

990 6RPH INFORMATION RADIO

Statement by Member for Kingsley

MRS EDWARDES (Kingsley) [12.51 pm]: In the International Year of Volunteers, I introduce members to 990 6RPH Information Radio, which is for people who have a print handicap and are seriously disadvantaged in both a social and informational sense by their inability to access the printed word, which most of us take for granted. An estimated 15 per cent of Western Australia's population - more than 150 000 people - in some way have a print handicap. This figure is expected to increase to 20 per cent moving into the twenty-first century. Information Radio broadcasts articles from current newspapers, books, magazines and journals, as well as community and government information. The service operates with four part-time staff and 150 trained volunteers and it is totally self-funding. It has an operating cost of \$180 000 per annum. The money is raised through sponsorship, special events and subscriptions. When they want to paint the place, they all get out and do the work. It is a typical volunteer organisation which provides a wonderful service to the community. Even if those of us who do not have time to read the paper turn to 990, they will be able to listen to the information. I commend the organisation and the volunteers - they really deserve recognition for the services they provide. I bring the attention of the Government - particularly the Minister for Disability Services; and Seniors - to funding in the future.