

POLICE — CRIME RATES

Amendment to Notice of Motion — Statement by Acting Speaker

THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): Members, I have a statement from the Speaker regarding a revised notice of motion. Members are reminded that notices of motion should be drafted so that, if adopted by the house, they reflect the will or the opinion of the house. The member for Midland yesterday gave a notice of motion, currently listed as item 10 on the notice paper, that does not include the required wording to reflect or express the will of the house. After having discussed this with the member, the Speaker authorised an amendment to the notice of motion to include a form of words to clarify the matter.

Motion

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland) [4.50 pm]: I move —

That this house notes that the Liberal–National government has failed to properly address the rising crime being experienced in our suburbs and towns.

I have taken a lot of soundings from my constituents and people living in suburbs in and around Midland, heading towards the valley and the hills, over towards the airport and out towards Guildford and Bassendean, and they are most concerned about the rising level of crime. Their concern is not because they have read about it in the paper or have heard about it in the media or because there are statistics that show that every month for the last seven or eight months we have seen double-digit increases in crime on the figures for the same month last year. In July to July, August to August, September to September, we have seen rises across the board that average at about 17 per cent.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, there is a bit too much conversation happening. Please give the member for Midland the opportunity to speak.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Of course, people have read about crime rates in the media. They thought that the crime rate was bad last year, but statistics show that compared with the same month last year, it is 17 per cent worse. The fact of the matter is that people in the community are experiencing the impact of rising crime rates and rising crime in their communities, their houses, their streets, their local shopping centres and everywhere they go around their suburb or town.

Earlier this week, I held quite a large public meeting and spoke to a lot of people and I was surprised by how many of them had been affected by crime in the community. Some of the crimes, as members might think, were at the lower end of the scale, but some of them, disturbingly, were at the higher end of the scale. There were a few common threads in what people had to say to me. Everyone I spoke to said that they have the most enormous respect for police and that they understand that the police have a difficult and often dangerous job to do. To the last person, everyone I spoke to supports the police and realises that they have a tough job to do. I also got feedback that a lot of so-called minor crimes are going completely unpunished. Indeed, some more significant crimes, including assaults, are going unpunished. I also received very strong feedback that police no longer attend lots of crimes when they are reported and that even when they do attend, it is often not in a timely way; people sometimes wait hours for police attendance. Unfortunately, I am getting more complaints about people not being satisfied with the action police have taken. That is often because the individuals concerned, the perpetrators of crime locally, are not being charged by police and matters are being effectively written off.

I am concerned that the government seems to think that one way to bring down the rate of reported crime is to not accept the reports of crime, to write them off and to not take any action. That does not please members of the community. When I am walking around Midland, I get feedback from people, especially the elderly, who routinely attend the local shopping centres like Centrepoint Midland or the Swan View shops, that they are feeling more frightened and more concerned about crime than ever. But it is not just a perception; it is not just that people have read about crime in the paper and there is some hysteria about crime. It is real and it is happening. Certainly, I cannot say to people in my communities, especially the elderly, that they have nothing to worry about because, unfortunately, they do.

I do not have time to go through every single incident that has been raised with me but I have a couple that I want to highlight, and some general comments I want to make. I will refer only to the most recent incidents, but I have some going back months. I received an email on 17 February that states —

As a resident of over 45 years in the darlington area I am shocked at the number of incidents involving aboriginal people in the shopping centres. An elderly man was bashed at Centrepoint Midland last week and was seriously hurt with a badly swollen hand and a bite to his right shoulder the culprits were allowed to throw the empty cans of stolen beer at the police and nothing was done to apprehend them.

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This behaviour be it black or white is not acceptable in anyones book and least of all to the elderly citizens they apparently went on the weekend to Coles Swan View where another incident took place. Because they seem to think no one can touch them they are out of control and this should certainly be an issue at the next election.

The lady points out that she is 72 years old. I might add, she has also volunteered to assist with my campaign because she wants to see a change of government.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Hear, hear—excellent woman.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: She is a very excellent woman.

I am always disturbed when people single out Aboriginal people, because when a person has a different coloured skin, or they are Aboriginal, they are more visible in the community. When lawbreakers, like the ones this lady referred to, are not brought to account, it reflects most poorly on all my other law-abiding Indigenous local citizens. Ninety per cent of the Indigenous people who live in my electorate are wonderful people who do not break the law and try to do the best for themselves and their families, but they are not getting a lot of support from this government. Frankly, it would be a better support to those families, I assume, of the children or young people involved in these incidents if police were to apprehend them and some action was taken. If they go unchecked, as was pointed out in my example, they do it again and again. The result is that more elderly people are terrorised and become too frightened to go out, and people get injured. Although some people might think, so what, to me it sets a mood of lawlessness. If there are no consequences for people's actions, those actions continue. That corresponds with the theme of the correspondence and comments that I have received from constituents who see a lot of crime going unpunished, because people are not being apprehended for it.

I want to give another example from someone who called my office just this morning. Interestingly, after I gave notice of this motion yesterday, someone called Tony called my office this morning. He owns properties on Railway Parade in Midland between Sayer and Brockman Streets. For members who do not know, that is pretty much in the town centre. It is also pretty much opposite the new hospital and where we hope to put the new train station. Tony does engineering and other works. He rang my office to say that he is fed up with local police inaction over damage to his premises and loitering. He said that about eight weeks ago, two children aged about 10 or 11 years were found to have broken into his premises and caused \$70 000 worth of damage to vehicles, forklifts and bobcats at his premises. The children were brazen enough to return the next day wearing stolen boots, so they were detained and the police were called. It took them more than two and half hours to arrive despite multiple phone calls. This is what happens in the centre of Midland under this government. Under this government, kids can go onto premises, damage the business and do \$70 000 worth of damage. The owners ring up to report it and then they have to ring again and again and eventually after two and a half hours, police arrive. Six weeks ago, the owners found the gates and fencing to the premises damaged and placed in the yard was an electrical cable drum with heavy-duty cable, hidden under a tarp, valued at around \$4 000. The owners presumed someone was going to knock it off for scrap metal, but rolling such a large drum down the road looked conspicuous. When they discovered the drum, they reported it to the police, but it took the police four days to attend. The owners have had issues on and off over the last four weeks. They have also advised me—the same business premises in Midland, right in the centre of Midland—that an Aboriginal man in his 30s placed himself at their office store with a mattress. He smokes and leaves needles all around the place, and they have seen him sniffing liquid. They called the local government authority, the City of Swan, but the City of Swan advised them that it was a police matter. They called the Nyoongar Patrol and any other services they could think of, all to no avail.

Tony, whom I have referred to here, has asked time and again to speak to the sergeant in charge at Midland Police Station. That is something that in the whole time I have been member for Midland most people have been able to do, until about two or three years ago when the new policing model was rolled out. My constituent says that he keeps getting fobbed off by someone at the front desk. He has been told that under this policing system, the new model, that if the police attend and no-one is on-site they close off the job so that it goes off the books rather than calling back when someone would normally be at work. He says that that is just ridiculous and he should not have to call the police every day.

It makes us wonder whether this is one of the new strategies for getting down the crime rate. Police officers and, in fact, members of the WA Police Union board, have told me that this is what occurs. They said, "Don't trust the so-called sanction rates, because many of them are written off as a 'no result' and are included in the sanction rates." He has recorded serious crime at his premises; police went by allegedly out of hours; they did not see anyone there because he does not live on the premises; and they wrote off the job. It was up to the complainant to contact the police again. The fact is that the homeless person—I feel sorry for him—is still sleeping rough at his premises. It is not good for the person sleeping rough and it is certainly not good for this business operator in

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the centre of Midland. He said that he would like me to ask the minister what she is prepared to do about it because, at this stage, Tony is at his wits' end. He has not been able to speak with the sergeant in charge at Midland police. The local policing team is not helping him out; no-one is helping him out. Perhaps another part of the strategy is to frustrate people so much that they think, "Even if I ring; if I want to get some police attention, I'll have to ring half a dozen times, and who knows when they'll show up? It might take two and a half hours or two days, and they might not come at all or they might come when I'm not there. If they do, they will write off the job and it will be up to me to call again."

This is no way to deal with crime in the community. The danger here is that the criminals are effectively getting away with it over and over again. Guess what? They can work out that there is no police response; nothing is happening. This is a real low point. I have not experienced this before. I get back to the point: Do the people blame the police? Should they blame the police? No, they should not; they should blame the government; they should blame the system. The fact is that police are chronically short-staffed. The new model is not working.

I return for a moment to the new model. We had a briefing in the Midland Town Hall on the new model on 17 November 2014. The briefing in Midland was done by Deputy Commissioner Steve Brown and hosted by the member for Kalamunda, Minister John Day. The community was advised about the new model. We have had some other local briefings such as the one we had subsequently in December in Bellevue with the local policing team. I have to say that the community response to the presentation given to them was really good. They thought it sounded fantastic because a model was sold to them that would deliver them closer contact with the police and a better response. They were going to be able to talk to police on a regular basis and inform them about what was happening in the community, whether it was hooning activity, continual vandalism, damage, petty theft or whatever. They could let the local policing team know and it would be on the case for those things. If they had an immediate need for help, the response cars would be out there to respond quickly. However, it has not worked out in practice. They were told that the model would work because it had been trialled in the south east metro region over six months and crime rates went down and response times were better and everyone loved it.

Of course, not just in my electorate but in every electorate, crime rates have not gone down, response times have not improved and the whole situation has got markedly worse. It is worse for police officers, too. Police officers working in the crime cars are working long hours; they are working hard and are frustrated and embarrassed by the new system. The government and the commissioner have said, "We're not changing the model; the model hasn't failed; we're just making some significant changes to it", and allegedly making the 700 people who were doing LPT somehow available to respond in non-existent crime cars. In case anyone here does not know, the LPTs do not have fully equipped crime cars, so it is not as simple as reallocating them as crime cars. They are not resourced for that.

