

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

2016–17 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE
TAKEN AT PERTH
FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2016**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE

Members

**Hon Ken Travers (Chair)
Hon Peter Katsambanis (Deputy Chair)
Hon Alanna Clohesy
Hon Rick Mazza
Hon Helen Morton**

Hearing commenced at 9.30 am

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN

Attorney General representing the Minister for Police, examined:

Dr KARL O'CALLAGHAN

Commissioner of Police, examined:

Mr GARY DREIBERGS

Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Services, examined:

Mr STEPHEN BROWN

Deputy Commissioner, Operations, examined:

Mr ANTHONY KANNIS

Executive Director, examined:

Ms SANTA CARDENIA

Acting Chief Finance Officer, Business Strategy and Finance, examined:

Mr LES BECHELLI

Acting Director, Business Strategy and Finance, examined:

Mr MICHAEL PETERS

Acting Commander, State Traffic, examined:

Mr JIM MIGRO

Detective Superintendent, Licensing Enforcement Division, examined:

The CHAIR: On behalf of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, I would like to welcome you to today's hearing. Can the witnesses confirm that they have read, understood and signed a document headed "Information for Witnesses"?

The Witnesses: Yes.

The CHAIR: Thank you. It is essential that all your testimony before the committee is complete and truthful to the best of your knowledge. This hearing is being recorded by Hansard and a transcript of your evidence will be provided to you. It is also being broadcast live on the Parliament's website. The hearing is being held in public, although there is discretion available to the committee to hear evidence in private. If for some reason you wish to make a confidential statement during today's proceedings, you should request that the evidence be taken in closed session before answering the question. Agencies and departments have an important role and duty in assisting the committee to scrutinise the budget papers and the committee values your assistance with this.

I might move to questions. Who would like to ask some questions?

Hon HELEN MORTON: We all do.

The CHAIR: You all do. I do not think you have led off yet, Helen, so I will give you the call first.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Thank you, very much. I refer you to page 121 and the issue about the Armadale courthouse and police complex design and accommodation brief. In the budget, it appears

that there is \$700 000 to be spent in 2016–17 and \$1.1 million in 2017–18. I do not know—it says there design and accommodation brief, but it does not seem like there is anything in there to actually build the thing. Then I look at page 127, and I think that is the completed works. In the completed works on page 127, halfway down it has the Armadale courthouse and police complex planning and land acquisition for \$5.6 million, which has been completed. I guess I am a little bit confused. If the land acquisition is the 5.6 and the accommodation design brief is 701.1, is there a commitment to build this right now?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The project is one that has been underway for quite some time. There have been difficulties in locating an appropriate site. A site has been decided upon and currently land is being acquired for the project. The moneys that you noted, the 1.8 over the next two years, is for the project definition and to determine how that will go ahead, but land acquisition is currently underway. Perhaps the commissioner may be able to expand on that.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Can you tell me what was achieved with the \$5.6 million?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Kannis will be able to expand on that.

Mr Kannis: The majority of the \$5.6 million was for land acquisition. There was some scoping work done with that, so there is an idea to identify the concept requirements in terms of the brief. But it has only been that preliminary work and the acquisition of land.

Hon HELEN MORTON: I do not mean to sound very critical, but \$5.5 million for scoping work seems an exorbitant amount of money for scoping.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: No, that is for the acquisition of the land.

Hon HELEN MORTON: So the land has been acquired.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It is in the process of being acquired. It is my understanding that contracts have been signed but they are awaiting perfection.

Mr Kannis: The majority of the \$5.6 million is for land acquisition.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Is the \$1.8 million that is now in the next year and the year after budget purely for the design work?

Mr Kannis: That is correct, yes. There has been no money allocated at this stage to start construction of the facility.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: But, plainly, there is a commitment to do so at some point in the near future; otherwise we would not be going about acquiring the land for it.

Hon HELEN MORTON: I do know that it has been a high priority for a very long time. My second question, also on page 121, is around the ChemCentre. You have in there a recurring amount of \$1.5 million. I am making an assumption that that is to have drugs tested by the ChemCentre at a time that you seize certain products, and that led me to ask the question about the new psychoactive substances legislation that allows the police to seize, with reasonable suspicion, something that they assume is psychoactive and that the actual proponent pays for the testing. It is only if the substance is not a psychoactive substance that the reimbursement takes place. I would really like to know how that legislation is being borne out in practice by the police.

Mr Kannis: I can answer the financial aspect of the question. The \$1.556 million is the additional cost of all the services provided by the ChemCentre over those annual financial years. The cost of those services has increased due to volumes and other aspects. The specifics about legislation, I might call on others to be able to answer that question. The commissioner might be able to answer that question.

Dr O'Callaghan: The legislation allows, as you quite rightly point out, for the cost of analysis to be borne by the person who is being investigated or the person from whom the drugs are seized. The legislation has been fairly new for us at this stage. In the early stages, we have been keen to

make sure, particularly with psychoactive substances and synthetic cannabinoids, that we actually have the right sort of information, so in the first iteration of this we have been paying for some of the toxicology ourselves. That is not actually subject to many of the inflated costs here; that is quite a minor component of that. But we are moving to a situation now where the onus of proof will be shifted, as the legislation allows, back to the person who the substance is seized from to prove that it is actually not psychoactive, which would mean that they would have to make the analysis themselves.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Commissioner, could you indicate whether anybody at this stage has been subjected to the full breadth of that legislation—that is, the substance is deemed to be psychoactive unless the individual wants it to be tested to prove otherwise?

Dr O’Callaghan: There have been charges and there have been a number of quite well publicised outlets for these psychoactive substances where the owners or the operators have been charged. If you want specific detail of that, I do not have it with me, but I can provide it by way of supplementary information.

Hon HELEN MORTON: I would like to know the number of times that that piece of legislation has actually been used in its intended way.

Dr O’Callaghan: Yes, we can provide that.

[Supplementary Information No A1.]

[9.40 am]

Hon HELEN MORTON: My final question is about the police co-response. You know that I am very interested in and supportive of the police co-response service. It might be in here but I could not see any reference to it. I am interested in whether that is actually operating in the way that you expected it to, having the impact that you expected it to have, and whether it is going to be expanded in the new year.

Dr O’Callaghan: Mental health clinicians are now embedded within the WA Police operational framework at the police operations centre, which you would probably be aware of—south east metropolitan and north west metropolitan districts and the Perth watch house. The trial deployment hours are currently Monday to Saturday, 2.00 pm till 10.00 pm. Twenty WA police officers have completed mental health co-response training and they are deployed to the south east metropolitan and north west metropolitan districts to deliver a mobile response component of the trial. The draft evaluation plan has been completed, and Edith Cowan University is actually doing that, but it is going through the ECU ethics committee at the moment. We expect that evaluation to start next month, in July. What I can say anecdotally is that we have had a lot of positive reports, both from the police who are using the service and from people who have been subjected to the service. Early indications are that it is a good model, it is a workable model. I think I am on record as having said that I would like to see this expanded to at least all the metropolitan police districts at this stage, which we will consider at the end of the trial period. The trial starts next month. When I get that information, my feeling is that it will expand, but we just want to know what form it will expand in and we need to make improvements along the way.

Hon RICK MAZZA: On page 121, under “Spending Changes”, I see that there is a line item regarding overtime for police officers redeployed to the front line, which in the forward estimates is \$1 million a year. Could you give us a little bit of an explanation as to what that is about and maybe why it is required?

Dr O’Callaghan: You may be aware that over the past two years we have been implementing a new police operating model in the metropolitan area. One of the primary areas that we have been focusing on is moving police officers from administrative areas into the front line and taking the existing number of police officers but increasing the number that are actually deployed in the front line. Now, when you move police officers to the front line, the cost profile goes up because

frontline officers claim shift penalties and they claim overtime. What we are seeing is more officers in the front line and a greater volume of outputs. For argument's sake, if I can talk to the month of March this year, police charged more offenders in Western Australia than they have ever charged in a single month; it was something like 5 000. When you are doing that sort of work and you are increasing your frontline activity, you are drawing more overtime and more shift penalties, so there is a cost profile associated with doing that.

Hon RICK MAZZA: There is an another line item about Government Regional Officers' Housing, and there are some savings of \$20 million to \$30 million through the forward estimates. What has actually changed there? Are you no longer providing housing for regional officers?

Mr Kannis: The previous forward estimates for Government Regional Officers' Housing assumed a 12 per cent per annum increase in rent, mainly in the Kimberley and Pilbara region. This is a review of those rates of increase based on the current climate for rentals in those areas.

Hon RICK MAZZA: Those savings are basically derived through increasing the rent of the officers' accommodation; is that what you are saying?

Mr Kannis: It is through decreased rent. The rent that we are paying for that housing has reduced below assumptions.

Hon RICK MAZZA: Reduced? Okay; that clarifies that. Also, there is an increase in spending at the Chemistry Centre (WA). Can you give me a little bit of background as to why we are looking at another \$1.5 million a year for that?

Mr Kannis: Yes. The answer to that question is that there is an increased volume of work required to go through the ChemCentre. Previously, we had a base of around \$4.5 million per annum that we were spending on the ChemCentre. That has increased mainly due to the volume of work that we put through the ChemCentre. It is related to drug tests and other issues like that. I am not sure if someone else can add specifics about that. There has just been an increased volume of work going through the ChemCentre.

Hon RICK MAZZA: Just one last question in this area: you are implementing a new licensing system for pawnbrokers, firearms and other things. Is that fully implemented as yet and what has the cost been to date?

Mr Kannis: I can explain that the first stage of the system to deal with firearms primarily was implemented on 29 April. We are dealing with implementation issues on that. The data has transferred into the system and licences are being issued from it now. That is for the first stage. The rest of it we are programmed to roll in towards the end of the calendar year, which is around September–October that we would be rolling out these for pawnbrokers and —

Hon RICK MAZZA: It should be fully operational by the end of that time?

Mr Kannis: We anticipate it will be fully operational by then.

Hon RICK MAZZA: Do you have any indication of what the cost has been to date to implement that new system?

Mr Kannis: Yes, I can get that. Can we take that as supplementary?

[Supplementary Information No A2.]

The CHAIR: On the issue around rents, is GROH all on an annual rent review basis? Does any of your GROH have long-term fixed contracts in regional WA?

Mr Kannis: My suggestion is that it is not always an annual review. This is why the benefit of the lower rents would not be immediate, because some leases and rental reviews would go over a longer period than 12 months. It would vary across the portfolio of houses.

The CHAIR: Although, according to the forward estimates, you are expecting \$21 million in 2015–16 and \$29 million in the period of the budget, and then across the forward estimates it only increases by a couple of million and then drops to \$28 million.

Mr Kannis: That is mainly because the rents had started to fall in previous financial years. Rents started to reduce in 2014–15, and it ramped up, is my understanding; therefore, we have probably got the benefit of most of the rental reductions because of that reason.

The CHAIR: Right; in 2015–16, with another \$10 million to come in 2016–17.

Mr Kannis. Yes.

The CHAIR: Do you have any GROH contracts that extend beyond 2016–17 in that they are five-year or 10-year contracts that the rents are fixed in?

Mr Kannis: I am happy to check this answer, but I would say there would not be any more than there would be for periods of two years. I do not believe we have that, but if I can take that on notice perhaps?

The CHAIR: If you can give us some details about, if you do have them for any more than one or two years, how many you have and when they expire et cetera, if there is a limited number.

[Supplementary Information No A3.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I wanted to go to family and domestic violence that you have identified as one of the significant issues for the service. How many calls for assistance in relation to family and domestic violence have the police received in 2014–15?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Sorry, which page are we looking at?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Page 122, “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency.” The third dot point talks extensively about family and domestic violence. In 2014–15, how many calls for assistance in relation to family and domestic violence did the police receive?

Mr Kannis: I would suggest that we might need to take that one on notice. Sorry, I do have some information. For 2015–16 year to date, there were 40 928 family violence incident reports that have been created; 56 per cent of those identified a criminal offence and 44 were a general incident.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: So that is year to date. Can I have 2014–15, please?

Mr Kannis: We do not have 2014–15 available, but we can take that on notice. Sorry, can I just interrupt. We might have an answer on that.

Mr Brown: The question is about calls for assistance, not information reports or investigation reports. Mr Kannis has quoted the number of crime reports of 40 000-odd, but the number of calls for assistance will be significantly more for that and we do not have that number on hand.

[9.50 am]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Thank you. That was going to be my next lot of questions—incident reports as distinct from calls for assistance. They are two different things. What you have given me is incident reports. Can we start again? Can I have the number of calls for assistance in 2014–15 and 2015–16 year to date?

Mr Kannis: We would need to take that on notice.

The CHAIR: I will make that all part of A4, or do you want me to make it a separate number, A5?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Just to be very clear, A4 is now, first of all, calls for assistance in 2014–15 and 2015–16 year to date.

[Supplementary Information No A4.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Of those calls for assistance, in what percentage were children present?

