



Premier of Western Australia

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

Thank you to the organisers of the Better Living Showcase, whose program today highlights the importance of personal growth and fulfilment throughout all stages of life. I commend them for providing this opportunity for Western Australians to learn more about the services available to them through the interactive displays, speakers, demonstrations and other activities on offer today.

A central theme for today is that life is a journey and this event is a fantastic way for people of all ages to learn more about their mental and physical wellbeing.

My Government is committed to supporting the wellbeing of all Western Australians throughout the different stages of their lives. In support of children and young people, we are working on a number of important initiatives.

We know the benefits of good early childhood education and we can't do that without quality and dedicated early childhood educators and staff.

To help build the sector's future workforce the State Government is investing in free and low fee training and traineeships for early childhood educators.

We want **all children** in their early years to have the opportunity to engage in high quality early childhood education and thrive in their early years.

We know that high-quality early childhood education and care is vital to meeting the needs of working families in regional communities.

As part of our government's Election Commitment to support the early childhood education and care sector, \$5.1 million has been committed to a range of initiatives to improve access to and affordability of ECEC services for families in regional areas.

Young people account for almost 20 per cent of WA's population with 19 per cent living in regional WA. We are interested to hear the aspirations and issues young West Australians from all corners of the State are passionate about.

Young people aged 10 – 25 are invited to have their say to inform the State Government's new three-year Action Plan for young people in Western Australia. This plan will set out the actions the government will take to achieve improved outcomes for young people and will form a whole-of-government response. We have been inspired and heartened by the perspectives shared with us so far and the consultation period ends at the end of March.

We also support development programs and services for young people through services and grant funding to equip young people with essential life skills enabling them to respond to issues impacting their lives.

In support of older people in the community, our Age-friendly Communities program enables seniors to maintain their participation in, and contribution to, the community, including initiatives that address social isolation and those fostering intergenerational interaction. Western Australia was the first Australian Affiliate member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities and is internationally recognised for its leadership.

Other State Government initiatives for seniors include the WA Seniors Card, which provides members with an average of \$650 in total value each year, and more if seniors also hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or Pensioner Concession Card. The cost-of-living rebate and the safety and security rebate assist with cost-of-living expenses.

All the above programs, and more, show the commitment my Government has to the health and wellbeing of our community, enabling Western Australians to live happy and fulfilling lives. Further information can be found on the Department of Communities website at: communities.wa.gov.au

I hope you enjoy the interactive exhibition, displays, live performances and speakers today and leave inspired to set some personal goals to positively enhance your health and wellbeing as we head into the end of the year, typically a busy time for many.

I would like to thank Gloria Zhang, founder of the Better Living Showcase, for her commitment to the health, wealth and happiness of Western Australians in creating this excellent initiative.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook', with a large, stylized initial 'R' at the start.

Roger Cook MLA

PREMIER