

YOUTH WEEK WA 2021

Statement by Minister for Youth

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Youth) [12.12 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the 2021 WA Young Person of the Year and update the house on WA Youth Week. As members would be aware, the WA Young Person of the Year is announced during Youth Week WA. Youth Week WA is the largest celebration of young people in the state, with various events held across WA to elevate and celebrate young people's voices. Last year's Youth Week WA events were significantly impacted by COVID-19, so it was great to see the program back and better than ever this year. One of the highlights of Youth Week WA is the WA Youth Awards, which I had the pleasure of attending last month at the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip. As with previous years, the calibre of nominees was outstanding.

I am pleased to advise the house that Whadjuk Noongar man Derek Nannup was awarded the 2021 WA Young Person of the Year for his dedication to strengthening cultural connections for young Aboriginal people. Derek has worked at Wesley College as the Indigenous cultural program coordinator and with Wungening Aboriginal Corporation as a support worker for children in care, and currently works in sexual health education at the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia. Outside of work, Derek sits on the Mirrabooka Police District Youth Advisory Group and the Youth Educating Peers Reference Group. Derek also established Boorloo Indigenous Youth Yarning Circles, a space where young people can meet monthly to practise traditional healing, discuss culture and community issues and talk about how they can address and prevent them. I once again congratulate Derek for his outstanding achievement and for his continuing dedication to his community.

I also had the pleasure of presenting the Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Worker Award, which was won posthumously this year by the late Laura Florisson, an inaugural coordinator of Anglicare's Home Stretch program.

I extend my congratulations to all nominees and pay a special thank you to the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, which coordinated the awards.