

## FAIRER WORLD FESTIVAL

[11.07 a.m.]

**Dr GOODWIN** (Pembroke) - Madam President, I was delighted to be able to attend the inaugural Fairer World Festival on 30 June, which was an initiative of the Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning in conjunction with the Justice Action Network with support from the Tasmanian Government's Community Capacity Building Program and generous sponsors. The festival provided an opportunity for Tasmanian school students from grades 3 to 12 and their teachers to learn about social and environmental issues as well as celebrate things they have done to make a difference.

A core theme of this year's festival was the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. These eight goals provide a global action plan for a more just and sustainable future. By using these goals as a theme it also laid the foundation for students to explore issues such as animal rights, fair trade, environmental sustainability, global poverty and refugees.

Fourteen hundred students from 52 schools around Tasmania attended the four-day festival held at the University of Tasmania. The students participated in interactive workshops and heard from keynote speakers. The speakers included Tim Kenworthy from Western Australia, a 2009 young social pioneer and founder of Youth Tree, and Sam Cawthorn, 2009 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year. Anyone who has heard Sam Cawthorn talk will know that he is an amazing young person and a tremendously inspirational young person as well. A number of community organisations were also involved with the festival, including the Australian Red Cross, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Global Poverty Project, Oxfam Australia, the Oaktree Foundation, Vision Generation and MiVAC.

As well as inspiring and encouraging students to be a driving force for change in their communities, the festival provided teachers with the opportunity to learn new ways to incorporate responsible citizenship programs in the classroom.

On the day I attended the festival was being hosted by students from Geilston Bay High. It was fantastic to see a high level of enthusiasm from the school principal, teachers and students, particularly given the challenge facing them at the time with the threat of school closure looming. Geilston Bay High has an impressive record in involvement in worthwhile initiatives like the Fairer World Festival. For example, I am aware of the school's involvement in the Beacon Foundation's No Dole program and the Training Options and Opportunities to Learn or TOOL program on the Eastern Shore.

I would also like to praise the work of the Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning more broadly. It has been involved in running innovative and interactive education programs since 1985. Over 13 500 students have participated in the centre's current flagship program the ruMAD? program or Are You Making a Difference? program, which started in 2005. This award-winning program is based on the belief that young people can make a difference in our community. It seeks to engage and encourage students in the areas of social justice, the environment, tolerance and cultural diversity by helping them to express their views on these issues as well as challenging them to take an active leadership role and act as change makers in their community.

Fundamentally, it also aims to improve students' motivation, behaviour, self-confidence and literacy and numeracy skills. At my Rotary Club we had the privilege of hearing from Rokeby High about their ruMAD project in 2010 where they organised for the Sydney-based dance troupe Justice Crew, who won the 2010 Australia's Got Talent contest, to come down and do some performances but also have some workshops with the school as a way to break down barriers between young people through their shared passion of hip-hop and dance.

It is wonderful to see young people being encouraged to actively contribute to their local community and to also increase their level of awareness of global issues and to explore ways they

can make a contribution at that level. I congratulate all those who participated in and organised the Fairer World Festival. I also encourage honourable members to support the Tasmanian Global Centre for Learning in its important work.