

CITY OF BELMONT 2021 NAIDOC COMMUNITY AWARD — KOBI MORRISON

Statement by Member for Belmont

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [12.59 pm]: Today I would like to congratulate the recipient of the City of Belmont 2021 NAIDOC Community Award, an outstanding local, Kobi Morrison. I was delighted to attend the City of Belmont's NAIDOC Week event on Monday where Kobi did a beautiful performance of John Denver's *Take Me Home, Country Roads* in his traditional language. Since 2018, Kobi has been leading Noongar song workshops and weekly choirs across Perth. Kobi explained how he feels this process of singing in traditional language and the use of music promotes reconciliation and enhances healing. We also had many of our great local Aboriginal elders in attendance at this event, including my very good friend Shirley Voss and Nan Roma Winmar, who gave a welcome to country in traditional language.

My local schools also held special NAIDOC assemblies and events. I was privileged to attend Redcliffe Primary School's smoking ceremony and NAIDOC assembly, where a beautiful Wagyl mural, which the students and staff helped paint, was unveiled. Last week, I also attended the amazing assembly at St Maria Goretti's Catholic School, where young Indigenous students from Aquinas College performed traditional dance, accompanied by didgeridoo playing, and we heard from young Finn, a year 6 student at the school who won the City of Belmont NAIDOC award for his school—well done, Finn! It was an honour to be part of these special ceremonies that honour and celebrate our wonderful First Nations locals.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm