

**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE —
RECOMMENDATIONS — ANNUAL REPORT**

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [2.20 pm]: I rise today to table the McGowan government's annual report on progress in compliance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The community has a right to expect that our children are safe, especially within the institutions entrusted to protect, educate, care for and nurture them. For five years, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse uncovered how institutions, government and non-government, have failed to meet this expectation. For the last 18 months the government has been working to respond to and prioritise the 409 recommendations made by the royal commission. We have joined the National Redress Scheme; we have enacted the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Act 2018; the Premier provided an apology to those who experienced sexual abuse in government institutions; and we have worked to progress initiatives where we can within agencies, and engage constructively with the commonwealth on joint initiatives.

Of the 310 recommendations applicable to the Western Australian government, 108 have been completed and work is progressing on a further 186. In December last year, I published the government's first annual report on progress, available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website. The report, which I am tabling today, also identifies the McGowan government's next priorities in this important work: ensuring that all institutions implement child safe standards; improving responses to harmful sexual behaviours in children, and independent oversight mechanisms; and making sure that if abuse occurs, it is reliably reported and acted upon.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the thousands of survivors of child sexual abuse who came forward and shared their experiences as well as the many people who have contributed to this work that is tabled today. Change will not be instant, but we are committed because the importance of this work is clear: keeping children safe is the highest priority.

[See paper 2304.]