

STATE DISABILITY STRATEGY — INNOVATION FUND GRANT

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [12.30 pm]: I am very happy to provide the house with an update on the Cook Labor government's implementation of tranche 2 of innovation fund grants as part of the state government's *A Western Australia for everyone: State disability strategy for 2020–2030*.

On 3 December 2021, the state government announced a \$5 million innovation fund to support the outcomes of the state disability strategy. The innovation fund is designed to stimulate innovation and develop projects that creatively apply new knowledge, technologies and processes that improve inclusion, participation and independence to enable Western Australians with disability to live their best life. The innovation fund's tranche 1 grants funded seven organisations to the total of \$2.5 million to support projects that improve the economic and social wellbeing of people with disability. The projects are already proving successful in stimulating creative thinking and building the capacity of people with disability, their families and their community. Nine projects recently received grant funding totalling \$2.5 million under tranche 2 of the innovation fund with the aim to empower people with disability. The Western Australian organisations include disability in the arts provider Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia, My Place Western Australia, Huntington's Western Australia, Curtin University, Inclusion WA, Ruah Community Services, Microboards Western Australia, Kiind—formerly trading as Kalparrin—and Developmental Disability Western Australia.

Examples of successful grant recipients include Huntington's WA outreach neuro-clinics project, the first of its kind in Australia. This project aims to deliver innovative neurological health outreach clinics in remote areas and remote Aboriginal communities in Kununurra, supporting people impacted by Huntington's disease. DADAA's citizen journalism project will invest in the digital capability and build the digital capacity of artists with disability in Western Australia. It will produce new multiplatform digital content that is grounded in disability culture and grow an audience around disability content. The project will grow and build digital partnerships, ensuring the digital inclusion of people with intellectual disability. Kiind's "What's on" guide will help to connect children and young people with disability and their parents and/or carers with recreational, cultural, sporting and community organisations to identify and promote inclusive community activities through a weekly "What's on" guide.

Improving the lives of Western Australians with disability remains firmly in the spotlight under the Cook government. I look forward to seeing the impact these nine innovative projects have in assisting people with disability to be engaged and empowered and to live as they choose.