

# Judi Moylan MP

Federal Member for Pearce

Working with you, working for you



A community newsletter from your Federal Member of Parliament, Judi Moylan SWAN VALLEY EDITION AUTUMN 2008

## Judi Moylan MP says 'Thanks'

May I extend my thanks to all those who placed their trust in me to represent them in the Federal Parliament for this next term.

Since 1993, it has been a great privilege to serve the electorate of Pearce and I look forward to continuing to work with the many and diverse communities to achieve peoples' aspirations for the future.

Pearce is the third largest electorate in geographical terms, in Western Australia. Since I was first elected in 1993 there have been two redistributions. This has dramatically changed the profile of Pearce which now covers an area of about 26,251 square kilometres and includes the coastal area from Mindarie to Lancelin; the Swan Valley, Chittering Valley and north to Gingin, the Avon including Toodyay, Northam and York, the eastern wheat-belt including Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Williams and Narrogin and south to Boddington. The hills area and east to Wundowie has remained in Pearce since 1993, losing a small part of Kalamunda and the foothills in the last redistribution.

Primary and secondary industry, mining, fishing, tourism and the RAAF Base Pearce, are all important industries in Pearce that

generate wealth and provide jobs.

The range and diversity of activities provide many challenges and keeps me fully engaged making representations to Ministers in Canberra, contributing to policy committees and standing committees of the Parliament and speaking in the House.

To stay in touch with organisations and individuals, I hold constituent days in various centres throughout Pearce. This gives me the opportunity to engage with local groups and individuals and to stay in contact with the many Shires and Councils in Pearce.

I look forward to continuing to regularly visit local centres in this term of Parliament so that I can more fully appreciate the local achievements, aims and ambitions and meet local people.

As always I also look forward to engaging in the important debates and policy work in the Parliament.

During this term of Parliament, I am committed to continue my strong advocacy for education and training. It fits with my ambition to encourage a much stronger focus on education in agriculture and science.

Having visited and announced funding for the Narrogin Agricultural College and Muresk last year, I am aware of their continuing struggle for funding which is substantially a state government matter.

Faced with the great challenge of how to preserve the productivity of the land, manage water, the environment and climate change, and produce sufficient food for domestic consumption as well as for export, we will require a new wave of young people with both scientific and practical skills to meet these challenges.

Having talked with Professor Alan Robson, Vice Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, I am also aware of the pressures on training hospitals and the need to expand training opportunities for newly graduated doctors. What better place to train than some of our regional hospitals?

This will be high on my list of priorities as it is more likely that doctors trained in regional hospitals will take up practice in those communities and despite everyone's best efforts there is still a doctor shortage in rural and regional areas.

The shared responsibility for funding education,

health, roads and a myriad of other services brings me to the important issue of our state, federal system of government.

Created in 1901 it has served us well, however we must turn our minds to building a federal system of government that recognises contemporary issues. There is a need for clear delineation of responsibility between state and federal government and an urgent need to stop the 'blame game'.

I have never been a 'centralist' because I believe such a policy requires conformity to the mantra of 'one size fits all'.

A centralised system makes it difficult for individual communities to shine by building on their natural attributes. Conversely, decentralisation encourages excellence, diversity and competition.

The attributes of excellence, diversity and individual achievement are worthwhile ambitions, but always in the context of not forgetting those in our midst for whom life is a struggle and whom need a helping hand.

Judi Moylan MP

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### Local Students Pay Memorable Visit to Parliament House

A group of local year seven students embarked on a memorable excursion last year that included a visit to Parliament House in Canberra.

The Hon Judi Moylan MP said more than 100 000 students visit Parliament House every year.

"The School Visits Program plays a significant role in helping young people to understand and appreciate the important elements of our Parliamentary Democracy."

The students from Ellenbrook Christian College were thrilled to be able to experience Parliament House and watch real politics in action.



The students standing outside Parliament House in Canberra.

Ellenbrook Christian College teacher, Shelly Forbes, who accompanied the students on their trip, said the children enjoyed experiencing first hand, things that they had been learning about in the classroom.

