

ROAD SAFETY COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Road Safety

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Road Safety) [9.07 am]: Today I launched the government's road safety community grants program. This program was previously administered by the Western Australian Local Government Association and has been transferred to the Office of Road Safety to ensure that the grants program better aligns with state government road safety priorities. The funding available for grants this financial year is \$250 000, funded by the road trauma trust account. There are two types of funding available. Event sponsorship grants of up to \$1 000 will encourage community organisations to participate and to include road safety activities within their event. Successful applicants will be supplied with a road safety message, with relevant information and suggestions for supporting policies. Project grants will be made available to organisations to implement road safety projects. These are usually 12-month projects, with a plan to be self-sustaining after funding. The amount funded is based on the committee's assessment of the application. The grants must align with the safe system approach described in *Towards Zero*, the WA road safety strategy for 2008 to 2020.

I am pleased to provide this program to encourage community members to have an active role in raising awareness about road safety and, ultimately, in reducing road trauma in WA. Local road safety projects that foster widespread support and community participation are vital to ensuring successful outcomes in the reduction of road trauma in our community. Applications will be assessed bimonthly by the Road Safety Community Grants Committee, chaired by Adjunct Professor Murray Lampard, which will then recommend a list of projects for consideration and approval. Applicants are encouraged to visit the Office of Road Safety's dedicated online resource, www.ors.wa.qov.au/communitygrants, for all the information they will need to put their application together. Community groups and organisations are encouraged to promote road safety messages and policies in their communities, and I thank them for their continued interest in road safety. The committee will meet for the first time next month to assess the first round of applications. I commend this important road safety initiative to all members and encourage them to promote it within their communities.