

COLLIE POLICE STATION — STAFFING CONCERNS

793. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Police

The residents of the Shire of Collie have concerns about staffing levels at the Collie Police Station. Because of a policy to not replace officers when on annual leave, sick leave, long service leave or training exercises, the number of active officers has dropped. Therefore I ask:

- (1) How many tasking officers will be available for active duty at the Collie Police Station after 10 May 2009?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm that this number is sufficient to service the needs of the Collie area?
- (3) What was the staffing level at Collie Police Station in May 2008?
- (4) What plans does the Minister have to address the concerns of the Collie community on police staffing numbers in Collie?
- (5) Will the Minister allocate any extra officers to this station?
- (6) Why are there no replacements for police officers when on all types of leave?
- (7) Are there plans to divert officers from other stations around Collie to cover 'hot spots'?
- (8) Given that there are insufficient police numbers to replace officers on leave, how does the Minister plan to honour the Government's election commitment to recruit an extra 500 police officers and 200 specialist officers?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

- (1)-(5) Western Australia Police advises that due to operational sensitivities, specific information relating to staffing levels of individual police stations is not released.

The Commissioner of Police is responsible for the allocation of police services state-wide and allocates resources accordingly. Resources are principally allocated at a District level and District Superintendents deploy these resources within their District to provide the best possible policing service to meet operational requirements and the varying needs of the community.

- (6) The District Superintendent advises that there are processes in place at the South West District Office to identify and deploy additional resources to cover officers on leave, if required. Collie Police Station also has a Customer Service Officer to enable officers to focus on frontline policing duties.
- (7) District Superintendents deploy resources within their District to provide the best possible policing service to meet operational requirements and the varying needs of the community.
- (8) The additional police officer program will be implemented from 2009-10 over a five year period. This is coupled with 200 administrative and expert civilian staff to be recruited over five years to further boost police resources. WA Police is experienced in meeting staffing demand in a tight labour market and has a number of strategies it can employ to meet recruiting needs and ensuring a diverse range of applicant types, by gender, age, cultural background etc. On average the current rate of applications for 2009 is approximately 30% higher than in 2008. With attrition reducing, increased applications and the agency slightly over strength, recruiting adequate numbers is not currently a pressing issue.