

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND GRANT PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [2.08 pm]: I rise to inform the house of an exciting announcement over the weekend by the Minister for Culture and the Arts and I as part of the contemporary music fund grant program. The contemporary music fund election commitment will inject a total of \$3 million into Western Australia's contemporary music sector over the next four years. One of the objectives of this fund is to ensure strong representation of people from diverse backgrounds, including support for gender diversity. Minister Templeman and I were delighted to announce \$60 000 of funding to the community organisation Safer Venues WA. This funding will help the organisation to work with venues, audiences, artists and the industry to improve inclusivity and personal safety, develop resources to create awareness and provide valuable training and educational tools. Safer Venues WA is to be applauded for its initiative in establishing this organisation and working to improve an industry that it loves. It is responding to a serious problem faced by many people, especially women, when attending concerts, festivals, bars and clubs. All too often, people are harassed and assaulted while trying to have a fun night out. Simple steps that can go a long way to improving safety for everyone in these venues include publicising the presence of CCTV monitoring, having more female security personnel, and training bar staff and security to look out for possible intimidation or harassment.

Making our communities safer and stamping out sexual harassment is a shared responsibility across our community. It involves business owners, concert promoters, security and staff all playing a part in making our venues safer. It is a responsibility shared across government as well.

I commend the Minister for Culture and the Arts for establishing this initiative, and the contemporary music fund for prioritising safety. It is vital that women and girls can take part in and enjoy the live music industry freely, without fear. Working towards a shared goal for a safer and more equitable future is how we will achieve real and lasting change.