

NETBALL WA

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [12.50 pm]: Last Friday, I had the honour of participating in a friendly match to mark the new Parliamentary Friends of Netball. I am pleased to be co-convenor of the group along with Hon Samantha Rowe, and we joined members from both houses, media and other Netball Western Australia participants in an on-court battle. The post-match sore legs of some players proved that our best netball days may be long behind us. I am proud to report that Mia's Fever claimed a one-goal win against Sam's Shooting Stars. It was a very even match. However, the real winner was Netball WA, which, again, highlighted the outstanding work it is doing in communities across the state, particularly with its Shooting Stars program.

Shooting Stars not only teaches girls about netball, but also uses the sport to drive more than 60 per cent of the program's participants to an average school attendance rate of 80 per cent or above. West Coast Fever players are great role models for the Shooting Stars girls, and I thank team members Olivia Lewis and Emma Cosh for serving as coaches on the day. It was heartbreaking to watch the Fever just fall short of the title this year, but they showed outstanding dedication by spending three months in a Queensland COVID-19 hub to play in the Suncorp Super Netball season. We are proud of our Fever ladies!

Thanks must go to Netball WA president, Grant Robinson, chief commercial officer, Daniel Barker, and community netball general manager, Liz Booth, for their support on the day and enthusiasm for the Parliamentary Friends of Netball. Appreciation goes to the Gold Industry Group, which is the major sponsor of Netball WA. The group remains strong followers of the sport and Netball WA's efforts. After licking our match-day wounds, we look forward to cheering from the sidelines!