

KARRAKATTA CROSS INITIATIVE — FRESHWATER BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.50 pm]: This Remembrance Day I had the honour of attending Freshwater Bay Primary School's 2022 Remembrance Day Karrakatta cross initiative. For the past two years, the Freshwater Bay Primary School community has been active in responding to community concerns about the removal of headstones from veterans' gravesites as a part of a cemetery renewal process. The students research the lives of the servicemen and servicewomen whose headstones have been removed. They pay their respects by placing a cross at the head of the grave and saying a few words about the history of the service person to show their appreciation of their life and service. This project has become known as the Karrakatta cross initiative and is driven through the hard work and dedication of David Thomas, who is president of the Claremont RSL, and Gavin Wilkinson, who is president of the Nedlands RSL sub-branch.

I am very impressed that the school has continued this initiative that imparts to children an appreciation of the sacrifice made by previous generations for the life we enjoy today. This year, the students laid crosses at the burial locations of 18 World War I soldiers, as well as for six Indigenous soldiers and four nurses who were killed in other conflicts. I commend Freshwater Bay Primary School for this initiative, especially the two wonderful teachers involved, Ben Turner and Cindy Carboni. I wish the school every success in maintaining this tradition over the years to come to continue to recognise the valuable contributions of our servicemen and servicewomen, ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Lest we forget.