

TRUE SPORT PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [1.12 pm]: Sport is a fundamental part of our cultural identity in Western Australia. The basic personal values we value as a society all develop from participation in sport, and True Sport is about highlighting these. These include teamwork, trying our best in failure and success, overcoming adversity, and competing hard while showing respect, discipline and leadership. The sport and recreation setting also showcases broader concepts of inclusion, cohesion, belonging, volunteerism, and social capital building, which have far-reaching beneficial impacts for our communities. However, these benefits are not always automatically recognised or well-articulated, and with a growing list of highly publicised incidents of sports stars behaving badly, all of which threaten the integrity of sport, the positive benefits sport delivers are at risk of being overshadowed.

Sport provides the environment within which our kids learn that it takes hard work to collect a medal or award in front of their friends, parents and coaches; that there is no shame in losing a match when they have given their all; and to celebrate the efforts of everyone involved. This builds resilience, shared pride and achievements, and a culture of good sportsmanship and being true sports in our young people as they grow up. Our True Sport program is a values-driven campaign that uses the promotion of positive behaviours in sport and recreation to help address these challenges. Outcomes to be achieved by the True Sport campaign include reinforcing the value of sport and recreation in our community; a refocus on youth engagement in sport and how sport can help build resilience; an understanding that sport does this by letting our kids compete, which is having fun, to win and lose, to fail and succeed, to be picked and not be picked; and promoting initiatives to reconnect past players to clubs to support intergenerational interaction in our community.

A focus of the program will be to highlight that multi-sport participation is critical and early specialisation in one sport should be discouraged. The eight values of True Sport represent what connects our community, making it a safer, happier and healthier place to live: giving back, playing fair, showing respect, being healthy, including everyone, being safe, bringing our best and, of course, having fun. True Sport was recently officially launched by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and I look forward to everyone in the chamber supporting this initiative. I table the program.

[See paper 1197.]