

KIDSPORT PROGRAM

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

I notice that the state government's KidSport program has had more than 10 000 Aboriginal children sign up to participate in club sport since it began. Could the minister please explain the reach the program has across our state?

**Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Members would know that this program was put in place when the member for Wagin was the Minister for Sport and Recreation. It has been so successful that nearly every state in Australia has picked it up in one form or another. We hit a really exciting milestone a couple of weeks ago when we signed up the 10 000<sup>th</sup> Aboriginal child to this program. A total of 55 000 children can now participate in organised sport who otherwise could not afford to. I think that is quite remarkable not only from the perspective of this state government, but also for the whole community. I am sure that everyone in this house understands the value of being part of organised sport—part of a team. Certainly from my perspective, growing up in a small community, my father encouraged me to be a part of every sporting organisation. That added to —

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean!

Several members interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Sorry, Mr Speaker, there is a bit of a drip on the other side.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, through the Chair.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Although the opposition is making light of this fact, it is a remarkable program. A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of meeting Sorrell and Kelliesha Dimer, who are part of the Kingsley Junior Football Club. Kelliesha stands about so high and she is just about to start playing football in the same team as her older brother. I will just say that 90 per cent of the 10 000 kids are from regional Western Australia, which is another great statistic from the program. Members in this house are welcome to talk to their local Department of Sport and Recreation manager, who will be able to provide them with the statistics in their electorates.

A member interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** The member certainly does, and they would be happy to provide him with the statistics in his local area.

Unsurprisingly, Australian Rules football is the most popular sport picked up by the kids. That probably comes as no surprise to anyone in this house. It is really pleasing, particularly from my perspective, that 41 per cent of Aboriginal KidSport participants are girls. That is great ahead of what is happening this weekend at Domain Stadium with the women's football curtain-raiser match. A new generation of women are coming through and participating in sport. From our perspective, no child should be denied the opportunity to be part of an organised team sport because they cannot afford a uniform or to pay registration fees. Another great milestone reached.