

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Division 43: Western Australia Police, \$1 180 525 000 —**

Mr A.P. O’Gorman, Chairman.

Mr R.F. Johnson, Minister for Police.

Dr K. O’Callaghan, Commissioner of Police.

Mr C.J. Dawson, Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Mr S.A. Brown, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operations.

Mr C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner, Business Technology.

Mr G. Italiano, Executive Director.

Mr L. Bechelli, Acting Director of Finance.

Mr J.G. Lord, Director, Asset Management.

Mr R. Lange, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Police.

Ms A. Fergusson-Stewart, Adviser, Office of the Minister for Police.

Ms R. Cobai, Senior Media Adviser, Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

**The CHAIRMAN:** This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard staff. The daily proof *Hansard* will be published at 9.00 am tomorrow.

The estimates committee’s consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. This is the prime focus of the committee. Although there is scope for members to examine many matters, questions need to be clearly related to a page number, item, program, or amount within the volumes. For example, members are free to pursue performance indicators that are included in the *Budget Statements* while there remains a clear link between the questions and the estimates.

It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister’s cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the committee clerk by Friday, 10 June 2011, so that members may read it before the report and third reading stages. If the supplementary information cannot be provided within that time, written advice is required of the day by which the information will be made available. Details in relation to supplementary information have been provided to both members and advisers, and accordingly I ask the minister to cooperate with those requirements. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice with the Clerk’s office. Only supplementary information that the minister agrees to provide will be sought by Friday, 10 June 2011.

It will greatly assist Hansard if, when referring to the program statements volumes or the consolidated account estimates, members give the page number, items, program and amount in preface to their question.

I now ask the minister to introduce his advisers to the committee.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIRMAN:** Member for Girrawheen.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I refer the minister to “Completed Works” on page 499 of the *Budget Statements*, namely “Public Sex Offender Register” about three-quarters of the way down. When can we expect amendments to the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act to come to Parliament? What works were completed for \$2.9 million? Why were these changes required before the law is reintroduced? Can the minister confirm that no further expenditure will be required?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** In relation to the public sex offender register, offenders who are sentenced for specific sexual-related offences against children are required to report their details to the Commissioner of Police pursuant to the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004. These details are maintained on the Australian National Child Offender Register—ANCOR. The state government has resolved to provide a public sex offender register as part of its 2008 election commitment, as the member would be aware. The expected amendment to the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 will enable public access to

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

---

information regarding reportable and dangerous sex offenders, and will implement improvements to the administration and management of the child sex offender registration scheme in Western Australia. In particular, the member asked where that is at the moment. That is still being worked into a cabinet submission. It has not gone before cabinet yet, but it is being worked on to go to cabinet. Of course it will be part of the cabinet process.

The other part of the member's question related to the cost—\$2.9 million. I will be corrected if I am wrong, but as far as I am aware there will be a big update in relation to the data used for the public sex offender register. As the member knows, IT costs are very expensive these days. That is part of that. What was the other part of the question?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Can the minister confirm whether any further expenditure will be required?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Not as far as I am aware. That is the estimated expenditure related to the work that needs to be done, obviously to update and prepare that legislation before it comes to Parliament.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Can the minister confirm that there is no provision in the budget, or in the forward estimates, for recurrent expenditure in relation to this legislation?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask Les Bechelli to give a bit more detail about the recurrent funding required for that particular one, because I am not fully aware of what the recurrent funding is. I am sure Mr Bechelli —

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** He can also address a final question I have on this issue, if the minister does not mind: what is the estimated increased workload for police?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will take one question at a time. I will take the first one first, and then I will get the answer to the second one for the member.

**Mr L. Bechelli:** There is recurrent funding attached to this. I do not have the actual total allocation, but it is for the ongoing support costs of the database, as well as a website.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Can I get that by way of supplementary information?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** In relation to the second question —

**The CHAIRMAN:** Minister, the member has asked for the recurrent figures by way of supplementary information.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We can provide that by way of supplementary information in the required time. That is probably the best way to go.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Can I clarify what you are supplying by way of supplementary information?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We will supply the estimated recurrent funding needed for the upkeep of the register.

*[Supplementary Information No B12.]*

[7.10 pm]

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** The final question was: what is the estimated increase in workload for police?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** That is a difficult one to answer at the moment but I can say—I have just taken some advice on this—that it initially will be covered by the additional full-time equivalent public servants we intend to take on following our election commitment, which was, I think, for 200 in total. Some existing sworn police officers and the public servants whom we will employ will do that. We will not be taking on extra people, over and above that.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Minister, did you say 200?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I think it was 200 public servants—500 and 200. Yes, I said 200.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Two hundred to maintain this register?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** No, I did not say that at all. I think the member for Girrawheen misunderstood me. What I said is that we made an election commitment, as the member would be fully aware, to increase the number of police officers by 500.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Which the government has broken.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** No, we did not break it; we have done really well on that one. I am happy to elaborate if the member wishes. That was our election commitment. As the member is probably aware—and painfully aware, from her point of view—we are really on time. In fact, we are ahead of that at the moment. We also promised

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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200 extra public servants to work in clerical and administrative positions within WA Police. The personnel needed to deal with the sex offender register will be coming out of those two pools.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Just on that, what is the estimate of how many additional public servants will be needed to work on this?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We do not know the exact figure yet. I do not want to give an estimate that could be miles out. We will not know exactly what is entailed until the legislation has been completed and has gone before cabinet.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** As the minister would be aware, the Jandakot–Cockburn regional police station was a key election commitment of the Liberal Party at the last election. I refer to the “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency” on page 491 of the *Budget Statements* and to the reference about the continuing development of the police hubbing model through the metropolitan area. The minister would be aware that \$5 million has been allocated this year for the Cockburn regional police hub, which I am over the moon about, obviously. I am super keen to find out where we are at with that. Where will it be built? When will it go out to tender? When will construction start? How long will it take to build? How many officers does the minister expect to house there? I want to find out everything I can about the Cockburn regional police station.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Again for clarification, I ask the member to refer to a dot point.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I refer to the tenth dot point on page 491 under the “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** There were a lot of questions in that one question. I will do my best to give the member the answers that I am sure he would like to hear. As the member is aware, we did promise policing facilities in that area. A hub will be built in Cockburn Central, very much along the lines of what is being done in the western suburbs. This is the new method of policing. It is one the commissioner and all our senior officers are in favour of. They think it gets more police out on the streets and so on and so forth. When will that happen? I can tell the member that land has been identified, but they are still awaiting title on that land so they are not able to progress the construction of that particular police hub. Once they have title, I believe it will happen pretty rapidly. It is something the commissioner and the executive of the police want to see happen. I cannot give an estimate of when this will be completed. They obviously have to seek contracts, get engineering reports and so on and so forth, and unfortunately that takes time. I will see if I can get any more information on that one. I cannot give an exact date, obviously; that would be impossible. Funding has been approved for the Cockburn Central police hub—a total of \$20.5 million is in the forward estimates. Negotiations are underway to purchase the preferred site located at lot 2 on the corner of Linkage Avenue and North Lake Road, Cockburn Central. When this station is completed and up and running, it will replace the existing Murdoch and Cockburn Police Stations. It will be a much better hub. There will be much better policing from that particular location. As I said, there is a slight delay in as much as clear title has not yet been allocated to that particular lot, but that is the lot on which everything will happen.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Excellent. I thank the minister very much.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** That is good news for the people in the member’s area.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** That is great news.

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** Just on that point, the hubbing model is without doubt an efficient way of doing police business. Does the modelling show that it maintains its efficacy in terms of community connectivity with local police, which is vitally important in policing?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask the commissioner to answer that question because he is closer to the coalface, if I can put it that way, in terms of responding to the question from the member for Murray–Wellington.

