

EZZARD FLOWERS

56. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Minister for Multicultural Interests and Citizenship:

Further to the ministerial statement on Harmony Week and the Western Australian Multicultural Community Service awards, I was pleased to note that Mr Ezzard Flowers of Katanning was a recipient of an award this year. Can the minister elaborate on the reason for Mr Flowers receiving a prestigious award?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for the question and compliment him on his support for multicultural interests in Katanning and across the great southern. Mr Ezzard Flowers has been an outstanding contributor to the community of Katanning and the state. In 2006, Mr Flowers was elected the inaugural chair of the Mungart Boodja Art Centre in Katanning. He was a key spokesman for a major Nyoongah arts project in the great southern region. This project enabled the loan from the United States of America of rediscovered artworks produced by the children of Carrolup Mission in the 1940s and 1950s for a major exhibition. This was negotiated with Colgate University in New York State, the owners of the artwork. The exhibition, Koorah Coolingah - which means children long time ago - opened in Katanning, and was a major milestone in promoting reconciliation and interest in the Carrolup story among members of the wider community. Using the rediscovered artworks as a bridge between indigenous and non-indigenous Western Australians and establishing an economic foothold based on the cultural heritage of local Nyoongahs has been a remarkable achievement.

I commend Mr Flowers for his efforts, along with the four other recipients of the individual multicultural community service award. He certainly was a worthy recipient. The other winners were Mr Albert Da Cruz, Mr Atul Garg, Ms Maria Osman and Mr Marinus Potter.