

AUSTRALIA DAY–INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY JOINT CELEBRATION

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.54 pm]: Earlier this year, I had the great pleasure of gathering with members and families from the Federation of Indian Associations of Western Australia in celebration of not one but two national holidays of great significance, being a joint Australia Day and Indian Republic Day celebration held at the Serbian Community Centre in Maddington on Australia Day. With both Australia and India growing closer by the day, I feel it is very fitting that these two national celebrations fall on exactly the same date. This coincidence also provides us with a valuable opportunity to explore and recognise the deep ties that unite Australia and India. These ties are not confined to high-minded international politics; they also exist at a deeper and more meaningful community level—a level exemplified by the Federation of Indian Associations of Western Australia and this very event. There is often a focus on international trade, but it is the connection of people that is most important. I also take this opportunity to specifically mention the great work that the chair, Mr Eipe Chundamannil, and all members of the Federation of Indian Associations of Western Australia do to bridge our two cultures. It was an absolute pleasure to attend this important dual celebration and spend time with people from not only the Indian community, but also the wider Perth community.