

Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ross Ainsworth; Chairman; Mr Matt Birney; Ms Margaret Quirk; Ms Sue Walker; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Shane Hill; The Chairman (mr A.P. O'gorman)

Division 43: Police Service, \$659 309 000 -

Mrs D.J. Guise, Chairman.

Mrs M.H. Roberts, Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Mr B.E. Matthews, Commissioner of Police.

Mr M. Hay, Assistant Commissioner, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Operations.

Mr K.J. O'Callaghan, Acting Deputy Commissioner.

Mr C.J. Dawson, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Strategic and Corporate Development.

Mr R.J. Mitchell, Executive Director.

Mr M. Bowler, Acting Director, Human Resources.

Mr P.M. de Mamiel, Director, Finance.

Mr A. Taylor, Director, Asset Management.

The CHAIRMAN: The question before the committee is that the appropriation for division 43 be recommended.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Does my question stand?

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Churchlands' question stands.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: To clarify the issue, I did not want to tie up officers from the Police Service for indefinite periods, so my view was that we would deal with the police areas first. Then they can get back to doing more important work.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: This is pretty important.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I know. Of course it is very important. However, there is policing work to be done in this State as well and there is no point tying them up in sitting around and listening to other estimates areas. Division 43 deals with the Police Service. The member for Churchlands referred to page 707, and particularly to capital works. She asked what had occurred since last year with the \$100 000 and was that allocated to the central area review. That central area review was undertaken. Progress has been made. It may be appropriate that Mr Dawson responds, because he has been involved in that.

[3.10 pm]

Mr DAWSON: The Police Service engaged external consultants, aside from those internal people from the asset directorate and the central and west metropolitan districts. There was quite extensive consultation. An amount of \$235 000 has been expended. I cannot refer you directly to where the moneys allocated in the previous budget are displayed, but that amount has been expended. There has also been some carryover of some of the moneys that were allocated in the original budget. The survey and the analysis have been presented to the minister and subject to quite extensive consultation with local government authorities and other stakeholders. The outcome of the analysis has been a three-station model in the western suburbs. Those stations are primarily located in Leederville, Vincent-Subiaco and Claremont-Cottesloe. Those are the three main hubs in the western suburbs. The Government has made an allocation for one of those police stations; that is, the Vincent Police Station. I am happy to provide further details. I think an amount of over \$5 million has been provided for the first of those three stations.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Where will the Vincent Police Station be located?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That location has not yet been determined. An informal discussion took place with the Mayor of Vincent, who had at an earlier stage suggested some council property might be available. I understand that is no longer the case. One of the options under consideration is the current site of the Leederville Police Station, which I am advised is a large site. However, much more consultation will have to take place before we determine whether the new station will be on that site or another site.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Just to clarify the point, do I understand that Wembley will be without a police station once the three new police stations are built?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Not necessarily. A number of options can be looked at. Those kinds of options would include housing detectives at Wembley. Although there would not be a police station in the same sense that there is now, it could possibly house -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I hope that it will not be the same one, because it will be falling down by then.

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Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No. There is a lot to be worked through. Quite clearly, we have a significant upgrade program occurring to take into account occupational health and safety standards. Sadly, many of our police stations do not meet appropriate standards. We have allocated money for those purposes, and we are ensuring that the working environment of police officers and public servants working in the Police Service meets current day occupational health and safety standards.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Mr Dawson mentioned that local authorities and others have been briefed. Would it be possible for the members of Parliament involved in these areas to be briefed as well?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am sure that he is more than happy to ensure that occurs.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It is really important that we know what is happening.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: On page 707 the capital works program refers to works in progress. I was disappointed to see that no significant works are occurring in country areas. Will any of the \$5.7 million budgeted for facility maintenance and occupational health and safety modifications in 2004-05 go to country police stations; and, if so, which ones and how much will be allocated? Will any of the \$230 000 allocated to the cellblock upgrade program in 2004-05 go to country police stations; and, if so, which ones and how much will be allocated? I understand that the minister may not have those figures in front of her. If necessary, the question could be on notice, but I would like a breakdown of those figures, if possible.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: With regard to page 707, it is certainly my view that a lot of money is allocated to country regions; in fact, most of the new police stations that we are building are in country areas. The total cost of the new projects is some \$61 million. They include the Gordon reform program multifunctional police stations. There will be police stations at Bidyadanga, the Dampier Peninsula, Jigalong, Warakurna and Warmun. A new police complex is to be built in the Kimberley. As I understand it, the member is more interested in the upgrade to existing country police stations rather than the building of new police stations.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: I am interested in new police stations, of course. I fully understand that there will not be a program for the replacement of every police station that needs some work on it. Therefore, upgrading is obviously the way to go to overcome some of the shortcomings that have been identified in many of those stations. It would be useful if we could get some detail on the amounts of money and the direction in which that money is going and to which stations. If that information is not available immediately, I am quite happy to take it on notice.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will ask Mr Alex Taylor if he can comment on that.

Mr TAYLOR: In summary, about 65 per cent of the expenditure will be in regional Western Australia. In terms of the detail, if we can take the question on notice, we will provide the member with the detail of spending by region and district.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: Could that detail be by way of supplementary information?

The CHAIRMAN: Will the minister clarify what she will provide, and then I will allocate a supplementary information number?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: We can provide by way of supplementary information the expenditure on country police station upgrades for the 2004-05 budget.

[Supplementary Information No A2.]

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: To save my asking a similar question with regard to new works, could we have similar information relating to country stations for new works as well as upgrades?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: We have here the new works information. The dollar amounts for each of those is as follows: the expenditure on the Bidyadanga Police Station, \$1.186 million; Dampier Peninsula Police Station, \$1.238 million; Jigalong Police Station, \$1.291 million; Warakurna Police Station, \$1.576 million; and Warmun Police Station, \$1.291 million; giving a total of \$6.582 million. The expenditure on the Kimberley police district complex is \$9.900 million. The expenditure on the Albany police complex is \$6.554 million, which is planned for 2004-05. It is part of the total cost of the complex of \$9.265 million. There is also the Balgo multifunctional police facility. The estimated total cost for that new facility is \$1.426 million. That is due for completion in 2005. Expenditure on the Carnarvon Police Station is \$4.255 million. The expenditure on the Kalumburu multifunctional police facility is \$1.38 million. The total cost of that facility will be \$1.558 million. The new Laverton Police Station, which involves the construction of a replacement station in Laverton, has a budgeted expenditure of \$3.237 million in 2004-05. The total cost is estimated to be \$3.5 million. Again, it has a completion schedule of mid 2005. The construction of the replacement police station at Newman has a total

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budgeted expenditure of \$3.009 million in 2004-05. The total cost of that station is \$3.797 million. The completion of that is also scheduled for mid-2005. Warburton multifunctional police facility has budgeted expenditure of \$1.359 million. Its total cost is \$1.439 million. The Bidyadanga Police Station has an estimated total cost of \$1.186 million and a budgeted expenditure of \$20 000 in 2004-05.

[3.20 pm]

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: In the first instance, I will ask the minister for a number of supplementary lists relating to about five specific budget line items. The first is on page 710 of the *Budget Statements*. I refer to the item on land and buildings under the non-current assets, for which the budget for the forthcoming year is \$292.413 million. The second item on which I seek information is two points down on the same page. The item for "other" under non-current assets has a budget of \$59.819 million. I also refer to the section on cost of services on page 709. Under the expenses from ordinary activities is a figure of \$131.217 million for supplies and services. I am also hoping to get a supplementary list for the last item under new works on page 708, which is the replacement equipment program, which has an estimated total cost of \$14 million. As an addendum to that last item, I ask that the \$3 million of equipment that will be provided in this year's budget be listed separately. I ask the same for the item directly above, on the police station upgrade program, which has been allocated \$4 million. As an addendum to that list, I seek further information on the \$1 million to be provided in this financial year.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Before the member for Kalgoorlie goes too much further, the point about supplementary information is that it is to provide information that is not available during the estimates hearing. I understand that we will be able to provide some of the requested information now. I will check with the commissioner and others, because the member asked for some information that would take longer to provide than the period allowed for supplementary information; we would not be able to provide it in that time frame. The member may need to put those requests for information on notice.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: That is the last of them.

The CHAIRMAN: So that we can keep up, I suggest that we start with the first request and work through them. I have allowed a fair bit of latitude.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will start to answer the member's questions, because I have some of the information here. We will not need to provide those responses by way of supplementary information. In terms of the police station upgrade referred to on page 708 -

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: The \$4 million.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: A four-year, \$4 million accommodation upgrade program commences in 2004-05. The program will address the ongoing need to upgrade the operational functionality of police stations to enhance the delivery of contemporary policing services. That item has budget expenditure of \$1 million in 2004-05. The Police Service operates some 200 facilities statewide. Some 73 per cent of those facilities are more than 20 years of age and lack functionality. The new and replacement police stations and major police station upgrades are funded on a project specific basis. The police station upgrade program funds a range of minor accommodation needs. I will need to check, perhaps with Mr Taylor, whether all the programmed items have been identified at this stage.

Mr TAYLOR: Not as yet. The budget is a forward budget. In terms of the \$1 million to be spent next year, we are going through a list of priorities at the moment. Come 1 July we will have a list of priorities for what the \$1 million will be spent on. I cannot give a list of how the \$1 million will be spent next year or in the out years. However, as suggested, we seek feedback from all stations on minor upgrades that would assist their operations. We prioritise that list and come up with an independent program on 1 July to roll out during the year.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: So the \$4 million is an arbitrary figure. Have you done any background research to arrive at that figure? Is it just a figure that you have put aside for upgrades?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Figures such as that are arrived at following information that is received and previous expenditure in those areas. There has obviously been an assessment undertaken in recent years of occupational health and safety to make sure that we can meet our obligations.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Do you have a list that totals \$4 million?

Mr TAYLOR: No.

The CHAIRMAN: I will deal with these questions. I allowed a fair deal of latitude. This is not an opportunity to place a wish list before the estimates committee, but an opportunity to ask a question on particular items. The

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member for Kalgoorlie listed a range of questions that he would like answered. I do not know whether the minister has the answer to them all. We will work through them one at a time. The member can ask further questions later, because I want to give other members a chance to ask questions.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I appreciate your advice, Madam Chairman. The other item the member for Kalgoorlie asked about was the replacement equipment program, which has a budget of \$14 million and is listed on page 708. The advice in front of me is that the Police Service has about 44 000 items of equipment, with an estimated replacement value of \$75 million. As the member pointed out, there is a four-year, \$14 million program, with planned expenditure of \$3 million in 2004-05. Again, specific detail of what equipment will be bought in the coming financial year has not yet been finalised. If the member would like, I can provide him with a list of what the money was spent on in 2003-04 as part of that program. At this stage, I cannot provide the figures for 2004-05, nor would I be able to provide them by way of supplementary information.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I will not trouble the minister for the previous figures. Can the minister give me a list that outlines the \$14 million that has been put aside for equipment upgrades?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No. Essentially, it is determined on a year by year basis. In terms of the \$3 million to be provided in the coming financial year, that equipment has not been determined at this stage. Categories of equipment include audiovisual, communication, photographic, radio, scientific, traffic and safety equipment, firearms, vehicles, vessels and aircraft. That is the range of equipment. The budget to the next level has not been done at this point in time.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: On that point, the minister said that there was a list of \$75 million worth of equipment that had been identified as being in need of replacement.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: The minister did not say that?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No. That is the value of all recorded equipment.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Okay. There are still two or three other points on my list of questions.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I seek the Chairman's advice on whether she wants me to answer other parts of the member for Kalgoorlie's questions or whether she will come back to him.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: It is one question.

The CHAIRMAN: A range of rather lengthy items were raised. Perhaps we could address two more and then come back to the member for Kalgoorlie. I will put the member for Kalgoorlie on the list so that we can be fair to other committee members.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I would be happy to have addressed my question on supplies and services, which is detailed under the cost of services as an expense from ordinary activities on page 709. I am sure it would be easy for the minister to provide a list of supplies and services totalling \$131.217 million. Madam Chair, you said that I could get an answer to a second question -

The CHAIRMAN: Just let us deal with the first one and you can then tell me the question to which you would next like a precise answer. We can then move on to other members and I will put you on the list to come back to.

