

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Portuguese Australian Women's Association of WA
Gala Dinner
South Fremantle Football Club
Saturday 1 February 2020

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My wife Patricia and I are delighted to join you this evening in what is the inaugural Gala Dinner and fundraising opportunity organised by the Portuguese Australian Women's Association of Western Australia.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered tonight and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are with us.

I acknowledge:

- Councillor Marija Vujcic, Councillor representing Dr Brad Pettitt, Mayor City of Fremantle;
- Mayor Tracey Roberts, City of Wanneroo and her husband Peter;
- My wife Patricia;
- Ms Silvia Renda, Chairman of Portuguese Australian Women Association;
- PAWA President Ms Manuela Marques and other PAWA (WA) Committee members;
- Ms Ruby Brophy, Chairman of WA Portuguese Club;
- Mr John da Silva, President, Portuguese Community Council;
- Representatives from Zonta House Refuge and Foodbank WA;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

Tonight provides an amazing opportunity to showcase the cultural aspects of those who are Portuguese or from other parts of the world where the Portuguese language is spoken, to enjoy the music, song, dance, food and wine that are part of Portuguese culture.

It is also about those women that have shown leadership, a deep passion and who have worked tirelessly to keep the dream alive – that is the passing on to future generations all that is great about Portugal and those countries where the language is the essence of life.

It is also about providing support for Portuguese speaking women across the community who in some cases have been isolated from mainstream life and who need the care and love that people in this room are capable of giving or facilitating.

I congratulate the recently formed Australian Portuguese Women's Association (WA) and know that the committee members are committed to the challenges ahead.

Each member brings a different life experience, family and working background, education, networks that they have established, community involvement and importantly the drive to get things done.

I note the Association within Australia is only relatively new, however the aim and objectives are clearly stated, and provide a sound basis going forward.

May your Association know that there will be many individuals and organisations that will support your committee to achieve all that is best for Portuguese speaking women and women from other backgrounds.

Congratulations on tonight's event and the initiative to form the Association in Western Australia.