

TARGET 120 SITES

**641. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Community Services:**

I refer to the government's single policy to address youth crime across regional communities, the Target 120 program, which the minister described as the most important and significant social program of this government.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the program is now operational in all nine expanded locations announced in May 2022?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that the program is operational in all 20 locations announced to date?
- (3) Can the minister provide details of how many participants have been through the program to date?

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

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for her question and her interest in supporting young people, and particularly young people at risk in our communities. We know that providing supports for young people at risk is a complex thing. We also know, as the member rightly identified, that the Target 120 program—a key priority of this government, with some \$43 million investment into this program in 20 locations around the state—is absolutely essential if we are going to make a difference in young people's lives to intervene, to support them early, and to steer them away from a path of coming before the juvenile justice system. Since I have been the minister, it has been my great privilege to travel around the state to meet with various community sector organisations and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations that are delivering this program right around the state. Also, every three weeks, I hook up specifically and talk to project leaders in each of the locations to understand the successes they are having with young people, and also to understand some of the challenges—they are complex challenges when working with these young people—and how we can better support the program to have further success.

In relation to Carnarvon, I confirm that on Tuesday I had a phone hook-up with Ngala, which is now running the program there and having great success in onboarding young people and supporting them. In that instance, it is having great success in working closely and collaboratively with the local school in Carnarvon, because we know that one of the main drivers of keeping kids engaged is education. Many of the young people who are coming into the Target 120 program are disengaged from schools. The Carnarvon example is just one example of a community service organisation that is working with young people and building relationships with schools and other service providers in its community to help support those young people.

If the member would like to put the question on notice, I am happy to provide her with more specific numbers around locations. We have funded 20 locations in the state. I am happy to take it on notice to provide the member with more specific information about which locations, how many young people are currently in the program and the kind of success we have had with them.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** Is it operational in all 20 locations?

**Ms S.E. WINTON:** Can I finish?

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

Several members interjected.

**Ms S.E. WINTON:** Can I finish my answer?

In relation to two of the locations, Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek, negotiations are at an advanced stage with a service provider to roll out the program in those towns. I repeat what I have said in this place before: it is challenging for service providers right around the regions to have the capacity to roll out some of the programs, least of all because of staffing issues and the need to onboard people to roll out those programs. We are working as hard as we can to support local organisations. We have provided funding of \$43 million to help them step up and roll out the initiative.