

**JESSICA LESLEY JACKSON — CORONER'S REPORT**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [12.17 pm]: As the minister responsible for the conduct and regulation of combat sports in Western Australia, I am today providing a response to Coroner Linton's findings and recommendations into the tragic death of 17-year-old Jessica Jackson in 2017. I again express my deep sympathies to Jessica's mother, Sharon Lindsay, and her family.

Between 10 March and 13 March 2020, Coroner Linton held an inquest into the circumstances surrounding Jessica's passing. Coroner Linton recently presented a detailed and comprehensive report containing her findings and two specific recommendations to government. Coroner Linton's first recommendation relates to my position as the Minister for Sport and Recreation—namely, to consider legislative amendments to empower the Combat Sports Commission to have further oversight over trainers and gyms that are responsible for the training of contestants. The second recommendation relates to the commission giving consideration to a scheme that requires contestants to provide their weights prior to the official weigh-in. These weights can then be assessed to determine whether the contest is safe to be sanctioned.

As minister, I accept the recommendations and note that the commission, through the chair, has also accepted the recommendations. The commission continues to evolve the weight-cutting strategy that has resulted from this tragedy—namely, through education, research, regulation and weight assessment. In doing so, I have endorsed the commission's approach via a program of considered, immediate, medium and long-term actions aimed at driving what has to be an ongoing process.

I table a copy of the commission's response to the coroner's recommendations. The commission's response to Coroner Linton's recommendations will be a three-staged approach. The first stage will involve immediate and short-term action, including the development of a strategic plan that intertwines with the weight-cutting strategy. The second stage will move towards regulatory amendment that requires all registered trainers to hold a current first aid certificate. The third stage of implementation is a long-term approach that will focus on research and regulation. Further information on what the commission has already done, what it recommends doing and the stages for implementation are detailed in the commission's response that I table today.

I understand that Jessica's family will not feel that these actions go far enough. It is clear that the culture of excessive weight cutting in combat sports and possibly all sports must change, but there must be a balance between a stick and a carrot. I hope that the commission, the industry and contestants embrace this opportunity to learn from this tragedy and create a new culture that encourages contestants to safely manage their training and weight and work towards peak performance in the sport they love.

[See paper [4002](#).]