Mr Kannis: We will take that on notice, again.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Chair, as I understand it, that sort of information might take an enormous amount of resources to retrieve manually. Can I suggest that we will give whatever answer we can and give the best answer that is available, but if it involves an inordinate amount of work to retrieve that information by way of manual searching, it may not be the best use of police resources. We will advise that and perhaps the issue can be explored in other ways.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Thank you, Attorney General. I note also that that data has been provided in the past so it may —

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I am working on the information that I am being given at the moment, but we will do what we can with what we have got and provide you with the information that is available.

The CHAIR: I will make that A5. There is no doubt about what is in A4 and we will make the issue around the number of children present as part of A5 so that can be clearly separated.

[Supplementary Information No A5.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Can we go to incident reports? For 2014–15, how many family and domestic violence incident reports were there?

Mr Kannis: We will answer that by supplementary information.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: There were about 42 000, according to the information I have, give or take.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Is that for 2014–15? I will be happy to take that as supplementary information.

The CHAIR: Do we have the figures or not? Do we need to take that on notice?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I have a graph that indicates total family violence incidents reports for the financial year 2014–15 in the order of 42 500, but I cannot give you the exact figure.

The CHAIR: Okay, so we will make that A6 to get the specific numbers.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: For 2014–15, can I have the number of incident reports, the percentage of which were criminal, and the remainder that were incidents, and similarly for 2015–16 year to date?

[Supplementary Information No A6.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: For the criminal reports for 2014–15 and 2015–16, of the perpetrators known to police, how many were responsible for violence perpetrated against more than one victim?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Again, we will do what we can to provide the information that is being sought.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I will take that on notice and, included in that, how many were multiple acts of violence against the same person?

[Supplementary Information No A7.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: For 2014–15 and 2015–16 year to date, how many police orders have been issued in relation to family and domestic violence? I am speaking here particularly in relation to division 3A of the Restraining Orders Act.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will have to take that one on notice as well.

[Supplementary Information No A8.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: For 2014–15 and 2015–16 year to date, how many homicides as a result of family and domestic violence were recorded?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: That information will have to be retrieved as well. I am informed, of course, that some charges are still pending because the determination is in court so you cannot draw too many conclusions from them and under the circumstances in which they are committed, they would be simply based on —

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I appreciate that, Attorney General. Thank you very much.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will provide what information we can.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I am also aware that WA Police are required to report that to the Ombudsman as well, so I think the data should be readily available. We will take that on notice, chair.

[Supplementary Information No A9.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: How many family and domestic violence response teams operate throughout Western Australia?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Brown will respond.

Mr Brown: There is a family and domestic violence team operating in each of the four metropolitan police districts across the metropolitan area. Their numbers are about five dedicated people, I understand, in each of those districts and that is replicated on a smaller scale across the seven regional districts. I do not have with me the actual number of FTEs in each of those teams.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Could I take that on notice, please?

Mr Brown: Yes.

[Supplementary Information No A10.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: What is the cost of operation for those domestic violence response teams?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: There is no breakdown available but we can find out.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Okay, thanks.

The CHAIR: Do you want to take that on notice?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Sure.

[Supplementary Information No A11.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Those teams commenced operation in 2013. Have there been plans to expand those teams across the forward estimates?

Mr Brown: Family and domestic violence teams have been in operation across the state for a number of years, well preceding 2013, in various forms. Of course, preventing, responding to and investigating family and domestic violence is an absolute priority of the agency. We have a focus within the new police operating model which sees not only the more specialised people working in the family and domestic violence teams involved in responding and investigating family and domestic violence, but more so the nearly 900 local policing officers who work in the metropolitan area are heavily focused on responding to and attempting to further prevent and triage the higher risk situations where family and domestic violence is perpetrated. My point there is that it is not just the dedicated teams that are working, it is more so the frontline officers who have a very heavy focus in this area. It was only back in January of this year that the commissioner reinforced that message to the agency and its people by advising them and directing them that family and domestic

violence, for the next year, is one of the four key priorities for this agency together with burglary, motor vehicle theft and theft.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Thanks, deputy commissioner. I appreciate that. The government did announce the domestic violence response teams as a new initiative in 2013, which is why I took that date as a commencement period. I will get to frontline services in a minute, but has there been any attempt to evaluate the response teams—how the new, different way has been working from 2013?

[10.00 am]

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Dreiberger will deal with that.

Mr Dreiberger: At a strategic level within state crime, we have established a new domestic violence division with a commander overseeing a superintendent running that area now, with additional staff starting to be placed in that area. That is within state crime. They work very closely with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and they are working on looking at the evaluation and also looking at reviewing the FDVRTs.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Great. Have you got an expected completion date for that evaluation?

Mr Dreiberger: They have not commenced that work as yet. They are having discussions at a senior officer level as what that rollout will look like in terms of scoping and working together, because it is a joint model, as you would probably be aware.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Yes, thank you. In 2011 Western Australia Police introduced the domestic violence risk assessment framework for frontline officers to complete when they attend call-outs. Is the framework still in use?

Mr Dreiberger: The framework for —

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: The DV risk assessment framework for frontline officers.

Mr Dreiberger: The details are provided through the general and the crime IRs to the family and domestic violence response teams. So when we attend an incident, that is the intent of taking the general IR as well as the crime IR. All of that information still gets provided to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and the police officers at the family and domestic violence response teams. They go through a triage process and look at the assessment. But the issue is that the volume is significant and that is why they are looking at the review, and not only that, they are looking at how best to triage the volume that is coming through to make sure that the focus is where it needs to be. It is a significant amount of work to be undertaken.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: It is a review to look at how the assessment is done at the front door, through to how they relate to child protection and other services, through to what happens with charging. Is that right?

Mr Dreiberger: Yes. It is a review of the totality of the incident that they have seen and the risks that exist within that location, whether it be a risk to children or victims, and of the opportunities for perpetrators and then opportunities for NGOs to be engaged with that family. Basically, it is a risk assessment to look at all the things to can and cannot be done. As we have said, the volume is significant going into those FDVRTs at the moment.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Can we get a copy of the terms of reference of that review when it becomes available?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Yes, I do not see why not.

The CHAIR: Will the terms of reference become available within the next 10 days? When are you likely to have the terms of reference finalised?

Mr Dreiberger: The lead agency on the FDVRT is Child Protection. We would have to speak with the DG and the SOGs—senior officer groups. In terms of specific time lines, I cannot give you that at this point in time, sorry, but work is being undertaken.

The CHAIR: Can I suggest, member, that maybe the best way to approach this if it comes under Department for Child Protection and Family Support, is to submit that as an additional question to family and children services if they are the lead agency that will have the terms of reference.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Thanks, Chair. Can I go to the family and domestic violence perpetrator engagement project? How much was allocated in the budget for 2015–16 and what is the estimated actual for that project for 2015–16?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I am not sure that that is in our budget papers. Where are you looking?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: That is why I was asking the question. I could not see any in the budget.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will have to take that one on notice.

[Supplementary Information No A12.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: What are the key elements of that project and how is it being implemented?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will have to provide that by way of supplementary information.

[Supplementary Information No A13.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I have to say that this is extraordinarily frustrating. Family and domestic violence has one of the highest incidents of crime in this state and it has increased significantly over the last few years. For Western Australia Police to come to the estimates without any data at all about this is incredibly frustrating.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: With respect, when you have finished your speech, if you could give us some advice in advance that this was an area that you were going to explore, we might have had the information available.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: That is astounding. This has one the highest rates of crime, and is supposedly one of the priority areas for the government and Western Australia Police, and there is no data available. I have expression my frustration. I will continue.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Well, if you have had your hissy fit, then perhaps we can continue.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I beg your pardon! For every single question I have asked there has been no data available.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Information has been provided.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: It is straightforward information. It is not available publicly and your response is just as appalling.

The CHAIR: I will let the minister respond but I would prefer him not to use some of the language that he has used before, then I will want a question asked so that we can move on. Does the minister have anything else he wants to respond to?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will assist the committee. The information is not readily available in the detail that is being sought. If the member has questions, we will answer them, but we cannot be expected to have all the information to the level of detail that is being sought without some prior notice of it.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: It is very basic information that is being sought.

The CHAIR: Member, I think the point has been made and the minister has responded. I will ask you if you have any further questions on this area, otherwise I will move on.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I cannot see the point in pursuing this area because it is obviously not a priority.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I have a couple of questions on your financial statements first. There are employee provisions of \$154 million on page 130. Do you break those down into what is annual leave entitlements and what is long service leave entitlements?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Page 130 did you say?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Yes, page 130 under “Current Liabilities”.

Mr Kannis: It appears that we do not have a breakdown according to those categories that you have referred to, but we will take that on notice.

[Supplementary Information No A14.]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I notice that it stays relatively stable through the forward estimates. The current liability is around 15 per cent of your total wage bill and when you include the non-current it rises to around 20 per cent. Is that unusually high?

Mr Kannis: My understanding is that it would move generally in terms of an increase in leave liability in other aspects. Unfortunately, because leave is not always taken in accordance with the way it is allocated, there is often a build-up of that leave liability going forward. I am not sure if Santa can add to that.

Ms Cardenia: The other factors that impact the leave liability are the number of officers, so with WA Police having increased officer numbers through the additional program. The other thing is that due to rank, leave liability could be earned at a certain rank but then paid at a higher rank by the time an officer will take the leave. The other factor is the investment rate that is used to calculate the leave liability depending on what the interest rate is in the market of the bond rate. There are various factors. Given that our final year additional program is 2016–17, we will have a stable workforce after that, so we expect the leave liability to remain stable.

[10.10 am]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: When you account for the leave liability, do you account for it at the current rank of the officer?

Ms Cardenia: Yes.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Okay. I know there is consternation across the Western Australian public sector about reducing leave liability and getting people to take leave, but in particular, I am asking it of your agency because you know and the public know that your job is quite a stressful one. It can lead to significant stress, and leave is one of the ways that people can release some of that stress. Would a program that encourages officers to take leave more regularly actually contribute to better mental health outcomes and less stress for the officers in your force?

Dr O’Callaghan: Yes, I think that is true. I think a program that encourages officers to take leave more regularly has the capacity to reduce post-traumatic stress and a whole range of other issues. It has been something that we have been working through gradually over the last couple of years to make our leave liability for, not just because of the cost to government of having it, but also to try to encourage people to think differently about their work-life balance. It takes quite a long time to catch up on those things, but I think the emphasis of work-life balance through our health and safety area has been a fairly important part of what we are trying to do now to, I suppose, reduce the impact of stress on the workforce.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Okay. I do not expect you to outline all of the individual programs today, but you have programs that work on that and encourage officers to think about it on a regular basis.

Dr O'Callaghan: One of the things which we have introduced in recent times is the mental health first-aid course, and we are trying to get about 10 per cent of the total workforce through that. To give you an idea of what that number would be, about 600 officers, mostly at supervisory ranks, like sergeant, try to understand better about the impacts of the work on the individual. Their responsibility is to work at a peer level with individuals and encourage them to seek work-life balance, to take their leave and a whole range of other things—so it is an integral part of what we are trying to do through the mental health first aid.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Okay, thank you. We will monitor that over time, because I think we are all in agreement that it is probably a great thing for the budget bottom line, but it is an even better thing for the individual officers and the force, overall.

I want to move on to the speed cameras. On page 126, I note that you are going to undertake a speed camera replacement program, which will include two fixed-site speed cameras. How many fixed-site speed cameras do we have operating in Western Australia now?

Mr Peters: Currently, there are five fixed-site speed cameras. What was the further question?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: That was my question—how many there are. How many of these are in the metropolitan area?

Mr Peters: Five—all of them.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Are there any fixed—it is a rhetorical question; I am sorry, I will not ask it. There are no fixed-site speed cameras outside the metropolitan area.

Mr Peters: That is correct.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Given that everything I hear around road safety talks about speeding as a major contributor to motor vehicle accidents and catastrophic motor vehicle accidents, and given the high percentage of motor vehicle accidents that result in death that take place on non-metropolitan roads, why are there no fixed-site speed cameras in non-metropolitan areas?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would ask the commissioner to respond to that.

Dr O'Callaghan: Most of the work that is being done on automated traffic enforcements—I am separating out automatic traffic enforcement, which is speed cameras, from police patrols—in the other states relates to not fixed speed cameras so much on country roads, but point-to-point cameras. The government is about to embark on a point-to-point camera trial in Western Australia. I think the point-to-point camera trial is going to be set up on the Forrest Highway, so it would check the average speed of vehicles between two points. Now, the benefit in using point-to-point over single-site speed cameras is that the measurement of that vehicle is over quite a long distance—it could be 20, 30 or 40 kilometres, whereby fixed speed cameras require you to pass that point at a speed and be recorded for doing that. Where that has been introduced in the eastern states, there has been quite a significant reduction in road trauma and people speeding. To introduce point-to-point cameras in Western Australia requires a change to the Road Traffic Act and Road Traffic Code, because we currently do not have an offence of committing an average speed—exceeding the speed by an average limit. Once that is done and the gantries are put in place, we will trial that on the Forrest Highway, but I see no reason why there could not be an expansion on most of the major highways. It is the arterial roads within 200 kilometres of the metropolitan district that are probably some of the most challenging for us, in terms of regional road trauma.

