

SAFE NIGHT SPACE FOR WOMEN — CLOSURE

1522. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the minister representing the Minister for Homelessness:

Terpenes in cannabis have been found to specifically help with COVID, just so members know!

I refer to the imminent closure of the Safe Night Space for Women at the Ruah Community Services centre in East Perth and to the fact that in September 2023, 520 women were sleeping rough in Perth according to the WA Alliance to End Homelessness by-name list.

- (1) Will the Cook government negotiate with the City of Perth to ensure that the Ruah Community Services centre stays open, as requested by 16 000 people in a petition on change.org?
- (2) If no to (1), how will the government ensure that there are enough beds in the inner city to provide a safe space for women over the coming holiday period, a time when domestic violence levels usually spike?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Homelessness.

- (1)–(2) The state government has made an offer of \$3.1 million in funding over two years for the continuance of the Safe Night Space, contingent on the City of Perth continuing to provide access to the existing suitable facility. The Safe Night Space is not a crisis or transitional accommodation facility; it is a drop-in space that provides temporary shelter on an overnight basis, with access to support services. Several inner-city domestic violence refuges are funded by the state government. Women requiring crisis accommodation due to reasons of family and domestic violence can access referral to refuges by calling the Women’s Domestic Violence Helpline, which is a free, 24-hour service.