

STATE LIBRARY — SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CAFE

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.05 am]: I would like to inform the house about the new social enterprise cafe at the State Library of Western Australia. Libraries are one of the last remaining public spaces where anyone can remain from opening until closing without needing any reason to be there and without having to spend any money. This is true of the State Library, which plays a positive role in the lives of many as a centre of research, learning and recreation, and for some a place of opportunity.

That is why it is fitting that the recently opened cafe in the State Library is a social enterprise. It is educating, empowering and creating employment opportunities for young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, and, of course, offers great coffee. The cafe, called Ground and Co, is run by the Underground Collaborative. The collaborative was founded by Katie Liew, who after nearly a decade in the mining and resources industry as a management accountant, embarked on her social entrepreneurship journey. The new cafe demonstrates the State Library's commitment to provide a place to learn and develop for all Western Australians no matter their circumstances.

Recently, the State Library also launched a service called eConnect, which provides free one-on-one support to help the public connect with essential online government services. Clients are provided with free training on how to engage with government services online and how to do things like set up an email account and use online banking. The State Library also provides free access to computers, with more than 140 000 computer sessions booked each year helping to bridge the digital divide. Libraries are a public space where people come to research, learn, relax and be comfortable and mix with like-minded people. The new cafe will add to this community atmosphere and serve to draw people to the State Library and the Perth Cultural Centre. So, Madam Speaker, when you next visit the State Library, please grab a coffee, knowing that it is contributing to a great social enterprise initiative and helping young Western Australians. You are a great coffee lover, I know!