

**PREMIER'S STATEMENT**

*Consideration*

Resumed from 16 November on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

**MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach)** [3.10 pm]: I rise to respond to the Premier's Statement. Before I do, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise Richard Lissett from Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club. After winning the volunteer of the year award for Surf Life Saving WA, Richard went on to win the national DHL Surf Life Saving Australia volunteer of the year award.

His citation reads —

Richard took on the roles of Director of Lifesaving, Director of Education and Club Captain as well as doing 100 hours of Patrol and taking on the duties of Age Group Manager.

Realising that you can take on too much and burn out Richard set about recruiting other Club Members to take on support roles and now has 8 support service officers able to take on the senior roles in the Club.

He established the Club's first IT Committee to tackle the challenges of a growing Club. Richard has used his corporate strategic planning skills to assist develop the Club's Strategic Plan as well as reviewing and redrafting all Club policies and procedures to ensure appropriate governance and alignment with both SLSWA and SLSA. To ensure that processes and procedures are consistent he also developed a suite of templates for Officers and members to use. Richard is passionate about ensuring the Club looks 'beyond the flags' and engages with the broader community and local government to help realise the Vision and Mission of SLSA. His mantra for his Club is "Don't step back, step forward" and has a firm belief that Clubs should constantly be seeking feedback from its members and reigniting the passion for the purpose of saving lives.

For those who do not know me, I think this is my forty-second year as a surf lifesaver. I am also a patrol captain and the patron of the Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club, so seeing Richard awarded this prestigious and sought-after award is just a credit to his work ethic and his love for keeping the beach safe and enhancing everybody's experience on the beach. That includes not only club members, but also countless constituents from my community.

If members were to meet Richard, the thing that would stand out about him is his humility. I laugh with him often. When he was awarded the state award, we kept promising one another we would catch up to get a photo but it never happened. You know what? That is Richard's way; he just gets on with it. Richard has done an outstanding piece of work, but I can say, almost without hesitation, that his family is the key to his success. I note that there is no mention of them in the citation so, on behalf of a grateful community and club patron, I would like to thank his wife, Tracey, his son, Harry, and his daughter, Amelia. Without their support, I am sure Richard would never have achieved the results that he has.

The second person I would like to take the time to recognise is outstanding local cyclist Jai Hindley, who won the prestigious Giro d'Italia this year. The 26-year-old, who hails from Mindarie, is one of only two Australian riders to win a grand tour, following Cadel Evans' 2011 Tour de France triumph. He is the first Australian to win the Giro d'Italia and one of two Australian riders to win a grand tour. For those who do not know, Jai was here in Parliament today. If members looked in the dining room, they would have seen the huge trophy; it stands about this tall.

Jai Hindley's biography states that his cycling journey started at the Midland Cycle Club. I can tell members that that is not true! It actually started when he would ride to Mindarie Primary School every morning. I have spoken to his proud mum and the teachers at Mindarie Primary School, and they have all told me that Jai used to pedal like a possessed person to school every morning and home every night. He started this when he was six years old. From there, he earned a Western Australian Institute of Sport scholarship, which supported him to graduate to the national under-23 team in Europe and, ultimately, become a professional contract rider with the Union Cycliste Internationale World Tour. His success follows a breakthrough performance at the 2020 race, where he won a stage and finished second overall. That is such an achievement.

Jai moved to the Bora-Hansgrohe team for the 2022 season. Early in the season, he managed a top-five finish in the—I will try this—2022 Tirreno-Adriatico. Okay. A couple of months later, he won his first grand tour, the Giro d'Italia. Jai rode strongly for the first two weeks of the race and won stage 9, the high mountain stage. He is not a massive person; one would expect the engine that drives him to be huge but he just looks like you and me—a normal person. It is phenomenal.

On the penultimate mountain stage, he was able to drop the contenders, including Richard Carapaz, and ride himself into the lead, with a comfortable margin going into the final individual time trial. I will not go on about the rest of his achievements, but when I met him at Mindarie Primary School, we had a great day. The kids were in assembly

and I remember that he had his bike and his trophy there. The thing that really struck me was his drive to get the kids to wear their bike helmets. This is a guy who has pedalled all over the world. He asked the kids how many of them ride their bike to school and everyone stuck their hands up. His next question was: how many wear a helmet? Quite a few of the hands came down. I just remember that, for such a great individual, he has such humility, and the way he drove home that message about everyone wearing cycle helmets when they ride a bike. The first responders in this house know how important that is.

I return to my response to the Premier's Statement. I can say without reservation that this is a government of achievement. We have made nothing short of exceptional accomplishments. We have finally come out of the COVID-19 pandemic and not only has our economy grown, but also we have achieved a AAA saving status after saving hundreds of millions of dollars in loan repayments. I am not the one saying this; rather, it is Standard and Poor's and other experts.

