

PERTH PRIDE SPORTS FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.11 am]: I rise to inform the house of the success of the inaugural Perth Pride Sports Festival held last Saturday, officially opened by my colleague the member for Perth. It is unfortunately still the case that participation rates of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people in sport and recreation are far below the broader average and, prior to last Saturday, there was no multi-sport event to promote LGBTI participation in sport. That is why I am so inspired by the work of the organisers of the first ever Perth Pride Sports Festival to create an event that encourages participation and celebrates inclusive sport.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Mr Speaker, could you pull that man into line?

The SPEAKER: Yes, minister, could you leave that poor minister alone as he is talking?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: These values of inclusion and participation are closely aligned to the state government's sports policy, and we were proud to provide financial support to this event that so clearly encompassed our "true sport" values. The event featured seven sports: hockey, water polo, touch rugby, rugby union, roller derby, AFLW and tennis, and over 180 people played on the day, not to mention the family and friends who came along to enjoy the festival. Sport has an incredible capacity to bring people together and the Pride movement has always been a driver for equality and inclusion, and now we have seen the results of combining the two—a fantastic event building confidence, wellness and a sense of community. Before I finish, I would like to quickly congratulate the Perth Pythons Hockey Club, which claimed gold at the tenth International Gay Games in Paris a few months ago. There continues to be no doubt in my mind that sport has a fantastic ability to bring communities together. I cannot wait to see how the Perth Pride Sports Festival grows into the future!