

Good Morning

Welcome to the City of Cockburn's Youth Centre a place where young people gather to have fun, learn new skills and develop friendships in a 'chill out' zone they can call their own.

I acknowledge the Noongar people who are the custodians of the land that we are gathered on this morning and I pay respect to their elders both past and present and I extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be present.

I acknowledge:

- Reverend Sealin Garlett, a Noongar Elder and Joint Chair of the City of Cockburn Aboriginal Advisory Committee;
- Evonne Goolagong – Cawley, MBE, AO;
- Ian Goolagong; Indigenous Coach for Tennis Australia;
- Paul Oldfield, Community Tennis Officer, Tennis West;
- Paul De Bruin; Youth Centre Co-ordinator
- Sam Mourish; Aboriginal Community Development Officer; City of Cockburn and other Members of staff;
- My wife Patricia; and

- the indigenous children who have joined us for today's event from the Spearwood Primary School and the South Fremantle Senior High School.

It is a great honour to have Evonne here today to share her passion for sport, her indigenous culture & heritage and her love for all things Australian that has driven her to achieve greatness at a local, state, national and international level.

Rarely does someone capture the hearts and minds of so many people on the scale that Evonne has, and we are truly honoured to be graced with Evonne's presence here today to promote the forthcoming, 'Come & Try Day' at the State Tennis Centre, Burswood, followed by Narrogin and Bunbury in the coming week; in conjunction with the Evonne Goolagong Foundation and the Government Learn Earn Legend!

The City of Cockburn has a long and proud tradition of supporting junior sport in our community and has many talented youngsters who have achieved at the highest level.

Importantly, it is the youngsters who participate in sport for the fun and enjoyment of it that really counts – learning new skills, making new friends, exploring the opportunities to advance through the

sporting code they have chosen and achieving to their best is what makes it all worthwhile.

The children who are with us today represent our future. While they are full of energy, enthusiasm, laughter and excitement it remains for all of us to ensure that they have every opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving environment.

An environment that creates the now-how of surviving in our increasingly complex world and one where they look up to their Elders and to their family for advice and guidance as they to continue their journey to becoming whatever their dreams and aspirations determine.

The City of Cockburn was one of the first local governments in Australia to adopt a Reconciliation Action Plan and since its adoption we have been actively implementing each of the recommendations contained therein.

I thank the Reverend Sealin Garlett who is here today, other Noongar Elders and the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples who are a part of our community for their contribution to making

Cockburn such a great place to live and raise a family.

The 'Learn Earn Legend' launch today signals a significant step forward for Tennis Australia in conjunction with a legend of the tennis world, Evonne Goolagong – Cawley, an amazing Ambassador on so many levels for Australia.

'Learn Earn Legend' is a great opportunity for all the children who become involved in the program, to burn up that energy that only children have while learning new skills and having fun doing it.

Thank you.