

**Division 37: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Service 5, Sport and Recreation; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, \$211 955 000 —**

Ms K.E. Giddens, Chair.

Dr A.D. Buti, Minister for Sport and Recreation; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Ms L. Chopping, Director General.

Mr C. Dykstra, Deputy Director General, Portfolio Capability and Performance.

Ms E. Gauntlett, Deputy Director General, Portfolio Management and Coordination.

Ms S. Sherdiwala, Executive Director, Finance and Procurement.

Ms K. Ellwood, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation.

Ms L. Fanciulli, Executive Director, Infrastructure.

Mr J. Jegasothy, Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests.

Mr C. White, Manager, Community Infrastructure.

Mr M. Kavanagh, Principal Policy Adviser, Minister for Sport and Recreation; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Mr S. Padshah, Senior Policy Adviser.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. It is the intention of the chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by close of business Friday, 1 October 2021. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Roe.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to service 5 on page 544 of budget paper No 2, "Sport and Recreation Industry Support". What amount has been put aside for activations planned by the state ahead of and during the AFL grand final?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** There are no funds from this department for that.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is the minister saying that no funds have been put aside from the Department of Sport and Recreation for the activation of the grand final?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** That would be from a different department, not from this department, if any. Funds are not from this portfolio.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** What portfolio, minister?

**The CHAIR:** Is there a question? Are you seeking the call, member for Roe?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** We are dealing with this section; it is not a budget item in this section.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to page 541.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** On the last question, if the member is looking at activation and is talking about entertainment and so forth, it would be under the department of culture and the arts, not sport. I might be minister for a few things; I am not minister for everything.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We will come back to the culture and the arts section, thank you.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Not with me you won't.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to the line item "East Fremantle Oval Redevelopment" about halfway down page 541. I note the Town of East Fremantle's media release on that. Can the minister confirm that the project will have outdoor hard courts as stated in the media release by the Town of East Fremantle?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** All I can share with the member is what has been committed and is in the funding agreement. As he knows, we committed \$20 million to that development. The department is working with the Town of East Fremantle on the financial assistance agreement. Negotiations are occurring as we speak about a new agreement, which I am sure will take into consideration the issue the member raised about the hard courts. It is currently under discussion. All I can tell the member is that \$20 million has been committed by the government.

It is a great development. As the member will know, it is behind East Fremantle footy club—not the club that the member and I support, but anyway! It will include East Fremantle Bowling Club, East Fremantle Croquet Club and the football club, obviously, and the redevelopment and realignment of the oval. I think it is the largest oval in Western Australia, even larger than Optus Stadium. It will have a new playing surface, new synthetic lawn bowling rinks, new croquet greens, new playgroup and child-nursing facilities, a new adventure playground, a dog exercise area and community infrastructure such as community gardens. The football club will have new unisex change rooms, umpire change rooms, first-aid rooms, a gymnasium and coach meeting rooms. It will provide an important community asset for the community.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Burns Beach.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Further question.

**The CHAIR:** I have given the call to the member for Burns Beach, but the member can ask a further question if it is a further question.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I am sure the member for Bicton is happy with it, but the media release from the Town of East Fremantle confirmed that there would be outdoor hard courts. I am looking for clarity. They certainly were not on the minister's list of the parts of that project.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Our commitment is consistent with the master plan put through by the Town of East Fremantle.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is the project still on track to begin in October this year?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It will commence in May 2022.

**Mr M.J. FOLKARD:** I refer the minister to the multicultural community grants program outlined on page 541. What is the funding for, and how will it benefit regional culturally and linguistically diverse communities?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** This is a very important program. There has been an increase of \$500 000 annually to the Office of Multicultural Interests' community grants program, which will enable a total of \$1 million to be provided annually to support local multicultural groups around the state. This is an example of the McGowan government's commitment to multiculturalism and support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities throughout Western Australia. The program provides funding to empower communities in Western Australia to design, deliver and partner on projects that address their needs. The increase in funding will support activities led by CALD communities that celebrate and promote WA's cultural diversity, build the capacity of individuals, families and communities to contribute to the state's civic and economic life, and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of services. In addition, that funding will increase support for community festivals to provide a range of cultural experiences and activities that celebrate the contribution of CALD communities and build intercultural understanding among all Western Australians. In the last financial year, regional CALD communities benefited from funding for 12 projects, including activities in Walpole in the very south of the state through to Kalgoorlie in the east and Karratha in the north of the state. The member for Roe will be very interested in that because he has a very vibrant multicultural community in his home town of Katanning.

