

INDIGENOUS FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICE

85. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Attorney General:

I refer to the government's election commitment to provide \$600 000 a year for a dedicated family and domestic violence support service for Indigenous Australians and to have the organisation in place by May 2013.

- (1) Which not-for-profit organisation has been awarded the contract to provide this service?
- (2) Can the Attorney General confirm that the organisation is now up and running and providing this service as per the government's election commitment; and, if not, why not?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(2) On 13 January 2013, the Premier and I announced funding of \$600 000 a year to establish a Perth-based family violence legal service for Indigenous Western Australians. Contrary to the point made in the honourable member's question, it was not an election commitment but rather a policy commitment made prior to the pre-election caretaker period. I am happy to inform members that significant progress has been made with this policy commitment since the announcement in January. Expressions of interest were sought from suitable organisations to deliver the service by way of advertisements in *The West Australian* newspaper and the Tenders WA website. The responses are currently in the advanced stages of evaluation and I hope to be in a position to announce the successful proponent within the next four weeks. This timetable is consistent with the program previously issued to proponents, which indicated that the evaluation report would be finalised by 31 May 2013. The actual services that the new service will provide include legal advice and information; court representation for victims of family violence and sexual assault; advocacy and assistance to complete and lodge legal documents; and sexual abuse counselling.