

GWEN ATKINSON — 100TH BIRTHDAY

Statement by Member for Morley

MR I.M. BRITZA (Morley) [12.51 pm]: Morley resident Gwen Atkinson reached a major milestone recently by celebrating her 100th birthday on 29 August. Mrs Atkinson was born in Cornwall, England and arrived in Australia at just 13 weeks of age in 1911. She lived with her family on a farm in Nokanning until leaving school at the age of 13 to work in Wilson's Drapers in Merredin. More than 40 family and friends, including her three daughters, eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, attended a private luncheon to celebrate Mrs Atkinson's centenary. Mrs Atkinson has lived in her Morley residence since 1975. She lives there independently, with the help of her family, and is still actively involved in the community, attending the City of Bayswater's Olive Tree House regularly to participate in a variety of senior events. The staff at Olive Tree House honoured Mrs Atkinson with a luncheon on her birthday, attended by City of Bayswater Mayor Terry Kenyon. Mrs Atkinson was thrilled to receive a special birthday message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, congratulating her and acknowledging her milestone birthday. It is a wonderful landmark to achieve, and I offer my congratulations to Mrs Atkinson on this outstanding achievement, noting that without a deep and burning desire of her own, she might have been ruled by the desires of others.