

HANSARD 20 OCTOBER 2011

DAVID HENDERSON — AUSTRALIAN SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Statement by Member for Riverton

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [12.56 pm]: I take great pleasure in bringing to the attention of the house that Dr David Henderson, a science teacher at Rossmoyne Senior High School, won the 2011 Australian Secondary Teacher of the Year award. This is a major achievement and I congratulate David for this award, and for his contribution to the school and to the wider community. I have met David many times, including last night, while I have been on visits to the school and I am fully aware of the profoundly positive influence he has on the learning opportunities for individual students, on the school's culture and on the great success that Rossmoyne Senior High School has in attracting students to the study of science. The study of science, of course, must be one of our top priorities in our school system. Our local students can be inspired only by extraordinary teachers such as David. He has consistently used his ability to interact with a diverse range of students and to motivate and challenge them to achieve excellence and fulfil their potential and learn to love the study of science.

As a highly regarded teacher at Rossmoyne, David is also seen as an innovator and an inspiration to his colleagues, and a mentor and leader within the teaching profession. His sustained contribution through research and curriculum development partnerships with universities, businesses, the school, students and the broader community has been exceptional. David has contributed significantly to Rossmoyne Senior High School's academic success and his efforts have helped the school become the jewel in the crown of the state's public school system. David has received many awards through his long career and I congratulate him.