[11.30 am]

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to the outcomes and key effectiveness indicators on page 546 of budget paper No 2. A quarter of the way down the page is the item "Percentage of Western Australians participating in organised sport and recreation". The 2019–20 actual is 63 per cent, the 2020–21 budget is 56 per cent, the 2020–21 estimated actual is 64 per cent and the 2021–22 budget target is 56 per cent. Why has the department projected a decrease in Western Australians participating in organised sport?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The increase in the 2019–20 actual compared with the 2020–21 budget is due to the increase in the number of Western Australians aged 15 and over who participated in organised sport or physical activities in 2019 when compared with the baseline of 56 per cent that was established in 2016–17. That was chosen as the baseline figure for participation in organised sport and recreation as it best reflects the targeted support provided by the department for the sport and recreation service delivery system.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Does the minister think that the target of 56 per cent is extremely low? What would the minister consider to be the optimum level of Western Australians participating in organised sport and recreation?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** As the member knows, I would like to have 100 per cent participation, but this is a realistic and aspirational target that is achievable. It is also a target that is set by the federal government.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Given that Western Australia has had an extremely fortunate run of very limited COVID-19 lockdowns and given our openness as a state, surely participation in organised sport and recreation should be increasing and not decreasing.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** When the member says a “fortunate run”, obviously he means due to the great policies of the Western Australian government.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Very fortunate run.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I believe that the National Party was siding with Clive Palmer on opening the borders.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** That is misleading. That is not true and the minister knows it. For the record, the minister was laughing and smiling when he said that.

**The CHAIR:** For the record, you are interjecting, member for North West Central. The minister has the call.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** They are federally mandated targets. The WA rate is based on a survey in which only 22 000 people were surveyed. The percentage of people actually participating may be higher. I can assure the member that while I am minister, I will work as hard as I can to ensure that as many people as possible participate in sport and recreation.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to page 542 and the line item “Stephen Michael Foundation” under “New Initiatives”. This obviously affects both my electorate and the electorate of the member for North West Central. It is a very good program. Can the minister explain why the state government will no longer be funding the foundation, given that the last \$200 000 is included in the budget estimate?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It does not mean that we will not continue to fund it.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister identify where the government will be funding it in future years, after 2021–22?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** No. The member stated that the government is not going to fund it, but things are always under review. A commitment of \$400 000 was made in February 2021 for \$200 000 for the next two years. After that, of course, the matter will be considered. It is a great foundation, which was established due to the great support of this state government.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Because the government has secured only two years of funding for the Stephen Michael Foundation, there will be uncertainty for the organisation going forward, particularly in our communities. Has the minister set parameters for outcomes? What is the likelihood of the Stephen Michael Foundation successfully getting further funding in the future?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The foundation was set up in 2017 as a result of funding that was provided by the government. The foundation deals with a range of programs in the electorates of both the member for Roe and the member for North West Central. On the issue of how it is assessed, basically the foundation has a mission statement and the department looks at that mission statement to see whether it is achieving its results, as it did when it was funded for another two years with \$200 000 for each year.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The foundation runs a very good Nightfields program in my electorate for activities for all sorts of students after school. It is a great way to occupy children after school. Is the minister saying that he definitely will look at it for the next budget and into the out years?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I imagine that the foundation will come back to government seeking further funding. When it does that, of course it will be considered.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** On the same page —

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** To add, we are in constant dialogue with the foundation.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Minister —

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I received an email only yesterday from Julie Jackson. Do not worry, member; we are in constant dialogue with the Stephen Michael Foundation.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I thought the chair gave me the call. Do I have the call now?

