

DISABILITY COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE — GERALDTON

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [9.14 am]: I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to advise members about a recent disability community round table that I attended in Geraldton. The disability round table was facilitated by the fantastic member for Geraldton, Lara Dalton, who reached out to me wanting to discuss opportunities for better outcomes for people with disability in the midwest. Ms Dalton brought together local people with disability and their families and carers, as well as disability service providers and advocates and gave them a forum to have their voices heard. Importantly, the round table also provided the opportunity for people with disability and their families and carers to meet others from around the region to share ideas and to foster connections. As minister, it is an important part of my role to hear directly from people with disability and their families as well as from the sector on matters relating to the state government's provision of disability services as well as the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It is vital that as Minister for Disability Services; Regional Development I am able to hear the voices of people with disability in the regions.

The disability round table is further evidence of the Cook government's commitment to the midwest region, following on from its significant investment in health, housing and education. The government knows that people with disability living in regional areas face unique challenges in health care and accessibility, so it is important that government works together with communities to address those important issues. Attendees of the round table discussed the issues, challenges and opportunities for the disability support sector and people living with disability in the midwest. The forum was also an opportunity for local people to share advice on how best to access disability support in regional areas. The round table was a testament to the strong advocacy that the member and her office continue to provide for people in the midwest.

I once again thank the member for Geraldton for organising the event and providing a direct voice for the people of Geraldton with the state government, particularly for those living with disability and their families, carers and the people who support them.