

POLICE — YOUTH FATALITY — KALGOORLIE–BOULDER

729. Ms W.M. DUNCAN to the Minister for Police:

The people in my electorate have been through a particularly challenging time over the last month. Can the minister please update the house on how the Liberal–National government is working with the Kalgoorlie–Boulder community to ensure that people in the community remain safe, and to identify and address matters of concern they may have?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for this question. I am sure that everybody in this chamber feels a great deal of sympathy for the family for the untimely death of the 14-year-old boy who was struck by a vehicle and lost his life. As a mother of a 14 year old, I can only imagine how it must be for that family at this point in time.

Obviously, we are well aware of the issues in Kalgoorlie–Boulder at the moment. There are a lot of grieving people in Kalgoorlie–Boulder. It is a community that is doing its utmost to pull together to support each other to try to get through particularly the next few weeks as they go through that grieving process. The state government, WA Police and the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder have been working together for several months on challenges facing the Kalgoorlie community.

I would like also in this place to commend the actions of the member for Kalgoorlie and the member for Eyre, who have been very closely involved in a range of initiatives to pull all of the community stakeholders together to ensure we can have a community-driven response to the challenges facing particularly youth in Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

Prior to the tragic events in which the 14-year-old lost his life, Minister Collier, the Minister for Education, and Minister Mitchell, the Minister for Child Protection, were in Kalgoorlie. They were speaking to the various agencies in Kalgoorlie and, as a result of that meeting, Minister Collier has determined that he will open an office of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Kalgoorlie, which was well received by the community. I am advised that the trip was very productive. The meetings were well attended by all of those agencies involved in community stability and family protection in Kalgoorlie.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This is not a political issue; it is a serious issue affecting the community and it should be given due respect in this place.

It is a very difficult time for the community of Kalgoorlie–Boulder. The state government is well aware of that. WA Police has a 24/7 incident management team monitoring the activities in Kalgoorlie. We have sent additional resources to Kalgoorlie and police are well-resourced to respond to issues that may arise as a result of the grief in that community. Along with the member for Eyre and the member for Kalgoorlie, the government is calling for the community to remain calm and to work together, and to assist each other through a grieving and a healing process and to work with the state government, the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder and the local members to find some solutions to the challenges that we face in Kalgoorlie that ultimately have resulted in the loss of this young 14-year-old's life.