

DJEREEDJEE MIA

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [12.54 pm]: I rise to speak about As One Nyitting Ltd, a social enterprise initiative that has been working with young people and families on Noongar country in Perth and in the wheatbelt region since 2015. Taking their lead and guidance from their elders, Robert and Zoe Davis and their team are building an organisation that delivers cultural programs to support and build belonging and identity, leadership, wellness and training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. In their own powerful words, they believe that First Nation people can embrace who they are, define their future and protect the oldest culture in the world.

On Friday last week, I had the honour of attending and participating in the opening of its newest social enterprise, Djereedjee Mia, which translates to “home of the zamia”. Inspired by the six Noongar seasons, the culturally safe space is an extension of the land the group are custodians of known as Nyitting Nature Reserve in Gidgegannup. In this space, people can help with seed collection, preservation and planting, participate in wellness journeys through creative expression and take part in yarnning circles and caring for country. Djereedjee Mia is home to beautiful and authentic locally made artefacts such as didgeridoos, jewellery, tapping sticks, artworks, bush tea, seeds and more. Trevor and Nancy Davis, and Robert and Zoe Davis spoke with such passion about their vision and mission to embrace, share and celebrate their culture with the whole community. I gave my undertaking as their member of Parliament, shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and friend to walk with them and share their message as they embark on this new venture to support and empower their community and family.