[3.30 pm]

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: There is an increase in the budget for supplies and services of \$9.063 million, which is mainly attributable to the following: realignment of expense elements between major accounts, \$6.713 million; salary capitalised from capital works program, \$3.865 million; royal commission initiatives, \$1.5 million; motor vehicle operating lease cost increases, \$1.002 million; police assistance centre, set-up and running costs, \$1.291 million; national police certificate costs, \$0.467 million; regional support unit and targeting of volume crime costs \$0.363 million; and, child sex covert line and child sex register costs, \$0.347 million.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: With respect, that was not the question I asked. I asked the minister to supply the entire list that totals the \$131 million of supplies and services, as totalled in the 2004-05 budget figures.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Within broad categories, I am advised that that information could be provided by way of supplementary information, but it may need to be based on last year's expenditure. I am happy to provide the member with whatever information the Police Service has available.

[Supplementary Information No A3.]

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Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I am chasing a register of land and buildings, which appears on page 710 of the *Budget Statements* under non-current assets. The total figure budgeted for in 2004-05 is \$292.413 million. Can the minister provide me with a full and comprehensive list of the land and buildings owned by the Police Department, which totals \$292.413 million?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That information is published in the Police Service's annual report. We are happy to provide the member with a copy of that report as supplementary information.

The CHAIRMAN: For the purposes of Hansard, I will clarify what it is the minister is agreeing to supply.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I agree to supply information on land and building holdings by the Western Australia Police Service.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Is that an itemised list?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: A list is provided in the Police Service's annual report. I will provide the member with that list.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Is it itemised?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That is my understanding.

[*Supplementary Information No A4.*]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I refer the minister to the Wanneroo Police Station on page 707 of the *Budget Statements*. Will the minister provide more detail about the new Wanneroo Police Station and why this station, in particular, must be constructed. Would the minister provide advice on the progress of construction and what progress will be made during 2004-05? Concerns have been expressed to me that the construction has been held up because of planning approval problems. I would like some assurance that the matter will proceed forthwith.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The Wanneroo Police Station, with which I am sure the Chairman is familiar, was built in 1971. Wanneroo is one of the fastest growing areas in Western Australia, let alone the metropolitan area. The member is right: the station is overcrowded and lacks facilities required for contemporary policing stations. The new building will be built to accommodate a staff complement of some 20 general duties and traffic staff. It will include office accommodation, an operations room, a video interview room, staff amenities and a custodial facility. As to the question regarding progress and construction, I understand that the site acquisition and design work is progressing. Construction is due to commence in early 2005 and the station is expected to be occupied in the second half of 2005. The total cost of that new station is some \$3 million. This year's budget allocates \$1.779 million for that project.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Is the minister aware of any hold ups that have been caused by activities at a local government level?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I understand there have been some hold ups with allocated money. The Government is keen to get on with the project. Hopefully, work will be able to progress faster than it has done to date, but there have been some issues with regard to the local authority.

Mr S.R. HILL: I refer the minister to Aboriginal police liaison officers, which is the third dot point on page 698 of the *Budget Statements*. Can the minister advise whether the Government is on track to recruit an additional 40 APLOs?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Yes. Since February 2001 the Government has recruited an additional 20 Aboriginal police liaison officers. Another 10 APLOs will be recruited this month and the final 10 of the additional 40 APLOs will be recruited by December this year. The authorised strength of APLOs as at 30 June 2004 will be 134, compared with 104 at 30 June 2001. That figure takes into account the additional 10 APLOs who will be trained at the end of this month. As I said, the final 10 APLOs will be trained in December. The marketing campaign to attract APLOs has been successful. I understand that some 62 applicants across the State applied for the May 2004 vacancies, which is good. Some postings have been harder to fill than others. A lot of care must be taken with the recruitment process and in aligning APLOs with their eventual posting. The recruitment of APLOs has now become a fully-fledged function of the police recruiting unit. Where it can, the Government is encouraging APLOs to move into mainstream policing, which is a significant advance. In 2003-04, three APLOs have successfully moved to mainstream policing.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I refer the minister to the first dot point under major initiatives for 2004-05 on page 705 of the *Budget Statements*, which refers to the targeting of antisocial behaviour and volume crime hot spots in the metropolitan area through the regional operations group and other initiatives. Is the Scarborough beachfront among those hot spots?

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Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: It certainly is. It has been an area with which there has been a lot of concern. I hope that the hoon legislation - as it is colloquially called - which was introduced recently and will hopefully be debated in the upper House in the next week or two, will make a difference. Alongside that, the Government has formed the regional operations group, to which the member referred. That was organised largely in response to a number of instances. Some pretty unruly instances involving youth have occurred, particularly at the Scarborough beachfront, a party in Kalamunda and a wedding in Ballajura in which the police response was unacceptable. Since then, the police have proactively put in place that regional group and the Scarborough beachfront is one of those areas that it has targeted. Special police operations on weekends have targeted the beachfront. Officers from other specialist units have been involved in those operations.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: How many full-time equivalents are currently employed in that group? Will the number of officers allocated to that group increase in the next financial year?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Currently, 60 police officers are allocated to that group.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Will more police officers be involved in that group in the coming year?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Yes. It is intended that in the near future the number of police in that group will be ramped up to about 75 officers.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: In light of the minister's comments, she will be aware that a few days ago the City of Stirling announced plans to upgrade the Scarborough beachfront. Does the minister and the Police Service consider that upgrade will help in combating antisocial behaviour in Scarborough?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: It is absolutely essential that the Police Service work with local government authorities on the environmental design of areas because it can have a big impact on the social or antisocial behaviour of people in an area. Things can be done to the ingress and egress of an area and to its design to make it more difficult for people to behave in antisocial ways, particularly with regard to hoon-style activities and drag racing. That can work hand in hand with more effective legislation. I have not actually seen the designs and I do not know what will be determined by the City of Stirling in its final approval, but I hope the police will have input to that.

[3.40 pm]

Ms S.E. WALKER: I refer to the major policy decisions listed on page 692. One of the items listed in the table is the child protection offender register. Where will that register be held and how does a person get on the register?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: As the member for Nedlands will be aware, currently the situation is that child sex offenders and other persons convicted of serious offences against children, once they have completed their terms of imprisonment and are no longer subject to parole conditions, are able to move throughout the community without being monitored. In the past this has resulted in some offenders being able to locate themselves near childcare centres and schools, and they have been able to be completely anonymous. Legislation for the child protection offender register will be introduced into Parliament in the near future. I understand it is currently being drafted. The intention is that the details will be kept by the police about offenders' addresses, occupations, the make and registration numbers of the cars they drive and so forth. The offenders will have a limited period of time after completing their sentence in which to register. As they exit the justice system details will be provided to the Police Service, and there will be a very limited period during which the offenders will be required to register with the police.

Ms S.E. WALKER: Is the minister saying that only convicted child sex offenders will be included on the register; that is, people with a criminal record?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: How is it determined that someone is a child sex offender if that person has not been convicted?

Ms S.E. WALKER: For instance, that person could be in the SafeCare program. Five hundred paedophiles have been through that program without being subject to conviction, so we would not know about them.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This is not a budgetary matter; it appears to me to be a policy matter that the member will be able to debate when the legislation comes before the House.

Ms S.E. WALKER: I asked whether only paedophiles with police criminal records will be going on the child protection offender register and the minister replied that that was the case. My second question was whether the names of those people will remain on the register indefinitely.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I can understand that the member for Nedlands is fishing for some of the details of the legislation that the Government is yet to introduce.

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Ms S.E. WALKER: That is what we are here for.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No, this is not a fishing expedition on policy.

Ms S.E. WALKER: The minister allowed the member for Girrawheen to ask such a question.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This is an opportunity to ask about budget items. As the member for Nedlands will be aware, we are linking into a national sex offender register. Legislation has been in place for some time in New South Wales, national model legislation is being drafted and Western Australia will be introducing its own legislation. When I introduce that legislation, the member for Nedlands will be able to debate it if she does not agree with the categories of people being included.

Ms S.E. WALKER: I am asking whether the names of convicted child sex offenders will remain on the register indefinitely. It is included in one of the major policy decisions, so I assume that those things have been nussed out.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That is right, and member will be able to find out when we introduce the legislation.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I refer the minister to the third, fourth and ninth dot points on page 704 of the *Budget Statements*, which relate to the outcomes of DNA sampling. How many persons have their DNA profiles on the database? What are the outcomes to date of the implementation of the legislation?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Approximately 38 000 DNA samples are held on the database. This is a great achievement for the Police Service, and compares more than favourably with the numbers on the databases in just about any other State. It is a bigger raw number, as I understand it, than either New South Wales or Victoria, and on a per population basis it is greater than anywhere else. I know the member for Girrawheen is aware that the more DNA samples held on the database, the greater chance of a hit. The sad fact is that something like four per cent of the community commits about 80 per cent of the crime, so the more people we get onto the database the more likely we are to get those hits. Interestingly, we have had a very good sample collection rate in WA. During 2002-03, 21 085 DNA reference samples were collected, and up until 7 May 2004, 15 462 DNA reference samples had been collected. It is therefore forecast that around about 18 138 will be collected during this financial year. That is almost another 20 000 samples. That will be very significant. There have been a large number of matches for burglaries. In 2002-03 there were 265 matches, and it is projected that there will be nearly 400 matches this financial year, which is a significant increase. In non-dwelling burglary offences there were 123 matches in 2002-03, and the aim is to double the number of matches in the coming year. In the case of sexual offences, which are always very awful offences, there were 12 DNA database matches in 2002-03, and to 7 May this year there have been 20. What is really pleasing about this is that they are all crimes that were highly likely not to have been solved by other means.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I refer the minister to page 698 and the fourth dot point, which points out that the police have successfully targeted offences against the person and drug offences, and goes on to list some of the more impressive statistics. The minister will recall that the second last set of crime statistics - as opposed to the last set - contained a waiver, put there by the police, to the effect that the police had changed the way that crime statistics are reported and recorded in Western Australia, and they could not necessarily be compared against previous years. From memory, it went on to say that any increase or decrease may not necessarily reflect an actual increase or decrease. The minister might recall saying, when I questioned her in the Chamber at that time, that that was a standard waiver on all police statistics, and also all Australian Bureau of Statistics statistics. I did some investigation on that, and discovered that it was not the case. That waiver was specific to that particular set of crime statistics. Can the minister tell me how police have changed their reporting and recording of crime, and how that is likely to impact on the crime statistics?

[3.50 pm]

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: What the member referred to is not really a waiver; it is a disclaimer. The comment that I made at the time - the member often paraphrases what I say - was that essentially, just about every set of statistics I have ever seen has some form of a disclaimer on it.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Not this one.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member asked a specific question about this disclaimer and what it means in terms of statistics. A person can look at statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Western Australia Police Service and he will see in the current figures a dramatic decline in some significant areas. We have not seen those declines in the course of the past decade. Mr Hay might have some more information on the statistics and their validity.

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Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Either way, there has been a change to the recording and reporting of statistics.

Mr HAY: The only difference in the way we have changed the recording of statistics would be in the mass recording of statistics; for example, with fraud offences. There would be a huge discrepancy in figures from one month to another if we had, say, a person charged this month with 250 charges of credit card fraud. Next month we would not have that figure, so there would be a huge reduction in fraud offences, and that could be a clear difference in the recording statistics. I guess the issue is whether we record each particular offence or whether a police officer, when he goes to a crime scene, records just the principal crime, as they do in Victoria. The debate over how it is recorded has always been around. The introduction of the incident management system has created some discrepancies with recording systems. That does not necessarily mean that it will change the recording systems for good or for bad. It depends on whether people are getting used to it and making sure that they record all the offences as they used to so that we can compare apples with apples rather than apples with pears. I guess there is some initial confusion in the statistics. However, I can say categorically that in the area of, for example, burglary, there has been a huge reduction in the crime statistics, which is an accurate figure. However, it varies from crime to crime, as I have indicated with fraud or even sex offences.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I have a further question about this matter. Once again, I refer not to the latest set of crime statistics that were tabled, but the ones before - I think it must have been the December quarter from memory -

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: It is the December quarter.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: The Police Service had a specific line in that set of statistics that did not appear in any other set of statistics that I have seen. It said that an increase or a decrease may not necessarily reflect an increase or a decrease given that there has been a change to the way in which the statistics are reported and recorded. Can I have an example of how that might be practically applied in terms of something that looks like it has decreased when, in fact, it has not?

