



**SPORT**  
**14 November 1996**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** We will no doubt hear many references to sport in the lead-up to the Olympic Games in Sydney in the year 2000. Nevertheless, it is good to remember that Australia has many more top sports people than the elite who represent our nation at the world level of Olympic competition. I am proud to have in my electorate of Flinders the top Australian secondary school sailing teams, who victoriously represented our country against New Zealand in September. Students from Port Lincoln High School defeated students from New Zealand's Keri Keri High School 11 races to seven to win the 1996 Epiglass Interdominion Secondary Schools Sailing Teams Championship.

We were privileged to have Premier Dean Brown toss the coin to start the 1996 series. It was a good omen that the Premier was able to start the series that marked another win by our local teenagers. The team members, whose ages range from 14 to 17 years, were: captain Paul Buckland, Alina Haldane, Aaron Matulich, Louise Buckland, Matthew Octoman, Tim Walker and Simon Growden. The coach was Brett Young and the managers were Tiffany Evans and Gary Walpole.

Port Lincoln High School and Port Lincoln's St Joseph's School, which also has sailing teams, hosted the State heats on Boston Bay in 1995, and now Port Lincoln has hosted the 1996 interdominion on Boston Bay. Port Lincoln has won four successive Epiglass Australian Secondary Schools Teams Racing Championships since the national series began in 1990 and three interdominion titles over the same period. With a coastline as long as Tasmania's, it is perhaps not surprising that sailing is strong in my electorate. We have some of the best inshore waters for yachting in Australia. When we promote this State, that is surely worth all the promotion we can give, because it has the potential to attract many more international as well as national visitors. Like any sport, training is an important factor in success. Over the years, Port Lincoln yachtsmen who have experience in competition sailing at world level have freely given of their time to coach teenagers for this prestigious competition. That means a significant cost to the individual.

I again draw the attention of the House to Constable John Hookings of Streaky Bay, who has revived sailing in that district through the development of the Blue Light Sailing Club. At his own expense, Constable Hookings travelled with two members of the club to Hamilton Island in Queensland in August this year for the boys to participate in the Hamilton Island race week. These two students, Eric Elliot and Paul Elliot, would never have accessed such an experience without the initiative of Constable Hookings, who is Chairman of the Streaky Bay Blue Light Sailing Club, in developing sailing and his considerable personal cost to get them to the event. I commend the Government, Premier Dean Brown and the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing (Hon. Graham Ingerson) for establishing a sport and recreation fund from gaming machine revenue. I am excited about the possibility of the sports grants for clubs and individuals made available through these grants, which will significantly benefit country people, especially young people in my electorate. These funds will bring a measure of social justice to the youth of my electorate, by going some way towards covering the heavy cost of travel when a person is selected for a State team.

More than 20 young people in my electorate who are involved in sports such as hockey, Australian rules football, callisthenics, swimming, netball, BMX, softball and sailing currently represent the State in some way. These grants will help to overcome the significant travel costs that people in my electorate face when competing at State level, aiming to get to the stop of their chosen sport. Travel is a costly item when a child has to fly to Adelaide each weekend for training in a State team and, subsequently, there is the cost of attendance at the competition. The cost of travel is unavoidable for, without that training, the person is ineligible for the team. I look forward to the day when more of the young people in my electorate will have the opportunity to emulate Keiran Modra, who won gold at the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta, or Dean Lukin, who won gold at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.