

***AN AGE-FRIENDLY WA: STATE SENIORS STRATEGY 2023–2033***

*Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing)** [1.33 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house that on 19 April 2023, I was very proud to officially launch *An age-friendly WA: State seniors strategy 2023–2033* alongside the member for Churchlands, Christine Tonkin, MLA. This 10-year strategy is the state's first strategy to support older Western Australians. It will guide whole-of-community actions and provide direction to government and the community so that Western Australian seniors feel valued, safe and empowered to lead happy and fulfilling lives in age-friendly communities.

The strategy identifies four key pillars of change: thriving physically, mentally and spiritually; safe and friendly communities; staying connected and engaged; and hearing the views of seniors. We heard from over 2 600 people throughout the state during the extensive consultation period. This included dedicated consultation sessions with older Aboriginal people, particularly those in regional and remote areas, to ensure that their views were appropriately captured within the strategy. I would like to acknowledge just a few of the important community organisations that also contributed their time and support to the development of the strategy. These include the Council on the Ageing WA, the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre, Advocare, the Chung Wah Association and GRAI—GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc.

The strategy is accompanied by a five-year action plan that sets out a range of actions, including a comprehensive campaign to tackle ageism. We have also committed \$2 million from the upcoming 2023–24 state budget to support its implementation. The launch of the strategy on 19 April was a double celebration, coinciding with the thirty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the WA Seniors Card. It was an honour to have in attendance at the launch Hon Kay Hallahan, AO, who as the then Minister for the Aged established the WA Seniors Card in 1988. I would like to thank everyone who generously gave their time to participate in the development of this important strategy. This includes seniors, peak bodies, community organisations, local and state government representatives and the dedicated team at the Department of Communities. I am also grateful for the support of my cabinet colleagues throughout this journey. As we know, the McGowan government is a champion for seniors in our state.