

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND

**78. Ms E.L. HAMILTON to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's support for Western Australian artists through initiatives such as the contemporary music fund.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how this fund is successfully supporting Western Australian artists?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what other initiatives the McGowan Labor government is undertaking to support contemporary music?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) Members, remember the name of this band: Voyager. The reason I want members to remember the name “Voyager” is that Voyager is a Western Australian band. It was formed over 15 years ago and has pure Western Australian content in terms of the musicians. In their third attempt to secure the nomination as Australia's entry to the Eurovision Song Contest, they have succeeded. They were announced today, by SBS, as the Australian representative for Eurovision 2023. Remember that this is a very important international music event that attracts billions of eyes and ears when it is staged. This year it will be staged in Birmingham, and our Western Australian band, Voyager, will be there.

The success of Voyager builds on the success of our contemporary music fund policy, which, of course, was a 2017 initiative. Over \$6 million has been contributed to supporting the contemporary music industry in Western Australia, and Voyager is one very good example of that investment. Be under no illusion of how important the music industry is to Australia in terms of commitment and contribution to the economy. It is a huge contributor to the economy. I also want to highlight, in the member's question, further successes.

One of the things that demonstrates success when we invest money in the contemporary music fund are outcomes like these. We all know that we proudly hosted the AFL grand final in 2021. There was Western Australian talent at the half-time show, who got huge coverage and huge applause for their efforts, and they were supported by the contemporary music fund. The Girls Rock! program, delivered by West Australian Music, received \$70 000 over three years. Girls Rock! is another very positive support program with a focus on young women in the music industry. Safer Venues WA is a grassroots organisation that seeks to improve the standards of inclusivity and safety in Perth's live music spaces and is supported by the contemporary music fund. The Regional Sessions received \$250 000 for a series of workshops and events in regional Western Australia, including Busselton, Albany, Bunbury, Broome, Karratha and Kalgoorlie. The Stomping Ground Festival, which I know the member for Kimberley was very, very excited about and was held late last year, received funds.

Speaking of Western Australian successes in contemporary music, the member for Kingsley also reminded me that three of the 12 *Australian Idol* finalists are from Western Australia. So we send our best wishes to Phoebe Stewart, Angelina Curtis and Sash Seabourne. Where was I? I did not try out this year, but you never know!

Voyager will appear on stage in Birmingham in May 2023 with great support from Tourism WA and the Minister for Tourism, of course. He and I were like absolute groupies down there at Kings Park as we were surrounded by the band members of Voyager. Tourism WA will film their music pitch, which will include iconic Western Australian sites and backdrops like the pink lake and Nature's Window at Kalbarri National Park. All this means that, in May, when we have the Eurovision Song Contest, our Western Australian band is our entry and that is a magnificent support and entree and promotion of Western Australia, more broadly. Therefore, we will keep on supporting contemporary music in Western Australia. This morning, the bandleader of Voyager highlighted the importance of the industry and the health and wellbeing of the industry. He acknowledged the strong support of the government, particularly through the contemporary music fund. We will all be behind Voyager in May this year as they take on the world in the Eurovision Song Contest, and may they bring it home for Western Australia and for Australia for the third time, I think.