

BUNBURY POLICE AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRE — LEADERSHIP COURSE

Statement by Member for Bunbury

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12.52 pm]: Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the graduation of 21 young people who received their certificate I in leadership along with their white card and first aid certificates.

This program, run by the Police and Community Youth Centre of Bunbury, involved a group of young people aged between 14 and 18 who had, essentially, withdrawn from mainstream schooling. The program involved building work skills and self-awareness through activities such as volunteering, communication, teamwork, presentations, health and safety, and basic project management. As a project, the group designed and built a nature-based playground next door to the PCYC, which they are all very proud of. They spent a lot of time volunteering with different groups, including with the Bunbury Aero Club. The students actually went on a flight around Bunbury as a reward. These young people were motivated by their participation in an alternative learning program and all spoke about their plans for the future, which included various options for further training.

I would especially like to congratulate Kaiowas Carroll, who took out the award for Leader of Tomorrow and for his support of other group participants throughout the course. I would like to congratulate course coordinator, Amanda Ferguson, and training assistants, Ben Marsh and Bradley Humble, for their amazing support and leadership of these young people. Programs such as this can be a turning point in the lives of many young people. I know this from experience as a person who opted out of school at the age of 12 and who did not re-engage until I arrived in Australia at the age of 14. I am sure all members in this place will join me in wishing them all the best of luck for the future. There has never been a more important time for our young people to understand what it means to be a leader.