

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE — SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.55 pm]: I rise today to mark a very special occasion in the life of the Indian diaspora in Western Australia, celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of India's independence. The independence of India from the United Kingdom on 15 August saw power transferred to the Indian parliamentary system before the eventual creation of the Indian republic on 26 January 1950, a date that Australian and Indian people share. My WA Labor colleagues and I took part in several events, starting with "Maa Tujhe Salaam" Sangam 2022, followed by a lively Independence Day parade in the heart of Perth city over the weekend. On Monday, there was a flag hoisting ceremony at the Indian consulate office, with a massive reception at the Indian Community Centre held by the Indian Society of WA. On Tuesday night, we attended an event onboard the Indian naval ship *Sumedha* visiting Western Australia as part of naval exercises in the Indian Ocean, an international recognition of India's seventy-fifth year of independence. I would like to thank His Excellency, Mr Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India to Australia, and Mr Amarjeet Singh Takhi, Consul General of India for Perth for their warm hospitality when hosting these events. The Western Australian relationship with India continues to go from strength to strength. Congratulations to my constituents and the more than 150 000 Western Australians of Indian origin. I hope they all thoroughly enjoyed the events.