

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS — EVALUATION

**336. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mental Health:**

I refer to the two evaluations of suicide prevention programs currently underway.

- (1) Will the Edith Cowan University evaluation of the One Life suicide prevention strategy and the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention's broader evaluation of suicide prevention and postvention support be completed this month?
- (2) When will the two reports be made public?
- (3) What happened to the 45 community action plans after their One Life funding expired on 31 December 2013?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(2) The independent research, development and evaluation report being undertaken by Edith Cowan University and the overall evaluation of the “Western Australian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2009–2013” are progressing well. Although they were anticipated to be finalised this month, they are now expected to be finalised in mid-2014. After the evaluation reports have been considered by the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention and the Mental Health Commission, I expect to review the reports and anticipate making them publicly available this year.
- (3) I am pleased that the member asked about the progress of the community action plans. From what I have seen and heard from communities since the commencement of the strategy, there has been great success in building local community awareness of suicide prevention. The community action approach has actively involved community members and capacity-building activities appear to have greatly increased their ability to identify someone at risk of suicide and respond appropriately. The strategy has also involved local organisations in each community action plan area through the Pledge Partner initiative. The Pledge Partners have committed to contributing to the sustainability of the community action plans and this is an area that will be further built on in the coming months.

To build on what has already commenced, \$250 000 has been recently allocated by this government, through the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention, to provide additional suicide prevention training and small grants to communities. This will further contribute to local activities and strengthen community resilience across the state. Applications were open to the existing community action plan host agencies, local governments and Local Drug Action Groups, and closed on 14 February 2014. The grants and training applications have been considered by the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention and I am looking forward to seeing these new activities come to fruition.

Suicide prevention is a major priority for the state government, with \$1.6 million investment in 2012–13 for counselling, early intervention, crisis lines and postvention services. In 2013–14, Youth Focus was allocated approximately \$2.5 million over five years to help young people to overcome issues associated with self-harm, depression and suicide. From 2013–14, Lifeline has been allocated approximately \$1.6 million over three years to continue to provide crisis counselling, mental health support and suicide prevention services.