

DISRUPTED FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [2.03 pm]: I would like to bring to the attention of the house a very special event that will be staged by the State Library of Western Australia. The State Library will present its sixth annual Disrupted Festival of Ideas over the weekend of 27 and 28 July 2019. This free festival will be held in the State Library building and broadcast on the big screen in the Perth Cultural Centre, with keynote speaker sessions streamed live on the internet. This year, the festival explores the theme of truth and how it is subverted and manipulated to influence democracy, the media and the community, with a diverse range of speakers, panels and installations.

Keynote speakers include Dr Tracy Westerman, who will be discussing the truth about our kids. Dr Westerman was the Western Australian of the Year 2018 and has spent over two decades working to reduce the burden of mental ill health and suicide in Aboriginal communities. A proud Njamal woman from the Pilbara region, she is recognised as a world leader in Aboriginal mental health, cultural competency and suicide prevention. Dr Karl Kruszelnicki will present “What is Truth?” Dr Karl spreads the word about science and its benefits, with weekly radio shows in Australia and the United Kingdom, and through regular television appearances, magazine articles and 43 published books. He has received many honours, including the Ig Nobel prize in 2002—an award presented annually to honour people whose scientific research “cannot or should not be reproduced”—for his international survey on bellybutton lint. Leigh Sales, AM, will discuss her latest book *Any Ordinary Day*. Leigh is a Walkley Award-winning journalist and author who presents ABC’s flagship current affairs program 7.30. *Any Ordinary Day* is her third book. It was published in 2018 and has been a number one bestseller.

This year’s Disrupted Festival will be run in conjunction with the Premier’s Book Awards. The Premier’s Book Awards has been reinstated as an annual event as a result of a McGowan government election commitment. Winners of the 2018 Premier’s Book Awards will be announced on 26 July 2019 from 6.00 pm. I encourage all members to get along to the State Library to enjoy this significant festival of ideas, along with the 10 000 people who are expected to participate in the festival in person and online over the weekend of 27 and 28 July this year.