

**MCCUSKER FOUNDATION, ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH**

*Statement by Member for Joondalup*

**MR A.P. O'GORMAN** (Joondalup) [12.52 pm]: Last Saturday, I had the privilege of attending a meeting at the McCusker Foundation for Alzheimer's Disease Research, at which the annual report was presented. I would like to acknowledge the work of this organisation in being at the forefront - worldwide - in its research into this disease. I am sure that everyone in this place has known somebody who has succumbed to Alzheimer's. My grandparents were victims and were taken care of for in excess of 10 years by my parents. The McCusker Foundation has been operational since 1989 and has, under the direction of Associate Professor Ralph Martins, made significant inroads into understanding the genetic risks that may identify those persons in the community most likely to contract this disease. The foundation has been substantially funded through the efforts of one family, that of Sir James McCusker. One of my constituent families recently learnt of the work of the foundation, unfortunately through a member of the family succumbing to the disease. Robin and Lyn Prangnell, along with others, set out to raise funds and were successful in raising in excess of \$5 000, which was used to purchase two new centrifuges to allow the foundation to further advance its research into this disease. The foundation is now launching a further fundraising event on 15 February 2003 and I urge all members to participate to raise funds for this extremely worthwhile cause. These fundraisers are a river boat gambler cruise, a golf day and a sports memorabilia auction dinner. Details of these will be made available to all members as soon as I have them.