

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Early Childhood Education

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Early Childhood Education) [12.17 pm]: On Friday, I had the great pleasure of attending the inaugural Early Childhood Learning and Development Sector Awards. Early childhood educators play such a huge role in supporting our young children’s development and growth, so it is really important that we have these types of events to recognise the amazing work this sector does. These new awards were organised and hosted by Child Australia, a not-for-profit organisation that supports and provides services to early childhood educators and professionals, parents, children and the community. I want to thank Tina and the team at Child Australia for putting on such a great event. Goodstart, Regional Early Education and Development, Ngala and YWA, supported by major sponsor BHP, and other sector organisations Xplor, CTAS Education, Wanslea and Busy Bees, also contributed to the delivery of these fantastic awards.

Eight individuals and organisations were recognised for their commitment and outstanding work in delivering quality outcomes for WA children and their families. The winners and finalists were selected from across hundreds of nominations in Western Australia, a testament to the many high-calibre professionals working in the early childhood education and care sector. They were assessed by an independent judging panel with respected sector experts. I extend my congratulations to Lee Peing Lim for the Outstanding Educator Award; Rachael Baker for the Rising Star Award; Rocky Beaton for the Excellence in Leadership Award; Corrine Bell for the Outstanding Indigenous Educator Award; Lara Bowler, who is doing her great work in my electorate, for the Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher Award; Sarah Mountford for the Outstanding Child Allied Health Practitioner Award; Pachamama Early Education and Childcare and Activity Centre for the Excellence in Innovative and Sustainable Practice Award; and Child Australia, West Pilbara Mobile Children’s Service for the Excellence in Community Engagement or School Partnerships Award.

I would also like to acknowledge the finalists in these awards who have also made significant contributions to early childhood learning and development and to the lives of children and their families. I look forward to continuing to work with the early childhood sector and future opportunities to recognise and shout out to the world about the important work that they do—work that makes such a difference to the lives of children and families every single day.