**The CHAIR:** Member for North West Central, you have the call.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Under “New Initiatives” on the same page, page 542, is the line item “Lathlain Park Grandstand Redevelopment”. Is that Perth oval, where the West Coast Eagles train?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is where the Demons train—the Perth Football Club.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is also the home base for the Eagles. Can the minister explain what that \$2 million will be put towards? I know it is being put towards a grandstand. Is that a contribution to a greater amount?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** That amount is committed to the Town of Victoria Park for the redevelopment of training, administration and social facilities for the Perth Football Club at Lathlain Park. The Town of Victoria Park has been

consulting key stakeholders since 2015 regarding this precinct. As members know, the West Coast Eagles facility is located on the other side of the oval. This money will be utilised for the redevelopment of the Perth Football Club building at Lathlain Park, including administration, facilities and change rooms.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Is the \$2 million part of a greater amount?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is \$4 million.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Will a contribution be made by the Town of Victoria Park?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I believe there will be \$5 million from the town.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is this the big grandstand —

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is the old grandstand.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Are they looking at redoing that grandstand or starting afresh?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I am not sure about the actual details, but it is for the redevelopment of Lathlain Park. I do not think the actual grandstand is going to be demolished, but I am not 100 per cent clear on that. Obviously, it will be a major redevelopment.

No; it is for the demolition and a rebuild, which I am quite sad about because that is a famous ground that I used to go to as a little kid, even though I am a South Fremantle supporter. It is for the demolition and a rebuild.

[11.40 am]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The top of the grandstand has very good elevation. I also suggest that the rebuild would not go astray. Has there been any contribution from the West Coast Eagles for that facility, or potential facility?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Yes. It has contributed \$1 million.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** On page 561 is the funding for the regional athlete support program, which is \$1.1 million this year and \$1.14 million in 2022–23, but then the funding seems to disappear. Can the minister enlighten me about what has happened to the regional athlete support program in the forward estimates?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** As the member knows, it is an incredibly important program. One of the best things that I have done in the six months that I have been in this position is allocate these grants. The program has been running since 2013. Total funding of \$3.13 million has been allocated for the period 2021 to 2023 to support that program, of which \$1.1 million has been allocated in 2021–22. Going forward, that will be assessed and we will see where it lands, but I would be very surprised if the program did not continue in one form or another.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** It appears to me as though the minister has to go into bat for quite a few of these programs because they have been cut off in the forward estimates.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Not at all.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I am worried about the continuity. If the price of iron ore drops, the Premier could decide that he needs money for things other than the regional athlete support program, which we both agree is a very important program.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I think the term of the McGowan government since 2017 shows the member that we are committed to this program. In any case, the funding comes from royalties for regions, which is administered by another department, not by this department.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to the line item “West Australian Football Commission” near the end of the table headed “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies” on page 561. The minister has made public comments about the WAFC and the salaries paid to many of the FTEs on the commission. The minister and I were both on the Public Accounts Committee, which the minister chaired. Now that the member is the Minister for Sport and Recreation, has his opinion of the WAFC changed given that the funding to the West Australian Football Commission seems to have increased?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Whether my opinion has changed is not necessarily relevant. I made some comments on this early in my term as minister. As the member knows, there is a funding agreement that lays out the arrangement between the government and the West Australian Football Commission, so it is a legal document. Funding has been provided and there was a response by the West Australian Football Commission to that funding agreement. It is a 10-year agreement and it will increase in line with the consumer price index. The member and I both studied that agreement in detail during that inquiry.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** The very good and very just inquiry into football in Western Australia highlighted regional football as a major issue, including the distances the football leagues have to cover, the lack of investment by the West Australian Football Commission, and the West Australian Country Football League getting that money and passing it on to the football clubs. Has the minister raised with the West Australian Football Commission the issues

