

SCULPTURE BY THE SEA

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.53 pm]: I recently had the pleasure of attending *Sculpture by the Sea* at Cottesloe Beach as guest of the founding director, Mr David Handley. This is Western Australia's premier annual cultural event and it attracts more than 243 000 visitors, 17 000 of whom come from overseas or interstate. Two and a half thousand students participate in the school education program led by artists, and more than 7 000 students attend with their teachers on self-guided school excursions. In total, this is one of the state's most significant cultural awareness education programs. However, due to the increased popularity of the event, it now costs \$2.3 million to produce it. Unless increased funding is secured in 2019, this will be the last *Sculpture by the Sea* experienced in Western Australia. Currently, more than 80 per cent of the funding comes from the corporate sector and the program's own resources. This makes it one of the few free-entry, open-to-the-public art, culture and community events in Western Australia. The state government's initial response to the request for additional funding to keep this as a free event open to the whole community to wander through has been particularly disappointing. An Oxford Economics study conducted in 2013 shows that this project generated over \$7.6 million in direct expenditure and \$18.3 million in indirect expenditure. That is almost \$26 million. Sculpture by the Sea is asking for a contribution from the state of \$600 000, which would be a 40 times multiple on that amount.