

JOHN SETKA AND CHRISTY CAIN

505. Mrs A.K. HAYDEN to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Nedlands, I would like to acknowledge the year 6 students and teachers from Nedlands Primary School.

I refer to the appalling comments by John Setka about Rosie Batty and the vocal defence by Christy Cain. Will the minister stand up for women and against bullying by calling on the Premier and WA Labor to sever all contact with the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I have made public comment about Mr Setka. I did it on social media and *The West Australian* reported it. I made the comments that *The West* reported on last week in response to calls from, I understand, a Victorian trade union official, and backed up by Christy Cain of the WA branch of the Maritime Union of Australia for members of the government to be audited for possible domestic violence offences. That was a question I was asked. My response was that I did not think that it served anyone for domestic violence to be considered a plaything or a tool or some sort of stunt in political or public life at all. It is far too serious. For that reason, I was concerned when I saw Mr Setka's charges, which I understand he is going to plead guilty to. They are very serious allegations that were made, and I think they are before the courts at the moment, so we will let that play out. I was also concerned, as many were, at criticism of Rosie Batty, who is someone I have had a relationship with since becoming a member. I, along with Rio Tinto, hosted her on a trip to Western Australia, and she also spoke at the Labor Party conference a couple of years ago. She has been a fantastic advocate on behalf of victims of domestic violence. She challenges governments across each state and federally—and the community—to step up and do something about domestic violence. I do not think anyone should be protected from criticism about aggression against women or children in defence of domestic violence. We often have to stand up, even when it is uncomfortable. It is something that we have to do in government and all the community has to do if we are going to put an end to these high rates of domestic violence in our community.