

**ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

*Statement by Member for Albany*

**MS R.S. STEPHENS (Albany)** [12.55 pm]: The Albany Community Foundation was established in 2014 by a group of passionate locals who shared an idea of contributing directly to our community to support people who had fallen on hard times through no fault of their own. They wanted a vehicle in which donors could contribute to a transparent and efficiently run local charity. I am a proud member of the foundation, and commend the hardworking committee of volunteers, including chairman and founding member, Tae Wood; vice-chairman and founding member, Jeremy Stewart; Julie de Jong; Stacey Murnane; Ashley McPhail; and Libby Corson. ACF launched its housing crisis response fund, setting aside \$70 000 in November last year in response to the growing cost-of-living crisis and housing shortages for people who would never normally be asking for help needing assistance. In four months, they have provided over \$23 000 worth of support to 25 applicants. This represents 25 people or families who have been helped to either secure or keep a roof over their heads.

The four frontline agencies that not only designed this new initiative, but who are also administering it are working closely with Advance Housing and the Department of Communities, amongst others, which are able to refer eligible clients to participating agencies such as Anglicare WA, Pivot Support Services, the Albany Youth Support Association and Palmerston. Over the past five years, the ACF has supported approximately 700 students from Mount Barker Community College, Mount Lockyer Primary School, Spencer Park Primary School and Albany Primary School to a total value of \$54 855.