

WOMEN — ELECTORATE OF BELMONT

Statement by Member for Belmont

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [12.51 pm]: Following the recent celebration of International Women’s Day, I would like to reflect on a number of inspirational women in the electorate of Belmont and take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the unsung heroes. To be clear, this is not an exhaustive list of wonderful women doing wonderful things in my electorate.

The first person I would like to acknowledge is the remarkable Dr Roma Winmar, or “Nan Roma” as she is affectionately known locally, who is a respected Noongar elder dedicated to promoting Noongar language and culture. Nan Roma also goes by the name “Yibiyung”—I am sorry if I have not pronounced that correctly. It is a gift from her mother and it refers to a highly accomplished artist. Nan Roma has recorded several Noongar children’s songs that she provides to online teaching resources. She is a beloved voice in our local community, often sharing her songs at local school assemblies.

Another outstanding woman in my community is Carol Hanlon. Carol is the founder and manager of the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre that has offered small business advisory support since 1994. Over the last two decades, she has also run the Belmont Small Business Awards. They are the only small business awards in the state and they acknowledge and celebrate the critical role small business plays in our state. Carol has strongly advocated for the advancement of women’s empowerment through economic independence and business leadership, and she is an absolute powerhouse of a woman.

Lindsay Fitzgerald is another Belmont hero. She is the CEO and founder of Jacaranda Community Centre. Jacaranda is a not-for-profit community centre that promotes, enhances and maintains the welfare, education and cultural needs of people on low incomes in the Belmont area. She has dedicated her life to helping those less fortunate.

Two other local women who deserve a shout-out are the wonderful Aunty Barbara Moore and the divine Ollie Smith. Aunty Barbara has advocated for Aboriginal women experiencing homelessness and bravely gave evidence as a major claimant in the recent stolen wages class action. Ollie is a respected author and tireless advocate for the stolen generation. She has presented to the Australian Human Rights Commission and dedicated much of her life’s work towards the advancement of First Nations people.