**Dr K. O’Callaghan:** Our modelling shows that it does not affect police–community relations. I think the first thing to understand is that the hubbing concept really applies only to the metropolitan area. It does not really have a place in regional Western Australia because of the distances between police stations. To create major hubs outside Perth would no doubt cause disconnect from the community. The issues for us with hubbing, compared with the old style of policing and small police stations, is that, to be operational, modern police stations need a whole raft of specialist facilities in them that are just too difficult to duplicate in smaller police stations. For argument’s sake, modern police stations have specialist forensic environments and specialist custodial environments; we are bound by law and compliance to have those specialist custodial environments. There is also synchronised rostering. Police stations also have a tactical environment; there needs to be a place to load, unload and store firearms. It is not practical to duplicate all those services in every building. A lot of the buildings we have are old and are not fit for purpose, such as the Subiaco and Ballajura police stations, which

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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simply cannot be run as police stations. That is one of the reasons we are not using them anymore. What we do to make a hub work is sectorise the patrols. In other words, the police do not work from the hub, get a call, attend to the call and then come back to the hub; they are actually tasked to work in particular sectors. For argument's sake, when the western suburbs hub is up and running, police will be tasked to work in Cottesloe, Claremont, Subiaco and the suburbs around there. That is where they will work their shifts. That ensures that they will stay in touch with their local communities. A lot of that is up to how much time they spend out of the vehicle talking to people as well as driving around in the vehicle. If people are travelling around in vehicles all the time, it does cause disconnect. It is a new way of doing policing. It is one of those things for which it will take some time to convince people that it works. Our modelling shows that it does. It is certainly a very efficient way of synchronising rosters and making sure that we have the maximum number of police officers out there on the track.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Further to the issue of hubs, a corollary of the police hub model is the closure of some small suburban police stations. Can the minister list the stations earmarked for closure in the next four years? Where is the revenue from the sale of those stations listed in the budget papers? What is the expected revenue from the sale of those assets? I also note the construction of the Mundijong Police Station. Is this planned to be a 24-hour station or is this regarded as a regional station, and is that why it does not fit into the normal metropolitan model?

[7.20 pm]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I cannot give the member all the information that she is asking for tonight, because some of it is very speculative. For instance, Cottesloe, Claremont and Subiaco police stations are earmarked for closure. We do not have a valuation on what they would fetch on the market. But they will be sold, obviously. They will not be used for police purposes in the future. I cannot give the member a list of how much is expected. That is an impossible task at this moment in time. Was the second question about Mundijong?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Yes. Mundijong is not considered part of the metropolitan area. Is that why that does not come within the model?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I have been discussing Mundijong with the Commissioner of Police over the past couple of days. I guessed that I would get a question from the member about that! I will get the commissioner to answer that question for the member, because he should be able to give the member a more accurate answer.

**Dr K. O'Callaghan:** One of the things that we need to be concerned about with the hub model is that there is some proximity to the hub. In the western suburbs, the distances between the proposed Claremont western suburbs hub and Wembley, Subiaco and Cottesloe are quite small. We are talking about only five, six, seven or eight kilometres, at the most, between stations. Our modelling shows that hubs are most effective when there are a lot of police stations that are close together and that can be replaced by a hub. There are a couple of areas that will not fit the hub model, because of their distance from the nearest large police station. One of them is Yanchep. We opened Yanchep Police Station only a few months ago. The member will recall that, because she was at the opening. Yanchep is simply too far away from Clarkson and Joondalup to be part of a hub. We think that Mundijong fits into that model as well, because Mundijong is about 20 to 22 kilometres by road from Armadale, and something like 18 kilometres as the crow flies. It is probably a bit too far away to fit into the hub model efficiently at this stage. Therefore, we have wanted a new police station at Mundijong.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** The minister has given evidence to the member for Jandakot about the progress of the Cockburn hub. Can the minister provide an indication of all the suburban police stations—Cottesloe, Subiaco, and Claremont, and presumably Wembley—that will be moved to the western suburbs hub, and also all those suburban stations that may be subsumed by the Cockburn hub?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I think I have already mentioned two that will be subsumed. One is Murdoch Police Station, and the other is Cockburn Police Station. I believe those are the only two police stations that will be subsumed by the Cockburn central police station. The commissioner has just reminded me that even though we will be closing those stations as a normal type of police station, if I can put it that way, that does not mean that we will be getting rid of those properties. We may be using them for police purposes, as places for specialised units to work from, bearing in mind that they already have holding cells, and they have all the communications to police headquarters.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Usually non-compliant holding cells, but that is a different issue, minister.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** They will be used for very useful police work, as the member would be aware, but they will not be used as police stations that are open to the public and from which uniformed officers will be going on patrol. They will be used for specialised areas, I would suggest. Just because we are closing a police station and

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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putting in a hub does not mean that those stations will not be used for police purposes. That will be the case particularly if they are newer police stations. If they are very old police stations, like some of the ones in the western suburbs, we could not possibly use those for police operations in any way, because I do not think they are up to the standard that we would expect our police officers to work in, and I am sure the member would agree with me on that. But if they are newer police stations, and if they are serviceable and would be of great benefit to WA Police, we will retain those police stations as buildings and have operations going out from those buildings.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I refer to page 501, the heading “Financial Statements”, and the subheading “Expenses”. Was the three per cent efficiency dividend required to be delivered this year; and, if so, what savings have been identified for this financial year; what efficiencies have been identified; and, after deducting provision for CHOGM of \$40 million, what is the percentage increase for the Police budget?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask Mr Bechelli to answer that question, because he is across the financial side of what the member is asking.

**Mr L. Bechelli:** Yes, we have met the three per cent. I do not have the detail. The three per cent is continuous over the forward estimates. Therefore, once we have established the initiatives to fund the efficiency dividend, it flows across the whole of the estimates. The agency has met the three per cent.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** As I understand it from what the adviser has said, the three per cent efficiency was identified in this budget, and it is spread across the forward estimates?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It was actually identified in the previous budget. As the member would be aware, that was the year we came into government.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** It was two budgets ago.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Time flies when we are having fun!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It does, does it not; and I am having fun, I promise the member! It was identified very early on that there needed to be a three per cent efficiency dividend across all government agencies. As far as I am aware, WA Police achieved that in the first year. But of course it has a on-flow effect, because once we have saved that three per cent in those particular areas, we cannot say we have saved it this year but we are going to bump it up again next year. So, it does have a continual flow, if I can put it that way.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Is the minister saying that it is an averaging across the forward estimates?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** No. Once they have made the saving, that saving continues to be there—or it should be.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Is it?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** As far as I am aware, it is, yes.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Then where is it?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It is not in there. The fact that it has been saved means that it is not in the budget.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** After deducting the CHOGM cost of \$40 million, what is the percentage increase in the Police budget?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The Police budget has increased by almost 10 per cent on last year’s funding. We are up to \$1.8 billion for the Police budget in this year’s budget papers. As the member will see, WA Police has had almost a 10 per cent increase. Some of that would obviously be for the cost to WA Police of the security aspect of CHOGM. But I have every reason to feel fairly confident—pretty confident, I would suggest—that that money will be coming back from the federal government for the police costs involved in CHOGM.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** If we take the CHOGM cost out of this budget as an extraordinary expense, what is the estimated increase in the Police budget?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The CHOGM cost will be reimbursed. I will ask Mr Bechelli to explain that in more detail in answer to the member’s question.

