



Endangered Labor but Ben holds on

BY AMY BLOM

Member for Victoria Park Ben Wyatt has bucked WA Labor's downward trend by retaining his seat with a margin of 4.89 per cent in Saturday's state election.

As of Monday morning the West Australian Electoral Commission recorded Labor suffered a 4.1 per cent swing to the Liberals in Victoria Park, though Mr Wyatt only lost one per cent in primary votes.

With voting to continue until later in the week, the Liberal Party was expected to pick up 39 seats and Labor just 19 in WA parliament.

The rest of WA Labor did not fare as well as Mr Wyatt as they suffered a crushing defeat at the weekend's election, losing six

seats and a 2.2 per cent swing against them.

Mr Wyatt said there was no one reason for Labor's plunge in support, though he suggested a dislike of Federal Labor and a strong local economy might have played a part.

He said the results in Victoria Park had bolstered Labor's overall numbers and were a testament to the level of community support he had received.

"My primary vote pretty much stayed the same which shows the community has continued to support me," he said.

"I'm disappointed about the overall result but the election is done now and I'm just happy to be back representing Victoria Park.

"I'm happy my results could boost Labor's numbers.

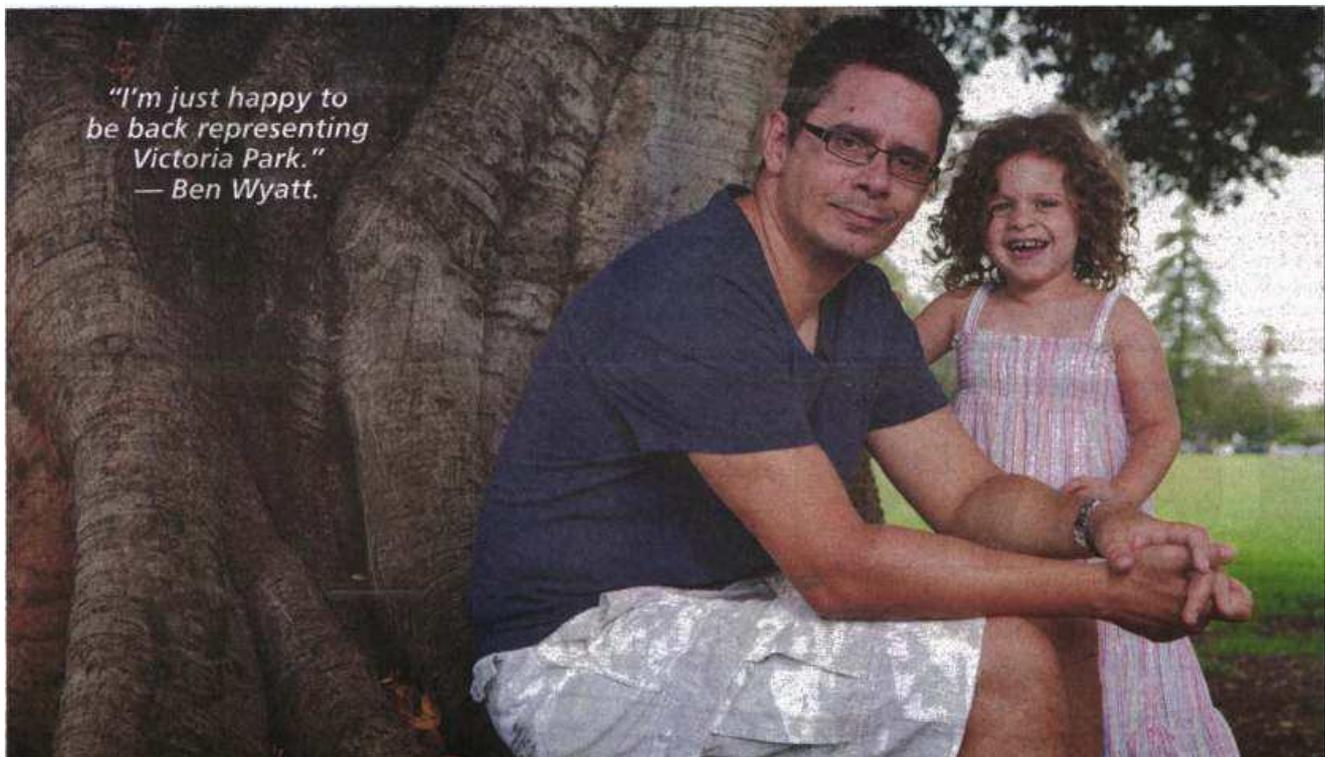
"I'm incredibly honoured and relieved to be re-elected.

"The future of Victoria Park is wonderful and it's a place that's going to flourish."

As of 2.30pm on March 11 the elections WA website had reported 75.68 per cent of votes had been counted of which Mr Wyatt had the majority with 45.64 per cent of valid votes.

Liberal candidate Haider Zaman received 42.29 per cent and Greens candidate Sarah Newbold received 12.08 per cent of the votes.

On a two party preferred vote Mr Wyatt was at 54.89 per cent to Mr Zaman's 45.11 per cent.



Member for Victoria Park Ben Wyatt and his daughter Georgina are celebrating his win after Saturday's state election. Photograph — Matt Devlin.