Mr HAY: Perhaps Mr Dawson or Mr Bob Mitchell who work in the statistical area are better suited to answer the question.

Mr DAWSON: Mr Hay has already mentioned the incident management system, which - the member may have been previously briefed about this - is a new way of recording offences. The previous system - the offence information system - has a different number of categories, and I will use that as an example to get to the heart of the member's question. For instance, the number of offences under homicide, manslaughter or driving causing death have been recorded under the offence category of manslaughter, which is also a component of homicide. That is affected by the inclusion of some manslaughter offences involving, for instance, the act of driving a vehicle. The IMS system is a statute-based system as opposed to the previous older system, which we are still running in parallel. That system is not specifically statute based. When officers previously recorded an offence, the offence information system did not have particular categories of offences along with the statutes, but they do under the system we are now using. There is some crossover and the statistics are not exactly, as Mr Hay said, an apples with apples comparison, which reflects some of the differences in the statistical reporting. The Police Service is using two systems and it really is a transitional time for us in terms of making those records comparable from year to year. As we de-list the OIS system - the agency has almost fully implemented the IMS system - people will see in the outgoing years a much more consistent way of recording statistics because those systems will no longer be running in parallel with each other.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: So a person cannot necessarily compare the current statistics with those of years gone by given that there has been a change in the way that statistics are reported and recorded. Is that a fair assumption?

Mr DAWSON: It is not fair to make that generalisation.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: But in part it is correct, is it not?

Mr DAWSON: Part of it is correct depending on the category of offences.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Could I be provided with an example of the categories of offences that might be subject to extra scrutiny because of this change of reporting and recording procedure?

Mr DAWSON: There are a number of them. The ones I just mentioned in terms of manslaughter are a good example because that may include wilful murder, murder, manslaughter or dangerous driving causing death under the previous system. Under the present system it might simply be recorded as manslaughter or homicide. That would be one example in which a grouping of offences is now being categorised under a different system. The interrogation of those systems to get the details of particular categories of offences requires another body of work, and our analysts would be required to do that.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: I refer to page 699 of the *Budget Statements* and major initiatives for 2004-05 in which it refers to the Government's intention to complete the recruitment of 250 additional officers. Given that there

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are approximately 58 police vacancies in country police stations around Western Australia, can the minister advise whether any incentives have been included in this budget to attract police officers to country positions; will any of the 75 additional police officers to be appointed this year be appointed to country positions; and, when is it expected that all country vacancies will be filled?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Yes, some further incentives have been provided. Some of that was partly provided through the enterprise bargaining agreement. We have extended the country incentive scheme that we put in place. I announced that the scheme would spend \$8 million over four years in country centres, and there is an additional incentive of either \$3 000 or \$1 500 for police to be posted at quite a number of police stations. This year we have increased that incentive scheme to include Mt Magnet, and some other smaller level incentives have been provided as part of the EBA. In terms of the allocation of police officers to individual locations, I will ask the Commissioner of Police to comment. I can advise that in terms of the authorised strength of the Police Service and the current number of police officers on the books, we are over the authorised strength by the order of about 30. I will ask the commissioner to talk about the vacancies.

Mr MATTHEWS: In terms of vacancies, people are going through the academy and once they are fully trained, they will be posted to the various vacancies. Inevitably, a number of vacancies will always arise in each district because of the movement of staff. Obviously, there has to be a vacancy to move someone into it, so some areas will be over strength. When a person is transferred to fill that vacancy, the station will drop back to the standard strength and the vacancy will be filled. It is an ongoing process and by virtue of transfers throughout the country districts, which take much longer than transfers in the metropolitan district, there will be vacancies in some country stations. In terms of some of the incentives for police officers in the country, there is, under the EBA, free rent for selected locations and country officers in charge. Officers who relieve as an officer in charge and officers stationed at a number of stations are entitled to free rent and, accordingly, do not receive the country lodging allowance, and that covers a number of stations across a number of districts. In addition to that, officers who relieve are now entitled to receive an incidental allowance in addition to the provision of accommodation and meal allowances. That is quite important for country police officers. In multifunctional police facilities, officers in charge can receive what is called a brevet rank up to senior sergeant. Other officers can receive a brevet rank to sergeant. It means they have a 25 per cent salary loading to replace overtime and the 44-hour working week, given the nature of their tasks. Officers receive a remote community allowance of \$3 000 as well as free rent, water and electricity. Officers also receive 160 hours of remote community leave for each year of service at a facility. There have been a number of additions in the latest enterprise bargaining agreement, which are obviously reflected in the budget. They will provide considerable assistance in attracting people to a number of areas in the country.

[4.00 pm]

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: I have a question which, in one sense, is outside the portfolio responsibilities of the minister. I am talking about police housing in country areas. I am aware of the Government Employees' Housing Authority. It obviously has an impact on the service's ability to attract officers to some areas. Given that that is the case, has the minister or the service made any approaches to upgrade the quality of police housing so that it is not a disincentive, which it is at some stations.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: We have. There is a concern that police officers generally leave behind very nice four by two houses in the metropolitan area. In some country towns the housing stock is not up to standard. I know the commissioner has some involvement on this issue.

Mr MATTHEWS: I have just recently finished a tour. Housing is a concern, at least in some areas. We have a representative on GEHA and we make submissions for improving the standard of housing across all country areas. GEHA has constructed a number of houses. In addition to that, a number of houses have been purchased from local shires by GEHA to encourage officers to transfer. There is no doubt that a desirable house is a great attraction for families to move to some towns. It is true that not all houses are up to the required standard. We would like a lot more to be replaced, and we pressure GEHA to do that. We will continue to do so.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I will take up an issue that I raised last year. It follows from the questions from the member for Roe. I refer to women in the Police Service. What is the total number of sworn and commissioned officers as of today?

Mr MATTHEWS: Including senior police in the executive?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I want to know about everybody. Start wherever you like.

Mr MATTHEWS: Commissioned officers or police officers?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I want both.

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Mr MATTHEWS: There are six senior police officers and 145 commissioned officers, of which three commissioned officers are female.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That is a 50 per cent increase on last year.

Mr MATTHEWS: One of the officers is a superintendent.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: What about the sworn officers?

Mr MATTHEWS: There are 1 023 non-commissioned officers, that is, senior sergeants and sergeants, of which 58 are female. There are 3 671 constables and senior constables, of which 672 are female. There are 120 recruits in training, of which 40 are female.

[Mr A.P. O'Gorman took the Chair.]

Dr E. CONSTABLE: What is the percentage of women in the Police Service?

Mr MATTHEWS: It is 15.8 per cent.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The percentage has gone up. I am interested in a number of issues relating to this, particularly the retention of women in the Police Service. I would like some information on that. Has there been any progress on developing family-friendly policies to retain part-time and full-time women officers?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: As the member knows, I share her concerns in this area. In the course of the past year I was pleased at the appointment of a female superintendent. When the member asked the question last year, I think I said there had been a 100 per cent increase in the number of female commissioned officers. At that time she was the service's second inspector. The service now has Superintendent Cath Bullen, who has been placed in charge of the Peel region. I am very pleased about that. During the course of last year there was a historic day on which a recruit school was formed that had a majority of women. Some recruit schools have been very close to the 50 per cent mark, although I suspect, by my own calculations, that in most of them around one-third, or a little more than one-third, are women. As the member quite rightly points out, there is not much point in recruiting women if they cannot be retained or promoted in the service. Again, as part of the EBA, we have adopted more family-friendly policies. In addition, a group within the Police Service, the women's advisory network, has a direct link to senior management to address these issues. One of the family-friendly policies we have included in the EBA for the first time is paid parental leave. As a result of our recent initiatives, we are backfilling to cover officers on maternity leave. Those positions were not previously filled.

Mr MATTHEWS: To provide full information, I think it would be best to provide supplementary information, and we are happy to do that. The attrition rate for sworn police officers is down to 3.18 per cent, which is the lowest it has been over the past seven years. That figure includes male and female officers. We are working hard to ensure that women are retained in the service. Benefits such as flexible hours and parental leave, which women can and do apply for, assist in that process, particularly during the years when women have children and raise families.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I ask Acting Deputy Commissioner O'Callaghan to respond on other initiatives that we have in place.

Mr O'CALLAGHAN: During last year a significant piece of research was sponsored by the Police Service. We referred to it as the SPIRT project. SPIRT - the strategic partnerships with industry research and training scheme - refers only to the grant that funded the research. It was a year-long research project that examined women in the Police Service. It recommended a series of strategies for improving the retention and promotion of women in the Police Service. The research program finished at the beginning of this year, but an equality implementation group was formed. The role of the group is to look at the gender balance in the Police Service and ways of improving the retention and promotional opportunities for women. Some of the sort of strategies that have come from the group include a separation interview with women officers who resign from the service. It is to follow up the reasons women officers resign, and to see whether there are any issues concerning sexual harassment or any other unresolved issues that the Police Service can address. The commissioner recently announced \$100 000 worth of scholarships for women in the Police Service. It ranges from specific training and educational opportunities to attendance at conferences and general developmental opportunities. An amount of \$50 000 was provided this year and another \$50 000 will be provided next year. The corporate management group of the Police Service recently approved the permanent and ongoing continuation of the mentoring program, which is specifically designed to assist mostly women. It has a representation of about 80 per cent women mentees and 20 per cent other under-represented groups in the Police Service. We have also been promoting flexible work practices, including part-time work. The Police Service is working through the removal of rank-lock step, which will allow people in the agency to jump more than one rank at a time for promotion. Many women are caught in that loop at the moment. Removing the rank-lock step will provide opportunities for women to move through

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the ranks more quickly. We are also working on making the re-engagement process for all people who leave the Police Service a little easier than it has been, so that they can re-engage at previous rank levels, provided they have not been away from the agency too long. The equality implementation group is championing a number of strategies at the moment, and all of them are geared towards improving the retention and promotion of women.

[4.10 pm]

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The commissioner mentioned the attrition rate of 3.1 per cent for all officers. Is there a difference in the attrition rates for men and women?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am not aware of a difference, but I can provide that information to the member by way of supplementary information. To clarify that, I am happy to provide the member with the attrition rate percentage for women, which can then be compared with the general rate.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It would be more useful if the minister could break down that rate of 3.1 per cent into the rates for men and women?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Rather than breaking down the rate of 3.1 per cent, it is probably fairer to provide the percentages for men and women, because there are a lot more men in the service. We would expect men to make up most of the attrition rate, but we would expect to see a similar attrition rate when the rates are separated by gender.

[Supplementary Information No A5.]

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The commissioner suggested in his answer that some other information could be provided by way of supplementary information. I wonder whether other information would be of interest.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Deputy Commissioner O'Callaghan has provided that information.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I refer to page 692. I note that one of the major policy decisions announced by the minister is the provision of \$1.49 million to employ civil servants to man the six stated 24-hour police stations. I find that a bit extraordinary given that the minister is now in the final year of a \$1.6 million redundancy program for those very civil servants. How many civil servants has the minister made redundant under that \$1.6 million redundancy program and how many civil servants does she plan to employ under the \$1.49 million program for the 24-hour police stations?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This will allow me to correct a misapprehension that the member for Kalgoorlie has had and has further perpetuated in his press releases over time. He believes that the \$1.6 million program to which he has referred involves further public servants departing the system each year. Of course, it was an ongoing saving of the same amount of money for the same public servants who were relinquished in 2001-02. Simply, if a set number of public servants are removed from the system, that saving will be ongoing for each of the four years. No additional public servants were made redundant in the following years. Contrary to the member's suggestion that some public servants were removed every year as some sort of annual project, that is not the case. Yes, in 2001-02 a number of public servants were removed as part of that redundancy program, but there have been no further reductions in the following years.

