

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS MORNING TEA

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.51 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to the generosity of the seniors who live in the Gosnells community. Last Friday, I hosted a Seniors Helping Seniors morning tea, the purpose of which was to gather non-perishable food donations for the growing number of seniors in our community who are finding that the cost of living is too much, and who, after paying utility bills, cannot afford nourishing food. The food gathered was given to John and Bev Lowe, the founders of Manna Industries—a volunteer-operated charity that helps to feed, clothe and support Western Australians in need—for distribution through Manna's networks. John and Bev have received reports from several local general practitioners about an increase in the number of seniors presenting in their surgeries suffering from malnutrition. Bev has also seen an increase in the amount of seniors coming to her for help; this is not an easy thing for a proud senior to do.

Each senior who attended brought at least one tin of food. Amongst the wonderful contributors were Alan and Valma Bunn; Sarah Chambers; Jenny Fitzclarence; Keith and Patricia Hibbitt; Terrance and Petranella Miller; Peter and Katherine Muckett; Mervyn and Delphine Potger; and Brian and Kitty Pratten. Such was their kindness that we were able to gather several wheelbarrow loads of food worth several hundreds of dollars. I also want to acknowledge Beth Clark, secretary of the Gosnells Bowling Club, who assisted my office with the arrangements, and the wonderful team who helped with catering on the day, led by Lesley Smirk, along with Tricia Klisc, Dorothy Kerr and Gloria Hanahoe. I also want to acknowledge the musical entertainment provided by the Gooseberry Hill Primary School senior choir. I thank the house.