

SALVATION ARMY — RED SHIELD APPEAL

Statement by Minister for Community Services

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Community Services) [9.18 am]: Last Wednesday morning I found myself sitting next to our new Governor, Hon Kim Beazley, at an event. Of course, I took the opportunity to congratulate him on his new role and wish him all the best, but I also convinced him to change his socks then and there—and here is why. Every year the Salvation Army conducts the Red Shield Appeal to raise the funds it needs to serve Australians experiencing disadvantage, poverty and hardship. The business sector and the community always contribute generously, and at the Red Shield Appeal breakfast, I was proud once again to present a cheque for \$60 000 on behalf of the Premier and the Western Australian government. That was also where the new Governor and I slipped into some bright red socks—all for a good cause. The Salvos provide everything from emergency relief, housing and aged-care services to support victims of family and domestic violence. I have visited numerous of its services since becoming minister, including youth accommodation, a thrift shop and a women’s refuge in Karratha, as well as Landsdale House here in Perth, which helps young people aged between 12 and 17 years with moderate to high behavioural and emotional needs. During all these visits, I witnessed the remarkable commitment and determination of staff and volunteers, who have dedicated themselves to helping vulnerable Western Australians.

The Red Shield Appeal runs every year during the months of April, May and June. On 26 and 27 May, volunteers will be doorknocking around the state and I encourage everyone to make a donation to allow the Salvation Army to continue its valuable work in our community.