

WA YOUTH WORK AWARDS

Statement by Member for Bassendean

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean) [12.55 pm]: I wish to congratulate the winners of the 2015 WA Youth Work Awards. Jemma Gardiner won the Emerging Youth Worker Award. Jemma works for Youth Futures in the crisis accommodation team. She has shown professional maturity beyond her years. Congratulations, Jemma. Belinda Baker-Millet won the Professional Youth Worker Award. Belinda works for the City of Swan. She is committed to the professionalisation of youth work and is highly respected throughout the youth work field. I have seen Belinda at work in my electorate of Bassendean and I have seen firsthand how well she is regarded. Congratulations, Belinda.

John Mogridge won the Creating Pathways to Peace Award. John has been a key voice within the City of Swan for 10 years for local Indigenous young people. John has supported programs such as Midnight Basketball and Night Hoops, and also REAL, the recreational, educational and life skills program. Congratulations, John. Finally, Jethro Sercombe won the Youth Work Leader Award. Jethro's greatest achievement is the planning and implementation of the Foyer Oxford project. Jethro has also played a lead role in the WA Association of Youth Workers, now called Youth Work WA. Congratulations, Jethro. I would also like to mention the other nominees on the night. They were Tim Hall, Denmark Youth Services; Lynn Castro, Street Connect; Karma Chicote, Save the Children Australia; Vik Jeyakumar, Life without Borders; and Reverend George Davies. Congratulations to all the winners and nominees. In the words of John Mogridge on the night, "Youth work is not a job; it is a vocation". That is typical of the dedication shown in this field. Our community owes so much to those who give so much of themselves to work with our young people.