

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR — CARNARVON

451. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. The minister denied there was a crime wave and now he is denying any responsibility. Why is he continuing to ignore the pleas of the shire president of Carnarvon who came to meet with him face to face and has now been forced to put his concerns in writing publicly because he is not getting the attention he needs?

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, a supplementary is to be a single sharp question and not contain argument.

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I will repeat what I said and I am sure that Eddie will not contradict my observation about our conversation. He said that he had no question about the quality of policing in Carnarvon. The issues that he was raising with me were not to do with my portfolio and they were not to do with policing. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to dispute that and make a different claim, she should ask Eddie to come and see me and tell me about it because that is not what he said to me. That is not what he put in writing to me post the meeting we had. He came to advocate for his initiative —

Ms M.J. Davies: It's not your problem. Is that what you're saying?

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am the police minister. I am saying that contributions have been made in the police portfolio towards addressing concerns around juvenile offending in Carnarvon. We have more police than when the Liberals and Nationals were in government. That is a fact. There are more police. We have initiated Operation Regional Shield right across the state to respond, as necessary, to acute issues around juvenile offending. That is currently active in the Kimberley and the Pilbara—not in the midwest because it is not required at the moment. The Commissioner of Police determines where it is required and when it is required. There are as many resources as necessary to address any issues observed by the Commissioner of Police. The Commissioner of Police determines where police resources are required. Does the Leader of the Opposition think she knows more about policing than the Commissioner of Police? Is that what she is suggesting? The Commissioner of Police for Western Australia should be taking advice from the Leader of the Opposition on policing operational matters. That is what she is saying. There is more than \$1 million to rebuild the police and community youth centre, more police than was the case under the former government and more resources for police, if necessary, in the event of any acute matter that confronts the police commissioner. There is no problem with policing in Carnarvon, according to Eddie Smith. If the Leader of the Opposition is making a claim that there is, she should —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Eddie, if you are watching, give me a call because the Leader of the Opposition claims that I am not telling the truth about our conversation. Give me a call because you have my number, and we talk regularly.