

POLICE — CRIME STATISTICS — NEWMAN

1021. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to ongoing and troubling reports of crime in Newman, including almost 500 offences against property reported to the police this year, and concerns about the welfare of young people.

- (1) Will the state government immediately act to form a task force with a focus on at-risk families in Newman and provide better coordination of agencies that deliver services in this region?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) Obviously, any community that endures any increase in crime is of concern to the government. The Minister for Police will continue to work with the Commissioner of Police on all these issues. Since the last question, figures have come through to me. Just so that members know, the percentage of crime in regional Western Australia has declined by 10 per cent since the Liberal–National government was in office.

Ms M.J. Davies: Premier, that's not my question. It's a very specific question.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I heard what the member said.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, you have a supplementary.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Just so that the Leader of the Nationals WA knows, the percentage of crime in regional Western Australia has declined by 10 per cent since the now Leader of the Opposition was the then police minister. However, in relation to any specific areas in which there are ongoing crime issues, no doubt, the police minister and the police commissioner will continue to focus on that.