

## NETBALL WORLD CUP

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [12.08 pm]: I rise to inform the house that this week Australia is hosting the fourteenth Netball World Cup in Sydney. Netball is the largest female community-based sport in the world. More than 70 nations play and over 21 million people participate worldwide. Netball makes a real difference in the lives of women and girls. Comprising 16 teams and culminating this Sunday at Sydney Olympic Park, the Netball World Cup is considered one of the sport's two pinnacle events. The other is the Commonwealth Games, held every four years, with the Gold Coast to host the next edition in 2018. To date, the Australian team—the Diamonds—is the most successful national netball team, winning 10 of the 13 world cups. The front court of the Diamonds is dominated by West Coast Fever's dynamic duo of Caitlin Bassett and Natalie Medhurst. All members will remember the fantastic year just completed by the Fever, when they reached the finals of the ANZ Championship for the first time. The Aussie Diamonds, and the West Coast Fever here in WA, are truly role models for over 137 000 netball participants across the state; it is the number one female participation sport.

Netball WA has more than 45 000 registered members across 11 regions, 73 associations, 1 277 clubs and 4 300 teams. The state also engages more than 10 000 registered participants in NetSetGo—Netball Australia's introductory netball program aimed at children from five to 10 years old. Netball is also one of the largest participation sports within WA's Aboriginal communities, with over 8 500 Indigenous participants. This year a record number of teams participated in the annual National Aboriginal Islander Day Observance Committee netball carnival—the largest Indigenous netball carnival in Australia, with 81 teams taking part. Earlier this year, I had the privilege of officially opening the brand-new State Netball Centre—a purpose-built high-performance netball centre, and home for the sport of netball. One of the best of its kind in the southern hemisphere, the State Netball Centre presents a high-performance training environment accessible to the state's key athletes across all levels of the sport. It also provides Netball WA with the opportunity to showcase state netball; to run social, corporate and beginner programs, such as NetSetGo; and to engage with new markets. The Australian Diamonds have had a successful start to the world cup, beating Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. However, sadly, a 21-game winning streak came to an end against New Zealand on Sunday. The Diamonds have since bounced back, beating England last night 51–41. They will now go on to play South Africa tonight. I am sure the whole Parliament joins me in wishing them all the best for the remainder of the tournament.