

## EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL - NATIONAL MEDALS

*Statement by Minister for Police and Emergency Services*

**MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura - Minister for Police and Emergency Services)** [2.14 pm]: I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide the house with details of National Medals awarded recently to 170 career and volunteer emergency services personnel. The recipients came from Perth and regional areas of Western Australia, and many of them were able to attend ceremonies in Perth in the past fortnight to personally collect their awards.

The National Medal was established in 1975 to recognise the efforts of people who have given long and diligent service to protect life and property, often at significant risk to themselves. The medal is awarded to emergency personnel with 15 years' service, and a clasp is added for each additional 10 years of service. Among those honoured in this most recent round of awards were brothers Cecil and Francis Tierney and their cousin Douglas, each having given 45 years' volunteer service to the Bindi-Bindi Bush Fire Brigade in the Shire of Moora. Max Heath from the Coondle Nunile Bush Fire Brigade was honoured for his 35 years' dedicated service, and his wife Mildred for her 15 years with that brigade. Another family combination, Thomas Williamson from '86 Gate Bush Fire Brigade in the Shire of Wickpin, and his daughter Irene Bain from the Kulin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, collected awards for 25 and 15 years' service respectively. I am pleased to advise that a total of 90 bush fire brigade, 18 Fire and Rescue Service, and nine State Emergency Service volunteers were recipients of medals or clasps in this round of awards. These men and women come from all walks of life and make a significant contribution to their communities in times of emergency. They sacrifice many hours of their own work and family time to train and prepare for emergencies and without their help, our high level of emergency preparedness could not be maintained. I was also delighted that the efforts of 53 career Fire and Rescue Service personnel, including 12 firefighters celebrating 35 years' dedicated service, were recognised. Many of the recipients are uniformed, and many are in roles in which their own lives are often put at risk in protecting the community. We should be proud of their achievements in jobs that carry enormous responsibility, and on behalf of the people of Western Australia I offer our thanks and appreciation for their efforts.