I recall the statement made during the COVID pandemic that the Western Australian economy was possibly the strongest in the world. The humble Western Australia was being a leader in the world—a bit like Jai! Our economy has continually grown throughout this time with this government's response to COVID, but our labour force has not grown in parallel with the economy, and I am saddened by that. I do not know of a sector within our community that has not complained to me about staffing issues. I know—I am building a house, and I can tell members that finding tradesmen is a definite challenge for the company that is helping us with that.

I have said previously that this government is a government of achievement. It has fought hard to ensure that we have kept our fair share of GST. Our Premier; Treasurer has done a wonderful job in this space, fighting off the thieves in the night, like the Premier of New South Wales, trying to steal our fair share. I often hear the deluded statement that the Liberal Party is competent in managing our economy—really? Let us look at its colleagues, the current New South Wales Liberal–National government. It sold off its government streams of revenue, like its power stations, in the name of paying down debt. That has resulted in extreme and uncontrolled increases in electricity prices. No wonder it comes creeping in the night like a wiggling noodle in the grass. How competent is a government that believes that cutting income streams leads to better provision of services? I have to ask: with less money coming in, surely that means the government can achieve less provision of service for its people?

I will not go any further than that because, in the next part of my speech, I am only going to be criticising the members opposite. This is a good day to finish in the house. With that, I end my comments.

**MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough)** [3.21 pm]: I rise today to respond to the Premier's Statement, which was delivered to Parliament on 15 February 2022. I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the importance of sport and recreation in Western Australia and recognise some of my local sport and recreation clubs.

Joining Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club changed my life. Never before in my life had I felt the sense of belonging and fulfilment I felt when I became a surf lifesaver at Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club. A social return on investment study commissioned this year by SportWest has revealed that WA-organised sport and its 700 000 participants return \$7.10 in economic and social benefit for every dollar of cost each year, totalling a gross benefit of \$10.3 billion per annum. The gross benefit can be broken down into economic and employment benefits, \$4.85 billion; physical and mental health benefits, \$3.02 billion; and personal wellbeing and broader social benefits, \$2.39 billion. The mental health benefits delivered by sport alone are \$1.8 billion a year. This report tells me and other members of community sport and recreation clubs something that we 700 000 participants in WA already know—that is, that our clubs are not just a sporting club. They are our homes away from home. They are villages that work together to raise our children in a healthy and safe environment. They are a community that shapes the lives of their members. Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club's motto is "Developing lives, saving lives". These clubs are institutions with a long and proud history of older members who support and guide the younger members. They are an extended family, and, as a family, they support each other in the best of times and the worst of times. Together, they strongly feel and celebrate the wins on and off the field, but they also feel the pain of loss on and off the field just as strongly.

There are many clubs in my electorate at which I feel as much a part of the club as I do at Scarboro surf club. One of those is the North Beach Soccer Club in North Beach. I first came to know the North Beach Soccer Club and its president Simon Collins through the election campaign, in which the McGowan Labor government and I promised and delivered \$200 000 to support the installation of lighting at Charles Riley Reserve. But it was not until I attended the North Beach Soccer Club's fiftieth anniversary dinner that I got to know and connect with the club's members. The men's team's vice president, Callum Parker, was given the responsibility of babysitting the VIPs that night. I was surprised when I met Callum. He was in his early 20s, studying law, and was genuinely interested in learning about and supporting others. We had some really good yarns. When he gave his speech to the club that night, I saw the true markings of a leader—someone who realises the power of the spoken word and of sporting clubs and their ability to improve and shape people's lives. The anniversary dinner night ended with lots of beers drunk, the president's wife asking me around for dinner so that she could set me up with her daughter, and me joining the club members, arm in arm, singing the club song at the end of the night!

In March this year, following the delivery of the upgraded lighting in North Beach, I received a message. The message read —

“Hi Stuart, not sure if Simon has been in contact but North Beach SC has a charity match for Brain Cancer this Friday Night under the new lights. Each team has to have a celebrity appearance. Scomo wasn’t available, so was keen to see if you are free. Callum NBSC”

I accepted the invitation and played the full match. My performance on the field can be summarised by Callum’s half-time comment. He said, “Stuart, we appreciate that you’re here, but maybe stick to footy next time!” That match was part of a fundraiser in support of Ali Westwood and Nicola Parker, Callum’s mum, both of whom had been diagnosed with brain cancer. Nicola Parker has since tragically passed away, only a couple of months ago. Her memory is carried on by not only her husband, Gavin; son, Callum; and daughter, Brooke; but also all the members of the North Beach Soccer Club, who feel the pain of her loss deeply. Nicola’s daughter, Brooke, has shared an acknowledgement of her mum for me to share with Parliament. She said —

Nicola, better known as Nikki was born in Africa to her loving parents, Olga and Rob, in 1967.