and recommendations in the Public Accounts Committee report to try to address the issues such as in the Kimberley and Gascoyne football leagues, both of which are suffering immensely through distance, and has the minister asked the WAFC to provide extra funding to those football bodies?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Obviously, I have many discussions with the chair of the commission and with the commission itself. In the latest agreement, the WAFC has increased funding to the regions. We will watch this space with regard to the funding of regional football. I agree that football is a very important part of the fabric of regional communities.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Has the minister discussed the report of the Public Accounts Committee and the recommendations about the make-up of the WAFC with the chair of the WAFC?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Yes.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** What was the outcome? Will any changes be made to make it a fairer playing field for those wanting to be on the West Australian Football Commission?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** We are stretching this budget item.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is about the funding, and the government is funding it.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I have had discussions. I have mentioned it in public; it is not a secret. As the member, and, I am sure, the member for Roe, would understand, there was a report by Ron Carson into the constitution and make-up of the WAFC. A proposal for change was put forward that has to be voted on by the constituent members. As the member and I both know, we would like to have a more democratic representation on the board.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I understand that the minister wants to have a more democratic board on the West Australian Football Commission —

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** A more representative board.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Yes, of football in general, from the amateurs and up. What moves, if any, is the minister making to ensure that that change will happen in the future?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I am having dialogue with the West Australian Football Commission and making my views clear. As I said, the member and I both know that there is a 10-year funding agreement at this stage.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** When does that funding agreement end?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I think it is in its third or fourth year at the moment.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Okay.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** While we are on page 561, I refer to the Western Australian Institute of Sport on the next line down. Can the minister tell me what the recurrent funding pays for at WAIS?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Obviously, it pays for the continuation of the Western Australian Institute of Sport, which is geared towards the high-performance training of our athletes. In regard to a specific breakdown, WAIS received a total of \$9 751 200 from the sports lotteries account in 2020–21 in addition to \$2 416 000 from the consolidated appropriation, which included \$5 725 800 for its annual operational funding, \$3 875 400 during the financial year for realigned funding adjustments, and \$150 000 for additional Olympian and Paralympian athlete assistant payments. The combined value of WAIS funding for 2020–21 is \$12 167 200.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Have any expenses been put out about the gymnastics inquiry?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** That is an operational matter within WAIS itself. I have not funded that.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Would the minister be happy to take questions on that during the WAIS section further down the line?

[11.50 am]

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I can give the member answers on what we have given the Western Australian Institute of Sport. I cannot give the member answers on what it is funding.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** That is fine.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 561 and KidSport. The numbers are interesting. The 2019–20 actual was \$2 364 000. The 2021–22 budget is \$6 624 000 and then the 2020–21 estimated actual is \$3 424 000. Then it goes up in the 2021–22 budget estimate to \$7 824 000 and then in 2022–23 it goes down to \$4 624 000 and so forth. Can the minister explain the variations in that?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I will give the member an overview of that very important program.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is a very good program started under former minister “Tuck” Waldron.

**The CHAIR:** Member for North West Central, you have asked your question. Wait for a reply, please.

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**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Was that a question?

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I just want to put that out there.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** There is funding into the out years as well.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Roe, nothing out of you, thanks.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The budget of \$7 824 000 includes underspent funding from 2020–21 due to COVID-19 impacts on junior sport participation. There also has been additional funding as a result of the COVID recovery package. The additional funding provided eligible children with access to up to \$300 KidSport funding in the 2021 calendar year. In 2021–22 there has been a significant increase in the number of families accessing KidSport vouchers, which support registration for some sports. Since 1 July 2020–21, 5 800 children have already accessed the additional funding. The extra funding in 2021–22 will enable more swim schools to be included in the KidSport program, with more than \$150 000 funded to support more than 1 100 children. The trend is continuing with positive engagement seeing new swimming schools registering for the KidSport program.

Over 29 000 KidSport vouchers were approved and funded in 2020–21 to over 25 000 Western Australian children, including 3 600 vouchers funded directly through the Lotterywest Back to Sport COVID relief program. These vouchers equated to just over \$4 million provided directly to eligible community sport clubs. Specifically for regional children, 10 292 vouchers were funded, resulting in \$1 298 070 paid into regional community sports clubs. In 2020–21, the KidSport program reported positive demand from a diverse community, including over 4 300 applicants, 70 per cent self-identifying as Aboriginal; over 1 600 applicants from culturally and linguistically diverse communities; and 1 900 applicants with a disability.