I have spoken to a lot of community groups. We have something in Midland called the Community Action Network, sponsored by the City of Swan. Lots of community groups come under that umbrella. I was speaking recently to Sandra and Troy, representatives of the Stratton Community Association. They told me, "We had such a high expectation of the new model; we thought it was going to be fantastic." I asked if they had had a cup of coffee with the local cops yet, bearing in mind they started rolling it out more than a year ago. I asked: have you had the coffee; did you meet your LP team; what's happening? They said they had not. I said that other people got to have a cup of coffee with them. They said, "No; they don't want to know us." These are people who can tell them where some suspicious characters live, where they suspect some drug dealers or people who might be involved in stolen goods are and where kids are who might be involved in vandalism or other activities, and give the police some good information. Because of that networking, a lot of people in the Stratton community pass on that information. Three or four years ago, that information was all passed on to our local police sergeant, Craig Davis. Without wanting to limit Craig's career, he did a great job in responding to local community groups. If they rang up with concerns, he accepted that these people were leaders in the community and knew what was happening on the ground, so he took their calls and he took them seriously. These people said to me that the expectation was that under the new model they would have a better linkage to the police and get a better service, but they told me that their expectations had been dashed. In fact, they have had a worse response under the new model. Even this so-called benefit of the community local policing teams is not working out. I suspect that that is probably not the fault of the police involved. They get limited hours and limited shifts, and I understand that they get called off to other tasks, and they have been given very high-volume crime areas to look after. They have not only a big geographic patch but also some areas where crime is much more prevalent than it might be in some other leafy greens suburbs. They are not dealing only with Stratton; they also deal with Swan View and other suburbs. What Sandra and Troy have told me is reflected in the feedback that I have had from other community groups. They are very frustrated with the so-called improved service. They heard the sales pitch a year ago, but they have not seen any of it come to fruition. We have a real sense of lawlessness in our suburbs, particularly suburbs in my electorate.

There are some matters that people need to give some thought to in the area of the general philosophy of crime. People will remember that some years ago there was a lot of talk about the broken windows theory, and how crime rates had been driven down in New York. Driving down crime rates in New York, funnily enough, is possibly easier than driving down crime rates here. I say that because here there is nowhere to displace people to. If police take a tough attitude the New York central area of Manhattan, they can enforce their boundaries and push people over into the next policing jurisdiction. We do not have that luxury here, but some elements of what the New York police put in place are very sound—that is, get people for the small offences; ping them on the small offences, and do not let things get out of control, as has happened in Western Australia over the past four or five years. I get feedback from the community and I talk to police officers about it and asked them whether this is true and I am told it is.

In Western Australia now, it is okay to do a fuel drive-off. If someone fills their car with petrol at a service station and then drives off without paying, they can do it again and again and no-one will come after them. Most of the service stations have good closed-circuit television, numberplate recording and pictures of people. An answer from the current Minister for Police to a question from one of her own backbenchers a few years ago stated that it is very difficult to prove intent. Of course, there are ways of proving intent. I have spoken to police officers, who have said to me that if film footage showing someone standing there wearing a hoodie, looking furtive and so forth, avoiding the camera and then jumping in their car and driving off was taken to a court, they believe that that person would be convicted. Intent can also be proved on the basis of a continuation of the same offence. If there is footage of the same person doing this time after time, it is standard practice. They are not accidentally driving off with fuel as a one-off thing if the local fuel station has footage of them doing it six, eight, 10 or 20 times. The Commissioner of Police's response has been that the police are not interested in that—just install credit card-operated pumps, as occurs in some places in Europe and America. They take little action there.

Any member who has spoken to anybody running a liquor store, be it one of the big chain stores or a small local store, will learn that, again, police are not interested in following up on thefts. The average person running a liquor store will say that if somebody runs out of their store with a couple of bottles of scotch, they just let them go. If the store manager or owner pursues them, detains them and calls the police, the police will not come. That is the way the law is enforced in Western Australia.

My view is that we need to catch the people doing these things. If the police pursued the people who are actually doing the so-called petty theft from grog shops, and the people who are driving off without paying for their fuel, especially those for whom there is evidence of multiple offences, and went around to their houses, they might find a lot of other stolen goods, drugs and whatever else. We must catch people for doing the smaller offences. It is a pretty simple theory. The law enforcement system basically says that if someone drives off with fuel, no-one will pursue them, or if they walk out of a bottle shop without paying, no-one pursues them.

I have been told of instances in my electorate in which some adults go with their children into Coles in Swan View or other shops in my electorate and tell their kids to just take what they want. The kids will run around and help themselves to bags of lollies, chocolates, packets of biscuits, ice-creams, cool drinks or whatever they fancy. They pick it up, and start eating or drinking it. The adults will bring in three, four or five kids, and there is only one security person there to try to chase them. The police are not interested in pursuing them; they are kids—12-year-olds, 10-year-olds, 14-year-olds—and they have just taken a can of Coke, a packet of biscuits or something else. This leads to a lot of community disharmony and dysfunction. Other constituents come in and see me and say that they are doing it tough, working hard for a low wage, and struggling to pay gas, water and electricity bills, council rates and rent or whatever. They tell their kids that they cannot have this or that, and that their parents cannot afford drinks or sweets, while other kids are just running around and helping themselves. It is just not right. If we continue to let this kind of lawlessness happen in the community—if we turn a blind eye to it and say that it is petty theft or that they are just kids—what kind of society are we creating? What kind of example is it, and what is it telling the young people and kids involved in the crime, and what is it telling all the other kids who are watching them do it? It is a really bad message.

I can understand that police are under pressure, and that when they are struggling to meet demand, they will target the higher level crimes. They will attend the armed robberies first, the really bad assaults, the brawls, and the car that ram-raided the grog shop in Middle Swan and was then set alight, as happened the other night. The police are going to turn out to those big events. But they have to do something about the small events as well. They have to do something about that lower level crime. I put it to members that there has never been a better opportunity to do something about it, because so much closed-circuit television information is available, and we have to somehow harness that. Whether this is occurring at Coles in Swan View or at any other store in any other electorate, a limited number of people are doing it. Certainly, in those first stages, only a few people are involved. When people see everyone else having a free-for-all, then they will join in too and the problem

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escalates. But it is still very much a minority of people in the community, and those people have to be targeted. There has to be a consequence for them, because if the government does not rein them in, they will continue to progress to more and worse crimes, creating an even bigger problem into the future.

The final point I make is that these problems are clearly not all of the police's making. I do not support the attitude of letting minor crimes go unpunished. I have a couple of times in this speech, regrettably, had to refer to Indigenous people being involved. They are not the only people committing crime in my electorate; there are plenty of non-Indigenous people, plenty of white people, committing crime too and getting away with it. The government is not dealing with these offenders and there is a lack of support for families in the community. This Liberal government started very early on with the former Attorney General and now federal member for Pearce abandoning the intensive supervision program that I put in place in about 2006. The program dealt with young offenders when they were being released from prison. The analogy was that if we take a poisoned fish out of a poisoned river, we can take it away and clean it up and make it healthy again, but if we put it back in the same poisoned river, it will get sick again. It is the same principle: if we take a young person out of a toxic family situation and then put them back after they have been in jail for six months, a year or two years, or however long, they will get back to their bad old ways pretty soon. Unfortunately, some people in my electorate do not send their kids to school regularly and are off their faces on drugs for a greater part of the day and are not functional. We cannot just lock them all up. There has to be some support and supervision. The intensive supervision system was working, essentially providing intensive supervision and helping the whole family. The concept was to find what the dysfunctional elements were and to provide families with some supports, hopefully, to get them along the right path, but that is a longer speech for another occasion.

There have been other initiatives by both Labor and Liberal governments over the past 20 years or more. Midland had a sobering-up shelter. That has gone. We had the Strong Families program. That program and others with similar names have been rolled out over the years. The former Liberal government attempted to roll that out as a trial in Midland and Armadale years ago. A lot of these things have come and gone and have been ineffective. When these programs do not solve everything overnight, some hardheads in government, probably assisted by advice from Treasury, want to get rid of these programs. This government cut financial counselling services, which does not help at all. The Minister for Police may make light of me talking about a holistic approach to crime, but we need a holistic approach. We need to deal with the causes of crime. We need to deal with the methamphetamine epidemic. Dealing with that is more than just enforcement; it is about reducing demand for drugs and getting a message through to people so there is not a demand for the people pushing them.

Crime is a very complex matter, which I acknowledge, but what has occurred in recent years is that we have gone from bad to worse. Police are now in a pretty hopeless situation. The community are being left high and dry. I do not think it is right that an elderly gentleman can be assaulted at Centrepoint Shopping Centre and for there to be no consequences. I do not think it is right that people can drive off and not pay for fuel; that they can walk out of a grog shop, or Target, Coles or wherever, and take goods and not pay for them and for there to be no consequence. That is not right. It is also not right that people have to wait hours and hours for police attendance or to have to call police repeatedly. Today we find out this new information that if after a couple of days the police happen to show up at your place and you are not home a complaint just gets written off and they wait for the complainant to call back to see if they really want to pursue it. That is not right.

I have moved this motion because after nearly eight years the Liberal-National government has failed to properly address the rising crime rate that is being experienced in our suburbs and towns. The situation has never been worse in Midland. I am not happy about that. The government has got 12 months to lift its game, otherwise it will be out of office come March 2017.

MR J. NORBERGER (Joondalup) [5.28 pm]: I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the debate on this motion, and I would like to thank the member for Midland for kicking this discussion off and giving us the opportunity to discuss the work of our police and issues around the current crime rates. The member for Midland will perhaps be surprised to know that I agree with quite a few things she raised in her speech. There was plenty that I did not agree with, but the member will be surprised that I think we have common ground in and around the need to tackle the causes of crime and to have a multitude of different programs.

From the outset I want to say that I do not want to pass up an opportunity, if we are talking about the police, to acknowledge how much I appreciate the fantastic efforts of the men and women of WA Police across the state but, in particular, in my neck of the woods, in Joondalup. I have a wonderful relationship with the local policing teams and the response teams. I want to acknowledge the fantastic work that they do. As a representative of my community, the feedback that I get from the Joondalup community is extremely positive. I do not believe that is unique to the Joondalup community. I will go through some of the key performance indicators in a moment and

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members will see that, across the board, the majority of the Western Australian public are extremely pleased with our police force.

