

SAFETY AND SECURITY REBATE

**679. Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE to the Minister for Seniors and Ageing:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to community safety and its strong record on protecting our seniors.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the uptake of the seniors' safety and security rebate, which was cut by the Liberals and Nationals, but restored by the McGowan Labor government?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how WA seniors are using the rebate to make their homes safer and more secure?

**Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:**

I thank the member for his question and for his advocacy for seniors in Cockburn.

- (1)–(2) It is well known that on this side of the house we often speak about the issues that the Liberals and Nationals make promises on during election campaigns and what they actually deliver—two quite different things, as members will know. I often like to remind the opposition about the safety and security rebate and how they duded seniors when they made an election commitment in 2013 and then broke that commitment the following year by scrapping the seniors' safety and security rebate program. Terrible. The house also well knows that we on this side are the champions of seniors. One example was our quick move to reinstate the seniors' safety and security rebate—yet another election commitment that we have actually delivered, in contrast with the previous Barnett Liberal–National government.

More than \$6 million has now been paid out—I am delighted to advise the house of that figure—to keep our seniors safe in their own homes, with approximately 30 000 items claimed. Those items have made a tremendous personal impact on individuals' safety; they provide peace of mind and wellbeing for occupants. They are also of benefit to community safety more broadly. I would like to provide the house with some more detail on those items. I can tell the house that, as at 10 October, 9 510 security door screens and 6 499 security window screens or shutters have been installed by local businesses in the homes of WA seniors. A further 4 202 home alarms or CCTV systems and 2 377 mains-powered smoke alarms have been purchased. There is more, members; it goes on. On top of those items, a rebate has been paid for more than 1 000 residual current devices. I wish the Minister for Energy was here, because he would be delighted with that. There were also more than 1 000 wi-fi doorbells installed and almost 2 000 security sensor lights. There were 603 fire extinguishers, 580 deadlocks and 378 fire blankets provided. These are astonishing numbers.

Who do members think is installing and providing those items? It is WA small businesses. In June this year, I had a great opportunity to join the member for Dawesville in visiting Lockdown Security Solutions. People there spoke to us about the positive growth in demand since the reintroduction of the rebate. These are items that have an immediate impact on the safety of seniors who have taken up the offer, and we all know how important it is to be happy and feel safe and secure in your own home.

I would like to thank the WA Seniors Card Centre, which has done a terrific job in getting all those claims processed. I urge WA Seniors Card holders to continue to take up this opportunity. The rebate provides greater safety for seniors in the home. We deliver; members opposite do not.

**The SPEAKER:** I will just remind the minister that some of his own members are opposite!