

**AUSTRALIAN ARAB ASSOCIATION**

*Statement by Member for Gosnells*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells)** [12.53 pm]: I wish to pay tribute to the work of the Australian Arab Association. One of the primary goals of the association is to engage with the broader Australian community. It does this in many ways, but most visibly by holding events and carnivals to which everyone is invited. These occasions allow people to meet and enjoy the company of people who are all members of our community but from different cultural and religious backgrounds. Attendance at this year's Eid al-Fitr, which celebrates the end of Ramadan, and Eid al-Adha, celebrating sacrifice, was exceptional. Many thousands of people attended on each occasion. I acknowledge the attendance of the Premier at the Eid al-Fitr carnival held in July. This year both carnivals were held at the headquarters of the Canine Association of Western Australia, which was a fine example of quite different community organisations supporting one another. I know of no other organisation that has worked so consistently hard and with such positive effect in involving migrants from Arab cultures and the existing multicultural Australian population in many events and services. Extending multicultural understanding is a goal sought by many individuals and organisations; however, it is rare to find a truly successful regular and continued effort to support migrants, coupled with an enthusiastic and inventive program of open events designed to engender social harmony and cultural understanding. The association's events have been running for years and have become part of the local calendar. Food, entertainment, colour and celebration make these remarkably inclusive, open and welcoming celebrations of integration in Australia. The association performs exceptional work towards active citizenship, and we are very fortunate to have them working in the City of Gosnells. I congratulate all members of the Australian Arab Association.