

GOLDFIELDS ARTS CENTRE

509. Ms A. SANDERSON to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the praise the minister recently received in this house from the member for Kalgoorlie and the recognition of the astounding work that the minister has been doing in his community. Can the minister advise the rest of the house what he has been doing to deliver for the people of Kalgoorlie?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

Mr Speaker, I thank —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, speak to the Chair, please.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I thank the member for Morley for her question. We have had an interesting question time today. I want to acknowledge the member for Kalgoorlie, and I mean this sincerely. We have byplay and some good humour across the chamber. The other night the member for Kalgoorlie acknowledged the government's efforts to secure the future of the Goldfields Arts Centre in Kalgoorlie–Boulder. It is very important. It is an issue that Hon Kyle McGinn is also passionate about, as is the local council, of course. The wonderful Esther Roadnight, who I understand is a Freeman of the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, was passionate about it on behalf of the friends of that place. We had some good byplay. The member for Kalgoorlie, I suppose, attempted to lay some praise on government and there was an attempt to muzzle him, but, in good humour, he finally got his words out. It is important, particularly given the question time we are about to conclude, that there is acknowledgement when good things happen in communities. The good thing that has happened now for the community of Kalgoorlie–Boulder and the goldfields generally is that the Goldfields Arts Centre, which, for a number of decades has provided an important facility for local and touring product, has become a centre where cultural arts and education focus is delivered.

I am pleased that the member for Kalgoorlie has come to this place and when he stands to speak, he does it in a positive way. I hope he does not lose that and become bitter and twisted like some of his colleagues who sit around him. It is important to note that when we represent a community, no matter what side of Parliament or what party we may represent, essentially, we represent the people who put us here. I appreciated his comments the other night when he finally got out his praise. It is a message for everyone here. We have a very big task to address the budget situation that this state faces. It is a situation that we as a new government have been dealt by the previous government. We need to work together to address the challenges that face the state. Sometimes it might help if members opposite took a leaf out of the books of the three new opposition members of this place and, when government does the right thing, acknowledge it and work with government so that we can deliver quality outcomes for the people of Western Australia no matter where they live in this state.

I applaud you, member for Kalgoorlie. You are probably one of the most affable people I have met in my 17 years in this place and I think you and I will become very good friends over time.