

DISCRIMINATION

Motion

HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral) [11.23 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house —

- (a) acknowledges that whilst we are at the most progressive point in history for acceptance, discrimination still plays a damaging role in society; and
- (b) recognises the discrimination in sport that athletes face on a professional and amateur level and acknowledges the McGowan government's commitment to change.

Normally I would be proud to move a motion in this house during private members' business; unfortunately, I am not proud to be bringing this matter to the house today. Although I understand how important this matter is, I am upset that in 2019 I am standing here still talking about discrimination in sport. A few high-profile incidents have occurred recently that no-one has been able to ignore. We cannot ignore them and Australians have not ignored them. The backlash has been pretty powerful. I am sure that in the debate today, we will touch on the effects that social media has had in changing the face of discrimination. I am sure that some of the examples I provide today will give members something to think about.

Today, I hope to see something that I do not normally see in this house; that is, all of us in agreement. I think everyone agrees that discrimination is a problem in sport. I am intrigued to hear members' thoughts on this matter. In my view, discrimination of any kind has no role in society. I believe that more than at any other time in history, we are stamping out discrimination and are being very progressive in this space. However, I recognise that discrimination is still occurring every day in sport, in workplaces, on the street and on TV.

As a young fella growing up in Darwin, I played rugby league. Thank you, Mr Acting President—rugby league is probably not big on this side of the country, but it has a massive following in Darwin and on the east coast. Go Melbourne Storm! When I was young, racism was not at the front of my mind. I do not think racism is at the front of any kid's mind. Most kids just want to be kids and get on with their lives. Everyone on my team was a teammate. There was no difference between us, whether a person was Aboriginal, Chinese, Fijian or Kiwi. It did not matter. I look back on an incident that, many years later, I now find to be quite disturbing. I was selected to represent the Northern Territory for the Casuarina team. It was a proud moment. We got to travel to the remote town of Nhulunbuy and a lot of fundraising was done to get us there. When we arrived there, we were billeted with families who had children playing in the competition or with families in the community who wanted to take on a kid. All the teams from Darwin, as normal, were a multicultural mix—Aboriginal, Fijian, Kiwi; you name it, they were all there. Darwin is a multicultural melting pot. Being billeted to families in the town saved us a lot of dollars and it was great to get to know local families and learn about their hardships. Nhulunbuy was a mining town so it was quite an experience—the different life there. Without mining, that town has disappeared, so mining was quite important. The teammate with whom I was to be billeted was an Aboriginal boy called Addy Boy. I had played rugby with him in many teams most of my childhood. When we were picked up at the airport, our billet left to have a chat with the coach. There was a bit of an issue and we did not understand what was going on. All of a sudden Addy was taken to another house, and a white teammate and I were billeted together. Thinking back on all those little things, which I did not notice at the time, I realise how that tiny little incident would have affected my mate Addy. That tiny “I don't want an Aboriginal in my house” comment has an effect on a child who does not understand what is going on. It is natural for children to not understand that. We are not born racist; it is built into us as we grow. I grew up respecting all human beings regardless of their gender, skin culture, culture, disability et cetera. Kids learn from their parents and other role models. If we as role models, leaders and parents do not set an example, what can we expect to happen? The flow-on effect is discrimination throughout the rest of their lives.

I feel that discrimination in sport has come a long way, but I feel also that this has only just started to truly turn. Women's cricket, AFLW and NRLW are finally starting to get some of the limelight that they have always deserved. If I were to reflect on my experience as a sports' spectator, it is easy to say that five years ago, I did not watch any women's sport but today I thoroughly enjoy watching woman's cricket. How good is the quality of our Aussie women's team! How good is that! Let us be honest, our men's team is going through a rough patch—sandpaper gate, anybody?—but the Aussie women have been on fire, with the likes of Meg Lanning, Alyssa Healy and Ellyse Perry, who are amazing role models for young women who want to take on professional sport in the future. They have been hanging around this code for a long time, waiting for Australia to pick up on it and finance it and support it. A lot of them do it voluntarily. It is not paid, unlike the men's sport, which has infrastructure and all the necessary things in place. The women in this sport have to fight to make sure they can get on the centre stage.

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon Samantha Rowe

I was trying to avoid getting this one on *Hansard*, because I know how passionate Western Australians are about their footy teams, but I am very proud to say I am a staunch Adelaide Crows fan. I support both the AFL men's team and the AFL women's team.

Hon Robin Chapple interjected.

Hon KYLE MCGINN: There are no rocks around here! Excellent.

