

LOCAL PROJECTS, LOCAL JOBS PROGRAM — FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

26. Ms E. HAMILTON to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's strong support for childcare centres, women's refuges and family and domestic violence services, such as the Patricia Giles Centre in my electorate—support that was demonstrated by the dozens of election commitments to these services that the government is now delivering. Can the minister outline to the house how Local Projects, Local Jobs funding is supporting these services; and is the minister aware of anyone who does not believe these critical services deserve this funding?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup for her question and for her commitment to services such as the Pat Giles Centre in her electorate. I think she hit the nail on the head at the end of her question, when she asked whether I am aware of anyone who does not support these centres. I wonder whether I am looking across the chamber at them now, because if people in the community wonder sometimes whether we are out of touch, living in some sort of parallel universe or are in a bit of a bubble here in Parliament, there is no better example of that than being expected to put up promises before the election and then being told by the other side of the house that we should break those promises and not honour our commitments when we come to government. It is an absurd proposition. It is hypocritical.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The opposition continues to interject. The minister is just answering a question. She should be able to answer without interjections from across the chamber.

The SPEAKER: That is a very good point of order. Minister, I am sure the opposition will be very quiet!

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms S.F. McGURK: It is not only hypocritical. When we look at the services, the member for Armadale did a very good job last night outlining all the organisations in his electorate that are beneficiaries of the Local Projects, Local Jobs commitments. It is not surprising that a number of members on this side of the house are connected to those organisations in their electorates that are beneficiaries of these grants, because they are community organisations and they are often organisations that look after the most vulnerable in our community. That is no more the case than with the Pat Giles Centre, which was the beneficiary of \$40 000 —

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time. Leader of the Opposition, you are on very fragile ground.

Ms S.F. McGURK: The Leader of the Opposition might be well placed to listen to what I am talking about because the reality of women's refuges in our community is that they do an incredible job without many resources. When people in the lead-up to the election had to think about what organisations in their communities they wanted to support and commit money to, women's refuges were amongst those organisations. In the case of the member for Joondalup, she helped organise \$40 000 to go to the Pat Giles Centre. The member for Burns Beach is also connected to that refuge. That includes materials such as new mattresses, linen, school uniforms and starter packs, and also some early intervention programs to make sure that kids, in particular, who are affected by family violence can get the support that they need.

There was \$517 400 across the Local Projects, Local Jobs program that went to nine women's shelters. There were six grants to childcare centres, totalling \$67 000, and 14 grants to community centres and playgroups that work to support families in the community, totalling \$365 000. I am not sure which of those organisations the other side says we should not have supported. If there were an opportunity to ask a question across the chamber, I might ask the member for Dawesville whether he says that we should not have honoured our commitment of \$20 000 for the Falcon Community Centre in his electorate. Should we not have honoured that commitment, which we have? I might ask the member for Kalgoorlie whether the Kalgoorlie Occasional Child Care Centre in his electorate should hand back the \$40 000 it received under the Local Projects, Local Jobs program.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

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Ms Emily Hamilton; Ms Simone McGurk; Mr David Templeman

Ms S.F. McGURK: Member for Carine, you had eight and a half years to support that organisation. We are now in government, and we are delivering.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, it is not a shouting match. I call you to order for the second time. Minister, you will wind it up now.

Ms S.F. McGURK: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I make the point that there are no surprises that a number of people on this side of the house are involved with their local communities and understand community organisations that need support, whether for infrastructure, programs or even, in the case of the member for Armadale, for a band to go over east because they are struggling organisations. We have been transparent about that process and we have honoured some commitments that are not in Labor seats, including the seats of Kalgoorlie and Dawesville.