The member asked me how many public servants the 24-hour police station initiative will employ. An additional 24 public servants will be engaged for this purpose. One of the issues was that under the so-called Delta reforms, a lot of decision making was devolved to the local level, and superintendents made choices about what they spent their budgets on at the local level. Many of them made decisions to restrict opening hours and to have different practices. Perth is a relatively small place. My view is that the same standards should apply across all metropolitan policing districts and each district should have at least one station open to the public 24 hours a day. All six of the stations that are referred to have been staffed 24 hours a day, but not all of them have been open to the public to the same extent. In fact, the opening hours have varied. I do not think that is appropriate. It is my view, and certainly it is the commissioner's view, that we should have a community standard. No matter where people are in the community, they should expect that at least one station in their district will be open for public attendance 24 hours a day. On the old question of how many public servants the \$1.6 million program related to, Mr Bowler tells me that he believes - it is not strictly part of these budget papers - that in the 2001-02 budget there were 30 public servants and there have been no further redundancies in the following years.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I am not sure whether the minister recalls, but in her first budget a total of \$1.6 million was allocated to make public servants redundant. That was to be split over four years with \$400 000 allocated for that year and for each of the following three out years.

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Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That is what I have tried to explain to the member for Kalgoorlie on a number of occasions. That is a savings amount that is saved each year because those public servants are not engaged.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: The minister axed 30 and now she will put 24 back on; is that correct?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My understanding is that in 2001-02, 30 public servants were involved in the redundancy program. This initiative will involve 24 public servants. There is one key difference; that is, these 24 public servants are all being allocated to frontline desk duties and have not come from other areas.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: There must be an election coming up.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This is a matter of service to the public and we want certain service standards to prevail.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I have one final question. Can the minister tell me how many of the six soon to be 24-hour police stations were open to the public 24 hours a day prior to the last election?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That information is not available because it was all devolved out to local districts and there have been numerous changes over that period. They are not soon to become 24-hour stations. Arguably all of them have always been 24-hour stations; they just have not been open to the public 24 hours a day, and that became the semantic argument of it all. It is not a soon to be initiative; it is an initiative that is already in place. We started to progress this initiative in March. My clear understanding is that all the stations that are listed - Midland, Perth, Joondalup, Mirrabooka, Cannington and Fremantle - are currently, and have been for the past month or so, open to the public 24 hours a day.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Were they open to the public 24 hours a day prior to the last election?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Not all of them all of the time, no.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Can the minister supply me a list, perhaps by way of supplementary information -

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No, I cannot. I have told the member that there have been so many changes over that period that it would be a pointless exercise.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I am sorry; I do not understand the point the minister is making.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Individual superintendents have changed opening hours at various times in recent years. There have been so many changes that we cannot go back in time -

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I am interested only in the six police stations that the minister has mentioned. I am not interested in all the others. Can the minister tell me whether they were open to the public 24 hours a day prior to the last election; and, if so, which police stations were open and which were not?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No, I cannot tell the member that information and I cannot provide it to him by way of supplementary information.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Why is that? What a ridiculous answer.

[4.20 pm]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: The ninth dot point on page 699 refers to the enforcement of new child protection measures. What measures will be adopted to protect children from cyber paedophiles and other known perpetrators of child abuse?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: One of the areas proven to be a medium for the exchange of ideas for child pornography and the grooming of child victims, and which has been documented worldwide, is the Internet. I understand that quite a lot of research has been done in this area. One of the factors, when dealing with the Internet as a medium for people engaged in child pornography, is that law enforcement in many jurisdictions has lacked the resources to proactively target those offenders. People who are convicted of child sex offences and people who have been convicted of serious offences against children will be dealt with under our new legislation, to which I referred earlier.

As the member will be aware, child sex offenders are predatory in their nature. They engage in occupations and frequent areas in which they expect to come into contact with children. The aim of the establishment of the child protection offender registration unit will be to maximise the victim’s safety, to reduce the opportunity for child sex tourism, to provide a coordinated and consistent investigative and intelligence-driven approach to child protection that will be managed on a statewide basis within the crime portfolio, to contribute to the effective management of high-risk child sex abuse offenders and other specified individuals within the community, and to monitor the movements of child sex offenders and other high-risk individuals throughout the State, and nationally and internationally. It will provide a coordinated and collaborative approach to child protection

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between the key stakeholders. It is anticipated that expanding the roles of the child abuse investigation unit, the state intelligence services, the undercover unit and the computer crime unit will include an online covert child sex abuse capability, which will result in the apprehension of persons within Western Australia who are utilising the Internet to target children for sexual purposes and to exchange images of child pornography.

Obviously this is quite a proactive initiative, because it is no good trying to pick up the pieces after children have been abused. We want to be able to prevent it from occurring. As we have said with other areas of crime, people who have offended previously are more likely to offend again. There is a very high recidivism rate amongst child sex offenders. It is certainly enough to make me sick thinking about it, but for many of these people it is obviously some form of illness. They are continually driven towards these activities. It is therefore important that they be monitored and that we have that proactive capability to identify people who are using the Internet for those purposes.

The CHAIRMAN: I inform members that I have a quite extensive list of members who have sought the call. The order is the members for Collie, Roe, Churchlands, Geraldton, Midland, Nedlands, Kalgoorlie, Girrawheen, Churchlands, Nedlands and Nedlands. I will keep to this list. If members are not in the Chamber when their turn comes, I will drop them out of the list and they can re-seek the call.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to the seventh dot point on page 707. I note that \$59 million is to be spent on the new police metropolitan radio network. Will the minister advise what benefits the new network will provide to the police and the community?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The potential benefits of the police metropolitan radio network can be divided into five categories. The first area of benefit will be to the business community. It will ensure that the community has voice radio communications for the Police Service through all informed radio communication amongst district operations for specialised groups, for example the air support unit, water police and tactical response group; support for central command; and controlled operation of police services implemented through the recently commissioned police operations centre, and the operational district and specialised group structure. That relates to business continuity.

The second area will be additional operational benefits; that is, the voice radio network. It will include significant operational policing benefits, which will in turn include improved voice security through encryption that will provide confidential communications between field officers, districts and local stations, and for the police operations centre. There will be improved network security through tamper-proof terminals and terminal configuration management. There will be the ability to pole radio terminals to locate lost or stolen radios relative to the closest based station. There will be the ability of officers to roam or move within a district - a designated specialist group - without having to change channels on the radio terminal. There will be improved voice quality in various situations. There will be more extensive coverage in those areas that are currently black spots, and in special places of interest. I am told that will include Scarborough beachfront, which the member for Churchlands was asking about previously. There will be greater operational flexibility. There will be further officer safety measures through safety features such as distress alerts, discrete listening and the ability to pole radio terminals to identify locations. There will be advanced performance monitoring and fault monitoring. There will be easier fault identification and resolution due to the newer technology that will be supported by the manufacturers.

The third area of improvement will be the supplementary capabilities of the mobile data and automatic vehicle location systems. There will be consistency with the recognised importance of data and voice communications of police and emergency services organisations, which the broader corporate community has begun to adopt with the wireless data transmission technologies.

A fourth area will be realising business benefits from other Police Service projects, expanding the application of computer aided dispatch and communications services stages 1A and 1B, and the implementation of the automatic vehicle location system, which will enable geographic information system and dispatching facilities to be fully utilised. There will be an incident management system and the potential for officers to access information from Police Service databases, including incident information in the field. There will also be financial benefits. The existing network requires a significant upgrade to the infrastructure, as well as a renewal program for radio terminals. However, by replacing an end-of-life product, the Police Service will avoid those increasing costs associated with maintaining the old network. In time it will be a very good news story for the police officers.

The CHAIRMAN: The next members on my list are the members for Roe and Kalgoorlie but, as they are not in the Chamber, I am striking them from the list. The next on the list is the member for Churchlands.

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Dr E. CONSTABLE: I refer to page 695. The section starts in the middle of the page and deals with offenders apprehended and dealt with in accordance with the law. There are some very interesting figures there for clearance rates. The clearance rate for selected recorded offences against the person is 91 per cent. That figure is getting up there and is reasonably good. I think I read that 90 per cent of the recorded drug-trafficking offences are cleared. However, a measly 19 per cent of the selected recorded property offences are cleared, which means that four out of five of those offences are not cleared. Those are certainly the sorts of offences that worry our constituents. When we go doorknocking we can see their great big dogs and that they have fortified themselves in their houses to prevent them being broken into, yet the Police Service can clear only 19 per cent of those sorts of crimes against property. What resources does the Police Service need to enable it to reduce that number, because it has been increasing slowly, and in anyone's language it is simply not good enough?

[4.30 pm]

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will ask Mr Chris Dawson to comment in a moment. The member for Churchlands referred to property offences and clearance rates. One of the most pleasing aspects of the current burglary campaign is that we have improved the clearance rate quite dramatically. It is pleasing to say that for the year to date the burglary rate has gone down by 14 per cent. We can compare quarter with quarter. The first three months of this year compared with the first three months of 2003 show a 22 per cent reduction in the number of home burglaries. That is really pleasing, because that means that a lot of people have not had their homes broken into. The figure that is even more reassuring is that which is starting to show a lift in the clearance rate. As the member will be well aware - the member for South Perth has raised this issue both inside and outside the House a number of times - the clearance rate for home burglary, which is one of the principal property offences, has hovered around 13 or 14 per cent for many years.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It has been abysmal.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: From my recollection, our March quarter statistics show a clearance rate of 20.2 per cent.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That still means that four out of five burglaries are not cleared.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: However, it is a quite dramatic improvement. I am hopeful that this improvement will be sustained. The fact is that Governments and Police Services have thrown a lot at trying to improve clearance rates over a long period. Most have shown little movement over the course of the past decade. The clearance rate for home burglary over that period has hovered somewhere around 13 or 14 per cent. I cannot recall having ever seen a figure such as 20 per cent before. The member is quite right; that still means that four out of five burglaries are not cleared, but it is a significant statistical difference. Why is it so, and can we do better than that? It is largely so through the greater use of technology, particularly forensic technology. In about mid 2001 we linked into the national automated fingerprint identification system, known as NAFIS, which is a national fingerprint database. We have expended a lot of money, resources and police time on linking into that and making sure that the quality of the data we are putting in is better than what is being put in anywhere else in Australia. My recollection is that we are getting a hit rate of about 30 per cent in terms of comparing our fingerprints from crime scenes. Lots of those are for property crimes. That can be compared with a national hit rate of about 24 per cent. I queried that figure and asked why our hit rate on fingerprints was better than anywhere else in Australia. The explanation from our officers was that they believed it was partly due to the quality of the data we have put in. When they upload fingerprints of criminals in Western Australia onto the system, if a criminal has been convicted of five offences and the police have five sets of fingerprints for that person, specialist officers will look at all five sets and choose the best set to be uploaded onto the national system. The procedures for and quality of forensic evidence taken by Western Australian police officers have proven to be of a very high level. We are getting a much better result in fingerprint matches. As I have said before, we have also invested more than \$20 million in DNA technology and putting that legislation in place. Other jurisdictions in other countries have improved their clearance rates quite dramatically through the use of DNA technology. We are training more and more of our officers in the taking of both fingerprints and DNA from crime scenes, so that they can be matched through the database. As I said earlier, our database is more extensive than just about any other database set up by the police anywhere else in Australia. The clear view is that we will be able to improve these rates. I think police are proceeding rather cautiously at this time. Commissioner Hay commented only last week that he believes the improved results are sustainable. It is certainly my expectation that we will be able to improve further on those results. Mr Dawson might have some more specific information.

