

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [12.11 pm]: I rise today to inform the house that on 3 December 2021, we will celebrate International Day of People with Disability. Held on this date each year, International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations-sanctioned day to increase public awareness of the importance of access and inclusion, to promote understanding and acceptance of people with disability, and to celebrate their achievements and contributions to our community. There are around 411 500 people with disability in Western Australia and approximately 230 000 carers. This is a significant cross-section of our very diverse Western Australian community.

I am incredibly proud to inform members that the state government is making \$100 000 available in sponsorships for inclusive events and activities to mark International Day of People with Disability in 2021. The Department of Communities has funded Developmental Disability WA to provide 100 grants of up to \$1 000 for community organisations to recognise people with disability and celebrate this important day. Events and initiatives eligible for sponsorship will raise awareness and educate and inform the broader community about people with disability in Western Australia. Initiatives and events that empower people to achieve their goals and emphasise the importance of access and inclusion for people living with disability will also be eligible. Events held for International Day of People with Disability in previous years have included public awareness sessions, fun fairs, picnics and art exhibitions. The sponsorship funding aligns with the vision of *A Western Australia for everyone: State disability strategy 2020–2030* to build a more inclusive Western Australia and empower people with disability to be part of all areas of society. Applicants will have to align their events or activities with the state disability strategy. Further information on the grants available can be found on Developmental Disability WA's website, with applications closing on 9 November 2021.

I rise today to encourage all of you to actively spread the word about International Day of People with Disability 2021 and the grants available to help the community celebrate this special day. I also encourage members to start thinking about what they, as elected representatives of the Western Australian community, can do to celebrate the day. Let us make International Day of People with Disability 2021 the most memorable yet!