

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — ONE-STOP HUBS

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting victim-survivors of family and domestic violence.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the expansion of family and domestic violence one-stop hubs will allow victim-survivors to seek help, assistance and support in one location?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how the hubs are helping to keep Western Australian women and their children safe?

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

I thank the member for Mirrabooka for the question. I want to acknowledge her strong advocacy and connection with her community. She truly is a member that knows her community well and advocates strongly for the services that her community requires to live wonderful lives out in that part of the world.

- (1)–(2) It was great last month to be with the member for Mirrabooka in Mirrabooka at the Naala Djookan Healing Centre to announce, as part of the 2023–24 state budget, \$13.4 million to continue funding both the Mirrabooka hub and the Kalgoorlie hub. I know the member for Kalgoorlie has received great feedback about that announcement. Importantly, that \$13.4 million means that those two hubs have funding until June 2027, which is a significant investment and provides confidence about that service being provided in those communities.

We know that the hub model introduced by the McGowan government, a first for WA, works because it connects victim-survivors of family and domestic violence with a range of services in the one place. Many members would know that one of the hardest things to do when you are a victim of family and domestic violence is to actually reach out. That is one of the hardest things to do and, in fact, one of the most dangerous times is when a woman reaches out to seek help. We have learnt that part of the problem with that is that victims have to constantly retell their story again and again as they seek out various services. This hub model works to stop that from happening and to provide a trusted, safe environment in which victim-survivors can go for a range of services they require to get their lives on track—services such as financial counselling, family and parenting support, creches, referrals to refuge accommodation, mental health support and also supports for legal counselling.

I am happy to let the house know that the hubs in Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie have helped over 1 200 women since opening in 2020. At Naala Djookan, 629 women have been helped for family and domestic violence, and, importantly, a further 183 women at Mirrabooka have accessed soft-entry service. It is important that these hubs are not used solely as family and domestic violence services, but that they provide that soft-entry service—what I referred to earlier as a safe place—where they can seek help when they first start to come to that realisation that things are not right in their relationship. It means that we are able to support women earlier to prevent family and domestic violence from escalating.

It was really great to talk to the City of Stirling and the other service providers in Mirrabooka. The overwhelming feedback from victim-survivors who have used the services is that they are experiencing increased feelings of safety and choice and had timely access to the services, and, most importantly, cultural respect.

This budget also provides \$16.3 million to establish a new one-stop hub in Broome, which will also provide services to Derby and Bidyadanga. All in all, our election commitment to one-stop hubs is an investment of over \$64 million. The service providers in Armadale have been chosen. Hope Community Service and Yorgum Healing Services will be running the hub in Armadale. I know that the fit-out is happening at the moment, and we look forward to Armadale and Broome hubs opening very soon—next year.

I finish by emphasising again the McGowan government's strong commitment to the prevention of domestic violence since we have been in government, with over \$200 million of targeted investment based on evidence and based on stakeholder engagement and feedback. This year's budget alone sees \$52.5 million invested into this important area.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Central Wheatbelt with the last question.