

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [12.21 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the McGowan government's support for celebrations to mark this year's International Day of People with Disability. Held on 3 December 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, promote understanding and acceptance of people with disability, and celebrate the many ways that people with disability contribute to our community. Every year, the United Nations announces a theme for International Day of People with Disability. The annual theme provides an overarching focus for how society can strive for inclusivity. The theme for 2021 is leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world. There are many ways in which this theme is being lived out in Western Australia. There are about 411 500 people with disability and approximately 230 000 carers in our state. It is a very significant cross-section of our very diverse Western Australian community. Western Australia is richer for the contributions and diversity that people with disability bring to our community. We are more connected, creative, innovative and resilient—things from which we all stand to gain.

A Western Australia for everyone: State disability strategy 2020–2030 acknowledges the most important shifts we need to make, including celebrating our diversity, recognising the achievements and everyday experiences of people with disability; increasing visibility and understanding of disability; and greater representation of people in leadership roles. Across the world, events are being held to mark International Day of People with Disability.

I am very proud to inform members the state government has made \$100 000 available in grants for organisations to host inclusive events and activities in Western Australia to celebrate International Day of People with Disability. Developmental Disability WA has been funded to provide 100 grants of up to \$1 000 for community organisations to recognise people with disability and to celebrate this important day. The 100 events and initiatives will raise awareness and inform the broader community about people with disability in Western Australia. 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 for grant funding. Events that are being held to celebrate International Day of People with Disability this year throughout metropolitan and regional Western Australia include community luncheons, public awareness sessions, funfairs, picnics, sporting events, art exhibitions and much more. The funding for the grants aligns with the vision of the *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.

Being able to actively contribute to the community is central part of living a good life, by participating at school or work, being a representative on community groups, volunteering and being included in social activities. With the support of the McGowan government and the grants available to help the community celebrate this special day, International Day of People with Disability 2021 is likely to be our most memorable yet!