

GET ONBOARD AND LEAD PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.12 am]: I rise to inform the house about the new Get Onboard and Lead program, which is designed to attract and promote women to leadership roles within the sport and recreation sector. Although growth in participation rates of females in sporting and recreation clubs continues, this growth has not translated into governance and leadership roles in our industry. Nearly 80 per cent of state sporting associations in Western Australia have less than 50 per cent female representation, with 15 per cent having no female representation at all.

Since becoming the state's first female Minister for Sport and Recreation, I have been determined to shine a light on the role and contribution of women in the sector. Some six months ago, I appointed an advisory group to advise me on the actions that we could take to progress the role of female leadership within the industry. Led by 2015 Australian Football League Woman of the Year, Jan Cooper, the group comprises 10 industry leaders who are passionate about championing the advancement of women as leaders on and off the field. Get Onboard and Lead—GOAL—is the result of recommendations from that group aiming to positively change organisational attitudes and behaviours, while empowering women and ensuring fair and reasonable opportunities in the sector. GOAL was launched in April at the annual Women in Sport Breakfast. The six key strategies recommended by the advisory group will be worked through over the next 10 months. A range of organisational factors currently inhibit and restrict opportunities for female advancement and leadership in the sector. The Department of Sport and Recreation will be supporting organisations in our industry to understand and assist in this change management. This is something that I am committed to and I know there are many in the industry who are as committed as I am to making change.

I take this opportunity to highlight the Minister for Women's Interests' advocacy of GOAL and her support in promoting gender diversity more broadly in Western Australia. GOAL is a journey for the sport and recreation sector, but it is one that I know the industry needs to take. The business case for gender diversity at all levels of leadership is well known. The GOAL website is live and resources are available for state sporting associations, businesses and individuals to engage with the program. Change will require champions from within the industry. I look forward to working with everyone to improve the outcome for the entire sector.