

**KIMBERLEY COMMUNITIES**

*Statement by Member for Kimberley*

**MS J. FARRER (Kimberley)** [12.50 pm]: Mr Acting Speaker, I want to inform this place of my recent travels throughout the Kimberley. I visited some of the more disadvantaged and remote communities within the desert areas of my electorate, including Balgo, Mulan, Red Hill and Ngallagunda on the Gibb River Road.

I would like to mention my countrymen Bonnie James and Mark Moora for taking the time to speak with me to discuss some issues out that way. I want to pay tribute to Tika Makisi, who is the youth support worker in Mulan, but also services Balgo because of staff constraints. He is a strong community member supporting both communities where he can by way of cooking meals for children every day and providing activities for both the children and their families, such as establishing a community garden. I was so impressed with his passion and initiative when I first met him in the community that I provided funds for this garden through Labor's Local Projects, Local Jobs program.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dean Savoia, principal of Wanalirri Catholic School, for kindly showing me around this lovely school in the Ngallagunda community. He works under enormous constraints and in a divided community; however, he is still doing a great job with very happy students. It is wonderful to see the students utilising the iPads and personal computers purchased with funding I also provided under the local projects program.