

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN

760. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Women's Interests:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the minister is the Minister for Women's Interests as well as the Minister for Police, and that she sits in cabinet, is the minister not able to say what additional resources have been allocated to launch the state government's 20-point action plan, which is supposed to combat family and domestic violence?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

With respect to the funding for a specific initiative in the portfolio of the minister, Hon Helen Morton, no, I am not across what the funding arrangements are for that. However, I do liaise, obviously, with the Attorney General and the Minister for Child Protection and Family Support around domestic violence and the strategies that we have in train to address domestic violence. I am working in collaboration with the Attorney General on new laws with respect to family and domestic violence restraining orders here in Western Australia. Those new laws will allow for the victims of domestic violence—mostly women, sometimes some men—to apply for a violence restraining order at the first onset of coercion, intimidation or manipulation, which is where the violence starts. They will be able to apply to the courts for a protection order before the violence escalates from manipulation and coercion to actual forms of violence perpetrated against the individual. This is one of the initiatives that I am working on with the Attorney General.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the second time. A quick answer, through the Chair, please.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: With the police —

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mirrabooka, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As part of the Frontline 2020 reform model, our 24-hour, seven-day-a-week district support teams have trained domestic violence support people who are specialists in family and domestic violence available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we are training all of our local policing teams and our response teams to be able to respond more effectively to family violence. About a month ago, I launched a DVD that is targeting specifically —

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Members opposite should be ashamed of themselves!

The SPEAKER: Order! A quick answer, through the Chair.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Some of the members were actually present when I launched a DVD that our police diversity unit has put together, in conjunction with our culturally and linguistically diverse community, to inform the vulnerable people in that community —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, quickly.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The purpose of that DVD is to inform the vulnerable people in our CALD community of what their rights are with respect to family and domestic violence, where to get help, and to try to engender more trust with our police service.

I have a lot of responsibilities in the domestic violence space, but I do not have responsibility for the specific question that the member for Fremantle has asked—and if she was across her opposition portfolio responsibilities, she would know which minister to address her question to.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle, a supplementary. You have already had a supplementary.