

NOLA GREGORY — QUEENSLAND POETRY AWARDS

Statement by Member for Geraldton

MS L. DALTON (Geraldton) [12.56 pm]: I rise to praise the work of much-loved local Geraldton poet Nola Gregory. Nola won the emerging older poet's mentorship category at this year's Queensland Poetry Awards. Nola is a proud descendent of the Kija-Bardi and a strong advocate for her people. She is also a highly respected member of our community. Judges at the Queensland Poetry Awards described Nola's poem *I Will Never Be Silent* as a deeply felt commitment to passing on the knowledge and lore of First Nations people. After winning the award, Nola was quoted as saying she was in disbelief. Nola said that winning the award "makes me feel like my messages through my poems are getting heard." Nola Gregory is the first Aboriginal person to have a poem read in both the WA state Parliament and the Australian federal Parliament. Her works have been published around the world and around Australia. Nola Gregory teaches poetry in primary schools and high schools and is active in our community, contributing in many ways. Her passion to create and share her stories and her hopes and dreams is to be commended and celebrated by us all. Congratulations, Nola Gregory, on your prize at this year's Queensland Poetry Awards. Thank you, Nola, for your work in our community and advocacy for your people and their future.