**Mr L. Bechelli:** The total cost of services relates to a 4.1 per cent increase, whereas the agency from an appropriation perspective has had a 10 per cent increase. Part of that was to do with the deferral of the cash appropriations from this financial year into the next financial year, and that is why that is less than the 10 per cent. CHOGM overall in this 4.1 per cent increase forms about \$9 million of that amount. Therefore, the differential is other items, such as additional programs, and also provision for salary increases and the like.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Did the minister say \$9 million?

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It is about \$8.7 million.

[7.30 pm]

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** My question relates to pages 498 and 499. Page 498 refers to the information communication technology programs. The estimated total cost of those programs is listed on page 499 as \$7.1 million. My question is in two parts. First, \$7.1 million across those years is very small bikkies for maintaining major ICT programs. Could the minister outline what that will deliver? Second, there is probably some other money somewhere in the budget relating to IT enhancement or new bills. Could the minister please explain those?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask Assistant Commissioner Ward, who is across all those areas, to answer those questions.

**Mr C. Ward:** The funding for the ICTs is split into two parts. There is the ICT infrastructure, replacement and continuity program, which involves replacing our core infrastructure such as switches, servers, routers and the like. Those things are mostly end of life. The funding is for a rolling refresh program which allows us to bring those things to a modern platform that we can use going forward. It will also allow us some efficiencies with newer technologies so we can close down some of our old, redundant systems. The second part of the funding is around our core business systems replacement, which involves replacing or enhancing our capacity within our insider applications. That is the funding source when we need new capacity within some of our existing applications or when we need to develop a new application on top of that.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Is the minister saying that \$1.5 million, going to \$2 million and then \$3.6 million covers some minor hardware replacement plus software patching and development to keep the systems up to date?

**Mr C. Ward:** That is correct. That funding is around the replacement of some of the terminal server equipment to get us into a situation in which we have a more state-of-the-art environment and in which we can patch some of those existing systems that require some remediation.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** The second part of the question was: is there funding for other programs in the IT area? Specifically, I know there is a problem with the firearms register. Is the development of that system or any other systems in another part of the budget?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask Assistant Commissioner Ward to answer that question as well.

**Mr C. Ward:** The firearms register that the member referred to is part of the enhancement from the core business systems funding. It was picked up as a new piece of work to replace the ageing system that requires some significant remediation.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Is that currently funded and how far advanced is that project?

**Mr C. Ward:** That is currently funded and it is advancing.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** When might that be completed?

**Mr C. Ward:** That forms one of our three priorities within our core business systems funding regime. It will possibly be some two years before it is finally finished.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I refer to the projects that have been listed on the WA Police strategic accommodation plan on page 500 which do not appear under “New Works”. What is the status of some of these projects? The first is Pinjarra Police Station.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Is the member saying that they are not included on the list?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Yes, and I am asking why.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The advice I am given is that, like all budget proposals and budget submissions that go to Treasury and the government, Pinjarra Police Station was not one of the highest priorities. Obviously, a lot of submissions go in. Unfortunately, it was below the line that we had to draw. That does not mean that we have given up on that station but it may or may not be funded in next year’s budget. The reason it is not in the budget this year is because no expense will be expended in this budget on that police station.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have a list of these. Maybe I can go through them all and the minister can let me know if they are in the same situation and did not make the budget cuts.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I would suggest that if they are not in the budget papers, that would be the same answer.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I would like some clarification because they were in an answer that the minister gave me. I would like to see whether the position has changed. The other projects are: Boddington Police Station; the

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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Armadale Police Station upgrade; Bridgetown Police Station; the South East Metro Complex, Cannington; Eucla Police Station; the Jandakot police air wing hangar; the corporate services headquarters; the Kensington Police Station district hub; Augusta Police Station; Lancelin Police Station; and Narrogin Police Station.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** They all fall into the same category that I spoke about previously. The same situation applies to each of those projects.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** My question relates to the fifth dot point on page 491 and the escalation in antisocial and violent behaviour. It is a general question that relates to Northbridge. There has been a lot of public discussion about the problems emanating out of Northbridge. We as members of Parliament and the public are all very concerned and very supportive of whatever efforts the police are putting into Northbridge. My question is in a couple of parts. First, could the minister tell us how many full-time police officers there are in Western Australia, how many are engaged in the metropolitan area and how many are in the CBD? Second, on a Friday or Saturday night, how many police officers are deployed in Northbridge? I ask these questions to give us some idea of how much effort is being put in to try to control this situation.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I can answer some of those questions. For sensitive operational purposes, I cannot give specific answers to some of the questions that the member asked because the police would not want people to know what is happening in an area or how many officers are there. There are also sensitive operational issues. That is what the commissioner has told me. In relation to the number of police officers in WA at the moment, we are above authorised strength. The authorised strength as at 30 June is 5 581 but the actual estimated number of authorised sworn police officers is 5 719.

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** Is that as of 30 June last year?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** No, this year.

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** That is a forecast then.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We know how many police officers are going through the academy and how many auxiliary officers and transitional officers will be in position as at 30 June. Two graduations are about to take place—one this week and one in about a week or so. One is for transitional officers. They are officers, as the member for Murray–Wellington would be aware, who may have left WA Police for a period and then decided that they really want to come back and be part of WAPOL. If they had been gone a little while, unless they were specialists and used to front-line duties and so on, they would have to do the transitional course, which takes three months, to retrain. Those police officers will be sworn in again. They will be graduating this Thursday. There are about 20 of them. I think we have 105 auxiliary police officers, which is about 45 fewer than the number of auxiliary officers that we set ourselves as a target, but we are well in advance of the number of sworn police officers that we promised to provide. In health terms, we are doing pretty well. I will ask the Commissioner of Police to respond to the member for South Perth's question about the number of police who work in Northbridge on a Friday or Saturday night. Because there are some security sensitivities, the commissioner will provide the member with what he believes is necessary information but will not provide other information so that certain people that the police come up against will not know certain facts.

[7.40 pm]

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Before the commissioner replies, the reason I asked the question is that we all support what our police are doing, but there is a view that there are all sorts of reasons for what goes on in Northbridge late at night. Some people believe that if we put enough police officers into Northbridge, it will solve those problems. I am not sure about that because I am not a police officer. I would like to hear from the commissioner about this problem because it is a serious problem that has captured the attention of the Western Australian community.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Before the commissioner responds in more detail, I have some notes about what is seen as an escalation in antisocial behaviour and the number of people who are carrying weapons. The use of alcohol and drugs continues to be a significant factor in areas where antisocial behaviour occurs, particularly violent behaviour. That is occurring across the community. The increased use of social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, are also influencing the occasioning of violent and antisocial situations among some of our young people. They are communicating by that method and some people seem to be encouraging others to act in an antisocial way. I will ask the commissioner to give a more detailed answer in response to the specific questions the member for South Perth asked.

