

PROFESSOR ANDREW REGINALD HOWARD “ANDY” COLE — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.45 pm]: Today I would like to commemorate the life of Professor Andrew Reginald Howard “Andy” Cole, who passed away on 5 February this year. I wish to especially acknowledge family members in the gallery today. Professor Cole was a towering presence on the University of Western Australia campus—an internationally respected academic, a superb teacher, and a kind and supportive mentor to students. Professor Cole died just shy of his 100th birthday. He was very happily married to Ursula for 64 years, before her death in 2019. He was the son of Jim and Jean Cole and was raised with brothers Alf and Des in Midland Junction. Professor Cole was father of Judy, Cathy and Andrew; grandfather of Ben, Emily, Sarah, Christine, Grace, Rebecca, Madeleine, Olivia, Charlie and Isobel; and great-grandfather of Elena and Beatrix.

Professor Cole was a gifted student, receiving a scholarship to attend Perth Modern School, and then a government university exhibition scholarship to the University of Western Australia. He achieved a Bachelor of Science with first class honours and was awarded a Hackett research studentship, which allowed him to enrol for a Doctor of Philosophy at Oxford University. He worked with Dr Harold “Tommy” Thompson on infrared spectroscopy, being awarded his Doctor of Philosophy in 1949. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa for two years, and in 1952 used a Nuffield research grant to set up an infrared spectroscopy laboratory at UWA.

In 1955 he was appointed as a senior lecturer. He went on to be a professor and held numerous senior leadership roles in the school of chemistry and the faculty of science. Professor Cole was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1974, eventually becoming a councillor and then vice-president of the academy. Professor Cole received numerous local and international awards.

Vale, Professor Cole—a wonderful Western Australian, who is very fondly remembered by family, friends and colleagues for his kindness and care, and considerable contribution to the advancement of science.