

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — PREVENTION

896. Ms C.M. TONKIN to the Premier:

I refer to the state's ongoing efforts to reverse the cycle of family and domestic violence in Western Australia.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how the government has collaborated with the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce to develop a package of important targeted investments?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house how these investments will support victim-survivors and help prevent abuse before it happens?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Churchlands for the very good question. Let me publicly acknowledge the member's commitment around the issues of family and domestic violence. Before I respond to the question, I acknowledge the lives lost and the lives impacted by family and domestic violence in WA.

On Saturday, the annual 16 Days in WA — Stop Violence Against Women campaign began. This is the seventh iteration of this campaign and an important opportunity to remind everyone about the devastating impact of family and domestic violence. We have these campaigns because family and domestic violence continues to cast a shadow over our Western Australian community. Until it is stopped and there is a broader understanding of the insidious forms of abuse, we are the poorer for it. As Premier, I am determined to lead a government that plays its part in reversing this pattern of violence, and I am resolved to continuing to build the community's understanding. We owe it to the victims, we owe it to the survivors and we owe it to society as a whole to continue on this mission.

This Labor government has taken this issue seriously from the start. Over the past six years, we have invested more than \$300 million into vitally important programs and infrastructure to address family and domestic violence—from building FDV one-stop hubs to critical legislative reforms that support victim-survivors and hold perpetrators to account. We also committed to stronger laws around GPS monitoring of family violence perpetrators. The first tranche of these reforms is expected to be introduced into Parliament this week.

Recently, in the wake of some horrific FDV tragedies, Minister Winton, a number of cabinet members and I attended a family and domestic violence forum. It was convened by the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing. A key request from attendees was to establish a family and domestic violence taskforce. We have since put that taskforce in place. Today I can give members an update on the input in the form of new funding.

Today I attended the Seven West Media family and domestic violence breakfast at Burswood with the minister, a number of other ministers and the member for Vasse. This morning I updated the community on this. I announced an investment of \$72.6 million to stamp out family and domestic violence. This will be split into two streams: family programs that support victim-survivors; and funding to help stop abuse before it happens. We will invest \$22.6 million into the Stirling Women's Centre—a crisis accommodation centre for those escaping violence at home. We will launch a two-year public education campaign to challenge outdated and dangerous views, including the insidious threat of coercive control, more education in our schools and online. It includes expanding the Respectful Relationships program, which is a program vehemently opposed by members of the Liberal Party. Funds will also go towards grants, expanding perpetrator programs and enhancing the Safe at Home program. I want to thank the FDV taskforce for its ongoing work and input so far. I understand its work will wrap up around April next year.

Although there is much to do, there has been progress. We are at a time when there has never been more reporting of domestic violence to our police, there has never been more information about the shape and form of domestic violence and there has never been more community consensus about the fact that it is never okay. Yes, FDV remains an ominous cloud that looms over an otherwise prosperous state, but with continued investment and attention from the bright minds in this state, together we can stop the cycle of abuse.