

GREENWOOD COLLEGE YEAR 9 DEBATING TEAM

Statement by Member for Kingsley

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [12.25 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the awesome Greenwood College year 9 debating team, which consists of Cyrine Almodovar, Jacque Walters, Asmaa Hameed, Ann Cao and Konrad Dumpleton, with year 11 student coach Marcel Salgado and teacher coaches Ms Ela Amor-Robertson and Ms Alison McDonald. The team formed late last year after year 11 student Marcel requested to start a school debating club. A number of the students come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and attend the Greenwood's intensive English centre. They joined the team to improve their English. The team participated in the novice division of the WA Debating League with 167 other teams. They began learning about debating by reading the league handbook and watching YouTube videos. The team progressed through each round undefeated against prominent Perth schools such as Lake Joondalup Baptist College, Duncraig Senior High School, St Mark's Anglican Community School, St Stephens School, Governor Stirling Senior High School, Shenton College and Presbyterians Ladies' College before facing off against Perth Modern in the grand final held at the State Library of Western Australia on Tuesday, 29 August, where they argued the negative of the topic "we should have a quota for young people in Parliament". The second speaker on the Greenwood team, Asmaa, was awarded the best speaker of the debate. This is a fantastic achievement as Asmaa has been learning English for only three years since her family moved to Perth from Iraq. There was a huge turnout from the Greenwood College community, with standing room only inside the library theatre. The topic was fiercely debated and compelling arguments were presented by both sides, but Greenwood's hours of preparation and ability to adapt their arguments and rebuttals proved the winning combination. I congratulate the debating team on their successful 2017 championship win. Acknowledgment should also be given to principal, Ian Johnston, and the school community for supporting and encouraging the team.