

LAVERTON COMMUNITY — DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLAIMS

450. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the answer to question without notice 436 asked yesterday.

- (1) Given the minister's answer that the measures she announced for Laverton were not related to the Goldfield–Esperance Development Commission's report but were an earlier decision, did the Minister for Regional Development get it wrong when he said a couple of programs funded by royalties for regions have allowed us to respond immediately to these child welfare issues in Laverton?
- (2) Does the minister agree with the Minister for Regional Development's admission that there is a problem because no agency is prepared to be a lead agency to deal with such issues in Laverton?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

I thank the honourable member for her question.

- (1)–(2) Given that when the Labor Party was in government hardly any services were in Laverton, I will answer her question now. No; I did not get it wrong. I went to Laverton because of the issues that had been presented to see the situation for myself because I am a very practical hands-on person. I went around with the Aboriginal patrol in Laverton at night and talked to Aboriginal people. The next day I spoke to the police and we met with the shire, with DCP and other people in the town and had a discussion about some of the issues at Laverton. I said that I would fund a youth officer for Laverton and that I had come there to announce that through royalties for regions state government funding, we would put in two extra workers for responsible parenting. That was already in the pipeline but I went there to tell them that would start from 1 July.