Hon RICK MAZZA: With the point-to-point cameras, which I think are a good thing on country roads, has there been any work done on how much they would actually cost to implement?

Dr O'Callaghan: We would have that detail, but I do not know if we have it with us. I am looking at the executive director to see whether there is any costing in there.

Mr Kannis: Yes, we have. The cost of establishing the trial on the Forrest Highway has a cost in the region of \$1.5 million to establish. That is setting up the equipment to go in and purchase.

Hon RICK MAZZA: Once that is set up, what would the ongoing cost be to maintain them?

Mr Kannis: The ongoing costs would be mainly the same costs as other speed cameras—the processing of infringements and other things, and servicing the same sort of equipment.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Just on this issue, that is the future, point-to-point—measuring average speed over time—but as you rightly point out, we have no legislative capacity to do that right now in this state. The question remains, when speeding is such a factor and road trauma seems to be skewed significantly towards non-metropolitan areas, why in the past and currently do we not have any of the available technology, the technology we are able to use on these country roads and, in particular, the Forrest Highway? Because it leaves you open to allegations that the fixed-site cameras serve a purpose other than road safety, being revenue collection, if they are placed in areas where we know the road trauma is not as significant as in other parts.

Dr O'Callaghan: The implementation of point-to-point cameras is a government policy, it is not necessarily a police policy. We have to remember that in Western Australia the Road Safety Commission and the government make decisions about these things; we are responsible for traffic enforcement—that is what we do. We go out there once they are placed there and we process the infringements. There are a number of regional speed cameras, and we can get you the number of those, but they are not permanently placed cameras. The question you asked originally was about speed cameras in permanent boxes. There are none of those in regional Western Australia, but there are mobile speed cameras in every district in Western Australia, so we can give you the number of those. They work on those highways currently, so certainly the Forrest Highway, Albany Highway—all those major arterial roads have a speed camera capacity. In addition, there is a program currently in place for regional patrols from the Perth metropolitan area out into the regions and those vehicles are all equipped with mobile speed equipment. If you want further detail of that, I can ask Commander Peters to elaborate on that particular program.

Mr Peters: Operation Metaphor commenced approximately 13 weeks ago. It is in reaction to the high fatality rate in regional WA. It targets up to 200 kilometres of the metropolitan area. It includes daily patrols out of our three TEG areas, additional booze bus deployments and also speed cameras travelling into that arc, a further distance away from the CBD as well into those areas. That is what we have currently got operating at the moment. It operates based on intelligence, through our state intelligence traffic area, that actually advises staff the best locations to attend, the time of day and the day of week to attend, so it is purely intelligence based.

[10.20 am]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: As far as further information in relation to this, I understand that there are mobile speed cameras and that they are used regularly in many locations. I drive past a lot of them and 99.9 per cent of the time I drive past and wave at them without any consternation! What I would like to know is over the last long weekend that we had earlier this month—I do not need locations—how many cameras and how many mobile speed cameras were employed on Forrest Highway? Let us take the period that the double demerit points existed—the Thursday night right through to the end of the Monday evening.

Mr Peters: I cannot provide information specifically about that period of time, but there is an increased amount of speed camera use, along with other enforcement opportunities, which is mobile speed vehicles and that sort of stuff that is utilised during those periods. I cannot tell you specifically, but I can take that question on notice and provide it.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I am happy for you to take it notice, but I would like to know, say, on Forrest Highway and Bussell Highway, how many cameras were used in that period, the hours that they were operational and perhaps the graduated results—as in under 10 kilometres above the limit, between 10 and 20 kilometres above and over 30 kilometres above the limit. I am sure you keep those statistics in some way, and I would appreciate knowing how many hours cameras were employed on Forrest Highway and Bussell Highway in that long weekend period, if you have those statistics available, and what the results of those enforcement actions were.

[Supplementary Information No A15.]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: How long will the point-to-point trial run for if legislative changes are made?

Mr Kannis: The plan is for the trial to go for a period of six months, but to be evaluated after three months, initially.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Is it the intention that, all going well, the trial site will be the first of a series of permanent sites into the future?

Mr Kannis: My understanding is that that will be a decision made between the Road Safety Commission and the minister. It will be determined at that level, we understand. WA Police will obviously have input, but primarily it will be between the Road Safety Commission and the minister.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Is there any intention that the point-to-point cameras will be employed in the metropolitan area in the future?

Dr O'Callaghan: The point-to-point camera technology does not really lend itself to being used in the metropolitan area because of the variable speed limits between locations. For point-to-point cameras to work, the speed limit has to be constant, otherwise you cannot draw an average. The metropolitan area is certainly difficult to do that in. There is also a series of entry and exit points and intersections that interfere with the ability to place that. Where you have seen that technology implemented in other states, it is almost exclusively on roads that have a single speed. It is possible to put it on the freeway, for argument's sake. That would be possible.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: That was exactly the type of location I was thinking of.

Dr O'Callaghan: I do not think it is contemplated at this point.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Okay, because it is used in other states, particularly Victoria, I think, on their—what do they call it? I do not know what they call it, but it used to be called the Western Ring Road. They use it there.

Hon HELEN MORTON: In terms of its operation, is there a message to people saying that they are entering a point-to-point speed zone or something like that? Is there some indication to people that that is what they are going into? I am assuming that there is a message at the end of it saying you have just completed a point-to-point speed area or whatever. I am interested whether people will be made aware of it as they enter it.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Commander Peters might be able to assist with how the trial is planned.

Mr Peters: Yes, there is certainly some signage that indicates that you are entering a point-to-point area. There is currently some research being done on exactly the benefits of providing the distance and whether you provide a distance that you are going to be measured point-to-point or, based on research, whether it is better to not have a distance placed on that sign to have more of an effect over the longevity of the journey of a person and then pass the point-to-point area, what that then extends into in road behaviour.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Following up on that, even though I indicated that I did not have any other questions, I have noticed from experience that in South Australia they signpost the commencement and the completion. Is it contemplated that a signage regime such as that will be used or will it be a different type of regime?

Mr Peters: There is some speculation and some research is being done as to exactly the best benefits in using signage because there are certainly some benefits. There is some discussion whether to include the distance of the point-to-point or whether to leave it empty to have the best opportunity to influence road user behaviour around speed. There is some research and I think there is some research both ways. Some states in fact deal with it in different ways.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: What I am trying to get from your answer is that my understanding, based on what you have just told me, is that a decision still has not been made on exactly how it will be implemented in Western Australia?

Mr Peters: Correct.

The CHAIR: I have a couple of questions on this. If we are spending \$1.5 million to implement it, why are we doing a trial? Surely there is enough evidence around Australia as to whether these things work and how they work. Why would you spend \$1.5 million and then call it trial rather than just saying we are doing it, we are going to spend \$1.5 million, let us get on with it? I am intrigued.

Mr Kannis: The primary answer to that is because we do not have the legislation that allows us to infringe people on a point-to-point trial basis. There is no legislation that allows us to do that at the moment. At the moment there is no legislation in place that allows us to charge people on that basis of average speed.

The CHAIR: We are going to build the technology on the highways and measure speed, but we are not going to actually fine people who exceed the speed limit. We will be collecting data that says that someone sped down Forrest Highway doing 130 kilometres. You will have all that data, but you will not be able to charge them; you will just be collecting statistics about the number of people travelling. Is that what you are telling me?

Mr Kannis: We will not be able to charge them on the basis of the point-to-point equipment but we can charge through other means. If we have a mobile camera in the area, we will be able to charge them for speeding.

The CHAIR: In terms of the \$1.5 million worth of camera equipment that you are going to put in—I assume they must be linked by fibre optics or some other mechanism—you will not be able to charge people as a result of that infrastructure itself.

Mr Kannis: Not until the legislation is amended.

The CHAIR: Minister, are you able to give us any idea when the legislation will be implemented and why we would not be trying to get it in as a matter of priority so that from day one the technology can be used to fine people?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It is my understanding—I have not spoken to the minister about this—that the point of it would be to establish whether it is worthwhile and worth the effort down the track. That is the point of a trial.

The CHAIR: But that was my earlier point. Surely there is enough evidence around Australia about these things working. Why would you spend \$1.5 million if you do not think it is going to be worth it and if you still do not know if it going to be worth it? I mean, set up a couple of cameras at each end using the mobile cameras.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I have not had discussions with the minister about that as to the rationale or how the idea has cropped up. I will have to take that on notice.

The CHAIR: If someone does 140 and it is picked up, would you be able to charge them for reckless driving using that technology even if you cannot do them for speeding?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would have thought that depending on the validation of the means by which the speed is gauged, and whether it is done by way of authorised speed cameras and the like, it could be evidence to establish other charges, whether or not you would be able to establish a charge that deals with an average speed is something that is an issue. Perhaps the commissioner or Mr Peters can assist with that.

[10.30 am]

Dr O'Callaghan: I think the answer to that is potentially you could charge someone with a hoon offence or a dangerous or reckless driving offence with that information. So, you would have to present that information to the court. What you cannot do is charge people with speeding until you get change in the legislation. But it certainly could be used in conjunction with other evidence to prove a case of reckless driving, dangerous driving or whatever—something else like careless driving—but not speeding.

The CHAIR: Although, again, the difficulty is—I was thinking about it myself—you would probably have to have some sort of owner-onus provisions to capture that as well, because you will know the vehicle is driven. You have got owner-onus regarding speeding fines, but you do not have it for reckless driving, do you?

Dr O'Callaghan: We do investigations all the time where the actions of the vehicle are reported to us or there is some video evidence that we have to go and establish the driver, so it is quite possible that we would go and interview the owner of the vehicle and try to establish who the driver was. There are requirements under the Road Traffic Act to identify who the driver of your vehicle is, so there is still a chance that we can resolve an issue like that.

The CHAIR: I just had one last question. Do we have any estimate of what revenue is expected when we get legislation to allow us to fine people? Has that been done before we spend the \$1.5 million on implementing it? Do we have any estimate of what we would expect to collect in a year from fines as a result of it?

Mr Kannis: My understanding is that these are the sorts of bits of information that we will get out of the trial. The benefits of the trial, for example, are to identify the volume of traffic that goes through and the number of offences, but also to deal with issues such as was discussed earlier like signage and all that sort of stuff—is it best to have signage or not to have signage and other aspects like that? I think everyone accepts that the point-to-point technology is appropriate; it is a matter of how we implement it. That is the main reason for the trial. The expectation is that there will be the capacity in the future, whether it be the immediate future or the longer term future; we will have the capacity.

The CHAIR: When do you expect the trial to commence?

Mr Kannis: In about October is the plan.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I have been informed that legislation has been prepared and it is intended to be introduced shortly.

The CHAIR: If the legislation is introduced and is passed through the houses before the trial commences, we would fine people as part of the trial?

Mr Kannis: That would be a decision of government at the time.

Hon RICK MAZZA: I just have one supplementary to that on the point-to-point system that has been used in other states. How long has it actually been used in, say, New South Wales and Victoria?

Mr Kannis: We are not clear about how long it has been; we just know it is fully established in those jurisdictions.

Hon RICK MAZZA: So you actually have not looked into how they operate in other states and how long they have been there?

Mr Kannis: The Road Safety Council has looked into how they are operated, but in terms of your specific question about how long they have been operating, I just do not know that at this time. But I do know that they are operating and they are operating effectively.

The CHAIR: I am pretty sure they had them in South Australia and that was a number of years ago that I was there for the Tour Down Under.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Yes, South Australia and Victoria have had them.

The CHAIR: Yes, for a long time.

Hon KATE DOUST: My first question relates to page 121 and “Spending Changes” and “Hoon and No Motor Vehicle Licence Drivers Licence Impoundments”. I have just got a couple of questions around this. Does this particular line item relate to the Liberal Party’s 2013 election commitment to crack down on suburban area hoon drivers?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Kannis.

Mr Kannis: To clarify, this is the funding pressure that is created by the existing legislation that is in place for impoundment. At the moment, the funding pressure that this creates for us is around \$3.5 million per annum and this is why these additional funds were allocated for the current legislation.

Hon KATE DOUST: So this program has already commenced?

Mr Kannis: Yes; we impound vehicles at the moment.

Hon KATE DOUST: There is an amount of \$1.05 million allocated for 2017–18, so what is that actual funding going to be used for?

Mr Kannis: According to the table I have, it is “Hoon and No Motor Vehicle Drivers Licence Impoundments”.

Hon KATE DOUST: That is right.

Mr Kannis: There is \$3.56 million starting in 2017. Is that the same table on page 121?

