

SPORT AND RECREATION — PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND
INDIGENOUS GROUPS

523. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Can the minister please advise the house what the government is doing to support various organisations and Indigenous groups in my electorate of Southern River, and, indeed, throughout Western Australia, to increase their participation in sport and recreation?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

I thank the member for his question. I am sure that the member, and in fact all other members in the house, would certainly agree that it is important for us to engage people across Western Australia in sport and recreation and healthy lifestyle activities. However, many people in our communities need some encouragement and some incentive to get involved and to engage in these activities. Our schools and sporting clubs et cetera also need some support in attracting those people and in getting them involved in sport and recreation in our community, for health reasons and also for social reasons.

In April, we launched a new scheme for clubs, schools and not-for-profit organisations in order for them to target those groups. This scheme is called the community participation fund. It is administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation, and it provides small grants from \$1 000 to \$5 000. In particular, the funding is aimed at the culturally and linguistically diverse areas of our community and Indigenous populations—those who are vulnerable to social and structural disconnection. I think people would agree that we have a great role to play in this area. I have played sport throughout my life, and I know that it is very important to get Indigenous people in country areas, as well as those people who do not have many opportunities, involved in sport and recreation activities for their own development and for their own good, and also for the good of the community. Quite often we tend to look at people in a different way until we get to know them and they get to know us, and then there is that acceptance. That is important, and not just in sport. For instance, my daughters attended Willetton Senior High School, which is a very multicultural school. I believe that my daughters have benefited very much from attending that school, as have the other students who attend or attended that school.

Mr P.B. Watson: Have you had any approach about funding for Clontarf?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: There has been no approach to me, through my department, about funding for Clontarf.

Funding is targeted towards projects that increase participation in physical activity and also enhance the development of sport and recreation personnel. The applications are open. They are easy to complete. There is not a lot of paperwork associated with them. I encourage people to promote the grants, because I believe that the success of this scheme is important to our communities. We talk about crime and we talk about leadership. I know that a lot of good work is going on with Somali people in the northern suburbs. I did not know a lot about that, but I have been very impressed by it. I encourage members to get involved. The take-up rate has been fantastic so far. There is a real need for this program. I am very proud of it. I am very encouraged to see the Department of Sport and Recreation get involved and meet the responsibility we have in this area. I wanted to let the house know about that. If members would like further details, they can contact me or look at the Department of Sport and Recreation's website.