

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REFUGE — BUSSELTON

248. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the government's promise in November 2012 to provide a 12-room family and domestic violence refuge in Busselton to house up to 35 women and children fleeing violence in their homes, and the minister's admission last week that the service opened recently has only six bedrooms and can accommodate only 20 women and children.

- (1) Given that the cut to this vital service means that only \$528 000 of the \$720 000 budget allocation has been spent, will the government refund the \$7 000 donated to the new refuge by the Lions Club of Busselton, the \$8 000 donated to the new refuge by the local Zonta Club and the \$10 000 donated to the new refuge by the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River?
- (2) How long does the minister expect these “interim” arrangements to be in place?
- (3) Apart from the new six-room refuge, what other refuge services are available for women and children in the Busselton area?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The full \$720 000 will be utilised in delivering this refuge and associated services or in providing family violence services for the Busselton community. The generous donations made by the Lions Club of Busselton, the Zonta Club and the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River are undoubtedly appreciated by Busselton Women's Refuge Inc and will no doubt assist this not-for-profit organisation to deliver family and domestic violence services to meet the needs of the Busselton community. Most not-for-profit agencies rely on the generous donations of the community to support delivery of their services.
- (2) Busselton Women's Refuge will operate from the alternative property until the Department of Housing can finalise arrangements at the original site.
- (3) The South West Refuge in Bunbury also provides accommodation and support for up to five families in the Busselton area.