Hon KATE DOUST: It is page 121 and \$1.05 million. Sorry; I am looking at the wrong thing! That is an entirely different question. My apologies. It is \$3.56 million. So what do you actually use that money for?

Mr Kannis: I will ask Santa to answer that question.

Ms Cardenia: With the impoundment of vehicles, there is up to 20 per cent of vehicles that are uncollected, which therefore means that we are not able to earn the revenue of the cost of storage and selling of the vehicles, so that is to cover the debt collection of the uncollected vehicles. There is a certain write-off on uncollected debts, and that is what that will be used for.

Hon KATE DOUST: Given the commitment for this change—we have seen a series of bills go through this place in relation to hooners and obviously confiscation of their cars—why is it that there is no funding allocated in this year’s budget, but only for the forward estimates?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Kannis.

Mr Kannis: The reason there are no funds allocated for this financial year is because our budget has the capacity to absorb those costs, but it does not have the capacity to absorb them beyond 2016–17.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I would like some clarification around the impounding of vehicles from hoon drivers. You impound the vehicles, they get stored by a third party at a storage facility, you incur costs for the storage of those vehicles and, in the ordinary event, the hoon comes along, pays for the cost of storage and collects the car; is that right?

Mr Kannis: Yes; that is correct.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: That is the ordinary event where everyone eventually complies with the law. But in the case where the hoon simply abandons that vehicle, it remains in storage and then what happens?

Mr Kannis: I can answer that question. If the vehicle is not collected, we continue to pay the storage fees and if it is never collected, we can only try to recover those fees. My understanding is the hoons often collect their vehicles, because they obviously have a greater value associated with them. A lot of the cars that are not collected go to no driver's licence situations. Usually, the cars that we are left with are the ones that do not have a high value and therefore do not have a value to anyone. They will often just stay there until we have the capacity to sell or destroy them.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Do you have the legal ability to sell these vehicles?

Mr Kannis: We do have the legal capacity now, but it is a very long process that means that we still have to store them for large amounts of time. We are seeking for there to be some amendment so that we can actually dispose of those vehicles in a shorter time period.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Just so I can get it clear in my head, when someone is issued a notice and they are told they will lose their car for, I think, 28 days, they then have X amount of time to come and collect it. After that period expires, should the car not just be disposed of? Even if it is disposed of by way of sending it to the wrecking yard because it has little or no value commercially, you would then mitigate the cost of storage for that vehicle. Does that power not exist in the existing legislation?

[10.40 am]

Mr Kannis: Not simply that way—and Mr Peters or Ms Cardenia might be able to explain the process—but there is quite an extensive process that we have to go through before we dispose of those vehicles. I am not sure whether Mr Peters can expand on that. Santa, are you able to expand on that process?

Ms Cardenia: There is the initial 28-day period, and then there is another period that we have to hold in storage before we can actually advertise—so then there is another 14-day period after that. You could be looking at a minimum storage of three months—between two to three months—before we can do anything with it. That is required under the current legislation, but there is a progress with legislation to be able to decrease the days so that we can dispose of after the initial 28-day period.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: This is no criticism of you, because you have to work around the existing legal framework, but that seems extraordinary. I have to say that I think that is something we need to fix urgently, because I can imagine there would be significant cases, as Mr Kannis said. Usually this would be with unlicensed drivers or people who are driving a clapped-out old vehicle, let us say, who would say, "Okay; I've lost my car now. I'll just leave it. There's no value in me going back, paying the fees and collecting it." I think that identifies an area that needs to be fixed urgently.

The CHAIR: My recollection is that this was identified many years ago as being a problem, and I thought there was supposed to be legislation or other mechanisms being produced to resolve it. Where is that up to? I agree with you, member, but it been around for a while; it is one of those ones in my dim, dark memories now of estimates hearings. I am trying to remember when it was.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I was about to say that I understand the minister is proposing to introduce legislation very shortly.

The CHAIR: Why has it taken so long? It is clearly a problem. I agree with the member; it is clearly a problem and it has been around for not just this Parliament but previous Parliaments. Why has it taken so long to get legislation to Parliament?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I am not responsible for the drafting of that legislation, but I can say that legislation to correct these issues is about to be introduced.

The CHAIR: I will make it A16, and Hon Michael Mischin can find out from the minister why and provide as supplementary information why it has taken so long to find a resolution.

[Supplementary Information No A16.]

Hon KATE DOUST: My next question is in relation to the significant issues impacting agency on page 122. It relates to the last dot point on that page, which references a greater level of community engagement. I refer to the number of forums that have been held across Western Australia with senior police attending. Are you able to provide a list of the forums that are planned for 2016–17? I appreciate that you may have to provide that on notice if you do not have that available today.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We will have to provide that on notice.

[Supplementary Information No A17.]

Hon KATE DOUST: Flowing on from that, I am wondering whether you could explain, in terms of the arrangements for the forums, how does it work? Do the police instigate the forums or is it done through the minister's office?

Dr O'Callaghan: Just to give you a bit of a background, when we started to introduce the Frontline 2020 operating models, one of the things that was clear was that we had to communicate a lot of these changes with the community, and try to explain what was going to change in the way the police force was operating. So, part of our strategy then was to have a series of forums all over Western Australia—both metropolitan and regional—to explain that. That has been done in conjunction with the minister's office. Clearly, it is desirable to have the minister along to some of those, and there are obviously scheduling arrangements we have to coordinate. I guess from my perspective, while it has been police-driven, it has always been done in conjunction with the minister's office to try to get the minister, where possible, to come along and explain questions from a government perspective. Why that is important is that there are a lot of questions that are asked at those forums that I, as the CEO, cannot really respond to; they are government-type questions requiring government-type answers.

Hon KATE DOUST: In terms of the location of the forums, do the police determine the location or does the minister's office?

Dr O'Callaghan: Again, this is done in conjunction with the minister's office, so we have regular discussions and suggestions are made as to where we might do those. We obviously have a priority list of places where we want to go. Although, I have to say that from a police perspective the order does not really matter to us; we are happy to go in all directions and speak to anybody, but it is always done in conjunction with the minister's office.

Hon KATE DOUST: In terms of any marketing and promotion of these forums, is the marketing or promotion paid for by the relevant local member of Parliament or does the minister's office or the police pay for any marketing or promotion of the forums to the local community?

Dr O'Callaghan: From our perspective, the only marketing that has really been done has been through local community newspapers and Facebook—those sorts of things. We have not really invested any significant amounts of money in marketing.

Hon KATE DOUST: Who pays for those adverts in the local community newspapers?

Dr O'Callaghan: As far as I am aware, it is done as community newspaper support for what we are trying to do. I would have to take on notice whether our media area has actually paid for anything, because I do not want to say we have not paid for anything —

Hon KATE DOUST: If you could find out, I would appreciate knowing that.

Dr O'Callaghan: Yes. Our media section certainly has a budget for marketing. If we have used some of that budget, we can provide it on notice.

[Supplementary Information No A18.]

Hon KATE DOUST: My final question in relation to this matter around forums is: who is actually responsible for ensuring that local representatives, including members of Parliament and local councillors, are invited?

Dr O'Callaghan: I do not know whether there is a protocol in place for that. From my perspective, I think we have been relying on the advertising to make sure people know what is going on, but I do not actually have the details of protocols. Again, if there are protocols for that that our media section are involved in, we can provide that by way of supplementary.

[Supplementary Information No A19.]

Hon KATE DOUST: Given that you have already said that from time to time it is good to have the minister available at these forums, I understand that a forum was recently held in Ellenbrook on around about 5 May in the electorate of West Swan; however, the local member of Parliament was not invited. Are you able to explain to us why that member of Parliament would not have been invited to a police forum in their own electorate?

Dr O'Callaghan: I cannot give you that—I am just trying to think: that same question came up in estimates in the other house and was answered by the minister. I suggest we refer to that answer to identify why that occurred; I cannot remember what her answer to that was now.

The CHAIR: So, whose job is it? I am still unclear. You do not, as the police, see it as your role to ensure that local members are invited to forums when you hold them in their electorate?

Dr O'Callaghan: What I am saying is that I will need to check with our media and public affairs area to see what their process is when they are tasked with organising a community forum. I will provide that by supplementary.

The CHAIR: I think we have already taken that as supplementary.

What are the rules round displaying political material at those forums, either in the hall or around the entrances to the hall? Is that allowed or would you ask that it be removed if there were banners and the like as people are coming into the hall at the entrance of it or in the hall itself where it is clearly of a political nature and includes party political names on it? What are the rules about that?

Dr O'Callaghan: Look, I do not think there are any hard and fast rules about those sorts of things, and it is a bit of a grey area because there is not any definitive policy about that. From my perspective, the purpose of those community forums is for WA Police to articulate what is going on in policing and answer questions about policing. It is not to promote any sort of political policy or political direction. I think from my perspective it is useful to have the Minister for Police there at the time—whoever that happens to be—but certainly I do not see them as an opportunity to use them as a political leverage. I would be concerned if there was lots of signage there, but I accept that sometimes there will be a photograph of a local member or something at those forums and I can live with that.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Can I just ask, on this issue, a related question?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: There has been media publicity recently about members of the armed forces using photographs of them when they were in the armed forces for electioneering material. Is there a protocol in relation to former officers of the police force and how they can use photographs that may exist of them when they were in the force?

[10.50 am]

Dr O'Callaghan: No, there is not.

Hon HELEN MORTON: If, for example, a servicing police officer were to become a candidate in an election—I call yourself commissioner; and if it were you for example; I know it is not but if it were you —

The CHAIR: Something you want to let us know Hon Helen Morton?

Hon HELEN MORTON: Perhaps I do not know.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Public servants would have to, as I recall, resign from the public service or take leave, so they would be off duty at the time.

Hon HELEN MORTON: I do understand that. That is not the point I was making. The point I was making is: if that person had resigned—obviously if they were unsuccessful, they would go back into the police force—in the time they were campaigning to be a member of Parliament and were able to have pictures of themselves in police uniform, would that be acceptable? Is there a policy against it?

Dr O'Callaghan: I think, again, there is no policy against it. There is no specific policy which once someone has resigned from the Police Service for whatever purpose, if they use photographs publicly, there is no policy in place for me to prevent that. In the circumstances that you are mentioning, though, if someone were to resign for the purposes of an election and were to use the police uniform as part of that, we might say to them, “Look, you need to make sure you behave professionally because, if you want to re-engage, that might have consequences for your re-engagement. I could certainly do that but I do not have any legitimate power to prevent people displaying photographs of themselves in uniform for other purposes once they are not members of the police force. If they are members of the police force, I have a different set of protocols which I can apply.

I will just answer the question about the military. Policing by its nature means that we are out in the community. We are often meeting members of Parliament; we are often working with local people, and photographs get taken of police officers with members of Parliament. I do not have a problem with that. We are different from the military. The military do not generally do it; we are doing it all the time. Because you are interested in what we are doing you are visiting police stations and you are involved in some of the community programs we are running, it is inevitable that police officers will get photographed with members of Parliament. I do have a problem with that. Then it is inevitable that sometimes those photographs appear in a community newspaper. I do not have a problem with that. It is not the same as the military but we do need to be mindful of the fact that those things can have an impact at election time. If they are serving members, we can warn them of the impact of that. If they are not, we do not have any real legitimate way of limiting that.

The CHAIR: I am unclear about that. I think that once issues like this have been raised, we need to be clear. If a serving officer did resign and run for political office, you were saying that if they wanted to be re-engaged, you would require them to act professionally. Does that mean not use photos or just make sure they are not using the photos in a particular way? What do you mean by unprofessional?

Dr O'Callaghan: Unprofessional means within the meaning of the police regulations anything which I consider to be unprofessional. It is really a judgement call. If I was concerned about the way images had been used or I was concerned about the way any officer who had left the police

force who wants to come back as acted, I can take that into consideration. That is not to say you would stop them re-engaging, but we might consider it.

The CHAIR: Using the Andrew Hastie example, a picture of them in their previous role, you are not going to —

Dr O’Callaghan: I would not lose any sleep over it.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I find your answer refreshing and a much more sensible approach than has been shown by other people, in particular the Defence Force.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would have thought there would be elements of degree in it as well. If you are showing campaign posters of someone in uniform as a matter of course rather than in a context of a historical look at a person’s career, that might look as though you are campaigning in uniform.

The CHAIR: I think the term “unprofessional” clearly has a degree of vagary about it. If someone is presenting themselves as a police officer on a permanent basis almost, I understand the point you are making.

