

JUVENILE AND FAMILY FIRE AWARENESS PROGRAM

449. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I note that last week the minister launched a new educational DVD for the Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness program. Can the minister please inform the house of the details of this program?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for his question. Last Friday night we launched a new educational DVD for the very successful Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness program—the JAFFA program—which has been running in Western Australia since 1989. The DVD launched last Friday provides a very personal and very emotional account of the dangers of fire. It is an educational tool to help young people who have been identified as having a predisposition to play with matches and fire; it teaches them what can go horribly wrong, both physically and emotionally. It is a very confronting video and a brilliant tool. The JAFFA program has a 97 per cent success rate in stopping at-risk juveniles from continuing down that path of playing with fire. It was developed with assistance from the Royal Perth Hospital adult burns unit, the WA Police arson squad, the Department of Corrective Services youth justice service, the Department of Health, the Julian Burton Burns Trust and the Fiona Wood Foundation. Interestingly, both career and volunteer firefighters make available their own time to deliver the JAFFA program to at-risk juveniles on a voluntary basis. I want to place on the record my gratitude to those people who give up their time to do that.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge Ben Smith, who is a young man whom I spent some time talking to last Friday. Some members may have seen a photo of him in *The West Australian* on Monday. He is an inspirational young guy. He was significantly burnt at a young age. His scars were obviously very painful and he told the story of how he had to grow through his skin. Growing up he was continually in and out of hospital to have his skin pressures relieved. He has been through an incredibly painful experience and it is great that he is now old enough and generous enough to share his experience to help other people not to make the same mistake that he did. He is a great young man with a very bright future and I thank him for his contribution.