

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Statement by Minister for Volunteering

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Volunteering) [9.06 am]: I am very pleased to inform the house that I recently presented Volunteering WA with a \$425 000 Lotterywest grant for National Volunteer Week celebrations. National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and will be held from Monday, 20 May until Sunday, 26 May 2024. This funding will assist Volunteering WA to administer a small grants scheme of up to \$1 500 for organisations to host an event or activity to celebrate National Volunteer Week. Last year 175 volunteer organisations shared over \$200 000, with more than 213 events held across the state. This year more than 300 volunteering organisations will share in \$335 000 to celebrate and recognise their volunteers throughout the week. The grant will also support Volunteering WA's Volunteer of the Year Awards held on Thursday, 23 May 2024. The awards recognise the important contributions of volunteers and feature seven categories: Excellence in Volunteer Management; Inclusive Volunteering; Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering; Young Volunteer of the Year; Excellence in Corporate Volunteering; Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year; and RAC WA Volunteer of the Year. The Cook government is committed to supporting and strengthening volunteering in WA and is investing more than \$6 million to the volunteering development service program over five years. This includes the Cook Labor government's recent \$2.1 million boost to support the expansion of regional volunteering development services. As Minister for Volunteering I look forward to celebrating National Volunteer Week and recognising the magnificent work our 1.5 million volunteers do here in WA.