

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY — ADVOCACY SERVICES

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [12.11 pm]: I rise today to reaffirm the McGowan government's commitment to supporting people with disability in Western Australia through ongoing investment in advocacy services. I am very pleased to advise that the state government recently provided \$3.44 million to eight advocacy organisations to enable people with disability to engage support through those advocacy services. The eight advocacy services are located across metropolitan and regional Western Australia and were successful through an expression of interest process. Two Aboriginal community-controlled organisations providing services to Aboriginal people with disability and a mobile outreach service assisting people on the streets to access disability supports are among the successful funding recipients. This funding will support the delivery of community initiatives in Western Australia, which will increase the capacity of people with disability, their families and carers, and local champions within the community, to advocate for better outcomes for people with disability, including access to services. In 2020–21, the state government allocated a total of \$8 million for advocacy for people with disability, their families and carers. Existing advocacy providers received \$4.56 million through direct allocation to continue delivering positive outcomes for people requiring individual and specialist advocacy services.

Disability advocacy enables people with disability to participate and be involved in the decision-making processes that safeguard and advance their human rights. A properly funded advocacy sector is essential to ensuring that the National Disability Insurance Scheme is held to account and that decisions made under the scheme are in the best interests of participants. Funding a range of disability advocacy organisations is a key mechanism through which the four pillars of change underpinning the McGowan government's state disability strategy for an all-inclusive, accessible Western Australia will be realised. This state government remains committed to promoting an inclusive society that supports people with disability in Western Australia, together with their families and carers, to participate in and contribute to the economy and their community.