

SENIORS WEEK

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [12.10 pm]: I am pleased to advise the house that Seniors Week 2022 was held last week, with the hugely successful Have a Go Day on Wednesday, 9 November. Seniors Week is an opportunity for us all to show our appreciation for the valued contribution of Western Australia's seniors. It is a highlight of my year, as Minister for Seniors and Ageing. This year, the McGowan government proudly supported over 50 community organisations and local governments to hold events through the Seniors Week community grants program. There was so much happening across the state, with events supported in metropolitan and regional areas, including Karratha, Mukinbudin, the Shire of Irwin, Mandurah, Mt Barker, Collie and the City of Vincent to name a few. I was fortunate to attend several events for Seniors Week, and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to connect and get involved and to hear from seniors directly about what is important to them.

Seniors Week demonstrates two important things: age is not a barrier to participating in the community and to living a fulfilling life, and there are many organisations working to create opportunities for seniors to be active and to feel valued and connected. One such organisation is the Seniors Recreation Council of WA, which held the thirtieth annual Seniors Recreation Council Have a Go Day at the beautiful Burswood Park last Wednesday. I thank the Premier for his attendance and address to the huge crowd at Have a Go Day and for his time in exploring all the exhibitions and displays. Have a Go Day was a fabulous event, with thousands of seniors in attendance. I would like to congratulate Phil Paddon and Dawn Yates from the Seniors Recreation Council for their outstanding work in organising this event. There were opportunities to try new activities, get important information about services and support, connect with friends and meet new people. People could even get a new, highly desirable WA Seniors Card.

Finally, just this morning I had the pleasure of presenting the WA Seniors Awards in partnership with the Council on the Ageing WA. The awards celebrate the amazing individuals, businesses and local governments that are making a difference for seniors across WA. The award recipients generously share their time, energy and skills to make our state a positive place to live and to age. I would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who contributed to making Seniors Week 2022 a great success.