Mr DAWSON: In response to your question, and further to what the minister has provided, one of the changes that is reflected and really impacts on the global number of property offences that are anticipated or estimated to be cleared is that a couple of the categories that were in the previous budget are no longer in the current budget. The previous budget included the categories of fraud and graffiti. They have been excluded, partly for the

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reason Mr Hay explained earlier about some changes in fraud reporting. Some financial institutions are not reporting the total number of frauds, such as credit card fraud. There is a very high clearance rate for fraud offences. The police ordinarily clear upwards of 90 per cent of high category fraud offences. They were included under previous budgets under property clearances but are excluded from the current budget. That reflects what we estimate to be about a one per cent overall reduction in clearances that can be attributed to instances such as that.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I asked the minister a specific question. I will ask it again: what further resources do we need to provide to the police to double that clearance rate? I will put a figure on it. I could say a 50 per cent clearance rate, but I will refer to a doubling of the current clearance rate. What further resources should we be providing, since the police cannot do that with the resources they have?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will shortly ask one of the senior officers to comment, but the advice to me is that the best way of improving clearance rates is through smarter policing and greater investment in forensic technology. That is why we have provided additional resources in those areas. At the moment we have been uploading DNA information onto the database as fast as we can. Resources have not been an issue.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It must be an issue if it is only 19 per cent. That is ridiculous.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: If the member looked at other jurisdictions -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I do not want to. I am asking specifically what other resources are required and what should be provided to improve the clearance rate, because it is clearly not enough.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member is clearly not happy with my answer.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am not getting an answer, minister.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am happy to get one of the senior officers to comment. Essentially, we are providing all the additional resources that would have the biggest impact on the clearance rate. As I have already outlined, we have seen the most significant improvement in the clearance rate for home burglary that is on record for the past decade or longer. That is because we have made progress in providing additional resources. There is an ongoing program of providing more resources. As our DNA database gets more extensive and as more people are linked into the national automated fingerprint system, it will assist. In terms of other resources, the training of officers in the taking of forensic material from crime scenes, if we are dealing principally with property crime, will assist. Further training is occurring in that area, which I highlighted before. Perhaps Mr Hay or the commissioner would like to comment.

Mr MATTHEWS: To move the clearance rate from 19 per cent to 38 per cent would be a very significant change and it is doubtful that any jurisdiction anywhere in the world could come close to achieving that. However, the progress that has been made by what is described as intelligence-led policing combined with additional technology, of which the use of DNA and the computerised identification of fingerprints and palm prints are included, and better forensic skills and equipment are impacting and the rate of clearance is increasing. We could expect it to go up to a percentage figure in the high 20s, but once it got into the 30s the amount of resources provided would have a marginal effect. The reality is that property crime is largely unobserved. There are seldom witnesses, and there is a limit to what can be obtained from a crime scene, even with the best technology in the world. Ultimately, of course, to improve it further requires community support by way of the better securing of homes; that is, target hardening premises, making sure that windows and doors are not kept open, and making it more difficult for people to get in. We are also attacking the other end by checking the pawnbrokers and other outlets for the sale of stolen property to identify those people and effectively cut off the demand for goods. We are bringing receivers to justice. Other things drive it, of course, such as drugs in the community and so forth. It is a complex issue. I think we are moving towards that target of 30 per cent. It is very difficult to get clearances of more than 30 per cent by virtue of the nature of property crime and the limited number of people who witness it. That is not to say that we should not aim for that target. However, if the number of police were doubled, I do not think that it would suddenly produce a 38 per cent clearance rate.

[4.40 pm]

Dr E. CONSTABLE: To be clear so that I understand the answer, is a clearance rate of about 30 per cent the best we could ever hope for, even if the State continues to improve training, provides additional resources and implements other programs? Is a clearance rate of three out of 10 the best the State could aim for?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That is the current advice that the member has received from the Commissioner of Police. Realistic aims must be set. When we came to government, and for some time prior to that, Western Australia had some of the highest property crime rates in the nation, certainly for home burglary and car theft.

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The Government has dramatically turned around those rates over the past year or so, and we hope to turn them around further. We have improved the clearance rates in those areas. As best as we are able, we are putting world's best practice in place to solve those crimes and improve the clearance rate. Western Australia should aim to have lower crime levels than those in other States of Australia. Certainly those rates should be well below the national average. We should aim to have better clearance rates than anywhere else in Australia. If we were to achieve a 30 per cent clearance rate for home burglary, we would be well ahead of the other States of Australia. That is not to say that in five years, with the use of other ideas and techniques, that a figure beyond that could not be achieved. However, as a realistic objective, for the next couple of years, that would be an excellent result.

Mr S.R. HILL: I refer the minister to the first dot point under major initiatives for 2004-05 on page 705 of the *Budget Statements*, which is to target antisocial behaviour in the metropolitan areas. Will key regional areas also be targeted? Is it possible for some of those additional resources to include the use of police dogs in regional areas?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The Government is planning to target regional areas as well as the metropolitan area. Mr Hay might have some further information on that.

Mr HAY: The Police Service is targeting rural areas. I have some figures about the police utilising dogs in regional areas, which we have done recently. The overall strategy for the State, as the Commissioner of Police alluded to, is to move towards an intelligence-led policing model. The idea of that is for the police to pool its intelligence into one area. This is intelligence that the commissioner has indicated includes forensic intelligence, DNA material, fingerprint evidence, and intelligence received from sources such as Crime Stoppers WA and other places. The Crime Stoppers program has been expanded to regional Western Australia. We are having some great successes with that. We have deployed police dogs in regional Western Australia on a needs basis. Police dogs are not permanently stationed in the regions, apart from in Bunbury where a police dog is stationed.

Mr S.R. HILL: Is there an opportunity to permanently station police dogs at other key regional centres?

Mr HAY: The current policy is to provide that service from a central service. The issues involved in that include training and maintaining the dogs' training. The dogs need constant training. There is certainly scope to move the dogs into regional areas in the future. Currently the Police Service is doing the best it can to service those regional areas with dogs. In April 2004, the police dogs went to the mid west, Gascoyne, the south west and goldfields. During March the dogs were at the wheatbelt and great southern. In February they were at Peel, the mid west, Gascoyne, the wheatbelt and the south west. In January the dogs were in the south west and the great southern. The police dogs get around and spend a considerable amount of operational hours in the regional areas.

I refer to the Police Service's strategy on crime. The strategy is an overall strategy of targeting recidivist offenders, as opposed to the crime. That means that if the offender is caught, it clears up the crime rate. When we catch an offender who has gone on a crime spree and has committed home burglaries, stolen motor vehicles and was also into drugs and armed robberies, we clean up all that crime. The strategy is focused on identifying the suspect or the offender rather than focusing on the crime. The focus on the crime is more of a crime prevention aspect. Clearly, different crimes need different crime prevention strategies.

Mr S.R. HILL: Clearly, if police dogs go through a suburb, that is a deterrent.

Ms S.E. WALKER: That is a further question.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr A.P. O'Gorman): Almost every member who has asked a question has asked a further question, and there have not been any problems. I am getting complaints that not enough questions are being asked by certain members. I suggest that those members structure their questions much better. The answers I have heard have been very full and complete answers.

Ms S.E. WALKER: It is nice to ask a second question. I refer to the implementation of the recommendations of the Gordon inquiry, listed on page 698 of the *Budget Statements*. The minister referred to acquiring premises for and co-locating the multi-agency child abuse and video evidentiary unit. Where is that? Will the minister explain that? The next dot point -

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member is going a little fast. Is the member looking about one third of the way down page 698 - implementing the recommendations of the Gordon inquiry?

Ms S.E. WALKER: That is right. Four items are listed, including acquiring premises for, and co-locating the multi-agency child abuse and video evidentiary unit. Where will that be located, and will the minister explain

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that? I refer also to the selection and appointment of child protection and family violence officers. Are they sworn police officers?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Yes

Ms S.E. WALKER: How many are there?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: They are sworn police officers. The Government has allocated them to districts at a sergeant level. Often when people do not take initiatives like this seriously, a female officer or someone at a junior level will be appointed to the position. The Government created those positions at a senior level so that very senior and experienced officers deal with those areas. A selection process occurred in which police officers volunteered for the position because they were interested in working in this area and wanted to make a difference.

Ms S.E. WALKER: Are they not new?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Fourteen officers at the sergeant level have been appointed to these positions across all the districts. I am told that the deployment of those officers to the regional locations has now been completed. I will ask the Commissioner of Police to comment on the progress of the video evidentiary unit.

Mr B. MATTHEWS: It will be located at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. It is not yet up and running, but the Police Service is at the stage of implementing that unit, together with the Department for Community Development.

Ms S.E. WALKER: When will it be up and running? Are the sworn police officers already appointed police officers? Is the minister saying that they have just been given a different title? Were the positions of the sworn police officers appointed as child protection and family violence officers advertised, and were they new positions?

[4.50 pm]

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: There are 14 such officers at sergeant level. They are allocated out in the districts -

Ms S.E. WALKER: Are they new?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: If the member does not interrupt she can ask the question again in a moment. I do not know whether the member for Nedlands is under the misapprehension that these officers are to be located at Princess Margaret Hospital. They are allocated to each of the policing districts at sergeant level and they are all out there currently working. I am expecting that the unit at Princess Margaret Hospital will be fully operational in the very near future. Mr Hay may have something further to add.

Mr HAY: The actual opening date of the unit is not known but it will be within the next couple of months. To clarify the issue, there will be a combination of Department for Community Development people and police officers in that evidentiary unit. The officers will be from the child abuse unit, and they will be working with DCD officers.

Ms S.E. WALKER: Will any new officers be appointed?

Mr HAY: No, there will be no new officers.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Can questions please come through the Chair?

Ms S.E. WALKER: I ask the minister, as she has not answered, whether the 14 officers have just been renamed child protection and family violence officers, or are they police officers newly appointed into the Police Force?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I said quite clearly that there are 14 new positions at sergeant level in each of the districts. They were advertised internally within the Police Service, and officers from throughout the Police Service were able to apply for and obtain those positions. They went to senior people with a keen interest and a background in that area, and they are located there. They were not snaffled out of the child abuse unit or something like that; they came from a range of different areas. The 14 positions were created, but that does not mean that our program to recruit an additional 250 police officers suddenly became a program to recruit an additional 264. The overall FTE number did not increase, but those 14 positions were created.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I have heard the Minister say ad nauseam in this Chamber -

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: What page of the *Budget Statements* is the member referring to?

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: It does not really matter.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes it does.

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Mr M.J. BIRNEY: It will become evident, but it is page 693. I will refer to a number of different pages to make the same point, but page 693 will do for time being. I have heard the minister say ad nauseam in this Chamber that she is increasing police numbers in this State. How then does she account for the fact that, of the five outputs listed on page 693, she has failed to meet her budgeted target of full-time employees in four? For the purposes of Hansard, I will list them. In output 1, which is services to maintain lawful behaviour and prevent crime, 2 270 full-time employees have been budgeted for, but the outcome has been only 2 212.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Where is the member reading that figure from?

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: That is from page 697 under the heading "Services to Maintain Lawful Behaviour and Prevent Crime". Output 3, which is traffic law enforcement and management, has 1 030 full-time employees budgeted and has achieved only 1 013. Output 4, which is response to and investigation of offences, has 2 098 full-time employees budgeted and has achieved only 2 068. Lastly, output 5, which is services to the judicial process, has 575 full-time employees budgeted and has achieved only 566. In only one of the five outputs in the police portfolio has the budgeted full-time employee number been achieved, and that is emergency management and coordination. How can the minister expect us to believe that her police recruitment program is going ahead?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am a little puzzled at the figures quoted by the member, because while there was a decrease in output and reduced hours for outputs 3 and 5, there were in fact increases in output 1, services to maintain lawful behaviour and prevent crime, and in output 2, emergency management, and an increase in output 4, response to and investigation of offences.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: What has increased? The numbers?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This is an increase in output hours. Outputs 3 and 5 are the only ones that have reduced hours, and that is because of the need to address the priorities in outputs 1, 2 and 4. That change of priority meant that there needed to be an emphasis on areas such as the need to implement counter-terrorism strategies and the problems caused by unruly behaviour in youth. Extra output hours were also put into dealing with the higher rate of burglaries in the metropolitan area compared with the national average. Those are the kinds of issues that have been very vigorously pursued by the Police Service. There are further measures in place to protect infrastructure, transport and public identities, and to respond more quickly to major incidents involving youth and unruly behaviour. The regional operations group is indicative of that. There is also the burglary reduction campaign. It is fair to say that there has been a different focus, but it is not fair to say that four out of five output areas saw output hours reduced. In fact, only two saw reduced hours, and three saw increases in hours. There is some further explanation of how the hours are allocated and what they mean, and one of the officers advising me will answer that.

Mr MITCHELL: I will take page 697 as an example. Under the full-time equivalents the member will see note (b), which reads -

The 2003-04 budget for FTEs was based on the authorised strength, which is a point of time measure. The 2002-03 actual, 2003-04 estimated actual and 2004-05 budget are based on the average strength level (ASL).

The difference between actual and average is coming through in those numbers.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Do you still agree that four of the five outputs in the police portfolio failed to meet their targeted number of full-time employees? Is that a correct assumption or not?

Mr MITCHELL: No, it is not correct. The reality is that the 2003-04 budget for full-time equivalents appearing in these papers is based on actuals at a point in time. The other two numbers refer to averages. If we convert the 2003-04 figure to averages, the member will see the numbers fall. It is an anomaly created by using averages versus actuals.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Further to that, and to clarify this matter, could Mr Mitchell turn to page 706, so that we can use that as an example? It is services to the judicial process.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have already agreed with the member that output areas 3 and 5 did see a reduction in output hours, and the increases are to outputs 1, 2 and 4. There is little point in the member demonstrating that there has been a reduction in services to the judicial process.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Perhaps we could use output 4 on page 703. Please correct me if I am wrong, but as I read that it says that 3.101 million hours were budgeted in 2003-04 to be used for response to and investigation of offences. In fact, it is estimated that only 2.927 million hours will be used for that purpose. I am not sure whether the minister is deliberately misleading the committee or whether she is confused about how to read this. As I read it, she will not achieve the budgeted number of hours for the output of response to and investigation of offences. Can the minister please correct me if I am wrong.

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Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member seems to be changing his comments partway through. If he is talking about what is a reduction in hours, I have said to him that outputs 3 and 5 have seen a reduction. We have seen an increase in the output hours under outputs 1, 2 and 4.

[5.00 pm]

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I refer the minister to page 703 in the *Budget Statements* and output performance measures under output 4. It shows that although 3.101 million hours were budgeted for, it is estimated that only 2.927 million hours will be achieved. In fact, if we look at all the other outputs with the exception of emergency management, the same story can be put.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: There may be a further explanation here. I understand that last year the estimated actual incorrectly included sick leave hours, which is an anomaly that goes back to about 1998. There has been a correction. The advice to me is as I have said. I take offence at the member suggesting that I would want to deliberately mislead this House. I am merely giving the member the advice that is in front of me, and I am more than happy for Mr Mitchell or for any other officers here to explain it to the member. The advice to me is that in three of the five output areas there is an increase and in two there is a decrease.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Which is simply incorrect, if the minister reads the *Budget Statements* -

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have asked the Mr Mitchell to comment. I do not think the member has been asked to enter into debate.

Mr MITCHELL: I refer to page 703 where the focus is, but then ask the member to turn to page 704 on which note (b) explains that the figures for 2003-04 are inflated because of the inclusion of sick leave hours. That occurred in each of the budget years from 1998 to 2003-04. That correction has now taken place in the estimated actuals for 2003-04.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I refer to the mission statement on page 691, which states in part -

... create a safer and more secure Western Australia ...

Can the minister provide some further details on the gang response unit, its achievements to date and its plans for the coming year?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Yes, I certainly can. The gang response unit was formed in August 2003. It is responsible for policing the outlaw motorcycle gangs and the street gangs. The unit comprises 32 staff with 18 uniformed officers and 14 investigators. They deal with outlaw motorcycle gangs such as the Coffin Cheaters, the Rebels, the Gypsy Jokers, Club Deroes and God's Garbage. The unit also compiles intelligence holdings on other street gangs, some of which have been mentioned in the media over the recent year and include groups such as the Spider Boys, M'Bros and the Sword Boys, along with some gang-related activity that people are becoming aware of in the African community - I think one group is called the African Kings. Activities of late, as I understand it, have seen the disruption and charging of members of these gangs in drug trafficking, the stealing of motor vehicles and firearm seizures. In October 2003, the gang response unit departed Perth and travelled to Geraldton and the mid-west Gascoyne to assist in dealing with Coffin Cheater activities. It has also monitored those associates over a period. On 13 September, officers from the gang response unit and the Kalgoorlie detectives office canine unit, breath analysis section and the district support group attended the premises of Club Deroes in Kalgoorlie and executed a search warrant with regard to a stealing inquiry out of the Kalgoorlie detectives office. I understand that once inside, the officers discovered quantities of cannabis and other substances, and drugs, implements and some amounts of cash were seized. I also understand that two Club Deroes members associates were arrested. A number of operations have also been conducted by the unit and there are some further operational commitments into the next financial year. There will be - without going into all the detail - ongoing development of statewide strategies to communicate the roles and responsibilities of the gang response unit and an awareness package of the activities of outlaw motorcycle gangs for operational officers. The unit will deal with emergency management coordination, traffic management and road safety matters and it will also respond in the investigation of the offences. As the member would be aware, much information is exchanged between the States on the activities of these criminal gangs, and many partnership arrangements are in place with, for example, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Protective Services, Westralia Airports Corporation Pty Ltd, the Australian Crime Commission, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs and the like. There is an excellent degree of interagency cooperation between those agencies and our gang response unit.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I refer to page 692 and the first dot point that comes under the heading of significant issues and trends from the previous page. I want to deal with the first few words under this dot point, which state -

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Worldwide trends indicate an increase in the manufacture and importation of illicit drugs . . .

Is there evidence of an increase in the manufacture and importation of illicit drugs into Western Australia? It is a very serious issue that we need to get a handle on. If this is a trend, are we part of that trend?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: It certainly is a significant issue because of the drug use and the crimes that people perpetrate to get the money to purchase these drugs. People become dependent on these substances and therefore become more likely to commit crime to get these substances. That is quite apart from the significant health risks posed to the individuals concerned. As it stands, there are within Western Australia four separate areas of illicit drug law enforcement; that is, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Crime Commission and our organised crime investigation.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Perhaps a simple yes or no would suffice. Is there evidence of an increase in Western Australia in those two areas?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will ask someone to give the member the detail on the various drugs. There certainly are concerns that activity with some drugs may be on the increase. In recent years we have seen, for example, a decline in the amount of heroin available in the community. That has become a lesser concern. Amphetamine use has become a greater concern because -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: But this does not refer to use.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: As heroin sources have diminished, people have attempted to turn to other drugs.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: This is it not about the use of drugs. This is about whether there is evidence of an increase in the manufacture of drugs in and the importation of drugs into Western Australia. If this is a worldwide trend, is it reflected in Western Australia? I am not talking about the use of drugs but those other two areas. Can I get a direct answer on that?

Mr HAY: The answer to that is yes, there is evidence of that. Recently, in association with the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Customs Service, we apprehended a large quantity of 30-odd kilograms of large ecstasy tablets coming into Australia. That information originated from Western Australia. There is evidence that the production of heroin is increasing in the Asian market as well as in Afghanistan. That will clearly affect us, because if it goes into the eastern States it will come here. We have had fairly significant border seizures of heroin in Australia, but not Western Australia. We seized over one tonne of cocaine in Western Australia just over one year ago. That sort of activity is around us. We are very aware of it. We work very closely with our colleagues in the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Customs Service and the Australian Crime Commission to ensure that we are on top of those issues.

[5.10 pm]

Dr E. CONSTABLE: What is the extent of the resources that are put into this area through the Police Service?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: As I explained previously, this is not something that the Police Service is able to deal with by itself. The service is very reliant on its relationships with immigration, customs, the AFP and the ACC. Either the commissioner or Mr Hay may like to comment on those relationships and on the fact that the issue, apart from being a Western Australian issue, is a national and international issue. We gain intelligence through our relationships with those agencies.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I understand that and I know that those relationships are important. We are looking at our budget now. I am concerned about the extent of the resources in this budget that go towards that area. I do not need to know about the relationships, because I know little bit about that. I am more concerned about the resources in this budget that go towards that. That is the crux of what I am getting at.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member is right; it is a very significant area for us. That is why I recently introduced legislation to deal with the components that go into making amphetamines, clandestine laboratories and other activities. Mr Hay is well versed in this and is able to comment in more detail.

Mr HAY: The answer is that the budget currently allocated to the crime investigation intelligence service is adequate for the purposes.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That was not my question; I asked how much was put towards the area.

Mr HAY: We have a dedicated group of about 30 people in the organised crime investigation group. They work on various aspects of criminal networks and organised crime networks, particularly concerning drugs and drug trafficking.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That is 30 people?

Mr HAY: Yes.

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Dr E. CONSTABLE: Has the number increased over the past two to three years, or has it been steady at 30?

Mr HAY: That is just the specialised group of people that we have working with the external agencies. As a Police Service, we have much larger numbers. Every district has a group dedicated to those types of investigations.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: My question still stands. Have the resources increased over the past two or three years to deal with the issue highlighted in the dot point?

Mr HAY: I do not know that I can sit here and say that the resources have increased. I can tell the member quite categorically that the intelligence has improved immensely. I do not think it is about numbers; it is about intelligence. The intelligence is worth a huge amount of information. If we can get the appropriate intelligence, all we need to do is to infiltrate a particular syndicate or whatever the case may be. It is not necessary to have large numbers of people to do that. It depends on where the emphasis is focused. We believe we have the right type of resource. If we can continue to focus on the intelligence-driven policing model, particularly concerning drugs, Western Australians can rest assured that we are on top of the issue.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I was not necessarily implying that more people or money was needed. The resource Mr Hay is telling us we need more of is intelligence. We have got that and it has improved. It is one of the resources the service requires.

Mr HAY: That is correct.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The other thing I would add is that Mr Hay, the commissioner and I continually have discussions about legislative backup. We have already put in place measures that improve our ability to deal with drug traffickers. We incorporated that into some recent legislation. We are also cracking down on the clandestine laboratories and we are giving the police better legislation to prosecute people when they find a clandestine laboratory. Concerning importation, there has to be a concerted effort between the federal agencies and ourselves.

Ms S.E. WALKER: I refer to the ninth dot point at page 699 of the *Budget Statements*. It refers to establishing a child protection offender register and "enforce new child protection measures to provide a proactive preventative measure in relation to the movement and ongoing management of perpetrators of child abuse". The Department for Community Development funds a counselling program for paedophiles called SafeCare. Most molesters are sent there by the department when they are caught red-handed. They are sent into a program for two years on the basis of their staying away from children they are molesting and do not see any children unsupervised. They are allowed to roam at large in the community. After they have completed the program, there is no criminal conviction and they are not reported to the police. They get off scot-free. Therefore, there is a large pool of known child sex molesters roaming at large in the community with no conviction. Does this not render the child protection register and the dot point in the budget "to provide a proactive preventative measure in relation to the movement and ongoing management of perpetrators of child abuse" a cruel joke?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: As I see it, the member has made some unsubstantiated allegations about what occurs in another budget area. She is attempting to get an answer from me on the program. I am not here to answer questions on the program. I know that the Police Service is very proactively targeting known offenders against children. Child abuse is a very serious matter. The Government has substantially increased funding to the area. I have already outlined in response to questions from the member for Girrawheen some of the initiatives we have put in place. I do not think the member's question is at all relevant to my budget papers. Further to that, I think she has made some gross and unsubstantiated assertions.

Ms S.E. WALKER: I am telling the minister that there is a known pool of child sexual offenders in the community, possibly connected to paedophile rings. I am asking the minister what she is going to do about it in relation to the dot point about the proactive preventative measure. Those people should be known to the police.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member is saying that there is a group of offenders against children who are in the community. If the member has information on that, I suggest she give it to the police.

Ms S.E. WALKER: If the minister's police are interested in looking at the SafeCare counselling service, they will find those names. That is the inherent contradiction I am trying to point out.

The CHAIRMAN: I remind members of the time remaining. A number of members have sought the call. If we are to get through all requests, members must keep their questions succinct.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I refer to the third dot point at page 705 of the *Budget Statements*; it relates to asset investigations. Will the minister provide some details on the progress of asset investigations since February 2001? What are the outcomes of the recent enhancement of forensic accounting capacity?

