

## **STATE DISABILITY STRATEGY**

*Statement by Minister for Disability Services*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services)** [12.27 pm]: I am pleased to provide the house with an update on the McGowan government's *State disability strategy 2020–2030*. Launched in December 2020, the 10-year whole-of-community strategy was designed with a vision to protect, uphold and advance the rights of people with disability living in Western Australia. The strategy is supported by an action plan that outlines specific commitments to help realise the objectives of the strategy. The commitment was made for the action plan to be reviewed every two years to ensure that the initiatives being undertaken are contemporary and responsive to the needs and priorities of people with disability. Despite the unforeseen challenges of the past two years, 11 key actions were delivered from the first action plan, including the establishment of Western Australia's first Office of Disability, the launch of the autism alert card, the NDIS worker screening check, increasing the number of behaviour support practitioners for people with disability, and the addition of accessible infrastructure projects like the Kids' Bridge—Koolangka Bridge—connecting Perth Children's Hospital to Kings Park.

I am incredibly proud to inform members that the second action plan to support the strategy was recently launched. The new action plan contains 142 actions and includes commitments from not only the state government, but also industry, the community and the disability services sector. Partnering with business, the community and people with disability is central to changing attitudes and achieving greater inclusion in Western Australia. Some highlights from the new action plan include: the RAC committing to inclusion and diversity objectives in all leaders' performance goals and partnering disability employment providers to find candidates for all advertised positions; the Department of Communities will offer discounted commercial leases at the East Perth and Mandurah Common Grounds to social enterprises that target employment of people from vulnerable backgrounds, including people with disability; the WA Museum will provide free specialised tours for visitors with dementia who are also blind or vision impaired; and Perth Airport will deliver a sensory room for people with hidden disability at the international terminal.

Members, more than ever, it is important to make our communities, businesses, places and spaces more accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all, and raise the standards we set for ourselves and for others. These committed actions are just a few examples of this and I look forward to supporting the stimulation of creative thinking that will build upon these commitments.