

**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE —
PROGRESS REPORT**

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Child Protection) [9.18 am]: I rise to table *Creating a safer WA for children and young people: Progress report on Western Australia's implementation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2022*. I am pleased to inform the house that in this reporting period, the government continued its progress on implementing the royal commission's recommendations, completing 24 recommendations and substantially progressing many others.

The report covers three main themes—healing past hurts, protecting children now and preventing further harm.

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To assist in healing past hurts, the government continued its commitment to and implantation of the National Redress Scheme, and made substantial progress towards recommissioning child sexual abuse therapeutic services and Indigenous healing services in a way that meets the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommendations. To better protect children now, the government's key achievements include the passage of legislation to establish a reportable conduct scheme, and the extension of mandatory reporting requirements to ministers of religion, amongst other important reforms. To prevent further harm to children, the government passed priority amendments to WA's working with children scheme, made significant investments into therapeutic responses to children with harmful sexual behaviours, and in partnership with stakeholders across the community sector, substantially progressed implementation of the national principles for child safe organisations and safeguarding out-of-home care.

Since 2018, our government has been steadfast in implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This report represents the halfway mark in the 10-year implementation period recommended by the royal commission. In this time, we have acquitted over half of the 310 recommendations accepted by the WA government. The Cook government remains committed to delivering on this important work, in close collaboration across all levels of government and the community and business sectors. The safety of children is a whole-of-community responsibility, and I thank the Premier, my cabinet colleagues and the many government and non-government agencies, and individuals involved, for their contributions in delivering this important work.

I also acknowledge my predecessor, Hon Simone McGurk, who formerly held the important role of overseeing the royal commission recommendations. I know all members of this place are committed to keeping children in the community safe and I acknowledge the support crosses party lines. The community has a right to expect that our children are safe from sexual abuse, especially within the institutions entrusted to protect, educate, nurture and care for them. The Cook government will continue to do everything we can to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse.

[See paper 2773.]