

W2 LABOR

THE NEXT GENERATION

MARCH 2021





Six fresh faces to watch, as the Premier rejuvenates his Cabinet

On the sporting field, depth is the key to sustained success.

As AFL seasons wear on, the teams that can cover injuries with quality players often rise to the top. It's no different in cricket, as we saw with the Indian team in the recently completed test series against Australia.

Second-term governments often lose their way, with a key contributing factor being the people they bring in to replace retiring members not having the skills or, perhaps more importantly, the experience to deliver to the same standard.

Which is what make the six new faces being talked about as new members of the second-term McGowan Cabinet so noteworthy. Those of us who have had experience engaging with them feel each would be ready to hit the ground running, if they get the opportunity.

For background, the Premier has to find three new Ministers to replace the retiring Ben Wyatt, Fran Logan and Mick Murray. If, as expected, the retiring speaker Peter Watson is replaced from within the ranks of the first-term Ministry, the Premier has to find a fourth new Minister. With Morley MLA Amber-Jade Sanderson considered a certainty to receive a Ministry, her current position of Cabinet Secretary will also need to be filled.

So, there are five positions up for grabs, and six names talked about. This includes Ms Sanderson, as well as Don Punch, Reece Whitby, John Carey, Alanna Clohesy and Tony Buti.

We've put together this document to introduce you to WA Labor's next generation. We haven't attempted to predict which portfolios they may receive, but we're expecting to see a significant reshuffle of portfolios, given the number of positions set to open up at the senior end.

As always, CGM is here to assist our clients to understand the policies and personalities that will drive government during the new term, as well as identifying opportunities for collaboration in the public interest.

We hope you find this document useful.

Daniel Smith
Executive Director & Founder



AMBER JADE SANDERSON MLA

MEMBER FOR MORLEY



Amber-Jade Sanderson was born in 1976 and spent the first part of her childhood growing up in Bayswater. She moved to London in 1986, where she completed her education. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Film and Broadcasting from the University of Wales.

Ms Sanderson returned to Perth in 2001 and worked as a media advisor for federal Fremantle MP Carmen Lawrence, before moving to the then LHMU (now United Workers Union), where she went on to serve as assistant state secretary.

Ms Sanderson was first elected to Parliament as a Member of the East Metropolitan Region in 2013. She resigned her Upper House seat to contest the Lower House seat of Morley in the 2017 election, beating incumbent Liberal Member Ian Britza with a 16.2 per cent swing to Labor on a two-party preferred basis.

Ms Sanderson was then appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management; State Development; Jobs and Trade; Federal-State Relations; Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet. She is often described as a rising star in the media.

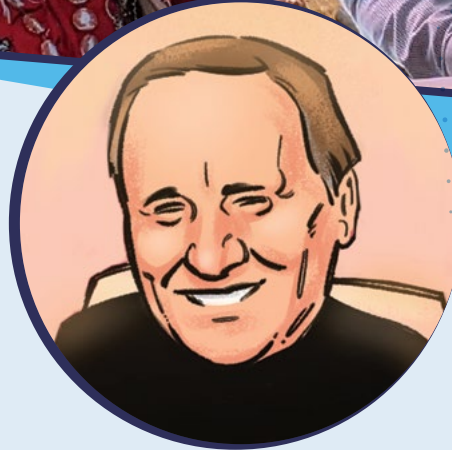
She will join Treasurer Ben Wyatt and deputy leader Libby Mettam on Channel 7's election night panel on March 13.

Ms Sanderson has listed several key issues she is working on in her electorate including improving the economy and creating more local jobs; supporting small business; building better public transport links; improving education outcomes for children, and enhancing health care. Unemployment and mortgage stress are of particular concern to Ms Sanderson, due to rates significantly higher than the state average in her electorate.

Ms Sanderson also has interest in increasing female participation in the workforce and improving working conditions for women, which have been informed by her time with the United Workers Union, which represents many low-income women. She has also spoken about the difficulties female parliamentarians face, which keep more women out of politics.

Her experience in the union movement has provided her with the support of WA Labor's Left faction, which she cemented further when she guided voluntary assisted dying legislation through Parliament in 2019. Her handling of the legislation won her widespread acclaim across the Labor party.

