

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Statement

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan) [9.46 pm]: I wish to bring to the attention of the house that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This international event is symbolised by the colour gold, and particularly by gold ribbons. The colour gold was chosen for childhood cancer in recognition of the strength, courage and resilience shown by all children who have been afflicted by cancer. As part of the awareness month, organisations and people are encouraged to show their support by going gold. To go gold, people can wear a gold ribbon, as I am wearing today, to raise awareness about childhood cancers. There is also a campaign for iconic buildings and landmarks to be illuminated gold. I am pleased to advise that, once again, the Western Australian Parliament will be illuminated gold—I believe it may already be illuminated gold, or that it is about to be. Next time members go out the front, they should have a look. I particularly thank Madam President for helping to organise and make possible the going gold of the WA Parliament, and I also thank those on the Parliamentary Services Committee who were involved in that decision.

I hope that members of this house show their support by also going gold this month by wearing gold, by wearing a gold ribbon, by participating in any of the events or by using their networks and social media to raise awareness about childhood cancers. Australia and WA have an enviable survival rate for children with childhood cancers. However, childhood cancer is still the biggest cause of death by disease for children. Sadly, nearly three children and adolescents die from cancer in Australia every week. We can all help to reduce this by raising awareness, supporting our healthcare system and supporting the continued funding of our highly successful childhood cancer researchers. So go gold this September!