

WA YOUTH AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Youth

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Youth) [9.10 am]: I rise to inform the house of the 2022 WA Young Person of the Year. I had the honour of attending the WA Youth Awards last week held at the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip and share in the achievements of a truly impressive group of young people. There were 11 award categories to recognise and thank young people in WA for their achievements and contributions in their field. Each category winner was eligible to be selected as the WA Young Person of the Year. I am pleased to inform the house that the winner of the 2022 WA Young Person of the Year was Zahra Al Hilaly. She also took home the Mission Australia Young Changemaker Award. Zahra is an inspiring leader and advocate for gender equality, migrants and refugees, and intersectional representation. Her work has been recognised globally. At just 22 years old, Zahra is an Australian representative for UN Women and was awarded Western Australian Young Multicultural Person of the Year in March. She has addressed the UN General Assembly in New York and has served as a youth delegate for conferences in Italy, China and France. I once again congratulate Zahra on her achievement in being awarded 2022 WA Young Person of the Year and look forward to following her career and seeing what she achieves.

I also had the pleasure of presenting the Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Worker Award to Olivia Colja. Olivia is an energetic and passionate advocate in the youth sector and radiates positivity. The WA Youth Awards are one of the highlights of my year. It is a night when Western Australia's finest and most inspirational young people are showcased, and those in the youth sector are also acknowledged for the important work they do. I extend my congratulations to all nominees and pay a special thank you to the Youth Affairs Council for its fantastic work in coordinating the awards ceremony.