

BASKETBALL — NATIONAL LEAGUE FINALS

Statement by Member for Kingsley

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.51 pm]: Basketball is one of the fastest-growing participation sports in Australia, especially among girls and women. This popularity was on full display over the weekend of 18 to 20 August this year when the NBL1 national finals were held at HBF Arena in Joondalup. The men's and women's championship teams from each of the NBL1 conferences—north, east, south, central and, of course, west—along with the 2022 defending champions, the women's Warwick Senators and the men's Rockingham Flames, competed to take out the NBL1 national title. Congratulations to Dean Anglin from NBL1 and the Basketball WA team led by acting the chief executive officer, Evan Stewart, and the chief operating officer, Jonelle Morley, for organising and putting on a spectacular show. Over 5 000 attendees visited the event over three days to watch a total of 16 games and enjoy the festival atmosphere off court with shooting competitions, food trucks and plenty of merch and supporters' gear available to win or purchase.

Our WA teams performed admirably with the Warwick Senators and Cockburn Cougars women finishing third and fourth respectively. The men's Geraldton Buccaneers were unlucky to miss out on the finals, coming third, with the men's Rockingham Flames playing in the final but ultimately falling heartbreakingly short in the final few minutes of an exciting game. The event partners ensured this massive event was able to go ahead and thanks should be given to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Lotterywest, Sullivan Logistics and the City Joondalup.

For all those with mini ballers in their lives, this amazing event was a rare opportunity to watch some of the most talented upcoming and established basketball players in Australia play in their own backyard, on courts they often play on for domestic or Western Australian Basketball League competitions. Basketball WA should be commended for securing this inspiring event for WA, for our basketball kids and the basketball community and, of course, for the tourism and economic impact an event such as this has on the local economy.