

SECURITY INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Statement by Minister for Justice

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura - Minister for Justice) [12.09 pm]: I welcome the National Seniors from my electorate to the Parliament; it is good to see them here.

Mr Speaker, I rise to update the house on the progress being made in the establishment of the Security Industry Advisory Council. This initiative forms part of this government's greater commitment to creating safer nightspots. This commitment was focused on ensuring that all Western Australians and visitors to our state could enjoy a night out without fear from, or assault or confrontation by, aggressive or irresponsible people. Sadly, we have all witnessed the end result of serious assaults on members of the public and law enforcement officers. To achieve safer nightspots, we have implemented a number of strategies in the leading entertainment precinct of Northbridge. What we now need to do is ensure that the people working in those areas are well trained, understand their role, act responsibly and cooperate with government agencies. These measures will provide safety to patrons, visitors and the employees of establishments in these areas. Obviously, crowd controllers and security agents who undertake these duties are, in the main, legitimate providers and are willing to work at raising the standards of the industry. As members are aware, the Gallop government gave an undertaking to empower police to remove and prevent the entry of criminal elements in the security industry. This will require changes to legislation, which have already been drafted, but will also require the industry itself to actively seek improvement. The first step towards those changes is the formation of the Security Industry Advisory Council to improve the industry's ethical and professional standards of practice. The council is a non-legislative based structure, which will provide advice on issues relating to the security industry in Western Australia. It will comprise industry representatives and the WA Police. Most importantly, the council will be chaired by an independent chairperson to ensure fairness to all participants. I am pleased to announce that Mr Tony Carter has been nominated as the chairperson and he has accepted the position. Mr Carter was previously chief executive officer of RAC Insurance Pty Ltd, has extensive experience in the industry and has served on a number of boards. I look forward to working with him and establishing the council. Mr Carter will now consult with police and the security industry to form the council, and its first task will be to review the current legislation and provide advice on new directions.