First and foremost, I need to give huge congratulations to the women's team for their win on the weekend. The AFLW Adelaide Crows have gone on to take their second premiership. Two out of three is not bad, in my opinion, and I think they have many more wins to come. We ended up winning 10 goals three to Carlton's two goals six. To my brother-in-law, Marty, sorry, mate—Carlton cannot quite cut the mustard in either of the divisions, but hang in there, please. In all seriousness, the hardship these women have faced in trying to get on the stage with the men needs to be recognised. The men have an established code that has been around forever and a day and brings with it support structures, finance and a fan base.

I can proudly say that last year in Western Australia, we had the biggest ever attendance at an AFLW game, when 41 975 fans went to the first AFLW game at Perth Stadium. How great is that. All the talk that no-one will watch women play football—what a load of rubbish! It was shot down very quickly, with 41 975 fans attending. However, we now have a bit of a challenge on our hands, because Westerns Australians are very competitive by nature. The AFLW Grand Final Adelaide saw 53 000 fans stack in to watch that game. That was absolutely amazing.

I want to make a quick mention of Erin Phillips, the captain of the AFLW Adelaide Crows team. She also won player of the match. That was after she had been injured halfway through the third quarter. That is how good she was. She went on to win most valuable player in the league. I want to read a comment that she made during her speech that I think is very powerful. I quote from an ABC News media statement —

“My dad obviously played footy and when I was born people felt sorry for him because he didn't have a son to play footy some day and carry the Phillips name.”

Erin, I think you have proved that you do not have to be a boy to be a superstar in the AFL arena. It shows how far we have come that there is a platform for someone like Erin to get up there and say to the haters, “I'm not going to cop it.” It is absolutely brilliant.

Turning to the men's side of the AFL, we have another big discrimination issue. It has always been there, and it rears its head every now and then. It tends to come from men who have been around the game for a long time and hold positions of power. I am not sure how many members in this room support Collingwood. I expect it would be very few.

Several members interjected.

Hon KYLE MCGINN: Oh, no! They are right in front! They are about to cop an absolute serve.

Hon Tjorn Sibma: That explains so much—it really does!

Hon KYLE MCGINN: I would not be surprised if there were a few supporters in the other chamber but I was hoping for none in this one.

There is one man who has had a career of shameful acts, and he simply apologises, says it makes him feel a bit sick, waits for it to die down and blow away, and then slides back in. I am talking about Eddie McGuire. If members do not agree with me now, I hope that after a little recap on his history, that will change. In just a little google search, I found plenty of stuff that made me angry about Eddie. I originally wanted info on the recent disgusting comments he made while commentating in the last AFL men's round. To even think it is okay to talk in that way at a pub would be considered unacceptable, but this was a bloke who is telecasting on live TV, around not just Australia, but the world. He should feel sick and ashamed, and the backlash he got from the many Australians who were upset about this was great to see.

Of course I am talking about the comments he made around the coin toss at the Sydney–Adelaide game. If people did not see it, I suggest they look at what happened. Eddie has a habit of saying what he thinks, and he thinks it is okay to say what he wants. It is a disgrace that someone in a position of power would think they can get away with making off-the-cuff comments that have ramifications for people's lives and family circles, and, in this case, for people with disability.

Eddie stood himself down after making those comments. That is a bit of a shame for the AFL. I think he should have been stood down immediately by the AFL. He made the comment that Cynthia Banham, who is a double amputee after having survived a plane crash, should have tossed the coin better. I thought it was a pretty good coin toss. Try standing out in the middle of a field with a crowd like that and tossing a coin—it does not matter who you are, I am sure it is quite difficult. But that was not enough for Eddie. He had to go on and make the comment

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon Samantha Rowe

that people should train for a week before they go out and toss the coin. His talk about this lady was quite duntrodden. It was unacceptable. But the backlash came out, and it came out thick and it came out fast, including from the Sydney Football Club. The Sydney Football Club was upset about it and said it is a disgrace and cannot be accepted in the game. Eddie had to stand himself down the next day. He should have been stood down by the AFL. It was an absolute disgrace.

In 2013, if members remember, Edie McGuire also made some disgusting comments about Adam Goodes. We saw a Collingwood fan turn around and use the word “ape” towards an Indigenous player. That is an absolutely disgraceful comment to make. The word “ape” has a very painful history and should never be used towards an Indigenous Australian. It is disrespectful and disgusting. This man of privilege said that Adam Goodes should be used to promote *King Kong* the musical. That was just days after this incident had taken place. This is a man who is supposed to be representing a football club and the AFL. He does not just condone his comments but makes them even worse. You are a shame on the game, Eddie McGuire. You should be ashamed of yourself. I think anyone who is a member of the Collingwood Football Club should write a letter and ask for his resignation. He is a disgrace. He constantly makes comments like this and gets away with it. I have probably hours on end of information to talk about Eddie McGuire but my time is going to run out very quickly.

