

POLICE — DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

983. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Acting Minister for Police:

I refer to the alarming 77 per cent increase in domestic violence in Western Australia between 2009–10 and 2013–14, and the Premier’s comment that it is a growing problem in our community.

- (1) Is the minister aware that under the policing model the number of officers tasked specifically to domestic violence in the Peel district has decreased from six officers to just one officer, and that in the south east metropolitan district there has been a 50 per cent reduction in police officers specifically dealing with domestic violence?
- (2) Will a significant reduction in officers specifically tasked to deal with domestic violence in each police district just make things worse?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. He raises an issue that is of a very high level of importance to us all and a serious problem in the community, given that most people who suffer assaults do so at the hands of somebody who is known to them and, generally speaking, it is, sadly, a woman at the hands of a male partner. In relation to the new policing model, the intention is to have a system in which there are more police out on the roads and in the community able to act proactively, and reactively when that is necessary. This is to ensure that all the police in the community are able to deal with the sort of issues the member raised—that is, domestic violence and related issues. Although I have not been briefed specifically on the changes of dealing with domestic violence, I have no doubt that the intention would be to ensure that there are more police out there and that all of those police are able to deal with domestic violence issues, given they can occur right across the community. Rather than them having an excessively narrow focus on officers only dealing with domestic violence, the aim would be to try to ensure that the capacity —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The aim would be to ensure that the capacity is increased overall so that the police can be more effective in this area.