

16 DAYS IN WA CAMPAIGN

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

I refer to the Cook Labor government's 16 Days in WA campaign to raise awareness of family and domestic violence. Can the minister advise the house how this government is providing targeted investment to address family and domestic violence; and can the minister outline to the house how this government's recent announcement of new initiatives will address the critical areas of education and primary prevention?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

Before I answer the member's question, I acknowledge the incredible work of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Communities and so many voluntary organisations that have worked so hard to keep Wanneroo safe over the last week. Thank you very much. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Mirrabooka for her longstanding commitment to, and work on, addressing family and domestic violence. I know there are so many fabulous, hardworking organisations in her electorate that support victim survivors every single day.

Members, it is widely recognised that this government has strongly invested in addressing family and domestic violence since we were elected in 2017. In fact, there has been some \$300 million of investment across government since 2017 in the important areas of crisis support; holding perpetrators to account; primary intervention; and primary education, which is critical if we are going to break the cycle of family and domestic violence.

Today the Premier announced \$72.6 million in support packages and targeted measures in response to the taskforce that was established some months ago. We are making sure that we are listening. I remember when the Premier was first elected he said that he would be a listening Premier. That is exactly what we have done, particularly in the area of family and domestic violence. The taskforce has worked diligently in providing advice to government, and we have responded with today's announcement.

I particularly want to take this opportunity to highlight a significant part of the \$72.6 million investment, which is around primary prevention. We know that crisis support is critical but we also know that we need to do more to stop violence from occurring in the first place. To do that, we need to invest in primary prevention measures. It is about targeting the drivers of violence to enable the social and structural change that, over time, will create lasting results that will end family and domestic violence.

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing's summit on 31 August made three key asks in the area of prevention. It asked for the rollout of effective prevention projects statewide, the continuation of funding for Preventing Violence Together and the expansion of the respectful relationships program. Today's announcement by the Premier goes above and beyond the centre's primary prevention asks. Today's investment represents a fivefold increase on the current level of investment in primary prevention. This is not insignificant, members. There is \$5 million for a public education campaign about family and domestic violence, which will be the first state-based media education campaign for two decades, and \$6 million in grants for primary prevention, and this of course builds upon our work through \$3 million worth of election commitments that fund some 17 different primary prevention initiatives about which we have had excellent feedback. We are extending funding to Preventing Violence Together to provide professional oversight to these primary prevention initiatives. Preventing Violence Together is developing a primary prevention framework and convening a community of practice to support its work.

Importantly, the announcements by the Premier also include \$6 million for Aboriginal family safety grants and \$1.5 million to enhance and expand the respectful relationships program in schools. We know how important that is. We know how important education is if we are going to break the cycle. Dealing with the root cause of family and domestic violence is about changing the culture, and that takes time, but it starts with supporting our young people and letting them know that disrespectful relationships are not okay. The investment today by the Premier will go a long way to doing that.

As the Premier said, it is now day four of the seventh year of the 16 Days in WA campaign. It is a very impactful campaign that is raising awareness of family and domestic violence. It is raising awareness at kitchen tables, in our sporting clubs and right around our community, because we know that government alone cannot end family and domestic violence. In fact, that is why our theme this year is "Play your part". I am very proud that the Cook Labor government is playing its part.

I want to particularly acknowledge this morning's business breakfast hosted by Seven West Media. It was wonderful to see so many young people in the room. There were young people representing the Youth Parliament, the Ministerial Youth Advisory Council and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia and, of course, high school students from Sevenoaks Senior College in the member for Cannington's electorate.

The answer to ending family and domestic violence is stopping it before it begins and the announcements today focus very strongly on that preventive work of primary education.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Liberal Party with the last question.