

ACCOMMODATION — WEST END VILLAS — GERALDTON

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [12.05 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house of the new six-unit specialist disability accommodation development in Geraldton, known as the West End Villas, which I had the honour of opening recently. The development is the first of its kind in regional Western Australia and was a collaboration between WAI Group, well-known disability services organisation Activ and community housing provider Community Housing Ltd. The villas have been built by Geraldton-based builders, and provide a new housing option for local people with extreme functional impairment and high needs requiring specialised housing.

The McGowan government is keen to see eligible Western Australians with disability activate their SDA entitlements and exercise choice and control over their housing, which is what makes the opening of this Geraldton project so exciting. In 2020, the state government committed to the Department of Communities registering as a specialist disability accommodation provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This will allow state-owned group homes to be enrolled as specialist disability accommodation and, importantly, attract NDIS funding. The funding generated by SDA payments will be used to modify, maintain, refurbish and redevelop existing group homes, or build additional specialist disability accommodation, thereby increasing the supply of its housing stock in the market and creating local jobs. The McGowan government remains committed to the successful transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and recognises that the specialist disability accommodation funding stream plays an important role in improving housing choice for people with disability requiring specialised housing. It is fantastic to see nation-leading SDA projects, such as the West End Villas, being built in regional WA and I look forward to seeing the construction of similar developments across the state.