

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION — NEW ZEALAND VISIT

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [12.05 pm]: I rise to update the house on my recent trip to New Zealand. The purpose of my visit was to learn more about evidence-based and evaluated services and programs that are improving outcomes for vulnerable populations. Although it is impossible in the short time I have today to give a detailed account of the trip and my 17 meetings, I want to share a few highlights.

I had the great honour of being welcomed to the Papakura Marae, a traditional meeting place, by Maori elders. The marae provides health and community services to Maori citizens of that region. Programs are shaped around a strong theme of cultural competence and engagement with local elders and families, which provide the core approach to dealing with complex problems. I met with The Southern Initiative in Auckland and heard about its innovative co-design work with vulnerable families. It uses a place-based approach, data analytics and consultation to develop community-led solutions to complex problems. Initiatives included the healthy housing program, the early years project, the shared prosperity project and the up south youth consultation platform, which I was particularly impressed with.

Another highlight was the visit to the Kapiti Youth Support service near Wellington, an impressive one-stop hub that provides evidence-based services to deliver health and wellbeing services for young people. Of particular interest was its unique outcomes assessment tool, which uses data analytics and outcomes measurements across five domains to track the difference the services are making to young people.

I would like to thank Hon Tracey Martin and Hon Peeni Henare, as well as their departments, who provided me with valuable insights into their work and innovative government service delivery. Again, I was struck by the core belief in finding solutions that sit with Maori families and communities, backed up by solid evidence and data and the ability to measure and report on the effectiveness of services.

The McGowan government is committed to public sector reform and better delivery of community services. My trip to New Zealand reaffirmed my belief that we are on the right track to better support vulnerable Western Australians.