

Mr Terry Waldron; Mr Bob Kucera; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Chairman; Mr Rod Sweetman;  
Ms Jaye Radisich; Mr Mark McGowan

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**Division 61: Sport and Recreation, \$38 589 000 -**

Mrs D.J. Guise, Chairman.

Mr R.C. Kucera, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr R. Alexander, Director General.

Ms J. Ough, Manager, Finance.

Mr N. McCombe, Acting Director, Facilities and Camps.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: On page 1038 one of the appropriation and forward estimates is the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, which is a fantastic fund. Over 50 per cent of the fund last year went to regional Western Australia, for which I was most grateful.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: It was 63 per cent.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I did say over 50 per cent. It is excellent. It is very important to regional Western Australia. I have raised in the Parliament the question of increasing it, but the budget papers seem to indicate that over the next three forward estimates the amounts are decreasing. I would be very concerned if the minister were looking at winding back this fund. I wonder why the amounts are being scaled back, or have I read it incorrectly?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member has read the line correctly but, as the member for Hillarys said during the previous division, the CSRFF is one of those funds that carry money over into the new year. If I may use a local example, in my area a hockey club was for three years trying to get a new field. It eventually backed away from it, but each year for the past three years the money has been held in suspense in trust for the club. We carried the money over. The estimated actual usually comes out at a little over \$9 million every year, which is new money that comes in on an annualised basis. We are looking wherever possible to try to increase that. I congratulate the Department of Sport and Recreation on the way it has conducted this, not just under this Government but under previous Governments. If the sporting organisations and local councils for whatever reason are not able to deliver in the time frame, the fund allows it to be rolled over into other years, but they can always come back to the pot. It is a great way of running government funding, quite frankly. The simple answer is that this year the budget estimate is that we will spend a little over \$2.75 million above what we have allowed in the budget. That is carried over from last year. It will therefore fluctuate from year to year.

[4.40 pm]

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I refer the minister to page 1044 and to the capital works program. The paragraphs there do not have dot points, but I assume that they are meant to. The fourth paragraph refers to the \$4.8 million that was in last year's budget for the athletics facility on the AK Reserve. On page 1045 there is a line item for the State Athletic Centre, AK Reserve, for \$4.8 million and \$1 million to be spent in this coming financial year. That comes as a bit of a surprise, because I thought the minister was still negotiating with the Town of Cambridge about this matter. What will that \$1 million be spent on? What stage is the Government at in its negotiations with the Town of Cambridge? Does the Government have a time line in mind for the development and the building of this facility, which a lot of people are waiting very anxiously for and which, in their minds, is long past its due date?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Firstly, I congratulate the member for Churchlands for supporting this proposal, albeit that it still has to work its way through the normal approval processes. A lot of people are waiting for it. I will quickly provide the current status and then I will defer to Ron Alexander. The Town of Cambridge has appointed consultants Clifton Coney Stevens (WA) Pty Ltd to develop the necessary documentation to go to market to identify a development partner for the development of Perry Lakes Stadium and the construction of replacement facilities at AK Reserve for athletics, basketball and rugby union. At this stage we are at long last starting to move. In the meantime - and this is not shown in the item the member is talking about - we have upgraded the Ern Clarke Athletic Centre in the City of Canning. I congratulate Mayor Mick Lekias for his tremendous support for athletics in that city. That stadium will be ready for use as a standby for the 2004-05 athletic season in the event of our ever having to close Perry Lakes because of the level of deterioration that is starting to occur there. Having said that, I now defer to Ron Alexander to advise where our negotiations are at and what it is proposed to spend that \$1 million on.

Mr ALEXANDER: Originally an amount of \$4.8 million was allocated in 2004-05 and we moved \$3.8 million of that into 2005-06 because we were concerned that the money would not be able to be spent in this coming year because of various hold-ups. We left \$1 million in there hoping that the project will get under way. There has been some movement. In the last couple of days a program has been sent out to all ratepayers expressing the

