

PHYLIS TOOVEY — 100TH BIRTHDAY

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.53 pm]: My former neighbour at our family farm in Cranbrook, Mrs Phylis Toovey, turned 100 on 7 August this year. I take this opportunity to celebrate her life and contribution to our community.

Phylis is my godmother, and I have always known her as Aunty Phyl. Aunty Phyl was born Phylis Evelyn Taylor at Mt Barker hospital on 7 August 1923, the daughter of Arthur and Rose Taylor and the second eldest of eight children. Aunty Phyl married Lomas Toovey, known as Ted Toovey, in 1943 before moving to Ted's father's farm, Boyacup, in Cranbrook in 1945. They raised three children, George, Neville and Robyn, while developing and growing their property. These were tough times, with limited farm mechanisation and hard physical work. Ted and Phyl worked hard, alongside their children, in developing their property, and they were especially proud of the sheep and cattle lines they developed together. After the passing of their daughter Robyn at the young age of 39 years in 1988, they made the move to Perth for retirement. Uncle Ted passed away in Perth in 1998, and Aunty Phyl returned to live in the great southern town of Kojonup.

Aunty Phyl is typical of the many women who are the backbone of rural communities. They are hardworking and resilient, and forgo many of the comforts of city life to support their families and their local communities. Aunty Phyl was my mother's best friend, and they provided mutual support for each other in their isolation. Aunty Phyl now lives in the Springhaven Lodge nursing home, where we had a birthday party for her. Happy birthday to Aunty Phyl. I also thank the honourable member for Roe for his congratulations, which she very much enjoyed.