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Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I thank the member for the question. Since its inception the asset investigation group has frozen in excess of \$43 million worth of property. It has conducted seven unexplained wealth investigations involving in excess of \$5 million. In 2004 additional forensic accounting resources were acquired in the form of an additional level 6 accountant and a level 2/3 assistant financial accountant. Operation Mender represents the most significant investigation conducted so far, with in excess of \$2.5 million identified as unexplained wealth acquired by organised crime identity Paul Musarri. The investigation was conducted as an unexplained wealth investigation as Musarri was convicted on drug matters prior to the proclamation of the legislation. He was therefore outside the provisions of what it is to be declared a drug trafficker. The matter is now with the Director of Public Prosecutions and is being progressed through the judicial system. The recent increase in accounting resources, funded from the \$150 000 that came out of the Attorney General's fund, provides the section with the ability to undertake truly proactive investigations into unexplained wealth. In April this year asset investigation commenced an investigation into a significant criminal identity who is a principal member of an established criminal network. This investigation is seen as the future direction of asset investigation and will use covert and traditional policing methods in addition to forensic accountants. Asset investigation has the ability to conduct unexplained wealth investigations. I understand that currently, given adequate resources, at least five major upper echelon organised crime figures could be progressed very quickly. This is certainly an area in which the police are doing very well.

[5.20 pm]

Mr S.R. HILL: I note that at page 692 it is stated that substantial funding is to be provided to create a police assistance centre. Can the minister please advise the purpose of such a centre and what will be the benefits to the community?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Last Sunday I announced the police assistance centre at Midland, which is where the centre will be located. It will provide police assistance and response to the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is some confusion in the community about whom people should ring for police assistance. I think that just about every member of Parliament has a few stories about either constituents or family members having wondered whom they should ring. Often when people require police assistance they are a little het up and numbers seem to fly out of their head. We try to get people to keep the numbers handy. The 000 number is supposed to be used only for emergencies. The number for police attendance is 9222 1111. If people want to contact their nearest police station for assistance, they are supposed to dial 131 444. Frankly, the three numbers are confusing for people. Once this system is up and running - it is intended to be operational by November and fully operational by July next year - there will still be the 000 number, which will be for life-threatening emergencies, and one other number that people can call. We believe that will free up an enormous number of police. We think that, at the local level, the equivalent of at least 50 police officers' time each year is consumed by answering those calls, many of which are not necessarily relevant to policing. People tend to use the number as a bit of a help line as well as for real police activity. About 50 unsworn officers will be engaged at that police assistance centre and they will be specially trained so that they can take those calls. That is the further benefit. An additional 50 public servants will enable approximately 50 police to be freed up so that they can be out on the beat.

The issue of answering calls in a timely fashion has been an issue for just about every police service in Australia and many police services worldwide. South Australia and New South Wales have moved to a similar system to the police assistance centre and they have been proved with some good results. I have said that, as a preliminary target, we want to answer within 30 seconds all non-emergency calls to the police; that is, all non-000 calls. I suspect that we may be able to do better than that, but that is not a bad initial target. Many of those calls are likely to be answered in 10 or 20 seconds. Given the current situation, I do not think it is good to build community expectation too high at this point. We will have in place best practice and a state-of-the-art call centre. At a minimum, in the very near future we will aim to answer each call within 30 seconds, and we will be able to connect people to the area of the Police Service from which they need assistance. People will not be buffered around, as they sometimes are in the current system when they call one number and are told they should have called another number. That has caused a lot of delays and a lot of concern, quite naturally, in the community.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I draw the minister's attention to the output performance measures listed on page 703. Under the timeliness heading, priority 1 and 2 calls are on the same line item. The line item states that the estimated time to respond to both priority 1 and priority 2 calls last year was nine minutes. I understand that the accepted time frame for police response to priority 1 calls is different from that for priority 2 calls. Will the minister tell me whether the Police Service achieved the accepted response time frames for priority 1 and 2 calls, on an individual basis? I do not think they can be grouped together and I am not sure why they have been grouped together in that budget line.

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Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will ask Mr Chris Dawson to respond.

Mr DAWSON: The average time taken to respond to urgent priority 1 to 3 calls in 2003-04 and 2004-05 is higher than indicated in the 2003-04 budget. The considerations in responding to all instances primarily are the safety of the community and the police officers who respond. The figures are considered to be only indicative. We must take into account external factors, such as geographical issues, weather conditions and how far the police are from a particular site. The public debate that occurred recently is probably a good example of that. The central metropolitan area had a lower response time, which not only reflects the proximity to locations but also the geographical spread compared with other districts. Even metropolitan districts are spread over a much broader area, and it simply takes much longer for the police to respond. The population growth and the development of new housing estates have also had a significant impact on making a fairly robust estimation of the time in which police can respond. One such area is the Rockingham-Peel district, which has had quite an explosion in population. The Police Service is, therefore, trying to target a number of variables, depending on the demographic make-up and the geographical spread of the districts.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I thank the adviser for that answer. However, I will phrase the question a bit differently. What are the police accepted time frames for response to priority 1 and 2 calls and were they both met last year?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will ask Mr Dawson to respond to that.

Mr DAWSON: The actual time for priorities 1 and 2 emergency calls in 2002-03 was nine minutes; that is reflected in the estimation for 2004-05. I refer to page 703. For priority 3 calls in 2002-03 the actual time was 20 minutes. The budget estimate for 2003-04 was 18 minutes. The target this year for priority 3 calls is 20 minutes. Priority 3 calls and downward are not the categories of calls in which people's lives are in immediate danger. They are a broad category of requests ranging from noisy parties to a raft of issues.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I am talking about priorities 1 and 2. Is the accepted time period to respond to a priority 1 call different from that for a priority 2 call?

Mr DAWSON: Yes, it is.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Why are they both rolled into the same line item? I cannot tell by reading the line item whether the police managed to respond to priority 1 calls within the accepted time frame and, separately, whether they managed to respond to priority 2 calls within the accepted time frame, as they are both rolled into the same line item.

[5.30 pm]

Mr DAWSON: The number of priority 1 calls is very low. In the central metropolitan area that I previously commanded I estimate that there were one or two priority 1 calls for the city.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That is on a per annum basis.

Mr DAWSON: Yes, they are a very minor category. The combining of priority 1 and priority 2 categories was meant to reflect a better aggregation of the types of responses, given the very small numbers of priority 1 calls that are dispatched. They are almost in the category of a murder in progress type of situation. Should the priority 1 call be reflected outside that response category, although it is the most serious of offences, it does skew the reporting of that response time quite disproportionately. The approach was to combine those two categories to reflect a more accurate measurement of how police were responding to those most serious offences.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Notwithstanding the fact that there were only a small number of priority 1 calls, I understand they include murders and armed hold-ups, so we are talking about very serious crimes. It is therefore important that we understand whether police met their targets for priority 1 calls, regardless of how few there were, and if they met their targets for priority 2 situations. Is the minister able to provide that information by way of supplementary information? Will the minister include in that information the accepted time frame for a priority 1 call and the average response time last year for a priority 1 call? What is the accepted time frame for a priority 2 call, and what was the average time frame response last year for a priority 2 call?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: We are prepared to provide the member with some more information on priority 1 calls by way of supplementary information.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: What about priority 2 calls?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: We can provide the member with the response times for priority 1 and 2 calls for the metropolitan area.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: What about a statewide basis?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That information is very difficult to provide.

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Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Could you do it by way of supplementary information?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I cannot do it by way of supplementary information. I can provide the member with information on the metropolitan area priority 1 and 2 responses. It is a matter of systems. Quite clearly, if police are advised that a priority 1 or 2 crime is in progress, they will drop everything and be on the scene as soon as they can.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Why will the minister not tell us if they managed to respond within the accepted time frames in regional areas?

The CHAIRMAN: Before we progress any further, I need to clarify what the minister is agreeing to supply as supplementary information.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am agreeing to provide the information that the police have at hand and can provide within the time period stipulated for supplementary information. The information is for the metropolitan area response times for priorities 1 and 2.

[Supplementary Information No A6.]

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: Will the minister not provide the same information for regional areas? Is that what she is saying?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am not able to provide it at this time or as supplementary information.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: That is disgraceful. We are talking murders and armed robberies and the minister will not give me the information.

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Churchlands.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: The minister should not be sitting there.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, member for Kalgoorlie!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: On page 705 the fifth dot point of the major initiatives for 2004-05 refers to the review, repeal and replacement of the Police Act 1892. This is my fourteenth estimates committee, for my sins. I have attended them for many years. Every year I have heard that we will have a rewrite, repeal and replacement of the Police Act; in fact, it has got to the stage at which it should be heritage listed because it is so old! The minister's three predecessors in the Court Government talked about this. I presume some work has been done on it over the years. What stage are we at, when are we likely to see it and why has it taken this long?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The member is quite right. I have sat through quite a few estimates in opposition and asked previous Ministers for Police about the legislation, and it was always on the way. The Government said it would establish a royal commission into the Police Service. We expected that that would provide us with useful information that we could take into account when drafting a new Police Act. Despite the royal commission having only recently concluded, significant work has been undertaken on the Police Act reform project. I understand that the reform of the Police Act has three main components, the first being a review and amendment of the Police Act offences and penalties, the second a review of police investigative powers and the third a review and amendment of police administrative provisions.

I am advised that over the years there have been 10 drafts of the offences and penalties Bill. Some of those drafts obviously occurred prior to our coming to government. Essentially, our Government said right from the outset that it would wait until the royal commission reported so that it would be in a position to incorporate any recommendations into the review. The draft of the Police Act offences and penalties review is very near completion. I hope to take it to Cabinet within the next few months.

It is proposed to divide the Act into three areas: penalties, powers and administration. The draft of the powers Bill is at the ninth stage and we expect to introduce it in the second half of this year. I am advised that the Police Administration Bill, which will be a separate Bill, reached draft three in 2000. All the recommendations of the royal commission are being considered, and as a result those recommendations will be incorporated into the Police Administration Bill.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: To make sure I understand what the minister told us, will we see two of those three Bills this year in this House?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That is what I am expecting.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That means that they will not go through the other place so we will have to start all over again after the next election.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I hope not.

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Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am sure we will.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to page 692. The fifth dot point indicates that the south west has a population growth rate twice that of the national average and is one of the fastest growing populations of regional Western Australia. The population and demographic changes in the south west region will significantly impact on police service delivery. What is being done to address this future growth?

[5.40 pm]

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I thank the member for Collie for that question. I understand that he is quite right: the population growth in the south west is phenomenal. As a result, we have already implemented a number of strategies to deal with that. I understand that, as the member suggested, the growth rate is about twice the national average and that approximately 132 000 people live in the south west. The region's population is predicted to grow to about 142 000 by 2006 and 157 000 by 2011. In particular, the whole region around Margaret River and Dunsborough, the tourism facilities there and the holiday population will need to be taken into account. The Police Service is doing that. Some initiatives to deal with that population growth commenced some time ago. The member will be aware that Australind Police Station opened in 1996 and that the new Dunsborough Police Station opened in 1998. The Attorney General and I opened the Busselton police complex in 2001. Also opened in 2001 was the South West District Police Complex in Bunbury. I suppose we are heading over to the great southern area now, but the Albany district police complex is due for occupancy in 2005. I am advised that we have had to allocate additional staff to both districts. There has been a 38 per cent increase in staffing of the Peel district and an 8.8 per cent increase in staffing of the Bunbury district. We have certainly increased the number of police officers in both those growing areas. We have also deployed a booze bus to the south west, which some people may not be happy about. I understand that there has been a \$600 000 increase in operational funding as part of the Government's boost in funding to the southern region overall. That is about a 10 per cent increase in operational funding.

The CHAIRMAN: I seek members' guidance. Does the committee wish to finish with division 43 at 6.00 pm when we break for dinner?

Ms S.E. WALKER: I am happy to finish with the police division and go to division 28.

