

EMERGENCY SERVICES CADET CORPS AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services) [12.08 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house about the outstanding contribution of the state's emergency services cadets and their mentors, who were recognised at the 2020 Emergency Services Cadet Corps Awards on 5 March.

This year, more than 2 200 students and 220 instructors participated in the statewide school-based program, which trains volunteer leaders of the future and is a partnership between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Education. Cadets develop and learn leadership, teamwork and practical life skills, including first aid, radio communications, fire safety, rescue techniques, navigation and bushcraft.

I attended the award ceremony last week and was fortunate to have the opportunity to personally meet the recipients. It is fitting to acknowledge in this house their hard work. Tom Price Senior High School ESCC took out the Cadet Unit Achievement Award for fundraising, catering and providing support to people affected by bushfires and illness, including helping to raise \$12 000 for a young girl with leukaemia.

Last year, these young volunteers dedicated more than 3 000 hours to honing their emergency services skills. They also worked tirelessly with the Tom Price State Emergency Service to help prepare the community in the lead-up to tropical cyclone Damien last month.

Jordan McIntosh, from Bunbury's Grace Christian School, won the Cadet Achievement Award for his leadership and training skills and his commitment to encouraging fellow students to train with the Bunbury Bush Fire Brigade. Peter McClay, from the John Tonkin College education support unit in Mandurah, won the Instructor Achievement Award for his work helping young people with disabilities join the local marine rescue, State Emergency Service and volunteer fire services. Australind Senior High School was awarded the Host School Award, and the Emergency Services Brigade/Group/Unit Support Award went to Bridgetown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.

I ask all members to join me in acknowledging all the cadets who have shown extraordinary dedication and commitment to emergency services. Volunteers are essential to building a safer and more resilient Western Australia and I hope that the cadets will continue to engage with their local bush fire brigade, volunteer fire and rescue service brigade, SES unit, fire and emergency service brigade and marine rescue group.