

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS' MASSED CHOIRS FESTIVAL**

*Statement by Member for Yokine*

**MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine)** [12.50 pm]: Last Thursday evening, 14 September 2006, my wife and I were privileged to be invited to the WA Primary Schools' Massed Choirs Festival, which has been run annually at Winthrop Hall for many years. Choirs from 11 state primary schools and two guest choirs made up a massed choir of 500 young Western Australians that gave an absolutely outstanding performance to a packed auditorium. I know that many of my parliamentary colleagues also had the opportunity to attend this magnificent celebration of musical talent. Proudly supported and organised by the Department of Education and Training, the festival ran over the entire week, with a different group of primary schools, and program each evening. The guest conductor David Jackson, accompanied by Jacinta Jakovcevic on piano and Graham Devenish on organ, brought out the very best in these proud young Western Australians. My own electorate was represented by a choir from Kyilla Primary School, their principal, Kalman Sumegi, and a great music teacher in Allison Conroy, who is also on the organising committee. Allison's daughter Julia played trumpet solos and Fletcher Cox, a year 7 student, produced a standout solo performance reminiscent of Aled Jones, the famous Welsh boy soprano.

An amazing program, ranging from spirituals through songs by the Beatles to new Australian compositions, ended with a standing ovation from an enraptured audience. Congratulations to Marie-Anne Goyder, the organising committee and all performers. This was a triumph and celebration of the outstanding state primary education system and the Department of Education and Training. This wonderful gathering of young Western Australians was an inspiration that reminded us all of the power and joy of music.