

**NAIDOC MALE ELDER OF THE YEAR — GREG LITTLE**

*Statement by Minister for Corrective Services*

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services)** [10.35 am]: I would like to inform the house of the awarding of the national NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year award to veteran prison officer Mr Greg Little. Mr Little is a highly respected Noongar elder who has worked at Bunbury Regional Prison for the past 19 years. He plays an integral role in mentoring prisoners and managing the prisoner peer support team, and is a strong leader among his colleagues at the prison. Mr Little is often sought out by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal prisoners alike for his support and wise advice. He says he has learnt more about the Noongar people while working at the prison than he knew before. Mr Little says that he loves his people, he cares for his people and he looks for the good in everyone. He is also a member of the prison's risk-assessment group and provides crisis, group and family counselling. That work extends beyond the prison walls, and he has been instrumental in reconnecting prisoners with their families. Mr Little also delivers programs such as yarning circles, which aim to reconnect Aboriginal people with their culture and prepare them for a better future on release.

It is not just within the prison community that he has made such an impact, but also in his local community. He holds a number of volunteer roles in the local football team, the church, the local Aboriginal school and a rehabilitation service. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Little at a recent NAIDOC morning tea at the Department of Justice and found him to be a humble and wise man who is supporting not only his people, but also the wider community. I once more congratulate him for being recognised for all his achievements by being named the NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year, and once again thank him for his invaluable work with prisoners, their families and his fellow officers to try to reduce the level of Indigenous incarceration and improve our understanding of our First People's culture. I wish him all the best for the future.