Ms Sanderson lives locally with her partner Phil and her children Chloe and Hugo.



DON PUNCH MLA MEMBER FOR BUNBURY

Don Punch was born in the Welsh town of Pwllheli in 1956 and spent his early life in Manchester.

In 1971, Mr Punch moved to Western Australia to live with his brother Tony and Tony's wife Ann. The then 14-year-old went to school in Manjimup and then Collie. He had missed several years of school in the UK but credits his teachers in regional WA for helping him to catch up, which has since driven his belief in the public school system.

After graduating from Collie High School, Mr Punch studied psychology and social work at the University of Western Australia. He later completed an MBA at Edith Cowan University.

Mr Punch worked in community services throughout the South West and eventually as a member of the executive service of the public sector throughout regional WA.

In 1998, Mr Punch became chief executive of the South West Development Commission and worked on a variety of projects, including supporting the development of aged care services, youth services, town centre renewal programs, and tourism development. More recently, he was responsible for developing major government business cases for the Busselton Airport, Bunbury Port and Bunbury waterfront. He left the Commission in July 2016 to stand for the state seat of Bunbury, which he won in 2017.

His background prior to entering politics has continued to inform his parliamentary career, including his commitment to economic development in regional WA, particularly Bunbury, where he has been an active local member.

He is focused on the role of Bunbury in WA's development, advocating for Indigenous involvement in decision-making, and the Port of Bunbury playing an integral role in WA's strategic freight network.

In November 2020, Mr Punch tabled a petition in Parliament which appealed to the State Government to provide funding for the building of a South West Aboriginal Medical Service Health Hub in Bunbury. On 23 February 2021, he announced that a re-elected Labor Government would provide funding to bring a Noongar Language Hub back to the South West.

He has also been supportive of the new Bunbury Outer Ring Road and is a passionate advocate for the establishment of an advanced manufacturing hub in the South West.

Mr Punch had two sons, Alan and Daniel, with his first wife Beverley, who passed away in 1986 following complications from heart surgery. He later met and married his second wife Helen Wychlo who he had a third son with named David.



REECE WHITBY MLA

MEMBER FOR BALDIVIS

Reece Whitby was born on 29 May 1964 in Perth and was raised in Balga. In Mr Whitby's first speech, he said his parents raised him with the Labor values of community support and access to quality education.

Mr Whitby became the inaugural Member for Baldivis at the 2017 state election, but his experience in the political sphere began long before then. In 2008, Mr Whitby was a high-profile candidate who ran unsuccessfully in Morley. He re-contested Morley in 2013, but was again unsuccessful as Labor lost a number of seats at the height of the Rudd-Gillard wars.

Before entering politics, Mr Whitby was a newsreader and senior reporter at Channel Seven. He left in 2013 to work as chief media advisor for then-Leader of the Opposition Mark McGowan.

His previous election experiences shaped his community-focused campaign approach in 2017, as he successfully contested the seat of Baldivis as Mark McGowan's Labor swept to power. His ongoing community-based approach since being elected has earned him substantial coverage in the local media, particularly for his delivery of several election pledges.

Upon his election, Mr Whitby was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to Treasurer (and then Energy Minister) Ben Wyatt, as well as Environment Minister Stephen Dawson.

Mr Whitby has a broad interest in infrastructure matters, specifically in planning, transport and accessibility of mobile phone coverage and the internet, which are significant issues for his electorate.

He has been an outspoken advocate to get service members like his father recognised for their contribution and to receive veterans' benefits. His father was a veteran who was exposed to high doses of radiation from the Montebello Islands in the aftermath of British nuclear testing. In Parliament, in 2018 he called for the fair treatment of veterans who were exposed to radiation in the 1950s off the north-west coast of WA and who are not entitled to the veteran's Gold Card to cover all medical expenses.

In 2019, Mr Whitby spoke in favour of the voluntary assisted dying legislation, recalling his cousin's death due to motor neurone disease. The legislation passed later that year.

Mr Whitby has a home in Baldivis and splits his time with his wife, Natalie, and four children, Faith, Sam, Luke and Hope with their home in Cottesloe.

