

GOLDEN LENS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [1.10 pm]: I am delighted to inform the house that the 2023 Golden Lens photography competition for Western Australian Seniors Card members is now open. The competition, which is now in its second year, promotes ageing well by celebrating the photographic skills of older Western Australians. Entrants may have their photos featured in the *WA Seniors Card discount directory*, which details all the discounts available to seniors by Western Australian small businesses. There are also prizes to be won.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of hosting the inaugural group of winners for lunch at Parliament House. It was a delightful event and I was able to discuss with each of the participants their entries and what they hope to achieve. I will be inviting the next group of winners to also join me when the judging has been completed.

This year, there will be five categories for seniors to enter. The first is active ageing. We all know how important it is to promote active ageing in our community and to make sure that our seniors are connected to friends, to the community and to activities, and we want to capture that in the photographic exhibition. Other categories are artistic photography, and diverse cultures. There are some new categories in this year's competition, including senior influencer. This category aims to challenge the stigma that social media is only for young people. It also seeks to explore how seniors use technology to influence contemporary thinking about ageing and being a senior. I was at a seniors' event recently, and when the audience was asked how many of them use social media, 85 per cent to 90 per cent of the seniors put up their hand. The final category is flora and fauna.

Entries for the competition will close on 17 March 2023. The public will be able to vote for the overall people's choice category via the WA Seniors Card Facebook page. We had more than 120 entries in the first year of this competition. Some fantastic photography was on display, and we expect even more this time. I encourage all seniors to grab their camera and get snapping. For more information on the 2023 Golden Lens photography competition, seniors can visit the WA Seniors Card website. I encourage all members to promote the competition to seniors across this great state so that we can portray the diversity that exists across Western Australia's seniors.