

DIWALI

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.53 pm]: Diwali is a very special time for our Indian diaspora in Western Australia. On behalf of the McGowan government and my parliamentary colleagues, with special mention of Dr Jags Krishnan and Kevin Michel, I take this opportunity to congratulate all community groups for holding wonderful and inclusive Diwali events across our beautiful state. Diwali is the festival of lights that signifies the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and love over hate. It also marks the new year in the Hindu calendar. On 22 October, the Indian Society of Western Australia held its annual Diwali Mela at Claremont Showground, which was a huge success. I congratulate president Satish Nair and his team for putting together another great event. On behalf of the McGowan government, on 27 October we were pleased to welcome members of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Australia to Parliament House for the annual Diwali morning tea. I give special mention to Hasmukh and Dylan Wadia and their supporters. On 29 October, the member for Darling Range, Hugh Jones, and I attended the Virsa Club (WA)'s Diwali Sports and Multicultural Festival in Forreestfield, organised by president Paramdeep Gill.

On 6 November, Hon Bill Johnston and I attended the Deepavali Festival held by the Western Australian Hindu Council of Australia in Cannington. To WA president Damji Koria and secretary and vice president Dr Sadhana Bose, my many thanks for your hospitality. I hope everyone celebrating in Western Australia had a wonderful Diwali. My best wishes into the year and may it be full of light.