

POLICE — STAB-PROOF VESTS

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

- (1) Can the minister advise the reasons for declining the request from the WA Police Union to have frontline staff protected by stab-proof vests?
- (2) If so, can the minister advise further on the unit cost of each vest and the total cost of providing stab-proof vests to frontline staff?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Police.

(1)–(2) The Tactical Response Group and other specialist units are equipped with stab-proof vests. Additionally, ballistic vests are currently available for officers to utilise as the operational need arises and are maintained to the highest standard at the station level in alignment with the current deployment policy. The cost of a fully supplied enhanced load bearing vest varies between each individually manufactured size. For the purposes of an estimated costing for the rollout of the ELBV, an average price has been adopted. This price is in the order of \$2 067 each excluding GST. At this stage, the Minister for Police has not received any requests from WA Police for additional stab-proof vests.