

APPRENTICE AND TRAINEESHIP COMPANY — BUNBURY

Statement by Member for Bunbury

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12.55 pm]: I rise to recognise the work of the Apprentice and Traineeship Company in Bunbury, whose key focus is to provide employment and training for youth in all the traditional trades. It is one of the largest employers of youth in our region, with 250 apprentices and trainees, and it is one of the largest group training companies in the state. It is a key registered training organisation in Western Australia. Overall, with its group training, labour hire and regional training organisation operations, the company averages between 400 and 450 employees who are paid weekly. It provides regular courses and support for local youth, Indigenous youth and disadvantaged youth at risk in the community. It is based in Bunbury, and the income that it generates stays in the south west. It is involved in sponsoring and supporting numerous activities, organisations, community events and local education institutions. This is one of the many businesses in my community that is now focused on making sure that it has the resilience to survive the challenges that we face ahead. I would like to pass my thanks to the leadership of the Apprentice and Traineeship Company and all the non-government organisations, business communities, peak bodies and our local government that are all working together to meet the challenge that we face ahead in the interest of our community.