

ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH NORTHERN SUBURBS

Statement by Member for Fremantle

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle) [12.50 pm]: On 5 August I was present at a gala dinner at Scarborough's Rendezvous Hotel organised by the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs where we heard from the 2015 finalists for the young women in public affairs award. The award recognises young women aged 16 to 19 years with a commitment to their communities and a vision for the future. It is expected that the applicants will be seeking to undertake further studies to pursue a career or seek leadership positions in public affairs. Applicants must also demonstrate evidence of active commitment to volunteerism, experience in local or student government, volunteer leadership achievements, and knowledge of Zonta International and advocating on behalf of Zonta International's mission of advancing the status of women worldwide.

In the words of one of this year's judges —

This is our 24th Award Year and each year we are amazed at the calibre of these young women.

The three finalists this year spoke on the topic "The Woman Who Most Inspires Me". The winner this year was Megan Langridge of St Mark's Anglican Community School. Megan, who addressed the issue of transgender rights and recognition in our community, said —

I am passionate about social justice and human rights and wish to pursue a career where I can actively use my strengths to make a difference.

The award runners-up were Sophia Drazevic of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School and Isabelle Siegart of Sacred Heart College.

I commend Zonta for promoting this competition, which encourages and celebrates young women in public life.