

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN 2019 TELSTRA BUSINESS WOMEN'S AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [9.09 am]: I inform the house about the Western Australian 2019 Telstra Business Women's Awards, which was held on Thursday, 28 March. These prestigious awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of businesswomen in Australia. The 2019 awards mark the twenty-fourth year of the awards, making it the longest running women's awards program in Australia. I had the great pleasure to speak at the awards and meet many outstanding women across a range of sectors who are choosing to do business their way. In the process, they are delivering better outcomes for their staff, their communities and their bottom line.

The overall WA winner, who will now go on as a finalist in the national awards, is Leonie Knipe from Avon Valley Toyota. As the first female dealer principal for Nissan and Mitsubishi in Western Australia, Leonie takes an inclusive approach in the way she directs the dealerships. She says she wants diversity in her business, from young people seeking their first work experience to older workers looking for a new opportunity. I acknowledge all the outstanding winners across each category whose achievements range from delivering arts education to rural children and adults in the Pilbara, and providing accounting services that would otherwise be unavailable to people in Kununurra in the East Kimberley region. I acknowledge the winner of the Public Sector and Academia Award, Paula Nelson, who was the first woman in almost 170 years to manage Fremantle Prison, which is Perth's only world heritage attraction. Finally, I make special mention of finalist Kelda Oppermann of Zonta House Refuge Association. Although Kelda was not the winner in her category, as the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, I witness firsthand the outstanding work that she does and her nomination as a finalist was richly deserved.

As Minister for Women's Interests, I am heartened and buoyed by the achievements of women across our community who are making a difference every day. Along the way, they are making Western Australia a better place for all of us and challenging gender stereotypes with every inspirational step.