

CRIME, SAFER WA PROGRAM, DOWNGRADING

710. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Premier

I refer to the Office of Crime Prevention report entitled '*New Structures for Crime Prevention in Western Australia*' dated October 2002 and ask: -

- (a) does the Minister agree that the report downgrades the Safer WA program to the point where it will have little, if any, impact;
- (b) if so, does the Minister support this direction;
- (c) if so, on what grounds;
- (d) if not, what action does the Minister propose to ensure the continued operation of the Safer WA program;
- (e) does the Minister agree that the Safer WA name is recognised within the community;
- (f) does the Minister agree that the proposed new structure effectively limits community input to the bottom;
- (g) if so, does the Minister agree with such limited community input;
- (h) if so, why;
- (i) if not, what steps does the Minister propose to ensure that the opportunity for real community consultation is retained;
- (j) does the Minister agree that the proposed new structure effectively places control in the hands of the bureaucracy;
- (k) if so, does the Minister support this proposition;
- (l) if so, why;
- (m) if not, what steps does the Minister propose to broaden the operation of the proposed new structure; and
- (n) when will the Minister detail the Government's response to the proposal?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a)-(d) No, the report's recommendations seek to build on the strengths of SAFER W.A., address limitations identified during the extensive consultations by SAFER W.A. members and implement the Government's policies to enhance the State's efforts to prevent and reduce crime.
- (e) No, the feedback during the extensive consultations indicated that the name SAFER W.A. had poor and ambiguous recognition in the wider community.
- (f)-(j) No, the proposed structure seeks to take a whole of Government approach and to enhance 'grassroots' community involvement at the local level and make it more meaningful. In fact it seeks to ensure that there is community involvement at all levels.
- (k) Best practice models for crime prevention, which are recognised nationally and internationally, adopt whole of Government and whole of community approaches.
- (l) See (k).
- (m) See (k).
- (n) When the consultative process has been finalised.