

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION — REGIONAL OFFICES

**84. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

With reference to the government's plan to amalgamate departments into a hotch-potch of uncoordinated services, can the minister guarantee that there will still be a sport and recreation office based in every region?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:**

I thank the member for the question. There are certainly no plans to reduce the number of sport and recreation offices in the regions. There has been one case, I think, in Mandurah, where an amalgamation took place.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Members for Carine, you have this chattiness today. Stop that or you will be chatting on your way home.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, knowing how brittle I am, for looking after me so well. Thank you very much.

There is no intention to reduce the number of sport and recreation offices in the regions. I can say that we have just signed off for those people to be funded for another 12 months. I am not sure where the member is coming from or whether he has heard rumours. He should remember one thing: sport is a huge part of our society in Western Australia. Today's Leader of the National Party would certainly know that from holding the sport and recreation portfolio. When we look at mental health issues in our society, sport certainly works towards making sure that people are able to partake in many of the sporting activities available and to get out and about so they do not have problems in their societies. We also have the Indigenous problems. If we introduce those people to sport, they learn how to play sport within the rules of the game. We do not have any problems about funding people in the regions.