

**LACHLAN BEVERIDGE**

*Statement by Member for Hillarys*

**MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys)** [12.56 pm]: I wish to acknowledge an amazing youngster and local hero who lives in my electorate, Lachlan Beveridge. Lachlan is an 11-year-old Kallaroo resident who was recently named the City of Joondalup's Young Citizen of the Year for his work on autism awareness. Lachlan is the inspiration behind the amazing charity Paint Me a Rainbow—Autism Awareness WA, which was started by his parents, Kylie and Bruce Beveridge, in 2018. Together, this passionate family has created a fun and successful Paint Me a Rainbow campaign within Western Australian schools. Every April, to coincide with World Autism Month, they help bring awareness and acceptance for children living with autism. Lachlan and his mum, Kylie, have also co-written a children's picture book called *Don't Forget to Breathe*, which is illustrated by talented Mullaloo artist Peter Ryan. The book is a tale of two dragons, April and Flash, and shares a message to children about the importance of remembering to breathe when you have anxiety. Every day in our homes and schools there are families dealing with personal challenges that require our understanding and mostly that there is the need for acceptance of people's differences. Lachlan and his parents have increased awareness around special needs kids and families. Awareness equals acceptance and acceptance helps kids to reach their potential at school and in life. Well done, Lachlan and family, for your incredible contribution to our community.