

**AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE — EID CELEBRATION**

*Statement by Member for Gosnells*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells)** [12.58 pm]: I had the honour of attending the Eid celebrations at the Australian Islamic College in Thornlie. The event was an excellent presentation of the fine values that are at the core of the Islamic faith and make Islam one of the world's great religions. I was especially impressed by the way AIC students, parents, teachers and administrators are so keen to contribute to our Western Australian community and how the AIC is opening itself to the broader community. I was delighted that year 7 students from nearby Thornlie Primary School were guests at the Eid celebration. Helping young Western Australians to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of other cultures and faiths is essential to making Australia a strong participant in our increasingly internationalised world. I especially want to acknowledge the excellent work being done at the AIC by Dr Hamza Amira, chairman of the AIC board; Dr Mahmoud Eid, new principal of the AIC; and Mrs Enda Hayes of the AIC.

In the past there have been some serious problems with the financial administration of the AIC, but I am very pleased to report that the school community has emerged from difficult times stronger than before. The excellent behaviour of the children, their academic performance, their love of their country and their desire to be strong contributors are exemplary. The latest challenge facing the AIC is getting the City of Gosnells to approve two separate projects. One is approval for projects funded through the federal government's Building the Education Revolution program and the other is approval for the use of a prayer hall. I hope that these problems can be resolved in the very near future. I am very proud to have the AIC in Gosnells in my electorate. I congratulate the college on its good work.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson)**: Thank you, members. I am sure that all members know that they are not to read newspapers while in the house.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*