

MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION

Statement by Member for Southern River

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [12.53 pm]: As we approach the first anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop, it is timely to look at the excellent work that continues to be done by an organisation that bears her name. The Mary MacKillop Foundation is involved in community-based self-help projects to assist people achieve an increased measure of self-reliance and human dignity. The services it provides include grief counselling; providing wheelchairs for disabled people; learning projects for disadvantaged; hospice care; prison ministries; community advice and financial literacy programs; camping holidays for needy and disadvantaged children; helping outworkers get fair pay and conditions; positive parenting workshops; and legal support for victims of human trafficking.

This organisation has provided not just hope but real hands-on help to a wide variety of people who are not as fortunate as most of us. The foundation has a scholarship program for the education of Indigenous tertiary students, which is well used and enables Indigenous women in particular to study at TAFE and university. I would like to publicly recognise and congratulate the Mary MacKillop Foundation for the excellent work it does in making our community a better place to live.