

SHIRE OF YALGOO, ABORIGINAL POLICE LIAISON OFFICER

**227. Mr R.N. SWEETMAN to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:**

I refer to the Shire of Yalgoo in my electorate, which has an 85 per cent Aboriginal population, and ask -

- (1) Is the minister aware that the reason an Aboriginal police liaison officer was originally posted to Yalgoo was to provide backup to the lone full-time police officer who had been severely beaten after intervening in an Aboriginal family feud?
- (2) Is the minister also aware that this APLO left the town over 10 months ago and has still not been replaced?
- (3) Does the minister concede that this failure to replace the APLO in Yalgoo compromises the safety of the residents and the sole full-time police officer in the town?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:**

- (1)-(3) If I had received some notice of this question, I could have given the member the most up-to-date information. The previous Government treated Yalgoo with contempt. This Government made a commitment that those opposite would not make at the time of the election, and it stands by that commitment. For a lot of the time we have been in government two police officers have been stationed at Yalgoo. A husband and wife team was there for some time. I will check on the current situation, but my understanding is that we are fulfilling that commitment, and that is the undertaking I have been given by the Commissioner of Police.