

DR CHARMAINE PAPERTALK GREEN — WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Statement by Member for Geraldton

MS L. DALTON (Geraldton) [12.26 pm]: Today I rise to acknowledge Wajarri, Badimaya and Wilunyu woman of the Yamatji nation Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green. Recently inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame art category, Charmaine is a visual artist, author, poet, photographer, storyteller, social science researcher and academic. Charmaine has written five books and won several awards, including the prestigious Australian Literary Society Gold Medal, and her poetry is studied as part of primary and high school curriculums.

Born in the midwest and raised in Mullewa, Charmaine spent her early career in Canberra working for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies before moving to the Pilbara to work for the federal government in housing, education and training. Currently, Charmaine is a research fellow in Aboriginal health, primary care, with the WA Centre for Rural Health. Her research has been published in academic journals; her paintings and collages are displayed in exhibitions and museums; and she has contributed to the significant growth and profile of Yamatji culture in Western Australia, Australia and globally. The current chairperson for the Yamaji Art Centre in Geraldton, Charmaine represented the region at the first Indigenous astronomy symposium in Canberra and, closer to home, she is facilitating collaboration between Yamaji Art Ilgarijiri and the Aboriginal Murchison Widefield Array.

I am proud to know Charmaine. She is devoted to serving the community and she does this creatively through an evidence-based lens with honesty, humility, courage and deep strength.