

**COLLIE COMMUNITY, FUNDING OF LASER MACHINE FOR COLLIE HOSPITAL**

*Statement by Member for Collie*

**MR M.P. MURRAY** (Collie) [12.56 pm]: I applaud the community efforts of the residents of Collie. Recently, a constituent of mine, Mrs Pat Bignell, contacted me with concerns about having to travel to and stay in Perth for ongoing laser treatment for her rehabilitation following an operation for breast cancer. Mrs Bignell believed it would be much easier for sufferers and their families if the laser treatment could be done in their home towns. After contacting the Collie Hospital and finding that the laser machine required would cost in excess of \$20 000, Mrs Bignell started to lobby different groups to raise the required amount because she had a strong desire to help all Collie women who needed this ongoing treatment. In her quest to raise money, Mrs Bignell applied to the Coal Miners Welfare Board, who took up the challenge and decided to fund this worthwhile piece of equipment. The Coal Miners Welfare Board consists of community members who, in their own time, administer funds and consider funding applications for worthy projects. The members, Mr John Kearney, Mr John Borlini, Mr Vin Rose, and secretary, Mr Ian Miffling, are very active within the community and make themselves available to all who request funding. Once the laser machine is purchased, it will be located at Collie Hospital and operated by the hospital's very competent staff. In addition to the treatment of cancer patients, the machine will also be available for the treatment of painful scar tissue, ulcers, sports injuries, post-operative conditions, some arthritic conditions and nerve compression cases.

The point of my statement is that individuals can make a difference. I applaud Mrs Pat Bignell for her determined efforts and congratulate her and the members of the Coal Miners Welfare Board who took the time to help the Collie community.