

POLICE — CRIME STATISTICS — NEWMAN

1022. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Premier, thank you. If the Premier is not willing to form a task force —

Mr W.J. Johnston: He didn't say that.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: He did not answer the question, so I am assuming that that was a no.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Yes, he did.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: No, he did not.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: If the Premier will not form a task force in response to this very serious issue in relation to at-risk families in Newman to provide better coordination of agencies, will he at least review the number of senior public servants who live in Newman and commit to locating more in the community so that emerging issues can be managed locally and in a more timely manner?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The government continues to support all regional communities across Western Australia and to provide support. It appears that the Leader of the Nationals WA's solution to everything is to set up a committee—let us set up a committee! As I said, the Minister for Police and the Commissioner of Police will work on it, rather than the Leader of the Nationals WA's committee-led solution—a committee. There you go.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The National Party's solution to everything is to set up a committee.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I have total faith in the police minister and the police commissioner to continue to work on and resolve these issues.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: As I said to the house earlier, in communities like Newman, it is, to a great degree, about ensuring that young people have hope and the opportunity of a job and the opportunity to train to get a job. That is why we have made training more affordable. That is why we froze TAFE fees. That is why we have reduced by half the fees on 34 important courses, overcoming the legacy of the last Liberal–National government. For young people in Newman, the job opportunities with mining companies, in particular BHP and its contractors, are the sorts of things that I want to see them engaged in and aiming for. That is why we put in all that effort to train and engage young people in communities like Newman. That is why we work with the Pilbara Collaboration Charter to ensure that jobs and opportunities are available for young people across the Pilbara. We have seen improved results in employment and job opportunities for young people across the Pilbara. That is the sort of thing that we will continue to work on.