

SHIRLEY MORT

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering) [9.07 am]: I rise to commemorate the life of Shirley Mort, one of Western Australia's most tireless volunteers, who sadly passed away last week. Many will know Shirley, who rattled her collection tin for the Salvation Army at the Perth train station overpass for 26 years and raised an incredible \$1.7 million.

In 1989 when her husband sadly passed away, she decided to do more for others and started volunteering with the Salvation Army's soup run. She would wake at 5.00 am six days a week to make and distribute food to people experiencing homelessness. Often, she would then go back home to change and head straight back to the CBD to collect donations. Prior to her retirement just last year, she was still collecting donations at the Perth train station footbridge three days a week for up to four hours at a time. She also received an Australia Day WA Community Citizen of the Year award in the over 65 category.

As the Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering, it is an honour to stand here today and commemorate the life of Shirley Mort—a champion of volunteering.

Members: Hear, hear!