

**DIWALI**

*Statement by Member for Riverton*

**DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton — Parliamentary Secretary)** [12.53 pm]: My statement is about Diwali. All Indians around the world will celebrate Diwali on Sunday. Diwali is the festival of lights. It provides hope for a better next year. It is a victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. Considering the circumstances around the world, Indians mostly believe in what we call vasudhaiva kutumbakam—one world, one family. I pray for peace and happiness for everyone around the globe.

At this juncture, I would like to congratulate the Indian Society of Western Australia, which hosted the Diwali Mela in Langley Park last weekend. Under the leadership of Mr Satish Nair, his team worked tirelessly in the last few months to bring about this event, which was very successful and attended by 29 600 people, despite the capacity being 12 000 at any given point in time. It was held successfully on Saturday and Sunday. I also thank Terence Lewis, who was the highlight of the event. He literally made all of us dance and celebrate Diwali. Happy Diwali everyone.