

YOUTH ACTION PLAN

Statement by Minister for Youth

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park — Minister for Youth) [9.12 am]: I am pleased to update the house on our work to develop the Cook Labor government's new youth action plan. Last year, my predecessor, a great Minister for Youth, Hon Simone McGurk, announced the development of a new Western Australian youth action plan and launched a consultation process. The action plan aims to improve outcomes for young people in WA aged 10 to 25 years. Young people account for almost 20 per cent of WA's population, with 19 per cent living in regional WA. Their views and ideas are critical to shaping our new whole-of-government action plan.

There have been several ways for young people to contribute to our new action plan. These included the "Building Tomorrow: Have Your Say" workshops held in metropolitan and regional areas across our state. These were held most recently this week in Derby, Broome and at the Shoe Bar in Yagan Square, where I joined a bunch of engaged young people. Over 50 workshops attended by young people were held in October and November last year. The United Nations Youth WA voice competition involved working with UN Youth to capture ideas from young people submitted through the public speaking competition. We also took written submissions, either through "dropping a comment" on the Department of Communities website, completing an online survey or by submitting drawings, videos or anything else they chose.

I was so pleased to attend, address and do a question and answer session at Monday's session at Yagan Square, where the young people present were very engaged and forthcoming with their ideas and thought-provoking questions. I thank members of my Ministerial Youth Advisory Council for engaging in the workshops and with me personally at our meetings.

Written submissions and responses to the online survey will be accepted until 29 March 2024. The uptake has been fantastic, but we welcome even more submissions from young people, local governments and community sector organisations. I encourage members of this and the other place to make their younger constituents aware of this opportunity to have their say. To make a submission or complete the online survey, please visit the Department of Communities website. It is very easy and not very time-consuming. The more voices we hear, the better the outcome will be. I look forward to reading the feedback we receive and understanding more deeply the issues that young Western Australians from across the state are passionate about.