"Our students were privileged to observe the Members of Parliament debating several issues in the House of Representatives," Ms Forbes explained.

Ms Forbes said the students also enjoyed role playing with Parliament House education officers, which included dressing up and acting out the passing of a bill in the House of Representatives.

## Arbor Grove Children Benefit From Healthy Canteen

Last November Judi Moylan paid a visit to Arbor Grove Primary School in Ellenbrook to see the school's healthy canteen in action.

Arbor Grove made the change from serving traditional canteen fare to more healthy options two years ago.

Mrs Moylan met with canteen manager Tammy d'Silvia and canteen volunteers, including Tyna Leach, who was

instrumental in transforming the Arbor Grove Primary School Canteen.

Ms Leach said she was inspired to change the school canteen menu after watching the popular television show *Jamie's School Dinners*, in which British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver demonstrates how to instigate healthier food options for school children.

The programme was such a success that it led the British Government to implement new, healthier school dinner policies across the country.

Arbor Grove's healthy menu boosts a variety of delicious options that the children very obviously enjoy. It includes such delights as apple pikelets, spinach quiche and zucchini muffins.

Tyna Leach, Tammy de'Silvia, Toni Evans, Puspa Chiu, Yvette Bernardo and Sandra Crane in the Arbor Grove canteen



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# Australia Day 2008

The nation came together on January 26 to rejoice all things uniquely Australian. Families shared barbeques and picnics, and people from a variety of different backgrounds united to celebrate this wide, brown land.

Australia Day was celebrated in many of the 18 cities and shires in the electorate of Pearce.

This year the Hon Judi Moylan MP was invited to celebrate Australia Day with the people of York at their annual Australia Day Breakfast.

After the breakfast she had the pleasure of presenting the Shire's Citizen of the Year Award for 2008 to Mrs Margaret Hewitt.

Mrs Moylan also acknowledged Mrs Teresa Earnshaw who was also nominated for the award.

"Congratulations must also go to the Junior Citizen of the Year, Andrew Reynolds and all the nominees for the 2007 Sports Star of the Year

Awards including the winner Fraser Jones and the Senior Citizen of the Year, Mary Fleay," Mrs Moylan said.

Following the ceremony Mrs Moylan reflected on the changing significance of Australia Day.

"Being Australian can no longer only be understood as enjoying a meat pie and a beer at the footy on a Sunday afternoon or "putting a prawn on the barbie" with friends on a hot summer's day," Mrs Moylan explained.

"With the diversity of Australia's people from such a mix of backgrounds and cultures – being Australian means different things to different people. It could be a place where people from other cultures and religions embrace the Australian way of life while still following and respecting where they came from. Or, accepting new ideas and sharing experiences from overseas with those in their new homeland."

## Shire President's Address

**The York Australia Day ceremony is a community event that has grown each year.**

The ceremony provides an opportunity to recognise local people and organisations for their contribution to community life.

The tone of the day was set and the ceremony opened with an Australia Day address by York Shire President Pat Hooper -

*Australia Day has gained strength as a truly National Day and York like many hundreds of towns and cities across Australia take time to remember our founding and celebrate the way of life we have established in our great nation. It has become a day when families and friends get together to enjoy one another's company and hopefully reflect upon what makes us the great nation we are.*

*Initially I would like to recognise the original people of the Avon, the Barlardong people.*

*So what is Australia Day? A long weekend, an extra days work, a break in the school holidays or are we as a nation beginning to accept that this a day as the one each year that we acknowledge our foundations. Do we truly stop and recognise we are one of the world's most diverse nations? Do we think about the fact that we have never had a "civil war"? I ask you, are you proud to call yourself Australians? Do we stop and think how lucky are we to be Australians?*

*We recognise people in categories such as youth, seniors, sports, and arts in our State and National awards and in York we recognise our own achievers.*

*It is appropriate for a community to recognise their own as they are the best placed to know how good the people are in a community. However, do we truly acknowledge those who give above and beyond? Or do we adopt the dreaded "tall poppy" syndrome that Australians are famous for? Are we afraid to acknowledge those who do more for fear it may show us up? Thankfully in this community we are prepared to put forward worthy nominees.*