Today is a culmination, if you like, of the discussion that has gone on in the media and in this place in and around crime rates. We heard that crime has apparently gone up with double-digit growth, month on month, compared with last year. It is fairly disingenuous to compare the crime rate holistically over the last 12 or 15 months to the period directly before, firstly, without looking at a longer term trend; and, secondly, specifically if members opposite want to use the incidence or occurrence of crime as somehow a direct reflection of whether the police are doing their job correctly. That is completely inappropriate. To start off on the first point, when we hear there has been an increase in the occurrence of crime comparing the current period with the corresponding period in previous years, the opposition does not tell us that when we look at a longer term trend, we are not in an epidemic of crime; the world is not coming to an end. Unfortunately, we heard comments from the member for Midland towards the end of what was otherwise a fairly reasonable speech that apparently we now find ourselves in a completely hopeless situation: we have no hope left; we have reached rock bottom and we have started to dig deeper. That is fairly diabolical and depressing information. However, the information I have here, which is directly from the WA Police annual report shows a number of key performance indicators, and I will come back to some of the other KPIs later.

The first key performance indicator that Western Australia Police measure themselves against is the rate of offences against the person, excluding domestic violence, per 100 000 people. I will come back to domestic violence because it is important. In 2014–15, there were 741.4 occurrences, which is slightly higher than the year before. There were 737.9 offences the year before. That is not a big difference, but it is an increase. If I go back to the year prior to that, it was 780; the year prior to that it was 812; and in 2010-11 it was 896. The numbers have been trending down.

The second KPI is a rate of offences against property per 100 000 people from 2010-11 to 2014–15. In 2014–15, there were 6 509 offences against property. Admittedly, that is up. The year prior there were 6 250 offences. These potentially could be the types of crimes that the member for Midland gave examples of. In 2012–13, there were 6 584 offences; the year prior there were 6 729; and in 2010-11, there were 6 613. When one takes a long-term view, it can be argued that it is trending in that range. It has not really changed. Between one year and another there has been a change, but over a longer period the rate of crime against property is steady. Do not forget that every year during this period Western Australia's population grew. That is why I say it is a little disingenuous when the opposition selectively looks at a very narrow set of statistics from one period to another, ignoring the long-term trend, and says that we have a crime epidemic, the world is coming to an end and our police are not doing their job properly. No matter how hard members opposite try to say they are not really blaming the police and that it is all the government's fault, we all know that that is ridiculous. They cannot get away from the fact that they are ultimately attacking our police.

Mr D.A. Templeman: That is absolute rubbish.

Mr J. NORBERGER: It is not rubbish.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You are an absolute disgrace. What a ridiculous, stupid thing to say!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Member for Mandurah, I am on my feet! I call you to order for the first time.

Mr J. NORBERGER: Looking at the occurrence of crime, it is just a completely inappropriate measure of whether police are doing their job correctly. No matter how much we want to resource our police force, a member of the police cannot be in every single backyard. A member of police cannot be in every single home, especially when we look at the occurrence of domestic violence. There has been a significant increase in the occurrence of domestic violence. That is a tragedy; that is sad. It requires the attention of everyone. We cannot turn around and say that police are not doing their job. The moment someone reports an act of domestic violence, it becomes a crime statistic. What we really ought to look at is: what do the police then do about it? I will come back to that. How are our police dealing with crime once it has occurred? By all means, if police driving down the road happen to see someone doing a burnout, of course they can intervene right there and then. In theory, that still becomes a crime statistic because the crime has occurred. The difference is the police have seen it occur and they can apprehend the offender right there and then. Unless there are police in everyone's backyard trying to prevent someone from smashing the back window and stealing their TV, the reality is we need to come back to the realisation: what do we expect from our police?

The member for Midland mentioned sources of crime. The reality is crime is highly complex. It is a societal issue. The member for Midland hinted at that. Those were the aspects of her speech that I agreed with. We cannot simplistically look at crime. There are causes related to social disadvantage, drug abuse, and a lack of

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education. There is a broad range of reasons for crime in our society. We cannot possibly talk about crime in our society and then pigeonhole that purely into the portfolio of police. There are numerous programs—be they federal, state or local government—across every portfolio that hope to, attempt to and desire to address the occurrence of crime in the first place. There is an education portfolio within communities and volunteering. Funding for financial counsellors has been moved to the Minister for Communities. So many programs aim to prevent crime from happening in the first place, but the reality is that we cannot relegate the responsibility of crime purely to the government. I am not abdicating our responsibility. Every government has a responsibility to address and provide programs. It comes down to our family structures, our value systems and our morals. I am not going to get caught up in that discussion. Society needs to look at what is going on. We need to address the root causes. We cannot turn around and say, “It’s the government’s responsibility.” We generally are left to deal with the outcomes. We certainly try very hard, and will continue to try. Whether Liberal or Labor, I have no doubt that either side of the political spectrum will have the same aim—that is, to put policies and procedures and programs in place to try to prevent crime from occurring or, as the member for Midland mentioned, where possible, stop it from reoccurring. We cannot abdicate it completely. At the base unit, which is a family unit, we have a responsibility to look at what we are teaching our children.

For the sake of the Joondalup constituents who might read this or be following this, given that we are talking about crime statistics, it is important that I look at some of the crime statistics in Joondalup. Some crime statistics have gone up—domestic violence is a key one. Remember the backdrop around this discussion is apparently the world is ending, there is a crime epidemic, the wheels have fallen off the police bus, and all hope is lost. That is just not the case. I will refer to the homicide statistics in Joondalup. Before anyone accuses Joondalup of being a leafy, green suburb, it is a wonderful area but it is certainly not inner-western Peppermint Grove we are talking about here. It is an aspiring, middle-class region of the Perth metropolitan area. The last time there was a homicide in Joondalup was in 2007-08. There were two homicides in that year, and we have not had any since—thank God. Recent sexual assaults are currently down. Between 2005-06 and 2014-15 the number of recent sexual assaults is down 25 per cent. That is fantastic. We want it at zero or a 100 per cent reduction; but there has been a 25 per cent reduction.

I now refer to non-domestic assaults. We heard some examples earlier of someone going out to a nightclub and getting bashed or beaten up on the road or set upon. There has been a reduction of 26.7 per cent in non-domestic assaults. I turn to “Robbery (Non-Business)”. These are offences in a person’s own home—for example, someone comes in and steals a television. There was an 85 per cent reduction over that period. For total offences against —

Dr K.D. Hames: What years were they?

Mr J. NORBERGER: This is between 2005-06 and 2014-15—basically a 10-year period. There was an 85 per cent reduction. This is not a little, two-year snapshot of “lucky” years; this is a long trendline. In that period, there has been a 17.4 per cent reduction in total offences against a person. I said earlier that there have been some increases. For example, in the area of domestic assault, in that same period, there has been an increase of 104.3 per cent. I imagine that as we hear from other members and about their electorates we may unfortunately hear about similar trends. That would be a travesty because we know that that ought not to be the case. We know that some very significant and well-known Australians over the last couple of years have been able, quite rightly so, to highlight, appropriately, the importance of tackling domestic violence. A starting point, but certainly not the finishing point, is for us all to acknowledge that we will not tolerate domestic violence. It could well be—although I do not know—that over the years women have felt more willing or safe, or that it is appropriate, to report it. Maybe support mechanisms are in place and women are willing to come forward. If that is the case, I wish domestic violence did not occur in the first place, but I would rather that it was reported and dealt with than it occurring and women suffering in silence. Reporting it necessitates it becoming a statistic, but if that is the outcome, I can cop that increase. I would truly rather domestic violence did not happen, but we cannot have a police officer in everyone’s home. We do not want that. We do not want to live in a police state. Let us be honest, that is likely where it happens; hence, it is called domestic violence. We need to continue to support programs, shelters and all those things that help women and men—but, let us be honest, it is predominantly women who are impacted by this—to get through that. We need to make sure that the police are able to respond and to deal with domestic violence instances.

That brings me back to some of the things I mentioned before. What do we really expect or should expect from our police? If members asked me how I would judge the police, it would not be by looking at crime rates in particular categories this year versus last year, because that would be a reflection on society and would reflect on where we might be in relation to the problem with ice or on the reality that we are facing economic headwinds that may cause a few more people to be more desperate. It is not a reflection on whether the police are doing their job or not. If I were being assaulted, if something terrible is happening or if laws are being broken, I would ring the police, they would respond in an appropriate time based on the category of offence. Obviously, there are

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categories 1, 2 and 3, so the response would depend on what is occurring. But if someone is quite literally being assaulted and they believe that they are going to be killed, that is likely to be category 1 and we would expect an appropriate response from the police. That is what I would expect from the police. Secondly, if a crime has occurred, because, as I said, the police cannot be everywhere at once, the police can use resources as best as possible to investigate and solve that crime, again with an expectation that there is evidence—is there CCTV evidence, are there fingerprints and is there an ability for the police to solve that crime and bring those people to justice? Finally, are the police visible in the community and working with the community?

[Member's time extended.]

