

PARIS OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS

**86. Ms K.E. GIDDENS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to boosting participation in sport at all levels.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how this government is supporting WA athletes participating at the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this support enhances community sport participation?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) Yes, I can and I will. I thank the member for Bateman for the question and for her support of athletes from Western Australia who have been or who we anticipate will be selected to be part of the national Paralympic and Olympic teams to compete at the Paris Paralympics and Olympics later this year. I was very pleased to be with the Premier on Sunday at the Western Australian Institute of Sport when he announced that this government has made a significant contribution to support the efforts of our Western Australian athletes who will be part of the Paralympics and Olympics in Paris. The Premier announced a \$1.3 million commitment by the Cook government to support athletes. Part of that money includes direct monetary support for them—a \$5 000 grant for each athlete—which of course will allow them to continue their preparation. They can spend it on flights or preparations that may require them to be out of the state. That has been very welcomed by the athletes, who are our potential Olympians and Paralympians. Nina Kennedy, the magnificent Western Australian pole vaulting champion, was there. In her words, she very much highlighted what this means specifically for athletes.

Included in the \$1.3 million is a contribution to assist with team preparations. Money will be supporting coaches and the coaching teams around our athletes as they prepare. Also, split between both the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia is a commitment of \$375 000 for each organisation for the team appeal. What does this mean? This means that any Western Australian athlete, in a team and/or individual sporting pursuit, has the support of the government and will be able to be at their very best with their preparation. It means that people like Nina Kennedy, who is a remarkable athlete, a world champion and a world record holder, will now be able to prepare as she should for what I think will be one of the greatest moments in her life.

As a state, we look forward to supporting all athletes from Western Australia in their preparation and selection, be it a Paralympic or Olympic selection. As I said to the athletes and the representatives of the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia, this state is demonstrating that it is right behind the national team and, of course, the Western Australian representatives because we recognise the tremendous value they bring to the psyche of Australia and Western Australia. In not much more than 100 days, the Australian team for both the Paralympics and the Olympics will march out onto the arenas in Paris, and we will know that the Western Australian athletes in particular have been supported by this government. I have to say that the Premier was almost wrestled to the ground in good anticipation by representatives from the Paralympic and Olympic organisation saying, "Thank you so much for what you're doing because this makes a huge difference to the psyche of both the Paralympic and the Olympic teams."

To all the athletes who have been selected, congratulations. To those who are preparing and competing to be selected, we wish them the very best, because we know that they will not only represent the state of Western Australia as a Western Australian athlete, but also represent Australia brilliantly. We are right behind them and will support them. This government is supporting them strongly.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition with the last question.