

**FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — GERALDTON RESPONSE TEAM**

*Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence*

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence)** [12.20 pm]: I rise to inform the house of work going on across regional and remote Western Australia to address the scourge of family and domestic violence and its impact. In particular, I want to let members know about my recent visit to the family and domestic violence response team located in Geraldton and servicing the Murchison district. This team is a partnership of three professionals: the WA Police Force; child protection officers from the Department of Communities; and a specialist from a non-government family and domestic violence service provider operating in the area.

The work in Geraldton shows us the value of these services co-locating and working collaboratively so that there is a continuous and consistent focus on victim safety through risk assessment, safety planning and referral to services. I want to thank the Geraldton family and domestic violence response team for its work. These teams are located throughout the state because no neighbourhood, community, postcode or region is unaffected by family and domestic violence.

I also want to recognise the ongoing work of the Geraldton community and local services, such as Desert Blue Connect and Mission Australia, in supporting victims and their families experiencing family and domestic violence. The Geraldton community and these services, plus others, are taking action to stop family and domestic violence from happening in the first place. Their proactive approach to prevention is known as “Community, Respect and Equality”. The name says it all. There is no single or quick fix for family and domestic violence, yet I am confident that if we focus more on collaboration both in responding to victims and providing primary prevention action, we will start to see a difference.