

AUGUSTA POLICE STATION

1396. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

I asked this question yesterday and the minister asked me to repeat it today.

- (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 there is rarely any local physical police presence; and
 - (c) the apparent lack of follow-up of many incidents reported to the police station?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (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. Throughout the time the constable was attached to the Augusta Police Station, the station was overstrength. There is a second permanent officer stationed at Augusta. A constable from Bunbury Police Station is relieving as the officer in charge until a replacement is selected and transferred.
- (2)
 - (a) The Police Service advises that the officers attached to the Augusta police subdistrict are rostered for duty according to peak demand times and community needs. Calls to the police station after hours or when the officers are not on duty are diverted to a mobile phone or the OIC's residence. Police responses at these times depend on the nature of the task.
 - (b) The Police Service advises that calls to the Augusta Police Station are not diverted to Bunbury. However, all 000 emergency calls in this district are automatically diverted by Telstra to the Bunbury Police Station, which is manned 24/7. The task is then allocated to the appropriate station. Officers attached to Augusta Police Station regularly conduct mobile patrols and respond to tasks as required. If an officer from Augusta is absent from a subdistrict for any reason, staff from Margaret River assist if and when required.
 - (c) No. Should the member wish to provide further details, the minister will be happy to follow up the matter with the Minister for Police. The Police Service has advised that without reference to a specific incident, it is not able to provide any comment.