

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — MEN'S WORKSHOP

548. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) Is the minister aware of claims made on a flyer promoting a workshop on “Working with men affected by violence” on 7 October that one in three victims of domestic violence is male?
- (2) Does the minister understand this claim to be correct?
- (3) If yes to (2), what evidence is the minister drawing on to substantiate the claim?
- (4) If no to (2), will the minister ask for the flyer to be withdrawn?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question; the question could easily have come to me under either the Mental Health or Child Protection portfolio. I note that the honourable member previously asked this question on 10 September, and at the time I advised that I would look into the matter. I appreciate the honourable member providing me with a copy of the flyer referred to in the question, and I advise the following.

- (1) The training program “Working with men affected by violence” was held on 7 October 2010. I am advised that this training was developed by Greg Millan, the vice president of the Australasian Men's Health Forum Inc, and organised through Lifeline WA. The “One in Three” campaign claims that one in three victims of family and domestic violence are male, and that one in three victims of sexual assault are male.
- (2) Many well-regarded academics in the family and domestic violence field, such as Dr Michael Flood, have written extensively on their concerns about the inaccuracies perpetuated by “One in Three”. The gendered nature of family and domestic violence is clear when physical assault, sexual assault and threat are combined. The 2005 Australian Bureau of Statistics personal safety survey relied only on physical assault data that indicated that of the 808 300 men who had experienced violence, including physical and sexual assault and threat, within the previous 12 months, only 3.5 per cent were assaulted by a female partner or former partner. In contrast, 25.8 per cent of women who experienced violence were assaulted by a male partner or former partner.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No. To the best of my knowledge, the workshop occurred in October 2010. I would also like to take the opportunity to advise the member that I raised with the acting director general of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support the wording of the department's website in relation to family and domestic violence services. I can now advise that the wording has been changed to —

The Men's Domestic Violence Helpline is a state wide 24 hour service. This service provides counselling for men who are concerned about becoming violent or abusive. The service can provide telephone counselling, information and referral to ongoing face to face services if required. Information and support is also available for men who have experienced family and domestic violence.