

OCHRE RIBBON DAY — ABORIGINAL SURVIVORS OF FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [2.14 pm]: I rise to pay my respects to Aboriginal colleagues, leaders, families and people in our community because this day marks the Ochre Ribbon Day campaign. Ochre Ribbon Day is about promoting the message that Aboriginal people will not tolerate violence against its men, women and children. It is for Aboriginal people who are survivors of family and domestic violence.

As the state's first Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, I am acutely aware of the disproportionate impact of family and domestic violence on Aboriginal women, children, men, families and communities. The Ochre Ribbon Day campaign is a community-driven campaign. It was started in Western Australia by one of our own community-based organisations—Aboriginal Family Law Services. Leadership on confronting and seemingly intractable issues like family and domestic violence is vital, especially from community members. I congratulate the Aboriginal Family Law Services for its leadership and the many Aboriginal leaders and community-controlled organisations in our state that are working on this issue. Today and every day they are giving voice to their aspiration for their families and communities to live with strength, connection and respect, and without violence.

The theme of this year's campaign is "working together". I have just come from an Ochre Ribbon Day event where this theme was demonstrated. Community leaders and members, experts and professionals, were speaking about the ways in which they are working together on preventing family and domestic violence. Although Ochre Ribbon Day is an important opportunity to focus on this issue, I am committed to working together with Aboriginal people on this issue every day—government and community, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, women and men—to reiterate the campaign's message that Aboriginal people will not tolerate violence against our country's first women, children and men.