

McGRATH FOUNDATION

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [12.50 pm]: I rise today to pay tribute to the hard work and commitment of the McGrath Foundation and its nurses, who work in our community to support those with breast cancer and their families. When Jane McGrath passed away in tragic circumstances in 2008, I am sure there was no understanding of just how far-reaching her legacy would become. McGrath breast care nurses become a trusted, consistent and relied upon advocate and an avenue for advice when it is needed most, providing physical, emotional and mental support to those battling breast cancer. As Breast Cancer Awareness Month draws to a close, it is important to acknowledge the work of this organisation.

Seventy per cent of McGrath Foundation nurses in WA are based in regional areas, including Karratha and Broome. One McGrath nurse takes on 100 patients each year. This means that 100 WA families get this thoughtful and personal support from just one nurse. There are currently 21 nurses supporting local communities in WA, and this number needs to grow by at least eight to ensure that each breast cancer patient in WA has access to this invaluable care. The McGrath Foundation is seeking a three-year service contract with the government. This would allow it to maintain its current network and expand its services. The opposition is supportive of this and is calling on the government to act swiftly to secure this contract. In a state awash with funding and with a significant budget surplus, this is most definitely a worthy and important organisation to support.