

AMANDA YOUNG FOUNDATION

Statement by Member for Southern River

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [12.55 pm]: Today in this house I wish to honour two extraordinary citizens in my electorate. Not many of us know the pain of losing a child through death. Barry and Lorraine Young experienced this unbearable pain in 1997 when their only daughter, Amanda, died at the tender age of 18 as a result of meningococcal septicaemia, which was not diagnosed quickly enough. Rather than wallow in their pain, Barry and Lorraine established the Amanda Young Foundation in 1998, a non-profit community organisation dedicated to reducing deaths in Western Australia from meningococcal disease and supporting survivors of the disease. Since 1998 they have dedicated their lives to this cause. The foundation achieves its mission through increasing awareness and educating the community and the medical profession regarding meningococcal disease; providing funding for relevant medical research and encouraging increased research into the disease; organising an annual camp for year 11 students across the state to support and encourage the development of leadership skills; and fundraising events for the foundation's work. These events of course also help to increase awareness. The foundation's main annual events include a charity ball and also a garden fete in Southern River—a three-day event that is held each October. This great fundraising event will be held this year on 22, 24 and 25 October at Matison Street in Southern River. It will include stalls et cetera. I invite all members to visit Southern River to grab a bargain, enjoy a great day and help a good cause.