

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

853. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. The minister changed the system for recording in 2013, but the increases occurred in 2013–14 and 2014–15. Why is that the case, and when will the minister change her model to drive down the rates of domestic assaults? When will the minister change the model, as she said she would do if she was not shown an improvement?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

The other interesting aspect of the changes to our recording mechanisms around domestic violence was that we actually expanded the remit of domestic violence —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: — to include family members who are not necessarily intimate sexual partners or the traditional adult versus child family violence.

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Butler, let the minister answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are also capturing other familial relationships; for example, cousin versus cousin and brother versus brother.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the second time. Quick answer, please.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This is a serious issue and I would really like to be able to get my response out. We started to include other familial relationships. The other thing we are doing in the domestic violence space is that the Attorney General and I are looking at changing the way that victims of violence can apply for violence restraining orders. We are also looking at a better way of measuring our response to domestic violence; for example, measuring how long it takes for police to serve a violence restraining order on a perpetrator.

Dr A.D. Buti: Don't worry about measuring it; decrease the number!

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the third time. I have not given somebody an early leave pass for a long time now, but if anybody wants one, I will give them one.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is interesting; family violence often starts with yelling.

Several members interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

Dr A.D. BUTI: Mr Speaker, I demand that the minister apologise for the inference she made there. That is an absolute disgrace.

The SPEAKER: Sit down, please. Minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: What I was going to say was that family violence often starts with yelling, with coercion, with manipulation.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: With our changes to the new violence restraining order system, a victim will be able to apply for a violence restraining order against a perpetrator of domestic violence at the first incident of coercion.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, do you want to have a rest? Member for Armadale! Right, I am listening to the loudest person in the room, which is you; I want a quick answer and I want to move on, thank you.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Victims will be able to apply for a restraining order against a perpetrator at the earliest point of coercion, manipulation, when the car keys are taken from them or when the key card access to their bank account is removed. At that point, victims of family and domestic violence will be able to apply for a violence restraining order against the perpetrator before it escalates to violence. I think that is a step in the right direction. Certainly those people working in the family and domestic violence space have applauded that change. The Attorney General and I are working together to ensure we can bring those changes to this house in the near future.

