

Question on Notice

No. 1053

Asked on 4 September 2018

MR S BENNETT asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With reference to the \$12m announced to fight sexual violence in Queensland—

Will the Minister advise (a) when this funding will be allocated, (b) what decision making framework is being used to allocate this funding and (c) what steps have been taken so far in allocating this funding?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is committed to addressing the scourge of sexual violence. I was pleased to announce recently that the government will be developing a comprehensive sexual violence prevention framework to bring together our current work on this issue and guide our future responses.

Importantly, we have already taken significant steps to prevent sexual violence, and support victims and survivors by increasing funding for sexual assault services from \$6.1 million in 2014-15 to just over \$14 million in 2018-19. We have also introduced legislative amendments to improve support for victims through the legal process, and are implementing the *Queensland Violence against Women Prevention Plan 2016-22*.

When the Palaszczuk Government came into office we released the *Preventing Youth Sexual Violence in West Cairns and Aurukun: Establishing the Scope, Dimensions and Dynamics of the Problem* (the Smallbone Report), and the first report of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee, and took immediate action, including in West Cairns and Aurukun. We invested \$400,000 per year for services in those communities after the Federal Government withdrew funding.

Our ongoing commitment to this issue has also been demonstrated through the recent release of the *Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee Final Report, 30 March 2017* (final report), as well as the *Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's Final Report, Queensland Government Response* (government response). The government response provided broad support for the final report's findings and announced a \$12 million funding boost for priority actions to address youth sexual violence across Queensland over four years.

With regard to the allocation of this funding:

- a) The allocation of this funding will be informed by the findings of the final report, as well as the investment principles developed for Queensland's domestic and family violence funding. I have already met with stakeholders in Cairns and Aurukun and we are consulting with other key sector stakeholders, including the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, in order to ensure the funding has the greatest possible impact. I also met with State and Commonwealth Ministers at the recent COAG Summit on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children where sexual violence was on the forefront of the agenda.
- b) Considerations for funding will also be informed by comprehensive service mapping and needs analysis. The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is currently undertaking this work.

This funding provides a critical boost for our sexual assault services and will make a significant contribution to tackling sexual violence in Queensland, in particular the sexual violence experienced by our most vulnerable young people.