

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY WA — SWIM FOR FRUIT PROGRAM

**12. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Health:**

I heard that the minister recently attended a Royal Life Saving Society WA morning tea, at which he mentioned a new swimming program that was —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, you might be going for an early afternoon tea. I call you to order for the third time.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** I heard that the minister recently attended a Royal Life Saving Society morning tea, at which he spoke of a new swimming program. Could the minister provide the house with information about this program and how it might impact on children particularly in remote or regional areas?

**Dr K.D. HAMES replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

This is a very good news story, which means that fairly certainly the opposition will have no interest in it whatsoever. But, yes, member, I was at a Royal Life Saving Society function, and in fact I was awarded the President's Award for services to the community, relating to the swimming pools in remote Aboriginal communities. As we know, a committee of Parliament looked at this, and the swimming pools were put into those remote Aboriginal communities to improve particularly the health of children. That has proved to be enormously successful, and there are now a number of those pools across Western Australia.

We employed the Royal Life Saving Society to manage the pools and to provide services for the children who use those pools. At that function, the president of the Royal Life Saving Society WA told me about a program that the society has put in place called Swim for Fruit. I have to say it is very interesting to see how they have linked fruit with swimming pools. Under that program, if children are able to do certain things in the pool, they are given a voucher for a piece of fresh fruit. The favourite fruit is mango. If children are able to swim five or 10 laps of the pool, they get a free mango. This is a great program, and it has significantly improved the ability of children to swim, because rather than just going to the pool and splashing around and having fun, they can put into practice what they are taught and do laps and they will get a reward of fresh fruit, which is obviously good for their health. That is a great program and a great initiative by the Royal Life Saving Society, and I am glad you like it, Mr Speaker.