

POLICE OFFICERS - ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

953. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Will the minister please advise the house what benefits hardworking police officers will receive under the latest enterprise bargaining agreement signed on Monday?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

I thank the member for his question, and for his very strong support of Western Australia Police and the incredibly important job it does.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It was certainly pleasing that we were able to reach agreement when initially there was a large distance between what the government was offering and what the union was requesting. We ended up with an outcome that was a very good pay increase for police. It is 4.5 per cent in the first year and four per cent in the two following years but, in keeping with the Frontline First policy, in a range of areas there is considerable extra money for police involved in operational duties. For instance, police who staff special multifunction police facilities in remote parts of the state will get a 40 per cent increase in their salary; and officers involved in very specialised areas, who are highly trained and whom we want to retain, will get 15 per cent in the first year. In a range of areas, again, the Frontline First policy will be supported with quite substantial increases in shift allowances. That means that police, particularly those on the front line, will be well paid. The total cost of the package will be \$189 million over three years. I thank the Commissioner of Police and his team, the president of the Western Australian Police Union and his negotiating team, and the Treasurer for their support in finally bringing the package together so that we can ensure police in Western Australia, who do a very difficult job that is often quite dangerous, are very well paid and can get on with the job of protecting the community of Western Australia, which they do so well.