

**WEST PILBARA PLAN**

*Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection)** [9.09 am]: I rise to speak about the West Pilbara plan, which outlines the McGowan government's response to the multigenerational trauma revealed by the extraordinary prevalence of child sexual abuse in West Pilbara, particularly in the town of Roebourne. The plan will enable the state government to have a strong, coordinated response to West Pilbara issues, with a focus on supporting affected children and their families. It is about government and the community walking side by side to make sure that children are safe, healthy, getting to school, and have a connection to their culture. This response, developed across multiple portfolios, will be delivered through a redesign and reprioritisation of existing services. The state government is working closely with Aboriginal elders and community members to finalise this plan. The West Pilbara plan builds on 18 months of community-led work, including a local initiative called the Roebourne Advantage Plan (6718), to better support children and families in Roebourne.

I am pleased to report that some of the projects and initiatives identified by the community have already been endorsed by the government for action, including: the establishment of a residential facility to support family and cultural healing; the establishment of 10 supported safe houses in and around Roebourne; specialised alcohol and drug services for children and youth; upskilling local service providers and community members on abuse and trauma identification, referral processes, protective behaviours and effective interventions; establishing a Roebourne men's shelter to allow women and children experiencing domestic violence to stay in their home and encourage men to access support; and industry training and job pathways for local people. We know significant change in the community is likely to be seen in only the medium to long term, but the McGowan Labor government is committed to dealing with these deeply entrenched community issues.