

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT HIGH PERFORMANCE SERVICE CENTRE

274. Mr T.K. WALDRON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

This morning the new Western Australian Institute of Sport High Performance Service Centre was opened by the Premier and the minister. Can the minister please update the house on how this government is supporting Western Australia's elite athletes?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question and for his unwavering support of and contribution to sport in Western Australia. It was fabulous that the member was present this morning when the Premier and I opened this fantastic new facility. This government has a strong track record in supporting sport across all levels. Today we celebrated the opening of a \$33.4 million facility for the WA Institute of Sport. The sophisticated and technical facility will give athletes every opportunity to reach their full potential, and that includes universal access for our Paralympians. Members who visited the former WAIS facility would know that the gymnasium was on the ground floor with the only access point being down a flight of stairs—there was no elevator. The new facility is on one level —

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am talking about access for our Paralympians. We have created a facility that is universally accessible for not only our abled-bodied athletes, but also our Paralympians. I am talking about fantastic athletes who deserve equal accessibility to elite training facilities. With the Rio Olympics and the Paralympics just a little more than 12 months away, the completion of the centre has been timely. Western Australian contenders now have the opportunity to shift into the facility to embed themselves with their trainers and all the other support staff who operate from WAIS, and ultimately work towards representing Australia in Rio. The Premier, the former Minister for Sport and Recreation and the local member, Bill Marmion, also attended the opening of the State Netball Centre, which is a \$26-million facility located at Matthews Netball Centre and is the spiritual home of netball in Western Australia. It is now a permanent training facility for West Coast Fever, which previously had to travel to a number of different facilities around the state to train. Everybody involved in netball is overwhelmed and so excited to finally have a home that they can call their own. It represents the next chapter for netball in this state. It is a focal point for not only elite sportswomen, but also grassroots sportspeople and the community. Both the WAIS and netball facilities have very strong connections to grassroots community support in and around the precinct, which is really important. This state government has a strong commitment to increasing participation in sport and recreation, and I comfortably say that no other government has made such a significant investment in sporting infrastructure and facilities to engage more people to become active from the grassroots to the elite. Today was a fantastic day for everyone involved with WAIS, and I encourage any member who has not seen it to visit this state-of-the-art facility.