

POLICE — DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — KIMBERLEY

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

I have a supplementary question. Given that the minister cannot tell me specifically how many officers will be added to the Kimberley and whether those additional officers will be dedicated to family violence, and considering this is supposed to be a joint response, how is it that she is unaware of the basic details around such an important issue?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I appreciate the member for Fremantle's confidence in my ability to retain the numbers of police officers held in every district right across the state of Western Australia. We have over 6 000 police officers. As every member in this house knows, that number is growing year by year by year as we add to our growth program of 550 additional officers by 2017. As I said to the member for Fremantle, I cannot remember the exact number who are going into the Kimberly district, but I will get that information for her. But, operationally, it is up to the commissioner to allocate his resources as he sees fit, and we saw that —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We saw that with our Operation Sweep response, when the police commissioner reallocated the priorities of over 1 000 police officers in metropolitan Perth to respond to that unprecedented increase in crime. I will get that information to the member for Fremantle, with the number who are going into the district. But, as I said, that announcement was made several months ago, and I do not have the exact figure in front of me, but I will get it for her. I am very pleased that the commissioner has seen fit to increase resources to the Kimberley. I might also add that those resources are in addition to other resources that we have put into the Kimberley and into remote communities, such as Operation Reset, in which police work with Child Protection in response to specific concerns in specific communities.

Domestic violence is a focus, it is a concern, and we are committed to driving down the rates of it in the community.