

**SHELTERBOX AUSTRALIA**

*Statement by Member for Riverton*

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton)** [12.56 pm]: I am pleased to speak to the house about the innovative ShelterBox Australia project, which is a Rotary International initiative. The project supplies a comprehensive set of facilities for people in need of emergency shelter and sustenance. Goods are provided in a compact container the size of a large esky. Each purpose-built ShelterBox contains a 10-person tent, thermal blankets, a multi-fuel cooker, water purification tablets and other basic tools and survival items. Donations to ShelterBox Australia reached \$5.3 million in June 2008 and enabled vital humanitarian assistance to be provided to some 800 000 people worldwide. Recently, ShelterBox Australia supplied 100 of these resources to victims of the Victorian bush fires, and many local Rotary clubs donated to that project. On a grassroots level, many local Rotary clubs held fundraisers to provide much-needed support for this project. The valuable role played by these volunteers in our community deserves to be acknowledged, and I recommend that all members get behind the ShelterBox Australia program. Funding details are provided at [www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au).