

**SENIORS WEEK AND SENIORS AWARDS 2023**

*Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing)** [1.11 pm]: The Cook government, through the Department of Communities, has once again made funding available to support WA Seniors Week 2023 and the WA Seniors Awards.

WA Seniors Week runs from 12 to 19 November and is a high point in the annual calendar for seniors in Western Australia. The Seniors Week community grants program provides financial assistance to local governments, registered not-for-profit organisations and community groups to host exciting events and activities throughout the week. Funding of up to \$1 000 for individual organisations or \$3 000 for a consortium provides the opportunity for them to design, plan, implement and evaluate place-based activities that recognise and thank seniors for their contributions to the community; promote intergenerational activities linking seniors to the community; facilitate artistic, cultural and celebratory expression within the community; and engage seniors in a variety of activities and initiatives that encourage active ageing.

Last year's grants funded events across the state, including morning teas; art workshops and games; information sessions on health, wellbeing, online safety and planning for the future; and excursions. Individuals, local governments, businesses, community groups, local members and not-for-profit organisations are all invited to provide nominations across the five categories for awards: WA Senior Metropolitan, WA Senior Regional, WA Age Friendly Business, WA Age Friendly Local Government, and WA Seniors Advocate. The grants program and the WA Seniors Awards are coordinated by the Council on the Ageing Western Australia, in partnership with the Department of Communities and Lotterywest.

I invite all members to spend some time during WA Seniors Week meeting with wonderful older Western Australians and participating in the wide range of activities and events planned. I also encourage everyone to visit COTA's website to find out more about the grants and nomination process.