

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES —
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE INTEGRATION

1287. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

At a meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services on 30 October, the State Emergency Service Volunteers Association of Western Australia was told that the SES was not getting a chief officer and it was to be integrated into the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that Western Australia is the only jurisdiction in Australia without a chief officer?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the rationale for not appointing one?
- (3) Can the minister confirm the SES has gone from 2 500 volunteers eight years ago to 1 902 today?
- (4) If yes to (3), why is this the case?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Emergency Services.

- (1) No. There are other jurisdictions without a chief officer.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No. The SES figure in the 2009–10 Fire and Emergency Services Authority annual report was 1 914. At that time, volunteers registered with more than one SES unit were counted for each registration; that is, volunteers registered with two SES units were counted twice. Data cleansing after the annual report figures are released also occurs. The revised figure is 1 772 individual volunteers. The SES has actually increased from 1 772 individual volunteers in 2009–10 to 1 906 individual volunteers as of 2 December 2018.
- (4) Not applicable.