



SENATOR
LINDA REYNOLDS
Liberal Senator for Western Australia



THE REYNOLDS REPORT

MARCH 2015



A message from Linda

What another amazing month it has been representing WA and our Party in the Senate. The Senate sat for three weeks plus a week of estimates. We covered an amazingly diverse range of national issues important to WA. I am pleased to report that after the unwelcome distraction the leadership issues caused, we are all again fully focussed on the job.

Despite the ongoing obstruction by Labor, The Greens and some cross-benchers, we are still delivering critical legislation, including border protection and national security. Sadly for our state, The Greens and Labor's blocked the passage of a number of important Bills for WA, including the Higher Education Research and Reform Bill - a decision that will significantly disadvantage WA's regional students.

The work continues on two inquiries that are very close to my heart, the plight of younger Australians in aged care and agricultural levies. Both inquiries are on track to report by mid-year. I was also proud to have worked with my

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colleague Andrew Nikolic to achieve a pay increase for our ADF service men and women in uniform.

The Federal Liberal team remains united on our position to fight for a better deal on GST for West Australians. My colleagues and I met with West Australian treasurer Mike Nahan in Canberra to continue our discussions on the issues important to WA.

Clearly, the Reform of the Federation White Paper is critical for the future of our state, but so too is the companion White Paper on the Reform of Australia's Taxation System, one will not work without the other. Therefore, as part of our team efforts, I have started a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of the White Paper on the Federation. To kick it off, in Parliament yesterday I co-hosted with ANU an expert panel discussion on Federalism - which included Professor John Hewson. The forum was an opportunity to reflect on our Constitution and how our Federation could work more effectively - and most importantly how we can get more Australians engaged in the discussion.

Parliament was suspended on Monday to pay tribute to Australia's 22nd Prime Minister the Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser. Vale Malcolm. The Senate this week farewelled Senator Brett Mason, who served the people of Queensland in the Senate from 1998 and will be greatly missed by all his colleagues. We all wish him goodluck for the future.

I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate International Women's Day with CME at its inspirational Women in Resources and Mining Awards where I met so many inspiration women doing amazing work in the industry. I was also privileged to attend Momentum's Kiss Violence Against Women Goodbye Luncheon to officially congratulate the Hon Julie Bishop MP on her award as their Inspirational Woman of the Year.

Cyclone Olwyn lashed the WA coastline from the Gascoyne to the South West delivering significant rainfall and destructive winds right across the region. It was heartening to see



In the media:

[Young people with disabilities forced to live in nursing homes - The World Today 26/2/15](#)

[Senator says levy transparency needed - Farm Weekly 27/2/15](#)

[Softly, softly does it on ADF Pay- The Australian 5/3/15](#)

[Defence Force pay: Prime Minister Tony Abbott increases personnel pay offer to 2pc - ABC's PM 4/3/15](#)

My first opinion piece was published in The Weekend Australian earlier this month. I shared my views on female leadership and opportunities for the Liberal Party in our 70th year. You can read the article [here](#).

Nursing homes are no place for a young person. You can read my opinion piece published in the West Australian on the issue of younger Australians living in aged care [here](#).

communities once again come together to support one another in the clean-up effort. My sympathies are with residents and growers who have lost so much.

Parliament has now risen until the Budget in May, and I am very excited to get out and about in WA. I look forward to visiting primary producers, innovative businesses large and small, and mine-sites across WA. We will also be hosting the NDIS committee in Busselton and the Perth Hills, I look forward to welcoming my colleagues to the West!

Unit next time,

Linda



Federation Reform Forum

What is more important than the future of our country? Nothing! This week I co-hosted an expert panel discussion with ANU on Federalism in Parliament House. It was great to hear from the ANU's eminent panel, including Professor John Hewson, about their perspectives on our Federation, and the importance of Reform of the Federation White Paper and the White Paper on the Reform of Australia's Taxation System. Conversations centred on how to get different levels of government working together more effectively to get the best outcomes for Australians. I am a strong advocate for competitive federalism, not all shared my passion for a shift from cooperative to competitive federalism. I believe it is time that Australia celebrates the diversity of our states and territories and approaches our Federation with a new respect and maturity which includes providing states with the ability to compete with each other and retain more of the rewards. An

approach that WA is well positioned to benefit from. This was only the first of many discussions on the Federation.

You can listen to the discussions [here](#).



ADF Pay Increase

AFTER quiet and persistent lobbying by myself and my colleague the Member for Bass Andrew Nikolic, the Government agreed to increase the reumeration for ADF personnel by 2% per annum this month. The Coalition's proposal was set to take effect from next pay day and would keep ADF pay about the current annual inflation rate of 1.7% per annum.

Dissappointingly, Labor and the Greens gagged debate and voted to cut ADF pay by supporting a Private Member's Bill introduced to the Senate by Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie last week. Under Senator Lambie's Bill, ADF pay rises would be linked to Parliamentarians pay rises or inflation – whichever is higher. As Parliamentarians' salaries have been frozen and the Reserve Bank of Australia is forecasting inflation as low as 1.25% to June 2015, this Bill would see ADF personnel take a pay cut. It was devastating, although not surprising, to see Labor and The Greens playing politics with the interests of Australia's servicemen and women who defend our national interest overseas.



International Women's Day - March 8, 2015

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day events were held across the country this month in celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. I was honoured to congratulate our own Julie Bishop on being named recipient of Momentum's 2015 Most Inspiring Woman of the Year Award. I also enjoyed attending the WA CME Women in Resources Awards where I heard from inspirational award recipients who are quietly making significant inroads right across their industry. I believe we must all work together towards a world where girls and women everywhere are truly equal and are able to exercise choice over the way they live their lives. Sadly, we still have a long way to go.



Hills Horticulturalists

DID you know \$31.6 million worth of quality fresh fruit is produced in the Perth Hills? I met fruit growers from the Hills with my colleague Member for Hasluck Ken Wyatt this month. Over a morning of tea, scones and delicious WA made fruit jam, growers shared their concerns about labour shortages, food labelling, agricultural levies and their views on the opportunities for culinary tourism and "buy local" campaigns in the region and we established a working group to progress these issues. As a WA Senator and a Hills girl, I passionately support our local primary producers, who are amongst the best in the world. I look forward to working with these growers in the coming months to showcase WA's high quality produce.



Rotary Club of Heirisson

A huge thanks to the Rotary Club of Heirisson for the opportunity to speak on gender equality last week. I enjoyed sharing a little of my story as a women in both the army and the Liberal Party.



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The Reynolds Report

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