

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS — GPS TRACKING

**574. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:**

I refer to the answer provided in the other place yesterday regarding the two-year trial involving the GPS tracking of up to 100 high-risk offenders who have breached a family violence restraining order and committed a further act of family violence. It is understood that the trial ended on 18 August 2022.

With the level of FDV continuing to escalate in Western Australia, how is it that over a year after the program has been completed the government is unable to answer basic questions about the number of offenders involved, whether the program is still being continued, and, most importantly, whether it achieved its goals in adding additional protection for women and children?

**Ms S.E. WINTON replied:**

I thank the member for the question. The prevention of family and domestic violence is an important issue in our community. Tragically, women in Western Australia have lost their lives recently. At the outset, I extend my condolences and sympathies to the families of Lynn Cannon, Tiffany Woodley and Georgia Lyall. I also want to extend my sympathies and thoughts to other victims of family and domestic violence because we know, and it was made abundantly clear by Lynn Cannon's family this morning, that every time we have one of these incidents, it is a huge trigger for people who have experienced family and domestic violence. This government's commitment to addressing the scourge of family and domestic violence is absolutely clear.

In our six years of government, we have been committed to making sure that this issue is not only front and centre in government initiatives and in record government investment of over \$200 million but also, importantly, raised to the front of every single conversation around our community. We stand by that, and we are proud of that. That conversation has to keep going.

Not only do we have a record of investment to support victim-survivors and primary prevention, but also we have a strong record of legislative reform that seeks to support victims of family and domestic violence. Our record of legislative reforms includes introducing things like shuttle conferencing so victim-survivors do not have to face their abusers; automatically recognising VROs from other Australian states; creating a new offence for non-fatal strangulation; and creating serial violence offenders, an Australian first, for those with multiple FDV offences. Of course, we are undertaking legislative reforms around coercive control.

As the second Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, I am absolutely proud of the commitment that this government makes to this important issue in our community. I will continue that work on behalf of this government.