

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — ONE-STOP HUBS

278. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented efforts in tackling family and domestic violence and keeping Western Australians safe.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's investment in measures to support survivors of family and domestic violence, including the establishment of the Armadale family and domestic violence hub?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will help improve our frontline response to family and domestic violence incidents?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I thank the member for the question and for her interest in this area.

- (1)–(2) I am very proud of the announcement we made recently in the lead-up to the state budget, which was an additional—that is, a new spend—\$34.4 million of funding to support our program to prevent family and domestic violence. I will go through some of the detail. It has been significant in the last five years when we have seen a dedicated approach, partly from having an appointed minister, but also a program of change across a whole area of work—keeping victims safe, holding perpetrators to account, law reform, making sure that our justice system is up to the task and leading a conversation in the community that says domestic violence is not acceptable, and our government has been doing just that.

One of the components of the \$34.4 million is \$14.7 million to deliver our election commitment to our third one-stop hub, which will be in Armadale. These are new facilities. We have two already existing, one is in Kalgoorlie, which I visited recently with the member for Kalgoorlie. Mara Pirni Healing Place is a fantastic facility for people coming forward and getting assistance. The second one is in Mirrabooka, where we have a number of services behind the counter, under one roof. Perhaps people are not ready to go to the police or a refuge or do not identify with going to a refuge, but this is somewhere where they can go and get some advice, tell their story once and have a range of co-located services to give them advice right there in the heart of the community. We have announced two new hubs, one in Armadale and one in the Kimberley. From hearing the discussion on the one in Armadale, I suspect that they will look different in every single community because the reality is that all our communities are different. We are having conversations and discussions locally to see what that is like.

I do not know whether this quick story will translate well for *Hansard*, but when we were launching the Armadale hub and we had some media there, a member of the Aboriginal community came along and interrupted me. He said that he was annoyed that Aboriginal people had not been consulted about this process and that he was sick of governments and others coming in and telling them what to do. Other people were tapping him on the shoulder and saying, “No, we have been consulted. We know what’s going on.” I said, “No, we’ve been talking to elders.” He said, “I’m sick of it.” People kept tapping him on the shoulder. Later on he said, “Okay, I have to admit: I was part of the consultations. I didn’t remember; I’ve got this new condition called CRS: can’t remember sh—”! He actually had been involved in the consultation, but he had this particular condition and could not remember it.

I digress. We have \$14.7 million for the Armadale hub and we are also spending \$7.7 million on enhancing our family and domestic violence response teams. There are 17 joint response teams around the state. Police work with child protection workers and local women’s services to assess risk and respond to reports of domestic violence incidents. We will spend \$7.7 million on an essential coordination and support team that will increase training for those teams and provide some very welcome information sharing. Finally, we are also spending \$4.5 million to extend two programs in the Kimberley for another four years. Those are the Derby family violence service that the Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation offers in conjunction with Anglicare WA, and Change Em Ways, a program working particularly with men.

There is a lot of work to do in domestic violence, but I am very proud to work on that with other government ministers and the sector. The Minister for Health bemoaned the fact that she did not get any response from the opposition on her mental health announcements. She should be careful what she wishes for, because the opposition put something out about our domestic violence response, and the member for Vasse accused the state government of having a single-minded approach when it came to preventing family and domestic violence. That is a curious criticism, considering she has released only one single media statement focusing on domestic violence since becoming shadow minister a year ago—one media release!

I also caution the opposition on advocating a group called DVassist, which is a perfectly good service. It has been funded by the federal government and we have never put state money into it. Of course, the federal

government's money is now winding up, and what is happening? It is turning to us to plug the holes it has left in the budget commitments it has failed to meet. We will not be able to do that; we are committed to our funding. In fact, in the footer of the opposition's press release is a reference only to DVassist, not to any of the established helplines or to any of the state government-run and well-researched state government helplines. It is irresponsible for the opposition to refer only to DVassist at the bottom of its press release. It is not funded and it operates in a very limited way. That is a very irresponsible thing to do, and it shows the opposition's lack of understanding of domestic violence in our state.