

SHALOM HOUSE

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.53 pm]: I recently had the chance to visit Shalom House to meet with its CEO, Mr Peter Lyndon-James, and observe the work it is doing as a faith-based drug rehabilitation facility out in the Swan Valley. I had the opportunity to see several facilities in the Swan Valley and have discussions with staff and some residents. I was impressed by the work being carried out at those facilities. Dealing with addiction is no simple matter and it is clear that no one solution can deal with every affected person. However, it is clear that the work being carried out at Shalom House is effective for many people suffering from drug addiction. Shalom House takes in only those who are serious about change. It not only provides rehabilitation, but also ensures that residents leave as productive members of society. Within four months of starting, most residents will be debt free, in full-time work, have a driver's licence and be establishing the skills and routines that aid reintegration into the community. The success of the Shalom House program is impressive, with a relapse rate of less than 20 per cent. I understand that there is some concern from surrounding residents about having drug rehabilitation centres so close to their properties. I believe that if concerned residents visited the facilities, they would be reassured that they do not present a risk to their communities. Peter and all the workers and volunteers at Shalom House are giving people the strength to restore their relationships, their financial wellbeing and their dignity. I thank them all for their hard work.