

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — CRISIS ACCOMMODATION — KARRATHA

**154. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's strong commitment to supporting victim-survivors escaping family and domestic violence.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the expansion of crisis accommodation for women and children in Karratha?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this important expansion will provide a safe and secure place for women and children fleeing violent relationships?

**Ms S.E. WINTON replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Pilbara for his question, his ongoing advocacy for his electorate and, in particular, his advocacy for vulnerable women and children. He is doing a fabulous job. The Cook Labor government's commitment to preventing family violence, in the seven years we have been in government, is unsurpassed and unequalled in the history of this state. We have invested some \$300 million that is making real differences every single day to the lives of women and their children. A key part of our investment is in supporting women who are trying to flee family and domestic violence. Women have the right to expect a safe place to go to when they are fleeing violent situations in their home. That is why a key plank of our \$300 million investment is investment in refuges and safe places. We have some 43 refuges and safe places right around the state, with half of them in regional areas.

The Karratha Women's Refuge, which I visited with the member for Pilbara, does an extraordinary job every single day. That is why I know the member is very happy with the Albanese Labor government's recent decision to provide \$5.8 million for that service to expand to provide 10 extra beds. That is a really, really important announcement. This funding from the Albanese government has other important partners, including Woodside, which contributed \$1 million, and Rio Tinto, which contributed \$250 000, so that we can now build 14 units in total in Karratha. I am very proud that our government has also been able to support this project via a \$500 000 Lotterywest grant for fit-out purposes to make sure that those units are comfortable as well as safe.

The Salvation Army will manage the new units, which will be located right next door to the existing refuge, so that people staying in the new units will get the support they need during the early days after the immediate crisis has passed, when they still need ongoing support to be able to begin to live independently.

Members, this is a great example of what we can achieve when the state and federal governments, the community sector and private industry work together in a constructive, positive way for really worthwhile outcomes for our community. We know that family and domestic violence is everyone's business and everyone needs to play their part. I congratulate the Salvation Army, our private sector partners and Lotterywest.

Last week I had an opportunity to visit the Fleetwood site with the federal Minister for Social Services, Hon Amanda Rishworth, and inspected some of the units that are currently under construction. They honestly look really terrific. It was also great to meet with Major Brad Potter, the state leader of the Salvation Army, and Ms Dawn Mills, state manager of family and domestic violence services at the Salvos, and hear more about their work. I also met with Aboriginal representatives who have been very, very focused on making sure to consult with Aboriginal people so that this project has cultural security at its heart.

We have received really positive feedback from the Salvation Army. Warren from the Salvation Army told my office that they acknowledge the state and federal governments in working together on this project not only in terms of the project build, but also in working together to identify and support the new operational requirements of this service once it opens.

The units are being built offsite, which means that we will avoid any delays resulting from cyclones because they can be transported straight up to the site at Karratha. We look forward to those facilities opening up later in the year. I cannot wait to get up there to be with the member's community in Karratha to celebrate a much-needed support for women and children there.