*Having said that, can I acknowledge that during 2007 York has as has many other communities lost a number of citizens who contributed above and beyond the norm? I will not name people as it could and would raise concerns that I wasn't recognising specific person's contributions. They made our lives richer for their presence.*

*However, can I say that I recently attended a funeral of one of York's finest and was impressed by the crowd attending and the status attributed to the man? But, it was the behaviour, the reverence, dignity and honour the young men and women of his family and many other York families showed towards an "elder" of our community to told me that York's future was secure.*

*We will hear shortly of the contributions that the 2007 nominees offered our community. Again I ask individuals, sporting clubs, community clubs and all organisations to look inwards, and while your nominee may not be the "chosen one" you are saying to the whole York community that you value this person or persons.*

*Finally I would like to share with you some of my thoughts as to what is an Australian. Many, dare I say every persons here knows the song "I Am Australian" written by one of the Seekers Bruce Woodley.*

*Lyrics such as;*

*I came from the dreamtime*

*I came upon the prison ship bound down by iron chains*

*I'm a settler; I'm a farmer's wife on a dry and barren run*

*I am Clancy on his horse; I'm Ned Kelly on the run*

*I'm a bushy, I'm a battler*

*Tell of the Australian we would all like to sometimes be. The people that Patterson and Lawson wrote about, McCubbin, Drysdale and Nolan painted and Slim Dusty, Paul Kelly and others have sung about.*

*However it is these lyrics that really tell us who we are...*

*We are one but we are many*

*And from all the lands on earth we come*

*We share a dream*

*And sing with one voice*

*I am, you are, we are Australians.*

*This song is not be our national anthem and I am not advocating it should be, but it should be up to each and everyone of us to live those lyrics because as it says... We are Australians!*

*Thank you all, enjoy the rest of this ceremony and may you enjoy your Australia Day.*



York Shire President Pat Hooper giving his Australia Day Address



# The Parliament Says Sorry to the Stolen Generation

The first sitting of the 42nd Parliament for 2008 was an historic occasion, as a long overdue apology was made to the generations of Aboriginal people who were forcibly removed from their families.

Both the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, and Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Brendan Nelson MP delivered dignified, moving speeches in the House and together received a message stick from Aboriginal Elders, present in the Parliament, to carry to the Speaker, the Hon Harry Jenkins MP.

## The Hon Judi Moylan MP's response to the formal apology made to the Stolen Generation.

*SORRY, The Hon Judi Moylan MP, 14th February 2008*

Yesterday was a momentous day for all Australians and for this Parliament.

This House was the scene of a long overdue but ultimately a powerful bipartisan resolve to express our nation's collective sorrow for the stolen generations and I fully endorse the Motion.

I am sure the house was deeply moved, as I was, by the rapt attention with which that scene was viewed yesterday by the whole nation.

To understand the depth of hurt and suffering felt by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people requires each of us to open our hearts and ask ourselves the Question: 'How would I feel if my children or grandchildren were taken from me because of the colour of our skin or our cultural background.'

In making that empathetic leap, we discover true sympathy.

The narrative that led to the forcible removal of the children of Indigenous Australians is complex and deeply disturbing.

Having been dispossessed of the land they were then remorselessly driven from every landscape that offered potential benefit to the white man, even from those reservations grudgingly allotted to them, by government.

No homeland was sacrosanct to the black-man if it was capable of supporting agriculture or yielding up precious metals.

Gone was hunting.

Gone was gathering.

Gone was country.

And therefore gone were the elements that gave expression to Aboriginal culture!

In their place came fringe dwelling, destitution, disease and dependency.

And worst of all a deep and abiding depression of the spirit.

But it must not be assumed, as it is commonly assumed, that aboriginal subjection and collapse happened overnight.

There is evidence in abundance of Aboriginal efforts to participate in the economy of the time.

In Western Australia, for I am more familiar with the historical narrative in my own state, not a few took up seasonal work on farms and participated in the arduous clearing and fencing of land for agriculture.

