

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK 2007 GRANT NOMINATIONS

Statement by Minister for Youth

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for Youth) [12.06 pm]: Firstly, I welcome students from the St Mary's Anglican Girls School who are in the public gallery this afternoon.

I inform the house that nominations are now open for National Youth Week 2007 activities and events. Grants of up to \$1 000 are available to eligible community groups and local government authorities. The eighth annual National Youth Week will be held from 14 to 22 April next year, and, with the theme of "Launch Yourself", it is a call to action for people of all ages to join in and celebrate the creativity and vitality of young people in Australia. National Youth Week is an opportunity for the community as a whole to acknowledge the achievements and success of our young people, and to provide them with the opportunity to showcase their talents and express their views on issues that are of concern to them. The grants are made available through the state government's Office for Children and Youth with the support of the Australian government's Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Applications are now open and can be accessed by contacting the Office for Children and Youth or by visiting its web site. Western Australia's recently appointed young member for National Youth Week 2007, Ms Kate-Anna Williams, is enthusiastic about her role in promoting young people to the wider community and celebrating what it means to be a young person. She will take an active role in promoting the availability of the grants, and also in assessing them as part of a panel. More than 60 events and activities occurred around the state for National Youth Week this year, and I hope to see as many, if not more, events held next year. All events will be promoted by the online National Youth Week calendar, once the site has been officially launched in December.

One of the highlights of National Youth Week 2007 in Western Australia will be the ninth annual WA Youth Awards Showcase, which will take place on Thursday, 19 April 2007. Finalists in six categories will be recognised on the evening, and one of these finalists will become the Western Australian Young Person of the Year for 2007. I urge all members to promote the National Youth Week grants in their electorates, and encourage young people to get involved in coordinating an event or project.