

MR VIC CONTE

Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [12.55 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the contribution of a great Pemberton stalwart Mr Vic Conte, an octogenarian who is currently in the Mount Hospital with a serious illness - a brain tumour. Mr Conte is the consular correspondent for the Italian community in Pemberton and has been instrumental in raising funds for a number of organisations. He has always had an encouraging word for the young people of the district. Mr Conte took part in the building of the new Roman Catholic Church in Pemberton, which is a landmark building. He has also been very active in the Pemberton Mill Hall restoration committee. I do not think he has missed a meeting of the Pemberton Progress Association and he has also been active in raising funds for the Pemberton District Hospital. At one stage, when Mr Conte was 78 or 79, he ran bare-footed from Manjimup to Pemberton - a distance of 30 kilometres - in three and a quarter hours to raise money for the hospital. He has been a dynamic person in the community and this morning - even though he is feeling very low - his first concern was for the community, the wonderful group of young people living in Pemberton and the contribution he believes they can make to society in that area.

I am sure that members in this place will join me in wishing him well for his recovery at the Mount Hospital. We look forward to him returning to Pemberton and continuing to take part in community activities.