

**TRANSPLANT AUSTRALIA, WA BRANCH**

*Statement by Member for Joondalup*

**MR A.P. O'GORMAN** (Joondalup) [12.58 pm]: Today I acknowledge a group that has been active in my electorate over the past three years; the Western Australian branch of Transplant Australia. The branch operates throughout the State and seems to have a very active group around the Joondalup area. The reason for so much activity is that a number of my constituents are family members or friends of transplant recipients. The group is actively fundraising to send young transplant recipients to the National Transplant Games, which will take place in Adelaide in September this year. The aim of the national games is to raise awareness of the need for organ donation. The games are held every two years and it is hoped that they will be staged in Perth in 2006 or 2008.

In November 2003, the transplant group held some WA games called the "WA Transplant Gift" at Arena Joondalup. This was done to raise awareness of the games and to raise funds to send up to 10 transplant athletes to the Adelaide games. These athletes are all aged between 10 and 14 years. Of course, with transplant recipients it is not just the athlete that needs to travel. Usually the whole family is involved to provide the added support that is required. The cost of sending the 10 athletes and their support personnel to Adelaide will be approximately \$60 000. The group has been fundraising by having sausage sizzles in Joondalup, which raised approximately \$500. It recently held a fundraiser on the paddle steamer *Decoy* and raised about \$2 000. As members can see, it is extremely difficult to raise large amounts of money for this group to go to the games in Adelaide. I urge anyone wishing to contribute to get in touch with the group to offer their assistance.

Finally, I thank Anna Bradshaw who organises most of the events in her spare time. Anna is a teacher assistant at Joondalup Ed Support Centre and the transplant group is her after-hours passion. Future events will include mouse racing in July, which needs sponsors, a bowl-a-thon in June, more sausage sizzles and a Christmas party in December.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*