




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Seniors Month

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services) (10.26 am): In October this year we will celebrate our older Queenslanders during Seniors Month. I particularly draw the attention of the member for Gregory to an event in Capella called 'Fandangle me Earbobs'. I am sure that the member will be able to report back to me what that actually means and what they do. I am advised the event interacts with youth and I do not think it will result in any injuries to older people, but the member for Gregory can report back to me.

I am pleased to announce that 59 organisations were successful in receiving grants of up to \$2,000 to host an event as part of seniors celebrations. In the electorate of Bulimba, the Wesley Mission is hosting a laugh-out-loud day. It will target all seniors, particularly seniors living with a disability. From the Cape to Coolangatta, these activities will see our older Queenslanders snapping selfies, heading off on mystery bus tours, breaking out the mirror ball and heading to the disco, bowling barefoot and connecting through croquet.

Seniors Month officially kicks off on the United Nations International Day of Older Persons, 1 October, and concludes on Grandparents Day, 29 October. The calibre of applications for this year's grants was fantastic and I cannot wait to see what those 59 community organisations deliver. Supporting a month-long program of events is part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to building an age-friendly state. We want to see older people connect to important people in their communities and we want to see them being cared for and celebrated.

These grants are delivered through a partnership between our government and the Council on the Ageing, COTA Queensland. Together, we want to see as many people as possible, across all generations, connecting and challenging stereotypes around ageing. In 2023, we will continue to celebrate the theme of social connections. I hope to build on the success of last year's record breaking Seniors Month, which saw nearly 150,000 people participate in over 1,500 events on our calendar.