

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

534. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record on taking action to prevent family and domestic violence.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house of the reforms delivered by this government to protect those at risk in our community?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on other work to address family and domestic violence, including work taking place nationally?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank member for Belmont for the question. I acknowledge in this place her particular interest in this area. I know personally that she often contacts my ministerial office to advocate not only for vulnerable women and children in her electorate, but also on behalf of the important community services that are provided in her community.

Violence against family members or partners is never acceptable and perpetrators should always be held to account. When we were first elected, we knew that there was much work to do to address family and domestic violence. Led by my predecessor, Hon Simone McGurk, we have set about delivering on our commitments—and much, much more. During our six years of government, we have seen the first dedicated Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and a record investment of more than \$200 million for the important work of supporting victim-survivors, holding perpetrators to account and, equally importantly, doing much-needed work in stopping the violence before it starts. We have also passed significant legal reforms in the prevention of family and domestic violence to hold perpetrators to account. We have seen incredible investment in a variety of areas including one-stop hubs, a model that supports victim-survivors in getting the services they need. We have two new family and domestic violence hubs in this budget, and we are delivering new refugees, new counselling services and, importantly, perpetrator programs.

This government is the first government to invest in primary prevention, which we know is a critical aspect of this issue. We need to do early intervention and support young people to make sure that violence does not occur in the first place. Respectful relationships is one example of a primary prevention program that is being rolled out throughout schools and now our sporting clubs to ensure that have we the conversation that violence against women and children is unacceptable. The tragic and unacceptable events in the last few weeks remind us that we all have a role to play in stopping family and domestic violence. Certainly, the state and commonwealth governments are committed to working together on this national issue. Of course, at the state level we have the *Path to safety: Western Australia's strategy to reduce family and domestic violence*, which aims to reduce family and domestic violence between 2020 to 2030. Nationally, members would know that late last year, *The National plan to end violence against women and children 2022–2032* was released. I acknowledge my predecessor Hon Simone McGurk for her work on that national plan. These action plans are the important next steps to realise the ambitions that we all have to eliminate family and domestic violence.

Yesterday I was in Brisbane with my state counterparts and commonwealth ministers to release two action plans: the *First action plan 2023–2027* and importantly, a standalone dedicated action plan, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander action plan 2023–2027*. It was developed by the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee comprising 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders. Through these plans, Western Australia and the commonwealth, and other states and territories, have agreed to actions and, importantly, targets aimed at ending the gender-based violence within a generation. The outcomes framework includes targets to reduce female victims of intimate partner homicide. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander action plan aims to address what we all know is the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal people as victims of family and domestic violence. I want to acknowledge everyone who contributed to those plans, in particular our own Professor Vickie Hovane and Emily Carter who represented Western Australia on the advisory panel. We all know the incredible work they do in this space in this state. It was so valuable to have their representation at the national stage. Of course, the proof is in the doing. The action plans themselves are important but equally we need to continue to build awareness around family and domestic violence. In the first six years of government, we have been very successful in building that awareness in our community because we know that everybody has a part to play. Whether it is government, community service sectors, families or individuals, everyone must play their part. Together, we will make sure that we continue to support the victims of family and domestic violence and hold perpetrators to account but also, more importantly in our community, make it absolutely clear that family and domestic violence is absolutely and totally unacceptable.