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Town of Cambridge's intentions about what it is going to do with AK Reserve and the Perry Lakes moneys. The town has called for expressions of interest seeking a corporate partner to develop the land and to go ahead and develop the three projects at AK Reserve, which are athletics, rugby and basketball. There have been some hold-ups on a range of issues, which are council related, if you like, and there have also been some issues with the WA Planning Commission and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure concerning zoning of that land. In direct response to the question about the \$1 million, we believe that later on in the financial year there will be the capacity to spend that money. It depends on council decisions.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: What is a realistic time line for the completion of the construction of the new facilities?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: We are hoping to look at contracts by October of this year. Let me be blunt: Perry Lakes needs to be replaced. The land there is zoned deferred urban. We do not have any problems with zoning it urban for development. The conservative estimate of the amount that the council would pocket, even if the council went to the minimalist model for the redevelopment of that land as urban, would be between \$70 million and \$90 million. The ratepayers of the City of Cambridge are looking to get between \$70 million and \$90 million based on current estimates. The actual cost of replacing the total playing areas at Perry Lakes, including basketball and rugby, will cost about \$20 million over a two-year period. Conservatively, even if it was a \$70 million recoup, the council will make \$50 million out of it.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: It is the council's land.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Maybe it is. It was a political issue. The member for Warren-Blackwood has his facilities; this is a facility for the State and not just for the City of Cambridge. Everybody is in agreement. There was a vote of five to four by the council to move on with it. I have even offered to the council that we would put our \$4.8 million up-front to try to minimise whatever construction or planning costs are incurred. We are willing to go on the front foot to do that. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has assured me that once the contracts are signed we will move towards the urban zoning. The council needs to stop shillyshallying and get on with the job of making sure all of our kids can go to Beijing.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Some members of council.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Yes, some members of council. We have had tremendous support from the chief executive officer and a number of members of council. We certainly have not had a great deal of support from the mayor. It concerns me that there have been attempts to turn this into a silly political football. There is no need for that. The money is there. The council, for whatever reason, can make good money out of the whole thing, but I am concerned kids will want to go to Beijing in four years and we will be struggling to provide decent facilities, all for the sake of a bit of shillyshallying. It is a good project; it is a win-win for everybody. Most importantly, it is a win for the people of Cambridge. At the end of the day, for every year they delay, it is estimated they are missing out on up to half a million dollars worth of rates on an annualised basis. As the member for Warren-Blackwood said, it is the town's land and the town's money. It is, but it has always been the venue for state athletics. We are happy to pay that. We have also said that we are more than willing to negotiate about the maintenance of a state facility within that town. I thank the member for Churchlands for her support on this matter and for making sure that our kids can go to Beijing.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The wording of this paragraph is ambiguous and implies at the end that the facilities will be at Perry Lakes. It should be clarified that it is not Perry Lakes; it is not part of the Perry Lakes development. The funds from it will be used in another venue close by at AK Reserve. It is not very well expressed.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I am happy to clarify that. The member for Churchlands is correct; the sporting facility will not be developed on the Perry Lakes site. It is anticipated that it will be developed on a site known as AK Reserve, which is adjacent to the current Challenge Stadium site and also forms part of the Charles Varyard complex.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It is a separate reserve.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: It is known as AK Reserve and it is understood that the portion of Perry Lakes that is listed for development will return to urban development.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I refer the minister to page 1038 and the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. I also believe it is a very good fund. First, as there has been a carryover, is there a real increase in this budget, or is there an increase because of those carryover funds? Secondly, the minister mentioned that 63 per cent of the fund is spent in regional WA. For the reasons the minister has just explained in relation to the Town of Cambridge, very few local governments in rural Western Australia own endowment land or land that they can sell or develop to provide their contributions. The majority of councils in urban Western Australia or in the city and regional centres have significant funds in reserve and really do not require this community support from the

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CSRFF. I put it to the minister that it would be a good change if all of the money from the CSRFF was spent in rural Western Australia rather than given to communities and councils that are already flush with money.

[4.50 pm]

