

NORTHAM WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [12.24 pm]: I rise to congratulate Northam Women in Business, a group formed in September 2015 to provide networking and support opportunities for women who work in their own businesses in the district. Since its inception, the group has taken on a number of projects and events, including the annual Christmas on Fitzgerald event, a cerebral palsy fundraiser, the creation and management of the Northam Farmers Markets and two grand balls held as fundraisers to underwrite a bursary awarded to assist the recipient to achieve self-employment in the region. I attended this year's grand ball in February, magnificently themed "Arabian Nights", at which guests were able to meet local lady Rebecca Atkinson, who was the recipient of the \$5 000 scholarship raised at the previous year's ball.

The bursary is open to women of all ages, as well as women wanting to extend their current business or to develop a new business. Rebecca is currently studying psychology, but her ultimate aim is to return to the wheatbelt to open a clinic focused on assisting children. My congratulations go to Jo Hill, president of Northam Women in Business, and the hardworking committee who have brought great enthusiasm and energy to create a supportive environment for their members and those women aspiring to own their own business.