

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SPECIAL TASKFORCE

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

I refer to the Cook Labor government's strong record of investment to address family and domestic violence in Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the establishment of a special taskforce on family and domestic violence?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house on how this taskforce will deliver timely outcomes for initiatives to address family and domestic violence in WA?

**Ms S.E. WINTON replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Mirrabooka for the question and her longstanding commitment and work to address family and domestic violence in her electorate.

The taskforce that we announced last week builds on our strong investment of over \$200 million since we came to government and plays an important part in continuing to build on the work we have done since coming to office. We have responded quickly to the forum's key asks, which were for a time-limited taskforce and the establishment of a lived-experience advisory body.

With the co-chairs, the taskforce's membership has now been finalised, and it includes leaders from government and peak community organisations, and an academic expert. The government representatives are the directors general of the Departments of Communities, Justice, Education, Treasury and Health, the commissioner for the Western Australia Police Force and the Mental Health Commissioner. I am pleased to advise that the peak organisation representatives on the taskforce are Dr Alison Evans, the CEO of the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing; Damian Green, the CEO of Stopping Family Violence; Barbara Henry, the executive officer of the Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council; Vicki O'Donnell, the chair of the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia and Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia; and Louise Giolitto, the CEO of the Western Australian Council of Social Service. The taskforce will also benefit from Professor Donna Chung's years of expertise in this field.

The taskforce's key objectives are to advise on and oversee the consultation process to establish the lived-experience advisory group; to identify system reforms, including minimising the barriers that prevent victim-survivor safety and perpetrator accountability, and improving the cross-system coordination and collaboration; to consider, prioritise and advise on responses to the other key sector priorities from the August forum; and to identify options to strengthen case-coordination through improved information and data sharing.

The taskforce has got straight to work. In fact, it met earlier today and will be meeting again in October. Today's meeting was co-chaired by senior Noongar woman Professor Colleen Hayward, AM, and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's director general, Emily Roper. It was a great privilege to address them before they commenced their important work today.

It is so important that we to start the consultation with people with lived experience straightaway, as a matter of priority, to set up that advisory group and to ensure that the lived experience informs the work of the taskforce. The taskforce builds on the Cook government's ongoing commitment to address family and domestic violence. We have invested more than \$200 million since we came into government, including, importantly, significant legislative and operational reforms.

I look forward to working with the members of the taskforce as they consider and identify actions as part of their operations to address family and domestic violence throughout our state and to further support the important work we have done in this space since coming to government.