

COUNCIL ON THE AGEING WESTERN AUSTRALIA — LEGAL RIGHTS GUIDE

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [9.09 am]: I am very pleased to inform the house that on 21 February 2023, I launched the *Let's make it legal guide*, developed and published by the Council on the Ageing Western Australia. COTA WA produced this comprehensive guide in partnership with the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre's Older People's Rights Service to provide older people with clear and accurate information and guidance on legal issues, such as housing and accommodation, with specific advice on strata titles and retirement villages that is particularly useful for older people; family violence and elder abuse; guardianship orders and the role of the Public Advocate and Public Trustee; and end-of-life decisions, including wills, organ donation, advance care planning and voluntary assisted dying. The guide is a plain language compilation to assist older people who seek advice or clarity around issues that may affect them. It is the most recent in a suite of guides produced by COTA WA to assist older people in navigating issues they may encounter as they age. During consultations for the upcoming WA seniors strategy, many people said they wanted easy access to information. The guide is a prime example of how engagement with people can help us to understand their needs and how to present information in a user-friendly manner.

The launch was attended by several members of the COTA WA team, as well as representatives from the following organisations—Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre; Carers WA; Chung Wah Association; Legal Aid Western Australia; Linkwest; and Men's Sheds of WA. I acknowledge Ms Christine Allen, chief executive officer of COTA WA; Mr Chris Jeffery, chief policy officer at COTA WA and lead author of the guide; and Ms Kathy Cokis, chief executive officer of Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre, who provided valuable legal advice and editorial contributions to the guide. The guide is available in print, or online from the COTA WA website. COTA WA is currently exploring options to translate the guide into other languages. I recommend the guide to all members of the house, in support of older people across the state.