

**COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION — ONLINE EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [9.16 am]: I rise today to announce the launch of the Combat Sport Commission's new online education and registration unit. Under the Combat Sports Act 1987 and the Combat Sports Regulations 2004, the Combat Sports Commission is responsible for promoting the health and safety of people involved in Western Australia's combat sports industry. The act authorises the commission to impose conditions on registration.

The commission has implemented an online education unit to provide contestants and industry participants with essential information about registering with the commission and participating in combat sports in WA. The commission and the state government are committed to continually striving for a healthier and safer WA combat sports community, which includes how to prepare for contests in a safe manner and the dangers associated with weight cutting through dehydration.

From today, anyone who wants to register or renew their registration with the commission will be required to complete the online education unit prior to their registration or renewal being considered. Contestants will be required to view a short educational video and complete a questionnaire at the end of each section to test their knowledge of the registration process, rules and preparation practices.

Not many people know about the unprecedented growth in combat sports participation this calendar year alone. From 1 January to 16 September 2019, there was a total of 558 registrations, which represent an increase of 54 per cent compared with the same period last year. We want to see continued growth and participation in combat sports in WA, but it is also important that there is an ongoing commitment to providing the safest possible conditions for all contestants before, during and after competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the chair of the Combat Sports Commission, Cassandra Wright, and staff for developing this nation-leading resource for contestants, trainers, managers, promoters, officials and matchmakers. I look forward to seeing what the Combat Sports Commission and the wider industry collaborate on next.

The online education is already live and can be accessed through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website.