

SENIORS WEEK COMMUNITY GRANTS

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [9.14 am]: I am very pleased to inform the house that last week I announced the recipients of Seniors Week community grants for 2022. The Seniors Week community grants program will enable community groups and local governments to stage Seniors Week events in 2022. More than \$40 000 will be distributed to a total of 52 community-level organisations and local governments in metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Western Australia in order to stage Seniors Week activities. Seniors Week celebrates the role of older people in our communities, promotes positive ageing and encourages participation in community life. It is held between 6 and 13 November and the week will see dozens of events held across the state.

Some of the events being funded include a “seniors in the shed” event at the Northam Men’s Shed; a Mad Hatter’s tea party in Mundijong, which the member for Darling Range will be pleased about; and a vintage high tea at the City of Vincent Library and Local History Centre, with staff dressed in vintage clothes and a slideshow from the library’s historic image collection. The funding of up to \$3 000 an event will be used to cover expenses such as advertising and promotion, catering, venue and equipment hire and transport. The Seniors Week community grants program is funded by the Department of Communities and managed by the Council on the Ageing WA on behalf of the state government. The grants enable community groups and local governments to connect seniors with their community. The events will celebrate the role of seniors and encourage participation in community life, especially for those who are isolated.

Seniors Week events are great opportunities to recognise and thank seniors for their lifelong contributions to our community. Many events promote intergenerational activities and link seniors directly to community. Importantly, Seniors Week events engage seniors in a variety of activities and initiatives that encourage positive and active ageing. I encourage all members to get along to those events, especially the Mad Hatter’s tea party, and enjoy those terrific occasions.