Hon KATE DOUST: I want to talk about workers’ compensation. We know that has been an issue that has been around for many decades. It is a very complicated issue for police officers given the nature of the work. I know that whoever has been in government has been trying to deal with this. I have searched through the budget papers for police and have not found any reference to worker’s compensation or arrangements for medically retired officers. I am trying to link this to a line item so we can have the discussion. I looked at current liabilities on page 130. I refer to an article last year in the *Melville Times* where there is some reference to comments made by some members who are medically retired officers. This was in October last year. A comment from the police minister, Liza Harvey, saying that WA Police are looking into a compensation scheme; WA Police are looking at issues around the establishment of a comprehensive workers’ compensation scheme. Given those comments were made last year—I am pretty sure the minister has made other comments around this matter—I find it quite surprising that there is no reference at all in this budget paper to any work being done, any work in progress, any reference in “Significant Issues” to give an indication to back up the words of the minister that any preparation for legislation has commenced. My question is: what work has actually happened in relation to developing a comprehensive workers’ compensation arrangement for police officers and what discussions have occurred between the commissioner and the minister about the timing of the introduction of legislation to deal with this matter?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I will ask Mr Kannis to address this.

Hon KATE DOUST: If I have missed this reference, please point me to the right space.

Mr Kannis: To clarify where workers’ compensation arrangements for police officers would be dealt with, in the past we have dealt with it in “Significant Issues” as part of our reform program. Our budget papers do not say it, but there is still a project that is proceeding within our reform program called the workforce optimisation program, which also deals with compensation arrangements or medical benefits for police officers. Certainly, it is on our radar and it is a piece of work that is getting a fair bit of attention at the moment. At the moment we are at the point where we have done significant research into what is the case in other jurisdictions. We are liaising with the union and we have actually undertaken to seek advice from the union as to what they would like in a workers’ compensation scheme. We have received that and given that information has been received, we are doing some research, such as the framework, the legislation that would need to change and the cost of any program going forward. The simple introduction of workers’ compensation for police officers is not as simple as it sounds.

Hon KATE DOUST: I appreciate that given the nature of the work.

Mr Kannis: There are various expectations. Going in with that identifies how that relates to current conditions and other aspects. The answer to your question is: we are doing in-depth research at the moment into the potential options that we have, what legislative impacts there are and what financial impacts there are at the moment.

Hon KATE DOUST: What is the anticipated time frame for finalising that research and bringing a piece of legislation into the Parliament?

Mr Kannis: The decision on when legislation is brought to the Parliament would be the decision of the minister, so I cannot answer that for you. That would be something the minister would need to answer.

Hon KATE DOUST: When do you expect to finish the research component?

Mr Kannis: We believe that by the end of this calendar year we will have research completed.

Hon KATE DOUST: Given that, there will be no changes during the life of this Parliament to provide that degree of support to police officers in the form of workers' compensation arrangement. Is that what you are saying?

Mr Kannis: No; I cannot say that because I do not determine that. That would need to be asked directly of the minister, in my view.

Hon KATE DOUST: Minister, can you give an indication if the government is able to introduce a bill before the end of this parliamentary term?

[11.00 am]

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: No, I cannot. I do not have the management of that particular portfolio and I am not able to say just how mature the minister's deliberations on the matter are. Of course there will also be practical considerations. We are going into the second half of the parliamentary year, and it is a question of getting the legislation drafted, with appropriate consultation, to a level where it is suitable for introduction. Even if a decision were to be made today, as has been indicated, there is still further work, and presumably considerable consultation, that needs to take place not only with the police but with the authorities that will be charged with administering such a scheme and also with the Police Union of Workers. So I think there is a way to go yet. As to whether the minister has hopes of introducing something before the end of the year, that is a matter for her. There is also a question, of course, as to whether it would be able to be passed before the end of the year.

The CHAIR: Member, did you want the minister to take on notice the question about when the legislation will be introduced and whether it will be before the end of this year?

Hon KATE DOUST: Yes, please.

[*Supplementary Information No A20.*]

Hon KATE DOUST: Are you able to provide us with some data about the number of serving police officers who are currently not working because of work-related injuries?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I expect that would be available, but that would have to be dealt with by way of supplementary information.

[*Supplementary Information No A21.*]

Hon KATE DOUST: I refer to the first dot point on page 122 under "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency". I refer also to the commissioner's call for mandatory sentencing for individuals who assault school staff. We have had a bit of media around that matter in the last week. Can the commissioner outline any instances where a staff member has been assaulted and the offender could have received jail time if mandatory sentencing testing was in place but did not under the current laws?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I understand that would have to be taken on notice as well.

[Supplementary Information No A22.]

The CHAIR: Hon Liz Behjat, I notice the time. I do not know how many questions you have. If you have a couple of quick ones, we can do it now, or we can have a short break and then I will come back to you straight after the break. Which would you prefer?

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: We will have a break.

Proceedings suspended from 11.02 to 11.15 am

The CHAIR: If everyone is ready to roll, we will get underway and I will give the call to Hon Liz Behjat.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: I have some questions that I would like to ask the commissioner through you, minister, in relation to the custodial facilities program. Before I get to that, going back to that discussion we had earlier on the confiscated vehicles, I offer my two cents' worth, for what it is worth, commissioner, and I have mentioned this to the minister so if it happens, you can say the idea came from me. With a lot of those confiscated vehicles, the ones that I think are in better shape and almost roadworthy, we should perhaps be looking at somehow once they have finished their confiscation period, sending them off to whoever it might be—the Motor Trade Association of Western Australia or some of these colleges where people are learning mechanics. Get the cars fixed up and then perhaps we could provide those fixed up cars to some of the women's refuges around the state and they could be used as pool cars for people who need to take kids to medical appointments and school and things like that. There is an idea from Behjat from north metro.

The CHAIR: We do charge for adverts, you know, member! Good question.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: We have been having a few discussions about that—the uses that vehicles could be put to, including perhaps donating them to men's sheds or other organisations. It all depends on the quality of the vehicle, whether it is roadworthy and things of that nature as to the use that they could be put to. We will certainly take it on board.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: I think it would be a much valued scheme if we could get something like that underway.

I refer to the custodial facilities program. I notice from the budget papers that from 2012–15 under “Completed works”, there was an amount of \$9.357 million; under “Works in progress” for 2015–18, the amount is \$6.8 million; and under “New works” for 2018–21, the amount is \$7.92 million. I am assuming that that would be custodial facilities programs upgrades and new works throughout the state.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Which page are we looking at?

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: If you start on page 126 to 127, so under “Works in progress” is the line item “Upgrades”, then we have custodial facilities and then in “Completed works” and also in “New works”, there are three mentions of it. There is a total of \$24 million between 2012 and 2021 that is either being spent or slated to be spent on custodial facilities programs. First of all, could you confirm that statewide and perhaps what that might be referring to?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I will ask Mr Kannis to address that.

Mr Kannis: Yes, I can confirm that statewide program.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: Do you have—you will probably have to take this on notice—the actual schedule of those works, the ones that have been completed, works in progress and future or new works?

Mr Kannis: I do not have a list of those that have been completed but I do have a schedule of those that are underway in 2015–16 so I do have some amounts for 2015–16.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: Can you table that schedule or just go through it?

Mr Kannis: It is best if I read those to you, if that suits.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: That is fine.

Mr Kannis: These are amounts to be spent in 2015–16: Kalbarri Police Station, \$505 000; Nannup Police Station, \$405 000; Northampton Police Station, \$484 300; Pemberton Police Station, \$548 000; west metro, which includes Mirrabooka Police Station, \$400 000; Augusta Police Station, \$500 000; Margaret River Police Station, \$645 000; Three Springs Police Station, \$26 000; Exmouth Police Station, \$25 000; Cranbrook Police Station, \$25 000; Pingelly Police Station, \$25 000; Kondinin Police Station, \$25 000; Kununurra Police Station, \$373 000; Kalbarri Police Station, \$300 000; and Three Springs Police Station, \$24 754. On top of that, there are miscellaneous and project management costs that go across the program.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: The money for the facilities at Perth watch house, would that have come under the custodial facilities program or was it just factored into the build when the whole complex was being built?

Mr Kannis: Any works would have been part of the initial construction of the new building at Perth watch house. To my understanding, no additional works have been done since the building was constructed.

[11.20 am]

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: Talking specifically about the Perth watch house, is that fully manned and fully resourced now?

Mr Kannis: My understanding is that it is. I am not sure whether Mr Brown or Mr Dreiberger could expand on that.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: It is not a catch question, but there is something specific that I have in mind that I would like you to address. When we look at the Magistrates Court located within the complex, my understanding is that at the times when the Magistrates Court is operating on the weekends, the Perth watch house has to close down insofar as it is not able to accept new people into it and we have to divert people to the police station, although I know that is in the same location. I have seen the facilities at the watch house and they are pretty amazing, but it is not properly resourced to allow the Magistrates Court and the watch house to be working together on the weekends.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Perhaps the commissioner can address that.

The CHAIR: I hope that was on a tour that you saw the watch house, member!

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: I can say, as the chairman of the public administration committee undergoing a recent inquiry into persons in custody, yes!

The CHAIR: Good!

Dr O'Callaghan: I can answer that. It is not the case that the Perth watch house closes down and will not accept prisoners. What does happen on a weekend when there is a weekend court is that the police auxiliary officers at the watch house who are there for custodial services, as you quite rightly point out, have the additional function of taking prisoners from the watch house up to the court and back again. It is something that we have been working with the Department of Corrective Services on, because we believe that could probably be more effectively done by Serco as part of their custodial services contract. We are very supportive of that happening, but we are working through that with the Department of Corrective Services.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: Serco or whoever might get the custodial services contract.

Dr O’Callaghan: Whoever does it, yes. It is a court security function that can be done by other than police officers or PAOs. From our perspective, it is a very expensive service for us to provide using police officers who could be used in other ways.

Hon LIZ BEHJAT: Presumably, that would be the case—if we had the Magistrates Court operating seven days a week, which would be the ideal, from my point of view, from what I have seen there, because it is much less handling than getting the trucks in to take them down to central courts to be dealt with; they should be dealt with at the Magistrates Court. But you would run into that same problem then, presumably, if that was seven days a week; you would have to have that done by someone other than your auxiliary officers. Is that right?

Dr O’Callaghan: Yes, that is correct. We have to put it in the context of the fact that if you are going to expand the existing services that a third party provides, there is going to be an additional cost to do that, obviously, to government.

Hon KATE DOUST: I just want to look at page 121, “Spending Changes”, and “Overtime for Police Officers Redeployed to the Frontline”. I know that Honourable Rick Mazza has already made some reference to overtime. On that line item, I note that there is no funding for overtime for the coming financial year. Why is that the case?

Mr Kannis: The reason for that is that we had the capacity to absorb the cost in 2015–16 and 2016–17, but we do not have the capacity to absorb those costs from 2017–18 onwards.

Hon KATE DOUST: How do you manage overtime now if there is nothing listed there? What happens if there is an investigation, that group are due to finish and another team are due to start their shift if there is no overtime there? How are you managing that?

Mr Kannis: We manage it on a needs basis. If that overtime is required for a case, it will be incurred. But the costs are generally not so major that they break the budget. They are things that we manage within our bottom line in those circumstances. Where there is a case, where someone needs to continue to investigate an incident, they will do so and be paid overtime. We do not have a rule that says, “No, you can’t continue that case.”

Hon KATE DOUST: If there is a case for overtime and it is approved—I would imagine it has to be approved; is that right?

Mr Kannis: The commissioner might be able to tell me that.

Dr O’Callaghan: Most overtime is approved at local level, so if you have a detective or a police officer on the street needing to incur overtime, the sergeant would approve that; it does not have to go any further than that. That is the normal process.

Hon KATE DOUST: If it is approved, is it paid or is it given as time off in lieu?

Dr O’Callaghan: Generally it is paid, but officers can opt—and it is their option, not ours—to take time off in lieu if they want to. So they can make that choice, but it is their choice; it is not something that the agency can force on the individual.

Hon KATE DOUST: In that situation where you have got one shift finishing and they may be in the midst of conducting an investigation into a serious issue, and you have got the new shift starting and no overtime has been approved, does that cause any difficulty in terms of that particular investigation, in terms of management of evidence, the processes they are going through or any of those sorts of problems, or is it treated as being seamless?

Dr O’Callaghan: If it is an investigation into a more serious incident crime, then generally the team that has the investigation will continue with the investigation on continuous duty overtime if it is going to take a while. There are many, many cases where there are arrests made for minor issues—maybe disorderly conduct or something much more minor than that—that we now insist get

handed over to the incoming shift to avoid the incurrence of overtime. The continuity of evidence in minor cases is not so significant, obviously, as in more serious criminal investigations.

Hon KATE DOUST: In terms of overtime payments, is that data recorded at a local station level or is it also listed at a central point?

Dr O'Callaghan: It would be available at both levels.

Hon KATE DOUST: Are we able to get a list of the amount of overtime that was paid over the last financial year broken down into station by station?

Dr O'Callaghan: I am looking at the chief finance officer for that information.

Hon KATE DOUST: I am sure you are!

Mr Kannis: I think we can go down to the station level, but the issue is whether we have traditionally released that level of information, because often we do not go down to police station level for resources. That is the only aspect that I would raise in that regard. We can practically do it, but it is often not released for operational reasons.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Perhaps we can leave it on the basis that we will get the information together. If there is an objection on the basis of operational sensitivity, then that can be alerted and we can explore it and have a discussion then. If there is a particular issue that you are seeking to explore, there may be other ways of providing the relevant data to satisfy you.