During the 2017 election campaign, Mr Whitby's youngest daughter, Hope, was diagnosed with an extremely rare autoimmune condition called juvenile dermatomyositis. However, he has shared that Hope is doing well, having won the Under 12s WABL Championship in 2019 with the Perry Lakes Hawks. She was also named Grand Final MVP.



JOHN CAREY MLA MEMBER FOR PERTH

John Newton Carey was born in Perth on 11 July 1974. He was elected to Parliament at the 2017 state election, defeating incumbent Liberal Eleni Evangel, a former City of Perth councillor.

Prior to entering Parliament, Mr Carey worked as a political advisor in both the Gallop and Carpenter governments. After the 2008 election, he was engaged as the Director of the Kimberley Conservation Project for the Pew Environment Group for five years, and was an integral part of the successful campaign to establish the Great Kimberley Marine Park.

Mr Carey also owned a small business called Bailey and Carey, which specialised in events, and this experience cemented his passion for cutting red tape and supporting local small business.

Mr Carey has played a strong and active role in his local community before and after entering politics. He co-founded the popular Beaufort Street Festival and established WA's first town team, the Beaufort Street Network. He also founded the Brain Tumour Association of WA.

Mr Carey was elected to the City of Vincent Council in 2011 and became Mayor in 2013, taking over from a current McGowan Government Minister, Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC. As the Mayor of Vincent, Mr Carey championed greater transparency and accountability, cutting red tape for small business, and the renewal of main streets and town centres across the sector. His reform program saw the City of Vincent independently scored by ratepayers via Catysle Research as the number one local government among 25 WA councils, in 18 categories including leadership and governance, jumping from its

previous position of third last in 2010. The Council became recognised as a leader in local government for reform, innovation and main street renewal.

During his first term Mr Carey organised the Perth City Summit, which more than 350 people attended, spurring new initiatives for the city. Mr Carey has further championed the \$1.5 billion dollar Perth City Deal, which includes establishing a major university campus in the heart of the city and is the Chair of the taskforce to create a new masterplan for the Perth Cultural Centre.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Minister for Planning, he played a key role in driving major planning reform, including streamlining approvals, cutting red tape for small business and championing better designed density codes.

Mr Carey was close with his parents, Delys and John "Jack" Carey. Jack Carey was part of the Australian Commando 2/2nd, the precursor to the SAS, and was sent to Timor as part of Sparrow Force. He was awarded an OAM for his service to veterans and his assistance to the Timorese people. Mr Carey is passionate about recognising the service of veterans.

Mr Carey is well known for being a highly engaged local Member of Parliament and is notably social media savvy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts with first-class honours in communications from Murdoch University. During his university years, he was National President of the National Union of Students.

John Carey is aligned with United Workers Union but also enjoys strong relationships with independent MPs, including Transport and Planning Minister Hon Rita Saffioti MLA and Premier Mark McGowan.



ALANNA CLOHESY MLC

MEMBER FOR EAST METROPOLITAN REGION

Alanna Therese Clohesy was born on 21 August 1962 in Sea Lake, Victoria. She grew up in a small rural community where she felt the sense of belonging combined with the challenges facing people who were different, something common in small towns. This experience taught her to fight for fairness and equality. Her upbringing also instilled in her a passion for racial and gender equality as well as a strong connection to the land and farming.

Her mother, Vera, raised Ms Clohesy and her five siblings alone and struggled to provide essentials. To make ends meet, she was a starting price bookmaker and later operator of the local Totaliser Agency Board (TAB) with her sister. She later re-trained as a primary school teacher. Ms Clohesy's childhood left her with a dedication to closing the gender pay gap. She is also aware of the links between economic inequality and domestic violence, and she is an advocate for better support services for women seeking to leave violent situations.

Ms Clohesy has a Bachelor of Social Science (Social Policy) (Hons) and held several roles in the management, advocacy and policy space before entering politics. She was Co-Chairperson of NSW International Youth Year and Youth Affairs Council of Australia Management Committee member where she focused on social and youth policy development. In 1988, she was appointed executive officer of the Brain Injury Association of New South Wales and manager of policy and advocacy for People with Disabilities (NSW) in 1991. She worked as a lecturer at Edith Cowan University's School of International, Community and

Cultural Studies while she undertook her post-graduate studies. Ms Clohesy joined People with Disability Australia Incorporated in 2003 and was appointed deputy director with responsibility for advocacy in 2004.

