

AUSTRALASIAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS - SEMINAR

Statement by Member for Yokine

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine) [12.58 pm]: My electorate office organised a one-day parliamentary and constitutional seminar for the Western Australian branch of Australasian Union of Jewish Students last Tuesday. The seminar mirrored a similar seminar that was held in Canberra recently that involved speakers from both sides of the house speaking to some 30 students of the Jewish faith and visiting students from Indonesia and other places. The schedule included Fendi Liwang, Kevin Chiat, Christina Do and Varun Gosh. The seminar was conducted under the auspices of the Parliamentary Friends of Israel, which was established by Hon Ray Halligan and me in 2005. The students heard from a range of speakers at the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia and at Parliament. We hosted a light lunch in the Labor Party's caucus room and held a post-seminar cocktail party in the evening. I thank all speakers, including the federal member for Perth, Stephen Smith; Wilson Tuckey; Mark Bishop; the state Labor president, Bill Johnston, and my state colleagues Hon Ray Halligan, Hon Jim McGinty and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Troy Buswell. The student body was organised by its president, Ryan Steed, and its committee members Amanda Shilkin and Daniel Lazarus. It was judged to be a very successful day and it was a joy to see a group of probable future leaders of this nation grasp the true meaning of democracy and the Westminster system. That is a far cry from the level of gutter politics that was displayed by the member for Cottesloe earlier today. I thank in particular my electorate officer David Michael for his outstanding efforts and the staff of the Constitutional Centre for helping to organise the successful conduct of what I hope will be the first of many such seminars to be held in that place.

I also note with great sadness the passing of a true gentleman of football in this state, Con Regan. He was a wonderful man and we sadly miss him.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm