

WA SENIORS AWARDS 2019

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [12.09 pm]: With WA Seniors Week now done and dusted, I would like to take the time to congratulate the winners of the 2019 WA Seniors Awards and to highlight the growth in the uptake of the WA Seniors Card and the copious benefits it gives to Western Australian seniors.

This year's Seniors Awards winners are nothing short of outstanding. The WA Seniors Award 2019 Metropolitan was awarded to Angela McCluskey, who was recognised for establishing the Forget-Me-Not Memory Cafe community group, which she founded after leaving her job as a librarian to become a full-time carer for her husband, who had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease. The community now includes a network of seven cafes that support people living with dementia and their carers.

The 2019 regional award went to Rae Endersby, who, at the age of 78, has volunteered with the Friends of the Murray District Hospital for 30 years, including 20 years as president. She is also president of the Murray Health Group. Both of these groups have been instrumental in a number of initiatives that keep seniors fit and healthy.

The City of Bayswater was crowned the WA age-friendly local government of the year in recognition of its excellent work in promoting age-friendly communities and its extensive catalogue of programs keeping seniors engaged and connected with the community.

WA Age Friendly Business Award–winner Hawaiian's Melville works with the City of Melville to support the Melville Age Friendly Accessible Business Network, and its work to support the access requirements of older shoppers was recognised.

In addition to providing formal recognition of our notable Seniors Awards winners, the McGowan government recognises the remarkable contribution that older people make to our communities and our state and reflects this recognition with the WA Seniors Card. I am pleased to announce that more and more seniors are accessing the benefits of the WA Seniors Card. Currently, over 395 000 WA seniors are able to access the discounts and concessions that come with holding a WA Seniors Card, with this number set to rise to an estimated 415 000 by 2022–23. The WA Seniors Card is considered the most generous of its kind in Australia and, when introduced in 1988, it was the first program of its kind in Australia. The Seniors Card is an important part of how the McGowan government assists seniors with the cost of living. The program provides seniors with access to an average value of \$650 annually in state government concessions and rebates, as well as discounts for over 850 businesses across the state.

The WA Seniors Awards and the WA Seniors Card are two important mechanisms by which the McGowan government continues to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of our seniors.