

2019 ACHIEVER AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [12.16 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the Department of Communities' Achiever Awards program. Last week I attended the presentation event, now in its twenty-ninth year. This one-of-a-kind program celebrates the efforts of young Western Australians with a care experience who are pursuing further education and training. I have had the privilege to attend three Achiever Award presentation events as the Minister for Child Protection and I continue to be inspired by the incredible resilience and determination of the young people involved, despite the personal obstacles that have been placed in their way. This year's Achiever Awards recognised the achievements of no less than 46 young people with a care experience. Each award winner received a financial incentive of up to \$4 000 towards further education or training courses. Of course, the Achiever Awards would not be possible without the support of its generous corporate partners, whom I would like to thank publicly in this place. They include, in particular, the Foster Care Association of WA, Murdoch University, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia's apprenticeship support network, Curtin University, Graduate Women WA, Edith Cowan University, the University of Notre Dame, the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation and RTRFM. Although the awards acknowledge the efforts of young people, they also recognise the significant role of those who help these young people to reach their goals. I also want to acknowledge the foster and family carers, case workers and education officers who support those young people who received awards. I am extremely proud that the Department of Communities continues to support and acknowledge young people with a care experience who strive for their career goals and ambitions. They are an inspiration to us all.