

SENIORS WEEK

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [2.11 pm]: I rise to inform the house about WA Seniors Week 2021, which runs from 7 to 14 November 2021. It is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the significant contributions older Western Australians have made, and continue to make, to their communities. As part of Seniors Week, I will be announcing later this week the development of Western Australia's first seniors strategy. The WA Seniors Strategy 2022–2032 will be developed following extensive statewide consultation to hear the voices of as many seniors as possible, and will set out the WA government's 10-year plan to support older people and harness the opportunities and address the challenges of Western Australia's ageing population.

There will be a number of events happening as part of Seniors Week and I encourage everyone, regardless of age, to get involved when possible. The premier event of the week, Have a Go Day, will be at Burswood Park on Wednesday, 10 November, from 9.00 am until 3.00 pm. Organised by the Seniors Recreation Council of Western Australia, Have a Go Day is a chance for seniors to try new activities that will help to keep them active and fit in mind and body. There will also be many information stalls on topics of relevance to seniors. This is an excellent day to get involved, find a new activity or hobby and, importantly, make new connections. The organisers recommend that seniors dress to participate, so they can try as many activities as possible. WA Seniors Card staff will attend a stall at the event to provide information on anything to do with the WA Seniors Card or to issue replacement cards. WA Seniors Card staff will also be able to answer any queries about the safety and security rebate, which allows Seniors Card members to claim up to \$400 per household towards the purchase of eligible home security equipment, so that they can feel safe in their own homes.

Later this week, the Council on the Ageing Western Australia will be announcing the winners of the 2021 WA Seniors Awards. The WA Seniors Awards acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contributions by individuals, businesses and local governments that help seniors to age well in their community.

The McGowan government, through the Council on the Ageing WA, has provided grants to support a variety of events for seniors that will be running during WA Seniors Week. Events will be held in regional and metropolitan locations and hosted by organisations such as the Chung Wah Association, Advocare, Volunteering WA and the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre. To see the full list of events, an events calendar is available on the website of the Council on the Ageing WA. I thank the individuals, community groups, councils, businesses and government for all their support of the 2021 WA Seniors Week. Information about WA Seniors Week events and other seniors' initiatives by the state government can be found on the Department of Communities' webpage.