

SENIORS — RECOGNITION

**770. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering:**

I thank the opposition for the birthday wish.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** Those on my side have not been quite as kind! They usually get excited —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** This is turning into a big birthday party, member for Swan Hills! Can you start your question again?

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** My question is to the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering.

Several members interjected.

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** He deserves a clap! It gets better than that.

I note that Seniors Week kicked off on Sunday. Can the minister explain whether it is something that we just celebrate in the city or are activities planned throughout Western Australia?

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:**

I thank the member for Swan Hills for his question, and I wish him a happy birthday. I am not quite sure whether I have seen him with a Seniors Card, but let me know!

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** He works more than 25 hours a week.

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** Yes, he does. The shadow Minister for Seniors and Volunteering is spot-on; he works more than 25 hours a week.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen!

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** This week kicked off Seniors Week for 2013. It has been a great week so far. It was good to see a great event on Sunday at the Kings Park State Reception Centre, where we launched the 2013 WA Seniors Awards. All the nominees were at the event in the afternoon. This is the twenty-eighth year that Seniors Week has been held in WA. The events around the state are getting bigger and bigger. We have funded 85 events throughout the state, with 50 in regional areas, to help communities celebrate Seniors Week. Members will be aware, as I have updated the house on many occasions, that seniors are a growing population, with over 250 000 Seniors Card holders. It is a population that is growing very fast in our community. On Sunday, I had the great opportunity to announce the winner of the WA Senior of the Year Award, Errol Bartlett-Torr from Denham in Shark Bay. Errol is a fantastic individual in his small community. He is a founding member of Volunteer Marine Rescue Shark Bay, so he has participated in a lot of rescues, putting his life at risk. Also, Errol is a sound technician, so he is always on hand to help with Blue Light discos, movie nights and award ceremonies. In his profession as a photographer, he also takes photos of all the events. Errol is a great person to win the WA Senior of the Year Award because he does so much for his small town of Denham. It was a great afternoon on Sunday to celebrate with him.

Yesterday we had Have a Go Day at Burswood Park. I note that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Girrawheen were there. This event started 20 years ago. In the first year, 400 people attended, but yesterday over 12 000 people attended Have a Go Day at Burswood Park. It is a fantastic event. This year's theme was about embracing technology. Seniors and I had a game of tenpin bowling. I did some archery as well. Of the six arrows I fired, only one hit the target, so I am not a very good shot! It was great to see so many people getting out to Have a Go Day yesterday. On Sunday there was also the grandparents and kids day at Perth Zoo for Seniors Week. There were a number of events around the state. It is great to be part of a government that not only sponsors seniors in our community, but also provides them with opportunities to have a day in the sun and to show that seniors do great work in our community.