

**ITALIAN RESEARCH DAY**

*Statement by Member for Cottesloe*

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [12.20 pm]: If the pandemic has shown us anything, it is the importance of the work done by researchers around the world, so it was with immense pleasure that earlier this month I joined the Italian Consulate and the Association of Italian Researchers in Australasia for their fifth Italian Research Day. The event highlighted world-leading academics and researchers who originally hail from Italy but are now based right here in WA. Among the speakers was Dr Paola Magni, a recent inductee into the WA Women's Hall of Fame. Hailing from Turin, Dr Magni is a senior lecturer at Murdoch University and a trailblazer in forensic biology. Her research has singlehandedly revolutionised how ocean crime scenes are investigated the world over.

It is a testament to the hard work of the Association of Italian Researchers in Australasia and WA's Italian community that strong academic links between Italy and Western Australia have been established and well maintained. However, the researchers whom I talked to made it clear that there is a need to strengthen WA's position within the international research community. In particular, university research relationships should focus on not only students, but also connecting the world's top minds. Creating these connections will safeguard WA's capacity to attract world-leading researchers to our universities.

Thanks again to the Italian Consulate in Perth and the Italian community here in WA for organising such an important and insightful event.