

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — JUVENILE CRIME — TARGET 120

781. Ms J.M. FREEMAN to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to improving community safety and reducing youth crime.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what impact the government's Target 120 early intervention program is having in supporting families of at-risk youth and helping those young people turn their lives around?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on the expansion of this program?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member very much for that question and for her interest in this issue. Of course, dealing with youth offending and young people involved in the justice system is important because not only we should have no truck with youth offending and crime in our community, but also we want those young people to have good productive lives and good relationships with their families and communities. That is what Target 120 is all about. This government committed \$20.4 million of new funding into a proactive and sophisticated piece of work with some of the young people in our community who are at risk of spending time in Banksia Hill Detention Centre and then unfortunately graduating to the adult correction system. That is hugely expensive in dollar terms, but of course even more expensive in human terms. We need to do better for our community and for those young people. We announced Target 120 last year, and it had its first sites in Bunbury and Armadale. More than 30 young people and families have been engaged in those two sites. Last week in Kalgoorlie, we announced the next round of sites, which will be in Kalgoorlie, Kununurra and the member's seat in Mirrabooka. We will work with local providers, not only in the Department of Communities but across a range of different government agencies to engage those young people, but importantly and wherever possible with their families. The program has not only 30 young people, but also a multiplier of a number of people who will be affected positively by this program.

The other significant part of this approach is the data that underpins both selecting those young people and analysing how we are going with the effectiveness of those interventions and comparing that to business as usual. This is a very constructive and, as I said, sophisticated approach to youth offending and is in stark contrast to the sort of approach we see from the other side of the chamber. I am thinking in particular of the member for Carine when he talks about homelessness and the member for Hillarys when he talks about justice issues. They essentially run around in circles with their hands in the air screaming, "Things are terrible, something has to be done", panicked and alarmed with no practical solutions or understanding —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, do not get baited. Member for Hillarys!

Ms S.F. McGURK: It is as though these issues have just been discovered in the last six months.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

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

Ms S.F. McGURK: They have no real solutions and no engagement with the community sector. We need to work with a range of different agencies to get some real change in these family's lives. That is what this government is committed to doing to not only make the community safer, but also have better outcomes for these young people and families.