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I remind the member that all of our state and national events are held at Perry Lakes.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I am not talking about Perry Lakes.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I am talking about national facilities. There is a degree of demand for state facilities in which state games can be played and in which the young people from Manjimup and Pemberton, who compete so well, can be part of the process. Sixty-three per cent of the total funding - a little over \$9 million - essentially goes to half a million people. The remainder goes to the 1.3 million people who live in the metropolitan area. It is a fairly reasonable split-up of the funding.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: The same situation existed when we were in government.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Exactly.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I do not think it is an ideal situation in any way, shape or form. This Government - and the previous Government did the same sort of thing - spent money from the CSRFF on Arena Joondalup. That community does not need to find the ongoing funds for that facility. However, in rural and regional Western Australia not only does the community have to pay for the council's contribution but also it has to raise one-third of the funding itself. That does not happen anywhere in the city. It is a system that has worked very well for a long time. However, I suggest it would be a good initiative of this Government if it changed the system and allocated all of the money from the CSRFF to rural and regional Western Australia.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Funding from the CSRFF is treated the same right across the State. I admit that some councils may have a better capacity to fund projects than others. However, the one-third, one-third, one-third break-up is applied to all CSRFF grants. I cannot see the logic in the member's argument when the rural and regional areas are already getting 63 per cent of the funding from the CSRFF. With regard to the member's question about the actual amount, when we first came into government there was an annualised amount of \$7.75 million for the CSRFF. Since then, we have increased that to \$9 million on an annualised basis. Obviously the Government is constantly revisiting these issues. The committee does a great job. It does take into consideration the capacity of the various towns to pay.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: The minister has missed the point.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I am not sure that I did miss the point, because I agree that it is extremely difficult. I must also make the comment that the capacity of the people in Ellenbrook or Swan Hills to pay is no different from the capacity of the people in Wagin, Manjimup or Pemberton. Some of the areas at the top end of my electorate, such as Wanneroo, Balga and Westminster -

Mr P.D. OMODEI: When we split Wanneroo it had \$30 million in the bank, and so did Joondalup. The City of Swan is also a very wealthy council.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: But the community's capacity to pay is not anywhere near the capacity of the Town of Cambridge. I do not disagree with the member with regard to the attitude taken by the Town of Cambridge.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: The Town of Cambridge has about \$10 million in the bank.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member is probably right. He will not get any argument from me.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: The Town of Vincent has \$10 million in the bank. The Town of Victoria Park has \$10 million in the bank. How many country councils can draw on that amount of money? What I am saying is that collectively, and in a bipartisan way, we should look at the CSRFF and change the policy so that all of that money is allocated to regional Western Australia.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The point that has just been made to me is that 27 per cent of the population is now getting pretty close to 60 per cent, or two-thirds, of that money, so I think the balance is there.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Come on! How much wealth is produced in downtown Perth?

The CHAIRMAN: I think the member has expressed his point of view. To be fair to the other committee members, I will move on.

Mr R.N. SWEETMAN: I refer to the second dot point on page 1038, which states -

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The State Sporting Facilities Plan (SSFP) provides a strategic and systematic approach for the future development of Western Australia's infrastructure at the national and international level, based on community needs and sustainability.

My question is a way of leading into the redevelopment of Subiaco Oval and the provision of security by the Western Australian Government to the West Australian Football Commission, and also the participation of the Australian Football League through Wayne Jackson at the time in that redevelopment. A promise was made at that time that that would facilitate player development for the Dockers and the Eagles. Has that happened; and, if it has, has it happened also at the West Australian Football League level? The Premier said just after he gained office that one of his pet hates was the high cost of admission particularly to Australian Football League games. The cost of tickets at that time was about \$15.75. It is now \$16.50. Clearly he was of the view that there was some room to move on the cost for the public to access AFL games. My understanding is that a limited number of tickets are available at the gate for Dockers games, but no tickets are available at the gate for Eagles games. I think people need to book through an agency, which then costs them the best part of \$7 for the marginal fee or whatever the booking agency takes for itself. Perhaps the proceeds of that are shared with the Eagles and the Dockers as well. Has the restructure and the lower interest rate that is now applicable to the \$34.5 million loan to the West Australian Football Commission for the redevelopment of Subiaco Oval benefited player development at the AFL level for the Dockers and the Eagles, and has that trickled down and facilitated player development at the West Australian Football League level? Is there likely to be any room to move on admission prices to AFL games in particular?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I will take the last point first. That is an issue for the commission. It is not an issue for the Government. Obviously we would all like the cost of going to the football to be less. I pay a considerable amount of money now for my Eagles membership, and this year I am starting to wonder whether it is worth it. They are doing well. What a great game Jacko played last week.

Mr R.N. SWEETMAN: It is like marriage - it is for better or for worse.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: He will be greatly missed. He is an absolutely brilliant footballer.

