

KIMBERLEY REGIONAL ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLAN

409. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:

I note the fact that today is Sorry Day, and I congratulate the Bringing Them Home organisation on the great event it has run today in Wellington Park in East Perth.

I refer to the Barnett government's 2008 promise to introduce a Kimberley regional alcohol management plan.

- (1) Does the minister agree with the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre chair, Wes Morris, that such a plan would reduce abuse, self harm and suicide rates?
- (2) If yes to (1), has the minister raised the urgent need for action with her colleagues, particularly the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, wearing the new collegiate consultative hat that he outlined to the house yesterday?
- (3) If no to (1), does the minister have an alternative strategy in mind; and, if so, would she agree to share her thoughts with KALACC?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

- (1)–(3) I was in Broome in February to announce additional funding for suicide prevention, and I met with people from KALACC. We had a reasonable conversation about the proposals it had put forward. I want members to be really clear about the fact that there is currently a Kimberley alcohol management group and an alcohol management program in operation. There are alcohol restrictions that apply across the Kimberley that members may not be aware of.

Hon Sally Talbot: You promised a plan.

Hon HELEN MORTON: A plan is in place.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Tell us what it is.

Hon HELEN MORTON: If the member keeps quiet she might just hear it.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let the minister finish the answer.

Hon HELEN MORTON: I was saying that there is a Kimberley management plan at the moment. People somehow imagine that there is not a plan in place. There is a plan in place.

Hon Sally Talbot: You should share it with the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre because it would like to know.

Hon HELEN MORTON: It was discussed with KALACC while I was up there. I understand KALACC may have had further discussions about it. The alcohol management plan consists of a number of strategies. One is the Kimberley-wide alcohol restrictions that people may not be aware of on takeaway packaged liquor, which was introduced in March 2009. The following restrictions apply to all liquor licences located in the Kimberley. The sale of takeaway liquor in individual containers of more than one litre with an alcohol content of more than six per cent is prohibited, except when the sale is to a liquor merchant or with the written permission of the Director of Liquor Licensing. The sale of all takeaway beer in individual glass containers of more than 400 millilitres is prohibited.

Hon Sally Talbot: You know it's not working.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Just a minute.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon HELEN MORTON: Then there are the local alcohol management plans undertaken on a community-by-community basis. Everyone understands that if an alcohol management plan is community owned and community driven—I am sure the member supports the restrictions put in place by the women of the Fitzroy Valley, for example—it will have a better overall impact for that community. There are the community-by-community restrictions; some of which have been put in place by the Director of Liquor Licensing. I am talking about those restrictions implemented under section 175 of the Liquor Control Act. The Liquor Control Act includes two key sections by which alcohol restrictions are formally implemented in WA—sections 64 and 175. Section 64 allows the Director of Liquor Licensing to impose conditions on a licence. Section 64 applies to some communities and some would prefer restrictions under section 175.

Across all of that, the overall alcohol management plan is about enabling, encouraging and supporting local communities to undertake their local alcohol management plans in conjunction with people who are most able to

make those things happen. There is an overall plan and local community plans. KALACC is but one of those communities. There are liquor restrictions around that area at the moment. They want to also implement other services. We have encouraged them to get those other services funded under, for example, the suicide prevention plan. That particular community can put in some line items around alcohol restrictions. Some of the programs they want to run with the young men, for example, can come in under that program. We have encouraged them to do that.