

**BRUCE YARDLEY — TRIBUTE**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [2.09 pm]: I rise to commemorate the life of Bruce Yardley and to offer my deepest sympathy to his family. The legendary spinner passed away last week at the age of 71 years after a battle with cancer.

After starting his career as a medium-pace bowler, he later took up off-spin to great success, while still being very handy with the bat. Bruce took 126 test wickets in a career spanning 33 tests and seven one-day internationals, was Australia's first choice of spinner in the 1980s and he won the 1981–82 International Cricketer of the Year award. He scored four test half-centuries, with a top score of 74 and, for 38 years, held the record for the quickest half-century after reaching the milestone from 29 balls. An inductee into Western Australia's cricket Gallery of Greats, Bruce gave a lot to the game as a player, and continued giving back after his retirement. Bruce was appointed the Sri Lankan coach in 1997, coached premier cricket at Midland–Guildford Cricket Club and spent a number of years as the WACA's regional cricket officer responsible for promoting cricket and increasing participation in the south west.

I had the pleasure of hearing Bruce speak on a number of occasions. He was an incredibly funny man who embodied a real love for the game of cricket, and spread his humour and passion for the sport to everyone around him. It is an honour to today commemorate the life of Bruce Yardley, an extraordinary cricketer and Western Australian.