I want to mention another thing Eddie did that is also a disgrace. I refer to an article in the *Herald Sun* in 2016 titled “Eddie McGuire joked about drowning a woman on Triple M radio”. Is he taking the micky? Seriously? He joked on Triple M radio about drowning a woman. That was said during a charity fundraiser for the Big Freeze. He joked about how he would pay 50 grand for Caro Wilson to stay under the water. That is an absolute disgrace. He used his platform to speak hate speech. That is terrible, it is shameful, and it should be stamped out as quickly as possible.

There are other incidents of discrimination that people would be aware of in Western Australia. Liam Ryan from the West Coast Eagles was a victim of social media. It is easy for a keyboard warrior who is sitting at home and probably does not even know how to kick a football to get on social media and call someone a monkey. It is absolutely shameful and a disgrace. There was a great show of camaraderie between the GWS Giants and West Coast at Perth Stadium when they stood together after the game as one. West Coast has gotten behind Liam Ryan absolutely well and truly. I think that is excellent. Eddie Betts, who is from Kalgoorlie, also suffers from a lot of racial discrimination, again on his Twitter feed. It is a disgrace that keyboard warriors are harming our game and doing shameful acts. We need to make sure that we call it out and stamp it out.

In the little time I have left, I want to say, on a positive note, that some great women’s sports are happening in the goldfields. I give a big shout-out to the WABL Giants. They have a women’s team in the goldfields and they push very hard to make sure they are represented. They need sponsorship, and we have to make sure we get behind them. A lot of the men’s teams get sponsorship. We have to stop discriminating on the basis of commercial viability and start looking at the fact that if we can get women’s sports into the limelight, they can be as good, if not better, than the men. Just look at our cricket team. Talk about a sponsorship tool! They are brilliant. I also want to make a quick mention of the West Australian Football Commission. It is doing a fabulous job in the goldfields for girls’ football as well.

HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan) [11.39 am]: I am very pleased to support the motion moved by Hon Kyle McGinn. What a great motion and what a great member of Parliament. Only a few weeks ago, he moved a motion on wage theft, and today he has moved a very good motion reminding us about the evil of discrimination and the need to support equality. I agree with the sentiments of the motion, and with what Hon Kyle McGinn said, that we are living in the best time as a nation.

I will go back into history a bit. Had I come to Australia in 1898, rather than 1998, I would have been subjected to the Chinese Immigration Restriction Act 1889, which placed a restriction on the number of Chinese persons a ship could carry, to the ratio of one Chinese person per 500 tonnes of any ship trying to berth in a Western Australian port. Because I would have arrived in 1898, I would not have been subjected to the poll tax of £10 per Chinese, as the act to regulate and restrict Chinese immigration, 50 Victoriae, No. 13, assented to on 28 July 1886, was repealed by the Chinese Immigration Restriction Act 1889 that I have just mentioned. However, I would have had another problem—passing the dictation test. I had some English education before I came to Australia, so back in 1898 I probably would have been able to string together a 50-word paragraph. However, that would not be the test. Section 3 of the Immigration Restriction Act 1897 stated —

THE immigration into Western Australia by land or sea of any person of any of the classes defined in the following sub-sections of this section, hereinafter called “prohibited immigrant,” is prohibited, namely:—

- (a.) Any person who, on being asked to do so by an officer appointed under this Act, shall fail to himself write out, in the presence of such officer, in the characters of any language of Europe, a passage in English of fifty words in length taken by such officer from a British author, and to append his name thereto in his own language;

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon
Samantha Rowe

I would not have passed that test. The only European language I can speak is English. Had I come to Australia in 1898, I would not have been able to get in. I then would not have been able to obtain two degrees at one of the top universities in the world. I would not have been able to have a legal career in this fabulous state. I would not have been able to have been trained in the Royal Military College at Duntroon to become an officer in the Australian Army. I would not have been able to serve as an Army Reserve officer on an overseas deployment. We heard a bit about that in December 2018. I would not have been able to serve my local residents as a local councillor, and I would not have been able to stand here and serve the people of Western Australia. I can do all this because we live in modern Australia. We not only sing in our national anthem of those who have come across the sea, and our boundless plains to share, but also practise what we preach. Australia has changed so much in the past 100 years. The Australian people love fairness and believe in equality. They encourage inclusion and encourage others to have a go. I feel lucky to live in modern Australia, and that my children can grow up in modern Australia.

