

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Statement by Member for Carine

MR A. KRSTICEVIC (Carine) [12.21 pm]: Riding for the Disabled Association of Western Australia is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation with affiliated centres throughout the world and Australia. The Carine group is located at Carine Open Space and is one of 19 centres in Western Australia. They aim to promote fun, freedom and fitness while developing the abilities and enriching the lives of people living with disabilities through therapeutic and recreational horse activities.

Like the increasing number of medical and community service professionals, RDAWA consider horse riding to be a valuable activity that has shown to provide significant aid in treatment and rehabilitation. This is achieved by providing safe, stimulating and healthy therapeutic activities such as horse riding, vaulting, hippotherapy, carriage driving and dressage. Through equestrian activities people with disabilities experience challenges and a sense of achievement through participation, which results in the development of life skills, improved quality of life and the attainment of personal goals.

Riding for the Disabled Australia recently participated in the 2010 Special Olympics held in Adelaide in the category of demonstration sport. Nine Western Australian riders attended, including Ian Gelley, Diane Keys, Whitney Saffron and Chanelle Woodhead from the Carine group. They were supported by state coach Julie Nicholson, assistant coach Willie Warnock and team manager Jenny Loftus. All riders were successful, winning a total of three gold, five silver and eight bronze medals and numerous ribbons.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the president, Jenny Loftus, secretary, Ed Morgan, and senior coach, Liz Harvey. As the current patron of the Carine group, I continue to be impressed with and inspired by their dedication and motivation and support them in their endeavour to be included in future Olympic competitions.