

**CHANGING PLACES — TOILET AND CHANGE FACILITIES**

*Statement by Minister for Disability Services*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services)** [1.25 pm]: I am pleased to provide the house with an update on the state government's 2021 election commitment to increase the network of Changing Places accessible toilet facilities in Western Australia. Changing Places are very important to ensure that people who cannot use a standard or accessible toilet can engage in community and economic life. They are accredited room-sized facilities that offer a ceiling hoist, a height-adjustable adult-sized change table and room for two carers to assist. They are equipped with showers and are safe, easy to use and hygienic. An additional 11 Changing Places will be built across WA thanks to the \$2 million McGowan government election commitment to support their construction over the next two years. The state government is partnering with 10 organisations that will enable the construction of an additional 11 Changing Places across Western Australia by 2024. This initiative will increase our network of Changing Places to 45 facilities across the state by 2024. As they become more common, it will stimulate investment from other facility owners to build Changing Places. We are already seeing this with many of our shopping centres and larger facilities including a Changing Place in their design and construction. I am very pleased to see the network has expanded to new areas, including the south west and the Kimberley, which should encourage people with disability to travel and enjoy all parts of Western Australia.

Accessible tourism is a multibillion-dollar market across Australia. I encourage our tourism and leisure sectors to complement these initiatives and realise the economic opportunities that tourism for people with disability offers as they plan and build their facilities and services. However, more important than economics is feeling included and valued. Having spoken with people with disability who need Changing Places, I understand how important they are in people's daily life. They open opportunities to visit new places or stay longer without the concern of having to cut short their plans. I appreciate the vision of the 10 organisations involved in this initiative and their commitment to building accessible and inclusive communities.