[*Supplementary Information A23.*]

Hon KATE DOUST: I have another question, again, page 122, "Spending Changes", and this relates to the Westralia Square accommodation. I actually have a series of questions, and I appreciate that some of the information I might have to get back on notice. My first question is: have Western Australia Police taken over the existing Western Australian government lease or does the leaseholder remain the same and the lease payments just come from the WA Police budget?

[11.30 am]

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I will ask Mr Kannis to address the issue.

Mr Kannis: The lessee in this case remains the minister for works. Under the Public Works Act, the minister for works remains as the lessee, but we are taking over space that is being vacated at this very point by the Department of the Attorney General.

Hon KATE DOUST: Flowing on from that: what is the annual rent and outgoings, what other costs are associated with the move and are we able to get a breakdown of those costs?

Mr Kannis: In the expenditure change that you can see here, we are incurring an extra \$7.6 million in 2016–17. That is not the total rent; that is the additional rent that we are paying because the tenants that are going into that building have vacated or are vacating other premises. What is represented here is the net cost to WA Police. I do not have the total cost of those leases and we can easily get that on notice, if you want the total cost.

[*Supplementary Information No A24.*]

Hon KATE DOUST: The move to this location was reported as being scheduled for towards the end of this year. Is that move still on track and do you have a firm date for the move; and, if so, when?

Mr Kannis: I do have some dates for you. Our business information systems, which is our business technology area—our IT area—are vacating 441 Murray Street and they are going into the building in October 2016. Our workforce area, our human resources, is going in in November 2016 and they are coming from leased premises in Adelaide Terrace. Our office of information management, which consists of our records and other information aspects such as freedom of information and other things, are going in in November 2016. Given that the Department of the Attorney General are

relocating in accordance with the schedule, I see no reason for these dates not to be met based on my current information.

Hon KATE DOUST: Thanks. I just want to know: what is going to be the situation with parking? I understand that there was some media around parking charges doubling in Westralia Square. Will WA Police be paying for parking; and, if so, how much per year?

Mr Kannis: That would be included in these numbers that you are referring to, if there are any costs.

Hon KATE DOUST: I will ask a couple of other questions because you might also have that detail included there as well. The first one is around parking: Will it be paid for? Are parking spaces included in the lease and how many spaces? Is there are more, less or about the same number of spaces available for WA Police as there is at the Adelaide Terrace building? Will officers using those spaces be charged just the fringe benefits tax or commercial rates?

Mr Kannis: There is a number of those aspects that we would need to take on notice, but we will give you a breakdown of the full rental costs in Westralia Square, in accordance with the other supplementary information, which will break down car parking costs as well. The car parking policy for our staff will not change in this building compared with where they previously occupied. We would expect the same number of car bays to go from those leased premises. Where you refer to fringe benefits tax and the car parking levy, that only applies in police headquarters building. As you would appreciate, the bays that we have on site are free to us; however, in us providing that benefit, we incur a fringe benefits tax cost and a parking levy cost and we pass that on to the occupiers of those bays who put their private vehicles in them. That is the benefit that they are getting outside of normal business. We do not normally charge, I believe, for those bays in the leased buildings because I believe that they are generally for government vehicles only; that is my understanding.

The CHAIR: You are taking some information about the parking costs on notice.

[Supplementary Information No A25.]

The CHAIR: You said that the policy is not changing, but is it possible that the cost of parking at Westralia Square per bay is more expensive than where they currently are? So, the cost to the individual may go up, even though the policy has not changed; because of the movement, they will end up paying more for their parking on a weekly basis than they are at their current location.

Mr Kannis: My understanding is that those additional costs are incurred by police in this allocation given to us. I will check it. I do not believe any private vehicles will be parking in Westralia Square.

The CHAIR: In which case it will not make any difference at all. That is all A25.

Hon KATE DOUST: Just flowing on from that, what effect, if any, will it have on the arrangements for the WA Police lease if ICWA is successful in selling the building?

Mr Kannis: It should have no effect whatsoever because the lease will just transfer to the new owner.

Hon KATE DOUST: It was also reported that the move was for more than 700 police staff. Is that number still what is planned; and, if not, how many staff will actually move?

Mr Kannis: The number of staff going in was around 700 FTE. We are occupying seven full floors and approximately two-thirds of another floor, so we are going to be occupying 14 086 square metres.

Hon KATE DOUST: How many police staff will be left in the Hay Street building after the move of the other staff to Westralia Square?

Mr Kannis: When you say "Hay Street", do you mean police headquarters?

Hon KATE DOUST: Police headquarters, yes.

Mr Kannis: I will have to take that on notice. I do not have the detail of how many police staff are in headquarters.

[Supplementary Information No A26.]

Hon KATE DOUST: It was also reported that WA Police were considering if the Hay Street building, the police headquarters, would be put up for sale. Has any decision been made on that; and, if so, what was the decision?

Mr Kannis: There has been no decision made. While government has put it on the list of properties that could be disposed of, it is in a list of asset sales —

Hon KATE DOUST: Does that include the curved building on the corner, the main building?

Mr Kannis: The government, to our understanding, has not made a decision about our ongoing occupancy of the curved building, but we are working on the basis that we will remain in the curved building for the foreseeable future. The buildings on Hay Street—the old police station and court et cetera—there is the capacity, if government chooses, to excise that from the site, so that the curved building and some car parking is available and the rest could be sold. That is an option that government has, but my understanding is that government has not made a decision on whether they are going to sell the whole site or a portion of the site.

Hon KATE DOUST: If they did decide to sell the whole site, the staff that remained in the Hay Street site, in the curved building, if you like, where would they be relocated to?

Mr Kannis: That is to be decided. There is an option, even if the site was sold, for us to remain in the building.

Hon KATE DOUST: Thank you.

The CHAIR: I had one quick question. Is the proposal to move the police operations centre to Murdoch now dropped or is that still under consideration, or does this all replace that?

Mr Kannis: My understanding is—I am not sure if the minister could add—it is not under active consideration at this point in time to go to Murdoch.

The CHAIR: Are you able to add? My recollection was it was an election commitment that you would move the police headquarters to Murdoch, so that commitment has now been dropped.

Mr Kannis: I cannot categorically say it has been dropped, but it is not being pursued at the moment by us.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I do not know the answer.

The CHAIR: Maybe you could take that on notice.

[Supplementary Information No A27.]

The CHAIR: It is not actively being pursued. That is interesting terminology. Thank you for that.

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: Turning to budget paper No 2, page 124, under “Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators” is “Outcome: Contribute to community safety and security”. In what way is the community surveyed when it comes to the percentage of community who agree or strongly agree that they have confidence in police?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Sorry, what was —

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: How was the community surveyed?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The survey—how that figure was ascertained?

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: Yes.

[11.40 am]

Mr Kannis: The indicator for customer satisfaction is sourced from the national survey of community satisfaction with policing, which is conducted by the Social Research Centre on behalf of all Australian policing jurisdictions. The sample size for Western Australia over the last four quarters was 11 208 people who were actually sampled, so it is a national survey done consistently across all jurisdictions and there is a similar sample size, so that is how those results are obtained.

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: Can I just ask why the minister would budget for less satisfaction in 2015–16 than in 2014–15?

Mr Kannis: Are you talking about the percentage of the community who agreed or strongly agreed that they had confidence?

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: That is correct.

Mr Kannis: The actual result of 87.7 per cent is in the budget, so we targeted on 85 per cent. It was based on previous history, generally. That one year was above, but it is based over a longer period of time so we can actually identify something that we can aspire to, but something that is also achievable.

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: Okay, thank you.

Hon HELEN MORTON: I have three questions. One is to do with page 121 and the line item “Proceeds of Crime—Confiscation Proceeds Account”, under the heading “Spending Changes”. It is about the fourth line from the bottom. It appears that in 2015–16 that account held \$1.5 million, but the budget estimate for 2016–17 is two-thirds reduced. Could you indicate why that would be so?

Mr Kannis: The basis for that ceasing is because the life of the current memorandum of understanding that exists between the Minister for Police and the Attorney General only goes for that period. There will be another one when another one is signed, and extends beyond, it will be extended, so —

Hon HELEN MORTON: Do you know whether the Attorney General is going to agree to that?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: When I see the submission and I am able to get advice on it, then I will be able to make a decision, but I expect that there will be some memorandum of understanding entered into, as there has been in the past.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Thank you. It is likely that that figure in 2016–17 will increase.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It depends. The proceeds from confiscation of assets has tended to be downwards over the last several years for a variety of reasons. There are less properties able to be seized, for example, because people are working from mobile meth labs and things of that nature, rather than from premises that are amenable to seizure. It is a fluctuating figure, but the trend seems to be going downwards and the amount of money that is available. That is my understanding, unless the commissioner has a different take on it. Some of the proceeds are left to operation of the proceeds of crime unit at the DPP as well as to police operations dealing with organised crime and with the pursuit of criminal activity.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Okay. My second question at this stage is around the media. I notice that in the questions that were asked and answered prior to the hearings, Police was one of the very few agencies, if not the only agency, that indicated that it had no additional media monitoring services that you are funding, that you are not getting any additional media contact from anywhere other than media monitoring coming from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, but I would have to say that the agency is one of the most effective in terms of media work, so I am rather interested in whether you have a very substantial in-house media team and, if so, what is the size of it?

Mr Kannis: We do have a material media and communications area. I am happy to take on notice for you the actual staffing in that and the budget for it, but —

Hon HELEN MORTON: Could you indicate whether that is like a centralised media team and whether branches or districts have additional media and PR people in that response, if you could indicate that?

Mr Kannis: It is generally centralised; it is a centralised function, but there are contacts in the business, but not specific media roles. It is a centralised function.

The CHAIR: Except for the Kensington Cop Twitter account!

Mr Kannis: Yes!

The CHAIR: Are you going to provide some information on notice for that?

Mr Kannis: Yes.

[Supplementary Information No A28.]

Hon HELEN MORTON: Just the FTE count for the media, because it is really impressive what he has achieved in the police agency. My final question is around the Armadale Police Station again. I understand that that police station is not open 24 hours a day, yet I have heard in recent times in a federal campaign a suggestion—I cannot remember now whether it was from one of the candidates or one of the federal leaders—that they would ensure that the police station was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I understand the difference about having police on the road versus having them behind a desk in a police station, but my real question is about the ability for anybody outside the police commissioner to determine whether a police station is manned 24 hours a day or otherwise.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Perhaps the commissioner can deal with that and outline the circumstances or who makes those sorts of decisions as to operating times and the criteria on which those decisions are made.

Dr O'Callaghan: I think you are correct that the police commissioner, under the Police Act, has responsibility for the management of police resources in Western Australia. The police commissioner is not a public servant for exactly that reason, so stands independent of any particular member of government, so it is misleading for a member who is seeking election at a federal level to say that they can influence the opening of the Armadale Police Station front counter; they cannot, and neither can a state member of Parliament influence that. It is entirely the bailiwick of the police commissioner as to whether a police station stays open 24 hours or does not, and the front counter, so anything contrary to that, anyone promising that, is actually misleading.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Thank you.

The CHAIR: On that point, I recall you indicating as police commissioner that you were closing a number of police stations and then after discussions with an incoming police minister you reopened them, did you not, or kept some of them open?

Dr O'Callaghan: That is not entirely true. When we closed those police stations—there was about six or seven of them in regional Western Australia, quite small ones—we did talk to the local community and local government and said that after 12 months, we would revisit them and talk to them about what the impact had been on their town. That is exactly what we did, and I actually attended some of those locations—not necessarily with the police minister, but with local members—and given the feedback from the community, not the ministers or the members of Parliament as such, I thought it was necessary to reverse those decisions, so that was my decision.

The CHAIR: So the claims by the then opposition member that they were going to get those police stations reopened was misleading at that point because it was your decision and you did it; it was a coincidence.

Dr O’Callaghan: They are always my decisions as police commissioner, yes, but that is not to say I will not take advice.

The CHAIR: But it is not uncommon for people to make those claims.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Following up on that, is there any federal funding that comes to police that can influence any decisions? I know in health the amount of federal money that comes to health and mental health, does the same apply to police? Is there federal money that comes to policing that you have to be accountable to a federal police minister or federal somebody for?

Dr O’Callaghan: There are some arrangements with the federal government for some activities in Western Australia to be funded by the federal government or part-funded. That is the same across most states of Australia and a lot of that is to do with, for argument’s sake, activity around organised crime, because organised crime crosses all the borders of Australia. Naturally, if we are expending commonwealth funds, there is some sort of reporting process to find out how those funds are expended, but again, it is not an instruction from the federal government; it is done by agreement and a memorandum of understanding.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It would not be tied, I would not have thought, to opening or shutting police stations or things of that nature, which are solely operational matters that depend on the requirements of the Western Australian community, and police stations are funded by the state government on behalf of the taxpayer.

