

STEPHEN MICHAEL — WA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.05 am]: I rise to inform the house that the great Stephen Michael has become the latest WA Football Legend and to congratulate him on his incredible achievement.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Stephen Michael won two Sandover Medals, the Simpson Medal and the Tassie Medal; was an All-Australian team captain in 1983; was a five-time winner of South Fremantle Football Club’s best and fairest; and was an inductee into the AFL, South Fremantle Football Club and Fremantle Sporting Halls of Fame—and, importantly, is a Collie resident. Stephen Michael’s life has been full of incredible achievements. On Tuesday night, Stephen added to that lengthy list of honours by becoming the eighteenth person elevated to “legend” status in the WA Football Hall of Fame. The recognition of Stephen Michael as a legend in the WAF Hall of Fame and his status as one of the greatest footy players in the state’s history are only a small part of his legacy.

The Stephen Michael Foundation was launched in March 2017 and aims to empower young people, many of whom are disengaged or at risk and from low socioeconomic communities, to achieve their goals and improve their outcomes in life. In its first year, the foundation established a range of programs in Fremantle and Meekatharra that involved working with students to provide opportunities for them to not only participate in football, but also become umpires, leading to employment opportunities. Over 476 participants from 10 schools have taken part in the foundation’s school-based programs and, to date, 560 participants have attended the umpiring program. In its second year, the foundation has continued to grow. It has secured partnerships with businesses, which have provided traineeships, apprenticeships and work placements for the program’s participants. Stephen is heavily involved in the foundation. He serves as a board member and ambassador, and participates in program visits. He truly encompasses what it means to be a legend on and off the field. I sincerely congratulate him on his latest honour.

The SPEAKER: Minister, I suppose as you are Minister for Sport and Recreation, you, too, will be in there next.