

AUGUSTA POLICE STATION

1378. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Is the Augusta Police Station staffed by a husband-and-wife team, with one person currently on extended leave?
- (2) Is the minister aware that there is considerable local concern regarding -
 - (a) no police officers being available most weekdays after 4.00 pm;
 - (b) calls to the Augusta Police Station on weekends being diverted to Bunbury and the fact that there is rarely any local physical police presence; and
 - (c) the apparent lack of follow-up on many incidents reported to the police station?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I note the honourable member got the jump on Hon Peter Foss for some reason. I do not think that was particularly charitable of him.

Hon Peter Foss: I cannot jump.

Hon Barry House: It is only temporary.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has provided the following response -

- (1) The Western Australia Police Service advises that the former officer in charge of Augusta resigned on 7 October 2003. His wife, a police constable, was on extended parental leave and returned to work part-time.

The next sentence of the answer contains a word that does not seem to make sense. When I first read it a few moments ago, the answer seemed in order. It is a fairly full answer and should answer the honourable member's queries. However, a word needs to be clarified as it makes a nonsense of the sentence. I will not continue to answer the question at this stage. I invite the honourable member to ask the question later this week.