

AVA SIMPSON

Statement by Member for Vasse

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.56 pm]: Umpires are the lifeblood of community-based sport, and nurturing and supporting aspiring young umpires is important. This support and encouragement was on display in my electorate recently when 16-year-old Ava Simpson from the Busselton Netball Association was awarded the Busselton Freight Services rising sports star award for January for her passion and dedication to umpiring. Ava's umpiring achievements and her rapid rise through the ranks of local, state and national competitions has been remarkable. Since 2021, she has received the Busselton Netball Association most improved umpire award and the South West Netball Association encouragement award. She was selected to umpire at the statewide Origin Cup and, last year, was awarded the South West Netball Football League's junior umpire of the year. At 16 years, Ava also obtained her B badge at last year's Netball WA State Cup. There are only 20 such gradings awarded across the state each year. Ava's rapid rise in umpiring and her future potential to the sport was further recognised by her selection in the state umpire performance program and umpiring her first Gold Industry Group West Australian netball league under-20s game. Ava's achievements are clearly driven by her passion for netball and umpiring, which can become a lifelong vocation, and it is a credit to the South West Netball Football League and the Busselton Netball Association for nurturing and encouraging her. Congratulations, Ava.