

WA SENIORS AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [12.05 pm]: I rise today to congratulate the winners of the WA Seniors Awards held on Saturday, 17 November as part of Seniors Week. The WA Seniors Awards is a terrific opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our state's seniors. The quality of this year's nominees and finalists makes me proud to be Western Australian and especially humbled to have responsibility for the seniors portfolio. The awards also recognise businesses and local governments that have dedicated themselves to making ageing easier, ensuring our seniors feel included and recognised as an important part of our communities. Vince Garreffa was awarded the metropolitan 2018 WA Lifetime Achievement Award for his tireless fundraising efforts on behalf of Lifeline WA. Vince has raised more than \$3 million for Lifeline WA and other charities over the last 30 years and does not look like slowing down any time soon. His speech was an absolute ripper!

The regional 2018 WA Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Grant Westthorp for his contribution to men's health advocacy and awareness in the great southern. Grant's survival handbook men's health app has been downloaded more than 28 000 times worldwide, so his vital work is helping not only those in the great southern, but also people around the nation and, indeed, the world. The City of Fremantle was commended for its commitment to age-friendly initiatives and received the Age-Friendly Local Government Award, and Coffea Fine Espresso café received the Age-Friendly Business Award for its work in developing a safe, welcoming environment for those with dementia and their families to enjoy a cuppa and a chat through its monthly Memory Café.

The world is a different place than in years past and the days when things started to wind down for people as they approached 60 or 70 are long gone. The work of Grant, Vince and all our nominees and finalists demonstrate the great things that are possible at any age. Our older Western Australians can do important and remarkable things. I congratulate all the finalists and winners on their great achievements.