

**FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — TASKFORCE**

*Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence*

**MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)** [1.16 pm]: Just over a week ago, the government listened to women with lived experience of family and domestic violence, and representatives from the Centre for Women’s Safety and Wellbeing and Stopping Family Violence. We came together following the recent horrific deaths of several women. I again extend my condolences to the families and friends of these women.

The forum’s focus was to do more together across the continuum to focus on primary prevention and early intervention to stop violence before it starts, keep women and children safe and hold perpetrators to account. It was recognised that across government and the community sector, we need to keep working to break down silos and better share information and data, including about patterns of perpetrator behaviour.

We have listened and acted quickly. The Cook Government will establish a special taskforce to help guide the next phase of the work to address family and domestic violence, building on the major work done and over \$200 million invested since 2017. The taskforce, a key request from the forum, will consider and advise on other priorities put forward at the forum, and examine broader system reforms to improve victim–survivor safety and perpetrator accountability. It will be co-chaired by Professor Colleen Hayward, AM, a senior Noongar woman and former ambassador for the Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Emily Roper, the director general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Government members will include directors general and commissioners of key agencies, including the Department of Communities, the Department of Education, the Western Australia Police Force, the Department of Health and the Department of Justice. The non-government members are being finalised so that work can get underway this month. The taskforce will be time limited, initially for six months.

The government has also committed to the forum’s second key ask—a lived experience advisory group to provide an ongoing voice for those with lived experience to help shape policies on family and domestic violence. The taskforce will start work on establishing this important group.

In addition to these important responses, building on the work across government and in the sector, the government today also announced changes to the Firearms Act to include mandatory disqualifying offences that will ban serious violent offenders from holding or retaining a firearm licence, interim services at the Armadale One Stop Hub, expanding the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes program to Fitzroy Crossing and Katanning, and a statement of intent with the non-government school sector on a shared approach to respectful relationships.

There is more to do, and the taskforce and lived experience advisory group will play critical roles in guiding our future work. Family and domestic violence is a scourge in our community. Everyone has the right to feel safe in their home, and everyone in the community has a part to play in stopping family and domestic violence.