**Dr K. O'Callaghan:** When talking about entertainment precincts like Northbridge, it is useful to put it into context. The general trend in street-level assaults is not changing much. We are not seeing a significant increase in common street-level assaults. What we have seen, and what concerns most people, is the significant rise in the

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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intensity of those assaults. When those types of assaults occur, more people are seriously injured more often. That is driven by a number of factors. There is a general long-term view that these things would be solved simply by putting more police into a precinct, but that does not solve the problem. Police are very good streetsweepers. They will arrest people, take them off the street and prosecute them. However, they will not stop the problem from occurring in the first place. The alcohol-fuelled violence that we see in places like Northbridge will not be solved without a lot of effort from a lot of other government agencies and without looking at the way we can manage that culture. What I can say from a police perspective is that during Operation Unite a few weekends ago, we fielded 500 police officers statewide to look at the problem of drinking and alcohol-fuelled violence. About one-fifth of those officers generally end up in a place like Northbridge on a Friday or Saturday night. Those police comprise a lot of specialist units as well as general units, including the police mounted section, the canine section and, interestingly and importantly, the licensing enforcement division. One of the ways that we have chosen to manage the problem of alcohol consumption in a place like Northbridge is by not only displaying a big physical presence, but also being a lot more strategic about how we control and manage licensed premises. Recently we have seen the introduction of lockouts and restrictions on the types, quantities and mix of alcohol that can be sold after midnight. The sale of shooters is restricted, for example. A raft of restrictions have been put in place to manage the level of drinking that occurs in licensed premises. A problem we face with entertainment precincts is what I call “preloading”. The cost of alcohol bought over the counter at a bar in Northbridge—I will talk about this at a conference tomorrow—is many times more expensive than the cost of alcohol sold at a liquor store. To get significantly drunk at a licensed premises in Northbridge, an individual would have to spend between \$70 and \$80. The same amount of money would buy a lot of liquor at a liquor store. It would buy one and a half cartons of pre-mixes, several cartons of beer or two or three bottles of spirits. It is a malaise of the younger generation to preload before they go out. That is a problem that the police cannot necessarily address. If we are to make a significant difference to the drinking culture in a place like Northbridge, the community must address those things as well as have more police on the streets. The police on the streets are the end-of-the-night people; they are the clean-up people. The community must stop the whole drinking culture from occurring in the first place. I do not have any answers to that, but I can say that police numbers are not the answer. People feel safe when they see police in Northbridge, and we will continue to deploy the maximum number of police officers that we can on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in Northbridge. That could total between 50 and 150 police officers, depending on what the commander thinks is necessary.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I refer to the first bullet point on page 491 of the *Budget Statements*, which relates to labour force management. Given the tightening labour market and the need to provide incentives for police officers to serve in regional Western Australia, is there provision in this budget to increase expenditure on the Government Regional Officers’ Housing program? If there is not an increase in expenditure on GROH or any other similar program, what measures are being taken in the Mid West, Gascoyne, Great Southern, Goldfields and the South West to attract police personnel to those regions?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Government Regional Officers’ Housing is not part of the police budget; it is part of another minister’s budget.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Some money for GROH comes out of the police budget.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes, but the supply of GROH dwellings is not part of the police budget.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** No, but the Minister for Police makes a budgetary contribution to that.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Some relief benefits are paid when police officers have to pay rent, so that they are subsidised. That would be in the budget somewhere. I will try to get a more specific answer.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Could one of the minister’s advisers point us to where that might be?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I am advised that there are no additional funds over and above what the police already provide in this year’s budget. I will ask Greg Italiano to give the member more detail on that.

**Mr G. Italiano:** There is no additional funding in this year’s budget to increase the allocation for GROH for WA Police.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Through the minister, is there no anticipated growth in that subsidy in the forward estimates?

**Mr G. Italiano:** Not at this stage.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** As the Premier often says, we take one year at a time. This is this year’s budget.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** The forward estimates are fantasy. I go back to the original premise of my question. Given that everyone accepts the premise that there will be a tightening labour market and that that will affect our

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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regions first, what is the demonstrated capacity of this budget to fund any additional incentives for officers to serve in those regional areas? What discussions, if any, has the minister had with the Minister for Regional Development on that minister's election commitment to provide GROH for police?

[7.50 pm]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** At this stage I have not had discussions with the Minister for Regional Development. I will be having some discussions with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to any available assistance for Western Australia Police and its housing needs. That conversation has not yet taken place, but I will be talking to him in that vein. What was the other part of the question?

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** What is the minister's plan for the attraction and retention of members of the police service going into what is considered to be a 10-year construction cycle, or growth cycle, for this state, driven by the resource sector?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask the commissioner to answer that one, because the member is asking about a very outward time of 10 years.

**Dr K. O'Callaghan:** We have been working on a series of strategies to try to attract and retain police officers in regional Western Australia. It is a fact of life that it is always going to be difficult for any public sector agency to compete with private sector wages; I do not think we are ever going to be able to match that. We have looked at a whole range of different options for police officers going to regional Western Australia. As the member quite rightly pointed out, some places are considered harder to fill, such as the Mid West, Gascoyne and the Wheatbelt; interestingly, places like the Kimberley and Pilbara are not. Many of those hard-to-fill places are quite small with quite small police stations, and we have been able to supplement rent so that officers working in those locations can now go there rent-free because WA Police pays the difference; three-person and under stations are all now rent-free. There are a number of other police stations in regional Western Australia that we consider hard to fill where we have also offered rent-free accommodation to attract families. A lot of the time police officers do not want to move to regional WA to places like the Mid West, Gascoyne and the Wheatbelt because the lack of development in those towns means that housing is often old, it is not very attractive, families do not want to go there, and they are small. We have done a lot of work with local government in terms of local government building houses that we lease back for the long term. These houses are much more modern and much more appropriate for young families going out to the bush.

We have also negotiated, for some places that are quite difficult to work in, shorter tenure arrangements. Police officers in other parts of the state who typically would have to do two or three years to qualify for their country service only have to do 12 months in, say, places like Wiluna, where people do not want to spend three years typically, and we attract them that way. In some of the most remote communities—particularly those under the Gordon inquiry—placement at those locations attracts a 30 per cent differential in wage, so that officers get a significantly higher wage than officers at larger country centres like Bunbury or Karratha. There are allowances for officers in charge of all of those country stations and there are also field promotions available, too, for police officers going there, so typically a constable or senior constable going to regional Western Australia to take over even a small station like Koorda, for argument's sake, would receive a field promotion to sergeant for the duration of their time there. These are things outside of simply going to the Government Regional Officers' Housing program and trying to get more money from government, and they are things we can offer to attract officers to go and stay there. What is most important for us is to try to get entire families to go, because it is difficult when just the police officer goes and leaves their family behind. It is a focus for us to try to get the best accommodation at the best price in some of those locations for police officers.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Minister, can we get, by way of supplementary information, a list of all those rent-free postings?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Minister, will you just quite clearly state what you are going to provide?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes. The member is requesting a list of all rent-free police residential properties.

[*Supplementary Information No B13.*]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I would just like the commissioner to make one further comment, which he would like to do, in relation to that question.

**Dr K. O'Callaghan:** I make the point that rent-free accommodation in regional Western Australia is designed to be an incentive for hard-to-fill locations. Of course, the more we offer rent-free accommodation, the less incentive there is to go to the worst of those locations. We have to be careful about moving to a totally rent-free

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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Western Australia, because if that happens we lose the incentive of rent-free accommodation to attract people to, for argument's sake, the Mid West or the Wheatbelt.

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** Minister, is it not the case that there was recently a negotiated benefit of a district allowance of \$10 000 or something, under royalties for regions, for officers who work north of the twenty-sixth parallel?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes, they did get an increase in the district allowance.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Minister, my question goes to road safety and traffic law enforcement, which starts on page 497 of budget paper No 2. I will start with page 499 and ask about the amount of moneys allocated for the speed and red-light camera upgrades. I would like to know whether that build is complete; is it fully operational; and, how many cameras do we now have available?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will answer the last bit first. I can tell the member that it has been very, very successful.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** That is my next question. I just wanted to know the current number and build, and I would like to see whether the minister can tell me the number of infringements.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** What line item was that?

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** It is on page 499, two-thirds of the way down: speed and red-light camera upgrades, \$22.6 million.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Is that under "Completed Works"?

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Yes.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The information I have is that, as the member is aware, the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee allocated \$30 million capital funding in the 2009-10 budget for the upgrade and digitalisation of WA Police's current wet-film technology and speed and red-light cameras. Following identified savings, this was later reduced to \$24.5 million—that was because it came in under the budget that was allowed for. WA Police formed the enhanced speed enforcement program, responsible for the delivery of —

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Minister, all I want is the number of cameras and whether they are all operational.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The number and how they operate?

