

MARTU YOUTH FESTIVAL

Statement by Member for Pilbara

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [12.52 pm]: Since being elected in 2017, I have always wanted to attend the Martu Youth Festival. This year, I had the opportunity to attend the festival and drove nearly 12 hours to get to Punmu in the Western Desert.

The Martu Youth Festival is attended by people from the remote communities of Jigalong, Punmu, Kunawarritji, Kiwirrkurra, Warralong, Strelley, Parnpajinya, Nullagine, Yandeyarra and Parnngurr, who participate in various sports like Australian Football League, softball and junior baseball. The festival has developed into an event providing opportunities for youth through competitive sport, music and culture. It also includes nightly performances in which local musicians and community members perform.

I would like to thank Michael McMonigal, elders Bruce Booth and Milton Chapman, and Newcrest Mining for welcoming me to join the groups of volunteers and teams that work behind the scenes, including Keep Australia Beautiful, the Western Australia Police Force, Football WA, Football West, Fair Game Australia, Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, Mark Keogh Training, the Australian Army, and the Pilbara Regiment for being there to help in the daily proceedings.

I really enjoyed being a part of the Martu Youth Festival and speaking to members of the surrounding communities. It was an exciting few days in remote Punmu and I give my congratulations to all, especially to the Nullagine Irrungadji Dockers for winning the tournament. I look forward to going to the tournament next year.