

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018**

*Statement by Minister for Women's Interests*

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests)** [1.20 pm]: I rise to speak about International Women's Day 2018, held around 8 March. This is an opportunity to celebrate just how far we have come in striving for gender equality, but also how far we still have to go. This year's theme, #PressforProgress, is a timely call to action at a time when economists estimate that gender parity is more than 200 years away. Of the many events I attended, I would like to share some highlights. The WA Women's Hall of Fame, supported by the McGowan government, inducted a further 14 women of outstanding achievement across the state.

I had the pleasure of presenting commemorative pins to these outstanding women, including our 2018 Western Australian of the Year, Dr Tracy Westerman; philanthropist and champion of early childhood, Nicola Forrest; volunteer campaigner and equality defender, Hazel Butorac; and early education advocate and unionist, Helen Creed. I attended the Women in Resources Awards to present the Outstanding Company Initiative Award to Rio Tinto for achieving White Ribbon accreditation.

The year 2018 was particularly auspicious for WA as we celebrated 80 years since the first International Women's Day event was held here in Perth at the Town Hall. The event we held this year reflected the original gathering, where a writer, a doctor, a lawyer and an activist spoke with passion and conviction about gender equality.

Our social media campaign has shared facts, statistics and infographics about the status of women. We have profiled some incredible women who are achieving great things in our state. Today I posted a video of seven-year-old Madeline Parker, who was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in October 2015. She received chemotherapy, endured weekly needles and suffered from hair loss, fatigue and nausea before her active treatment concluded late last year. In the video I have just posted she has said that when she grows up, she would like to be a scientist and, to quote her, "Women can do anything". This leaves me excited about the change we can all bring for the next generation and I remain committed to #PressforProgress.