Nonetheless, that does not mean that we do not have any discrimination in this nation. We have heard, in the very meaningful and important words of Hon Kyle McGinn, that we see a lot of cases of discrimination. As we say in the Australian Army, there is always room for improvement. Discrimination can come in many different forms. It can be race discrimination, sex discrimination, age discrimination, discrimination against people with a disability, discrimination against people of the LGBTI community, and many other forms. Discrimination is bad for our nation and our community, as well as those who are subject to discrimination. To name just a few, and to echo the sentiments of this motion, we have witnessed just recently the abuse of AFLW player Tayla Harris, and our very own Liam Ryan, and not very long ago the abuse endured by Nic Naitanui and Adam Goodes, who retired from the AFL due to sustained racially motivated bullying and attacks. I express my personal support to those fine sportspeople. We should enjoy the essence of the sport, rather than viewing it through the prism of race, gender or any other factor.

In conclusion, Hon Kyle McGinn's very fine contribution is a timely reminder for all of us, and I am sure members will join me in support of his motion. We should all take a stance against discrimination—call it out when we see it and when we hear it. Lieutenant General David Morrison once famously stated that the standard you walk past is the standard you accept. We, as leaders of our community, have a duty to support equality and fairness and make our own contribution to the effort to stamp out discrimination.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [11.47 am]: I would like to stand in support of this motion, and thank Hon Kyle McGinn for bringing it to the house. I think it would take a very brave person not to support this motion. We are a very rich, multicultural society in Australia, but unfortunately discrimination remains rampant, as it always has been. As I have mentioned before, I was a Kalgoorlie boy, born and bred. I grew up with the Wongi people, and I loved them, but even in those days, back in the 1960s and 1970s, Aboriginal students were isolated from us. They were taught in a donga out in the playground. They did not have the same playtime or lunchtime as we had. It was extraordinary. Fortunately, we have moved on from then. Having said that, I was very insistent when we were in government that I would do everything I possibly could to break down those barriers, particularly with the original Australians. That is just one component of the previous government.

I will touch on the first component of the motion—that is, acceptance that discrimination still plays a damaging role in our society. It does, and one of the biggest issues in our education system is the fact that there is still a huge disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. The attendance and graduation rates for Aboriginal students are still appallingly low. One of the issues in our schools in particular is ignorance of Aboriginal culture. I think it would help enormously if we could develop an awareness of Aboriginal culture in our education system so that non-Aboriginal students can understand the beauty, dignity, history and heritage of Aboriginal people. As Minister for Education, I introduced the Aboriginal cultural standards framework. We were the very first state in the nation to introduce the framework. Every school in the state now has an Aboriginal cultural standards framework embedded in the curriculum, so students are learning about Aboriginal culture. That is a wonderful thing. In addition, I introduced the elders in residence program, whereby Aboriginal elders go to schools and teach students about Aboriginal culture. The inaugural elders in residence were Sue Gordon and Robert Isaacs. I am not sure who is in that role now. It was going to be expanded, but then we got turfed out. I would like to think that the government has retained that program and I would be disappointed if it has not.

Another program was KindiLink in 37 Aboriginal kindergartens. The whole point of that exercise was to try to embrace the Aboriginal family within the community and have early intervention in literacy and numeracy, speech therapy and parenting workshops for Aboriginal families. It has been very successful. I understand that the current minister has retained the program. I would be disappointed if it had evaporated.

Finally, the Partnership, Acceptance, Learning, Sharing program was done through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. I hope that program has been retained, even though the department has now gone, unfortunately. The PALS program was being run in 120 schools when I started as minister and it was being run in 540 when I finished. Schools were asked to look into Aboriginal culture. They could perform a play, make a video recording or do

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon Samantha Rowe

a whole host of things, and the awards were presented each year. We used to present them in the courtyard at Parliament House. A lot of current members went to those presentations, usually in October or November.

That is a tapestry of programs that worked towards embracing Aboriginal culture in schools in the hope that, just perhaps, it would plant the seed in the minds of non-Aboriginal students, or those who have been brought up in homes that are not as accepting and tolerant, that Aboriginal culture is wonderful. I really like Aboriginal culture. We have to start young. Early intervention is pivotal in anything, but particularly in changing the shape and attitude of a nation about discrimination, particularly towards the original Australians. We have to start in school. That is why the programs that exist now are testament to what the previous government did. I would like to think that they will be retained and enhanced by the current government and those who come after it.

