

16 DAYS IN WA TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [9.23 am]: I rise today to update members on the upcoming 16 Days in WA campaign, and to inform the house about some of the important events and activities that will happen throughout the 16 days. This year is the seventh year of the annual campaign, 16 Days in WA. The campaign, which was introduced by this Labor government, is designed to shine a spotlight on the issue of family and domestic violence and to help people call out disrespectful behaviour and better understand the many forms family and domestic violence can take.

The campaign runs from 25 November, which is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, which is Human Rights Day. In 2023, the campaign theme is “Stopping Family and Domestic Violence: Play your part”, and I invite all my parliamentary colleagues to support 16 Days and consider how they can play their part.

This year, for the first time, the Cook Labor government expanded the 16 Days campaign by providing grants totalling \$50 000 to raise awareness of gender-based violence across WA. The Centre for Women’s Safety and Wellbeing received \$25 000 to administer small community grants statewide, supporting organisations hosting events during the 16 Days campaign. Aboriginal Family Legal Services received \$25 000 to support the Ochre Ribbon campaign, which is a grassroots, community-led campaign to support community action against family violence impacting Aboriginal families and communities.

These grants mean that there will be community activities from Kununurra to Bunbury, raising awareness of family and domestic violence. These activities include education sessions; community walks against violence in Midland, Geraldton and Baldivis; morning teas and lunches for victim survivors; and even a Bunnings sausage sizzle. I want to thank all the small community groups and not-for-profit organisations that are playing their part by hosting these activities and working hard to raise awareness of this issue in their communities.

A full list of events occurring throughout the 16 Days in WA campaign is available on the campaign website, 16days.wa.gov.au. Everyone in this chamber knows that family and domestic violence takes many forms and can include physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and financial abuse. One in four women has experienced intimate partner violence. I am a mother of three daughters, and I find that statistic personally confronting. Of course, for Aboriginal women, the statistics are even more harrowing, with three in every five Aboriginal women experiencing violence. These are heartbreaking statistics, and we must continue to do everything we can, individually and collectively, to stop the violence. There is no excuse for violence, and we must all play our part in stopping this scourge in our community.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just before we get into grievances —

Ms S.E. Winton: I have one more.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. The Minister for Child Protection.