

POLICE — RESIGNATIONS

136. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. How much worse does this issue have to become before the minister pulls his head out of the sand and addresses the exodus of police and his broken promise?

Point of Order

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: A preamble and other attacks on the personality of a member should not be part of a supplementary question or any question.

The SPEAKER: I uphold what you have said there, Leader of the House; you are correct. I will not ask the member to repeat the supplementary question. I will assume that the minister has just the gist of it and he can respond.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Thanks, Speaker. I am not that sensitive; I am okay to answer the question. The simple answer is that there are 508 more officers now than when the Liberal Party was in office. Considering that there are only around 7 000 members of the police force, that is a significant increase. We are committed to growing it by 950 members above attrition. It might take longer than we had hoped because of the circumstances, but it is happening. We are committed to it and the police know we have their back. But I have to say that anyone who has been watching Parliament in the last couple of days must be asking what the members of the Western Australian Liberal and National Parties think about our police force and why they do not like it. It is undeniable that all they talk about is some strange claim of bad culture inside what I think is the best police force in the country.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Just pausing for a moment. Member for Bassendean.