Mr J. NORBERGER: Are police working in the community, being seen and are they addressing the longer term causes of crime? That is what I expect from a police force. That is how I think the police should be measured. The Western Australia Police annual report, which is publicly available to everyone, contains the key performance indicators that the police measure themselves against, and appropriately so. Let us have a look at some of those KPIs. One key KPI states —

Percentage of priority 1 & 2 incidents in the metropolitan area responded to within 12 minutes

That is a response time KPI. Just in case members think I am choosing only selective KPIs, WA Police are currently not meeting that target. The target is that 80 per cent of category 1 and 2 incidents are responded to within 12 minutes, and appropriately so. Currently the police are at 77.1 per cent for that KPI. We have a bit of work to do, but I would not call it an epidemic or say that all hope is lost. The police commissioner and our police realise that they have a bit to do there, but 77.1 per cent of category 1 and 2 incidents are currently being responded to within 12 minutes. What about the next KPI, which states —

Percentage of priority 3 incidents in the metropolitan area responded to within 60 minutes

This crime is obviously not quite as urgent—someone is not bleeding out or the bank is not actively being robbed—but a crime has occurred. The target for this KPI is that 80 per cent of calls to the police will be responded to within 60 minutes. The police have consistently beaten that target and the KPI is currently trending at 84.8 per cent. So the WA Police have been exceeding the target—KPI met. Well done, police. The next KPI is —

Percentage of family and domestic-related incidents where an offender was processed for an offence against the person within 7 days

The police are currently at 71.6 per cent; the target is 75 per cent. Some work needs to be done on that, but, again, I would not suggest that hope is lost and, again, it is domestic violence, which I have spoken about. The next KPI is —

Percentage of offences against the person investigations finalised within 60 days

An offence occurs, it is investigated and there is an outcome. That target has been beaten. The police beat that target. The KPI is 85 per cent and the police achieved 85.2 per cent. The next KPI is —

Percentage of offences against property investigations finalised within 30 days

This refers to what members heard earlier—businesses being broken into or people driving off from petrol stations. If we were to believe members opposite, we would believe that no-one ever gets charged and nothing ever happens. This KPI, appropriately, is high. We expect our police to finalise such offences within 30 days 90 per cent of the time and they do it 90.2 per cent of the time. Well done! There is an outcome. The next KPI is —

Percentage of traffic law enforcement contacts made by police officers that target 'Category A' offences

Category A offences include driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; careless, dangerous or reckless driving; non-speed-camera speeding offences; or no authority to drive. This is an area in which the police are actively out in the community, targeting dangerous drivers. Again, how many contacts were made? The KPI is 97.1 per cent. Well done! This is where I repeat that I do not believe that our community feels that all hope is lost. I do not believe that our community feels that our policing model is broken or that the police are not doing the job right. Why is that? It is because there are customer satisfaction KPIs, and appropriately so. This is in the service-based area of delivery, and the KPI is —

Percentage of the community who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the service received during their most recent contact with police

The result for that KPI is 82 per cent—in other words, the police want 82 per cent of people who have any contact with the police to be satisfied or very satisfied 82 per of the time—and the police come in at 82 per cent. They meet that KPI.

I have no doubt that we will always be able to find individual examples and cases where something might not have gone right. There have been very rare instances when something like that has occurred and, rather than turning it into a media stunt, I have contacted the Minister for Police and had it resolved. In fact, ever since the introduction of the Frontline 2020 model, I have been able to create such a good relationship with my local police teams that, with all due respect to a wonderful Minister for Police, I no longer have to go to the Minister for Police. I just contact my local policing team appropriate for that area and the issue gets resolved. Members will be able to find individual instances, but the bottom line is that 82 per cent of people who were asked whether they were satisfied or very satisfied with police have said yes.

The final KPI I want to share is —

Percentage of the community who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that they have confidence in police

This is probably the most important KPI. It is a measure of whether this government is succeeding and whether our police are succeeding. It is the community telling us whether they have confidence in our police. And 87.7 per cent—the KPI is 85 per cent by the way—of the people have said, “Yes, we do.” That was one area. Those KPIs address public confidence and the ability of the police to respond.

A crime has occurred. We wish it had not, but it has because it is a societal issue. These key performance indicators show that more often than not police meet or exceed their KPIs and respond. What about solving the crime once they get there? Again, members can pick out some individual categories and come in here and say, “The clearance rate for this category is this” or “The sanction rate is this”, but let us have a look.

Anecdotally and even before I got these statistics, I knew that they would be very high. To know that we just need to listen to the radio, as I do when on the long drive from Joondalup to Parliament. Unfortunately, we recently heard about someone who was bashed by people who were hooning. I am talking about the guy who intervened and got bashed around the head. The next day when I drove to work I heard that people were arrested for that incident. Sometimes we hear about the unfortunate instance of people getting stabbed or whatnot and within a day or two we hear that someone has been arrested. The police cannot be in every street when it happens, but I tell you what, when it happens they are pretty damn good at getting the people responsible. For the statistics of 2015–16 up to December last year, the clearance or the solving rate for homicide was 92 per cent. Here is a tip for you: do not go around killing people, because 92 per cent of the time—the current rate—we will get you. What about recent sexual assaults up to 15 December last year? It is a disgusting crime; hence, we brought in tough mandatory sentencing for home invaders. What are the police doing? They are solving, clearing, arresting or passing on to the prosecutors 117.1 per cent of offenders; in other words, we are dealing with all the current crime and solving old crime. What is the figure for historical sexual assaults? It is 114 per cent. We are working the caseload down. We have heard of the example of business robbery in which this and that was stolen. The police have a 63 per cent clearance rate, which is not 100 per cent but businesses do not always have closed-circuit television and the crime does not always happen during daylight when someone can tackle the offenders. Someone can break in at night and they might not leave fingerprints. I wish the police caught every single one of them, but they do not. However, 63 per cent is certainly better than what the opposition would have us believe, which is that no-one ever gets put to justice. The statistics for the previous full year were equally impressive. With figures like that I can say that my community is proud of our police. The police force is responding to crime as best it can and generally it is exceeding its KPIs. When a crime occurs, the police solve the crime and put people into the justice system.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of this government. I am very proud of the laws that we have put in place, be they mandatory sentencing laws for those who assault police officers or for violent home invaders. I am extremely proud of the additional police officers that this government has brought into the police force. The police academy is based in my electorate and what a fantastic establishment it is. I enjoy going there for police graduations —

Mr P. Abetz interjected.

Mr J. NORBERGER: I have a lot of police, that is right! I am so phenomenally proud of the men and women of our police force. They have my support and I know that they have the support of members of this government.

If we are going to talk about crime, let us talk about crime, but we cannot talk about crime rates and say that it is all the doing of the police or that the Minister for Police is not doing something right. The reality is that the occurrence of crime has a multitude of causes. It is a complex issue. If members really want to discuss the causes of crime, we need to look at the family unit. We need to look at what is happening with the upbringing of our children—that is really where it is at. We do not have time to do that now but if members are going to judge the

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police, let us judge the police on what is relevant. Are they responding to crime? Yes, they are. Are they in the community? Yes, they are. The irony of the matter is that if it was up to members opposite, they would want a police officer on every corner, but in the same breath they slam the Frontline 2020 model. It is the very nature of local policing teams that puts the police in the community. I tell you what: I would rather have a local policing team in the community engaging with the community than sitting behind a desk waiting for the phone to ring and then responding. The reality is that they are doing that anyway and they are doing it well, but it is the 2020 model that is putting police in the community. If a crime occurs, which we know it will because we will never eradicate crime, the police respond and they are pretty damn good at doing that, and when they get there, they are pretty good at solving crime too. Domestic violence is a terrible crime and is something that we all ought to discuss as a separate matter, but we cannot have police in everyone's home. We need to continue to do what we are doing; that is, stand up united against domestic violence—aside from politics—and continue to encourage those suffering from domestic violence to come forward and seek help. If that means that the crime statistics go up, who cares? I will have that because I would rather that they come forward to seek help and let us deal with the perpetrators appropriately.

I would like to thank members for allowing me to share those thoughts and to put a spotlight on what I believe is the reality. Can we do things better? Of course, we always can. We should never become complacent, but we have a fantastic Commissioner of Police, an outstanding Minister for Police and outstandingly professional men and women of the Western Australian police force who I support wholeheartedly. I do not for a moment believe that the situation is anywhere near as diabolical as members opposite would have us believe.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [5.56 pm]: What a pile of tripe! What a disgraceful representation of his community. I have never sat through such gutter rubbish in my life in this place. The member for Joondalup's performance was absolutely disgraceful, and I tell you what, God help the people of Joondalup with this fellow representing them. God help them! The only thing we did not hear this afternoon was that God was on the side of the Liberal Party, and there is a number of members who would believe it. What a pathetic performance. The people of Joondalup, Mandurah, Armadale, Hillarys, Broome, Albany, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Belmont do not want to hear about key performance indicators. You came into this place and all you did was open your big mouth and start prattling on about KPIs. "Look at the KPIs", he said. That is all you do. All you are interested in is KPIs. You are a disgrace to the people you are supposed to represent and I look forward to seeing you out of this place in about 13 or 14 months. You're an idiot! You're a fool!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I call the member for Mandurah for the second time. I call the member for Joondalup for the first time and I call the member for Maylands for the first time. Member for Mandurah, direct your comments through the Chair, please.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Absolutely. The member for Joondalup came into this place this afternoon and began to unravel a whole range of KPIs and then accused the opposition that has brought a very important motion before this place about the crisis in confidence with regard to how policing is now being delivered throughout the state. That is what the motion is about. In our towns, suburbs, cities and regional communities there is a crisis of confidence with regard to policing. I do not know where the member has had his head stuck—I would hate to say an unparliamentary thing where I think it has been stuck—but it has been so firmly stuck in the sand that he wheels in here and starts to defend what is increasingly the indefensible, and that is the point we make in bringing this motion before this place. The people of Joondalup and the people of other communities do not want to hear about KPIs, member for Joondalup. They do not want to hear about KPIs, sunshine! They want to make sure —

Point of Order

Dr A.D. BUTI: As you would have heard, the member for Joondalup keeps interrupting. He has not been asked to interrupt by the member for Mandurah. Can you please take that into consideration?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Thank you, member. I was going to ask the member for Mandurah to redirect his commentary through the Chair, and then I was going to ask the member for Joondalup to desist in interjecting, but no-one was listening to the Chair. Perhaps everyone can listen to the Chair and my instructions at this point in time. Can you direct your commentary through the Chair.

Debate Resumed

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have, Mr Acting Speaker, been looking directly at you. I do not want to look at him because his head has been stuck so far down in the sand that his disgraceful performance this afternoon, which supposedly represented the people in his electorate, was inappropriate. I want to continue my remarks after six because —

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Mrs L.M. Harvey: Have a cup of tea.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have a few things that the minister might want to hear. I am going to tell her a few home truths.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have a number of issues that I will raise directly with the minister because it is more important —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, I am on my feet!

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah! If I am on my feet, you zip it—simple. I have one eye on the clock at the moment. Minister, can you please not interject. Member for Mandurah, I will call you if you do not put your commentary through the Chair. You have probably 30 seconds in which to speak.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have been looking at you, as you directed me to —

The ACTING SPEAKER: You should address me, not individual members.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will keep doing it.

But the minister has been inflamed by some of these comments because all she is doing —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, given the time, thank you.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will look forward to continuing my remarks.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I want to highlight a couple of important issues. I want to really explain something to the house and the Minister for Police. I even want to explain to the member for Joondalup just how out of touch he and his government are. If he believes that there is not a major issue now with regard to rising crime and the effect it is having on communities, families, small businesses, individuals and seniors—if he does not believe there is a problem and an issue, as we heard earlier in his contribution—then fine, he can have his head in the sand. I have to tell him that in my community the great challenge we have is that I do not like talking about what is happening in Mandurah in terms of the negatives, because I am very conscious of the effect that can have on our confidence and our image. But there comes a time when we have to take a stand; there comes a time when we have to say that on behalf of the community and the people who are experiencing the sorts of spikes in crime that have been highlighted in the last year or so, that we have to face up to it. There also comes a time when the government and minister of the day have to take responsibility. That is the crucial thing I point out now.

When this new policing model was introduced, I went to the briefing over here in West Perth because I had been concerned about policing and the foisting, for example, of the Peel policing district, as it was then, with it being absorbed into south metro. I went to the police forum in West Perth when it was held. I went to the first forum in Mandurah in late 2014. I went to the next forum in Rockingham, which was hosted by the City of Rockingham in the Gary Holland Community Centre; I was there. I went to the second Mandurah forum late last year. The minister was present at two of those and I did not get up and have a go at her. I did highlight a number of things that people were telling me about their issues with the policing teams and how the mobile phone networks would work and all that. I was there and I have to say that I was the only local member who was.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am talking about the Mandurah-associated ones; I know the member was at the Rockingham one representing his community in Rockingham. As I said to the commissioner, both privately and at some of those meetings and, indeed, publicly, I did not have a problem with wanting this model to work. I am not having a go at the minister about this, but she knows that I highlighted something to her late last year that she responded to, which was of course the fact that at the Mandurah Police Station there have been three officers in charge in the last 12 months. The minister will remember that I approached her. I could have done a grandstand and a press release attacking her, but I did not. The minister was there and she knows what was said in the conversation. There have been three officers in charge in 12 months. We know the officers in charge have a very difficult role, and the officers we have had in charge have been brilliant. I have not got to know the new one very well, because he has only been there for two months or so, but certainly Dean Snashall and Glen Willers, who were the prior officers in charge, did a great job. Dean Snashall is a great young policeman. I can understand why he was headhunted, if you like, to go to the Pilbara. The fact is that when we are supposed to be pulling

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together a model that involves local area policing, establishing and maintaining strong networks with small business and community stakeholders, we need some consistency. We were not getting it with that. Then there were a range of other issues. Last week, I had a bit of a go at the local councils in my area because I said it was their responsibility to question these things when it affects their community. The *Mandurah Mail* reported a bit of a stoush between me and the Mayor of Mandurah, Marina Vergone. I had a good meeting with her on Friday and we talked about why I am so frustrated about this. She herself highlights in the press today that even she is not confident about this model. Numerous stakeholders are saying that enough is enough. That is why I mentioned—I admire it—the stand taken by the Mayor of Armadale, Henry Zelones, who sees the damage to a community when it is consistently featured as the top crime spot in the state. He sees the damage it has to its reputation and its impact on business confidence. We do not want to come in here and lampoon or go on about our communities being in the top three or four, but when they are consistently in the top three or four and the government and government members of the day defend a model that stakeholders themselves are saying is flawed and has failed, we have a responsibility to bring that to this place and to the attention of the minister and the government of the day. Despite what the member for Joondalup says with all his excuses and KPI analyses, the fact is, it is a flawed model. There are serious problems with it. We have serious questions, minister, about the status of the policing teams because the commissioner is saying that all those resources are being targeted at responding to crime. Do I tell my community to keep ringing the mobile numbers, because they do not know what to do? We know that at the beginning of this model, particularly in Mandurah, there was a major problem with people getting through to police and getting a response.

I want to highlight to the minister—it does not give me any pleasure doing this—an email I received today by a business person in the premier tourist part of central Mandurah, the very famous Smart Street Mall, an important part of Mandurah. It is the strip where there is market activity on weekends; it is part of the CBD and is the gateway to the foreshore. It is very popular. I want to tell members about a conversation I had with a proprietor who runs a shop called the Fairy Dell, which attracts kids, particularly young girls. I have known these people for a long time and I have taken police down to see them over a period about the issues they face. I think this email epitomises the problems we face with this policing model. The minister cannot ignore it. I cannot ignore it; it is irresponsible if I ignore it and accept the excuses that the minister and people like the member for Joondalup highlight. It is my responsibility to stand here and tell members what is happening. If we lived in the member for Joondalup's world, you would think we were living in hunky-dory land where everything is nice and rosy. But the fact is that many parts of our community are being impacted. I will read this email and some other emails that confirm what happened on Saturday in the Smart Street Mall in Mandurah. I quote —

Hi David,

Thank you for your time. We have for some time now been dealing with the homeless, and the less desirable element of Mandurah converging around the centre of Mandurah, especially The Smart St Mall. One particular male —

She names him and I will not name him. She continues —

has been frequenting The Smart St Mall for approximately 6 months during which time the police have been called to deal with ongoing issues with him by myself and other shop owners, Woolworths included, but unfortunately the issues are escalating. ... throws food at people, spits, begs, and abuses anyone that may come his way. On Saturday the 20th of February ... was, as usual, hanging around and begging in the mall, where the Smart St Market Stall holders were setting up, when he began to abuse them. He threatened to slit the throat of a couple of people, and also go and get his gun and shoot everyone around. He has also threatened this previously as well. He is unstable and we are unsure if he will actually follow through with his threats.

We have lost customers and stall holders, my staff are scared to be alone in the store —

Many of her staff are young women under the age of 25 because of the nature of the business she runs. The email continues —

... so we have two people in at a time for safety reasons. We even have to close our doors of business up to ¾ hr early because of the carry on.

It was brought to my attention yesterday afternoon that there was a warrant out for his arrest due to not turning up in court for an incident behind a Greenfields school.

This gentleman exposed himself to kids and families behind Greenfields Primary School. The email continues —

We sighted him ... in the Smart ST mall across from our shop and called 131444. We explained that he was here that we were aware there was a warrant out for him and that to make matters worse he had

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stopped two young boys who were walking past and was trying to have a conversation with them. No police turned up.

This is not an isolated event, begging, fights, aggression, and loitering is an everyday occurrence (generally involving the same groups of people). I have spoken with council whom have said will organise meetings, but nothing has happened yet. I was told by police that we needed to speak to council to have a bylaw passed to prevent loitering, as then they could shift them on, I have taken this up with council, but again nothing. We are lost as to what to do, but I do know soon someone will be hurt, worse than the injuries we have already seen to innocent victims just passing by.

She highlights two letters—in fact there are three—from other market stallholders. The first reads —

To Whom It May Concern.

I am putting in a complaint in regards to what happen on Saturday while we were doing the markets early on Saturday the 20th. This guy who is known to a lot of people, gave myself & others grief. He started off swearing the F & C word & got really out of control. He said he was going to kill me with a gun to take the smile of my face & shouted to other that he was going to get a gun & kill us all. He also threatened me & other & said he was going to use his knife. The police were called numerous times but didn't turn up till after lunch. This guy also threw his water bottle at a lady. The lady next to us was going to have a coffee, but soon moved due to his behaviour.

This isn't the first time this person has threaten me. Because of his behaviour he has driven people away, plus I no longer feel safe. There is also to many beggars asking people for money. That in its self is a put off for people to come down to the Markets to enjoy themselves.

This is another letter that reads —

This is a letter to the Mandurah City council. I am writing this today in regards to the incident in the Smart Street Mall, Mandurah on Saturday the 20th February —

Which was last Saturday —

We were in the mall will a stall at the markets which run every Saturday weather permitting. I have never witnessed such foul language which was directed at anyone he could see. He was very abusive. He told the lady that sits outside of Woolworths and collects money for the Salvation Army, that he was —

I cannot say the expletives because they are unparliamentary. He was going to “cut her expletive head off, you expletive expletive”. The letter continues —

I do apologise for the crude language but that is was we had to put up with yesterday. He abused everyone in Woolworths and then left.

We called the police at 8am and told them what was going on. He was threatening to come back with a knife or gun ... They said they would send a car out. We still hadn't the police turn up by 8:40am he was still around and was still abusing people. He seems to be targeting women. So I called the police again. I was told this time that they were getting quite a few calls about this same guy being abusive one of them being Red Rooster on Mandurah Terrace. We were once again told they were on their way. This guy was hanging around just waiting for someone to say anything to him and then fire up. By 11:40am —

Remember that the first call was made at 8.00 am —

he was off again because he walked up to a family and just started to tell them all his worries. The man politely said “I'm sorry mate” and the walked away. That prompted another tirade of abuse. A lady who was at our stall politely to him to curb his language and lower his voice. He then threw a full bottle of water at the lady's mother. I then called the police for a third time. Again was told they would be on their way. They were getting a lot of calls about him. They finally came about 12.:30.

Remember that the original call was made at 8.00 am —

By this time he had finally scarpered away after throwing the bottle at the lady. They took some notes and said if we wanted him charged we would all have to go to court as witnesses. I for one do not want him to know me as one of them. So they said that they have to witness him doing it and then they can lay charges.

Come on; this is not good enough. The letter continues —

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 24 February 2016]

p777b-798a

Acting Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Jan Norberger; Mr David Templeman; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Paul Papalia

We are all (stall holders ... are scared he will indeed one day come back with a weapon and hurt someone. We have tourists in the mall yesterday morning but after being abused they left very quickly.

This man ... needs to not be in the mall. He needs proper care medication.

