

**HEATHER MACGOWAN — SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [12.09 pm]: I rise today to recognise three women who are setting positive examples of what can be achieved in the sports industry. Each year, the Department of Sport and Recreation awards a scholarship in honour of Dr Heather MacGowan, a woman recognised as a leader in the leisure and sport industry across Australia. Dr MacGowan was a long-serving staff member at the Department of Sport and Recreation as the director of regional services for 10 years. She was highly sought after as a lecturer and consultant to universities and local governments on sport and recreation. In 2003, Dr MacGowan retired from the department after the onset of motor neurone disease but continued to support, mentor and encourage her colleagues and young sportspeople.

This scholarship ensures that young people in the industry continue to receive the support and encouragement Dr MacGowan was renowned for offering. This year, three women will receive a combined \$22 500 to undertake innovative sport and recreation projects. Janelle Cuthbertson in her scholarship project will investigate successful participation and community engagement strategies to help the Perth Scorchers women's team to be the best supported female domestic cricket team in Australia. As a state and national judo coach, Celeste Knoester will travel to Hungary to attend the International Judo Federation and complete an instructor's course. She will become the first Western Australian judo coach with this qualification, which will become mandatory in the next few years. Dana Pimley will use her scholarship to attend a number of conferences and events about tackling doping in sports, and consult with key English agencies, including the English Institute of Sport. At the completion of the scholarship, the recipients will report on the knowledge and skills gained as well as presenting their findings at an industry forum. Previous winners have looked into science and medicine in sport, disability sport, sports law, the public health benefits of sport, increasing access to sport in remote communities, and sports marketing.

This is a great opportunity and I wish the recipients well in their projects.