

POLICE AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRES — FUNDING

318. Ms J. FARRER to the Minister for Police:

Can the minister outline to this house how the McGowan Labor government's \$11.3 million funding boost for police and community youth centres will support the critical role they play in reducing juvenile crime; and can the minister advise the house how the funding will make up for the cuts imposed by the previous Liberal–National government?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

I thank the member for Kimberley for her excellent question.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member for Scarborough is already squealing, squealing with embarrassment because the PCYC has been a fantastic institution —

Several government members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, your minister is on her feet—be silent.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Police and community youth centres have been a fantastic institution in this state for nearly 80 years. They were formerly known as police and citizens youth centres.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member for Scarborough is still interjecting.

The SPEAKER: So is the member for Armadale. I call him to order.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member for Scarborough is not going to drown me out from that little chair there.

The fact of the matter is that the former government should be embarrassed. After the 2012 Browne review, it took the police out of PCYCs—it pulled the rug out from right under them—which has meant a \$4 million a year deficiency for PCYCs. After the actions of the member for Scarborough, PCYCs had to sell property to survive; they have had to sell PCYCs in order to pay their recurrent bills. That is the situation that the member for Scarborough placed them in. Shame. Did we see PCYCs expand under her watch? No—not at all.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: We saw all those FTEs taken out of the police and community youth centres, which left them with ongoing deficiencies of about \$4 million a year. That stands in stark contrast, member for Kimberley, to the support that the McGowan government has been giving PCYCs. This year, we are proud to announce that an additional \$11.3 million will be going into PCYCs, of which \$7 million will help put them back on the sustainable basis, which was taken away from them by the former Liberal–National government.

I thank the member for Kimberley for her advocacy for PCYCs. We will be able to expand PCYCs in the Kimberley. Nearly \$2 million has been allocated for an East Kimberley PCYC in Kununurra to provide PCYC services, which will be a first. It is great to see that under our government, PCYCs will be put in a sustainable position and will be able to expand—but it does not end there. Over \$1 million is in the budget for the Carnarvon Police and Community Youth Centre so that we can upgrade its facility.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Under the Nationals government, the Carnarvon PCYC did not get anything—nothing—and that is why we need to spend \$1 million to bring it up to standard.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The former government left PCYCs \$4 million a year in debt, but opposition members are complaining that they are not getting more. The Carnarvon PCYC is getting a \$1 million upgrade. In addition, \$1.3 million has been allocated for stage 1 of the West Kimberley Youth and Resilience Hub, which is based in Broome. That will provide a safe space for young people to participate in a whole range of activities and build their life skills and experience. We know that there are real issues with young people in the Kimberley. We know that centres Kununurra in the East Kimberley and Broome in the West Kimberley have a real need for these

services. We want to support all the kids there. We know a large number of Indigenous kids there will really benefit from the services that PCYCs will deliver to those communities.