

WORLD SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MR A.P. O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [12.59 pm]: I also want to compliment the team for the Special Olympics that went to Shanghai in October this year and came back with a fantastic 11 gold medals. The reason the member for Kingsley and I have invited this group of athletes to Parliament today is to recognise their achievements at the Shanghai Special Olympics in being awarded not only gold medals but also silver and bronze medals. However, one thing that these athletes did not manage to achieve was the attention of our local media in Western Australia. I appeal to our local media, particularly *The West Australian*, the *Sunday Times*, Channels Seven, Nine and 10, the ABC, and Channel 31, to pick up on these events. These are very important events for our young people to attend to keep up their health and fitness. These events are particularly important for athletes who have special needs, because they help to build their strength and their character and take them on to bigger and better things. I appeal to all our local media. During the time the Special Olympics were held in Shanghai, I took a short trip to Ireland. I can tell members that in the media in Ireland, every sporting round-up every night included a round-up of the Special Olympics events in Shanghai. I ask our local media to pick up on events such as these and give due recognition to our local athletes. One of our athletes actually managed to make the front page of the Shanghai Special Olympics edition of the *Shanghai Daily*.