

## **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS**

### *Statement by Member for Perth*

**MS WARNOCK** (Perth) [12.51 pm]: I will take this final opportunity to make a member's statement. In doing so, I celebrate the work of volunteers in my electorate of Perth and in the community in general. Their work is the glue that keeps our community together and the oil that makes our society run as smoothly as it does. I will celebrate one volunteer in particular today - Julie Jones. On 25 November, Julie celebrates 19 years of work for the Daughters of Charity opportunity shop in William Street, Northbridge.

I met Julie when I was doorknocking in 1992 at the start of a 13-month campaign that ended with a very narrow victory. Julie was already a well-known identity in the area and was living just a stone's throw from the op shop in one of the many inner-city lodging houses found in Perth at the time. Gentrification, backpackers' accommodation and tunnel demolition have accounted for many of those houses. Julie now lives in East Perth, but she is still a regular at the op shop. She is one of hundreds of people from very diverse backgrounds who make Perth such a wonderful and interesting electorate to represent in this place. She and many other volunteers give their time - our most valuable commodity - to improve the quality of life of their fellow human beings. Working in an op shop, like working as a visitor in a hospital, in a school canteen or coaching young sporting teams is very valuable work, and it should always be recognised as such by the community. I am happy today to celebrate Julie Jones and thousands of other community volunteers like her who make Australia such a great place to call home.