

LOWER SOUTH WEST SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [12.56 pm]: I will pay tribute to the organisers of the new Lower South West Soccer Association. The president of the Bridgetown club and celebrated league player, Cameron Becsi, has begun working on the creation of a soccer association. He has been aided by Ian Wheeler of the Bridgetown Forest Soccer Club, Martina Doolan of the Manjimup Rovers, who I met last week, Michael Gianata, who is the president of the Southern Strikers in Pemberton, and Trevor Insley, who is the organiser for Northcliffe United. The clubs involved in the new association will each have two senior teams with over 100 senior members, and at least 500 junior members. The season will be run at the opposite end of the year to the football season and will be a great avenue for young people to develop their soccer skills and to actively participate in a sport that is growing significantly in Western Australia. Those people are seeking assistance to do that. They have approached Perth Glory and I understand Nick Tana is assisting the clubs. However, they need the Government to provide some funds. I will write, once again, to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and to the Lotteries Commission. Perhaps the Office of Youth Affairs is another avenue. It has been a worthwhile effort by Cameron Becsi and those other people to organise the lower south west association. I hope the Government can assist in providing necessary sporting equipment, such as goals, jumpers and balls, so that this sport can be played in the lower south west.