

**COMMUNITY SPORT AND RECREATION CLUBS — NEW EQUIPMENT**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [9.18 am]: I rise to inform the house of the chance for community sport and recreation clubs to apply for \$500 towards new equipment. The community sporting club equipment subsidy was a policy initiated by my predecessor as Minister for Sport and Recreation, Terry Waldron. This initiative gives regional and metropolitan sporting clubs around Western Australia a one-off \$500 subsidy to spend on shared sporting equipment accessible to all club members. It is important for equipment to be kept up to date, in good condition and safe for play. This is a great opportunity for clubs to expand their sporting equipment and replace anything that has been a bit too well-loved.

The four-year scheme, which will be administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation, will grant \$1 million to metropolitan clubs and \$1 million to regional clubs. To date, 770 regional clubs have received \$385 000 and 606 metropolitan clubs have received \$303 000 for new equipment. Subsidies for regional clubs are provided through the royalties for regions program. The subsidy allows clubs to provide the equipment they require to keep pace with the growing population in regional Western Australia. Sporting equipment is costly and this investment provides support for regional residents to remain active and have a better quality of life, as sporting clubs are the heart of thriving regional communities. The \$500 subsidies can be spent on equipment such as balls, bats racquets, bibs, protective gear, team uniforms, first-aid kits, shade tents and safety equipment. A number of clubs have been able to field even more teams because they had more equipment to use. It is a priority of this Liberal–National government to ensure that all Western Australians are active. We have put in place this subsidy and programs such as Sport 4 All, including the very successful KidSport scheme, to ensure that the cost to participate is not prohibitive. Being part of a club and engaging positively in the local community is a critical part of setting our youth on the right path. This round of grants closes on 16 October and I encourage all members to make sure that clubs in their electorate are aware of these programs and the opportunities available to them.