

CHUNG WAH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests) [9.07 am]: I would like to advise the house that the inaugural Perth Chung Wah Cultural Festival will begin this weekend. Presented by the Chung Wah Association, the festival will run from Sunday, 12 May to Saturday, 18 May at Burswood Park, with the Swan River and Perth city providing a spectacular backdrop to a week of cultural and business activities for the whole family. The free seven-day festival with dragon boat racing, markets, performances, a film festival, food stalls, cooking demonstrations and a lotus flower ceremony, is an opportunity for everyone to explore Western Australia's unique Chinese culture and history.

Opening with dragon boats thundering down the river in a gala celebration, the event is an opportunity to see some of Western Australia's top dragon boat competitors in action in one of the world's fastest growing sports. The festival has been developed to have something for everyone. It is not only family friendly with lots of activities for children, but also will appeal to businesses, those involved in architecture and construction, filmgoers and those interested in art and history. The festival includes the China Business Forum, organised in collaboration with the Small Business Development Corporation and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. The free business forum will bring together Western Australian start-ups, small and medium enterprises, policymakers and industry bodies to discuss opportunities and strategies for developing trade and investment relationships in China. Other highlights include an Australia–China Construction Forum, an Australian–Chinese history exhibition, and the WA oriental culture and art exhibition.

The Perth Chung Wah Cultural Festival is the first of a series of events that will promote the social, cultural and economic contributions of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and will attract international and interstate visitors, who support our local jobs and economy. This festival is an exciting addition to Western Australia's dynamic calendar of world-class events, and I encourage everyone to visit beautiful Burswood Park to enjoy the festivities.