Ms Clohesy was elected to the WA Legislative Council in 2013, where she has continued to show her passion for protecting the rights of people with disability. She believes shelter is a fundamental human right, with a particular focus on affordable public housing options being available to older people and people with disability. She also places high value on public transport infrastructure and the role it plays in social and economic development.

In 2017, upon Labor's election to government, Ms Clohesy was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Premier and Health Minister Roger Cook, a position in which she has focused on the mental health, alcohol and other drugs aspects of the health portfolio.

Ms Clohesy has been a long-time supporter of the union movement and is aligned with the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union. She is close to AMWU state secretary Steve McCartney and is passionate about advancing manufacturing in her electorate of East Metropolitan.

Ms Clohesy has been a Labor party member since 1984 and has held several party roles. She was elected WA Labor Branch president in 2010, serving until 2014, when she was succeeded by Peter Tinley.

Ms Clohesy was appointed Deputy Chair of Committees and is chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, and the Joint Standing Committee on Audit.

Ms Clohesy lives with her long-term partner and is a passionate supporter of Collingwood and West Coast Fever.



DR TONY BUTI MLA MEMBER FOR ARMADALE

Antonio De Paulo "Tony" Buti was born in Collie in 1961 where he attended school at St Brigid's Convent. He moved with his family to Armadale when he was nine years old where he attended Kingsley Primary School.

He graduated from Kelmscott Senior High School in 1978 and went on to study at the University of Western Australia where he completed a Bachelor of Physical Education (Hons). He completed further studies at UWA, Australian National University, Oxford University and Yale University. He has obtained a Diploma of Education, LLB (Hons), Masters of Industrial Relations and a Doctorate in Law. His PHD dealt with guardianship law and the stolen generations.

Dr Buti has worked as a high school teacher, lawyer, AFL player agent and legal academic. He also lectured at Murdoch University's School of Law from 1997 until the end of 2006. He was the Associate Dean (Research) and the Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre of Human Rights and the Prevention of Ethnic Conflict. Prior to moving to Murdoch University, Dr Buti worked in private practice and for the Aboriginal Legal Service. He lectured at UWA from 2007 until entering Parliament in 2010. He remained an Honorary Fellow at UWA Law School.

In 2010, Dr Buti was preselected for the seat of Armadale by the Labor Party in a by-election and won the seat with 57.9 per cent of the primary vote. Ever since, Dr Buti has comfortably retained the seat of Armadale, which continues to be the safest Labor seat in WA. Dr Buti was non-aligned when elected to Parliament, but he is now part of the right's Progressive Labor grouping.

Dr Buti authored several books before and after entering Parliament, and has written opinion pieces and discussion papers as a Member of Parliament. Topics have included education, domestic violence, British child migrants, human rights, disability discrimination, sports law, and the Mickelberg saga. He won the 2007 Premier's Book Award for his biography on Sir Ronald Wilson, WA's first High Court Justice. His most recent book was published in 2019. Dr Buti is also a passionate supporter of South Fremantle Football Club, the Fremantle Dockers and Chelsea Football Club.

Dr Buti and his wife Mandy have three children, Alkira, Paris and Tennessee. Mandy Buti is a local artist.

During an emotional speech to Parliament in 2019, Dr Buti called for an amendment to the voluntary assisted dying legislation that would prevent doctors from talking to patients about euthanasia unless the patient brought it up first. He said this would prevent people with intellectual disabilities, like his daughter Alkira, from being persuaded to make decisions they may not fully understand. Although Dr Buti moved amendments, he supported the Bill.

As a local Armadale resident, Dr Buti served on the Armadale Redevelopment Board until he was elected to Parliament. Dr Buti is focused on improving the public's perception of Armadale, in part through his ongoing Armadale history tour. He campaigned for funding for the Armadale Aquatic Centre, the Denny Avenue level crossing. He is driven by a desire to better the lives of disadvantaged people in the community with a particular focus on Indigenous affairs and family violence. In addition to supporting legislation to address these matters, Dr Buti is a dedicated fundraiser for various organisations.