

Ministerial Statement
Hon. Sue Ellery, MLC
Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Child Protection
Royal Commission Annual Report on Progress
12 February 2020

- Madam President, I rise today to table the McGowan Government's Annual Report on Progress of recommendations relating to the Royal Commission into institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- I do so in accordance with recommendation 17.2 of the Royal Commission's Final Report.
- As identified by the report, I am pleased to inform the house that over 95 per cent of the 310 applicable recommendations to Western Australia have either been completed, or are progressing.
- This includes important reforms across multiple portfolios to:
 - Strengthen criminal law to respond to child sexual abuse
 - Upgrade child interview recording equipment
 - Support child safe institutions
 - Introduce mandatory reporting to Religious Ministers
 - Digitise criminal records to improve screening, and
 - Improve access to supports for children in out of home care.
- The latter in particular, was highlighted at the public release of the report in December, where a new mobile app to improve access to supports and services for 300 young people in out-of-home care was announced.
- The work identified in the annual report builds on important foundations laid by the McGowan Government to:
 - join the National Redress Scheme
 - pass the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Act 2018 (WA); and
 - through the Premier, offer an Apology to those who experienced sexual abuse in Government Institutions
- The McGowan Government is committed to this work because its importance is indisputable: keeping children safe is the highest priority.
- The experiences, and the courage, shown by those who bravely stepped forward during the Royal Commission, will be honoured by the McGowan Government.
- I thank my Cabinet Colleagues as well as the many Government agencies, Non-Government agencies, and individuals involved for their input into this important work.