Absolutely; I cannot argue with that —

He seems to be getting increasingly violent.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The letter continues —

He spits and as I have said he was throwing things.

Please do something about him, he is not good for our city. It is hard enough to get people into the city without having that peanut driving them away.

Another email reads —

Hi Raylene,

Raylene is one of the shop owners. The email continues —

On Saturday the 19th Feb at approximately 8.00 am I was at my stall and I could hear yelling from a very distraught you man. This was coming from further down the mall. He then walked up towards Woolworth's and sat on the seat near by which was rather close to my stall. He was sitting on the seat with no shirt on and swearing and yelling ... This went on for some hours.

A young man that clearly needs help ...

This needs to be addressed for the safety of the public, and the staff and shop owners. The public come down on a Saturday for a relaxing and peaceful stroll down the mall and do not need this disturbance. This is also detrimental to our businesses.

Those are just some examples of incidents on the weekend. I will provide the minister with another instance that astounded me. This particular shop gets pilfered regularly. There are nine cameras in the shop and one outside. I will recount an incident that happened last week. After hearing of this I had a meeting with the local policing team, and I asked them to come to the shop after the meeting to hear the story. A woman came into the shop who had previously been there with two young children. It is a very similar story to that of the member for Midland. This woman comes into the store and blatantly shoplifts—steals—property. The proprietor phoned the police, saying that she knew the woman, they had her on the camera and that she was now making her way across to public transport. There was no response. The proprietor actually got into her car and followed the bus that this woman got on, up Pinjarra Road, and watched where she got off. She stopped her car in the car park and called the police again saying that she was now behind this woman, who was making her way across Pinjarra Road. She had got off the bus at the Mandurah Forum, which is at the top end of Pinjarra Road, where the police station is. I am not telling fibs, and this is why I am so peeved with people like the member for Joondalup who get up in here. This woman then crossed the road and walked through the police station car park. If members do not believe me, Raylene will tell them this story. I know the Minister for Police is coming down for a cabinet meeting in April, and I would love her to meet Raylene. This woman walked past the car park to get into the avenues of Mandurah, which are behind the police compound. The shop owner then rang the police while she was walking about 100 metres behind this woman, and said to the police "I'm following her; she's outside." Oh, come on!

I am not attacking the police, and this is what peeves me about that idiot—I am sorry, that member who spoke before me—when he said that we attack police. I am not attacking the police. I have met them, and I admire what they do, but the government has tied their hands behind their backs. It has given the police a dud model, which it is now trying to get its backbench to defend. Statistics show very clearly that things are not trending downwards; they are trending upwards and they are spiking appallingly. Then members like the member for Joondalup come in here and defend the indefensible.

As I said previously, greater Mandurah and the Shire of Murray should be seen as a policing district in its own right. We had that with the Peel police district. The demand for that is shown by current and projected population. The population of Peel will hit 189 000 within the next 20 years. The current and projected population demands policing resources and a policing entity that are able to respond effectively and quickly to Mandurah and its environs. The government's model was that more resources would be put in, with response teams and everything else, and these local policing teams. I am telling the minister now that it ain't working, and now even the City of Mandurah has responded by saying it understands and agrees. I did not mind the concept of local policing teams as it was explained originally, in terms of getting these people to know and understand their

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community and their neighbourhoods. However, the fact of the matter is that it has failed. It is flawed and it has failed. I do not know whether I am breaching privilege or not, but I understand that even the commissioner himself has made comments that it has not worked.

Minister, this is not a time to just do the old defending by saying that crime has not really increased in longitudinal terms. As our economy has constricted and a range of people are concerned about their livelihoods, these sorts of issues are trending upwards. It is the government's responsibility to lead in this area and to respond to these challenges by saying that it will resource and defend the sorts of things that are occurring, not just in Mandurah, but also in other parts of the state. Government members cannot stick their heads so far in the sand, like the member for Joondalup did in his speech, and claim that everything is hunky dory and he has never seen things so good. He then tried to attack the opposition by saying that we are anti-police; we hate the police and we do not respect them. That is rubbish and it is offensive because members on this side work with the local police.

Ms L.L. Baker: Or are related to them.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Some of us have family members who are in the police service. This is a reality check for this government. That is why this motion has been put forward and that is why I have mentioned just that. Every day someone tells me—whether it is in my office, by phone, or when I am out walking around—the sorts of stuff that is happening. Whether we like it or not, many, many people have an increasing sense that they do not think it is worth even reporting some of the things that go on because they do not have confidence that it will either be thoroughly investigated or responded to. That is not a criticism of the police; that is people saying what is happening to them in their neighbourhoods. Members would only have to go to some of the communities in my area to see how many have set up their own little Crimewatch-type things on Facebook. There is one where I live. People basically log on to it and say, “Hey, suspicious stuff is happening now; someone was in our backyard. Warning! Warning!” That is great. We then need to know that there is going to be a police targeting of that activity. That is where people do not have the confidence.

The member for Joondalup mentioned that satisfaction rating was one of the key performance indicators. It is not about satisfaction; I think it is probably more the respect rate. The vast majority of Western Australians respect their police service personnel. They understand how difficult the job is and they understand the challenges that police officers face. That is not a criticism of them; they understand that. However, police officers tell us—members opposite have been told this over and over—without being encouraged, that they do not feel they are resourced properly and they are burdened with so much stuff to try to get through that eventually things get on top of them. Crimes such as not paying for fuel and driving off, and the sorts of things I mentioned with the fairy shop in Mandurah, are serious issues and they should be seen as that.

I had a good conversation on Friday with Mayor Vergone and the chief executive officer, Mark Newman. We talked about if the model is not working in policing, it undermines the good efforts and good work of many stakeholders, particularly local governments, in the community safety programs that they have set up. Many of those programs have very good intentions and good research backgrounds or evidence-based plans. Is all very well to have lots of closed-circuit televisions but if the follow-up is not resourced, people very quickly lose confidence. If the policing model and resourcing are not working, it undermines local government's attempts to improve community safety and improve people's perception of crime. We all know that perception of crime is a big one. This motion has been brought to this place because there is genuine concern in my area and in many other parts of the state.

When the cabinet comes down in April, I would like the Minister for Police to meet the mayor, and the mayor would like to meet the minister while she is down there. I am not going to bag or have a go at the minister publicly—I will not do that—but I want the minister to understand that, absolutely and honestly, I cannot shy away from this issue. I get called a show pony and grandstander by the member for Dawesville. He can call me a grandstander and show pony as much as he likes, but one thing he will not do is shut me up! No, the member for Dawesville will not shut me up!

Dr K.D. Hames interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What is wrong?

Dr K.D. Hames: I do not expect to, because you enjoy being a show pony.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, no; the minister labels me that, but he misses the intention and the reason I do it. The reason I raise these issues—unlike the member for Dawesville who did not go to any of the public forums about policing —

Dr K.D. Hames interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: You did not go to any!

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Dr K.D. Hames: I have.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Which one? Did you go to the two in Mandurah?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Members! Member for Mandurah, I am on my feet.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, you did not.

Dr K.D. Hames: I did.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, you did not!

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am on my feet! Member for Mandurah, sit down, please.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I call you to order for the third time; and Minister for Health for the first time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: No, sit down! Sit down! I am on my feet. We had this before the dinner break and we are not going to continue like this. If the Chair, me or someone else, is on their feet, members will sit down and be quiet. Thank you. You have got two minutes to go. Can you please direct your commentary through the Chair. Minister, please refrain from interjecting.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am responding to the interjections, and I was happy to take the interjections.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I have asked you and I have called the minister —

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Mr Acting Speaker, sorry, with all due respect —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sit down, please. I have called the minister for interjecting and I have told him to refrain from interjecting further. I have asked you to direct your commentary through the Chair.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: And I do not want to hear from you, member!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The precedent in this place is that if a member accepts an interjection, they accept an interjection. I accepted the interjection. Mr Acting Speaker, I think you are wrong, but I cannot canvass your decision.

I want to finish by saying very simply: this is the main issue in the areas that I represent. The statistics that came out that were published in *The West Australian* and in other areas show worrying, worrying trends in all areas of crime. I will continue to raise the issue and continue to highlight where I think this government has gone wrong. The government's model is flawed; the model has failed. We need a better model, better resourcing and the government needs to do it now.

MR A. KRSTICEVIC (Carine) [7.27 pm]: I would like to say a few words on this motion. I am glad the member for Mandurah was able to clarify his speech at the end when, basically, he said that he supported the police, because halfway through his speech that was not the impression I got. I am glad that he clarified near the end of his speech that he does actually support the police.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I am on my feet—please! Can we just listen to the member on his feet. If you want to get the call later on, you are more than happy to do that. But, please, let us stop these interjections. Poor Hansard is trying to get a true recording of this and people interjecting across the chamber make it extremely difficult.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I realise that everybody in this house supports the police and that the police are very conscious of the expectations of the community on them and that the resources they have to work with can sometimes be constrained. Police are a bit like the health system. There are lots of parts of our community that could do with a lot more money, but unfortunately there is not a lot more money, so we need to look at smarter ways.

The motion states —

That this house notes that the Liberal–National government has failed to properly address the rising crime being experienced in our suburbs and towns.

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I am not sure why everybody is focusing on only the police in this, because this government, and any government, needs to take a holistic view on this. Police are but one mechanism in the whole process.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, you are on three calls. Member for Girrawheen, I am on my feet. Member, you have three calls and I think you were trying to seek the call before, so if you want to speak and contribute to this debate, please refrain from interjecting. I do not want to have to kick you out of the chamber.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: The police are the ones people call when a crime has been committed; they are the people called when action needs to be taken because a crime has been committed. They are not there before the crime is committed; in many instances they cannot stop that crime. We see police on the roads; they cannot stop people from speeding. People will still speed even though there are police on the roads. As a simple example, there is a fixed speed camera on Mitchell Freeway, and a lot of people drive past that fixed camera and get speeding fines. Everyone knows it is there, but people still speed. Lots of things out there are used to try to minimise and deter crime.

