

**DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION — TOP CLUB PROJECT — WHEATBELT**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [2.59 pm]: I rise to update the house on an exciting new project being rolled out across the wheatbelt. Top Club engages club members in developing club values and identifying appropriate and inappropriate behaviour through a range of workshops. This project is part of a partnership between the Western Australian Sports Federation and eight state sport associations—Basketball Western Australia, Football West, Hockey Western Australia, Netball Western Australia, Rugby Western Australia, Surf Life Saving Western Australia, the Western Australian Cricket Association and the West Australian Football Commission. The state government, through the Department of Sport and Recreation and the RAC, is providing the financial support to enable this program to occur in the wheatbelt.

Top Club is an initiative that has been developed by sport for sport. It engages club members to develop club values and vision and to identify appropriate and inappropriate behaviour, as part of developing a year-long club plan. The philosophy is that the better a club is in its overall affairs—for example, people development, coaching, administration and governance—the better the club will be overall. Top Club seeks to support a change in club culture through strong and effective leadership that sets appropriate behaviour standards for club members. Through this process Top Club seeks to change individual attitudes and ultimately behaviour through club experiences. This is a different approach to the tell, promotion, and do, compliance and policy, strategies that have been traditionally implemented. Top Club has partnered with the RAC in recognition that the community club setting, particularly in regional communities, is an important place to have conversations around community issues such as alcohol and driving.

Workshops have been developed to address alcohol service and consumption, driving tired and also getting home safely after a game. These will complement discussions around appropriate behaviour of club members. The wheatbelt has the worst road toll in the state, and this is a great opportunity to use community networks to spread the message of road safety. This links in to the work being done through the regional highway review program, which will provide a whole-of-government approach to dangerous areas of highways across the wheatbelt. As we know, sporting clubs have a central role in our communities. Ensuring that members, from the presidents down, are strong role models is a great outcome and I congratulate the Department of Sport and Recreation, the RAC and the state sporting associations on this partnership and project.