

PERTH CULTURAL CENTRE — ACTIVITIES

512. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge the teaching staff and student leadership group from North Perth Primary School in the member for Perth's electorate.

School holidays are almost upon us, and those of us with children are about to take a deep breath! Can the minister please inform the house of the attractions at the Perth Cultural Centre and surrounds in the coming weeks?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for the question, and I welcome to the public gallery another group of school students from Ocean Road Primary School in the electorate of Dawesville.

One area in which this government has made an enormous difference since it came to office in 2008 is the Perth Cultural Centre. The work that has been undertaken between the government and the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and the state's cultural institutions means that the cultural centre is now a very active and important precinct in the Perth CBD, with a range of activities. As I have said before in this place, the precinct is now much safer and more attractive than was the case prior to 2008. It has been a commitment of this government, and I am delighted to have played a role over the last almost six years to help bring that about. I can inform members, if they are not otherwise aware of it, that it has been a particular priority of the Premier as well.

The precinct will be very active over the next two winter months. I think many members have taken the opportunity to visit the *Dinosaur Discovery* exhibition at the Western Australian Museum, which opened in April.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany!

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The Premier has a very strong interest in the Western Australian Museum and the \$428 million redevelopment that is occurring. In a more contemporary sense, over 88 000 people have visited the *Dinosaur Discovery* exhibition to this point, so that shows the role that a modern museum can have in an educational sense and an entertainment sense. To complement this exhibition, the big screen at the cultural centre has become an interactive prehistoric world in a virtual sense and people can experience visually what it was like to walk with dinosaurs millions of years ago. That will be present at the centre until the middle of August this year. In a first at the cultural centre, Perth's first inner-city ice-skating rink will open on 4 July. It will be a 250-square-metre rink that will be open from 9.00 am until late each day during the school holidays between 4 and 20 July. It will be a ticketed venue, but I am sure that there will be a lot of interest in it for those who are brave enough to go ice-skating. There will also be a cafe and bar in the area during that period.

At the Art Gallery of Western Australia, there is, amongst other exhibitions, the *Animal Ark* exhibition, which features works from the state collection containing animal motifs, and there are special activity spaces for families as part of that exhibition. The State Library of Western Australia will celebrate its 125th birthday this year with its *Memory House* exhibition, and that is also worth visiting. Between the Art Gallery, the State Library and the WA Museum, last year over two million people visited those very important cultural institutions. A survey that was compiled by Live Performance Australia reported that over 1.7 million people in Western Australia attended live performances in 2012. One of the live performances that will be coming up over the next two months is the Black Swan State Theatre Company's performance of *Dust*, and the Western Australian Opera Co and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra will present Mozart's *The Magic Flute* opera at His Majesty's Theatre. There is much to do, and I am very pleased that the arts landscape in Western Australia is very active, as always, but particularly over the winter months this year.