

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

206. Ms M.J. HAMMAT to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's ongoing commitment to support victim-survivors of family and domestic violence.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the delivery of this government's recent \$72.6 million investment to help stop family and domestic violence?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this important investment will support women who are escaping violence to find a safe refuge?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for her question and ongoing advocacy in her electorate, particularly for vulnerable women and children escaping domestic violence. Family and domestic violence is a scourge right around the nation. It exists in every town, suburb and neighbourhood. It is a nationwide problem. But we know that the Cook Labor government, since 2017, has been absolutely committed to addressing family and domestic violence, whether it is through creating a portfolio and Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence or our record investment of over \$300 million since 2017. It sees a focus on key supports in terms of crisis support for women and children fleeing violence. It is an important investment around holding perpetrators to account. It importantly also funds primary prevention and working towards stopping violence before it begins.

In November last year, as part of the 16 Days in WA campaign, the Premier announced \$72.6 million of important investments into the sector. A really important part of that announcement was a significant investment into crisis support. What I am referring to in particular today, and want to explain to the house, is the \$22.6 million investment to the Stirling refuge that will see us replace and expand that important refuge. Many members would know that that refuge has been around for many years. In fact, I think it was the first actual dedicated refuge in the state. It is an ageing facility. This important investment will see us not only expand the refuge, but also modernise it so that it is actually fitting for victims who come and need that service.

Importantly, it comes about as the result of a really important partnership with the City of Stirling. I want to put on the record in this place that the City of Stirling, as a local government authority, has always prioritised the prevention of family and domestic violence and supporting victim-survivors. It does an important job in partnering with not only government, but also various local service providers. I want to commend it for its work.

As I said, at the moment the refuge is funded to accommodate women and their dependent children who are escaping violence. The redevelopment will increase the capacity and, importantly, also provide more independent units. The expansion will see the tripling of the size of the refuge from five rooms, where women currently have to share bathrooms and other amenities, to something that will be modern and provide 16 independent units comprising a mix of two to three bedrooms. The architects have been appointed to develop the concept design in partnership with the council. I am happy to say that the City of Stirling Mayor Mark Irwin described the council as being thrilled with the investment after having worked closely with the department to develop a business case on this proposal. It is a really good example of local governments working with state governments together with local partners on important infrastructure projects needed throughout the state.

Of course, the government also announced last year an important funding extension to Naala Djookan Healing Centre, which is one of the four one-stop hubs that we have invested over \$60 million in. There is one in Armadale, Mirrabooka, Kalgoorlie and one is coming soon to Broome. The City of Stirling has always been a great champion and we are happy to work in partnership with it.

I look forward to updating the house as we roll out the \$72.6 million worth of investment. But it is really important to emphasise that rolling out investment requires one to work in partnership with not only ministerial colleagues, but also constructively with local governments. We need to be able to partner and have great working relationships with stakeholders. That is something the other side needs to learn how to do.