

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

516. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) Is the minister aware that her department's website provides the following advice —

The Women's Domestic Violence Helpline is a 24 hour service. This service provides support and counselling for women experiencing family and domestic violence. This includes phone counselling, information and advice, referral to local advocacy and support services, liaison with police if necessary and support in escaping situations of family and domestic violence. The service can refer women to safe accommodation if required.

The Men's Domestic Violence Helpline is a state wide 24 hour service. This service provides counselling for men who are concerned about becoming violent or abusive. The service can provide telephone counselling and information and referral to ongoing face to face services if required

- (2) Is the minister confident that this advice sends a helpful message to men experiencing family and domestic violence?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(2) Yes. It is acknowledged that both women and men can be victims of family and domestic violence. However, there is a significant disparity between the numbers of women and men who experience family and domestic violence. Of the 808 300 men who experienced violence—physical and sexual assault and threat—in the previous 12 months, 3.5 per cent were assaulted by a female partner or former partner. In contrast, 25.8 per cent of women who experienced violence were assaulted by a male partner or former partner.