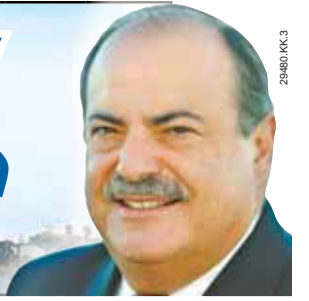


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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



Changes planned to justice system

Proposed new laws to be debated in State Parliament are aiming to change the justice system to impose higher penalties for crimes causing death.

People convicted of manslaughter could face life imprisonment, up from the current 20-year maximum.

"Talking to people in the community, there is a common feeling that the justice system sometimes appears to give more rights to criminals than victims," John Castrilli said.

"Under current sentencing laws for deaths caused by violence or dangerous driving, offenders who

have caused a death can be imprisoned for as little as three years."

"This had got to change and the law clearly needs to be on the side of victims, not criminals."

"In the eyes of the community, the punishments do not always properly reflect the significance of a loss of life and the effects on those

people left behind."

Attorney General Christian Porter said changes to the WA Criminal Code would also mean that manslaughter charges would no longer be heard in the WA District Court and instead be heard only in the WA Supreme Court.

Snapshot of proposed changes:

● Life imprisonment would become the maximum penalty for manslaughter

● All manslaughter cases to be heard in the Supreme Court

● All dangerous driving causing death cases to be heard in the District Court, meaning longer sentences can be imposed



John Castrilli joins in the egg-and-spoon race during a community barbecue for Mental Health Week.

Investment in mental health

The State Government last month launched a 10-year vision for mental health in Western Australia

The 'Mental Health 2020' strategy has a focus on mental illness prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery.

It aims to give more choice, flexibility and control to people with mental illness and their families.

As part of Mental Health Week, John Castrilli attended a community barbecue at Big Swamp Wildlife Park.

"The annual barbecue raises awareness of mental health issues and also offers an afternoon of entertainment and social activities," said Mr Castrilli.

"Tackling mental health issues needs a multi-pronged approach, which is why community-based events like this are important."

"In addition to helping people with mental illness become more involved in the community, the State Government has a commitment to improving mental health services throughout the State."

"More than \$220,000 was allocated last month to increase staffing at the South West Mental Health Service, with a focus on early intervention and treatment for children and young people with mental illness."

"This is part of a \$1.6million boost for youth mental health services in WA, and comes on top of extra funding for specialist indigenous mental health workers in the South West."

Riding a unique therapy

During a visit to the Riding for the Disabled Association last month, John Castrilli witnessed first-hand the incredible effects that horse riding can have on young people with disabilities.

"Many of the riders have limited mobility or are in wheelchairs, so it was wonderful to see the smiles on riders' faces and the obvious feeling of freedom that being in the saddle gives them," Mr Castrilli said.

"The many volunteers at RDA do a wonderful job of helping people of all ages enjoy riding as therapy."

"In Bunbury we are truly fortunate in having countless volunteers dedicated to helping improve and enrich the lives of others within our community."

Pictured are College Row students Alison Gobby and Caitlin Kite enjoying a morning ride with help from Sarah George, Sue O'Donoghue, John Castrilli, Henrike Schotman and Gillian Dober.



Flying the flag in Canada

Bunbury's 2011 Young Citizen of the Year, Ashleigh Espinos, will be flying the flag for Western Australia in Canada as part of a student exchange.

John Castrilli nominated Ashleigh for the Citizen of the Year Award, and was delighted to present her with a State flag to take on her trip.

Her exchange experience will include attending school near Toronto for 10 weeks and going on a major school excursion, visiting Washington DC for five days.

"Ashleigh is an active member of our community with her fundraising and Scouts activities and I'm sure she will be a wonderful representative of our region and her



school," Mr Castrilli said.

Ashleigh, a student at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, said she was looking forward to seeing the Canadian scenery and experiencing a different way of life.

Residents urged to join Rally 4 Respect

Local residents are being urged to hit the streets and join the Rally 4 Respect to be held in Bunbury later this month.

As part of the Choose Respect initiative and its work in the wider community, the Rally gives people the opportunity to take action and build on the positive steps that Choose Respect has already made.

"The rally is an important chance for people to take a stance against anti-social behaviour and promote a culture of teaching respect for ourselves, other people and property," Mr Castrilli said.

"I have been working towards making Bunbury a Choose Respect

City for over three years and I know we all have the power to make a positive difference.

"But we can't just think about it, we need to stand up and make our voices heard."

Everyone is welcome to join the Rally 4 Respect, starting at Anzac Park at 4pm on Thursday, November 17.

A competition will also be held for the most creative banner promoting Choose Respect to be produced for the rally.

More information is available from Sarah-Jane on 0409 167 804 or by emailing sarah-jane.smith@chooserespect.org.au.

IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY

HOSPITAL UPDATE

Behind-the-scenes work is continuing towards redevelopment of Bunbury Hospital's Critical Care unit.

Tenders have been requested for the two final stages of the \$14.9million project, which involves the expansion and redevelopment of the Emergency Department.

The expansion will boost the emergency department from 15 to 27 treatment bays, with work expected to start in early 2012 and be finished by early 2013.

Stage three, the 'Fast Track' area and 10 bed Short Stay Unit, would be completed in late 2013.

The hospital will remain fully functional during the redevelopment work.

The expansion is being funded

with \$14.1million from WA's allocation under the Federal Government's 'Taking Pressure off Public Hospitals' program.

"The State Government identified Bunbury's emergency department as a priority for this funding to give our hospital the capacity to meet current and future demands for emergency care," Mr Castrilli said.

"Once completed, this will be yet another piece of the health 'jigsaw' in place for Bunbury, giving the city and surrounds a high level of medical services in one location."

The upgrade follows the recent opening of the South West Radiation Oncology Service, which is the first outside the Perth area, and the \$5.6 million South West Regional Sub-Acute Service.



Choose Respect champions Peter Rigden, Heidi Martin, Sarah-Jane Smith, Leanne Maher and Adam Johnson are urging people to stand up for respect in our community.

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"Fostering a culture of
respect in our community"

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