

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

### OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:21):** I rise to support the motion of the member for Stuart that this house congratulates all the South Australian athletes for their selection in the Australian team for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. I acknowledge the efforts of all these Olympians and Paralympians over the years: the early-morning starts and the relentless training they have to go through to make sure that they are at the peak level at the right time to do their best for the nation.

It is always amazing to see these young people and the training they go through and the commitments they have to make around work and family. Certainly, there is a huge support team behind them all, whether it be family or coaching staff. It is just so good to see not only the success we have had at the Olympic Games but also the enormous success we are having at the Paralympic Games. We saw Matt Cowdrey notch up his 11th gold medal—a championship performance.

As members have said previously, to see what the Paralympians do to get through their events is absolutely fantastic. One thing I do enjoy watching is the Paralympians playing basketball in those chairs they are in. They crash and roll over, then pick themselves up or get picked up, and away they go again, and—

Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

**Mr PEDERICK:** I will leave that! I think it is fantastic to watch these people in that event. I would like to talk about James McCrae, a Murray Bridge boy. He did very well in these Olympics in the quad sculls, winning a bronze medal. He and his crew were fourth in Beijing, so they are stepping up the ladder. He still young enough—I believe he is only about 25—to go a long way yet in the Olympic Games and hopefully get a gold at the next one.

I was just informed by my staff that James was an under 12s ruckman for the Ramblers in Murray Bridge, in the football club, and that he could have made a great footballer. I am sure he could; he is about as tall as I am although a little bit slimmer, as you would expect in a rower. He has made an excellent choice in chasing his rowing career, not that I doubt that he would have made a great footballer. I know his mum, Chris, was over in London and she would be immensely proud of his achievements. I ran into James when we had the welcome home parade at the Adelaide Town Hall and he is a very unassuming lad, which is a good thing. He has obviously achieved a lot as have all the Olympians who competed and, whether they won a medal or not, just to get to that level is an amazing achievement, whatever

field you are in. I congratulate all our Olympians and Paralympians and wish them all the best now and into the future.