

Awards WA

2018 Gold Awards Ceremony

**Address by the Honourable Kim Beazley AC
Governor of Western Australia**

Thursday, 11th October 2018

I would firstly like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet – the Noongar people – and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

It is wonderful to be with you all tonight at my first Gold Awards Ceremony and function as Patron of Awards WA.

Well done to all award recipients recognised. You have achieved your personal best through the renowned global framework of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and in doing so you join a family of outstanding young people from more than 130 countries and territories.

It is exciting to think what you will go on to achieve with your new found skills and recognition – to inspire others with your dreams, and help to make a difference in the world with your passions.

The standard of excellence required to receive such an Award is well recognised through this Award. Many employers regard the holding of an Award as highly significant on a person's CV. It shows that person to be reliable, committed, self-motivated and enthusiastic and to have that extra something which goes toward making a true leader.

Behind each recipient tonight, and the over 2,500 young people actively engaged in the Award, is the support and belief of an adult mentor. It is important to recognise the commitment and dedication of these volunteers who continue to run and grow the Award at their organisations, mentoring and encouraging their young people to begin their Award experience, and rejoice in their achievements alongside them.

Also important are the organisations and volunteers willing to deliver the award and support young people to thrive and grow to lead productive and rewarding lives. This is encouraging news for our community.

I understand that there has been a strong uptake of young people into the position of Youth Award Leader, who help adult mentors to build and grow an exciting Award within their Award Unit. These young people are mentors and advocates for the Award and in the process, gain valuable skills such as leadership and communication.

Speaking of leaders, I note that tonight's Award Ceremony is being conducted on the first night of the inaugural *YouthFutures Conference* which aims to upskill all Award Leaders, Youth Award Leaders and Principals. I congratulate Awards WA for this knowledge sharing event to provide the skills needed to run and support the development of The Duke of Ed Award.

This is a chance for all Youth Award Leaders to get involved and be heard to ensure a voice is being given to the young people who are actively involved in the Award.

Congratulations again to all the recipients of Gold Awards tonight.

You have every reason to be proud of your achievements. I hope you will nurture and sustain the values and principles that you have demonstrated, and I urge you to encourage other young people to follow in your footsteps, and take up this exciting challenge.