The restructure of the debt has occurred and is ongoing. We have restructured the capacity of the commission to carry that debt. The development of football is occurring, and I congratulate both the Eagles and the Dockers on what they are doing themselves quite apart from the commission's efforts. They are doing some great stuff. The things that are being done through Clontarf Football Academy by Gerard Neesham are also outstanding for the development of our young people. In addition, we are funding the country sports enrichment scheme, which is allowing us to get teams into the country and also to provide some support generally. With regard to the role of the West Australian Football Commission, perhaps the member for Wagin could help more than I. I cannot really add much to that. I cannot speak on behalf of the commission. I anticipate that the commission will now have more funds available to it and will be putting that into the development of sport. The Auskick program is working brilliantly at junior level. I have a fair bit to do with the junior and amateur teams in my area. I will ask Ron Alexander to comment on that.

Mr ALEXANDER: There is a range of responses. The first is that 4 000 seats are set aside at a basic price for people to walk up and apply for. Obviously there is a call on those 4 000 seats, depending on the game. With regard to player development and the surety on the loan, I am told by Wayne Bradshaw, the Chief Executive of the West Australian Football Commission, that previously the commission was paying about \$2.7 million a year on the loan. The surety on the loan, which has reduced the percentage that the commission has to pay for its money, and some of the other initiatives that the commission is taking, have resulted in the commission now paying about \$1.6 million a year instead of \$2.7 million. That has had a significant impact on the commission's finances. The commission has also restructured the different zones so that they will be more efficient for junior development. It is also doing a range of things to make it easier for juniors and their mothers and fathers to understand how to go about the registration process. A range of developments has flowed from that, and also from the Carter report, which was commissioned by the Australian Football League and looked at the situation in all the different States. The West Australian Football Commission's submission in that report stated that, with the assistance of the State, the Australian Football League will give a further \$400 000 to football in this State. There has therefore been a flow-on effect.

[5.00 pm]

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I add that I have met on three occasions with Mr Andrew Demetriou since he became Chief Executive Officer of the AFL. On each occasion we met we made sure that the importance of club development at junior levels was uppermost in our minds from the Government's perspective. He agreed with that focus because soccer is now making quite a marked inroad into the development of footy. More and more kids are going into soccer and other sports and the AFL realises that it must put more money into the more junior levels

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of the sport. I think sometimes the junior levels are at a higher level than the level at the other end. The question from the member is good. The commission is now reacting to the development of the game.

The CHAIRMAN: It is pertinent to remind members that four divisions are left, including this division, and there is half an hour to go.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I refer to the fifth dot point on page 1044 under major initiatives for 2004-05, which refers to strengthened statewide delivery mechanisms for coaches and women in sport initiatives. I want to concentrate for a moment on the initiatives for women in sport. I draw the minister's attention to netball, an area that I know he has always been very interested in. The minister will be aware that the state netball organisation is desperate to get a home base, especially for the state team and for administration. Will the minister say where he is at in discussions with the organisation and whether government will in the near future help to provide facilities for netball?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: There is some movement there. There are various sectors of the netball association.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am aware of that.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: There are some differences in views.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am aware of that, too.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I know. I will defer to Ron Alexander to tell the member the current situation. We are very keen to do something. It is the biggest participatory sport for women in this State.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Absolutely, and women have been the poor relation in sport in many ways. The time has come to put some effort into providing facilities for women in sport. I am very pleased to see in this year's budget a general initiative for women in sport.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I thank the member for Churchlands and I tell her that I have a very strong advocate in my home for women's netball.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am aware of that too, which is why I am asking the question.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: She is called Mrs Kucera.

Mr ALEXANDER: A nominal amount of \$3 million has been put aside for netball facilities in the 2006-07 budget. Also, we are studying nine different sites for a state training centre. The netball organisations have said that they are looking for a state training centre, as the Perth Orioles play at Challenge Stadium. A state training centre would comprise a show court that would have anywhere between 600 and 1 200 places for spectators, depending on the study, surrounded by between four and six training courts. Various sites have been identified, including Challenge Stadium itself, the Matthews Netball Centre -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: As patron of the Perth Netball Association, I would be an advocate for that.

Mr ALEXANDER: There is also the Loftus Recreational Centre. These are the sorts of sites that have been identified.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: There are some good opportunities there.

