

POLICE — POLICE DOG BITES

1184. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the ABC news article on 16 November 2022 entitled “Police dog bite sparks outrage as 13-year-old WA boy Jayden Abraham suffers severe injuries”.

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware that the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission’s fifteenth report, tabled more than two years ago, recommended that —

The Corruption and Crime Commission should undertake an audit of dog bite incidents to determine whether the use of force was justified and adequately reported by the WA Police Force.
- (2) Is the Attorney aware that the Aboriginal Legal Service’s submission to the committee stated that —

‘Available data from Western Australia shows that nearly one fifth of all victims of police dog bites were 18 years and under. Further, most of those victims (12 out of 17) were Aboriginal.’
- (3) Has the CCC conducted the recommended audit?
- (4) If yes to (3), will the Attorney General table the audit report?
- (5) If no to (3), does the Attorney General intend to do anything about this?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I note that the preamble that the member gave does not form part of the question before me, but in any event, the answers are as follows.

- (1)–(2) Undertaken in response to the report by the joint standing committee, the Corruption and Crime Commission’s thematic review report *A report on the deployment of police dogs* highlighted the statistical over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, including juveniles, in Western Australia Police Force use-of-force incidents involving police dogs.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)–(5) It was tabled on 11 May 2022. The commission’s thematic review report made two recommendations to WA Police, which were to develop and implement WA Police’s canine unit policy, procedures and/or guidelines, and undertake further analysis of police dog use to explore and address reasons for the higher representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in police dog deployments. The commission has advised that in May 2023 it will review the WA Police action taken.