

NETBALL WA — VOLUNTEER FEES

**349. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to Netball WA's decision to charge community-level coaches, team managers and other local volunteers a \$45 fee.

- (1) Has the minister made contact with Netball WA to request that it explain why it feels volunteers should be charged for their services to local netball competition; and if not, why not?
- (2) Does the minister support Netball WA's decision to charge its volunteers these fees when other codes including basketball and football do not?

**Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. In answer to the first part of the question, yes, my office and the department have spoken with Netball WA, and I have met with it several times, not in relation to that matter specifically, but we have followed up, because we were also concerned, and obviously there were some reports in the media. It gave us an explanation. Before I say anything else, the member would be aware, having had an involvement with the sporting industry for a long time, that from the state government's perspective, sport runs sport. This is a decision by Netball WA and it was made in consultation with its members. I understand that in any community organisation there will be people who agree with decisions made by the decision-making body and those who do not.

**Mr D.A. Templeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Netball WA provided us with an explanation and said it had gone through a consultation process. Various sporting clubs make decisions about how they cover their costs and in this case Netball WA has chosen to apply those costs that way. Like I said, it is the state government's view that sport runs sport, and so we, as the department, are there to provide support, but that question should be directed to the organisation itself.