

KYLE ANDREWS FOUNDATION

Statement

HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral) [10.03 pm]: I rise tonight to bring to the attention of the house a very moving annual event that I had the privilege of attending in Broome on Sunday, 6 June organised by the Kyle Andrews Foundation. This event mixes the love of over a thousand people from the community with the warmth of our beautiful environment at an iconic location, as we walk together from Gantheaume Point to Cable Beach. The Kyle Andrews Foundation was established as a legacy to a brave young Broome boy, Kyle Andrews, who sadly lost his battle with cancer at the age of 11. In early 1998, Kyle was undergoing treatment for leukaemia at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children when he was asked what he wanted to do, and he said he wanted to bring his young friends from his ward to Cable Beach because they might feel better. This request set off a chain reaction of compassion from our Broome community and, with the support of the wider WA community, has now resulted in the incredible group that is the Kyle Andrews Foundation. This year's event was particularly moving as last year's event had to be online due to travel restrictions associated with COVID. I must say that even last year, I felt a sense of local pride as scores of locals walked silently along the warm sands of Cable Beach without any formal organisation, taking the time to be grateful for our beautiful environment that we are fortunate to live in.

This year, it was both a celebration and a time of reflection for those who participated, joined by the incredibly brave and resilient young people who are part of Kyle's Camp 2021 and are also undergoing treatment for cancer. I trust that in some way we were able to encourage these young people in their journey to recovery. This year, I was part of "Team Matthew". Along with a small group of friends, we supported one of our friends who had lost her son very recently to cancer. She has found great comfort in knowing the warm support of those who love her. She has been able to access the facilities of Kyle's Cottage, located in the suburbs of Broome, with her son and her family to get the most out of her son's final days. The incredible generosity of the community to those who are going through the greatest challenge of their lives never ceases to amaze me. I commend the organising committee, the sponsors, the community and mostly the beautiful families and the young people going through their personal journey and battle with the terrible disease of cancer.