Sport is referred to in the second part of the motion. I say to Hon Kyle McGinn that there is nothing there that I disagree with. Again, it is very important to me. I am a proud, lifelong supporter of the West Perth Falcons. At the moment, I am its vice-patron and an honorary member. I have been a West Perth supporter all my life and a proud Eagle. In August 2012, one of our players was suspended for making a racist comment to a player in another team. I found out what the comment was and, suffice to say, it was not flattering. I spoke to the coach and said that I would like to speak to the player. The player was suspended, but I did not think that that would solve the problem, because it was punitive. He just got suspended for a week and he did not really learn anything from the experience. I would have liked to have had a chat to this young man and explain to him why what he said was so inappropriate. As members can imagine, it was at the very offensive end of the spectrum. He refused to meet with me. I did not take that personally. I know that he just thought: why bother? He just wanted to get on with his footy, have a week off and go to the pub and then come back and play. I did not meet with him, but I thought I would do something about it, so I met with the West Australian Football Commission. We then started the Aboriginal culture awareness program. I met with all the West Australian Football League team captains and the administrators at Subiaco Oval and said that I would like to do some Aboriginal awareness training for the coaches, boards, committees and, ultimately, players so that it filters right through. They embraced it enthusiastically. It was terrific. I spoke to all the WAFL clubs individually. It gradually filtered through. Unfortunately, now that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has gone, that program has gone. I think it is a shame on the government. That program could have a meaningful impact. Quite frankly—I use this cliché quite frequently—it is like putting a bandaid on a broken arm. The program lasted for only two years and then we got turfed out and it was lost.

In addition, Netball WA got on board. I knew the then CEO at Netball WA and they were really enthusiastic. They wanted to do the same thing to teach young players the value, history and heritage of Aboriginal culture, so that when they go out there, they understand that saying these things about their Aboriginal teammates is not just inappropriate, but really cuts to their culture. It really gets to them as individuals and diminishes them. No-one in our community, particularly Aboriginal people, should feel diminished. That is why the cultural awareness program that we developed through the WAFL and Netball WA worked. It was doing some good things. I am really disappointed that it has been stopped. I hope that Hon Kyle McGinn can twist the arm of Hon Ben Wyatt and resurrect it, because it was doing good things. The WA footy commission and Netball WA were on board, but now it has gone. That is a shame.

Finally, I will finish with one of my last passions—tennis. I am very disappointed that we will not have any women tennis players in Perth next January. Having said that, I think what has happened with the ATP tournament is the right way to go. We will get some sensational players here. We will get Nadal here as a result. That is great, but it is a shame that it is at the expense of female tennis players. I spent three years coaching on the female tennis tour. I have been intimately involved with elite female tennis players. One of the greatest experiences of my life was to work at the elite level. They have tried so hard for generations to get pay equity. When I was on the tour in the 1980s and 1990s, they used to get half the pay of the men. They finally got pay equity. One of the girls I was with was Dinky Van Rensburg, the former number one player in South Africa. She was a top 20 player, but she could not play because of the inequity in her nation. Fortunately, apartheid came tumbling down in 1990 and she was allowed to play. All I am saying is that it means a lot to me, it means a lot to Western Australia and it means a lot to people in Perth. They love to watch the Hopman Cup. In real tennis terms, the Hopman Cup is a bit of a hit and giggle. There are no points but it is a bit of fun. It is a good prelude to the Australian Open. Now we will have a really good tournament with two, three or four of the top 10 players in men's tennis, but by goodness, I would love to see two, three or four top women players here as well. Guys, if you do not jump on the bandwagon soon, you will lose it. Hobart has one and Sydney has one, but we have nothing. It really disappoints me. It would be good to have two tournaments—a male tournament and a female tournament—side by side. If we are talking about discrimination, that is all well and good, but let us see the government put its money where its mouth is and fund a top-class women's tennis tournament in Perth.

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan) [11.57 am]: I thank Hon Kyle McGinn for bringing this motion forward. I think motions that allow for a large degree of consensus in the house are worth something. We

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon Samantha Rowe

do not always have to bicker and fight over every point that arises. Sometimes if we can demonstrate consensus in the house, we can set an example for the rest of the community. I thank the member for bringing forward the motion. I am very pleased to support it. I also endorse the comments that have been made by Hon Pierre Yang and Hon Peter Collier about the importance of support and the need for inclusion. Like Hon Peter Collier, I would dearly love to see a women's tournament come to this state. From my understanding of what the Minister for Tourism has been saying, it is the McGowan government's intent to make sure that that happens.

What I would like to focus on in the motion relates perhaps to the community level. Sport does not just happen on television or at Optus Stadium or RAC Arena; it predominantly happens in the community at council parks and facilities. Having young children who have come through the community sporting stream, I have had some experience of that, particularly with football. I think this is perhaps reflective of broader society.

