

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — STARICK SERVICES

415. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unwavering commitment to supporting victims of family and domestic violence. Can the minister outline to the house how the government is investing in family and domestic violence support services, such as Starick services, which provides invaluable support to vulnerable women and children in Perth's south eastern suburbs?

Ms S.F. MCGURK replied:

Before I answer that question, can I acknowledge, along with many Western Australians and many people around the country, the death of Eurydice Dixon. I attended the vigil last night at Hyde Park. It was a very moving ceremony. I think a lot of people are shocked and saddened that all Eurydice did was have the gall to walk home from work at night, and her life has been cut short, so my thoughts are with her friends and family.

That does link in with what the question is about, and that is this government is determined to reduce the amount of violence against women, including family and domestic violence. As part of our response, we have put in place many specific initiatives, but the one that the member is asking about is a \$247 500 grant to support Starick services. Starick, as many people here would know, is a not-for-profit organisation that provides essential support to women and children experiencing family and domestic violence in Perth's south east. It includes the electorates of the member for Thornlie and the members for Armadale and Darling Range. Starick services operates two refuges for women and children—a safe place where support workers provide crisis and transitional accommodation. They provide outreach support, court and legal support and community education. The Local Projects, Local Jobs grant that I have mentioned will enable the organisation to purchase vehicles for outreach workers, do an upgrade to its information technology and software, and revitalise gardens and outdoor spaces for children who spend time in its refuges. In addition, there will be a community linkage project. Starick is working with small and medium-sized businesses, as well as schools, to educate people about what they can do to respond better to domestic violence.

Starick does a fantastic job, as do many of our refuges around the state. I really would like to acknowledge Starick's work. It not only provides safe refuge in the building, but also undertakes many more services that go above and beyond the call of duty in helping support women and children escape violence and getting the message out to the community that violence against women is never acceptable. This government is determined to continue its efforts in this regard for as long as it is in government.