

WONGAN HILLS THERAPY GROUP — TINY SEEDS SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE LIBRARY

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [12.52 pm]: I rise to congratulate the Wongan Hills Therapy Group on the imminent opening of the Tiny Seeds Special Needs Resource Library, which will take place on Sunday, 3 December. Tiny Seeds is the only resource library outside Perth that focuses exclusively on acquiring resources that benefit children with disabilities, special needs and learning delays. It is open to all families, schools, childcare centres, playgroups, therapists and allied service providers.

The launch of this one-of-a-kind service is a huge achievement for a small country town and has been driven by a dedicated community group. The two movers and shakers behind the project are Lorraine Lobo and Heydi de Waal, the coordinators of Wongan Community Care and the Wongan Hills Therapy Group respectively.

Wongan Hills Therapy Group is a not-for-profit disability support group started by local parents to provide essential services and support for families with special needs children. The group relies on a dedicated team of volunteers and collaborates with the local school, professional therapists and community groups. It was recently recognised for its amazing work at the 2017 Regional Achievement and Community Awards, winning the community service category from a strong field of nominees. In September 2017, the group was successful in applying for \$10 000 of funding through the royalties for regions Community Chest Fund. This has allowed it to realise its dream of building a better space to house its 500-plus special resources.

The library initially began running out of an old shed in 2015, but quickly outgrew the space. The funding has allowed the group to carry out an internal refurbishment and building fit-out. It has achieved some amazing outcomes for families in the wheatbelt and I congratulate those who continue to work hard to ensure parents and kids are supported, no matter where they live.

I cannot join them on 3 December for the celebration, but I will be visiting in the next couple of weeks. This is a real and tangible project that has changed the lives of families and children in regional Western Australia, supported by royalties for regions.