

LOTTERYWEST — RETAILERS

**153. Mr H.T. JONES to the Premier:**

Madam Speaker, I would like to give a shout-out on behalf of the member for Nedlands to the students from Nedlands Primary School. The member for Nedlands and the Attorney General are graduates of that fine school.

**The SPEAKER:** One out of two is not bad!

**Mr H.T. JONES:** I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting Western Australian small businesses.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to this house how this government is supporting and strengthening businesses that sell Lotterywest games?
- (2) Can the Premier outline how these initiatives will ensure that Lotterywest can continue providing support to the WA community into the future?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member.

- (1)–(2) On Sunday I joined the member in Byford and we had a great time visiting one of our state's best Lotterywest retailers. Her name is Gabrielle Lyon, and she runs Byford Newsagency. We were able to talk to her about the new package that we have announced to support Lotterywest retailers across Western Australia. There are 500 retailers across the state—newsagents and individual kiosks—that sell our Lotterywest products to the public all over the state. As we know, every now and then there is a major winner; in fact, we had one who won, I think, \$40 million the other day—a very, very lucky person. We want to support our retailers into the future and make sure that they continue to sell Lotterywest products and support the community through Lotterywest.

In conjunction with Lotterywest we were able to announce on Sunday the \$39 million Better Business initiative to improve sustainability and support for retailers around our state over the next five years. It is funded by Lotterywest and comprises \$3.5 million in business support payments—direct payments to retailers; \$500 000 in dedicated support services to improve the operations and business management of the retailers; and a range of incentive packages and other improvements across the network.

This builds on the other things we have done since we have been in office. When I became Premier in 2017, it is fair to say that the Lotterywest retail network was in disarray and there was unhappiness about some of the decisions the former government had taken. We took immediate action to reverse that and ensure that the retailers, good small business people that they are, were properly supported. We supported them with shop fit-outs, signage arrangements and sales materials—all the things that were upsetting them. We got a great manager in Susan Hunt, who has since been replaced by Ralph Addis, and some great people to run the organisation sympathetically to retailers, and to work with the retailers as opposed to against them, which is what was occurring before we came to office.

Over the COVID pandemic, we supported the retailers with millions of dollars in support packages; in fact, there was a \$15 million package giving them support to stay afloat during those relatively brief periods when the shops were shut. All of that has now been built on by this new announcement that we made the other day. We want our retailers to continue to be strong. We support small business and we want our small businesses to be successful, and that is why we are providing this in conjunction with Lotterywest so that they can continue to operate in an increasingly difficult retail environment and bring the proceeds back that we invest through Lotterywest into important initiatives all over Western Australia. In closing, I thank all the retailers out there—500 or so; I met a few hundred of them at Kings Park on Sunday—for the work they do around Western Australia, supporting our community.