

MEDIA RELEASE



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ConnectGroups calls for bold leadership in Premier McGowan Government's second term 24 March 2021

ConnectGroups congratulates Premier Mark McGowan and the WA Labor team for their landslide win at the 2021 State Election. Antonella Segre, Chief Executive Officer, said that the election result confirms the immense popularity of Premier Mark McGowan's leadership through the 2020 COVID-19 crisis.

"With such unprecedented power to lead, and little opposition, ConnectGroups calls on Premier McGowan and WA Labor to use this opportunity to exercise bold leadership and build back stronger, achieving equitable outcomes for all.

"Recognising the immense value that community-led services such as Support Groups provide for our most vulnerable citizens, we call on WA Labor to work towards not only strong economic recovery from COVID-19, but our strong social recovery, too.

"We recognise that democratic deliberation is needed for governments to reach solutions that won't unintentionally leave anyone out. Raising these issues will be more challenging without strong representation from all sides of politics in Parliament, where democracy rests.

"The advocacy role of specialised peak bodies such as ConnectGroups is therefore more vital than ever. It is our role to hold the government to account to address our system-wide inequities and tackle the societal problems we face - including poverty, mental health, and First Nations justice.

"ConnectGroups thanks the retiring MPs and those who lost their seats in this election, especially those MPs who have raised the needs of the social services and mental health sectors in Parliament. We also congratulate incoming Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and look forward to continuing our strong relationships with current and incoming Ministers.

"ConnectGroups wants the State Government to consider how our vision of '*Connected, Thriving Communities*' and our purpose of '*Connecting the community through building Support Groups that aim to combat isolation and give hope for the future*' is now more pertinent than ever." <END>