

THORNIE ANGLICAN HAMPERS

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.50 pm]: In 2015, Thornlie Anglican Hampers is celebrating 20 years of service. The hampers program is just one of the community support projects run by St Andrew's Anglican parish in Thornlie. In my electorate office, it is hugely reassuring to know that the hamper service is just around the corner. People desperate for food and basic supplies sometimes call in, seeking emergency help to tide them over. That is what the hampers are for. Wendy Smith is the coordinator of Thornlie Anglican Hampers and she runs a tight ship. Wendy knows where every dollar comes from and where it is going. She keeps the many supporters and supporting organisations, individuals, businesses and charities up to date with the demand and supply of crisis care.

To give members some idea of the scale, in the 12 months to May this year, 1 529 people were supported by the delivery of 475 hampers. The hampers include fresh food, such as eggs, as well as staples that are more easily stored. Perhaps the most important thing is that the team involved has spent time with vulnerable families and individuals who have reached out for help. The hampers team also provides school stationery and supplies kits at the beginning of the school year. Parents will know that it is a financial challenge to fulfil the request for support, and there are many people in my Gosnells electorate who take up the offer of assistance—302, in fact, last year. Wendy and her team have already put in place the mechanism for supplies for the beginning of the 2016 school year.