

**YOUNG SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN, SUPPORT**

*Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood*

**MR OMODEI** (Warren-Blackwood) [12.54 pm]: My statement is about talented young sportsmen and sportswomen in Western Australia, particularly in country Western Australia, where young footballers, hockey players and basketballers selected in state teams are not given enough support to travel, acquire clothing and equipment, or meet the cost of accommodation in the city. Tryon Bogar, a 15-year-old from Boyup Brook, has been selected in a state schoolboys team. His family are not wealthy by any means and they need \$1 500 to send him to compete at the competition. So far, they have raised \$500. I have raised with the Minister for Sport and Recreation the point that there should be a scholarship system to help these young people in Western Australia. Many very talented young people are precluded from competing at the highest level. Governments have not done enough in this area, and I ask this Government to take my plea on board. I am sure young Steven will do us proud. However, the limited assistance he has received is not enough. He must raise another \$1 000. We could find corporate sponsorship but, to do that, we would have to take an Oliver Twist-style approach. The Government must come up with a plan to assist these young people.