

STATE BUDGET 2013–14 — POLICE AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRES

420. Mr G.M. CASTRILLI to the Minister for Police:

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge on behalf of the member for Wanneroo the students in years 10 and 11 from Wanneroo Secondary College; welcome to the house.

Minister, like all members on this side of the house, I know the value that police and community youth centres have in our local communities. With this in mind, can the minister please outline the state government's commitment to PCYCs as set out in the 2013–14 state budget?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Bunbury for this question and for his support of the PCYC program. Indeed, one of the highlights of this budget for many of the local communities around Western Australia was the \$10.25 million commitment over three years to help develop further PCYC infrastructure and upgrade existing infrastructure in the PCYC facilities around the state. Members of this house will remember that late last year there was much conversation and debate around the status of PCYCs. So the government commissioned the Browne review into PCYC programs and the structure of the PCYC program delivery across the state. That review came up with a number of recommendations that the commissioner and the government have adopted. One of those recommendations was for the government to provide some support to PCYCs to assist them in ensuring that they can provide a consistency of delivery of their programs to youth at risk and young offenders across the community. There were some recommendations on ensuring that police youth officers were located in the PCYCs in those areas in which there is a high level of youth at risk and a high level of young offending. In recognition of that, this government made a commitment —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

That commitment will be delivered over the next three years. It starts with a \$250 000 investment up-front that is to assist the Federation of Western Australian Police and Community Youth Centres to implement the recommendations of the review. The \$250 000 will also help the PCYCs to develop their programs and move to a sustainable business model, and out of that business case and the strategic planning for PCYCs, we will be in a very good position to work with the PCYC federation to implement the \$10 million infrastructure improvement fund towards PCYC facilities across the state.

This is very positive news for local communities. I think that all those members in this place who have spoken very passionately about the good work of the PCYCs in their communities and the great work that they do with youth at risk and in diverting young people from offending will be very pleased to see that the state government has stood steadfastly behind the PCYC program and the great work that PCYCs do with their volunteers by funding this \$10.25 million commitment over the next three years to ensure that PCYCs can continue to do the great work that they do and that they can do the great work that they do in more places.