

EXTRACT FROM HANSARD

21 MAY 2009

ROSSMOYNE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS — CHINA VISIT

Statement by Member for Riverton

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [12.52 pm]: I rise to tell the house about the good work of two Rossmoyne Senior High School teachers who accompanied the Minister for Education on a recent trip to China. Chinese language teacher Bee Yip and English teacher Natasha Saunders were invited to judge an English language competition run by the Zhejiang University in Hangzhou.

Some 250 000 students submitted entries to this competition and Bee and Natasha judged the best 100, based on written and oral skills. Most children in China study English from year 3 through to the final year of high school. As I mentioned in this house last week, there are enormous benefits for Western Australian students to follow suit and study Chinese.

Rossmoyne Senior High School has long had a vibrant Chinese language course. Currently, 240 students from years 8 to 12 are studying Chinese, which is more than 10 per cent of the total number of students in the state who are studying Chinese.

To enrich Rossmoyne's program while they were in China, Bee and Natasha visited 11 schools in four cities in Zhejiang Province in search of suitable sister-state schools.

I believe that Bee and Natasha's work with the Chinese language is vital to our children's future and I wish them every success in their efforts to continue to bring these language skills to the forefront of education in Western Australia.