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** The number, and whether they are all operational.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The answer to that is that 22 of the 30 sites are installed and operational.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Are they the fixed ones?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** These are the Redflex speed and red-light cameras, yes. The final eight sites will be delivered by the end of May.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** What about the mobile cameras?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I can give the member that information. They, of course, are the Vitronic Poliscan speed ones. All of the 23 electronic cameras have been delivered and were operational as of 4 April. All redundant wet-film Multanova cameras have been retired. Two Volkswagen vans are now conducting in-vehicle operations.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Are the processing facilities now fully operational for that number of cameras; is there no logjam there?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** No.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I thank the minister.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** In fact, the new system is far, far superior to the old system.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I accept that, minister.

*The West Australian* recently ran a front-page story that stated that the number of infringements a month had gone from just over 26 000 through 2009-10, to 38 000 in the first nine months of 2010-11. Can the minister confirm if those figures are correct; and is it anticipated that the number of infringements is likely to continue at about 38 000 a month?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask Greg Italiano to answer the financial detail of that particular question.

[8.00 pm]

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr G. Italiano:** I would not question the figures the member has quoted; I would think they are accurate. Infringement forecasting, of course, is a combination of a number of factors, all of which are in the future so they rely on various variables. But certainly the fact that all digital cameras are now up and running and the wet-film cameras are no longer in use, and the fact that we now have in-vehicle deployment working for us means that we get more hours of enforcement from each deployment because we are not setting up the camera on a tripod and taking time to set the camera up.

One of the big contributors to the efficacy of the operation is that the processing rate of images from digital cameras is about 90 per cent, whereas under wet film it could be in the 60s or 70s, depending on the situation. We now have an operation whereby payments for infringements can be made online. We now have the facility to check the infringement on the web. It now takes an average of 10 days to issue the infringement; under wet film, it was considerably greater than that. The key factor in the number of infringements that the mobile cameras generate comes down to the camera hours of operation, which is a product of camera operators' rostering and getting the vehicles on the road. Our target is to run at about 2 500 to 3 000 hours of operation a month. Those hours of operation will deliver a volume of infringements depending on driver behaviour. We are finding that the modification of driver behaviour at intersections with speed and red-light cameras is quite quick. Once drivers are aware that an intersection has been fitted with a speed and red-light device, we see a rather steep drop-off in the number of infringements issued, which is precisely what we are looking for. We see that driver behaviour change. We think that, over a period, motorists will adopt different driving behaviours. That is the goal of Towards Zero. Although we would prefer that drivers did not exceed the speed limit, we certainly see that speed camera enforcement plays a role in trying to get people to adopt safe speeds.

[Ms A.R. Mitchell took the chair.]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** As Mr Italiano said, initially we were getting a lot of return, if I can put it that way, from the speed and red-light cameras at intersections. To be honest, the number of people who were being issued with infringements was quite frightening. Driver behaviour at intersections is a great cause of death and injury on our roads. As Mr Italiano said, there has been a change in driver behaviour, particularly at intersections. I think that people have become fed up and do not want to get caught. A lady spoke to me today and complained that she went through an intersection when the light was green but the camera still flashed. I asked her whether she was speeding and she said, "Only a little bit."

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I thank the minister for his anecdote, but I would like to get numbers from the budget in our limited time. If the number of infringements continues to be around 38 000 a month, which we hope will drop as people learn the lesson, what is the estimated revenue from 38 000 infringements a month?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It would not be in the police budget.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I will come to that next. Can I get the estimated quantum for that?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** This is a question that the member could ask later this evening during the division on the Office of Road Safety. The office is looking at just over \$50 million in the next 12 months from infringements, which would be an increase on previous years, and it is looking at about \$82 million in 2012–13. It estimates that there will be an increase in the number of infringements over the next two years. Obviously, the people who are speeding are not necessarily learning their lesson, and the ones who are going through red lights at the intersections fitted with cameras are learning their lesson.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I thank the minister, but can I move on?

**The CHAIRMAN:** I will give the member for Balcatta the call for a further question.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** It is on the same issue.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes, but I will give the member the call.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I want to move quickly if I can, with quick questions and quick answers, on this issue of speed enforcement and road safety.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, member for Balcatta. Has the minister concluded his response?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The former minister does not want to hear any more from me.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I am not disagreeing with the minister. We have limited time, and I am trying to not take up too much time.

At the top of page 498 we can see the line item "Less Income". Is the income across those years money from the road trauma trust fund that is going directly to police for enforcement, or are there other contributing funds to that income?

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** That was a curly question.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** The minister can provide the answer by way of supplementary information so that we can move on.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I ask Mr Bechelli to respond to that question.

**Mr L. Bechelli:** The increase in income is actually associated with —

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** My question was not about the increase; it was simply about the source of the income. Is it all from the road trauma trust fund?

**Mr L. Bechelli:** No, it is not from the road trauma trust fund.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Is it from various sources?

**Mr L. Bechelli:** Yes.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Is the minister willing to provide by way of supplementary information the different sources and how much from the various sources?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We will answer that question by way of supplementary information. I think the question was about the sources of income that make up that particular amount in the budget.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Which is classified as income.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member is seeking the different sources of income.

[*Supplementary Information No B14.*]

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** The number of full-time equivalents is listed immediately under those figures. I was surprised to see that the number of FTEs for road law enforcement will drop by 250. That seems to indicate a reduced effort to enforce safety on our roads. There might be some other reason, but perhaps the minister could explain that. It goes from 1 761, which was budgeted for this year and not fulfilled, down to 1 508 FTEs involved in road law enforcement.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will get the commissioner to give the answer.

**Dr K. O’Callaghan:** Those numbers are based on activity surveys. They are self-reporting surveys by police officers about what tasking they do at any particular time. Without being able to drill into the numbers, I am unable to give a clear indication of what other things they were doing instead, but these are based on their reported activities. There may have been a raft of other types of things going on that would have diverted them from their normal duties.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I have a fairly easy question. I refer to the works in progress listed in the asset investment program table on page 499 of the budget papers and to the “Major Aircraft New and Replacement Program — Helicopter” line item. Obviously, the airport at Jandakot is in my electorate; in fact, I was at the helicopter facility yesterday and I was impressed to find that the pilot of the helicopter is a sworn police officer, which I think is great. When will the new helicopter be operational in 2011–12?

[8.10 pm]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** As the member will be aware, the handover for the additional helicopter that has been purchased by WA Police is due in September. Unfortunately, it will not be here in time for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which is a pity; we were hoping it would be. The handover will be in September, but then a lot of specialised equipment has to be installed, and training has to be undertaken, because it is a completely different helicopter from PolAir-1, which is what we have in the air at the moment. The new helicopter will be much more beneficial to police. It is able to carry more officers more rapidly to different areas and it is able to carry someone who is injured; it is very difficult to do that in the existing helicopter. As I say, we take delivery in September; by the time it is fitted out and all the training is completed, it should be operational by December of this year.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** In time for my birthday!

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I refer to page 492 of the *Budget Statements* and to community concern about various events that come under “Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators”. Specifically, there are two crimes, at opposite ends of the scale of seriousness, that the community is concerned about. Firstly, I ask the minister: is it just a community perception, or have homicide rates increased over the past 12 months or so? After he has answered that, I want to ask about graffiti.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police, Steve Brown, to answer both those questions, because they fall within his area of specialisation.

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr S.A. Brown:** Maybe I can start with the latter first, and talk about graffiti.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have not yet asked questions about that; I was just foreshadowing them, so maybe homicide first, please.

