

**NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

*Statement by Minister for Seniors and Volunteering*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for Seniors and Volunteering)** [12.23 pm]: I am delighted to inform the house that the tremendous efforts of our Western Australian volunteers and the organisations that support them have been nationally recognised in this year's National Australia Bank Volunteer Awards. I take this opportunity to publicly congratulate the winners of these prestigious awards and to share their successes with the house. Western Australian entrants competed against some 1 200 not-for-profit organisations to take out two national and seven state awards for demonstrating best practice in the management of their volunteer workforce.

The Fishers with Disabilities Association won the national and state community service and development category awards. The association was conceived by the Western Australian Department of Fisheries' volunteer fisheries liaison officers and was incorporated in 2003. Also a national and state winner in the education and youth development award categories was the school volunteer program. Since its inception this program has recruited and trained more than 4 000 mentors. The WA program was recently launched in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

I now outline the state categories. AWESOME Arts Australia Ltd won the arts and culture award for its multi-generational group of energetic volunteers known as the "awesome angels", whose vital role is crucial to the success of the annual AWESOME Festival that is held in Perth. The Karratha Volunteer Search and Rescue Service won the emergency and safety award. The Dolphin Discovery Centre, Bunbury, which attracts more than 75 000 visitors a year, won the environment and wildlife award. In the health and wellbeing category, the Subiaco-based Postnatal Depression Support Association Inc won the award in recognition of its volunteers, who have experienced the illness themselves and are committed to helping others recover. Activ Recreation won the tourism, sport and recreation award; with some 330 volunteers from Perth and regional Western Australia, it provides recreational services for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

The success of these organisations reflects not only on their significant achievements but also highlights the dedication and commitment of Western Australia's 428 000 plus volunteers, who tirelessly contribute so much to our community. It is a testament to the strong community spirit that thrives in Western Australia.