

**“NO MORE VIOLENCE - WE’RE BREAKING THE SILENCE” PROGRAM**

*Statement by Minister for Community Development*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for Community Development)** [2.13 pm]: I inform the house of a significant partnership between the Department for Community Development’s Family and Domestic Violence Unit and the Office for Children and Youth. A joint project between the two units titled “No more violence - we’re breaking the silence” has been named winner of the marketing excellence category of the StateWest Achievement Awards, announced last week. The awards recognise excellence provided to the Western Australian community by workers throughout the public sector, covering employees in commonwealth, state and local governments, together with employees from authorities such as the Water Corporation and Australia Post.

The “No more violence” project is the first public awareness campaign specifically targeted towards young people affected by family or dating violence. The campaign includes a web site, posters and three kits consisting of a booklet, postcard, bookmark, safety plan and a Z card. As all of us would know, every week in Western Australia police remove around 130 violent people from family homes during domestic violence call-outs, which equates to more than 18 every day. Children and young people live in up to 85 per cent of these homes. Nearly 60 000 kits have been distributed to Western Australian service providers working directly with children and young people at risk. Positive media coverage was gained through a wide range of outlets, including related publications, television, radio and newspapers - remarkably including both a positive general news story and a feature article in *The West Australian*.

The web site [www.youthsayno.wa.gov.au](http://www.youthsayno.wa.gov.au) is averaging around 300 visitors every month. That is potentially 10 young people accessing the site every day. Schools such as Girrawheen Senior High School have used it as a foundation for developing further activities, programs and services for children and young people. The campaign is also being used as a basis for developing the family and domestic violence peer education program, which is a pilot program in three schools to raise awareness of family and domestic violence.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit is partnering with the Office for Children and Youth again this year to develop additional resources for indigenous youth to be launched during NAIDOC Week in 2007. These resources are an outstanding example of government and community working together to better the lives of children and young people in Western Australia. I congratulate the Family and Domestic Violence Unit and the Office for Children and Youth on their exceptional achievement.