

## **NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence*

**MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)** [9.17 am]: I am pleased to update the house on the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence. Western Australia will receive \$19.3 million in commonwealth funding over the next four years through an extension to the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence responses 2021–27.

The funding supports two main initiatives: firstly, there will be up to 50 family, domestic and sexual violence workers for Western Australia, which is part of a broader commonwealth commitment for 500 new workers nationally; and secondly, it will trial innovative perpetrator responses. Funding of over \$16 million will add to a contribution of \$4.8 million from the state government to fund 50 family and domestic violence workers. The innovative perpetrator response initiative provides over \$3 million to Western Australia to test new ways to work with perpetrators of family and domestic violence. Funding will be aimed at holding perpetrators accountable, preventing them from reoffending and improving victim–survivor safety. I welcome this extra funding, which will deliver more frontline workers and the opportunity to trial new ways to intervene with perpetrators.

While our priority is always protecting victim-survivors, we need to hold perpetrators accountable for their behaviour. Currently, the state government, through the Department of Communities, invests over \$5.4 million for voluntary perpetrator programs. Further funding for a range of perpetrator programs is provided through the Department of Justice. Western Australia is regarded as an innovator in men’s behaviour change programs. One of those programs, Breathing Space, which was established in Calista in 2003, was the first men’s residential behavioural change program in the southern hemisphere. Our government built on this, with a new Breathing Space in Maylands in 2019 and piloting a third Breathing Space in Hedland in 2022.

This new commonwealth government funding provides an opportunity to look at different ways to address the causes of violence. This partnership agreement demonstrates state and commonwealth governments’ commitment to supporting women, children and families experiencing or at risk of violence. We welcome the Albanese government’s investment in making women’s safety a national priority and holding perpetrators accountable.