

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — ONE-STOP HUBS

Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [9.15 am]: I rise now to speak about the government's election commitment to establish two new one-stop hubs for victims of family and domestic violence. The McGowan government is taking the issue of family and domestic violence seriously. Our stopping family and domestic violence policy is based around four key pillars: victim safety; perpetrator accountability; a responsive justice system; and prevention and early intervention.

Family and domestic violence-focused hub models are being established in other jurisdictions. With our government's commitment, Western Australia is getting on the front foot to test this concept. Many women and children experiencing family and domestic violence can find themselves bouncing between services and continually having to repeat their story. This is not ideal, particularly when people are in crisis. A key principle of a hub-based model is that access to services and support is streamlined for the end user. Another critical consideration is safety. The set-up and service focus of a hub model needs to be risk informed, and information sharing is key. The Department of Communities engaged Curtin University to assist with reviewing existing models and scoping options. Curtin University has run a number of consultations. I am pleased that we have been able to extend the time frame for this process to ensure that a range of stakeholders, including refuges and safe houses, and other experts have had the opportunity to discuss how a hub model could work in the real world.

I am encouraged by the engagement and interest in the hub concept and keen that the options presented to government are well informed. The hub model is about giving victims of family and domestic violence other ways of getting safe and, in time, back on their feet. This is the main game.