The fluctuation has been partly due to COVID stopping participation and then, of course, there has been the COVID recovery money as well.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I am just curious. I heard the minister's response. Does the minister think this program could be expanded further given its importance? Obviously, the government has increased the budget estimate for this year, but then it seems to have dropped it back by \$3 million over the forward estimates each year.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** There are a few different programs. The increased funding is for the Back to Sports component. KidSport funding has not decreased.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The feedback I get is that it helps out families perhaps for one sport but then they cannot go on and play their other winter or summer sports because it will cover only one particular sport or that particular amount. Does the minister think there is any capacity in the future, especially for our more disadvantaged families, to increase the scope and give more funding across another sport or so?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** As I mentioned, there was increased funding in 2021–22. Obviously, these matters are considered in the normal budgetary process, so we will have to wait and see, but it is a very important program and has had some very good positive results.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 560, and the line item halfway down the page, "Community Languages Program". Can the minister explain what that program is all about and whether it reaches regional areas?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The community languages program fund supports 46 community language schools, teaching 32 languages to more than 6 205 students. I should add that, as the member will recall, the funding that the former Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests took away from Italian language teaching has been reinstated. The program is a competitive grants program that is open to all culturally and linguistically diverse community associations in Western Australia in any of the languages spoken by these groups. Funding for various languages depends on the applications received. The program provides per capita grants of up to \$120 per student to help with the costs of operating the school as well as new school grants to help with administrative costs of staff at the school. Funding is also provided to the peak body Community Language Schools WA, which provides professional learning programs, pathways to improvement, school development programs and a dedicated website. I mentioned the continuing support of the Italian language in-school insertion program that is managed by the Italo-Australian Welfare & Cultural Centre Inc, because obviously the Italian language is spoken by a considerable number of people. More than 3 000 people in Western Australia at the time of the 2016 census did not speak English at home, the majority of them being older. Really, the program is there and it is up to people to apply for it. It is a competitive grants system.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Is there oversight of these community groups? The minister mentioned the Italo-Australian Welfare & Cultural Centre. Is there oversight of organisations such as that delivering the language program?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** There is a funding agreement and, obviously, the funding agreement includes what has to be done by the grant recipient. That is always monitored by the Office of Multicultural Interests to ensure that organisations comply with the funding agreement. If they do not comply with the funding agreement, they will not be funded any further.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to page 565 and the community sporting and recreation facilities special purpose account. I notice that the 2020–21 budget was \$18 million and then the estimated actual was also \$18 million, but then it drops back to \$13 million in the actual budget estimate for 2021–22. Can the minister enlighten me on the \$5 million drop-off? That is in the appropriations line.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The \$18 million reflected in 2020–21 consists of \$12 million in new money to be allocated and \$6 million of carryovers from previous funding rounds as the CSRFF allocates money on a triennial basis. The \$13 million in the 2020–21 budget consists of \$12 million in new money to be allocated and \$1 million of allocated money carried over from previous funding. The reduction is due to the carryovers. There was a greater carryover, \$6 million, in the 2020–21 round, whereas in 2021–22 there will only be a \$1 million carryover.