**Mr S.A. Brown:** I do not have the figures in front of me.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I believe they have increased since last year. Actually, for that part of the question, I will ask Greg Italiano to provide an answer, because I think he has the information.

**Mr G. Italiano:** I do not have the precise number of homicides among the figures I have, but I can assure the member that it is certainly the case that the homicide rate per head of population in Western Australia has been stable for a number of decades. Homicide is, thankfully, an infrequent crime, but there can be periods during which there is an increased number, and periods during which there are very few. When a large number occur over a short period of time, it places additional pressures on the organisation to deal with it, depending on the nature of the investigations. To answer the question, the rate of homicide in Western Australia is steady with population and has not changed over a very long period.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Through the minister, I have a further question on that issue. Could the minister provide by way of supplementary information the raw figures for homicides over the past three or four years—not per head of population, just the figures.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Just the raw number of homicides over the past three or four years in Western Australia? Yes, we can do that.

[*Supplementary Information No B15.*]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Does the member want three years or four years?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Three years.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Over the past three years, the raw number of homicides per year.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have a further question. In the context of graffiti, in 2010–11 apparently only \$5 000 in rewards has been granted under the Goodbye Graffiti program. Why has that not been more readily used; and have there been any prosecutions for selling graffiti implements to children?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police to answer that one.

**Mr S.A. Brown:** I could not particularly talk about the dollar amount of Goodbye Graffiti rewards that have been issued. WA Police has certainly elevated its effort in the space of graffiti over the past 12 months, which has seen in excess of a 20 per cent reduction in that crime type. The front page of *The West Australian* has reported some of those successes in recent months with Operation Cleanskin, in conjunction with the Public Transport Authority and the rail network, where we have seen a reduction in graffiti of some 40 per cent. Those strategies, and the appointment of specialist detectives within each of the seven metropolitan district policing teams, have elevated our response and resulted in us catching more offenders. That has also seen a reduction in the crime type.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** In relation to rewards, one of my colleagues received an answer to a question on notice that only \$5 000 in rewards had been granted since June last year. What are the criteria for giving a reward, and can the minister confirm whether there have been any prosecutions under section 216 of the Criminal Code over the past year?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police to answer that one.

**Mr S.A. Brown:** I do not know the number of prosecutions under section 216. What was the first question? My apologies.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** The criteria for issuing the rewards.

**Mr S.A. Brown:** Sorry; I do not have an answer for the question on the issuing of rewards.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Can I ask for answers to both those questions by way of supplementary information?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** That is fine. That is another question in relation to graffiti and it is basically: how much has been paid in rewards under the Goodbye Graffiti program over the past 12 months, which is the present financial year; and the criteria that WA Police uses for the issuing of rewards. Is that correct?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Yes, and the number of successful prosecutions under section 216, which relates to the sale of graffiti implements to minors.

[*Supplementary Information No B16.*]

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr M.J. COWPER:** I refer to page 498, under “Asset Investment Program”. I note that some new drug buses are being delivered. I recall reading somewhere—it may even have been in relation to the purchase of the helicopter—that there had been some savings as a result of the phenomenon of the Australia dollar being so high. Have there been savings in some areas in relation to the Australian dollar being so high that it has realised some additional infrastructure for the police?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Did the member refer to the two drug buses?

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** I just thought that some of the money that had been saved was as a result of that. Page 498 makes mention of drug buses. I think there are two coming on stream.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** To be honest, I do not know whether the budget allocation of \$2.1 million represents the strength of the Australian dollar; I am not even sure where the drug buses are built. I am told that they are not purchased in US dollars; they are purchased in Australian dollars. I am informed they are built in Queensland. The strength of the Aussie dollar will not have a great deal of effect.

[8.20 pm]

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** The helicopter came from overseas, did it not?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The helicopter is coming from Marseilles in France. The strong dollar certainly had an effect.

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** How much was that saving? Do we have any idea whether that has been reinvested?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will get Mr Italiano to answer that specific part of the question.

**Mr G. Italiano:** The strength of the Australian dollar against the US dollar has assisted us in two major asset purchases, one being the helicopter, which has seen the funding reinvested elsewhere in the agency. We were successful in having that saving reapplied to other needs. The second one has paid quite a lot of dividend, and will continue to pay dividend. Much of the equipment purchased for the radio network is also supplied in US dollars. Of course, the purchasing power is a lot greater at the present time. There are assumptions made about exchange rates when we budget and what we expect it to be. At the appropriate time we hedge our position to protect our position for those purchases.

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** Are there any specific items that have been purchased as a windfall of that situation? In other words, where has that reinvestment been made?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I think Mr Italiano said the savings were redirected in other areas of police needs. I am not quite sure where they are, but Mr Italiano may be able to help us.

**Mr G. Italiano:** An example is that the \$2 million that was saved by virtue of the exchange rate was reinvested into the drug buses.

**Mr M.J. COWPER:** So that was right.

**Mr G. Italiano:** Yes, that is correct.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I refer the minister to the costs of CHOGM on page 489 of the *Budget Statements*. I have a clarification question: \$26.2 million has been allocated for CHOGM, but the minister’s press release had a \$40.8 million spend. Can the minister list what makes up the \$26.2 million and the reason for the discrepancy between what is in the budget here and what was announced?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The person who is right across CHOGM, police operations and police expenditure is Deputy Commissioner Chris Dawson. I will ask Deputy Commissioner Chris Dawson to answer those questions.

**Mr C.J. Dawson:** In terms of the appropriations, there was a need to split some of the procurements. Primarily, the amount of \$26.2 million, when combined with the other amount of \$11.6 million, is reflected further on page 499 in an amount of \$2.8 million. Those three items collectively amount to \$40.8 million. The separate appropriations for 2010–11 and 2011–12 are primarily around capital expenditure in the Maylands command centre for the last amount I mentioned of \$2.8 million. A total amount of about \$4 million will be spent on the Maylands command centre. About \$1.1 million is on information and communications technology, to fit and reticulate it with all the equipment we need. The other amounts spent in the 2010–11 year are really about vehicle procurements and some forward recruiting. That is why we had a need to put some contracts early—so that we could get the ICT and capital works underway at Maylands, and ensure we had the vehicle fleet supplied.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Picking up on bringing forward some of the manning, can the minister confirm that the promised 350 officers over this term of government has been brought forward for CHOGM? Given that, has the

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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minister made special and additional provisions for salaries and employment costs? The government promised 350—how many were brought forward?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will get Deputy Commissioner Chris Dawson to answer that particular part of the question.

**Mr C.J. Dawson:** The appropriation reflects we were able to bring forward 90 additional officers who were appropriated for the normal attrition that we would get, which is tracking at around 22 full-time equivalents per month. They have been brought forward into this financial year so that we can actually put them through recruit training. They will graduate before CHOGM. That is just on attrition alone. We also brought forward into this financial year 60 additional police officers over and above attrition. A total of 150 will graduate and be available to supplement the existing workforce.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Out of curiosity, what is the trend line for separation, or attrition as you call it, of FTE over the past three years?

