

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY,
BRAZIL**

Statement by Minister for Seniors

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine - Minister for Seniors) [2.15 pm]: In June I represented Western Australia at the eighteenth congress of the International Association of Gerontology in Brazil. This congress is the largest and most important international congress on ageing research and policy issues. I was also invited to present papers outlining Western Australia's leadership and achievements in active ageing that has enabled 95 per cent of seniors to be fit and active. Western Australia was cited many times at the conference as the international leader in active ageing and the development of an across-government approach to active ageing that was at the cutting edge of world's best practice. The congress highlighted the growing issue of elder abuse and its terrible impact on older citizens and families. As a direct outcome of meetings held during the congress, both the World Health Organisation and the International Federation on Ageing have committed to working with the Gallop government on the important areas of elder abuse and the broader elder justice agenda. Collaborative work begins this month with the arrival of Dr Alexandre Kalache, the World Health Organisation's coordinator of the ageing and life course team. He is working with the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering on future policy directions and finalising the world's first active ageing scorecard for Western Australia, which will provide a measure of our progress toward goals that improve the lives of seniors.

The second leg of my trip involved talks with South African sports authorities and an examination of sporting stadia. A long and highly successful meeting with Reverend Stofile, the South African Minister of Sport and Recreation, is likely to further develop Australian rules football and soccer links and the possibility of a provincial level competition between us. A DSR delegation will visit South Africa later this year and draft a memorandum of understanding with the South African government and nominated provincial governments to create -

a state-to-province agreement between the Eastern Cape Province and Western Australia;

greater cooperation between the rugby union, Australian rules football and soccer at national, state and provincial level;

the development of the concept of the "Indian Ocean rim" as a discrete sporting region, similar to the Asian Pacific and Pan American regions;

a formal memorandum of understanding for greater cooperation between elite sports, sports academies, universities and senior sports administrators to develop elite and mass participation in sports and recreational activities;

help to South Africa with staging of the football world cup in South Africa in 2010; and

closer links to exchange information and research on HIV-AIDS, ageing, domestic violence, elder abuse, and tobacco control.

I table a report on my trip.

[See paper 800.]