

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WHEELCHAIR RUGBY TEAM —MURDERBALL EVENT**

*Statement by Member for Collie-Preston*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Preston)** [12.57 pm]: I would like to speak about a recent sporting event that happened in Collie last weekend, and congratulate all the organisers and participants. The Collie community hosted a Murderball event between members of the West Australian Wheelchair Rugby Team, the Enforcers, and the Collie Rugby Team, the Collie Mongrels, which comprised able-bodied players. I attended the game, as did a large crowd of local people who were amazed at the ability of the state wheelchair team to manoeuvre around the field and dominate the game. The final score was questionable, as I suspect the score was fixed to make the able-bodied players feel good. One of the state team members said they had a better roll-up to this game than they had ever had to any of their state games. Thanks should go to George Kelly and his wife, Christy, who initiated the event and did the fundraising; the Collie shire council; and Disability Services Commission members John Borlini and Mark Pianta, who also participated in the game as well as being very involved in organising it, although their skills were questionable! Wheelchair-bound local lad Perry Green played for the WA team, which was great. The game was such a success that one of the state players said that he would definitely come back, as the response from the town was incredible. Thanks also go to the Motorsports Group, Southwest Division for taking the state team members on a tour of the complex and giving them a taste of racing conditions. Watching an event like this was magnificent. The members of the wheelchair team are exceptional athletes and displayed strength and dexterity in their chairs. To see their skill level and enjoyment of the game was inspirational, and I recommend that everyone and anyone attend one of their games in the future.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*