

**DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — APPOINTMENT**

*Statement by Minister for Community Services*

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Community Services)** [9.12 am]: Today I rise to inform the house and to congratulate Michelle Andrews on her recent appointment as the new director general of the Department of Communities. Ms Andrews comes to this job with more than 30 years' experience in leadership roles in the public service, including her most recent role as deputy director general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Her appointment will not come as a surprise to some, as Ms Andrews has been acting director general of the Department of Communities since February 2019 and has well-established relationships across government and the community services sector. Although Michelle will be greatly missed at DPC, her wealth of experience, inspiring leadership skills and genuine warmth will be a fantastic asset to the Department of Communities. To use the director general's words, she has been greatly inspired by the culture and values of our agency, by the passion and commitment of our people, and by the tremendous opportunities ahead of us as we move forward. I am also pleased that this appointment builds on the McGowan government's commitment to strengthening gender equity throughout the public sector by the appointment of talented and qualified women to positions of influence within the public sector. It follows other appointments by the McGowan government of women to important positions, including the Auditor General, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Public Sector Commissioner, and the directors general of the Department of Finance and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

On behalf of all the ministers of the Department of Communities, I congratulate Ms Andrews on her appointment. I am confident that she will make a real and tangible contribution to improving the life outcomes for all Western Australians.