

NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN POLICE DISTRICT, STAFFING CHANGES

207. Mr O'GORMAN to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the staffing changes in the north west metropolitan police district.

- (1) What changes have been made, and why?
- (2) Can the minister assure the House that there will be no reduction in policing services in that area?

Mrs ROBERTS replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for Joondalup for his question, because for some years he has been taking a keen interest in the level of police services. As many members are aware, police resources and officers have been reallocated to different areas. Unfortunately, members opposite have conveniently forgotten that the review that led to these changes was initiated by the coalition Government some 18 months ago. Therefore, for the Opposition to suddenly point the finger at this Government highlights both its hypocrisy and its lack of understanding of the policing programs that were initiated by the Court Government. It is typical of members opposite to carp about police allocation numbers and completely ignore the fact that in the past four years they failed to appoint even one additional police officer above the attrition rate. That has left the Commissioner for Police in a position in which he has to do his best with the resources that he has at his disposal. The commissioner has advised that the boundaries of police districts have been changed to reflect changes in population, geography and policing demands.

Mr Omodei: What about crime?

Mrs ROBERTS: I am happy to confirm that that was one of the key factors that was taken into account. I assure the member for Joondalup that even though the Joondalup district has now become the north west metropolitan district, the police to population ratios in his area will remain virtually unchanged. I will ensure that the Western Australia Police Service continues to monitor the level of service provided in each of the districts; and if there are any shortcomings in the system, I will ask the commissioner to address those shortcomings.