Otherwise they were left to eke out a meagre living from stripping bark and hunting possums.

But not for long!

Successive waves of immigration led to increasing demands for land and in turn, further marginalisation of Aboriginal communities. Inevitably, tensions with white settlers increased and the relationship became hostage to down-turns in the economy.

By 1913 the Western Australian government succumbed to political pressure, with a demand 'to segregate all Aborigines on (to) state-owned farms and total abolition of private employment of Aborigines.' (Ref 14 Mr Neville)

Even the bark stripping and possum hunting became subject to government sanctions.

Deterioration of relations led to massacres, kidnapping and the selling of Aborigines including women and children into what was tantamount to slavery.

Mrs Mary Bennett, publisher of "The Australian Aborigine as a Human Being" report to the Australian Board of Missions was quoted in the West Australian Newspaper:

"I have just returned from a year's investigations in the Kimberley where, as in other parts of Western Australia and the Federal Territory – where women have neither human rights nor protection if they are native or half-castes – slavery is in operation and there is white slave traffic in black women."

Mrs. Bennett was highly critical of government policy failures saying: "...it pays the white man to dispossess the natives of their land wholesale. The compulsion is dispossession and starvation reinforced by violence...."

Inevitably relationships between black women and non-aboriginal men led to increasing numbers of half-caste children who were left fatherless by state laws which prohibited interracial co-habitation. The quality of the relationship was not considered material.

Administrators like Neville, fervently believed that these children were better off being taken from their mothers and placed in state-run institutions.

Much has been written of government policies administered in Western Australia by Mister AO Neville and subsequently reprised in other states and territories.

Though driven in part by the Victorian prejudices and morays of his time and his interest in miscegenation, Neville fought fervently with his superiors for the establishment and retention of state-run institutions and for the proper funding of staffing, supplies, and maintenance, education and training opportunities.

Not only did his pleas to governments fall on deaf ears, they led to flat rejection. Nevertheless he continued to plead unsuccessfully for proper funding of his wretched department though-out his long career.

In his report to government in 1930 Neville wrote:

"...many of the old people were unable to withstand the privations due to hard times and sickness. The loss of child life was greater than ever. Epidemic diseases are bound to cause numerous deaths amongst a people compelled to live under conditions such as those under which our natives exist...."

His biographer Pat Jacobs in her landmark account gives graphic descriptions of conditions prevailing in institutions with inadequate food and unduly harsh punishments. The so called 'protectors' were any thing but!

Throughout the history of tragic events there are many heroes black and white who fought for justice

and worked in practical ways with Aboriginal communities, writing to Ministers and giving evidence before Royal Commissions

The history of the Stolen Generation was forensically documented in the "The Bringing Them Home" Report in 1997 by Sir Ronald Wilson, former High Court Judge and President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

And who, Mr Speaker on reading that Report could not be deeply moved by the harrowing accounts of those who gave evidence.

Mister Speaker, almost a decade after, we are only now beginning to discern the full extent of the tragedy that has overtaken the Indigenous culture.

We are beginning to appreciate that the symbolism of an apology in no way excludes the implementation of practical reconciliation policies.

Rather, Mr. Speaker it facilitates them. Yes it facilitates them.

It was never a reasonable or fair argument to deny an apology for fear of consequences. Justice must be done to our Indigenous peoples.

And if consequences follow they must be faced up to. For this is fundamental to our system of law.

The proposed bi-partisan Commission announced by the Prime Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd yesterday is a welcome development to which I give my enthusiastic endorsement.

My enthusiasm I owe in no small part to my distinguished predecessor in the Seat of Pearce, the Hon Fred Chaney, and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs 1978 - 1980.

Fred Chaney has dedicated all of his adult life to engaging with Aboriginal people and speaking out for them on matters of social justice.

This House has produced no more fervent advocate of indigenous rights than Fred Chaney. It is a privilege to be able to recall his service on this profound occasion.

