

CORRECTED TRANSCRIPT

RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Inquiry into country football

Wangaratta – 15 April 2004

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Ms I. Frampton, Benalla All Blacks Support Club.

Ms FRAMPTON — My name is Irene Frampton from the Benalla All Blacks Support Club. I was interested in the comments made by the other people who made submissions here today about expenses. I feel the expenses are crippling local clubs in the main — the insurance and these courses that everyone has to take. It is all very well for a colleague to say that they provide courses for volunteers to do administration within football clubs, but 9 times out of 10 most volunteers are working. They cannot go. Clubs are battling to have financial resources to put these people through these courses, which all have to be paid for. It does not matter who you are affiliated with, if you go through any league you still have to pay for these courses to be attended. As I say, most volunteers work and they do not have the time, and insurance is one the of the main things that seems to be killing football clubs. I do not know what can be done about it, but I feel maybe the government could talk to insurance companies or rationalise it in some way to make it more even, especially for struggling smaller leagues because we do try and cater for them.

I also agree with what was said about the watering situation and fees to local councils regarding use of grounds. I think it all needs to be looked at, and maybe we could have more participation from the AFL. We are finding it very difficult to have contact with the AFL to try and get help to promote our junior football. We have four grades in our football and at the present time we are having difficulty to get through to the AFL that we need some assistance to take those kids who are still interested to see a game in Melbourne and all that sort of thing.

We in Benalla are competing against soccer and basketball, and we are finding it very hard. You cannot get parents to come along and be a part. I have been a volunteer with our club for about 20-odd years, and you will just find you get the same volunteers. It is no good saying that if you have more kids participating in sport you will get more volunteers because it does not work that way. People's lives are just too busy these days for that to happen.

Another thing I would like to add is that the grants that the government puts out are very hard to achieve. The guidelines are sometimes not within what we are trying to achieve within our club. Okay? I think that is about that I need to say at the moment. Thank you very much for listening to me.

Committee adjourned.