

**AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF WOMEN AND POLICING 2018
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING AWARDS**

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [12.16 pm]: Last week I was honoured to represent both the Premier and the Minister for Police at the Australasian Council of Women and Policing 2018 Excellence in Policing Awards. These awards recognise the important contributions that women have made to policing and law enforcement throughout Australasia, in 14 categories. This year marked the twentieth anniversary of these awards. There is no doubt that this event has contributed to improving women's participation in policing and law enforcement over the last two decades. I am pleased to say that in recent years the ratio of female to male police officers in Western Australia has remained constant at around 22 per cent but this has to be improved upon. Last year, active measures were carried out by the Western Australia Police Force to expedite female applicants through the recruitment process and also their appointment into recruitment schools. The force has also commenced the development of a diversity and inclusion strategy, which will include dedicated action plans to increase and sustain workforce diversity, including female representation and participation, at all levels of the agency. This is, no doubt, a positive move.

The WA state government is committed to ensuring that its policies support the growth of women's participation in under-represented industries and foster the progression of women into senior leadership positions. I commend Minister Roberts, Commissioner Dawson and the Western Australia Police Force for driving this change for women in policing.

I congratulate all the winners at the 2018 Excellence in Policing Awards, particularly WA's Inspector Jodie Di Lallo, who was acknowledged for her groundbreaking work in biometric intelligence systems, as well as Brevet Senior Sergeant Sheryl Jackamarra, who won the Audrey Fagan Memorial Award, which recognises outstanding women who have shown exceptional qualities as a mentor, role model and leader in law enforcement. It is up to all of us to build workforces that represent the diverse communities that make up this state.