

FREMANTLE BUSINESS AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Small Business

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Small Business) [9.09 am]: On Friday, 13 June 2014, I had the opportunity to attend the Fremantle Business Awards, which is an event initiated by the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce. Established in 1873, the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce is the oldest chamber in Western Australia and second oldest in Australia. It has more than 300 members ranging from small microbusinesses to major corporate organisations. This membership employs more than 5 000 people in the business community who contribute more than 50 per cent of total annual rates to the City of Fremantle.

The Fremantle Business Awards began in 1998 when the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce celebrated 125 years of service to the business community. The awards acknowledge the outstanding achievements of local businesses. The Small Business Development Corporation is also a sponsor of the awards. Since 1998, the awards have become a regular fixture on the Fremantle events calendar and continue to grow in size, recognising outstanding business success in the region. Business awards play an important role in recognising and acknowledging the hard work and dedication that is fundamental to running a successful small business in and around Fremantle. One of Fremantle's greatest strengths is the ingenuity of its small businesses; they use the powerful combination of imagination, diversity and hard work to be successful.

There were 15 separate award categories on the night. I congratulate Media on Mars, which received the Fremantle Business of the Year award. Media on Mars was also successful in the categories of Excellence in Design and Creativity and Excellence in Online Business. I commend all the finalists nominated for awards and congratulate category winners most sincerely on their efforts and I wish them the very best in their future endeavours.