

2018 PERTH AIRPORT ACHIEVER AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [9.08 am]: I rise to inform the house of the Department of Communities, Child Protection and Family Support Perth Airport Achiever Awards program on 29 March 2018. This unique program has been running for 28 years and celebrates young Western Australians who have been in care and are striving to achieve their career goals through further education and training. This year, 32 young people across three categories were all recognised for their efforts. The three categories include University Achiever Award, Registered Training Achiever Award and Apprenticeship or Traineeship Achiever Award. One winner also received the Ida Curtois Inspiration Award, which recognises leadership and community spirit. It is through their tenacity, persistence and dedication that these inspiring young people are on a path to fulfil their educational endeavours. Despite the challenges they have faced, their example shows us that with a little bit of additional support, they are more than capable of creating a positive future for themselves. In their nominations, award finalists shared their stories of triumph and courage, which provided an insight into the lives of these young Western Australians and the adversity they have faced. I would like to share one quote that exemplifies the determination that is present in these young people. According to my notes, one finalist said —

“Gaining meaningful employment and lifelong skills are important to me to ensure stability and success in my future—I hope to make my family proud and be a good example to my younger sibling.”

I congratulate those young people recognised through the awards, and those who have helped them along their journey.