

Mystical Lotus 2009 Fashion Parade — Adjournment Debate

HON KATE DOUST (South Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.41 pm]: I thought I would end our week with something very positive. On 7 November, I was pleased to attend a fashion parade at the Perth Town Hall. I do not often attend fashion parades. This parade was called “Mystical Lotus 2009” and was organised by a group of young women in Perth. This fashion parade has been held each year for about eight to 10 years, and was originally set up and run by the women of the Tamil Association of Western Australia. They organised this fashion parade to raise money for a range of charities. It has been continued by this group of young women who this year arranged for the charity of their choice, which was the education program for St Vincent de Paul.

This is not a normal fashion parade; it is one that involves a range of design students from Bentley TAFE. Every year, one of the organisers of this parade travels to India and brings back a number of saris and distributes them to the design students at Bentley TAFE. The project for the students is to develop an item of clothing from the sari. It might sound simple, but having been to a number of these parades during the years, I never cease to be amazed at the creations that come from one sari. Again this year, I was pleasantly surprised at the depth of talent and creativity that exists among our young people in this state. These students excelled. A number of stunning outfits were created. These young people should be acknowledged because they have incredible talent. It will be interesting to see how they progress as they work through their studies in Western Australia.

The parade was not just about having the design on show; it was very much an event to get friends and family involved. The town hall was packed; I think about 300 tickets were sold. I am pleased to say that on that one afternoon, about \$20 000 was raised for this education program run by St Vincent de Paul. That is an outstanding effort; in fact, this group of young people doubled the amount they raised last year. It was a professionally organised and run parade, and a very pleasant afternoon. I have only a few minutes, but I want to record the names of the people who were involved in the design phase and some of the key people who were involved in organising this event, because it takes an enormous amount of time, and it reinforces the value of people being prepared to give their time as volunteers to provide a great positive output for the community. I look forward to next year’s parade because I know they will do it bigger and better. There may be members in this chamber who might like to come along next year. If they do, I guarantee they will have a great afternoon.

I will give Hansard a copy of this brochure later because it might be needed for the spelling of the names. Please excuse my pronunciations: Augustus Pinto, Cynthia Chong, Eileen Kelly, Eileen Tan, Erin Vanhaefen, Henrietta Truscett, Jamee Millar, Jayde Tully, Jeremy Lieu, Kara Craig, Kate Wilks, Lauren Walsh, Leah Granich, Matilda Atwell, Natalie Van Eerden, Nichola Potter, Oshi Thilakarathna, Samantha Hector, Saschy Singh, Serena Howard, Tatyana Quici. I also acknowledge Mr David Fitzgerald, the vice-president of St Vincent de Paul, who gave a very enthusiastic speech in support of the project. There were a range of business sponsors of this project and a number of donors—key people who every year give very generously to ensure that this parade goes ahead to raise money for these very worthwhile causes. I need to acknowledge Mr Aran Kandia, Asha Selvendra, who did an outstanding job in event organisation, Kuhan Arunasalam, Raj and Ambiga Selvendra, who have been the key people behind this event over an extended period, and Tania Jeyamohan, who was an outstanding master of ceremonies and kept everything moving along for the afternoon.

For those members who are unaware of the school support program, it directly assists young people with both school and education related expenses, including uniforms, books, stationery, learning resources, and excursion and school fees. Given that we often assume that while everything is booming along in this state, everything is travelling well, there are still an enormous number of families in our community who are finding it pretty tough, and are not always able to find the extra dollars to pay for these types of school needs and excursions. To be able to raise \$20 000 in an afternoon to put back into this type of program is an outstanding effort. I put on record my congratulations to all the people who were involved in getting the Mystical Lotus 2009 parade up, and their excellent work with fundraising. The theme of the parade was merging WA fashion and Indian textiles. Members should perhaps keep the date late next year free in their diaries, and I will ensure that every member is provided with an invitation. They will be guaranteed not only a great afternoon, but also a great opportunity to give to a very worthwhile cause.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.46 pm
