

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES — PILBARA

Statement by Minister for Regional Development

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Regional Development) [1.25 pm]: I am very pleased to advise the house that on Wednesday, 1 March, I officially opened Jirminyjarri Maya in Newman, a new assisted living complex for Parnpajinya residents. I was joined by colleagues Hon Sabine Winton, MLA, Minister for Community Services, and the local member, Kevin Michel, member for Pilbara.

Niyiyaparli elder Mr Stanley Watson welcomed everyone to the event, which was hosted by the Pilbara Development Commission and East Pilbara Independence Support. Around 80 people attended, including the new residents and their families, project and community partners, and state and local government representatives. Jirminyjarri Maya was developed as part of the Parnpajinya transition plan under the Pilbara town-based reserves project, which is being delivered by the Pilbara Development Commission. It received \$4 million in funding from the state, including a Lotterywest grant, and involved the refurbishment of eight two-bedroom properties with a separate family gathering space to provide safe and culturally appropriate accommodation for residents relocating from the community.

I acknowledge and thank BHP, which gifted the complex to East Pilbara Independence Support. East Pilbara Independence Support has also been engaged to deliver wraparound services to support the residents. I also acknowledge the Fulcrum Agency, which made sure that the Parnpajinya residents had input into the design, and local Aboriginal building company CADD Building and Maintenance, not only for its workmanship, but for its empathetic approach to the delivery of the contract, which ensured that the residents were part of the process along the way.

I had the honour of meeting several residents on the day, who all played a part in the refurbishment design, from the internal colour selections to the layout of the courtyard areas. It was wonderful to hear how pleased they were with the facility and the services now available to them. Ms Violet Atkins, who occupies the only fully wheelchair accessible unit, was delighted to join me in cutting the ribbon to mark this auspicious occasion.

In closing, I acknowledge the significant effort of the Pilbara Development Commission and project partners, East Pilbara Independence Support, BHP and Lotterywest. This is an important initiative that is helping to improve the lives of Aboriginal people living in the Pilbara.