Mr ALEXANDER: There are and a study is being done to nail down the best site for netball. There has been some conjecture on the best site, so a study is being done.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Did I understand correctly that the Government is considering allocating about \$3 million in 2005-06?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: It is in 2006-07.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That is two years away.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: A fund of \$3 million has been allocated for facilities. However, from talking to various people involved, I suspect that a bit of work must be done to identify a cooperative site.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Will the next two years be spent identifying and planning the site and then building in 2006-07? Is that the time line that the minister is looking at?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Yes and nominally it will occur if we can get agreement on WA Netball's requirements.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I refer to page 1041 and the sixth dot point of major achievements for 2003-04, which refers to \$9 million from the sports lotteries account. The minister mentioned the country sports enrichment scheme, which is also a terrific program that must be maintained and even increased. Does the funding for that

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program come from the sports lotteries account; and, if not, where does it come from? How much is the funding for the next financial year for the country sports enrichment scheme?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: It is a fairly complicated system and I will defer either to Ron Alexander or Jenny Ough.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: My main point is whether funding will continue at the same level or be increased, as it is such a good scheme.

Mr ALEXANDER: Yes, funding will continue at the same level.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Is that level \$250 000?

Mr ALEXANDER: A total of \$75 000 came from the consolidated fund and \$150 000 from the sports lotteries account. This Government has put in an extra \$300 000 over four years into the program. It has, therefore, been increased and that increase will remain.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Is the annual allocation \$225 000?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: On an annualised basis the fund is about \$225 000 in total. However, a number of other funds have been brought in. Also, through some changes that we have made in the past 12 months, additional funds will be available in the next round of funding for programs that are linked to health, education and law and order. Additional funds can be used for specific programs put up by sports bodies. I have participated in a number of forums with the major associations and some minor associations for both sport and recreational programs. The community has already expressed interest in accessing those funds, which is actually new funding. A little more than \$2 million will be available for that series of programs.

[Mr A.D. McRae took the Chair.]

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I look forward to presenting the minister's trophy at one of those events on Saturday in Katanning.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I very much thank the member for Wagin; well done!

Ms J.A. RADISICH: I refer to page 1038 and the second dot point on the state sporting facilities plan. As the minister knows, I have quite an interest in the future of the State Equestrian Centre and how it will be upgraded and maintained in the future. The Equestrian Federation of Australia (WA Branch) has undertaken that role to date. However, it needs assistance to ensure that the facility is up to the best international standard so that the State can attract equestrian events, promote the equestrian industry and support the tourism industry. Will the minister tell me what hope there is that the plight of the SEC might be considered in the state sporting facilities plan in the future?

[5.10 pm]

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The State Equestrian Centre is recognised as one of our facilities. I thank the member for Swan Hills for arranging for me to visit the SEC facility recently and I compliment the member for her support of it. We are presently undertaking a study of that facility as part of the overall state plan. Once those needs have been identified, whatever business plans arise from them will come back to me to consider. Nothing is shown in this budget as a specific development for that area. However, it is recognised as a major state sporting facility. When that study is completed, we will get back to the SEC.

I was very impressed with what was said to me when I visited the SEC about seeking support from other government agencies. There was a very strong view, for instance, that the centre could be a venue for mounted police training and other agencies that use equestrian programs across government. I compliment the staff there on looking outside the square and seeing what else can be done. I have mentioned that to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. That will be taken into account when we do the needs survey.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I refer to the mission statement on page 1038, which is to enhance the quality of life of Western Australians through their participation and achievement in sport and recreation. We read much in the newspaper about obese children and youth in growing numbers. What is in this budget, specifically, to provide sport and recreation and fitness programs for obese children and youth?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The broad range of the provision of sport and recreation -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I said specifically.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The development of sport and recreation facilities themselves -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: If there is a specific program, the minister can say yes; and, if not, he can say no. I will then ask why we do not have one and whether the minister will support doing something about it.

