

**CENTRAL PARK PLUNGE**

*Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection)** [12.16 pm]: I rise today to inform the house of this year's Central Park Plunge, which I participated in last Sunday. The plunge is one of the largest charity abseil events to be held in a central business district, and participants raise funds for various causes. It involves abseiling 220 metres down the side of one of Perth's tallest buildings. I chose to support Cahoots, which is funded through the Department of Communities to provide empowering camps and programs for children and young people with disabilities so they can develop friendships, skills and confidence. As Minister for Child Protection, I am all too aware that children need opportunities such as Cahoots' camps and outings—adventures, learning and bonding with other kids—to thrive. The Central Park Plunge is the key annual fundraising event for Cahoots, which set a fundraising target of \$80 000 this year. As Minister for Women's Interests, I took the plunge flanked by three female firefighters from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service in a show of support for the department's push to increase the number of women in fire management. With responsibility for fire mitigation and suppression on over 100 million hectares of land across the state, these are vital roles that present opportunities to have a fulfilling and rewarding career. Despite not being especially fond of heights, I was grateful for the opportunity to support Cahoots' fundraising efforts by taking the plunge. The McGowan government is proud to support Cahoots, and I want to thank it for its invaluable service to children and young people with disabilities. I also want to thank the female firefighters who joined me. I hope that more women will take a plunge of sorts and consider a rewarding career in fire management.