

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY 2019**

*Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection)** [3.21 pm]: I rise to inform the house of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 4 August. This year's theme was "We Play, We Learn, We Belong". The theme captures the importance of country, culture and community to the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and their families. Sadly, for too many Aboriginal people, good life outcomes remain out of reach. This includes the more than 2 700 Aboriginal children who are currently in out-of-home care and the families whose lived experience is one of poverty, trauma and discrimination. I am pleased to announce that this government will provide \$200 000 to the Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council. This funding will support the council to reshape the way Aboriginal people, government and services work together to achieve self-determined outcomes and to ensure services are culturally safe and appropriate. It has been my privilege to work with this council of Noongar elders and leaders to find ways to achieve positive change. With the funding provided, the council will develop a Noongar family safety and wellbeing road map to guide our approach to Aboriginal family safety and wellbeing. It will also develop Aboriginal family and community-led decision-making processes to inform government policy. The council's work will support existing McGowan government initiatives to achieve better life outcomes for Aboriginal Western Australians, including the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council to government, priorities for Aboriginal wellbeing, and Aboriginal procurement policy. Aboriginal communities have a saying—"Nothing about us without us". That is a principle that this government will work by.