

**REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS — SUBSIDISED TRAINING PROGRAM**

*Statement by Member for Victoria Park*

**MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park)** [12.54 pm]: I am proud that the McGowan government has announced the extension of our subsidised training program to include refugees and asylum seekers from Ukraine and Afghanistan. Western Australia's collective heart broke for the people of Ukraine when Russia invaded their country in February this year, with Russia continuing to wage war. Our hearts also broke for the Afghan people when the Taliban swept through Afghanistan and into power in August last year. Soon after, we witnessed the largest humanitarian airlift operation in Australia's history, as our military evacuated over 4 000 people from Kabul.

Our government's newly extended subsidised training initiative will support these new and often vulnerable members of our community to gain skills and sustainable employment. Access to subsidised training will be available from January for Afghan and Ukrainian nationals who hold various types of temporary humanitarian visa, as well as for many bridging visa holders. These groups will have access to free and low-fee courses, covering 210 qualifications, including courses at the Carlisle and Bentley TAFE campuses in my electorate of Victoria Park.

I would like to thank the Curtin University Centre for Human Rights Education, the Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees, and other organisations for their proactive and tireless advocacy and for working with the Minister for Education and Training and the co-conveners of the Parliamentary Friends of Refugees group—Hon Kate Doust, MLC; Hon Ayor Makur Chuot, MLC; Hon Dr Brad Pettitt, MLC, and me—to help secure this decision.