

POLICE — TACTICAL RESPONSE GROUP

31. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the latest issue of *Police News*, the magazine for the Western Australian Police Union, and also the *Charlie Hebdo* tragedy, the Sydney hostage siege and other terrorist incidents, and the knowledge that it takes seven years to fully train a tactical response group officer.

- (1) What is the rationale for subjecting TRG officers to tenure restrictions whereby they are unwillingly rotated to positions in which their skill base is irrelevant?
- (2) Is the minister aware that Western Australia is the only police jurisdiction in Australia that has tenure on its TRG units?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Police, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Western Australia Police has a longstanding tenure policy that applies across the agency. The tactical response group has been subject to tenures since its inception. The application of tenure ensures continuity of skill sets and capabilities, and provides an opportunity for other officers to obtain positions within specialist areas such as the TRG. Current skill sets and levels of experience are maintained within the TRG to ensure community safety. The comment about training taking seven years applies to only a tactical team leader and not a tactical operator. The assistant commissioner, traffic and emergency response, has the authority to extend tenure for any officer in the TRG for operational reasons.
- (2) Western Australia Police is currently the only police jurisdiction within Australia to apply tenure. However, TRG officers are regularly granted extensions subject to their performance and ability.