esther Foundation.

The Foundation is in the process of establishing a local support house which will benefit women who are facing major hurdles in life.

The Esther Foundation already operates 10 residential properties in WA housing more than 45 young mothers, young women and children.

Offering more than just a safe refuge, they assist with recovery and support programs to overcome life-controlling struggles including domestic violence, substance abuse, self-harm and family breakdown.

It gives young women hope, and importantly, a second chance.

I am proud that the State Government has provided \$113,832 for the Esther Foundation's South West project, through the Royalties for Regions program.

More information is available at [www.estherfoundation.org.au](http://www.estherfoundation.org.au)

## **Funding for memorial park**

Also on Friday I was honoured to be able to present a Lotterywest cheque for \$100,500 to the City of Bunbury, to go towards the creation of an indigenous memorial park near Back Beach.

The City will manage the long-awaited project in conjunction with the Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Indigenous Affairs, providing a place for people to reflect on our region's indigenous heritage.

The Back Beach area has great significance to our Noongar community and the creation of a memorial park will recognise its cultural importance and offer a site where ancestral remains can be re-interred.

It will be a place for people to reflect and remember, and to look towards the future.

## **Questions over fluoride in water**

There has been a growing public debate recently over the use of fluoride in drinking water.

While many parts of Western Australia have had fluoride added to their drinking water for about 40 years, Bunbury has not been included in this process.

As part of the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act, the Department of Health through a special committee has been conducting a review into possible fluoridation of Bunbury water.

A public meeting was held last year to gauge community views and an independent market survey has been carried out.

Once the results of this consultation has been finalised, the committee will make a recommendation to the Minister for Health on whether Bunbury's water should be fluoridated.

To help me best represent the local community's wishes, I would encourage residents who have any views on the issue to write to my office or send an email to [john.castrilli@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:john.castrilli@mp.wa.gov.au)