

COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND

**266. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to deliver quality community sporting infrastructure across WA.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government's investment in the community sporting and recreation facilities fund is benefiting communities and sporting organisations across the state?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this fund is being used to improve facilities for women and girls in community sport?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) Thank you very much, member for Belmont, for your question. I had a good time at Wilson Park in Belmont with the member and with the wonderful young people who use that netball facility, which of course was a very grateful recipient of about half a million dollars from the CSRFF. I want to highlight to all members and certainly encourage members to go out after the budget is handed down on Thursday and talk to their local sporting communities about the huge uplift to the CSRFF that we have announced. Currently, \$12.5 million a year is allocated from that fund. That will now go up to \$20 million a year. As members know, there is great demand for increased facilities, be that lighting upgrades on sports fields, change rooms and ablutions, or pavilions—all those sorts of things. We will now be able to deliver more money annually through the CSRFF, and that will provide more opportunities than ever before for the upgrading of sporting facilities.

The success of the CSRFF over the years has seen increased support for the construction of new change rooms, storage for sports equipment, turf and irrigation upgrades, the resurfacing of tennis courts, upgrades to netball courts and the construction of pump tracks. As part of this announcement on Thursday, projects worth up to \$500 000 will also be streamlined. This more streamlined process that will be put in place is really important, because it will enable clubs to work with the resources that they have. This new funding, together with the Club Night Lights program, will help cater for the growing needs of local clubs. We have seen a huge uplift in participation in many codes, particularly among girls and young women, and that has placed greater pressure on those facilities, be they sports fields, hard courts or outdoor courts. A lot of clubs are seeking to upgrade the lighting on their fields and outside courts. This fund will increase participation by enabling more people to utilise those courts and those fields over time. It is wonderful to go to Wilson Park and see the activity and the wonderful efforts by many volunteers in that community. I know that the member for Belmont has some magnificent volunteers in her community, as we all have in our communities, and that they are absolutely focused on making sure that more boys and girls and more young men and young women are playing sport, even those who are less active.

A member interjected.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I do not know! That was very rude!

This will enable them to participate in things like walking netball or walking soccer. That includes the increasing number of all abilities participation. A lot of girls and young women, and boys and young men, who have a disability are now engaged in sport. That is tremendous. That is what this fund will assist.

I urge all members to talk to their community sporting organisations about this new money that will be injected over the next two years. It is really important to note that over \$28.9 million has been allocated to 66 projects, particularly for female participation. I am really pleased that an increasing number of sporting fields now have facilities specifically for their female participants. That is a tremendous thing. One project is the construction of new female change rooms for Harvey Brunswick Leschenault Football Club in the electorate of the member for Murray–Wellington. That will be a tremendous addition to those facilities. Another project is the construction of unisex change rooms and storage facilities for the Manjimup Imperials Recreation Club in the electorate of the member for Warren–Blackwood. I know that the member is a strong supporter of the members of that club and loves them very much, and I know they love her too, because they tell me! Another project is the redevelopment of the change rooms at Rover Football Club in the electorate of the member for Geraldton, who is another great supporter of community sport. We also saw the Premier throw a great three-pointer when we opened that magnificent basketball facility.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Make sure, members, you talk to your community sporting organisations because we want to make sure that we continue to cater for that big uplift in participation, particularly amongst girls and young women, in a number of codes. Get that in. Members should talk to their communities and local councils.

This is a great announcement for the budget from the McGowan government. I know it will be a popularly received announcement as well.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Central Wheatbelt with the last question.