

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

856. Ms K.E. GIDDENS to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's strong commitment to tackling the scourge of family and domestic violence.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government is working with the federal Labor government to provide more support and services for victim-survivors?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how these additional services will allow for more capacity in response to family and domestic violence?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for her question and ongoing interest and advocacy on behalf of her community. The member is right; family and domestic violence is a scourge in Western Australia, but we also know that it is a scourge right around the country. It is also an important moment to acknowledge and recognise that the Albanese government, like this state Labor government, is absolutely resolute in its commitment to ending family and domestic violence right around the country, particularly in support of the Cook Labor government in the important work that we are doing in this state. A very important part of ending this scourge and supporting victim-survivors is having an able, qualified and well-resourced workforce. It goes to the heart of supporting victim-survivors and making sure that we do all we can to not only support those people who have experienced family and domestic violence, but also in other areas, whether it relates to supporting perpetrators to change their ways or in the areas of primary education.

The Albanese government has partnered with the state Cook government on an extension of the national partnership on family, domestic and sexual violence responses. It is an important one because it will see an investment that will allow us to allocate 50 additional workers to bolster the frontline response to domestic violence. It is a \$19.3 million national partnership extension. First announced in June, it has two main parts. The first part, which I have spoken about previously in this place, would see \$3.1 million to support innovative perpetrator responses—in particular, getting frontline workers to support the important work of the family violence response teams, making sure that we work closely with perpetrators to hold them to account, stare them down and demand that they change their ways to break that cycle.

Additionally, we will now be able to invest further, which will allow an additional 50 workers to be brought into the system to support the important work of this government but, more importantly, to support the important work that various community sector organisations do day in, day out to support victim-survivors. All in all, the Albanese government is providing a total of some \$169 million over four years in all jurisdictions right around the country to deliver these very critical and important frontline jobs to support women's safety. The frontline worker initiative will help the workforce to deliver those specialist services that are so important and tailor the support across the state.

The initiative aims to better deliver important services to what we know are some of our most vulnerable cohorts. Some of these workers will be targeted to First Nations people, those in rural and remote areas who are more vulnerable, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability and, importantly, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, whom we know experience disproportionately higher rates of family and domestic violence. There will be positions such as caseworkers, outreach workers, victim-survivor advocates and family and domestic violence counsellors. Importantly, the workers will be a combination of fully qualified staff, partnered with trainees, so we are building capacity and creating a future workforce to support the important initiatives of the community service sector right around the state when it comes to our response to family and domestic violence.

The Albanese government gets it. The state Cook Labor government gets it. Family and domestic violence is a scourge on our community and the best way we can support victim-survivors is by investments like these that seek to build our capacity and build the sector's capacity to have well-trained and what I describe as angels who work day in, day out supporting vulnerable people in our community.