She later married her Husband Gavin and had two children Brooke and Callum. Nikki moved to Australia permanently in 2001 and worked throughout her time here firstly as a beautician and later as a school admin at Burbridge School.

Nikki had no existing health conditions and was not only considered very healthy but also took great pride in looking after her and her family’s health. So, it came as a huge shock when she was diagnosed with stage 3 Glioblastoma Brain Cancer in July 2021.

After brain surgery Nikki and her family were told that this cancer had a very low survival rate, it was not going to be a matter of if it got her, but when. She then went through 15 months of treatment through the cancer clinic and Sir Charles Gardiner hospital and passed in October 2022.

Nikki was described by her friends as one of the most special people in their lives. She loved her family and friends, and her community meant a lot to her. She was brave and did everything with class and kindness.

Even in the face of this she cared more for others than herself and enjoyed every second spent living life. Nikki was an incredible mother to Callum and Brooke.

She took great pride in seeing them make their way in Australia and was always there on the “side lines” to cheer us them on.

May you rest in peace Nicola “Nikki” Parker

In December 2021, Ali Westwood, a player at North Beach, was diagnosed with brain cancer as well, and in less than a month he was undergoing neurosurgery. Doctors successfully removed 90 per cent of the tumour but left 10 per cent due to the risk of removal. In late February 2021, only a month later, he underwent a second surgery to remove the remainder of the tumour. Between the surgeries, Ali proposed to his partner, Kayla Carlino, who has supported him the whole way through his journey to defeat brain cancer, and they will get married on 15 April 2023. It was a short and incredibly hard journey, and Ali stayed positive the whole time. Ali shared some of the things he learnt on his journey. First, however bad you think your day is going and no matter how negative you feel, there are better days ahead. Second, believe in yourself. You can get through any tough times if you look towards positive endings. Third, always find something to look forward to, no matter how small it is. It might just keep you going on those really bad days. Fourth, life is a bumpy journey. Enjoy the highs and ride out the lows. Live in the moment.

Only a month after his second surgery, Ali played in a charity match and made it through the whole game, although he told me afterwards that I had apparently roughed him up a little. Despite my apparent attempt to derail him, he has got on with his life and got it back on track. He returned to university and finished his degree in teaching physical education in high school, and he has resumed driving, working and playing sports. Ali’s journey has been an inspiration for his friends and family and the North Beach Soccer Club, which rallied around him to support him through his battle with brain cancer.

Unfortunately, only nine months after Ali’s diagnosis and subsequent defeat of brain cancer, the Westwood family and North Beach were devastated when Trevor Westwood, Ali’s father, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. This Sunday, I will join the North Beach Soccer Club for a golf day fundraiser to raise funds in support of the Westwood family at this difficult time. Trevor’s wife, Claire, has shared some of Trevor’s story for me to share today.

Born in the United Kingdom, Trevor, “Trev”, was a plumbing and heating engineer for 35 years before emigrating to Perth in 2009. After arriving in Perth, Trevor changed careers for seven years and worked at the RAC driving centre as a trainer and assessor until it was closed. He then went to the police and community youth centre to work as a trainer, teaching Indigenous students in years 11 and 12 how to change their lives and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Trevor's greatest and proudest achievement in life is the love and support he has given his family. He is deeply proud of his three children, Lauren, Ross and Ali, and how they have adapted and thrived in Perth after relocating at the ages of 15, 14 and 11 years old. He is also proud of how, as a family, and with the support of many friends at North Beach, the Westwood family navigated through Ali's diagnosis of brain cancer and his journey to defeat it after two surgeries.

Trevor is not someone who minces his words. He gets very passionate about soccer, especially when Ali and Ross are playing. Trevor is cherished by his family, who are all members of the North Beach Soccer Club, and he will be deeply missed by us all. I hope that Trevor finds some solace in knowing that part of his story is now recorded in *Hansard* of the Western Australian Parliament, as it is in the memory of the Westwood family and the North Beach family, who will be there for his family long into the future. I wish Ali a wonderful and happy wedding in April. His story is an inspiration and a reminder to us all that the time we have on this planet is a gift. To the Parkers—Callum, Gavin, and Brooke—I did not have the privilege of knowing Nicola, but having become friends with Callum and seeing the type of human being she raised, I know she was a wonderful woman.

At the golf day this Sunday, I will present an official *Hansard* extract of this speech to each family as a reminder of the positive impact they have had on the North Beach Soccer Club, the Scarborough community and this world. I hope that having your stories etched into the public record of the Parliament of Western Australia for as long as it exists, provides some solace. Up the Beach! Thank you.

Question put and passed.