

**TELETHON — COLLIE, AUSTRALIND AND EATON**

*Statement by Member for Collie–Preston*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston)** [12.58 pm]: It is with great pride that I congratulate the Collie, Eaton and Australind communities in my electorate for their terrific efforts in taking out three of the top four positions for the most funds raised by towns at last weekend's Telethon. Collie topped the state, Australind came in second and Eaton was placed fourth on the list of towns—what an incredible showing from my constituents! The difficulties with unemployment, a slowing economy and a lack of any big, new industrial projects are being felt sharply throughout the region, certainly not the least in Collie. Our town is still reeling from the recent blows we have had out in the mines, so to have local people dust themselves off and raise this kind of money for sick kids throughout the state is a wonderful achievement. There were many, many examples of local groups, schools and individuals who came up with novel ways to fundraise. There certainly is not time to mention them all here, but I have picked out one young lady. Georgia Mumme from St Brigid's School in Collie decided to make 200 loom bands and sell them to Collie people, with all funds raised going to Telethon. What a great effort, Georgia; you have done us all proud!

As the shadow minister for south west, I would also like to congratulate the region as a whole on performing better than any other area in country WA. Times are a little tough in the south west at the moment, so it is pretty remarkable that, through all this, local people can still show such selflessness, and nobody is more proud of those fundraising efforts than I. What a magnificent effort from the people of Collie, Australind and Eaton to raise so much money for Telethon and what a privilege it is to be able to represent these communities.