

MICHELLE URBAN, OAM

Statement by Member for Morley

MR I.M. BRITZA (Morley) [12.57 pm]: Recently a constituent of mine, Michelle Urban, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the general division, which is an honour bestowed in recognition of service worthy of particular recognition, in this case for service to the community, particularly to historical and genealogical groups. Michelle has been a founder member of the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of Western Australia since 2005 and vice president and founding editor of *Perth Jewish Roots* newsletter. Michelle is very humbled to have been awarded this honour. She is a fourth generation Australian on her mother's side and her father is a Holocaust survivor. She derives satisfaction from helping people to keep alive the heritage and cultural history of the Jewish community in Western Australia, and working with the many people who have similar interests and ideas, which is quite exciting. She originally wished to do research into her own family—especially her maternal grandfather, who was a very well known Perth horse bookmaker—and to learn family history. As there was no Jewish genealogical help in Western Australia at the time, this interest expanded to helping other people, which led the formation of the society. Her satisfaction derives from being able to nurture, preserve and educate on the cultural heritage and history of the Perth and Western Australian Jewish community, and from helping people in their research to find their family history. She is to be congratulated on her great work and she is making a difference to the lives of many people in tracing their ancestry. I am very proud of her past endeavours and wish her every success with her future endeavours.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm