

POLICE — DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — KIMBERLEY

849. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Police:

I refer to Minister Morton's press release, dated 1 October 2015, on the Kimberley joint response to family violence, in which it is said that there will be additional police officers.

- (1) How many officers will be added?
- (2) Will those additional officers be 100 per cent allocated to family violence issues?
- (3) Where will the additional officers be located?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question on our domestic violence response in the Kimberley. For members' interest, domestic violence in Western Australia last year accounted for more than 45 000—in fact, nearly 46 000—calls for police assistance, which is 7.7 per cent of all the calls for assistance from police. It is a really serious issue; it is an issue that the police are very focussed on.

With respect to the specific number of additional number of officers going into the Kimberley, I cannot remember the exact number. I think it is around 20, but I would need to clarify that for the member for Fremantle. I am happy to give that specific number. Those additional police officers are going to be located to the district, and so they will be located to the district office to work across the Kimberley district in areas such as youth crime, family and domestic violence and a range of other issues.

Ms M.M. Quirk: It is not 100 per cent family violence.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member for Girrawheen could ask a question if she wanted to, but I would like to answer the member for Fremantle's question.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Some of the other changes that will be coming to regional Western Australia as we roll out our reform model in regional Western Australia will look at how our response teams should work specifically. We are looking at specific improvements around the victim support area, specifically in the area of family and domestic violence. We have been doing a lot of work to try to upskill some of our officers to deal with family and domestic violence situations. As has been the case from 2012–13, there has been a marked increase in the number of incidents of domestic violence reported by WA Police, which is a direct result of the government's change in reporting and incident management around domestic violence offences, so that we can better capture what is happening with family and domestic violence and ensure that there is an appropriate follow-up of local policing teams and domestic violence specialists in response to a call for assistance that may have been made for police to attend.