

POLICE — MEDICALLY RETIRED OFFICERS

581. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the 2016 “How do they manage?” report by the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, which found that medically retiring police officers by means of a loss of confidence notice issued by the Commissioner of Police under the provisions of section 8 of the Police Act 1892, was inappropriate and in need of reform.

- (1) Given that the current Minister for Police has publicly acknowledged the problems associated with section 8, why has the current state government thus far failed to introduce legislation to amend the section 8 provisions of the Police Act so that WA police officers can be medically retired with dignity?
- (2) Can the minister provide a firm time frame on when such legislation will be introduced?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

- (1)–(2) Work is underway to amend section 8 to differentiate between police officers retired on medical grounds and those removed because the Commissioner of Police has lost confidence in them. This amendment will ensure that injured or ill officers can retire from the Western Australia Police Force through a process that treats them with due dignity and respect. The amendments may be ready to be introduced to Parliament later this year but, if not, they will be introduced in the first session of Parliament next year.