

EXTRACT FROM HANSARD

14 MAY 2009

READ WRITE NOW! PROGRAM

Statement by Member for Riverton

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [12.25 pm]: I am very pleased to take this opportunity during National Volunteers Week to speak to the House about the Read Write Now! program to improve adult literacy.

The program, which operates in 23 regions through Western Australia, is designed to help adults overcome literacy obstacles. Statistics show that 46 per cent of the Australian adult population experience problems with everyday literacy, often as a result of lost opportunities during their childhood.

Currently, each year more than 700 volunteers provide this free adult literacy tutoring service on a one-on-one basis to about 800 adults.

In the Riverton electorate Mrs Liz Doerksen is the coordinator and there are about 35 tutors in this area. I recently attended a morning tea and met many of the tutors, including Jeanette Ford, Frans Lobler, Iris Finney, Ingrid Clark and Pamela Lydford, who is the district convenor.

Read Write Now! is always looking for volunteers to enable them to continue to provide their service. I encourage anybody who is interested in becoming a volunteer tutor to contact the group on 9427 1393.

The Read Write Now! program provides a vital service within the community and I commend it and the invaluable volunteer work that the volunteers do.