

YOUTH PRIDE NETWORK — WARREN–BLACKWOOD

Statement by Member for Warren–Blackwood

MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood) [12.52 pm]: Warren–Blackwood is a diverse electorate. It is diverse in landscapes, cultures and people. We celebrate our diversity in many, many different ways, but, as my ongoing discussions with young people—including school leavers from Denmark Senior High School and Margaret River Senior High School—indicate, we can always do better, especially when it comes to celebrating and supporting our young LGBTQIA+ community. We are very lucky to have strong advocate groups in each corner of Warren–Blackwood—Margi Pride, which celebrated its first birthday last month; Albany Pride; and Manjimup’s Southern Forests Rainbow Faction. Each group plays an important role in our community to bring young people together to help reduce social isolation, provide support, to advocate for our region’s LGBTQIA+ community, and to provide safe spaces and promote strong relationships with other community supports.

Last year, I was pleased to advocate for the Youth Pride Network, based out of Perth, and assist it to stretch its wings and increase its reach to include regional WA. YPN is a group of LGBTQIA+ people from across WA who are working to improve the lives of young people by connecting and bringing them together and facilitating events and programs as part of its mission. I like its mission. It fits beautifully with the conversations that are happening across Warren–Blackwood about the possibilities for youth pride events, youth forums and for young people in leadership roles to play their part in events like these. YPN was successful in securing additional funding, and I look forward to helping connect our regional LGBTQIA+ community and supporters to see what we can create locally across Warren–Blackwood. Celebrate diversity. Always.