

POLICE — RECRUITMENT

616. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Police:

The Western Australia Police Force annual reports state that in 2012 there were 5 821 police officers and that in 2016 there were 6 342, which is an increase of 521 police officers during that period. This compares with the increase in the number of police officers by only 481 in this period of government to date, which the minister has cited. Last Tuesday and today the minister claimed that the police numbers increased by just 95 officers from 2012 to 2016. Does the minister still stand by this claim?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Between 2012 and 2016, 1 306 officers were recruited and there were 1 211 resignations, resulting in a net growth of 95 officers. A comparative time frame is 2017 to 2022. The headcount on 30 September this year was 6 897 and the headcount on 28 February 2017 was 6 416, for a net growth of 481. We have recruited —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Over the course of the last term of office and this term to date we have recruited 1 800 officers. There are 155 at the academy right now. We will continue to graduate them almost monthly and we are aiming to achieve the target of 950 more officers above the rate of attrition, as we committed to just before the last election.