

**16 DAYS IN WA TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

*Statement*

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [6.53 pm]: There are occasions when members of Parliament do things that are less edifying than at other times.

**Hon Nick Goiran:** You would be the expert in that field!

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Honourable member!

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, member! The Leader of the House has the call. You have had your opportunity.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I have just listened to vitriol, personally denigrating me and my capacity. I am not really interested in it, but I listened to it. I note that two people on the other side are feeling a bit sensitive about accusations that have been made against them and that when they have the choice to use one word, they choose 37 words, and if they think someone in the chamber who is out on urgent parliamentary business might affect their capacity to win a vote, they deliberately filibuster. I get that people feel sensitive about that.

Today, a number of us, including Hon Nick Goiran, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Governor, the Premier, Western Australia's first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, and about 80 other community leaders got together at an event hosted by the Governor at Government House to mark the launch of 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence against Women. That is one of the edifying things that members of Parliament get to do from time to time. It was a really important event to draw attention to an insidious and destructive crime, which is most often perpetrated against women and children by men who are known to them. I think it was an important event to note and I am pleased that I could be part of it. I am pleased that a range of this government's ministers were there. I think it is important to place on record that I and all members of this house will continue to speak up—not just during 16 Days in WA—against violence against women, and will continue to participate in all the events we can to highlight this crime and do our very best to call it out when we see it. We will call out disrespectful behaviour when we see it as well, because it is important to build a culture in which people are spoken to, and about, respectfully and that we do not create a situation in which violence—not just in a physical sense, but in the sense of controlling behaviour and denigrating behaviour, which can lead to physical violence in some circumstances—does not happen. Today's launch was an important event and I was pleased to be a part of it. I commend members of the house to continue beyond 16 Days in WA to speak up against, and to call out, violence against women and children.