

**KIMBERLEY GIRL**

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**HON KEN BASTON (Mining and Pastoral)** [6.22 pm]: I bring to the house's attention an event I attended in Broome last Friday night. I spoke about Kimberley Girl some four years ago; it is an annual event. Kimberley Girl is, of course, very much a grassroots initiative founded by model Kira Fong, who, to start with, reached out to the local Aboriginal girls in the Broome area. Since then it has grown to cover the Kimberley and Pilbara area, and Friday night was the finale for both those areas. It was also a great pleasure to have Hon Alyssa Hayden, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, at the function, as well as—it was quite a surprise—the Premier. It is the first time I have known that to happen.

Funding for the event has been by donation. It started in about 2004 and has grown since then, meaning the budget has had to increase. In 2011, \$116 000 came from the Mental Health Commission, and there was some \$50 000 from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. In 2015–16 and 2016–17, the Premier announced funding of some \$200 000 from the state government. There is no federal funding at all for this event, but many other donations are received. The event has grown, and I think what it does is fantastic. I will quote Kira Fong's words. Kira said —

It is about giving young women the tools to realise their potential, to empower them in their endeavours, to give them the confidence to dream big and reach for the stars, ...

I remember going to one of these events about four years ago. I attended one of the heats and then the finals. The difference between those young ladies from when they started in the heats and then ended up in the finals was incredible. Some 411 participants have gone through the program to date. Next year the organisers hope to have a competition in the goldfields as well, which is excellent. The age of these young ladies is somewhere between 17 and 25 years. The event that was held the other night was absolutely fantastic.

The Kimberley Girl for 2016 was Geraiyah Wiggan. The first runner-up Kimberley was Mikaylah Bin Sali and the second runner-up Kimberley was Ashleigh Collins. The Pilbara Girl for 2016 was Treinaya Phillips. The first runner-up Pilbara was Tanaya Stevens and the second runner-up Pilbara was Kheyln Mitchell. The ambassadors award for the Kimberley and Pilbara went to Jenaya Cox. The facilitators' choice award for the Kimberley and Pilbara went to Ameliya Pedro. The most photogenic award for the Kimberley and Pilbara went to Shequarne Parker, an excellent young lady.

If anyone is in the Kimberley next year—the heats start in August–September—it is well worth visiting. Official figures show that over 780 people went through the gate. The number of people who attend has grown from around 400 to double that number. It is an excellent night. There are food vans and the odd sherbet can be purchased as well. I recommend it to everyone. I congratulate all those involved, including all those behind the scenes, for that event. It is very valuable to the Kimberley and the Pilbara.