

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT — GYMNASTICS PROGRAM —  
SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA REVIEW

**619. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the long 18 months those people involved in the investigation by Sport Integrity Australia have waited for any response from the Western Australian Institute of Sport or the government on restorative justice processes. I also note comments from the minister yesterday that this is the biggest regret that he has.

- (1) Is the minister aware of just how unacceptably insufficient his regret is in the face of decades of trauma and pain for those people who have suffered institutionalised abuse in a government-backed structure?
- (2) What is the minister doing right now to achieve a resolution?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

Has the member met with any of the gymnasts?

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** No; I haven't at the moment.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:**

- (1)–(2) No. Okay, so I have met with them, and I have met with them on a number of occasions. I might tell the member that as a result of becoming the minister in late 2021, the issue of the gymnasts was raised with me and I sought a meeting with them very early on in the process. I take this very seriously, member. It is one of the reasons I asked the cabinet to allow me to make an apology in this house to those gymnasts, and I made that in April 2022. I am very much aware that these sorts of situations are very traumatic for people, so any imputation that the member might be placing through his question about me not caring is absolutely wrong. Not only did I do that, I have met the gymnasts on a number of occasions; in fact, the last time was around about a month ago or maybe less than that. Why? It was because I was frustrated and I knew that they were frustrated with the processes that we had sought about an effective restorative justice process. One of the issues was concerns by the incorporated body, the WAIS board, about potential liability, and I can understand that. Anybody who serves on a board, particularly an incorporated body, has some potential exposure, so I could understand that. However, I could not allow a restorative process that needs to take place not take place. To the rights of the outgoing board members, they made decisions and I respect those decisions, and I appreciate the work that they gave to WAIS, but I needed to progress this important issue.

I made the apology in this place in April 2022 to the gymnasts—they were here—and conversations about what that apology would look like included consultation with the gymnasts themselves. That is why I have appointed a high-level and very experienced group of people who will take the WAIS board forward to deliver on a restorative process. That is my commitment to the gymnasts, and it will be the commitment of the incoming board chair, and that is what will be delivered. Also, as part of that process, we will look at the culture of the organisation. We will look at the governance structure of the organisation, and it is important that that take place, too, because taxpayers' money goes towards this entity. What I hope to get out of this process is that we will have a much stronger WAIS organisation and that any young child, girl or boy, who has aspirations to reach the peak in their athletic pursuits will have clear, safe pathways to do so. That is one of the reasons why we now also have a child safety program in place.

I am absolutely committed to this. I will deliver to the aspirations of those young athletes who come through WAIS and make sure we have a robust WAIS going forward that is accountable to the taxpayers of Western Australia, but also supports the requirements of an elite sporting program. I am committed to that and will continue to be committed to that while I am the Minister for Sport and Recreation.