

YOUTH WEEK WA 2020

Statement by Minister for Youth

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Youth) [9.13 am]: I rise to inform the house of the recent appointment of the 2020 Western Australian youth ambassadors Haseeb Riaz and Zahra Al Hilaly—leaders among their community who will champion the Youth Week WA 2020 activities. Alongside the Youth Week WA planning committee, Propel Youth Arts WA and the Department of Communities, Haseeb and Zahra will promote, support and develop Youth Week WA. Both Haseeb and Zahra have made their mark in a number of areas and are committed to making the community a better place for young people and a place in which young people can thrive.

Haseeb is 19 years old and is enrolled in a direct pathway position to the Doctor of Medicine course at UWA. He is also currently working as a coordinator for Dr YES, running high school peer-to-peer health education sessions to equip students with healthy harm-minimisation and decision-making skills. He has also promoted the organisation's work in health education for young people in the Kimberley. Zahra is 19 years old and a first-generation Australian. Her parents were refugees from Iran and Palestine. She is studying a double major in law and journalism at Murdoch University. Zahra is a member of the national youth advisory group for White Ribbon Australia, a youth advisory committee member for Headspace and the Red Cross, and a past member of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia as a Shout Out speaker.

Youth Week WA is the single largest celebration of young people in Western Australia. The event provides the wider community with the opportunity to listen to young people, celebrate their positive contributions to the community and hear about issues that affect their lives. Youth Week WA is a fantastic opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, showcase their talents and achievements, and raise issues that are important to them. This year Youth Week will be held from 17 April to 24 April, and I encourage all members to promote the stories and experiences of young people in their electorate throughout the week and get involved in those fantastic events.