

VOLUNTEERS — ATTRITION

**708. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Volunteering:**

I refer to the 2 September article on PerthNow entitled “WA’s emergency services volunteers quit with SES attrition the worst” and its revelation that more than 10 emergency services volunteers quit every day.

- (1) Has this issue been addressed by the minister’s Volunteering Community Reference Group?
- (2) What recommendations has the group made in the short term to minimise volunteer attrition, particularly in the regional SES organisations?

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

- (1)–(2) Any time people ask me a question about volunteers in Western Australia, I am proud to stand on my feet and back them up. It does not matter which side they are on or which colour. In particular, it is those people with the orange suits who get out there in the roughest of weather to help people out. If there is a problem in some of these areas, we will be there and we will be behind them.

I also mention the Volunteering Community Reference Group chaired by Craig Spencer and with Volunteering WA CEO Tina Williams. They go over and above any duty that has been asked of them. Craig Spencer is a professional man who comes in his own time to chair the meetings to the highest standard possible for a volunteering group.

While we are talking about volunteers, this is a special week for football. Anyone in here who was at the Sandover Medal awards night on Monday will have heard the mention there of volunteers. There are 46 000 volunteers who put the kids on the park on any weekend. That is why our community is so good. That is why we will look after people in the volunteering section. That is why, if there is a small spot fire out there, we will get out there and help them. I just say to the member that it is not my area; it is the area of the Minister for Emergency Services.