

POLICE — RECRUITMENT

**617. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. Why does the minister not focus on reducing the record attrition rate —  
Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Member for Wanneroo, I will determine whether it is a supplementary question, not you.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Why does the minister not focus on reducing the record rate of attrition of experienced officers from the police force instead of misleading this house with false statistics?

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Landsdale! We did not need your comment either.

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I have not misled the house. The numbers are the numbers. It is clear that the growth of the police force under our government is far exceeding that of the last five years of the former government.

That aside, the member's question seems to suggest that rather than having the best economy in the world, the lowest unemployment rate in the nation, the highest participation rate in the nation and many opportunities for every sector of the economy, the member would prefer to have some alternative. That is what the member is saying. If he is saying I have to reduce the attrition rate at a time when it is entirely attributable to the economy and the opportunities that —

**Dr D.J. Honey:** They're leaving because they don't like the way they're treated.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** What is it, then, otherwise?

**Dr D.J. Honey:** You go and find out.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Is the member suggesting that there is some other reason for officers seeking opportunities after they have done 10 years of service and they have a bit of long service leave behind them, and we have the greatest opportunity almost in the history of the state in terms of jobs? Is the member suggesting that there is some other reason?

**Dr D.J. Honey:** There's a 300 per cent attrition rate increase, minister, and that's due to the fact that you're not doing your job.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** What is the member suggesting is the reason, if it is not the economy and the opportunity? Is he suggesting —

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, you are asking too many questions of the opposition. This is a supplementary. It was a relatively brief question. If I could just have a brief answer. Thank you.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I am sorry, Madam Speaker.

I am left only with the conclusion that the member is somehow suggesting that the Commissioner of Police, the leadership of the police, or something else going on in the police force is driving police officers from the police force, when that is not the case. We are attracting police officers at a record rate and we are in the process of recruiting elsewhere because, like every other sector of the economy, there is huge opportunity and great demand. People are in demand. It is a challenge to deal with people who can rightly and willingly just look for other opportunities, because there are opportunities, because we are in one of the best places on the planet in terms of the economy. That is a better problem to be dealing with than the alternative.

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** We will just wait for the member for Wanneroo before I give you the call. The member for Kimberley.