

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — SPECIAL TASKFORCE

1040. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the minister representing the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the announcement yesterday, 12 September 2023, by the Premier of a special taskforce to help guide the next phase of the state's efforts to address family and domestic violence with a time limit, initially for six months, to focus on delivering results.

- (1) How did the government measure the effectiveness of the \$200 million that has been spent on addressing family and domestic violence since 2017?
- (2) How will the government measure the effectiveness of the taskforce?
- (3) Do the government's programs address the role of alcohol in family and domestic violence?
- (4) Is the government aware of studies that have shown a link between the legalisation of cannabis and a drop in family and domestic violence?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence.

- (1) Our government takes our response to family and domestic violence very seriously. The measures the WA government has invested in include, but are not limited to, building new refuges for women and children to escape family and domestic violence; setting up one-stop family and domestic violence hubs; supporting more community-based programs, including those focused on behaviour change for perpetrators; and primary prevention programs such as the respectful relationships program. These are well-established ways of supporting a system-wide response organised around victim safety and perpetrator accountability. The government will continue to monitor these measures and how they work for women, children and families experiencing family and domestic violence.
- (2) The taskforce was a key request from the recent family and domestic violence forum attended by the Premier, the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and several other ministers on 31 August 2023. The taskforce, to be co-chaired by Professor Colleen Hayward, AM, and director general Emily Roper, is a priority. The taskforce will be time limited and will regularly feed back to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence to ensure actions continue to advance work in the community and government.
- (3) It is well established that alcohol use, particularly by perpetrators, is a contributing factor to the severity and impact of family and domestic violence. Specialist family and domestic violence services that support victim-survivors and work with perpetrators, as well as mainstream services—for example, health services—would understand the impacts of alcohol use when working with clients. The government established the state's first-ever therapeutic refuge, which works with victim-survivors with comorbidities of mental health and/or drug and alcohol use. The government has also funded the development of an intersection capability framework between the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies and the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing. Other initiatives, led in other portfolios, also address the relationship between alcohol and family and domestic violence. Liquor restrictions, such as those introduced in Carnarvon, and the reforms to the banned drinkers register are examples.
- (4) It is not a priority of the Cook Labor government to modify the existing laws and penalties in place regarding cannabis possession and use.

The PRESIDENT: That was a very long answer in response to a question that was seeking a lot of information. I call Hon Martin Aldridge.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: Thank you, President. I agree.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you for your endorsement, honourable member!