

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [1.13 pm]: I rise today to inform members about International Day of People with Disability, which will come up later this week. This day is held on 3 December each year. The 2022 state theme is “Leading the Change”. The aim is to encourage people to commit to opportunity, inclusion and access for everyone. International Day of People with Disability is a celebration that helps to increase public awareness, understanding and, importantly, acceptance of people with disability. At its heart is the promotion of inclusion.

An estimated 411 500 Western Australians live with disability. Hundreds of events are planned around the state to mark the day, ranging from social inclusion forums and corporate lunches, to market days. The McGowan government has once again provided a total of \$100 000 in funding to 97 organisations for 100 inclusive events and activities to be held across Western Australia to mark this very important International Day of People with Disability. Some of the highlights of this year’s program are a fashion show, featuring models with disability; a picnic with kangaroos at Caversham Wildlife Park; open days that will show off modified sports like netball and water polo; and a dance party with tunes from 19-year-old DJ Jake, who has lived experience of a physical disability. Of the 100 International Day of People with Disability events and activities that will be held, 45 will be in regional areas, including South Hedland, member for Pilbara, and Bunbury, Kalgoorlie and Walpole. Regional events will include wheelchair basketball in Boddington, an all-abilities sports day in Denmark, and inclusive bingo at Katanning Leisure Centre.

I also look forward to celebrating the achievements of people with disability in Western Australia again this year at the annual International Day of People with Disability lunch. I commend National Disability Services for the fantastic job that it is doing in Western Australia. This year’s lunch, which has been co-designed with people with disability, will again feature the popular marketplace, which showcases local enterprises and micro-enterprises run by people with disability.

The International Day of People with Disability events align with the vision of *A Western Australia for everyone: State disability strategy 2020–2030*, which emphasises the importance of building a more inclusive Western Australia that empowers people with disability to participate meaningfully and feel connected to their community. Our continued support for International Day of People with Disability is an integral part of that. I sincerely hope that all Western Australians will take the opportunity to reflect and think about what they are doing to ensure that people with disability are engaged and empowered. It is up to all of us to build a community in which everyone belongs and people with disability are able to lead their best lives.