

16 DAYS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Statement by Leader of the House

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [2.12 pm]: I rise to speak about 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women. I do this, knowing the Premier of Western Australia, Hon Mark McGowan, MLA, member for Rockingham, is making remarks on this occasion in the other place. Saturday, 25 November marked International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Every year, this day activates an international campaign of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence to galvanise action to end violence against women and girls across the world. In Western Australia, 25 November started 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women.

This is our state's inaugural contribution to national and global efforts to end violence against women. It is our state's effort to bring about much needed change so that at least one woman a week is no longer being killed by a current or former partner in Australia. Through until 10 December, as Human Rights Day, 16 Days in WA is about raising awareness, increasing positive actions in the community and highlighting the agencies and organisations working hard to end violence against women.

The McGowan government is taking this issue very seriously. We have 22 policy commitments aimed at stopping family and domestic violence in this state. We know that women and children are disproportionately impacted by this particular expression of violence in our communities. Violence against anyone is unacceptable. Last financial year over 50 000 family and domestic violence incidents were reported in this state. That is a lot of distress, danger and damage in our communities on an hourly, daily, and weekly basis.

That is why in this government's first budget, in spite of the tight fiscal environment, we allocated over \$12 million of new money into response services and prevention programs to support victim safety, to hold perpetrators to account and to stop this violence from happening in the first place. All women and children in this state should be able to live free of family and domestic violence. This is fundamental to their dignity, their wellbeing and their ability to contribute with purpose. I am proud to make this statement to this chamber as the first government recognising that 16 days in WA gives each and every one of us an opportunity to focus on the message that violence against women must stop.

Point of Order

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Madam President, can you please clarify for the house whether a ministerial statement can contain debatable material?

The PRESIDENT: Member, I am not too sure what you are referring to in that statement that would be debatable. It seems that the government is acknowledging this particular event that is occurring to deal with this significant matter in the community. It has referenced some of its own policy commitments and refers to the impact of this type of matter on members of the community. I would have thought it was a fairly straightforward statement, not all that dissimilar from other statements provided to this house in the past on a very diverse range of issues. Unless you have a specific objection and you want to outline that objection to whichever line or paragraph in the statement, I would say that this is a relatively straightforward statement, as provided by a range of ministers here and in the past on a range of matters.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Further to the point of order. I asked whether you could rule whether a ministerial statement can contain debatable material. I just wanted to clarify that point first before I was going to take it further. If I took it further, I would be debating the material, which would seem to defeat the whole purpose of it. I wanted to clarify whether a ministerial statement is to contain debatable material—yes or no. If the answer is yes, that is fine, then that is the end of the matter.

The PRESIDENT: I refer you to standing order 103 "Statements by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries", which states —

- (2) A statement must impart factual information relating to public affairs, and must not contain debateable matter other than matter that is inherent in the content of the statement.

I would have thought that the matters dealt with in that statement were acceptable.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Madam President, can you clarify then that if I am of the view under standing order 103(2), that the matter does contain debatable matter, what remedy is available to me?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! If the matters canvassed in that statement are inherent to the content of the statement, I think it is acceptable.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: I was asking: if I hold the view that material in the ministerial statement is debatable, is there a remedy available to me to get a ruling from you; is there a mechanism in the house in which that can then become debatable? That is what I am not clear on.

The PRESIDENT: Member, if you want to proceed down that path, you can give notice of a motion and you can deal with it in that way.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Thank you.