

FIRST NATIONS HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

**392. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Community Services:**

Minister, can I draw you back to the question, which relates to the First Nations Hopelessness Project asking for just \$50 000 a year. Can I take it that the minister would rather play politics and blame games, rather than listen to experts like Dr Fiona Stanley and Dr Betsy Buchanan, and other providers, by refusing to fund this proven and successful program?

Several members interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Just answer the question. You are refusing to fund it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! A number of people have interjected. I am assuming they are trying to assist in answering the supplementary. The minister is more than capable of answering the supplementary, so I would ask that people do not do that during a supplementary question. We want a short, sharp supplementary. I want it heard in silence so that we can get a response from the minister, who is more than capable of answering adequately.

**Ms S.F. McGURK replied:**

Madam Speaker, we fund \$11 million through the Thrive program. We fund additional money in the child protection area for families whose children are at risk of coming into the child protection system, including to a number of Aboriginal-controlled organisations—about \$30 million. Last week, we opened the 100-bed Wellington Street facility, which will be run by two Aboriginal-controlled organisations and targeted at people who are street present, homeless now and needing assistance. We also announced last week the local government co-contribution fund of \$6 million. The Minister for Health and I were at the launch of the recovery centre for people experiencing homelessness or have been in emergency departments and need somewhere to recover and be able to link in with services. We made a range of different announcements during Homelessness Week. We are doing important work, not only with new funding into homelessness, but also into reforming the existing system.

I am committed to working with Aboriginal-controlled organisations to make sure that we can get better outcomes for Aboriginal people, and I will continue to do that.