

PARKERVILLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CARE — MIDLAND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [12.13 pm]: Last week I was honoured to represent the Premier to present a \$4.5 million Lotterywest grant to Parkerville Children and Youth Care for the construction and fit-out of the Midland child advocacy centre. For well over a century, Parkerville has been a voice for and critical support system to our most vulnerable children who are experiencing trauma from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and their families. Parkerville is to be commended for not only bringing together its own resources and that of the state government, but also its ability to garner philanthropic support for this project. Since opening its doors seven years ago, the child advocacy centre in Armadale has provided support to nearly 16 000 children and families, 3 000 of whom have required forensic services. To help put it into perspective, this new child advocacy centre in Midland will be five times larger than the existing centre in Armadale. This is a huge and exciting undertaking.

The multidisciplinary model of the centre co-locates police officers with child protection workers. This is proven to be best practice in delivering long-term benefits to the child, family and community. With centralised case management, these facilities will reduce disjointed responses due to the current service infrastructure. Importantly, the facility will be child-focused and a place of refuge.

The need for this work has been highlighted in the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The McGowan government is responding to historical abuse that has occurred, preventing further abuse from happening and ensuring a swift response to abuse should it occur again.

With this new centre, Parkerville will continue to deliver high-quality, timely and collaborative services so that our children can recover and thrive. This, of course, is our ultimate goal—investing early in healing children who have been exposed to trauma and abuse.