

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GRAHAM WOOD — TRIBUTE**

*Statement by Member for Kingsley*

**MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley)** [12.53 pm]: I rise today on behalf of the performing arts community of Western Australia to recognise the teaching and performing talent of Associate Professor Graham Wood, who passed away in Perth on 19 July last year following a four-year battle with cancer. As an accomplished academic, pianist and composer, Graham was a truly unique Western Australian. He created the true contemporary home of jazz and its various genres at the Ellington Jazz Club on Beaufort Street, which has helped attract hundreds of highly regarded global jazz musicians since it opened its doors in early 2009. During his jazz piano career, Graham played with many international stars of jazz. Rising to the position of associate dean at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Graham inspired a generation of young jazz musicians and organised the annual student trip to various locations around the world. Graham was nominated for the 2013 Western Australian of the Year award in the arts category, the Golden Western Australian Music Industry award and was inducted into the West Australian Music Hall of Fame last year.

Graham was known as a larrikin who embraced all forms of music and performance and a person who was not afraid of risk-taking and adversity. In 2012, Graham founded the Perth International Jazz Festival, and through his extensive global networks he was able to attract some of the world's finest jazz musicians to Perth to perform at the annual festival. His goal was to make the genre of jazz accessible to a range of audiences and communities. Graham's larger-than-life personality and tenacity was behind the festival's 40 performances across eight venues, including Perth Concert Hall and Brookfield Place, over the jazz weekend. Last year, the town of York was once again added to the festival program, showing Graham's love for WA's regions. Graham gave his time to many community events, including those for children, the elderly and Aboriginal groups. He worked with Aboriginal theatres to establish links between jazz and Indigenous music.

Associate Professor Graham Wood is remembered by the performing arts community of this state and across the country for his pioneering spirit.