

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT — GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

Mr S.A. Millman: Madam Speaker.

Mr P.J. Rundle: Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I give the call to the member for Roe.

Mr R.H. Cook: There are no prizes for second, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Come on; have a bit of Christmas spirit!

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

I appreciate that, Madam Speaker.

Given that a new board is in place for the Western Australian Institute of Sport, can the minister provide an update to the house on the progress of the restorative and reconciliatory process for the former gymnasts who attended WAIS?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Roe for the question. As he is aware, we have in place a very effective WAIS board that is involved with and engaged in some important work, both now and into the future. I acknowledge Dr Neale Fong, the chair of the board. The member will also be aware of the other members of the board—Fabian Ross, Gary Dreiberger, Darren Foster, Kaylene Gulich, Peta Slocombe and Jen McGrath, an officer from the department. Dr Fong has quickly embarked upon a number of reforms and, indeed, work with regard to WAIS, including issues around the restorative justice process that had previously paused. Work continues in terms of engagement with the gymnasts who were part of the women's artistic program between 1987 and 2016. The department continues to work with WAIS to facilitate the restorative and reconciliatory process. The Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime is playing an important advisory role in this process as well. Some complaints may require referral to the Western Australia Police Force if they are of a nature that requires investigation.

I can inform the member that the board met earlier this month to finalise the key framework for the restorative process. It is anticipated that the gymnasts will already have been engaged in that process as we roll it out. Obviously, we are dealing with people whose health and wellbeing is a primary concern. The process will be as efficient and effective as possible, but mindful of the important considerations for the gymnasts involved. I am very confident that the board that we now have in place will deliver not only the requirements and outcomes that we want from the restorative process, but also other important matters that relate to the operation of WAIS going forward.

Of course, the Paris Olympics will be held next year and a number of Western Australians have already been announced as being selected for a number of the competition teams and/or games activities. I am very confident that WAIS will continue to deliver very high-quality outcomes, and we will make sure that it is well resourced going forward.