[12 noon]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister tell me why it is appropriate to have this carryover? I would have thought just about every dollar of community sport and rec funding would have been taken up.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The funds are committed but the allocation does not happen until the project starts. The government makes a commitment but sometimes it takes some time for a project to commence—local government approval et cetera. There can be a carryover because the commitment has been made but it does not count until it actually commences.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The minister is saying that the \$6.923 million shown at the closing balance has already been committed, but it is just carried over until it is allocated. Is my understanding correct?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It has already been allocated.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Reallocated?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It has been allocated.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to the line item “Lighting Project Club Night Program” on page 561. I note there is \$10 million over the forward estimates—\$2.5 million for 2021–22. The line item just above that, “Lighting at Collie Recreation Ground”, has \$400 000. That does not leave too many ovals or sporting grounds to be lit under that fund. How many lighting projects around Western Australia does the minister anticipate that that \$2.5 million will fund?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** As the member knows, this is a new initiative; it is a great initiative that the previous government committed to. This \$10 million lighting fund does not mean that lighting cannot also be committed under the normal community sporting and recreation facilities funding. This is additional lighting funding, so it is quite considerable. The Collie funding is allocated outside that program. It is additional funding.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Obviously, lighting is very expensive. For example, to upgrade the lighting to assist the Gascoyne football league in Carnarvon to play football at night would probably cost about \$1 million. That is critical in order for the Gascoyne football league to survive. Also, Carnarvon Speedway needs an upgrade. It is looking at somewhere in the order of \$350 000 to upgrade its lighting. How do organisations like that apply? Has the minister set the criteria? Has that \$2.5 million already been granted to organisations, local governments, or whatever the case may be? Has that money already been spent? What is the application process?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The night lights funding program provides up to one-third of the overall cost. The local government authority also has to come to the party, and also clubs and other funding sources. The member mentioned an issue that is a perennial issue in this portfolio, as all ministers would have come to: there is unlimited demand in the sport and recreation area. But of course governments have to come up with programs to fit certain budgetary parameters. The fact that we have committed an additional \$10 million to the night lights funding program is an absolute compliment to this government. I know from the clubs and organisations that I speak to that they are incredibly happy that this funding program has been instigated.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** The minister is right in saying that it is a bottomless pit when it comes to the need, particularly in regional WA. When I look through the items under “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”, there seems to be a couple of projects in the Kimberley but nothing in between for any other regional community. Putting aside the politics, that is a concern.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** People have to apply for it, member—that is the point. The previous minister to me, Hon Mick Murray—who is a Collie man, but was not Collie-born —

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I see a lot of Collie projects in here!

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The clubs and/or local governments have to apply. Part of the problem is there is no application. The member may be surprised to know that under the CSRFF, 43 per cent is metro and 57 per cent is regional. Out of the CSRFF, more than half goes to the regions. I am not saying it is not deserved; I am just letting the member know that more than half goes to the regions. The 2021–22 breakdown is: metro, 43 per cent; wheatbelt, four per cent; midwest–Gascoyne, 15 per cent; great southern, three per cent; goldfields, one per cent; Kimberley,

18 per cent; Pilbara, two per cent; and south west–Peel, 14 per cent. That is under that program. Of course, other election commitments and so forth were made for other projects. Under that program, a greater spread of money goes to the regions. Money from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development also goes to the regional development commissions. There is other funding to the regions. The regions are doing well, but there is always greater demand.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** When it comes to the lighting project and the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, who has the ultimate say—is it the minister or is it the department?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is a competitive process. It goes through a process in the department and it makes recommendations to the minister.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Say that again, sorry.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is a competitive process. The department, of course, does an analysis of that and makes recommendations to the minister.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Does the minister have the final say? I see people nodding.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The minister signs off on it.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** The minister has the final say by signing off on it.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The minister signs off on it.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** So the answer is yes.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The minister signs off on it.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I will take that as a yes.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** While we are talking about the CSRFF: a recent proposal from certain areas is that given the drop in volunteers —

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Which budget item?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I am flowing on from the questioning. The minister just quoted all these CSRFF —

**DR A.D. BUTI** interjected.

**The CHAIR:** Minister, let the member finish his question and then we will deal with whether it is relevant or not.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Can I just add one thing: an independent panel does the assessment with regard to the funding.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I understand that, but the minister has the ultimate say.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Sorry, member for Roe.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Flowing on from the community sporting and recreation facilities fund that we have been talking about, there has been a recent proposal of 50 per cent, due to the lack of volunteers and a drop in the number of club members and so on, especially in regional areas. I know it is one-third at the moment: one-third from the club, one-third from the shire and one-third from the department. The proposal is that perhaps it should be 50 per cent from the department and 50 per cent from the shire. Does the minister have any comment on that, given the pressures that clubs are under at the moment?

