

**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON FAMILY, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
RESPONSES 2021–23 — CODE OF PRACTICE**

Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [1.21 pm]: I rise to update the house on the family and domestic violence code of practice and associated audit tool project. In December 2021, our government entered into the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–23. We have also recently extended this partnership agreement through to 2027. The national partnership agreement aims to support service providers to deliver critical family, domestic and sexual violence services to meet demand, trial new initiatives, undertake reforms and enhance data and reporting.

One of the initiatives funded by the Western Australian government was the development of a family and domestic violence code of practice and associated audit tool. The Centre for Women’s Safety and Wellbeing received \$550 000 from the Department of Communities towards the development of a code of practice that articulates principles and standards to guide the delivery of consistent and quality specialist family and domestic violence services in Western Australia. The code of practice, which will be the first of its kind in Western Australia, will offer clear and consistent guidance for all services supporting victim–survivors, including those that provide intervention to perpetrators. As a priority, the code of practice will support service delivery that is person centred, culturally safe and trauma informed.

When people access family and domestic violence services, they are often in crisis, with complex and competing needs, including threats to their physical safety and concern for the wellbeing of their children. It is essential that the workers and services that support them are well supported themselves, with clear practice guidance and structures for workforce support and development. Creating a code of practice will go a long way to doing this. It is anticipated that the code of practice will be complete by April 2024, informed by a review of relevant literature, a jurisdictional scan of similar guides or codes, and extensive service and stakeholder consultation. Implementation, including training and targeted support through communities of practice, is planned to commence from April 2024 and will be funded by Lotterywest.

I look forward to keeping the house updated on this important project as we continue to support victim–survivors and keep them safe, while also holding perpetrators to account.