Hon HELEN MORTON: Thanks.

Hon RICK MAZZA: I refer to page 126 and the first dot point under “Asset Investment Program”, which refers to the regional radio network replacement program from analogue to digital. I am just wondering when that will be fully rolled out and whether, while it is being rolled out, as the digital system is being put in place, it will still interact with the analogue system until it is fully implemented?

[11.50 am]

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Mr Kannis?

Mr Kannis: In relation to the first question, I can say that it is expected to be completely rolled out by March 2018. Can you repeat your second question, sorry?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: The second question was: as you roll it out—obviously it is not going to happen in one day—as you change over from analogue to digital, will the analogue system work with the new digital system until such time as you have fully rolled it out?

Mr Kannis: The program is designed so that they can work together, so there will be dual analogue and digital systems operating together. It is going to be required also for the ongoing—this program only goes to the northern boundary of the Pilbara region, so there will need to be an analogue system still operating to allow operations between the Kimberley and the Pilbara region. So, yes, the analogue system will still be operating.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Okay; thank you for that. Under the works in progress you talk about your fleet and equipment replacement program from 2015 to 2018. I just wondered if you can provide some detail of what fleet and equipment purchases have actually been made as part of that program today.

Mr Kannis: Yes, I believe I can. Would you like both 2015–16 and 2016–17?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Yes, please.

Mr Kannis: I can read those to you again. Work on the vessel *Delphinus*, we spent \$300 000 in 2015–16; a minor vessel, \$481 000—it has a code here, but it will not mean anything; I will just clarify that—minor vessels engine replacements, \$30 000; engine overhauls, \$550 000; work on the Pilatus, our aircraft, \$65 000. I will just clarify that. We have a Pilatus in the Pilbara, which we are

spending \$65 000 on, and we also have a Pilatus aircraft in Jandakot, which we are spending \$665 000 on. That is maintenance and refit of engines. We are completing the delivery of a new Pilatus for \$898 000, so that is a purchase that we have undertaken. Then we have a category called—I will not go into all these details, unless you need them—front-line equipment replacement for \$2.675 million. Then we have non-operational inventory, which is \$400 000. We have a number of other miscellaneous projects, being \$1.23 million; and vehicle replacements, \$2.9 million. That comes to a total of \$10.194 million in 2015–16. Is that clear?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Yes, that is good. Thank you.

The CHAIR: Just before I give the call to Hon Alanna Clohesy, I will welcome, I assume it is, the West Balcatta Primary School to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations hearings this afternoon. I hope you enjoy your visit to Parliament House.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I refer to the asset investment program on page 126 of the budget papers. What is the expected commencement and completion date and scope of works planned for the Maylands police complex?

Mr Kannis: Can I clarify which item you are referring to on that page?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: The third dot point under asset investment program, page 126, “Police Facilities Major Refurbishment and Upgrade Program”, which states that works are planned at the Maylands police complex.

Mr Kannis: I have information on the total expenditure for all the projects that are going to happen over the period of 2016–17. In terms of specific to the Maylands police complex, can we take that on notice, please? I have the full list of all the facilities, but I do not have those broken down into dates, so if I can take that on notice, that would be helpful.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Thank you. So that is the commencement, completion and scope of works for each of the works planned.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: For each of those mentioned in that dot point, or just for Maylands?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: May as well. I am particularly interested in Maylands and Midland, obviously, because they are in the East Metropolitan Region, thank you.

[Supplementary Information No A29.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Also in the East Metropolitan Region is the Ballajura police station. When is the expected completion date for that?

Mr Kannis: That is due to be completed by December 2016, and occupied.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: What works remain to be completed in that?

Mr Kannis: It is in the middle of construction, so my understanding is that it is at the point of roof and walls, et cetera, but in terms of the specific point, I cannot tell you exactly where it is at in terms of whether it is at lock-up stage at this point in time, but we are extremely confident that Ballajura, Mundijong and Cockburn will all be completed by the end of this calendar year, and occupied, at the latest, during January 2017.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Thank you. Still within the asset investment program, how many police stations—this should be available on your asset register—are older than 20 years?

Mr Kannis: We would need to take that on notice for you.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: And the locations of those, thank you.

[Supplementary Information No A30.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Can I go to spending pages on page 122, which is a continuation from page 121, where the spending changes start. What was the adjustment of \$2 783 000 to the road trauma trust account, in the table at the top of page 122?

Mr Kannis: I can clarify that what happens is that the road trauma trust account, which is administered by the Road Safety Commission, makes only annual determinations of funds to be spent or allocated to agencies. There was an assumption in our previous forward estimates about funding that would be provided to us. As the Road Safety Commission has gone through its decision-making process, it turns out that we are going to be allocated \$2 783 000 less than we had previously assumed. That was only our assumption based on our bids and other things.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: The next line down is the enhanced automated traffic enforcement strategy. Why is there an approximately \$2 million difference between the budget estimate for 2016–17 and 2017–18, and then why is there a significant drop in the forward estimates?

Mr Kannis: I can clarify that the expansion of the automated traffic enforcement strategy has two components. It has an operating component and a capital component. The amount that is in this table is just the operating component, and the funds that are allocated here will allow, over the next two years, the installation of 26 extra cameras.

[12 noon]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: That is the capital component.

Mr Kannis: No. The table you are referring to is the operating. The reason this is operating is for an accounting reason, which I am not sure of.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I am happy to hear that!

Mr Kannis: The situation is we buy cameras and those come out of our capital fund—\$2.8 million in capital. The cost of buying the cameras and all the equipment that goes with it—the stuff that is going to go on our balance sheet is \$2.8 million. The amounts in this table are the cost of putting them in—for example, digging the holes and putting the concrete in. There is no asset created out of that.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: So that is why it is not treated —

Mr Kannis: That is right.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Understood; thank you.

The speed camera replacement program—given your explanation, I imagine it is the same explanation.

Mr Kannis: It is the same explanation, yes.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: On the rollout of the speed camera replacement program, are we able to get a list of where the new locations are going to be and expected installation?

Mr Kannis: Yes, we will be able to take that on notice, but will also probably need to get advice as to what information can be released. I believe that is within the responsibility of the Road Safety Commission to determine where the cameras are going to go.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I am sure the chair has something to say about that. He usually says just provide us the information that you can and within the required time frame.

Mr Kannis: We will have to obtain that from the Road Safety Commission.

[*Supplementary Information No A31.*]

The CHAIR: Have you got many more questions, member?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I do, but I am happy to —

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I have got a couple of questions. The first one relates to page 128 of the budget papers. It talks about the total cost of services increasing \$67.4 million, or 5.1 per cent, and it says —

This increase is mainly attributable to the additional employee program and provision for increases in salary and employee benefits.

How are we tracking with recruiting those additional employees? Are we having success?

Mr Kannis: We are ahead of schedule on that. We are actually having to manage our schools to make sure that we do not go over authorised strength by 30 June 2017. At the moment we have the capacity that we are getting record suitable applications and also record low attrition. All those factors coming together mean that we have absolutely no hesitation in saying that we will meet the target.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: So we will meet the target; I think it was 550 additional —

Mr Kannis: Four hundred police officers and 150 police auxiliary officers.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Excellent. That is good to know.

The CHAIR: Whilst you are talking about that, if Hon Peter Katsambanis does not mind —

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I have only one more question.

The CHAIR: You can finish then.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Either way—if it fits in now, I do not mind.

The CHAIR: How many officers were dismissed? In terms of the way you record your statistics, is it calendar year or financial year? How many were dismissed in 2014–15 and 2015–16, if you do it by financial year—obviously dismissed under sections 8, 23 and 38, or the police force regulations?

Mr Kannis: I do not have that at hand, but we can take that on notice.

The CHAIR: Do you have a rough idea? Were there any?

Dr O’Callaghan: There definitely were, but I do not have the numbers. They would be in the 10s—20 to 25, something like that.

The CHAIR: You used to report it in your annual report and you do not anymore. Is there anywhere where you do report that publicly now?

Dr O’Callaghan: I do not think so.

Mr Kannis: We do not.

The CHAIR: If you are going to take it on notice, I am after dismissals, resignations as a result of inquiry, the nomination for loss of confidence, the notice of intention to remove, and reprimands. Effectively, I think the criteria is that you used to report in your annual report.

Dr O’Callaghan: There are a number of sanctions under the police regulations, including managerial notices, advice warnings and all those sorts of things. In terms of reprimands, there are probably almost none, but there are a number of other types of responses. Are you seeking the responses from internal investigations that result in some action against the officer, even low-level action?

The CHAIR: I guess what I am looking for is a similar set of data to what you used to report in your annual report. I am happy for you to add that in—statutory charges, discipline charges under section 23 of the Police Act, demotion, fines, unfavourable report, managerial notice and internal review panel. To make it easier, you can go back to page 49 of the 2010 annual report and give me the update for the 2014–15 year and the 2015–16 year to date of that same sort of information that used to be reported in terms of dismissals of police officers.

[Supplementary Information No A32.]

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: The next issue I want to discuss arises out of page 122 of the budget papers, “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”. The second last dot point talks about providing a more agile, mobile and responsive service to the community and investigating new and emerging technologies to provide officers off-site access to essential policing systems et cetera. I think the program that has been implemented in the last couple of years is called Frontline 2020, to get more people out on the front line. That has been going for some time now. There has been a bit of media chatter about whether it is the right thing to do or whether we need to go back to the past. What would be the impact if we stopped implementing that Frontline 2020 model and went back to what existed before that model was in place?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I ask Mr Brown to respond.

Mr Brown: There has been significant change in the metropolitan area since December 2015 when the new police operating model went live. The impact of the question you pose, in reverting back to the former way of working, would see these sorts of changes: it is highly likely that the average response time for calls for assistance for priority 2 and 3 calls would revert back closer to an average of 12 minutes for a priority 2 call for assistance, whereas currently it is sitting at nine minutes and 22 seconds in the year to date for this current financial year. A similar position would be put for priority 3, the general and bulk of calls. It would also probably see, under the new measure “grade of service”, a reduction in grade of service to the community for priority 2 and 3 calls. We have also seen—this continues to improve—that over the last five years sanction rates for most crime types have increased. That has been the case over the last two years and continues to this month. At the time we changed to the new operating model, in the first six to seven months we saw an 11 per cent increase in officer availability on the road, which we know is a very robust measure because it is all done digitally by AVLs—automatic vehicle locators—in cars, and CAD. That availability across the course of the week of 11 per cent more officers was magnified on Fridays and Saturdays where we are seeing an increase of up to 20 per cent in some locations; 22 per cent more availability on those days of the highest demand. We have seen a general increase in public satisfaction in confidence in policing in the metropolitan area. That was spoken of earlier. Reverting back to the old way of working would see very few senior officers out on the road outside of normal business hours. This new model has pushed more sergeants, more senior sergeants, inspectors and superintendents into key leadership and supervision roles right throughout the course of the week, and moving back to the old way of working would see very few senior sergeants and very few commissioned officers working outside of Monday to Friday, nine to five. We would also probably see a regression in sick leave because we have seen a small but discernible improvement in sick leave in our officers under the new model. We think that is in part because in the new model every sergeant has a team. It is a team-based environment. If I was a sergeant in the Perth metropolitan area now, every sergeant has a team of six or seven personnel. That would be abolished and we would find that everybody would just report to everybody as they did under the former model.

[12.10 pm]

There are many other things that would change under this modelling. We also centralise traffic. We asked for traffic response, which is delivering fantastic results right across the metropolitan area and the state. We formed district control centres in each of the four districts. Again, a senior officer is in charge of each of those four districts, about 550 or 580 personnel, 24/7. That is oversighted by a state control centre run by a superintendent 24/7 who sits in the Perth headquarters building down there on Hay Street, managing the situations as they arise in real time, from an executive level. All of those gains would likely be lost by a consideration of moving back to the former way of working in the metropolitan area.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: It sounds like if we got rid of Frontline 2020 and we got rid of this model, we would end up with fewer police available out on the road, so we would not want that.

Another issue I wanted to raise, on page 124 under the key effectiveness indicators, is the offences against property. It is no secret that we know that over the last 12 months that has gone up and there has been quite a spike in offences against property as measured per 100 000 people; there has been enough commentary around what has been driving some of those increases, but I note that the target that is set for the 2016–17 period is to bring those offences back down to the original target as it was set for the previous financial year. What strategies are you going to employ to make sure that that target is achieved and we see a reduction again in the offences against property? I should probably say strategies rather than strategy.

