

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5941. Hon Shelley Archer to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

I refer the Minister to the Report on the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, carried out by the Kulunga Research Network at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. I draw the Minister's attention to Recommendation 8 of the Report, namely, 'All levels of government should give high priority to community development initiatives aimed at building and sustaining safer communities and neighbourhoods. Particular priority should be given to efforts in the following areas — (a) leadership training for Aboriginal people, (b) community governance training and support, (c) establishing and funding of community patrols, (d) establishing neighbourhood support and places of safety, (e) provision of 'time out' and respite opportunities for families (e.g. school vacation programmes), and (f) opportunities for young people to have supported relationships with appropriate adults, and I ask —

Will the Minister advise the House what progress has been made in respect of this recommendation?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

The Department of Indigenous Affairs advises:

Through the Bilateral Agreement on Indigenous Affairs, the State and Commonwealth Governments are working together to streamline service delivery to Indigenous communities, including services relating to community safety. Priority is being given to initiatives that focus on community governance, leadership and capacity building to ensure that communities are functional and effective.

In addition, the Government is also implementing community safety initiatives such as the establishment of Multi-Functional Police Facilities in remote communities to streamline policing and child protection services in these locations. In February 2007, the Government began implementing a comprehensive strategy to address similar problems experienced in Fitzroy Crossing. The "package" of initiatives in Halls Creek includes the establishment of residential care facilities to provide a safe and supportive environment for children in need of immediate protection, as well as programmes and support services for parents and extended family. The package of initiatives is targeted at addressing issues such as family violence, alcohol and other drug abuse, and truancy.