I obviously want to touch on police and police resources, but that is not my primary focus. I was heartened by the member for Joondalup's speech. At least from a key performance indicator statistical perspective, albeit that that is only a very small figure, the police are doing the best they can with the resources they have. That is a good indicator. They are using their experience, the experience of the Commissioner of Police and the Assistant Commissioner of Police, as well as the police on the ground, to work with the Minister for Police to try to come up with the right model and the right way to approach the crime situation and to try to find the best way to work with the community, whether on the ground through the use of technology and CCTV cameras or through working with other parts of the community. The police are aware of this and are taking many different approaches, and both the current and previous police ministers were probably the hardest working police ministers we have ever had in this state.

Point of Order

Dr A.D. BUTI: I wonder whether the member has actually read the motion. It refers to the WA government; it does not refer to the police. Would the member like to actually refer to the government?

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: The Liberal government?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes, the government.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): The point of order is to the Chair, not to you. Sit down, please.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The point of order is on the issue of relevance, Mr Acting Speaker. He should be talking to the motion.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you for the point of order, member. There has been wide discussion around police, policing and police resourcing from both sides throughout this entire debate.

Debate Resumed

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: That is correct, Mr Acting Speaker; I do agree with you. It is obvious from the way members are speaking that everybody is generally happy with the police, the effort they are putting in and how much they are trying to help the community and solve crime. But I want to touch on a couple of other things because, at the end of the day, it is not about just the police. This government is doing lots of other things to try to assist. We all know that one of the issues out there in the community is mental health. The member for Mandurah gave the example of the individual who was undertaking those activities in the mall, and on the surface that sounds to me like a mental health issue. It is not a policing issue in the sense of the police being able to do something about it. They can pick him up, they can put him in jail and they can charge him with something, and he will be out the next day. There is a lot more to it. It is important to note that we have invested heavily in the mental health sector. We have identified that as an area of concern and we are the first government to introduce a mental health minister.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: One in five Western Australians will experience mental health issues in any given year, and I think that is important to note. There are obviously a lot of reasons for the manifestation of mental health issues, whether it is alcohol, drugs, financial stress, relationship issues or just not being able to cope with life in general. I have been looking at some statistics. In the period between 2009 and 2013—this is an important thing

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to take into account—approximately half of all domestic assaults and more than a third of all non-domestic assaults were alcohol related. That means that alcohol is a serious issue for our community, and we know that. We see it on the news all the time, and we hear it all the time in broadcasts. We also know that methamphetamine is an issue in our community, predominantly for people over the age of 14. A reasonable percentage of people use methamphetamines. Between that and alcohol, some major problems are created for our police.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro!

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Since this government came into power, it has focused on dealing with drugs and alcohol. We now have a Mental Health Commission and we appointed the first Mental Health Commissioner. It is important to note that since 2008 we have increased the mental health budget by 77 per cent. It has increased from \$470 million to \$836 million. When I first came into Parliament, this government made a huge contribution to the not-for-profit sector. They are the people on the ground who deal with these issues firsthand. Hundreds and hundreds of millions —

Ms L.L. Baker: It was \$600 million eight years ago.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: That is correct—\$600 million. The member for Maylands probably felt a little embarrassed —

Ms L.L. Baker: No, no; I congratulated you.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: The member did, but I think she would have felt embarrassed when the previous government —

Ms L.L. Baker: With indexation, it was \$135 million a year.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Yes, that is right. When the Labor Party was in government, when it had those billion-dollar surpluses every year and it was rolling around with money in the bank, how much did it provide to the not-for-profit sector? How much did the Labor Party provide to help the poor and the sick?

Ms L.L. Baker: One hundred and thirty-five million a year.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: That is right. We did something that no other government had done. I think that is important to note. The Labor Party prides itself on helping the poor, the underprivileged and those who are suffering, but it did nothing. When it was rolling around in money —

Ms L.L. Baker: That's not true.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Not as much; sorry—I will not say it did nothing. The Labor Party did not do as much as it could have. It is important to note that it did not do what it could have done. The Liberal Party got into government and helped that sector. We realised that they are the people closest to the ground who can help the community and can help try to improve the situation for those people who are really suffering and struggling. Not only that, this government invested heavily in the mental health sector. It is very important to note that a lot of crime is linked to mental health. The Minister for Mental Health has a 2015–25 mental health plan. There is a plan to put that in place at a community level. It is a community-based plan, working with the community, working at a grassroots level, to try to help that sector. The Minister for Health has also invested heavily in hospital beds. As at 6 January 2016, there were 766 specialised mental health beds in Western Australia. It is very important to note that these things have happened.

The Minister for Police has been involved in the court diversion program. We know that people with mental health issues will find themselves in the court system. There are two programs. One is an adult program. A specialised treatment and referral team is located at the Perth Magistrates Court. That team started in March 2013. They provide specialised advice and support via a clinical team to the court to help people with mental health issues. There is also a children's program called Links that started on 8 April 2013. That is located at the Perth Children's Court.

I realise that members opposite probably do not care that all these things are happening in this sector. We realise that it is much bigger than only the police. So many different areas need to be tackled. The results from the Links program are early, but my understanding is that 92 per cent of participants have improved their health and wellbeing by going through that program. Eighty per cent of participants have ceased offending or committed fewer crimes after engaging in the program.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

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The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Member, please! I am trying to give you some leniency because I know that you want the call. Please work with me on this. Stop interjecting across the chamber, please.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I think it is important. It is disappointing that members opposite do not acknowledge some of the work that has been done by people in this sector. It is disappointing that they are belittling it. They are not taking it seriously. The member for Warnbro is great at belittling things. He is great at making —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, you are not going to make my job any easier if you start directing comments to the member for Warnbro. Direct your comments through the Chair.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Sorry, I will not say that. It is disappointing. These are real programs. These are real people—these are kids—and the member is treating it as a joke. That is a disgrace. He should be ashamed of himself. These are kids who are suffering. They are being helped in the courts, through the legal system, by health practitioners, and the member is treating it as a joke. It is a disgrace. Politics is one thing. Being a smart-arse and a show pony, and trying to be a bully, is great, but let us focus —

Withdrawal of Remark

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I will ask you to withdraw that comment, please.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Okay. I withdraw; sorry.

Debate Resumed

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I am sorry but I am upset. I know what some members are like. They like to play these stupid games when we are talking about something very serious here.

Mr P.B. Watson: You're only reading someone else's notes anyway!

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I am not reading notes. I am referring to some information about programs that are real. The member for Albany should be ashamed of himself if he thinks it is not worth getting those programs on the record. It is very important to understand this.

We also have a police co-response team. It is trialling a two-year program that was launched in December 2015. That program is trying to divert people with mental health illnesses away from the justice system and into the health system and support networks. The state government has put \$6.5 million into that trial. I think that is a great initiative. That is one thing that is being done from a mental health perspective.

I want to touch on our education system to reinforce the fact that these things are happening across the board. We talked about youth—the youth being the ones who are most at risk. It is a good solid start if we can get them to school and if we have the right programs, environment and support in schools. We have the school chaplaincy program —

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Maylands!

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: The school chaplaincy program has been supported by this government from day one. We have put \$9.2 million into it. There are 500 schools with chaplains at the moment. We have also contributed \$5.68 million to youth care to provide chaplaincy services to public schools.

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Maylands, I have asked you to stop interjecting a couple of times. I call you to order for the second time. Please, just listen to the member with the call quietly.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: We also have chaplains who support fly in, fly out services and incident response chaplains as well. That is a very good program. Children can talk to someone who is not necessarily a teacher or who is not necessarily in the big brother administrative environment but generally a young person, from the ones I have seen in my area, who can relate to the kids in the schools. I think that is fantastic.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I call you to order for the second time. We cannot just have members interjecting and interrupting across the chamber willy-nilly. Please, the member for Carine has the call.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: We have also introduced 16 child and parent centres in various locations near schools that have the greatest need in terms of community issues and dysfunction and where support is required. The \$48.7 million that has gone into that program is not a small amount of money. These centres are starting to have an impact on children in the community at a very early age.

We also have engagement centres, which are something new starting in 2016. We have 13 engagement centres to help the existing behaviour centres. They are replacing those centres and again supporting people with the most

complex problems. The most disengaged and the most challenging students are being sent to those centres to get the specialist care and support they need to get back on the right track and into the mainstream community. We are trying to deal with their issues in a more professional manner rather than in a school environment, where they sometimes get lost in what is going on. I think it is important that we keep building that support with the parents and the students and give them not just advice but real genuine counselling and other services that they might need. We are developing a new learning academy in Midland to deal with the most intensive educational problems and the kids who really cannot cope in a mainstream school. That is a good program, identifying that there are differences out there and that there are people who require a lot more resources, effort, engagement, interaction and support. That is fantastic. They are two areas in the education system in which we are running some programs.

We are running programs in the mental health sector. The police are trying different models. They are trying to do the best they can. For the 2015–16 year, we are giving the police a budget of \$1.4 billion. That is an unprecedented amount of money—an increase of four per cent from the previous year. We are continually putting more money into policing; we are continually giving them more resources. Out of the promised 6 204 officers, an additional 550 officers are coming on board along with 357 police auxiliary officers, who will be in place by 30 June 2017. We are on target to meet that promise.

I will not go into the key performance indicators of police, but it is important that I touch very quickly on the crime statistics that are quoted in figures of per 100 000 people. I will compare 2004–05 with 2014–15 and look at the changes that occurred over those 10 years when the state was facing massive population growth and issues with drugs. We know that drugs such as methamphetamines and ice are out there, and the police are doing a fantastic job to try to stay on top of that problem, but unfortunately the job is not easy. I want to look at the statistics. Non-domestic assaults have decreased from 658.6 to 434 per 100 000 people. Robbery, business, offences have decreased from 14.7 to 10.3 per 100 000 people. Robbery, non-business, offences have decreased from 76.2 to 42.3 per 100 000 people. Dwelling burglary offences have decreased from 1 328.2 to 1 013.4 per 100 000 people. Total offences against property have decreased from 8 167 to 6 151 per 100 000 people.

