

**CHUNG WAH COMMUNITY AND CARE LONGEVITY LUNCHEON**

*Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing)** [9.23 am]: I am very pleased to inform the house that on 31 January 2023, I attended the Chung Wah Community and Aged Care longevity luncheon to celebrate Lunar New Year and welcome in the year of the rabbit. The Chung Wah Association is a community organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life for non-English speaking migrants, seniors and people with disability in our state. My hosts for the day included Ms Theresa Kwok, chief executive officer of Chung Wah, and a very worthy recipient of the inaugural WA Seniors Awards Seniors Advocate in 2021 and the 2023 WA Senior Australian of the Year. I was also joined by the president of Chung Wah WA, Dr Chen Ting; the chair of Chung Wah Community and Aged Care, Mrs Esther Chang; and her husband, Dr Stephen Chang.

This was the eleventh longevity luncheon hosted by Chung Wah and an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the wellness and longevity of members of our culturally and linguistically diverse community in Western Australia. It was particularly significant this year, as the rabbit traditionally symbolises longevity, peace and prosperity. I had the great honour to hear from a number of older people attending the event regarding their thoughts about wellness, longevity and living a long and fulfilling life. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to share a meal with members of Chung Wah and to hear their individual stories over the course of the afternoon. I was able to speak to attendees about our upcoming WA seniors strategy, which similarly focuses on what makes a good life for seniors and looks at the wellbeing of older people in our community. I saw in the consultations with older people on the strategy itself, and demonstrated at the lunch, the value of community and connection in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing for older people in Western Australia. I add that during the luncheon, the attendees raised more than \$2 600 towards the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund appeal for the Kimberley floods. I would like to thank Chung Wah for the invitation to attend and speak, and for its hospitality and good wishes.