Mr. Speaker, Author and Journalist Stuart Rintoul recalls that in 1909 the Aboriginal Travelling Protector James Isdell wrote in official correspondence:

"I would not hesitate for one moment to separate any half-caste from his Aboriginal Mother no matter how frantic her momentary grief may be at the time:

They soon forget their offspring."

MR SPEAKER HOW COULD THEY FORGET?

Mr. Speaker yesterday was atonement by all of us who have been guilty of forgetting, denying and delaying.

Can anyone imagine having witnessed the outpouring of emotion by our Indigenous brothers and sisters, that they could ever erase from their memories the cruel and intolerable circumstances, all of them legally sanctioned, that were visited upon them.

In such circumstances would we have forgotten?



# Judi Moylan Talks Small Business at the Swan Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

The Federal Member for Pearce, the Hon Judi Moylan MP was recently asked to address members of the Swan Chamber of Commerce at the group's Breakfast Club.

Mrs Moylan, who served as President of the Swan Chamber of Commerce from 1990 to 1991, spoke to guests about the issues affecting small business.

Mrs Moylan said the Howard Government had created an incredibly stable economy that is characterised by low inflation, low interest rates, low unemployment and the retirement of \$96 billion debt, with the \$8.5 billion interest saved being returned to taxpayers.

"The most recent Budget cut business taxes by \$530 million," Mrs Moylan said.

"Previous budgets in 2006 and 2005 cut business tax by \$4.2 billion and \$1.3 billion respectively."

Mrs Moylan said under the Coalition industrial disputes

had fallen from 79 working days lost per 1000 employees to just 15 days and that the Government considered education to be the key to operating and expanding profitable businesses.

Mrs Moylan said the Chamber and the City of Swan have shared a goal to make Midland a centre of excellence in education and training, which she has strongly supported.

"Yesterday I met with UWA Vice Chancellor Alan Robson to discuss a plan to locate Medical Clinical Schools in the outer urban metropolitan hospitals including the Swan Districts Hospital," Mrs Moylan explained.

"This is a proposal that I also support as it is likely to increase the number of doctors who elect to stay and set up practice in the areas in which they undertake their training. It would also add further impetus to the notion of Midland as a centre of excellence for education and training."

Mrs Moylan said that for months the local community had worked hard to put forward a case for an Australian Technical College to be located in Midland.

"The Chamber and the City of Swan joined forces, came to Canberra and convinced the Minister, Andrew Robb, that Midland was the right location," Mrs Moylan explained.

"Over 1.6 million Australians now participate in vocational education and training into which the Coalition Government invested \$2.8 billion."

Mrs Moylan said that school funding had increased by 70 percent since 1996 and that 65 percent of students in Government schools received 75 percent of the total funding.

"In addition \$1.2 billion was allocated to the Investing In Our Schools Programme to improve school amenities, with the decision about

which projects get priority coming from the school community."

Mrs Moylan said that for small businesses and the country's economy to continue to prosper it is imperative there continues to be a strong emphasis placed on education and training.

"We have great challenges in the future as to how to preserve the productivity of the land, manage the environment and climate change and produce sufficient food," Mrs Moylan said.

"This will require a new wave of young people with both scientific and practical skills."



(Top) Craig Verrier, President of the Swan Chamber of Commerce, with Judi Moylan.



(Above) Dom Italiano, Sandra Wallis, Don Italiano at the Swan Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

## Recognising the Inaugural UN-observed World Diabetes Day

As Chair of the Parliamentary Diabetes Support Group the Hon Judi Moylan MP welcomed the first ever United Nations-observed World Diabetes Day on November 14.

Following the passing of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the 20th of December 2006 that was supported by Australia, diabetes is now formally recognised as "a chronic and debilitating and costly disease associated with major complications that pose severe risks for families, countries and the entire world".

Diabetes is only the second disease to be recognised by the UN with an annual day.

World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign of the diabetes world. The day was initiated by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organisation in response to the growing number of people being diagnosed with both type-1 and type-2 diabetes across the world.

The day was marked across the world with landmark and monumental buildings, such as the Empire State Building in New York and the London Eye being lit in blue, the colour of the IF global symbol for diabetes that signifies unity in the global struggle against the disease.

