

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HANSARD 1 DECEMBER 2011

ISABELLE McQUEEN

Statement by Member for Riverton

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [12.56 pm]: Isabelle McQueen is a remarkable young lady who lives in my electorate of Riverton. At just seven years of age, she trains at an international level in gymnastics. On 27 November 2011 she competed at the Raffles Gymnastic Academy in Singapore and came third on the bars apparatus and fifth overall at an international level.

Isabelle, who is in year 2 at Parkwood Primary School, started competitive gymnastics only six months ago when she joined the newly formed club Contemporary Gymnastic Academy, based in Carlisle. With the help of her parents, Craig and Michelle McQueen, Isabelle has been building up her training hours, and in September she achieved her first gold medal at a national level at an event held in Perth.

While in Singapore, Isabelle, her five-year-old sister, Bonnie McQueen, and seven other girls from their academy received specialised training sessions from some of Singapore's top coaches. Bonnie also competed in Singapore and was placed fifth overall in the national level 1 competition.

Isabelle spends her free time following the successes of her idol, fellow Perth gymnast Lauren Mitchell, who last year became the world champion gymnast in the floor competition.

Isabelle also competes in Irish dancing with the Delaney School of Irish Dancing in Forrestfield and plans to enter the Irish dancing national competitions in September next year in Adelaide. On 8 December, Isabelle will be performing a solo Irish dance at her school.

I commend her ambition and extraordinary talent at such a young age. I wish Isabelle, Bonnie and their family every success.