

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

**364. Ms E. HAMILTON to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:**

How is this government ensuring vulnerable women and young mothers in my community get the support they need by investing in domestic and family violence services?

**Ms S.F. McGURK replied:**

I am very pleased to outline some of the practical supports that the McGowan Labor government is putting in place for women and children, and young people, who are escaping family violence. Of course, through the Attorney General's guardianship, today we saw the passage of the Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Bill 2017. That important initiative was supported across the house and I was pleased to see that. I hope that bill will be expedited through the upper house so those national protections can be put in place for people with restraining orders.

We also provide practical support for services on the ground. This government has just awarded \$40 000 to the Patricia Giles Centre, a domestic violence shelter in the northern suburbs, which the member for Joondalup has been actively involved in supporting. That \$40 000 will provide support for a family holiday camp, a school uniform fund and bedding items for houses. I recently went to a launch of the refurbishment of some of the centre's accommodation and it provides really good, practical support. Of course, we have acknowledged the person the centre is named after, Patricia Giles, whose funeral service is tomorrow.

We will also provide a one-off grant of \$20 000 for Youth Futures WA NEST program. Youth Futures is a fantastic organisation. I am sure some members in this house would have had something to do with it in the northern suburbs. It provides really practical support to very young people who experience homelessness in the northern suburbs. The NEST program provides support to very young mothers. Without the proper and appropriate support, those children would be in the child protection system; there is no doubt about it. By providing good support to those young mothers when they need it, through its NEST program, Youth Futures has had a remarkable rate of success. In the last two years, of all the young mothers the program has dealt with, two years later, the children are still with those young mothers. That is remarkable support. The \$20 000 grant for the NEST program will go towards providing furniture, nappies, baby food, baby clothing et cetera. That is the sort of practical support Youth Futures provides, as well as helping the young mothers to be able to keep their babies, which is very important. Later on, those young mothers also attend TAFE or university and some of them are given practical support like getting a driver's licence.

This government is not only making the legislative change it needs to provide support for people who experience family violence; it also supports services on the ground. I would like to commend the member for Belmont who talked about young children in her electorate who have experienced family violence and the importance of advocating in our communities to raise awareness of family violence and the support that is needed so that we can put an end to family violence.