Over time, discrimination in all its forms—racism, sexism and treating people with disabilities less favourably—has gone from being an overt thing, with people being very open about it and expressing their views publicly, to a covert thing. It has become more insidious in its covert nature. There is more innuendo, whispers and sly comments; people are not outwardly yelling racist statements from the sidelines. It is more of a player-against-player situation in which someone whispers some nasty thing in the ear of another player and the victim of that comment reacts. I have heard those comments from club officials, parents and others—sneaky little comments about the Aboriginal family or the Asian family in the community. It is horrible. I obviously come from a privileged white background. I do not have to deal with that level of racism at all. Sometimes I am seen by those who receive this racism and are subjected to these horrible comments as being part of the club because of the colour of my skin. It must be a terrible burden to be a person of colour and live in a society in which people still whisper those things to each other and make sly comments, and that carries on. Unfortunately, it is reflected in sport. It is more obvious at the elite level, when people comment on social media and cameras are pointed at people. That gets picked up. This everyday stuff—the stuff that happens on a Saturday morning down at the local park—is most crushing for a young person who wishes to be judged on their effort, on how well they play the game and for their sportsmanship or sportswomanship or however we want to describe it, but instead get judged by the colour of their skin or gender. This kind of discussion in this chamber is good because it sends a message to the community that it remains unacceptable to engage in that kind of behaviour. Not only should it be driven behind closed doors, but it also should be driven out of our society altogether.

Sport plays an important role in our community. It allows us to be active and healthy, and it provides us with social engagement and opportunities to meet new people. In many respects, it is the melting pot for our community. When I was in Japan a couple of weeks ago, I was asked a question by a Japanese minister. Japan has a society in which the community does not allow immigrants from anywhere. It has a very homogenous society when it comes to race. The minister was asking how we can have so many people from so many different backgrounds. I instantly said that one of the things that brings us all together is sport, which is important for social cohesion. When a player from a different background gets on the field or when female participants get on the field, we become tribal about our sporting team and we try to forget the racial, gender or other differences and how important it is to unify that.

As part of the great social experiment of the Australian nation, sport has been one of those elements that has driven greater social cohesion. We come across instances in which it points the other way and we see racism. I remember the time when Nicky Winmar pointed to his belly and the colour of his skin and how important and transformative that was for our community for that to be spoken out about. I remember when Michael Long stood up to the racial abuse that he received from Damian Monkhorst and how important it was when Damian, who did not seem to understand the impact that it was having on Michael, realised and came to the understanding that his words hurt and that they were dangerous and difficult for Michael Long. I recall his reaction and how he built on that and how important that was for the broader understanding of how Aboriginal people are perceived within society, not just in sport and when those sorts of incidents occurred. I remember when Chris Lewis used to play for the West Coast Eagles. Unfortunately, a common comment amongst members of my broader family was that he was a good player but he was a dirty player. I think that was a reflection on his Aboriginality. We did not realise the degree to which Chris Lewis had to face racial slurs when he was just playing the game that he loved. It was not until Dermott Brereton publicly said that he was ashamed of the things they used to say to him on the field, and how bad that was. To Dermott's credit, he came forward and made those comments. That was important. Chris Lewis's legacy can be viewed differently when we see the number of times he was suspended and what he was putting up with on the football field, which was never acceptable. I think we are now moving towards a society in which we see women as being more capable and equal in their contribution to elite level sports, particularly in sports that have been dominated by men, such as the team sports of AFL, rugby league, rugby union —

Hon Peter Collier: Cricket.

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: Yes, cricket—absolutely. Obviously, tennis is a hobby of Hon Peter Collier's. We had the “battle of the sexes” in the 1970s and the demonstration by Billie Jean King that a man could be beaten

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon
Samantha Rowe

by a woman. It seems so absurd these days that a middle-aged man could challenge the elite of female tennis, boldly saying that he could never be beaten by them. I am not very good at tennis at any level but the thought of facing someone like Serena Williams would petrify me. I would stand there shivering. She is so powerful. It is brilliant to see the way she plays the game, as she has for a long time. She is as equal in the tennis pantheon as Roger Federer or those other players. Her gender is not an important factor in making that assessment of her worth.

I appreciate Hon Kyle McGinn bringing this motion to the house. It is important that this house reflects on those things and expresses its support for a society free of discrimination on the basis of sex, racism, gender or disability. I commend the motion to the house.

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [12.06 pm]: My wife and I support and watch sport of any kind, even to the extent that my wife watches golf, but I draw the line at that.

