

SENIORS WEEK

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [12.06 pm]: I rise today to inform the house that this week is WA Seniors Week and acknowledge and celebrate the older people in our communities. Running from 10 to 17 November, WA Seniors Week is a time for people of all ages to celebrate the contributions of older Western Australians. Whether it is volunteering, teaching, playing sport or baby-sitting grandkids, seniors do so much to make Western Australia the place that it is and they contribute so much to our society.

The state government is proud to have provided more than \$80 000 through the Seniors Week community grants program to over 90 community groups and local governments to hold events this week. Seniors Week events encourage greater social inclusion for seniors and promote intergenerational relationships and activities, with activities as diverse as an African drumming session in Toodyay and a Buddy Holly tribute event in Carnarvon, which are all taking place this week. Of course, the jewel in the crown of Seniors Week celebrations is Have a Go Day, which is taking place today at Burswood Park, where I was pleased to announce additional funding of \$40 000 to the event organisation, the Seniors Recreation Council, to provide greater support for healthy ageing through activities as part of today's festivities. The week will finish with the WA Seniors Awards ceremony this weekend, at which the WA metropolitan and regional senior of the year, as well as the WA age-friendly local government and business of the year, will be recognised.

I encourage everyone to take time this week to acknowledge and appreciate the seniors in their lives and to get along to one of the exciting intergenerational Seniors Week events in their community.