

**BALLAJURA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Statement by Member for Ballajura*

**MR J.B. D'ORAZIO** (Ballajura) [12.50 pm]: I bring to the attention of the Parliament the outstanding achievements of 61 students from years 8 to 12 at Ballajura Community College who recently participated in a cultural heritage tour to the eastern States, returning on Wednesday, 30 June. The cultural tour enabled the college to showcase its wonderfully diverse arts program in music and dance. I recently attended the showcase of the tour and the performance was outstanding. The tour and showcase comprised a concert band, a swing band, a guitar ensemble, a barbershop quartet and a dance troupe. On their tour the students played in the Great Hall at Parliament House in Canberra, at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, at Darling Harbour in Sydney and at Sea World and Dreamworld on the Gold Coast. To my knowledge, this is the first time a school has been invited to close the War Memorial in Canberra, as it is usually closed by a lone piper. There were visiting dignitaries present from overseas, and reports indicate that those present were so moved that the students were then asked to sing at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The tour was led by an outstanding member of the staff at Ballajura Community College, Mr Stuart Rhine-Davis, with support from dance choreographers Tenielle Lloyd and Jo Waroczyk, all of whom gave generously of their time and talent. A big thankyou is also due to the principal, Dr Steffan Silcox, for being such a strong advocate for the school. The students were, by all accounts, outstanding ambassadors for their school, for Ballajura and, more importantly, for Western Australia.