[12.10 pm]

**The CHAIR:** Member for Roe, that is more of a general question than a budget-related question, so it is up to the minister whether he responds.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The minister introduced the subject of the community sporting and recreation facilities fund and my question flows on from that.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I have not heard of that proposal.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 561 and the line item “Sports Lotteries Account”. I note that there is a significant amount of money in that account. Does that account have to do with COVID and lotteries money being distributed to the Department of Sport and Recreation? Is that the fund that we are talking about here?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The line item “Sports Lotteries Account” in the budget papers is a funding source for the industry investment program, with approximately \$7 million allocated to state sporting associations to assist with operations and key strategic initiatives. As was mentioned previously, funding is also provided to the Western Australian Institute of Sport for discrete sport initiatives that benefit the community of Western Australia. The expectation in the 2020–21 budget was that COVID-19 would have a negative impact on the annual allocation over the forward

estimates. However, in 2020–21, the sports lotteries account received its highest level of revenue, which is confirmed at \$18.6 million.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Can the minister provide a breakdown of where the \$18 million has come from?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It comes from the sports lotteries account.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** And what is it made up of? Where is the revenue coming from?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is five per cent of Lotterywest's net revenue.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** In terms of that sports lotteries account, is the minister able to provide a table of the distribution of those funds? I am happy to take that as supplementary information if the minister does not have the answer.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The member can put the question on notice if he wants further answers.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Minister, these are the estimates hearings. There are line items in the budget estimates and if the minister does not know the information for those line items, it raises questions about whether he knows his portfolio. If he does not, perhaps it can be taken as supplementary information.

**The CHAIR:** Member for North West Central, the response was that if you want to put the question on notice, you can.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** That seems to be the response of ministers who do not know their portfolios.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to page 541 and the line item "Small Commitments". Is the minister able to provide a breakdown of sport and recreation projects, multicultural interest projects and citizenship projects, or do they all come under sport and recreation?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Sport and recreation is not multicultural interests. What does the member want?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What are those small commitments and to what area do they pertain?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Would the member for Roe like me to read this list onto the record?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** No, thanks. Can the minister provide that list as supplementary information? I assume that they are election commitments.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I will read them out. The member for Roe can tell me if he wants me to stop. The funds went to: Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club for equipment; Forrestfield Junior Football Club—a great club—for equipment; Wanneroo Districts Netball Association for upgrades; Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club for equipment; Jandakot Jets amateur football club for equipment upgrade; Kelmscott Junior Football Club for an electronic scoreboard; Scarborough Tennis Club for a clubroom fit-out; White Knights Baldivis Cricket Club for equipment; Scarborough Sharks Cricket Club for a clubroom fit-out; Ray Owen Sports Centre for an electronic scoreboard; Baldivis Brumbies Football and Netball Club for equipment; Centrals Football and Netball Club for women's change rooms and equipment; Break the Boundary in Kalamunda for two adaptive off-road cycles; Leeming Spartan Cricket Club for equipment; Rockingham Rugby Union Football Club for equipment; Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club for equipment; Warnbro Bowling Club for furniture; Mt Helena Swim Club for a pool blanket; Wanneroo Basketball Association, Joondalup Wolves, for a vehicle; Forrestdale Sporting Association for solar panels; Piara Waters Cricket Club for sporting equipment; and Maylands Tennis Club for equipment.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I would like the minister to stop now. He asked me when I would like him to stop and it is right now.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, minister. Further question, member for Roe?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We have other —

**The CHAIR:** Yes, the member for Roe is correct. There is another division and an off-budget item.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister provide that list as supplementary information so that I can peruse it over time?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** No. I was prepared to read them out. I was reading them out.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** That is the government's rolled-gold accountability!

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, member for North West Central.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 561, the Western Australian Institute of Sport.

**The CHAIR:** Is the Institute of Sport an off-budget item? We have the WA Sports Centre Trust then the Western Australian Institute of Sport. If it is a separate item, it is a separate item. The member for North West Central can ask the question and we will make a decision afterwards.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** One of the issues in regional WA is talent identification. Are funds available for regional kids for travel and to provide accommodation, boarding, scholarships and all that?

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Thursday, 23 September 2021]

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Mr Peter Rundle; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Mark Folkard

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**Dr A.D. BUTI:** That was in the regional athlete support program that we talked about earlier.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** In terms of identifying talent, does the Department of Sport and Recreation or the WAIS provide —

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** This particular section that deals with WAIS is really with regard to the agreement for funding between this department and WAIS. I will answer the member's specific question when we deal with WAIS.

**The appropriation was recommended.**

[12.20 pm]