Mr Brown: We have a multifaceted strategy, particularly in the Perth metropolitan area, leveraging the model that we have in place, leveraging increased number of police officers on the road and increases in some of our technological capability. The focus in the last six months has been on the priority crime types. We are arresting people and prosecuting people in numbers that are higher than they have ever been before. From an enforcement perspective the strategy is honed and continues to be honed and is focussed on priority offenders. We are concentrating on those smaller numbers of offenders, and the number is around about 800 in the Perth metropolitan area, committing the greatest amount of harm and the numerical count of crime across the metropolitan area. We are focussing our effort on those particular offenders and targeting them, and the community will have been seeing a lot on the evening news each week, particularly over recent months.

In addition, we are focussing heavily on hotspots of crime. What we know is that there are certain places within the Perth metropolitan area where crime plays out. We are putting more resources into those areas. Recently one of the initiatives and part of the overall strategy has been the creation of a new bike control group who are policing Perth, inner city Perth and Northbridge. In the first two or so months of operation of that bike control group, we have been prosecuting people and apprehending offenders in very large numbers, but they also provide a really strong reassurance and positive prevention focus through high visibility policing in the area.

Our focus is primarily around enforcement. The third dimension is, not only focussing on offenders and places, but, of course, spending a lot of time on repeat victims. We are spending a lot of time in the domestic violence space as an example, helping those victims of domestic violence and other crime who become repeat victims of crime to try to reduce the harm in that space.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: Just to round off on this area, on the property side of it rather than the domestic violence side of it, is CCTV a tool that can be utilised more in relation to hotspots for thefts from or of motor vehicles?

Mr Brown: It can be used and is increasingly being used right across the state to great advantage by us in the state CCTV strategy. As a principal focus, it is focussed on hotspots. That is what the rollout is about. We are using that across the state, putting CCTV into those locations where crime is committed more frequently and using that in the criminal prosecution process to help secure as many convictions as we can and also to prevent crime in the first place.

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I might go through the appropriate channels and make some suggestions as to where it could be implemented in some parts of North Metropolitan Region for good use.

The CHAIR: Have you finished?

Hon PETER KATSAMBANIS: I have finished.

The CHAIR: I might take the liberty of asking a few questions myself from the Chair. In terms of the traffic enforcement group, in answer to supplementary questions in the other place you indicated you have 234 FTEs in that area and you have 95 vehicles and 50 motorcycles. Are you able to tell

me if that has increased over the last five years or decreased the numbers in that area? Has that been increasing in terms of the traffic enforcement group?

Mr Dreibergs: The state traffic enforcement group only existed when it got formed recently with those resources in. I am not sure exactly at what point in time it came out of becoming formed as a centralised agency. I think it would have been at the same time as the metropolitan model rolled out.

The CHAIR: If we wanted to compare how many vehicles are out doing traffic enforcement work—I know every police vehicle potentially can do it—but were focussed on doing traffic enforcement work five years ago, would you be able to provide us with any details about that?

Mr Dreibergs: In terms of a centralised state traffic model, we did not have one. It is very complicated because when we talk about traffic effort in regional and metropolitan areas, as you have already said, every vehicle is a traffic vehicle, particularly in the regional and the smaller regional locations when they are on the highway. You will find that in the regional locations, more of the officers in those smaller locations do more traffic work than general duties work. Specific numbers of vehicles doing patrol work, I do not think we would be able to compare apples with apples.

The CHAIR: In terms of the cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup, the police stations that are currently located in those areas—obviously we are a fast-growing area—are they at capacity in terms of the number of officers they can handle or would they be able to handle additional officers coming into those police stations without additional capital works being done or would we need to build either a new police station at Yanchep or expand some of the existing stations, Hillarys, Clarkson, Joondalup, Warwick, to accommodate additional officers in those areas of Wanneroo and Joondalup?

Mr Kannis: There is probably a mixed answer to that question and it depends on recent work in the area. For example, Yanchep, yes, is probably likely to need some investment in the near future, and we are planning some investment in Yanchep, for example.

The CHAIR: In what time frame?

Mr Kannis: I would have to find it in our papers. It is in our program for next year, I understand. Can I check that while I am answering this question?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Kannis: Also in places, we have referred to improvements in Warwick police station and others. Where we have upgraded Warwick and Scarborough police station and other things, there is capacity in those stations to put more officers; so, in some years, yes. We had the opportunity—again, it is not talking about the area, but new stations like Ballajura give us the capacity to put officers in those areas.

The CHAIR: But Ballajura to Joondalup is a fair drive. Is the Joondalup police station at capacity now or is there still capacity or are there additional officers there?

Mr Kannis: I am not sure. Maybe Mr Brown could tell us.

Mr Brown: As far as I am aware, we are not at capacity. We have some room to move depending on the numbers that we were to put into that current facility.

The CHAIR: At what point will we need additional capital works in the northern corridor? I am sure as the minister shares Joondalup as a home of their electorate, would be interested in this. At what point are we going to need to either expand Joondalup or Yanchep—we are getting the information on that. But in terms of the northern corridor, Wanneroo and Joondalup, at what point do you think we are going to need additional capital works to accommodate police officers.

Dr O’Callaghan: I think with expansion of that northern corridor, particularly with Alkimos opening up, those sorts of areas, there is an imperative for us to probably construct a new facility there rather than increase the size of the other facilities. For argument’s sake, I think Clarkson is a good 20 kays from the Yanchep, so it is quite a step. One of the things high on our agenda is to either rebuild or extend the Yanchep police station to put a larger number of police officers there, probably to service, mainly at this stage, the emerging Alkimos community and communities north of Butler. It is an urgent thing for us to respond to and I think, as the executive director said, we have got it on our agenda for next year.

[12.20 pm]

The CHAIR: In the Joondalup area, you do not need anything for the next five years or so.

Dr O’Callaghan: The existing station at Joondalup can be made to take more police officers, but there obviously is a limit to that. At the moment, our priority is to build north of that, near Alkimos.

Mr Kannis: I was incorrect. Yanchep is on top of the list in terms of the radar for investing. It has not been programmed yet, but it is one that we certainly have our sights on investing in, in the near future.

The CHAIR: Is there any money for planning in your budget? I guess there is the money out of your own budget and then there is where you try to get extra money, like you have for Armadale, to do the more detailed planning. Where are we up to in that planning stage, and how much have you got of your own money, or have you got any money specifically allocated through Treasury for the Yanchep station?

Mr Kannis: Given the scope of Yanchep and what we would put at Yanchep, that is the sort of stuff we can manage within our existing planning horizon.

The CHAIR: Do you have a budget for it this year?

Mr Kannis: We have money within an overall budget, so we do not allocate specific amounts for it. Off the top of my head, I get the impression that the Yanchep investment is quite a modest one of less than \$10 million sort of thing.

The CHAIR: For the development you would need to do there?

Mr Kannis: Yes; I think there are various stages of development. There is a here and now and there is what is going to happen in the future when we extend further north. That is my understanding.

The CHAIR: I now turn to an issue that was raised at some previous hearings in questions on notice regarding inappropriate use of credit cards. You will recall that we asked about inappropriate use of credit cards. We were advised there had not been any inappropriate use of credit cards. Subsequently, the committee learnt through media reports that there had been two occasions in which the commissioner had used credit cards for personal expenses or made personal repayments. In fact, I firstly want to get an explanation as to the circumstances of the payment that was made in, I think, October 2015 of \$638, and also a payment on 14 December 2014 of \$256. Could we get an explanation as to the circumstances of those repayments and whether or not the card had been used inappropriately that required those repayments?

Mr Kannis: If I can clarify, when we answered those questions that came from the committee prior to the annual report hearing, our interpretation of inappropriate use was in accordance with our guidelines, which referred to fraudulent use. That is why our answer identified that there was no fraudulent use. That is what we —

The CHAIR: Fraudulent is a bit further step than inappropriate use, though, is it not?

Mr Kannis: Because there was not a definition provided when the question was asked—and I appreciate that you would not ordinarily do that—we made our own determination of what we saw as inappropriate and that is where we used our guidelines.

The CHAIR: Whilst you do in this point, the response we got from the minister quoted a section saying that you used—based on section 8.3.14 of the FAMM, which is the Western Australian government purchasing card guidelines, clearly outline if a cardholder is found guilty of misuse or fraudulent use. In terms of your policy documents that is the third step. The first step is that you have a process for first offence, then a repeat offence and then those words are used under the heading “further action”. To get to that point someone would have had to have committed two inappropriate uses or be found to have been noncompliant on two occasions before you get to that stage.

Mr Kannis: The interpretation that I would make is it is at the point where it is based on the gravity of the circumstance not how many cases occurred. Clearly, while the guidelines and even the revised Treasury guidelines provide for circumstances where an officer may use their corporate credit card—when I say “allow” for the circumstance, they allow for the circumstance where if someone inadvertently uses their corporate credit card to fund private expenses, there is a requirement for the officer to declare that he or she has made that payment for personal use and there is a process required to go through. Our belief, in the circumstances that you are referring to, the commissioner applied all of those circumstances required.

The CHAIR: Can we have some explanation as to what the circumstances of both those payments were?

Mr Kannis: Yes. The first one, the older one—I think it was the one about car hire; there was one related to car hire when the commissioner was in the United Kingdom.

The CHAIR: \$256?

Mr Kannis: What happened is that the vehicle was leased for a period of time, which involved the majority of business use. There was a period in the middle of that, which was within the length of the period of the lease of the car, there was a weekend; there was a day off that he and the other officer had. He used the car for private use in that circumstance and decided that when he came back that he needed to pay for that. This has been highlighted by the fact that the commissioner chose to make that contribution within the middle of a lease for a car. That is my interpretation of the situation.

The CHAIR: Do you know what date that occurred?

Mr Kannis: I did not bring the details with me. I was half-prepared that you might ask this question, but I seem to have brought it to the other house and not this one. I do not exactly know the date, but we can find the date and give it to you. The other circumstance was where the commissioner went to I think it was Cairns for a conference and he was required to be in Sydney on the following Monday, which would cross over a weekend. The circumstance was that the commissioner made the booking in one and had every intention to make separate payments on that, but when he got to pay the bill they charged the corporate credit card for the whole amount. That meant that the commissioner was wanting to pay for a weekend between his business in Cairns and his business in Sydney, I think it was. The alternative was for us to pay for him—again this has been highlighted because he chose to pay for that accommodation while he was on the east coast. The alternative would be for him to fly back to Perth; we pay the airfares for him to come back to Perth and then fly him back to Sydney again. This has again been highlighted by the fact that the commissioner chose to pay this amount and highlighted it. There could have been some justification for us paying for those two days. That is my opinion of the situation.

The CHAIR: Are you now the approving officer?

Mr Kannis: Yes, I am.

The CHAIR: So that has all been resolved.

Mr Kannis: Yes. In both circumstances, I am totally comfortable that all our guidelines and policies have been followed.

The CHAIR: Just to finish off, if you are able to provide us with the dates when the issues occurred, when they were notified and when the repayments were made.

[Supplementary Information No A33.]

The CHAIR: So that we can be clear in future: are there any other examples of inappropriate use in the broadest possible sense, as in not complying? You have given the explanation for the commissioner, but there was also a report that there were a range of other examples of what I would consider to be inappropriate use of credit cards within the agency. Have we got details of the circumstances of those? I am happy if you want to provide that on notice to you us for the 2014–15 and 2015–16 year for the other circumstances you have identified of inappropriate use as well.

[Supplementary Information No A34.]

Hon KATE DOUST: I know we are about to close, but I have one follow-up question on our earlier discussion around workers' compensation and the research that you say is being conducted. Are you able to provide information as to how many people have been allocated to doing this research work for possible workers' compensation legislation and when did they commence that research? I am happy to take that on notice.

Mr Kannis: I am happy to give you information on notice that we can. The workforce optimisation program has been operating since our reform program started in 2013. There have been people working at various degrees on this since that time. We will try to identify where periods of major research have been conducted. Some of that research is happening with agencies such as WorkCover, RiskCover and ourselves, and the State Solicitor's Office, so it goes across a number of agencies. Perhaps we will find a way of demonstrating the effort that we have put into that in supplementary information. I am happy to do that if that is suitable.

[Supplementary Information No A35.]

The CHAIR: If members have no other questions, I am happy to put the other one I have as a supplementary question.

On behalf of the committee, I thank you for your attendance today. The committee will forward any additional questions it has to you in writing after Monday, 20 June 2016, together with the transcript of evidence, which includes the questions you have taken notice highlighted on the transcript. Responses to these questions will be requested within 10 working days of receipt of the questions. Should you be unable to meet the due date, please advise the committee in writing as soon as possible before the due date. The advice is to include specific reasons as to why the due date cannot be met. If members have any unasked questions, I ask them to submit these to the committee clerk at the close of the hearing. Once again, I thank you all for your attendance today.

Before we finish, I should make the point, because this is our last sitting today—and thank you, Hon Peter Katsambanis—I want to note formally on the record our thanks to, firstly, the committee staff for the week's work that they have done. I thank the Hansard reporters, especially for getting the transcripts back to us so quickly. I would also like to thank the audiovisual staff for their work. It has been a busy week and we appreciate all their support. Thank you.

Hearing concluded at 12.31 pm
