

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

A moving farewell

I was very pleased to attend the emotional and moving farewell ceremony on Saturday for three of our much-loved Sisters of St John of God.

The service was organised by Dr Ern Manea in honour of Sisters Killian Stafford, Leonie Tierney and Bridie Quinn.

It united hundreds of people, of all ages and denominations, at the Catholic College Hall to farewell these remarkable three women.

After decades of service to our community, the Sisters will leave Bunbury to retire in Subiaco at the end of the month.

However behind them, they leave a lasting imprint on the lives of many who they have touched with their kind souls and reassuring smiles.

I send my heartfelt gratitude on behalf of our community and my personal thanks for the support, guidance and wisdom you have imparted to me and my family.

Your influence, contributions and memories will be engraved solidly in the history of Bunbury forever.

A boost for regional patients

I was very pleased to hear from the Minister for Health last week that the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme is about to get its much-needed and eagerly-awaited overhaul.

And that will mean, at long last, local patients travelling to Perth for treatment will now be given more financial support and easier access to the scheme.

As some of you may recall or even experienced personally, this scheme has become entangled in red tape in recent years and has not provided the level of financial support it should be.

Along with several local patients, I have lobbied for such changes to the scheme to give a helping hand to those when they need it most.

And last week's delivery of this important election promise is the outcome of those efforts across regional WA.

The overhaul is a \$30.8 million boost, representing a 50 per cent increase in the annual spend on the scheme.

Under the overhaul, there will be:

- An increase in the fuel subsidy.
- An increase in the accommodation subsidy.
- The removal of the patient contribution requirement.
- Expanded eligibility approval for an escort to increase flexibility for the aged, cancer patients and patients with disabilities.
- Cancer patients will be eligible for an accommodation subsidy for a recovery night following treatment.
- The carer/escort accommodation allowance will be continued for the period a cancer patient is hospitalised away from home.
- Health professionals, other than GP's solely, will be able to authorise applications and paperwork to simplify the process.

www.johncastrilli.com.au

Ph: 97913636 Fax: 97913313