

WARREN-BLACKWOOD EDUCATION DISTRICT, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

Statement

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [6.26 pm]: At almost exactly at this time last week I was arriving at the Geographe Bayview Resort, which is located just outside of Busselton, to attend a function organised by the Warren-Blackwood Education Office to recognise and reward excellence in education in public schools throughout the Warren-Blackwood education district. That district takes in schools extending from Greenbushes, Bridgetown, Manjimup, Pemberton, Northcliffe and Nannup all the way to Busselton, Dunsborough, Cowaramup, Margaret River, Karridale and Augusta. It covers an extensive area in the south west. I am not aware of any other education district that presents awards for excellence in education, but maybe there is. I hope there is.

I commend the Warren-Blackwood education district for the way it has recognised, acknowledged and stimulated excellence in education. The night, of course, is just a function to present and acknowledge the awards. A series of awards were presented to the Pemberton District High School, which took out the major award for the second year in a row for its FRIENDS program. That program is aimed at developing social and emotional skills in early adolescent students. I will not mention all the awards, due to time. The other schools acknowledged with awards were Manjimup Primary School, Dunsborough Primary School, Nannup District High School, Manjimup Education Support Centre, Greenbushes Primary School, Bridgetown District High School and Karridale Primary School. The pursuit of excellence is central to my objectives in education. It is really terrific to see the Warren-Blackwood education district, headed by the director Kevin Gillan and excellent staff, motivating the schools and teachers in that area to develop their own innovative programs which they pursue with vigour and, of course, skill. A very impressive range of programs throughout the schools are mentioned in the list of award winners. In addition, a range of schools were presented with awards for recognition. All of them are to be highly commended and it is an innovation I recommend to any other education district in Western Australia.

House adjourned at 6.30 pm