When looking at this motion, unfortunately, we need to focus in some way on the negatives to highlight the positives. I want to draw the distinction between the two and the absolute optimum that we should be aiming for and the negatives that occur within sport. In researching this motion, I googled “brats in tennis”, just to see what sort of names would pop up. I was quite surprised that a young lady’s name came up first. Her name is Yulia Putintseva. I was quite surprised that her name came up first. I have known of and watched a lot of brats in tennis and it would not have been the first name that would have sprung to mind. I read the article and I was quite surprised that she received this nickname—there may be other reasons—mainly because of her actions at the 2019 Australian Open. Apparently, when she shook hands with her opponent, her handshake was very limp. She was quite upset with the crowd when she walked off because obviously she did not get a great deal of support. It surprised me greatly because I have seen quite a number of matches by Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic. We would have to be embarrassed as Australians to look at those two and what they have done during their careers to earn the name of brats in tennis. It seems to me that unfortunately women seem to be held up to different standards. That is a shame because there are so many great women within sport.

Then we turn to what I see as a great story occurring at the moment, and that is the rise of Ashleigh Barty. This young lady is a wonderful role model. I would love to put on the record my congratulations to her for winning the Miami Open. She has now moved into the top 10 in the world and manages to be tough, hard and combative, but one would not see a greater role model within sport. Hon Matthew Swinbourn raised the prospect of playing Serena Williams. I agree that she is another magnificent lady in sport. It was a little shocking to me a couple of years ago when a comparison was made of the prize money for a particular tournament in which both men and women competed. Serena won that particular championship and received a grand total of \$495 000, which is great. It is a fantastic amount. But Federer won the men’s competition in the same tournament and received \$731 000. When looking at the arguments about why there should be a differential, there is some talk about how in women’s tennis they play only the best of three sets and men play the best of five, but they are both spectacles in their own right. I imagine that people would pay the same amount of money to watch Federer play as they would to watch Serena Williams play. It just beggars belief why there should be a differential at that high level that impacts on the young men and women moving into sport.

I also looked at the recent phenomenon of the AFLW. As I said, my wife and I watch all sorts of sport. I remember watching the first games in 2017 and thinking that the skill levels of the AFLW players back then were not great. But of course, whenever people move up to a new sporting level, there is difference in skills. When the male players in the West Australian Football League move into the AFL, they bulk up and skill up. Obvious improvements are made. I watched the televised grand final of the AFLW in Adelaide and was absolutely amazed by the skill level of those ladies. It was great to see that people turned out in their thousands in Adelaide to watch such a great spectacle. One could not have asked for a more skilful game. Understandably there was a difference between the two sides, but the skill levels on display were magnificent. We might then consider the differences between what the ladies in that sport have to cope with compared with the men. The ladies are paid about \$27 000—there are differences in pay but that is roughly what they are paid for a season—and the men, in general, are paid about \$300 000. The ladies have to not only skill up, train and travel, but also, in most cases, have another job. The men would be just happy to have hobbies on the side because they do not have those other commitments. These are the challenges that we put before ladies in sport. I would just as likely go and watch a ladies’ game as a men’s game and admire the skill levels on display.

I will not go into the next matter in great detail because time always beats me, but also because I am embarrassed to be a man when I talk about it. There was some recent controversy about a photograph in the newspaper of a female footy player and her kick —

Hon Kyle McGinn: Tayla Harris.

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: Yes, Tayla Harris. I think the headline was “The Kick”. When I saw that photograph, I was amazed at the feat of skill required to make that kick. I was totally embarrassed that some males

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon Samantha Rowe

responded online to that photograph in a different way. As I said, I will not go into it in great detail because it is a total embarrassment, but any men who made disparaging online remarks about that photograph should be absolutely ashamed of themselves. They are disgusting people.

My wife and I enjoy watching many other sports. Cricket is one of them. I am absolutely in awe of people such as Ellyse Perry who is not only in the Australian women's cricket team, but has also represented Australia in soccer. To watch those women play cricket is most exciting. When I played cricket, the best bowling that I could do involved spin, so I am very excited that Georgia Wareham has been introduced into the team.

As a society, we need to do all we can to ensure that we admire the sporting achievements of both males and females. Anything we can do to promote that is important. We are doing a number of things at a state level that will have some benefit, one of which is to try to improve female representation in state sporting associations, because that sends the right message through the whole sport that there should be gender equality. A targeted participation program also encourages young females between 12 and 17 years of age to get active in sport. That also sends out the right sort of message. VenuesWest and the Department of Sport and Recreation are making a concerted effort to host and promote major women's sporting events, including the Matildas at HBF Park. I encourage everyone who can go to get there. The grand final featuring West Coast Fever will also be held at RAC Arena. Let us support them.