**Mr C.J. Dawson:** Three years ago we were tracking at about 35 per month. About three or four years ago we had a situation where 380-odd officers either resigned and/or retired. That has come down by about 100. We are around 280 now, from memory. I will find the table that has the exact numbers. By way of example, the attrition number in 2006–07 was 391 when we had the resource sector boom going on. Estimates for this year are 270. We have dropped that by about 120. For instance, in the month just completed, May, there have been only 14 officers by way of attrition. It is trending down at the moment.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** At the moment.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We hope it continues that way.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** My question relates to the heading “7: Traffic Law Enforcement and Management” on page 497 of the *Budget Statements*. Given the emphasis in more recent times on road safety and traffic enforcement, can the minister give us an idea of how many police hours are spent on traffic law enforcement and management by full-time police officers compared with, say, general duties? Is there any way the community could get some idea whether the enforcement of traffic involves more police because there are more cars on the road?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will answer the member’s question in this way: traffic law enforcement receives certain funding from time to time through the road trauma trust fund from the Road Safety Council. It is normally called the strategic targeted enforcement program. It operated under the previous government as well. That ensured we could put extra patrols out on the streets for specific operations. It enabled a lot of police officers to gain overtime. We got a lot more police officers patrolling the streets in relation to traffic law enforcement under the Road Traffic Act. Prior to last Christmas, we had Operation Octopus, which was predominantly funded through the road trauma trust fund. An enormous number of police officers were able to stop and breathalyse people in their vehicles, not just in the main streets but in backstreets as well—the rat runs where they try to avoid the booze buses. It proved very, very successful. Another \$3 000 was allocated in January or February to reinforce the “don’t drink and drive” strategy. That was also very successful. It is a continuation. I am delighted to say that police, of their own volition, made the decision to carry on, under their existing resources, more of a presence by way of breathalyse-testing people in their cars. It will finish only this coming weekend. They have also been checking vehicle efficiencies, stability, whether the vehicles are safe and whether there are vehicle problems that need to be fixed. They have continually done a lot of these operations from that time. More operational police officers have been out in patrol cars and booze buses and so on in the past six months than we have seen for a very long time. It has certainly proved successful.

[8.30 pm]

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** I have a further question. Can the police tell us whether police officers are now spending more time out on the roads than they used to spend, or are they still spending more time on burglaries, assaults and antisocial behaviour? Is there a trend in general policing that is seeing a requirement for more of our police officers to be out on the roads enforcing the traffic law?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The commissioner informs me that, in previous years, the police committed 17 per cent of total effort to road traffic offences. That is now 19 per cent—it has gone from 17 per cent to 19 per cent of total effort over the past four years. I think that has shown positive results. The member could ask me the same question when officers from the Office of Road Safety are sitting here later this evening. They do a lot of customer-focus research to find out community perceptions. I am pretty sure one question that was posed to people was: do you believe there are more police officers out on the streets catching people for speeding, drink-driving and committing road traffic offences? The answer from those focus groups came back as a very positive yes. The aim was to find out the perception of the public on the number of police officers on our streets. Of

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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course, the complaint we often get from people in the community is that they never see a police car and that they want to see more police cars. This is certainly one area in which this is proving very successful. I think the public are heartened by the fact that there have been a lot more police vehicles out on the streets, albeit a lot of it has been to do with road traffic offences. However, I do not think that has been to the detriment of any other crimes that are being committed. The police assure me that they have enough personnel to deal with both. They are both serious areas, obviously, but this is now a good perception by the public.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** The minister is saying that nearly 20 per cent of policing hours is devoted to enforcing traffic laws. If I were a young police officer, I would go into the force with a reasonable expectation that I would probably spend 20 per cent of my time in some sort of traffic enforcement, but I would not be catching burglars, people who break into stores or people who commit other crimes. I am just trying to get a balance of where the police spend their time.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I can see the rationale behind the member's question. The public are getting the best of both worlds. Every police vehicle is the equivalent of a booze bus. If police are out patrolling on general duties waiting to respond to a criminal incident and they see a person driving erratically, they will pull that driver over and breathalyse him. I think we are getting the benefits of both aspects. Of course, if a crime is committed—a bank robbery, a hold-up or whatever—police will respond immediately to that crime; that is obviously a higher priority for police than checking people's vehicles or whether they have been drinking. The other thing that is very important to point out—I have just been reminded of this—is that every police vehicle is now equipped with what is known as TADIS, which is a tasking and data information system. They are like a mini police station. They can get information and are able to respond to that information in a split second. It takes a couple of seconds to get information on people. They get immediate notification of any incidents that take place. In general terms, WA Police is certainly lucky its officers can be more efficient under the new system with the benefit of TADIS; a lot of committed officers who want to do the right thing will follow up crimes, whether they are criminal acts or road traffic offences.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I refer the minister to the last bullet point on page 491 of the *Budget Statements*, which relates to the transition to greater centralisation of call taking and dispatch across Western Australia. Some of this has already occurred, with the police assistance centre receiving more calls from regional centres. From this bullet point it appears that it can be anticipated that there will be more call taking. What percentage increase in calls is anticipated in the forthcoming year?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** An increase of 14.2 per cent.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Another 14.2 per cent.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** That is for 000 calls. There will be a 12.1 per cent increase in non-emergency calls.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** In 2010, from answers the minister has previously given, the longest wait or queued time for a person having dialled 131 444 was 21 minutes and 54 seconds. Does the minister regard that as acceptable?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Of course not. From what I can remember, that was a one-off incident. That is nothing like what would normally happen. The latest information we have for the year to date for the 131 444 service is 77.02 per cent as of 2 April, and the agency target is 85 per cent.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** There has been some recent media about the stress that the operators at the call centre are under. I understand that a fatigue management policy is being worked on. When is that likely to be completed and implemented, given that the minister has just told us that there will be a 12 per cent increase in calls, putting further pressure on those operators?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask Greg Italiano to answer that question.

**Mr G. Italiano:** The member's assumption is correct; call centres are high-pressure environments. Call volumes are growing and have been growing over a number of years. That creates workforce challenges for our organisation, and it is appropriate that we have in place proper policies and rosters to deal with those issues. WA Police has taken a number of steps, including independent analysis of workplace issues at the police assistance centre. I anticipate that the fatigue management initiatives that we are working on will be in place over the coming three or four months.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** My question relates to the line item on the community safety network on page 489 of the *Budget Statements*. To save the minister from singing its praises, I will congratulate him at the outset for getting money for this very important system. I would like a clear indication of the full cost and the full extent of this. Somewhere in the budget is the figure of \$80 million. What is across this item, on this page, is only a small part of it. I understand that other emergency service organisations are also involved. I would really like to get information on the full cost, the full reach and the capability of the system.

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member is quite right; the total cost for the regional radio network for police, emergency services and correctional services is \$80.3 million. That is the capital expense. Of those funds, \$9.2 million is to be allocated to the Department of Corrective Services and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority. In anticipation of a further question, the trunked radio network is expected to be delivered by June 2013 and the conventional digital radio network is anticipated to be completed by 2015–16. The recurrent operational funding of \$26.3 million is over five years, and that is from 2010–11. I think that was the question the member asked.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** I thank the minister. There was also the question about the capability of the trunk and digital networks and the coverage they are getting. Clearly, it will not finish until 2016—I understand that it has to be rolled out—but in terms of the areas that currently have coverage and for the next year or two, where will that be extended into?

[8.40 pm]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Certainly. I will ask Deputy Commissioner Chris Dawson to answer the last part of the question.

**Mr C.J. Dawson:** The roll-out of the community safety network is in staged areas. The member will recall that the previous stages were in the metropolitan area. Phase 2 will extend from Lancelin to Bunbury–Australind.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Has that section been completed?

**Mr C.J. Dawson:** Yes, it has. That is all fully digital. It therefore replicates the police metropolitan radio network. In the regional centres to which it now extends, because of the geography of the state, we cannot use the full digital network, because it is too cost prohibitive in the number of towers and the coverage. There will be a trunked radio network. That will extend to four regional centres—Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, and up around the Pilbara. That will provide an enhanced and fully encrypted network, not only for the police to operate, but also for other agencies, particularly FESA, and will be very important for emergency management. As we extend it, there will be additional towers. It is expected that 40 police station radios will be deployed, and there will be upgrades to 215 towers. That will include 17 towers at new sites, and the deployment of another eight sites at existing towers that are not currently utilised. Therefore, the existing footprint will be further extended. The trunked radio network is expected to be delivered by June 2013, and the conventional digital radio network is expected to be completed by 2015–16.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** Clearly there is a difficulty in some of the more remote areas, or even in the south west farming areas. What will be the extent of coverage when that network has been completed?

