

**WORKPLACE FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PAID LEAVE —  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR**

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

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)** [9.08 am]: I rise to speak about workplace family and domestic violence leave and support. Reported incidents of family and domestic violence continue to show the extent of the problem in Western Australia, with an estimated 50 000 police call-outs in 2016. Nationally, one in four Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Western Australia has the second-highest rate in Australia of reported physical and sexual violence perpetrated against women, second only to the Northern Territory. We know that up to one in two Aboriginal women and children report experiencing family violence. They are also three times more likely to be physically assaulted by an intimate partner or family member, and five times more likely to be sexually assaulted compared with non-Aboriginal women.

Against this backdrop, we took a commitment to the election to introduce 10 days of paid leave for public sector employees experiencing family and domestic violence. As the state's inaugural Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, I was very pleased to support the Premier in this announcement in June, given that the government is the state's largest employer. We also called on the corporate sector to show leadership on this problem that is impacting our workplaces as well as our communities. I am very pleased to say that BHP, Rio Tinto and a range of other companies have taken this important step. I congratulate BHP for its package of workplace support, which includes among its measures paid leave, additional sessions with an employee assistance program provider, flexible work arrangements, temporary accommodation and financial assistance. Keeping victims connected to their workplace is critical for promoting a safe and inclusive workplace culture and for supporting women to maintain financial independence. I look forward to more in WA's corporate community demonstrating their commitment to safe, supportive, respectful and productive workplaces in this state.