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Mr R.C. KUCERA: With respect, there are specific programs. If children play football or cricket, they are addressing obesity.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No; with due respect, that is not what I am asking the minister.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The Premier's physical activity task force, which comes under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, overlaps all the programs we undertake to assist with these issues. We are strengthening the capacity of sport and recreation organisations generally. A further \$9 million per annum is budgeted for that to occur. Eighty per cent of community sports are run by volunteers. A broad range of programs is implemented to make sure that happens. At the end of the day, if a child is on a tennis court, he or she will be participating in sport.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I know what the minister is saying and I applaud all of those programs. I am asking specifically about programs directed at obese children and youth. If there is none, that is fine, but we should do something about it.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member seems to be implying that there is something wrong with what we are doing.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No. I applaud what is being done in those areas. I am asking about a specific program.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: We are also encouraging larger agencies such as the Department for Planning and Infrastructure and the Department of Health to look at programs. Prior to that I referred to an additional \$2 million to bring into play specific programs for health services, education about health and issues concerning law and order. I anticipate that all those categories will be aimed at getting people onto the sporting field. As I say, anyone who is playing sport is addressing obesity.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: They are clearly general programs. What the minister is telling me by omission is that no specific program is directed at obese children and youth.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I cannot tell the member for Churchlands what sporting organisations are doing.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: He is at your mercy.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I was being very kind before.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member for Churchlands is being a bit too general in her question.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No, I asked a specific question: is there a program for obese children and youth? The minister is providing a general answer.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Every program that is supported by the State addresses obesity in young people.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That is not what I am asking.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do you think there should be a fat kids' program? How many people do you think would participate in that?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: We have programs for all sorts of groups in the community.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! This is not a program for general debate.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am very happy with the answer; it was terrific!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The third major achievement on page 1041 is about the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. I understand the fund is structured so that in metropolitan areas a third of the funding amounts to a contribution from the sporting group, a third from the local authority and a third from the State to whichever capital project is involved. I was under the impression that in country areas the State funds half, a community group funds 25 per cent and the local authority funds 25 per cent, and that was an improvement under this Government. If I am wrong, I seek the minister's guidance. I felt that was a fairly substantial improvement by this Government.

Will the minister provide by way of supplementary information the CSRFF spending in Rockingham over the past four budgets - this year and the previous three years?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I will take that question on notice and I would be happy to supply those figures by way of supplementary information. I will supply the member for Rockingham with the CSRFF figures for the past three years.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I would like the figures from 2000-01 - that is, for four years.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: That includes the last year of the previous Government.

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Mr M. McGOWAN: No; the 2000-01 budget was a Gallop Government budget. I would like the figures for every budget from then on.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Rockingham is referring to the budget we are now dealing with and the previous three budgets.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is correct.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: That is my understanding.

*[Supplementary Information No B20.]*

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member for Rockingham is right about the first part of the question. With reference to the question previously asked by the member for Warren-Blackwood, special assistance grants are available that allow applicants to qualify for a grant greater than the standard third of a project cost; that is, up to 50 per cent of it.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Which Government put that arrangement in place?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: This Government implemented it to make sure that the areas that have been missing out can access greater funding. There is no doubt that some areas of the State need additional assistance.

The CHAIRMAN: I draw members' attention to the time. It is now 17 minutes past five. We are required under standing orders to have dealt with divisions 61, 62, 63 and 64 by 5.30 pm. I leave that in members' hands to manage for the next 15 minutes.

Mr R.N. SWEETMAN: What are the actuaries saying about state and federal tort law reforms for public liability insurance? Although the ink has only just dried on the legislation, is the minister able to indicate whether sporting organisations in regional Western Australia will benefit from reduced premiums?

[5.20 pm]

Mr R.C. KUCERA: My advice from the director general is that it appears that the increases are starting to level out. It is starting to work and even out as a result of the impact of the changes to legislation, plus the two stages of the Civil Liability Act, the review of the law of negligence, the Ipp report, the Volunteers (Protection From Liability) Act, the Insurance Commission amendment legislation and the fact that, in many instances, we can provide not-for-profit organisations with insurance cover through RiskCover if they meet the very specific eligibility criteria. However, quite frankly, in the short term, I do not see premiums decreasing. We hope there will be some levelling out. More than 1 000 participants have attended the Department of Sport and Recreation seminars. There have been 45 statewide seminars and more than 10 000 "Can you risk it" resource kits have been put out to assist clubs. Those initiatives are starting to work.

Finally, I encourage sporting organisations generally to examine pooling options. A number of the major sporting associations have now implemented those, and they are able to command some quite reasonable rates right across the nation. I urge sporting associations, wherever possible, to look at those kinds of pooling arrangements. I am not sure whether any specific advice on that is available through the Department of Sport and Recreation, but I encourage it to follow up on it.

**The appropriation was recommended.**