The CHAIRMAN: Each member is listed on a speaking list. I will give one question to each member and will then see what time we have left before 6.00 pm. At that time members can make a judgment call about whether they want to finish this division at 6.00 pm. I understood that to be the desired outcome. I will call the member for Girrawheen and work my way through each member so that they each get a question.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I refer the minister to the third dot point on page 698, which relates to the recruitment of additional sworn officers. Is the Government on track to fulfil its commitment to recruit an additional 250 sworn police officers?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Yes, we are absolutely on track to recruit the additional 250 sworn police officers. The authorised strength of the Police Service when we came to government was 4 698. That authorised strength will increase to 4 948 by the end of this year. That is a clear increase of 250. Further to that, in recent times we have had an actual strength greater than our authorised strength. I anticipate that this will be the case at the end of the year as well. One figure that some members of the Opposition have from time to time chosen to quote is the 30 June 2001 figure, and to compare that with our current figure. That is simply not a fair comparison. That is because when we came to office in February 2001 we faced the immediate prospect of moving the Police Academy from Maylands to Joondalup. One thing we wanted to quickly do was to get an additional 50 police officers deployed on the trains. We had given a commitment during the election that we would have 50 sworn police officers operating on our train system, and quickly. If we had not received the additional money from Treasury that was approved by the Gallop Cabinet in the early part of 2001, we would not have been able to get on board the additional 50 police for more than a year because of the hiatus in the training of officers during the shift from Maylands to Joondalup. That is why we put through a couple of extra recruit schools in early 2001. The additional money was allocated once the Gallop Government was elected because we made the decision to not delay but fast-track getting those additional police officers on board. In the early part of 2001 we recruited to cover both attrition and the additional police officers who would be required because of the hiatus in moving the Police Academy to Joondalup. That measure would not have been necessary, firstly, if we had not been moving from one academy site to another and, secondly, if we had not wanted to get on board so quickly those additional 50 police to be able to deploy them on the trains. I know this is a contentious matter for people. In our four years in government, we anticipate that more than a thousand officers will go through the academy to deliver an additional 250 police. The commissioner has the specific figures, so I will ask him to address that matter and clarify the issue further.

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Mr MATTHEWS: As the minister has indicated, the schedule of recruitment to meet the 250 additional police was 100 police in 2001-02, 15 in 2002-03, 60 in 2003-04 and 75 in the next financial year, 2004-05. We are on target to achieve the schedule, and we can provide the numbers. However, from April to June of the current financial year, the estimate is that we will have 4 897 officers, which is above the authorised strength. The projected number for 2004-05 is 4 982 officers. That will complete, at the very least, the recruitment of the 250 extra police.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: On page 702, the fourth dot point of major achievements for 2003-04 refers to the use of double demerit points on holiday long weekends and so on. Does the minister have any direct evidence to show that this has been an effective strategy when it comes to reducing road accidents, deaths on the road, serious injuries and so on?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: There has been a review in the period since we introduced the double demerit points. I suppose a number of factors must be taken into account. One is that we are targeting the double demerit points only at those things that are known killers on the road, such as speed, drink-driving and the non-wearing of restraints. Evidence within the Police Service indicates that people are slowing down. There is also a lot of anecdotal evidence. However, a review has been done. This is Mr Hay's specialist area. I ask him to comment.

Mr HAY: I do not have any results of the review. However, I can say that there is certainly evidence that motorists are slowing down and that the use of double demerit points has an awareness aspect to it. There is a great deal of awareness of road safety during those long weekends and those holiday periods such as Easter and Christmas when the double demerit points -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It is very hard to hear you, Mr Hay. Someone is talking behind me and I cannot hear you very well.

Mr HAY: As I said, there is clear evidence to suggest that the use of double demerit points has an impact on people speeding. I am not aware of the results of the review.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I can advise that fines revenue for those periods is down, and fines revenue is down overall. Because we double only the demerit points and not the fine, it means that fewer people are getting fined as a result of being caught by Multanovas and the like in those periods.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Two issues arise from that. I asked whether there was evidence that there were fewer deaths on the road and fewer injuries from accidents.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I do not have that information in front of me.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Does it exist?

[5.50 pm]

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The Office of Road Safety has been conducting the review. I do not know whether the member will be present after the dinner break, but Iain Cameron, who is the executive director of that office, may have that information with him. I can give the member only a general answer that the number of road deaths this year has been about nine fewer than last year.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That is not a significant decrease.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: I refer to page 695 of the *Budget Statements*, which refers to offenders apprehended and dealt with in accordance with the law. The *Budget Statements* states that the clearance rates for property offences remains what I consider to be fairly low at less than 19 per cent. I understand that in some country areas the clearance rate is even less than that. Could the minister explain the initiatives in this budget that address the low level of clearances, particularly in country areas -

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I have already asked that.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: Did you? Did you ask about country areas?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I did not ask about country areas.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: Does the minister consider that the low clearance rates in country areas are a direct result of an insufficient number of police officers on the streets?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No. All the recent statistics indicate that the clearance rates are showing some improvement. I will not go into the detail of that because obviously the member can read about that in *Hansard*. Mr Dawson and I spoke at some length about advances in DNA, the fingerprint identification system and the like and the improvement that has been made in the clearance rate for crimes such as home burglary and, to a lesser extent, car theft. Many comments have been made this afternoon about intelligence-led policing. In the past it has been difficult for police in country areas to access the information and facilities that are available in the

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metropolitan area. I will give the member an example of the advances that have been made. To link into the national fingerprint identification system, terminals are based at the police headquarters in Perth. Money was spent putting terminals into the Bunbury and Kalgoorlie Police Stations so that police could get a timely response. Fingerprints that were lifted from a crime scene in those areas could be put straight into the national automated fingerprint identification system from Bunbury or Kalgoorlie. The latest advice I have received is that because technology is forever advancing, there is no need to have those facilities in country areas. Fingerprints from a country area are lifted on a special card that can be scanned by a computer scanner, which costs less than \$200, and which can then be e-mailed to Perth. A police officer advised me that a serious assault occurred in Mandurah recently in which that system was used. The fingerprints were e-mailed to Perth and the offender was identified within an hour. I thought that was pretty impressive. I asked the police whether that technology needed to be rolled out into every country area and was told that only a scanner is needed. That is a very impressive result. I am told that it will be more impressive because, depending on how fast police officers e-mail Perth from Broome or any other country centre, fingerprints can be identified from anywhere if the offender's fingerprints are in the system. The emphasis is largely on intelligence-led policing and technology.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: To help me understand better what is happening with country property offences and clearance rates, by way of providing supplementary information, would it be possible to provide me with comparative information on the clearance rates in Esperance, for example, of the past 12 months and the previous 12 months?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have tabled that information. I table that information on a quarterly basis district by district and region by region. The crime clearance statistics contain a column on clearance rates so that they can be relatively easily tracked. That information is also uploaded -

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: That is district by district. Esperance is part of the Kalgoorlie district. I presume we are looking at the whole of the goldfields district.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: No, there are regions and districts. Essentially, there are three regions in the State: the metropolitan region, the northern region and the southern region. Within the southern region, there are four districts. One of those is the great southern district, which would be the district in which the member's electorate is located.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: I think it is Kalgoorlie-goldfields.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: It is the goldfields-Esperance district.

Mr R.A. AINSWORTH: I understand that statistics are available in certain parameters. Esperance and Kalgoorlie, for example, are vastly different in their demographics and the types of criminal activities that occur. Would it be possible to provide supplementary information specifically on Esperance to give me an idea of where it is going?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I will provide that information to the member as supplementary information.

[*Supplementary Information No A7.*]

Mr S.R. HILL: I refer the minister to page 707 of the *Budget Statements*. Can the minister provide more detail on the Government's commitment to spend \$25 million on the forensic facility at the police operations support facility at Midland?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I thank the member for the question. I know that the people working in the forensic area are very much looking forward to this new facility. It is referred to as stage 1B, the new forensic facility at the police operations support facility at Midland. That will commence in 2005, subject to some site remediation by the Midland Redevelopment Authority. The projected expenditure for 2004-05 is \$12.3 million and the total cost of the new centre is \$25 million. Occupancy is scheduled for the first half of 2006. We expect this new forensic centre will accommodate approximately 125 police personnel, and will naturally include modern laboratories, offices, storage facilities, photography studios, vehicle inspection facilities and staff amenities. Police sections that will be accommodated in the new forensic centre will include crime scenes, fingerprints, ballistics, DNA and exhibits coordination unit, document examination, imaging, surveying and the drug receiptal unit.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: I draw the attention of the minister to the second dot point on page 691, which refers to the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission Into Whether There Has Been Any Corrupt or Criminal Conduct by Western Australian Police Officers. I am aware that the budget has allocated some \$1.5 million for the implementation of those recommendations. Can the minister give the total financial value of the Kennedy royal commission recommendations?

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Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: An amount of \$1.5 million has been specifically allocated. Some of the final costs are still to be worked out and supplementary funding may well be required for some of it. Although some of the areas that have been funded are not under the heading of the police royal commission, they are clearly supported by recommendations of the royal commission. To that end, for example, I refer the member to the comments about the need for the police to be supported by more unsworn officers.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: What is the estimated total value of the recommendations?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: There is no total global figure at this time. I understand that Acting Deputy Commissioner Karl O’Callaghan may be able to provide some more detail.

Mr O’CALLAGHAN: An amount of \$1.5 million has been provided in the budget initially for the implementation of the royal commission recommendations. That enables us to do several things. Firstly, it enables us to complete the corruption prevention plan. That includes scoping; training; piloting; development of application guides; marketing; education; evaluation; enhancement of our business area management review and the program that supports the corruption prevention plan; streamlining the complaint resolution systems; distribution of a new investigators’ kit for internal investigations; reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the Fisher report, which is an Australian Federal Police report; and training police in local complaint resolution. An amount of \$250 000 has been set aside for that. Also, \$300 000 has been set aside for integrity testing and personnel vetting; that is, scoping and preparing an environment suitable for integrity tests of selected targets. The Police Service will develop an integrity test scenario in cooperation with the Corruption and Crime Commission to enable it to exercise its powers. It includes profiling and identifying police officers at risk of or exposed to corruption and the utilisation of personnel from other law enforcement agencies in the development of integrity tests. It also involves implementation of the Australian Security Vetting Service program that conforms to national standards set in the commonwealth *Protective Security Manual*, in keeping with the key reform areas identified by the royal commission. The first implementation areas will be the police senior management group, organised crime investigations, the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, the tactical investigation groups and internal affairs. An amount of \$300 000 is set aside for lawyers and civilian expertise in internal affairs to enable resolution of all outstanding allegations of corruption and misconduct arising from the royal commission and to establish a preventive audit and intervention program for information management. That can be further broken down into \$100 000 for concluding the investigations into the 121 officers named by the royal commission with a view to determining charges, removing them from office or taking no further action; appointing 1.5 full-time equivalent lawyers for legal advice on investigations and preparation of loss of confidence submissions and criminal disciplinary charges on matters arising from the CCC; interpretation of the Corruption and Crime Commission Act and the Royal Commission (Police) Act; preparation of business cases to be submitted to the CCC for investigation; and preparation of memoranda of understanding, service agreements and protocols between the CCC, the Western Australia Police Service and other law enforcement agencies. An amount of \$40 000 has been set aside for 0.5 FTE for a forensic financial analyst to conduct financial profiling, and \$40 000 has been set aside to establish an intervention program on information technology misuse, integrity checks and quality assurance in high-risk areas. An amount of \$450 000 has been set aside for the establishment of a deputy commissioner, standards and reform. That includes the support staff and running costs for the royal commission implementation group, specific steps for the creation of a deputy commissioner, standards and reform position, incorporating the appropriate support staff and funding for royal commission implementation programs for the employment of experienced unsworn officers. An amount of \$200 000 has been set aside for expediting legislative reform. That includes significant policy and procedural work, which will emanate from the legislative reform process to support the resource and performance management processes. It will also include creation of positions within the legal services unit to recruit suitably qualified officers with expertise in legislative reform. Upon securing the above resources, the legal services unit will then be positioned to release three sworn officers to return to frontline duties. In addition, there is an amount of work that the royal commission implementation unit, under the guidance of the deputy commissioner, reform and standards, is doing to come back to government by July with a business case for the funding of the recommendations that are contained in the royal commission report. We are working through that process now. We will be coming back to government in July to discuss what the scope of the costs of the recommendations will be.

The appropriation was recommended.

Sitting suspended from 6.02 to 7.00 pm

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I understand that the advisers on the road safety initiatives have not yet arrived. We can either start without them or move to the next division.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): I understand we are currently dealing with division 43; following that will be division 44.

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Ms S.E. WALKER: We have not dealt with division 28, which comes up first in the *Budget Statements*.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Division 28 is last in the estimates program.

The CHAIRMAN: I have in front of me the sequence for today's proceedings which shows that division 3 was supposed to be dealt with first. We have skipped division 3, for reasons of which I am not aware. We have dealt with division 43, so I propose that we move to division 44 and go through that in an orderly manner, and then we can come back to division 3 at the end.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: That is fine by me.