Several members interjected.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: We are not saying that the crimes do not exist and that there is not a problem. I am looking at the statistics and the data and we need to look at everything holistically. Yes, there is the news, the personal stories and the facts and figures, but we need to look at all that to measure how well we are doing. Since 2009, WA Police have also impounded 67 500 vehicles—over 13 000 for hoon offences and 54 000 for non-authority to drive offences. As members can see, the police have been busy in that respect. Also since 2012, police have served 29 691 immediate disqualification notices for drink-driving.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: We introduced legislation for pursuits, which carry a minimum 12-month jail term for drivers who are convicted for trying to escape from police pursuits and who engage in dangerous driving causing death or serious injury. Again, stories about high-speed chases were always on the news. We do not see them as much anymore; they have declined by 55.4 per cent. Some great work has been done in that area.

I turn to the government's legislative agenda since being elected in 2008. Since that time a monstrous amount of law and order legislation has gone through this Parliament. In a lot of cases even though the opposition did not vote against it, it spoke against some of it. It is almost as though the opposition was stuck between a rock and a hard place because it knew that the community supported our legislation. The opposition did not necessarily support the legislation but it could not vote against it, so it spoke against some pieces of legislation but still supported it at the end of the day because the opposition did not want to be seen as voting against that legislation.

Graffiti was a big issue. This government introduced legislation to deal with graffiti by increasing the penalties and reducing access to graffiti implements. We have had a bit of an impact in that area, and it has had an impact in my electorate. I have seen the results. There is also some standalone graffiti legislation on track at the moment that has gone through the Legislative Assembly. Also, home burglary legislation has been outstanding in dealing with people who commit violent and sexual offences. People were feeling unsafe in their homes. I believe that a person's home should be a sanctuary and they should feel safe there. People who break into other people's homes and commit serious offences should expect to go to jail for a long time. If anything, we have probably been a little bit generous in what has been imposed. I would have gone much further than that.

Mandatory testing of people's blood is important for when people are not interested in complying with the law when they are affected by drugs or alcohol or when they have bitten police officers. It is important to protect our police officers. We have talked about assaults on police officers and the amazing amount of support we have

given the police to throw people into jail if they have assaulted police officers. Again, if we think about it, we do not see the things we used to see on the news anymore, and that means that a lot of this legislation is working. It does not mean that there are not still problems out there or that there are no areas for improvement and refinement; it does not mean that we do not listen to the community, the police or health professionals. As members of Parliament we need to listen to each other as well, but we need to be genuine in what we are saying. Members of Parliament cannot just put everything down and say that nothing works, everything is bad and put down everyone in the system who is doing all the hard work. There are a lot of public servants and health professionals who are giving their life and blood to try to help and the opposition is saying that that is not good enough, it is failing and everything is bad. I guarantee that if opposition members spoke to a lot of those people, they would find a lot of success and good news stories, and they would find people who have changed and turned their lives around.

I am sure the member for Southern River would have plenty of those sorts of examples from his experience in working with members of the community. There are a lot of good stories. That does not mean that there are not also a lot of bad stories. In every facet of our lives we will find someone who is unhappy, someone who is disgruntled or someone who could not get the answer they wanted. It happens all the time. The question is: do we focus on just the one, two, three, four or five bad stories or do we focus on the bigger picture and look at what is really happening and try to get the best outcome that we can? That is very important.

We have talked about reckless driving and police pursuits. Police pursuits used to be shown on television all the time. We see a lot less of that now. It is appropriate that people go to jail for a minimum length of time if they commit serious offences or injure people. I know the opposition does not like mandatory sentencing. However, the community has had enough. The community has said that we need to sort this out and get these people off the streets.

I have been talking to the Minister for Corrective Services about this, and he told me that a huge number of programs are taking place in his portfolio. He talked about the involvement of David Wirrpanda through the Wirrpanda Foundation in mentoring people who are coming through the prison system. It was interesting. He said to me that we pay people to do this. However, that payment is based on the outcome. If they are able to get a person to reform themselves, make a difference to their lives and not go back to jail, we reward them for the work they have done with that person. That is fantastic. It is great that the minister is looking at that sector. Every minister across the board is looking at ways of improving the law and order side of things and improving the community that we live in. A lot more can be done. We are working on that all the time. It does not matter who is in government. We cannot get it right all the time. Crime was here in the past, crime is here now, and crime will always be here. The question is: with the resources that we have, is the law and order side of it the way to go? We need to look at the big picture. We need to look at families. Are people struggling in their lives? Are they able to cope? Do they have the skills to be a parent and deal with their children and raise them properly? I know that members opposite do not like that. They do not like the fact that maybe families need to do something about this and seek help and support. It is not easy to get that support. Everybody is busy. Everybody is tied up in their own little world. Services are available in the not-for-profit sector. However, more needs to be done to get people talking and collaborating.

It is not just about taking the big hammer approach. It is about what we want our community and our society to look like in the future, and what we can do as a government to make that happen. Are opposition members interested in working with us or do they just want to bag everything and put everything down and say that nothing is good enough and they do not care about all the good things we have done? I am sure that not one member of the opposition is going to talk about the impact of all the good things that we are doing in mental health and in education. No. They do not want to focus on that. They want to focus just on the police. They want to focus just on the end of the chain, once a crime has been committed. We want to focus on the things that we can do better. There is always room for improvement in everything we do in our lives. There is no doubt about that. But let us look at the start, and at everything we do in between, and at the end result as well. The ultimate aim is to get a society in which we do not need police because people are working together and doing the right thing and not committing crime. That is never going to happen, but that is the ultimate goal. Members opposite are laughing. They think that if we ever get to a society in which we do not need police, that would be a joke—why would we want to be in that sort of world?

Several members interjected.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: They are laughing as though that is a joke. They are laughing as though getting rid of crime is a joke. Why would we want to get rid of crime? They are laughing as though that is a joke.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Members!

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Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Butler!

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I am not saying that we are ever going to be there. I am just saying where we would ultimately like to be.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I am on my feet. Member for Butler, it is great that you are back in the chamber, but you do not have the call. I would like to listen to the member for Carine.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I am not saying that we are ever going to get there, and it is a fantasy that we ever will. That would be the ideal situation, but it will never happen. We could sit down and say that this is the ideal situation, but it will never happen. We need to do what we can to head down that path to make our community and our society a better place, to give everybody the quality of life that they want and to make sure that people are not fearful in their daily lives and can do what they want and be productive citizens. I think that is what everybody ultimately wants—to live their life in peace, to be productive, to look after their families and to enjoy the time they have on this earth. That is very important. This government is very compassionate in that regard. We are always thinking about how we can do things better. I wish I knew the answer. I wish I could just click my fingers and make it all right. I wish I had the resources to make that happen, but I do not and so we need to work within the constraints we have. We are focusing on every portfolio to see what we can do to minimise the stress and aggravation in the community and to reduce the crimes against, and the suffering by, the people who are most hard hit by it.

At the end of the day, people also need to help; every single person needs to help. I know of lots of people who have seen crimes or things happening but they do not want to report it. They do not want to say anything: “It’s not my problem. I don’t want to go to court.” There is a balance there. People do not want to get involved, but they do not want the crimes to exist. We have to step up, take responsibility and say that we are prepared to take on the consequences of supporting each other, doing the right thing, knowing and helping our next-door neighbour and building communities. We do not have enough of that either—people knowing their neighbours and having an active, engaged community. We need to do more about that and start caring about each other. In the old days, we knew not only the people who lived next door but the people who lived in the next street. We can do a lot more in that regard to care about each other.

I thank the Minister for Police for the wonderful work that she is doing, for the support she is giving to the police both financially and morally, and for the encouragement she is giving them to try different initiatives and ideas. Not everything we try will work, and it does not mean that it does not need to be changed or modified or tweaked around the edges. Do these guys opposite think they have the perfect answer? They have been in government before, so why has it not been fixed already? Why was it not fixed when we came to government? Why was it not perfect? Why were all these laws and issues not solved? They were not. If members opposite are saying that we should have fixed it all, I can guarantee them one thing: if they ever get into government, they will not fix it all either, and they are fooling themselves if they think they will. They will try and they will be committed to it and they will make the best they can out of it, and we will probably criticise them.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: That is right. The first thing that the member for Hillarys did when he became Minister for Police was introduce a law to take cannabis off the streets. These guys introduced legislation that more or less legalised it, so that people could grow two plants and do what they wanted. The first thing he did as the Minister for Police in 2009 was introduce legislation so that people could not do what they liked and grow two cannabis plants in their backyard. We did not support that cannabis legislation.

Again, members of the community get mixed messages from governments. On the one hand, they are told that they can grow two plants, they can have 30 grams and they can do this and that, but the next week they are told that they cannot and then they are told that they can and then they are told that maybe they can do it this way. We need to be consistent in our message. We cannot keep chopping and changing all the time. We have to say, “This is not good.” We have to be tough and consistent. We have to work in a bipartisan way to make sure that we can fix some of these problems; otherwise, we will just keep going backwards and forwards and running around in circles. That is very important.

Thank you very much, Mr Acting Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to say a few words. I was very passionate about getting something on the record about this issue, because we are doing a lot of good things and they need to be acknowledged, but, at the same time, there is lots of room for improvement. I will do what I can in working with my community and the Minister for Police. I have had the policing team in my electorate of Carine. The community gave that team a lot of good feedback and that was very positive. I also went out with

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the minister to the operations centre in Midland and I visited the water police, and it was fantastic to see the job they are doing.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro) [8.00 pm]: Few things better illustrate the depth of failure of the Barnett government and the lack of depth of its talent pool than watching backbenchers floundering around reading from prepared notes.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Member for Wanneroo, I am on my feet. Member for Carine, I am going to call you to order for the first time. Member for Wanneroo, you are already on notice from my last stint in the chair.

Mr P. PAPALIA: They were floundering around reading from prepared notes, given to them by Dixie Marshall, stating or claiming a number of statistics without reference.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Member for Carine!

Mr P. PAPALIA: There were statistics quoted across the chamber without reference.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr P. PAPALIA: For all we know they were completely fabricated.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Mr P. Papalia: I have not finished yet.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, members, I am on my feet. In accordance with standing order 61, this business is adjourned.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.