

MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS — GRANTS

**104. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

Mr Speaker —

**Mr J.N. Hyde** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the member for Scarborough to take her seat. Member for Perth, you had an opportunity to ask a question. I gave you the opportunity to ask a supplementary question. I did rule that out of order and I am formally going to call you for the first time for your continual interjections.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** My question is to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests. I am proud of the fact that our government provides grants to assist community activities in each of the minister's portfolios.

Several members interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Clearly those opposite have no interest in multicultural affairs, unlike the minister himself.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, there has already been one interruption today at question time. I have therefore adjusted my maths—I am not spectacular at maths, I have to tell members—to accommodate a longer question time, but if this sort of behaviour continues, it might be a shorter question time. I suggest to all members of this place that they allow the member for Scarborough to ask the question.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker,

I am interested to hear from the minister about the recent grants and benefits that have resulted in his portfolio of multicultural affairs.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:**

Mr Speaker —

**Mr J.N. Hyde** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** No joy, member for Perth! I formally call you for the second time.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for Scarborough for her question and for her interest in multicultural matters. From the reaction she got when she asked the question, she is probably right that members opposite are not interested in multicultural matters. I know that some of them are very interested but probably a lot of them are not.

Several members interjected.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I will not look at any member specifically.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** The member for Scarborough is correct in stating that through my portfolio this government does provide substantial financial assistance that results in real benefits to our community. The bulk of the funding is provided through the ethnic communities funds, which is \$200 000 a year for the following three years. In addition, a further \$250 000 is provided to eligible applicants under the community grants program. In the past 12 months we have made available 59 grants totalling \$204 000. I want to focus on one particular program, which is jointly funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** That program is the youth leadership development project at Edmund Rice Centre, Mirrabooka. The program is designed to break down the barriers and foster harmony between young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It is also to develop their leadership skills and to provide opportunities to put those leadership skills into practice; and in doing so, assist participants to become positive role models in the mainstream community.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** Our government supported that program with \$20 000 and \$10 000 grants. One outstanding example of a graduate of this program is a young man born in Sudan who came to live in Australia in 2005 at 12 years of age. He demonstrated leadership in a number of fields, including that of a sports team leader at the Edmund Rice Centre. In 2009 he undertook work experience at Leisurepark centre, Balga, which culminated in being invited to —

**Mr J.N. Hyde** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale, I am going to make some remarks about the member for Perth's behaviour in this place; I will give you an opportunity to ask a question at some stage.

Member for Perth, presumably you want to stay in this place. I am presuming you do. I have called you twice. I know that it is something that is close to your heart as far as interests in your electorate are concerned. I suggest that you remain silent and listen to the answer.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I think the member for Perth is a bit upset! He puts out ridiculous press statements about all sorts of things.

Several members interjected.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** That young person was invited to be a lifeguard at the centre.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, you will get some response when you reply like that. However, I do not know if there is any need for the member for Mandurah or the member for Albany to carry on the way they have these past few seconds. I formally call the member for Mandurah for the first time, and the member for Albany for the second time.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** He went on to complete the Royal Life Saving lifeguard course in December, and he put his new skills and knowledge into practice by rescuing a child in difficulty. That is a great example of how, with the assistance of government funding, a program like this can provide young people from communities with new skills and qualifications to assist in their aspirational development and where they want to be in this community.