In Australia, the Old Parliament House building in Canberra, the Sydney Opera House and Flinders Street Station in Melbourne were all illuminated for the occasion.

Speaking at the 'Diabetes: Lifting the Weight from the World' seminar that was organised by the Diabetes Research Foundation of WA, Diabetes WA and the West Australian Institute for Medical Research, Mrs Moylan

said the theme for this year's World Diabetes Day Diabetes in Children and Adolescents was poignant with the number of Australian children being diagnosed with the condition rapidly increasing.

"Children with the disease have to deal with a very harsh regime of daily insulin injections and blood sugar tests," Mrs Moylan said.

"It is imperative that we continue to invest in medical research to find a cure, and give hope to the 140,000 Australian children and adults living with this devastating disease. Australia has one of highest rates of type 1 diabetes in the world and the cost of diabetes to the Australian community is enormous."

Mrs Moylan, who was also recently invited to speak to the Diabetes Network through the Standing Committee on Health in the New Zealand Parliament, said there was also a need to support neighboring nations, particularly those in the Asia/Pacific region in their fight against the disease.

"It is well known that the incidence of diabetes in the Asia/Pacific area is reaching alarming proportions and due to the high rate of medical complications that come from undiagnosed and untreated diabetes, the cost to developing countries both in quality of life for its citizens and the cost to the nation, is concerning," Mrs Moylan explained.

"Australia is committed to the Millennium Goals - Making Poverty History, however we need to recognise that the high cost of diabetes will offset any positive gains we make through this program, unless we manage diabetes."

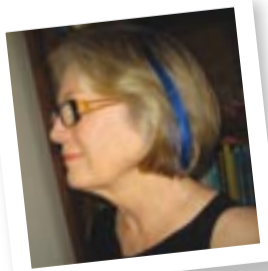
The Parliamentary Diabetes Support Group recently approached the Government to ask them to consider allocating a portion of Australia's foreign aid budget in the Asia/Pacific region towards the implementation of policies to prevent, diagnose and manage diabetes.

Mrs Moylan recognised the tireless work of the Chair of the International Diabetes Federation, Professor Martin Silink, who was instrumental in having World Diabetes Day observed by the UN.

"We are proud to have a distinguished Australian as Chair of the International Diabetes Federation at this time," Mrs Moylan said.

"Professor Silink has been tireless in his efforts with the international community to ensure the success of the United Nations Resolution and in preparations November 14."

World Diabetes Day was celebrated in Australia with an event in Canberra organised by Diabetes Australia and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund. Over 300 people attended the function that featured performances from Marcia Hines and Aussie rock band Gangajang.



Judi Moylan, who spoke at the 'Diabetes: Lifting the Weight from the World' seminar added a blue stripe to her hair to celebrate the occasion.

## Have Your Say

The Australian Senate has established a Select Committee to explore issues affecting agriculture in Australia.

- The Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries was established to inquire into the implications for Australian farmers of the pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global chemical and fertiliser markets and related matters.

Public submissions are invited and should be lodged at agriculture.sen@aph.gov.au by 19 March. (Late submissions will be accepted) If you wish to make a confidential submission please contact the committee secretary. The reporting date is 16 June 2008. For information about the inquiry visit [www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/agric\\_ctte/tor.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/agric_ctte/tor.htm) or phone (02) 6277 3510.

The Federal Government has asked the Productivity Commission to examine ways the Government can provide improved support to parents with newborn children.

- The Productivity Commission is uniquely placed to advise the Government on the best way to balance economic considerations with the aspirations of working families and will be asked to look at the economic and social costs and benefits of paid maternity, paternity and parental leave.

Public submissions are invited. For further information go to [www.pc.gov.au](http://www.pc.gov.au) or phone (02) 6240 3239.

If you would like more information on Parliamentary inquiries please visit [www.aph.gov.au/committee/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/committee/index.htm) or don't hesitate to phone the office of the Hon Judi Moylan MP on (08) 9294 3222.