**Mr C.J. Dawson:** The way it is being done, as I mentioned earlier with the second phase to Bunbury and up to Lancelin, again, because of the geography, there is an existing patch-over between running analogue and going into digital. The vendors being sought for the contract will be providing a similar system, and that is what the process is intended to do. The regional centres, where the large population centres are, will have digital, but as they work across from trunked to fully digital, there will be a transitional approach. That is what is occurring now. If a vehicle is approaching from the Wheatbelt, as it enters into the space of Northam, the officers flick over to a fully digital system. It will be a similar approach.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** So if they are between Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie, or between Newman and Port Hedland, they are likely to be relying on the traditional analogue?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The commissioner would like to add a few comments on that question.

**Dr K. O’Callaghan:** There are obviously places in the state that cannot be covered by the trunk network or the community network. That means that vehicles in those areas will need to rely on the existing technology. There are two types of technology that are used in addition to the network. One is high-frequency radio. We have been working on upgrading the type of high-frequency radio that we put in vehicles to make it more reliable. The other type of technology is satellite phones. All police vehicles in those sorts of areas carry a satellite phone so that they can always make some sort of contact call.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I refer to pages 491 and 498 of the *Budget Statements* in relation to drug buses. Nine recommendations came out of the statutory review of the drug-driving legislation. At what stage is compliance with those recommendations? Can the minister also provide us with the figures for how many drug-driving tests were conducted in the last two financial years, and how many drug-driving tests the minister anticipates will be conducted in this next financial year? The minister will probably need to provide this by way of supplementary information.

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** If the member is asking for an opinion in relation to an estimate, I do not know whether I can give the member that. I will try to answer the member's question, but I will either need to get one of the advisers to answer it in more detail, or we will need to take that question on notice. I can give the member the existing numbers, but I cannot give her the answer to a hypothetical question about future tests. For the period 13 August 2010 to 20 May 2011, there were 6 798 tests conducted. The number of positive preliminary tests was 319. The ratio of positive to negative was 4.7 per cent. Of those drug tests, 254 people tested positive to amphetamines, and 65 people tested positive to cannabis. That makes a total of 319. That is a rate of one in 21. It is a bit concerning that one in 21 people tested produced results that were positive to drugs.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I asked how many of the nine recommendations of the statutory review are yet to be implemented. Does the low number of 6 000 tests reflect that those recommendations have not yet been ironed out?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I would ask the member to put that question on notice, because it might take us a bit longer than is required to comply with the supplementary information.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** The statutory review was done two years ago. How many of those nine recommendations have WA Police implemented to comply with the recommendations of that review? That should be within the minister's knowledge now.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** My advisers tell me that they do not have that information.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Is the minister telling me that not one of the very competent advisers that the minister has with him knows the answer to that question?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I am looking around, in the hope that someone will have an answer to that question, but I am told that nobody does.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Can we make it a supplementary, minister?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** No, because I cannot guarantee that I can get it done in time. This is the only question that I have asked the member to put on notice so far tonight. I am asking that the member put that question on notice, and that will generate the response and the answer that the member is looking for.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** So the minister should be able to answer it by August—excellent!

For the two drug buses that the minister has talked about, which he now describes as drug and booze buses, what percentage of police time will be spent on drug tests as opposed to blood alcohol measurements? Is there any formula for that analysis?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** They will not be separate. The police will not go out one night and conduct drug tests and go out another night and conduct alcohol tests. The whole benefit of having a drug and booze bus is to conduct the two operations in the one go. That is the most effective way of doing it, obviously. The member criticised me, as she is fully aware, because we promised in the election campaign that we would supply two new drug buses. We have done better than that, as I explained to the member in a parliamentary question, I think last week. We are supplying two new drug and alcohol buses. That will make us more efficient, I believe. There are problems. We want to eliminate those people who are taking drugs and driving just as much as we want to eliminate people who are drinking and driving. That is why it is much more efficient and cost effective to do the two operations from each of those vehicles. I would have thought that the member would have been over the moon that we were doing that. I will ask the commissioner to add some comments.

[8.50 pm]

**Dr K. O'Callaghan:** Drug testing is targeted and breath testing is generally random so we do not predict drug testing targets. When the booze bus is deployed, everyone stopped by the booze bus gets tested for alcohol with a preliminary test but only some of them get asked to do a drug test. That very much depends on their appearance and questioning. We do not have any pre-determined numbers. It is based on a subset of the total random breath testing that we do.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I refer to the reference to custodial services on page 497. My question relates to the children held in the Kununurra police lockup recently. Was that incident, or incidents like that, the responsibility of the Department of Corrective Services or the Department for Child Protection and what measures did the police take to find alternatives?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The issue the member is talking about is not covered in this budget paper. I ask the member to refer to a line item.

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I am referring to custodial services. It has budgetary implications if we cannot determine where juveniles are going to be locked up in the police system. There is a cost involved. It is a budgetary line item.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I ask the member to show me where the line item is. The member is asking a general question in relation to an incident that happened over the weekend. I am here to try to give members information on the police budget for this next financial year. I ask the member to show me a line item that refers to the question he is asking. If he wants to ask a separate question when Parliament is sitting normally, that is fine, but I am dealing with the budget tonight.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** On page 497, under custodial services generally, and the cost of custodial services, how does the government attend to juveniles held in places such as Kununurra lockup? What is the method by which we evaluate and undertake to keep those children incarcerated? There is a cost to it. I think it is a reasonable question.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It might be a reasonable question but it does not truly relate to the budget papers that are in front of us tonight. The member knows that and I know that.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** It is on page 497. It is a cost of business.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Is the member talking about services to the judicial process?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** It is the second dot point on page 497.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** “Custodial services” reflects lots of stuff.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** It includes children.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Can we just have one person asking questions.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member should not start bullying me. As I said, the area of custodial services is for all people who are put into the lockups in our police stations. The member is referring to one particular item, and that is a juvenile who was in a police lockup for what is probably generally accepted was not a reasonable length of time. I cannot give the member the answer to that question. As far as I am aware, no responsible adult could be found to take care of that particular young person.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I ask the minister to forget Kununurra.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member referred to Kununurra in his question.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Let me revise my question. Let us forget the recent events, because it has obviously got the minister hot under the collar.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Not at all.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** The minister needs to be a little more relaxed because it is simply a question of protocol. Is it the responsibility of DCS or DCP? If the minister needs to refer to an adviser, that is fine. When we have a juvenile in a remote lockup, is the referred service DCS or DCP?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will ask the deputy commissioner to answer.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Finally, sanity!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We are trying to help the member.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** No, you are not.

**Mr C.J. Dawson:** The Department of Corrective Services has responsibility for adult detainees and prisoners. The Department for Child Protection has primary responsibility for the custodial care of children once they have been through the court process. If police officers apprehend a juvenile, they will have the duty of care and responsibility up until such time as the juvenile is either considered for bail and/or release or cautioned. If no responsible adult can be found, we engage the services of the Department for Child Protection.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I am happy to use this example or others. Is DCP living up to expectations in relation to support for the police service?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member is asking for an opinion.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** It is based on operational experience.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member is asking for an opinion from a senior police officer.

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Clearly, some child has been let down.

Chairman; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Joe Francis; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr John Kobelke; Mr John McGrath

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**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** That is the member's view but it is not a question for this budget estimates.

**The appropriation was recommended.**