

INDIAN SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — SANGAM FESTIVAL

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.50 pm]: On 6 August, I had the great pleasure of attending the Indian Society of Western Australia's annual Sangam festival. This year's event was extra special as it was held in celebration of the anniversary of India's 75 years of independence. In honour of this occasion, the event was themed as a special tribute to the Indian motherland.

Alongside distinguished guests, including the Consul General of India, Mr Amarjeet Singh Takhi, and Hon Linda Reynolds, Hon Tony Buti, Mr Basil Zempilas and other distinguished guests, we joined over 2 000 members and supporters of the Western Australian Indian community in a celebration of this special day. The cultural significance of occasions like this cannot be overstated. At this event alone, over 300 local artists showcased their traditional art and culture. It was an honour to be invited to speak at the event about the contribution that the Indian community has made to Western Australia, our shared democratic values and our proud shared history.

I thank the Indian Society of WA for all its hard work in putting this year's event together. A particular thanks to the president of the Indian Society, Mr Satish Nair, for such an impressive and inspiring evening. I am sure that all members of this house will join me in the celebration of this very important anniversary and all that it represents, being the friends, family and community that have supported us up to this point and the new beginnings that lie before each and every one of us.