

HMAS SYDNEY II MEMORIAL

**835. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Deputy Premier:**

Can the Deputy Premier please advise the house of the support that the Liberal–National government has provided for the Mt Scott memorial to the lost sailors of HMAS *Sydney* II in Geraldton?

**Dr K.D. HAMES replied:**

I thank the member for the question. The member for Geraldton is absent from the chamber, but he is very well aware of what we have been able to do in this state to support recognition of the events that occurred 70 years ago during the Second World War. As members are aware, there is a memorial in Geraldton. A commemorative event was held, supported by the Eventscorp regional scheme in conjunction with royalties for regions funding, to recognise the events that occurred with the sinking of HMAS *Sydney* II. The event hosted 2 000 visitors at the site to honour the crew of the vessel. The next component of that commemorative site has been added, which is a commemorative pool called the Pool of Remembrance. Given it is the time of the year when we recognise those who are lost in service when supporting this nation, it is fantastic that we were able to add that fifth element to commemorate that service.

I am very aware of the actions on the member for Jandakot's part. He had a picture of those members who were lost when HMAS *Sydney* II sank and he was able to display it in the Parliament in the members' bar. I thought that was an excellent move on the member's part. I was concerned to hear that some people were not happy with that; I do not know who they were, but it is very important that we recognise those who were lost at sea.

Comments were made to the extent that it was inappropriate to have pictures of people who are deceased on the walls in Parliament. However, if that were the case, an awful lot of the pictures we see on the walls would have to be taken down. In fact, in our party room, there might be a few pictures that would have to be taken down as well.

Mr Speaker, I think it is very good of you to make that photo available to make sure that people not only recognise the loss of all those sailors' lives—645 sailors lost at sea—but also continue to remember their contribution to Australia.