

SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWS — RECOMMENDATIONS — COMMISSIONER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

720. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's answer on 17 June 2021 to my question without notice 300, in which he advised that a working group had been convened that included the Director of Public Prosecutions and relevant agencies; and further, to his joint media release of 4 September 2021, in which it was announced that a sexual violence prevention strategy would be guided by a reference group.

- (1) Is the working group and the reference group one and the same?
- (2) Who are the members of the working group; and, if different, who are the members of the reference group?
- (3) Will the Attorney General table the terms of reference or similar documents setting out the objectives of the working group; and, if different, the reference group?
- (4) Is it intended that the work of these groups will result in the publication of a report?
- (5) If yes to (4), when is this scheduled to occur?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide the following response on behalf of the Attorney General.

- (1) The working group and reference group are separate.
- (2) The working group is made up of representatives from the following agencies: the Department of Justice, Department of Communities, Department of Health, Department of Education, WA Police Force and Director of Public Prosecutions. The reference group will be chaired by Nicole Lambert, chief executive officer at Allambee Counselling and vice-chairperson of the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence. However, the membership of the reference group is still being determined.
- (3) The terms of reference for both groups are not yet finalised.
- (4) Given the early stage of the project, the sensitive nature of submissions and the potential privacy considerations, a decision is yet to be made on the best way of communicating any sexual violence strategy work product with the public.
- (5) The first meeting of the reference group and a sector consultation forum are scheduled for October 2021. Statewide community consultation for the strategy is due to begin in early 2022. An interim report will be produced in 2022. Victims and survivors are able to use the following email address to tell the project team of their experiences: sexualviolencestrategy@justice.wa.gov.au.