

**MYSPO RTS NIGHT FIELDS PROGRAM**

*Statement by Member for Thornlie*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie — Parliamentary Secretary)** [12.51 pm]: I was delighted to welcome Hon Peter Tinley, Minister for Youth, to Gosnells recently and show him around the sensational MYSports Night Fields program that has been on at Gosnells Oval on Wednesday evenings for the last eight weeks. The program is a huge success. The other night, 88 local youngsters participated. A quick count revealed an amazing mix of Indigenous heritage and 22 other cultural heritages all relishing the chance to try different sports. Participants are assisted by local coaches who volunteer their time to encourage kids, particularly those from multicultural backgrounds, to participate in sports that they might not otherwise know. The kids rotate around and have a go at sessions of AFL, soccer, netball and gymnastics. Female participation is very strong, auguring well for the continued development of women's sport. For the Gosnells footy club, there is the chance of some early talent spotting and recruitment, but the club is also seizing and revelling in the role of being a community builder. It is tremendous to see youngsters who may have been struggling with the English language gain spontaneous fluency as they call for a pass or encourage a teammate. The local police and their cars are particularly popular, fostering confidence with young people who may have come from countries where police are often seen in a less favourable light. So successful was the initial program last year, a children's zero to six-year-old program with parenting support was added so parents with older children could stay and interact while the very young were also fully occupied. At the end of the participation, a snack from a local cafe is served, providing a win-win for all in the Gosnells community. I pay special acknowledgement to Lauren Reid-Dornbusch and Chris Woods.