

**IRMA NEEDHAM — COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*Statement by Member for Collie–Preston*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston)** [1.00 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to the late Irma Needham who passed away peacefully aged 80 on 17 May 2013. Irma was born during the Great Depression and her early life experiences instilled in her a true commitment to helping the underprivileged. One of Irma's strong beliefs was that education was the key to overcoming disadvantage and poverty. In her role as a special needs teacher at Collie Senior High School and deputy principal at Fairview Primary School, over nearly 20 years, she certainly put her beliefs into action. Irma was also a member of the Collie Australian Labor Party branch for more than 30 years and I thank her and her husband, Jeff, for their tremendous support during my tenure. Among other memberships, Irma was a life member of the Collie Women's Hockey Association and a lady lion extraordinaire of the Lions Club of Collie. As a former Lions' District Governor in Western Australia, Irma was the first woman to hold this position within the Lions Clubs of WA and was also awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow for her dedication to humanitarian services. To Irma's family; her husband of nearly 60 years, Jeff; her three daughters, Ruth, Jacqueline and Gail; and their families, I extend my deepest sympathy on your loss. Irma was a devoted wife and mother and a much loved and well-respected member of the Collie community.