

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS EVENT

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [12.57 pm]: On Saturday night I joined the Leader of the Opposition, Shane Love, and member for the Agricultural Region Hon Martin Aldridge to attend A Night Under the Stars, an event in the Avon Valley. The event was organised by Blue Tree Project founder and CEO Kendall Whyte, Courtney Thornton and their brilliant team. Members can picture a balmy summer night and 650 people in their best gear and boots under the stars, with the historic venue Buckland Estate as the backdrop.

Everyone has a responsibility to educate themselves and look out for family and friends when it comes to mental health and wellbeing. One in four people in Australia is impacted by mental ill health every year, and people in regional WA have twice the rate of suicide compared with our metropolitan counterparts. Regional Western Australians are resilient, but mental health is often neglected to make space for the critical task of keeping businesses, farms and communities running. The statistics show that farmers, young men, older people and Aboriginal people face the greatest risk of suicide in our communities. The “she’ll be right” attitude costs lives. We all need to acknowledge that it is okay not to be okay, but, more importantly, that support is available, even in the far-flung reaches of our state.

The Nationals WA team in the Agricultural Region was pleased to be one of the many sponsors for this amazing event. Congratulations to Kendall and Courtney. They are an inspirational team doing important work to keep our communities healthy and safe.