

**SURF LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Statement by Member for Scarborough*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough)** [12.52 pm]: This week my electorate has the pleasure of hosting the 2009 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, also known as the Aussies. From its beginnings in 1915 at the iconic Bondi Beach, the championships have been held at numerous beaches across the country, although none is as beautiful and pristine as our very own Scarborough Beach, which has hosted the Aussies since 2007. This competition brings together more than 7 000 competitors from 200 Australian clubs. It is the biggest sporting event of its kind in the world and is uniquely Australian. As well as bringing a world-class sporting event to Western Australia, the championships injected \$23 million into the local economy in 2007, as interstate competitors took the opportunity to participate in the event and then continue holidaying in Scarborough and elsewhere in the state.

In my small role as a volunteer garbage collector this weekend, I will join a group of hundreds of local volunteers who have collectively donated thousands of hours in community service in order to make this event the resounding success it continues to be. Many of these volunteers are surf-lifesavers, part of a group of approximately 1 800 volunteers, who give up their time to ensure that we are kept safe while experiencing the fantastic beaches Western Australia has to offer. Finally, I congratulate Surf Life Saving Western Australia, EventsCorp, the City of Stirling and the local Scarboro and Trigg clubs for the ongoing success of the Aussies. I look forward to the government supporting future attempts to bring the Aussies back to Scarborough.