HON SAMANTHA ROWE (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.16 pm]: I do not have a lot of time to talk and Hon Kyle McGinn would like to give a reply, but I will take a couple of minutes to say that first of all I support this motion wholeheartedly. It is really great to see debate from across the chamber. One would imagine that people would support this motion. I want to very quickly touch on some of the discrimination that occurs to women in sports. I think that a lot of that stems from our lack of adequate sporting facilities and female change rooms. Often we find in our community that females from local sporting clubs are forced to get changed either in their cars, on the sidelines or in the male change rooms. That needs to change. We need to invest in that area so that they get the same conditions that a lot of the male sporting clubs get. I am pleased to say that back in 2018 our government invested \$250 000 a year to ensure we have suitable, female-friendly change rooms for our local female sporting clubs. When girls reach adolescence, we see a drop-off in numbers involved in sporting activities. Between nine and 11 years of age, they are quite active and really engaged. When they hit adolescence, which is between 12 and 17 years of age, those numbers drop off. We could make an assumption that the drop-off in numbers is due to a lack of proper facilities and change rooms. This investment does not completely fix the problem, but it goes some way to rectifying the situation and ensuring that more women get involved in sport. I am not overly sporty. That probably will not come as a shock to anyone. However, one of my favourite female sporting personalities is Sam Kerr. She is a fantastic role model for young women who want to get into sport—it is not just because her name is Sam. I wanted to get her name on the record as a great female sporting role model. I hope that one day we will not have to have these conversations about making sure sporting communities are inclusive. I thank my friend and colleague Hon Kyle McGinn for bringing this motion to the house. It is a timely motion, given that we have seen many media reports recently about discrimination in sports.

HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral) [12.19 pm] — in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions on the motion today. I thought it was a very good motion to debate and I was very impressed with all the contributions. Hon Pierre Yang, once again, spoke about equality and fairness. He talks about that every time he gets up and he is very passionate about it. His views are very well respected. Hon Peter Collier's comments about ignorance regarding Aboriginal culture were very true, unfortunately. As Australians, I think we need much more education about it. Hon Peter Collier also made comments about the education system. If culture is embedded in that system and it flows out onto the sporting field, it will just go on and up. I think kids, no matter their age, always respect their coach and their teammates, and they follow what their teammates do. If we get that ignorance out of the system, we can go a long way to getting a better result in sports, at not just a grassroots level but also a professional level.

Hon Matthew Swinbourn talked about community and sport. He was bang on. Being a father, he would understand exactly how hard that is. We need to monitor what happens on the sporting field and on the sidelines to ensure that kids are protected from that type of discrimination. I remember it when I was a kid and it is still happening today. Unfortunately, every now and then, we hear about a parent on the sideline who goes a little bit too far. That little bit too far needs to be stamped out completely—not just with an apology and a ban for a couple of games. It needs to stop. That was very well put by Hon Matthew Swinbourn. I picked up pay equality from Hon Martin Pritchard's contribution. He was bang on. What is the difference between Serena Williams and Roger Federer? They are great tennis players with amazing sporting ability. The Hopman Cup showed that very clearly. I think it was packed every time they were on the court. When they finally got to play each other, it was quite a spectacle. Hon Samantha Rowe's point about changing rooms was also very valid. It is something I hear from many sporting teams, particularly in the goldfields. We do lack changing rooms, which again goes back to what I said about infrastructure. Male players

Hon Kyle McGinn; Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; Hon Martin Pritchard; Hon
Samantha Rowe

of these sports already have infrastructure in place and a process that is designed to get kids from outback areas and schools into professional sports. That channel is not designed for women in sport.

I want to mention a story from my electorate, in the goldfields. It is a great story. It happened in October last year and it was reported on ABC news. It is about teenagers Jasmin Stewart and McKenzie Dowrick. They come from Kambalda, which is a very small town about 50 kilometres from Kalgoorlie. They are football players who managed to get picked up in the women's Australian Football League draft. In a small regional town like that, it is quite a feat. I have no doubt that they would have been playing in difficult conditions and trying to get a game would have been very difficult, but they managed to make it. They joined a childhood friend Arianna Clarke who was recruited last year. The trio come from the outback mining town of Kambalda, six hours' drive east of Perth, where football is the life in small towns. On the weekend, everyone gets involved in football. It is part of the community—bred into it. I quote the article —

Ms Stewart said their upbringing in the outback had toughened them up—they learnt to hold their own against the boys because there was no competition for girls.

My sister, who is not as well built as I am, played in our rugby union team when I was 14 years old. Rugby union is quite a physical sport and I remember that the front page of the paper had a photo of my sister when we were lifting her up in a lineout. It is probably the funniest family photo we have. She played in men's sport because there was no female team. She gave footy away after that season because it was quite dangerous. The article continues —

“I don't think it was much of a disadvantage, playing with the boys made me tougher—made me a better footballer,” Ms Stewart said.

That is the heart and soul of someone from a regional area. She took on a challenge regardless of what was in front of her. She went out and had a crack and now she is drafted. I thank everyone for their contributions on the motion. I appreciate it.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.