

WA SENIORS WEEK

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [12.10 pm]: I rise to inform the members of the house that this week is 2020's WA Seniors Week, which is running from 8 to 16 November. Seniors Week is a time to recognise the important and valued part that older Western Australians play in our communities, and celebrate the contributions made throughout their lives and into their senior years. As we all know, this has been a year like few others. Necessary COVID-19-related restrictions meant many seniors have experienced unprecedented disruptions to activities and social connections, which is why these opportunities for communities to come together and connect safely are now more important than ever. The state government has always been a proud supporter of Seniors Week, and this year we have contributed \$50 000 through a small grants program, coordinated by the Council on the Ageing WA, to go towards various events for seniors around our state. It is testament to the year-round efforts of COTA WA, the state government and the many tireless and dedicated volunteers across the sector that in a year of uncertainty Seniors Week is still in full swing.

The dedication of the Seniors Recreation Council of WA has also meant that the premier event of Seniors Week, Have a Go Day, is still offering a plethora of activities and attractions at Burswood Park today, keeping up with the tradition established in 1992. I look forward to participating in Have a Go Day each year, and trying my hand at new activities on the day is certainly one of the perks of this job. I was very privileged to open the Have a Go Day celebrations this morning, which this year, in partnership with the local RSL sub-branch, included a moment of silence and a stunning shower of poppies to acknowledge Remembrance Day. As many of our seniors have served this country in war and in peace, it was very moving for this outstanding contribution to be integrated into the day.

These events held throughout Seniors Week provide wonderful opportunities for everyone to engage with their local community, to see and experience new things and connect with people of all ages and backgrounds. I encourage all members to get involved in the week's events being held in their local areas, and to show their support and admiration for our older Western Australians and their ongoing contribution to our community.