

ANNUAL VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT

Statement by Member for Scarborough

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.53 pm]: Last Thursday, along with 106 others, I attended the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout, a fundraiser for St Vincent de Paul Society. Western Australia once again punched well above its weight, raising almost \$600 000 from almost 2 500 donors towards a national total of \$4 million. During the evening we were entertained by members of the St Pat's Starlight Hotel Choir, who sang some of their repertoire from their CD *Shelter Me*. Present throughout the evening were also some amazing people who shared the personal stories of their journeys from homelessness through to their recovery as a result of their interaction with St Vinnies. St Vinnies does a terrific job connecting with the marginalised and homeless within our society, reinstating their dignity by honouring and respecting their humanity. St Vinnies specifically targets homelessness through the Vincentian Village in Woodbridge and the Passages Resource Centre in Northbridge, which, with the help of the Rotary Club of Perth, provides services for youth aged 12 to 25 to assist them in transitioning out of homelessness.

I am very pleased that this Liberal–National government has also partnered with St Vinnies in this budget year with a contribution of \$5.4 million towards a new acute homelessness shelter in the city centre, which will provide 3 650 safe nights sleep per year for those in need within our city. Congratulations to St Vincent de Paul on a well-run event and also to all participants and donors who have opened their hearts and their wallets to this very worthy cause.