

DISABILITY — MOST ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY IN WA AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [9.15 am]: I would like to take this opportunity today to inform members of the recent opening of nominations for 2023's Most Accessible Community in Western Australia Awards. Now in its fourth year, the MACWA awards provide the opportunity for local governments to showcase their commitment to inclusive and accessible communities. Based on local government disability access inclusion plans, the MACWA awards seek to recognise those cities, towns and shires that demonstrate they have exceeded minimum legislative requirements with a creative and innovative approach to buildings and services, public open spaces, communication and employment. Run by the Regional Capitals Alliance Western Australia, with support from the Department of Communities, the awards aim to create awareness and influence public perception to ensure that people with disability, their families and carers are welcomed and included in the community. The four award categories are accessible buildings/facilities/services, public open spaces, communication and employment. Each winner will receive a \$500 donation to assist their nominated community disability organisation, creating an opportunity to deepen partnerships between the disability community and local government.

I look forward to learning about some of the creative and innovative ways in which our local governments are ensuring accessibility and inclusivity at the core of their service delivery. Initiatives such as these awards can encourage a real movement that sees tangible results and better outcomes for all Western Australians. Entries for the MACWA awards close on 13 October 2023 and winners will be announced in December, as part of International Day of People with Disability celebrations. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Regional Capitals Alliance WA and, in particular, MACWA ambassador and local government councillor Melissa Northcott, for their ongoing commitment to these awards and ensuring that people with disability and their families and carers are welcomed and included throughout the Western Australian community.