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AMF Cannington centre manager Kyam Schwarze hopes the lessons could inspire the next champion bowler to represent Australia at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Photograph — Matt Devlin.

Olympic sport hopes

By HAMISH HASTIE

With ten pin bowling on the shortlist for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan the call was out for the next crop of superstar bowlers to take on the world.

Bowling was announced on the shortlist with seven other sports including karate, surfing and baseball.

The list will be narrowed down in August before the international Olympic committee would make a decision but the bowling community in Perth was

already excited.

AMF bowling in Cannington was holding free bowling classes at the end of the month to earth out talent.

AMF Cannington centre manager Kyam Schwarze said it was about time bowling got the recognition it deserved as an international sport.

"It's about time, I hope it gets through," she said.

"It's such a great sport and it's huge across the world, I don't know why it hasn't been included yet."

Ms Schwarze said she

hoped that with the free bowling lessons they could inspire the next champion bowler from the southern suburbs or even just get people back into bowling.

"Players will be enabled with new skills to improve their bowling, in four short weeks, including how to approach the lane, how to target and swing, how to aim and different types of shots," she said. Lessons start July 21. View session details online at www.amfbowling.com.au/bowling101 and call 1300 368 067 to book.

Wages bonanza for City of Canning

By HAMISH HASTIE

The City of Canning was paying almost double the amount for employees than it was in 2008-09 according to the city's budget passed last week.

In the 2008-09 financial year the city spent \$31.4 million for 581 full time equivalent (FTE) employees.

In the 2014-15 budget that cost had grown to \$59.4 million for 724 FTE employees.

In the 2015-16 budget the cost will grow to \$59.7 million but FTE employees will reduce by 32 to 692 for a population of more than 98,000.

The biggest jumps occurred in 2012 when the city added almost \$6 million to its budget for employees and in 2014 when it added a further \$6.2 million.

The amount of staff paid more than \$100,000 at the City of Canning had risen from 11 in 2008-09 to 29 in 2013-14.

In comparison, the City of Melville's employee costs had risen from \$31.5 million in 2008-09 to \$45 million for a population of more than 107,000 people this financial year.

The City of Armadale's employee costs rose from \$20.5 million in 2008-09 to \$28 million in 2014-15 for a population of more than 76,000.

This year the City of Gosnells, which had a population of more than 118,000, had budgeted \$40.4 million for employee costs.

Member for Riverton Mike Nahan expressed concern at the increases but Canning chief executive Lyn Russell said it made the city a competitive employer to retain the best qualified staff.

Dr Nahan said the cost for employees was greater than the revenue the city received from rates. "The city has been allowed to be managed for the staff rather than the ratepayers," he said.

"Staff are important, when it started the wage rates were about comparable to Gosnells and

Melville now Canning are generally substantially above those other cities."

Dr Nahan also criticised the recent enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA).

"They also put on a range of new people, a substantial increase of their staff levels and put a large number of them on permanent positions," he said.

Ms Russell defended the cost increases and said they were a result of a review into staff salaries.

"The City of Canning engaged an independent consultant to undertake a review of Canning staff salaries," she said.

"The review found that Canning staff were underpaid in comparison to staff in nearby and comparable local governments.

"The current EBA ensures Canning is a competitive employer capable of retaining highly skilled staff.

"The increase is a reflection in the general increase in employee costs across the state and nation."

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'Stop using Canning as a punching bag'

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"Although the city's financial position is strong, over recent years, its budgetary planning and execution have not been such to underwrite Canning's sustainability for the longer term future," he said.

"There will be a material

reduction in full time equivalents by financial year end and the city is now on track towards returning to financial sustainability."

Mr Cole said the city must stop being used as a political punching bag.

"Regrettably the two inquiries and the matters that gave

rise to them being called have led to Canning becoming a political punching bag for those wishing to make derogatory comments about the city," he said.

"These comments must stop, they can only properly be stopped by taking away the basis which give substance

and oxygen to them."

The budget also outlined significant infrastructure work this financial year with \$6 million on road renewals and \$8.5 million on road improvements, money for a new city website and the completion of the Riverton leisureplex geothermal bore.

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