

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD**

*Statement*

**HON TIM CLIFFORD (East Metropolitan)** [5.20 pm]: Today is the International Day of the Girl Child, as you mentioned before, Madam President. It is a day when women and girls are encouraged to express their thoughts, opinions and ideas, as well as celebrate other inspirational women. However, girls and women should be allowed and encouraged to do this every day, not just today. Working alongside me in my office today was Nicole Spurrier—a year 9 student, girl guide and aspiring politician. Our aim today is to promote awareness about one of Australia's biggest issues—domestic violence against women. In Australia, one in four women are affected by domestic violence. One woman is murdered every week as a result of domestic violence and, in my opinion, that is too many. Since Girls Takeover Parliament last year, a lot has changed. A key campaign last year was getting rid of the tampon tax. With the hard work of many people, we got rid of it. This proves that if men work alongside women and listen to issues that affect women, positive change can be accomplished. We need to inspire and encourage women and girls to come forward with their ideas, opinions and thoughts. This is as much their world as it is ours. We need to do more than just talk about this. Every day, we need to ask what we can do to make the world a better place for women because we will not achieve anything if we leave behind half the population.

**The PRESIDENT:** Members, before I give the call to Hon Diane Evers, I might remind you that there are no clocks. You do not have unlimited time; it will be timed, and we will let you know if you start to get too close to 10 minutes.