

## PROTECTED ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCTS

*Statement by Minister for Racing and Gaming*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Racing and Gaming)** [9.17 am]: I would like to update the house with the latest figures of the number of people excluded from Perth's protected entertainment precincts caused by their antisocial behaviour. The legislation to establish protected entertainment precincts in Northbridge–Perth, Fremantle, Scarborough, Hillarys and Mandurah came into effect on Christmas Eve last year. Under the law, a person who displays antisocial, violent or threatening behaviour in a protected entertainment precinct can be issued with a short-term exclusion order by Western Australia police to ban them from all prescribed PEPs for up to six months. The Commissioner of Police can also apply to the director of Liquor Licensing to issue an extended exclusion order for up to five years. A person convicted of committing a prescribed violent or sexual offence, including drink spiking, in a PEP will be subject to a mandatory five-year ban. The term of extended exclusion orders and mandatory exclusion periods will be suspended for any period that the offender is in prison, which means that they will be excluded for a full five-year term on release. Issuing exclusion orders is another step that the Cook government has taken to reduce violent and antisocial behaviour.

It is no coincidence that the acronym PEP was also the nickname of the late Giuseppe Raco who was the victim of a one-punch attack in Northbridge in 2020. Our government worked closely with Pep Raco's family during the development of this legislation and their tireless efforts to help strengthen our laws and honour their beloved Pep were key to these changes occurring. The successful rollout of the PEP legislation is a significant achievement aimed at creating safer, vibrant entertainment spaces.

As of Monday, 40 short-term exclusion orders have been issued by the Western Australia Police Force. The breakdown is 36 in Perth–Northbridge, two in Hillarys and one each in Mandurah and Fremantle. Two applications for extended exclusion orders have been lodged by the Commissioner of Police with the director of Liquor Licensing.

I would like thank WA police officers for their ongoing work to keep our entertainment precincts safe and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for its work and amendments to the Liquor Control Act that made PEPs possible. Finally, I must also highlight the relentless work of my colleague and former Minister for Racing and Gaming Hon Dr Tony Buti to drive these reforms.