

MCGOWAN GOVERNMENT — FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICIES

**448. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:**

- (1) Can the minister please update the house on implementation of the McGowan Labor government's stop family and domestic violence policy as it works to create safer communities in WA?
- (2) In particular, why should the house be interested in why perpetrator intervention is a critical part of this response?

**Ms S.F. McGURK replied:**

I thank the member for the question, particularly her community's contribution regarding the announcement we made this week.

- (1)–(2) The announcement we made this week was about meeting another one of our election commitments to reduce the impact of domestic violence in our community and for those families affected by domestic violence to try to build new lives. One of our commitments leading into the 2017 election was to open another Breathing Space residential perpetrator facility. We announced this week that a second facility has been opened in Maylands. There is one in the southern suburbs and now one in the northern suburbs of Perth. In fact, those residential facilities are available for any men throughout the state who want to change their behaviour. We are very indebted to the work of Communicare that does that work and to the peak body that represents the work of the perpetrator interventions in trying to get men to change their behaviour—that is, stopping family violence.

Of course, not only domestic violence, but any sort of intimate family abuse is unacceptable. This Saturday, as we go to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, we also acknowledge that too many families are terribly affected by abuse by an intimate partner or family member. I therefore acknowledge the work of the Minister for Seniors and Ageing in his work around elder abuse awareness.

We have done and continue to do a range of things to combat domestic violence. This budget brings to a total of \$53 million in new spend on a range of services to combat and to try to prevent domestic violence. I am very proud of our government's commitment. A few weeks ago, the Premier and I sat with the CEOs for Gender Equity Western Australia, comprising a couple of dozen business and community leaders, to look at how they can work with business in preventing and combating domestic violence. I really welcome their contribution.

It is in sharp contrast to the sort of buy-in we saw when the current Leader of the Opposition was a minister in the previous government. I think it is important because we now have an acknowledgement across all levels of the community that domestic and intimate partner violence is not acceptable. When this question was asked to the now current Leader of the Opposition when she was police minister and Minister for Women's Interests, about definitions of domestic violence, she said that domestic violence was not her responsibility and was something that she could not answer.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** Of course, domestic violence is all about responsibility, and understanding the forms of domestic violence and combating domestic violence is all about responsibility.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** It is all about responsibility at all layers of government and in the community, in the union movement, in business —

Several members interjected.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** Yes, that is right. I hope members across the chamber from me understand that it is all our responsibility to understand how domestic violence manifests.

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** We heard you the first couple of times, member.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** I have made comments about that publicly, as has the Premier. We think it is important to call out bad behaviour wherever it exists. I am very proud of the efforts our government has taken and continues to take to combat domestic violence.