

WHEATBELT POLICE DISTRICT - NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND RESPONSE TIMES

2728. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

In relation to the Wheatbelt Police Region, can the Minister advise:

- (a) how many FTE police officers were employed in the district for each of the following years:
 - (i) 2001;
 - (ii) 2002;
 - (iii) 2003;
 - (iv) 2004;
 - (v) 2005;
 - (vi) 2006; and
 - (vii) 2007;
- (b) what are the current average response times for the Wheatbelt Police Region for all categories of reported crime; and
- (c) what is the current ratio of police officers to population for the Wheatbelt Police Region?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) Allocation of WA Police FTE for each year between 30 June 2001 and 30 June 2007

The number of police officers allocated to a district is not an absolute indicator of WA Police's ability to respond to demand for police services. WA Police has specialist portfolios such as Specialist Crime and Traffic and Operations which support districts. In addition, in the metropolitan area WA Police has available centrally located resources such as the Regional Operations Group, Traffic Enforcement Group and Major Incident Group which are tasked to support Districts, as required. Initiatives such as the Police Metropolitan Radio Network and Police Assistance Centre have also enabled more officers to be available for frontline duties and enhance police response times.

The figures provided below are at a Regional level as it is not practical to provide details of specific areas within the regions given the amended boundaries, structures and FTE allocations over the reporting period. The allocation of resources is dynamic as WA Police Executive continually review and re-align resources to address changing policing requirements.

	Actual Employment Level (FTE)		
	WAPOL Total	Metropolitan Regions	Regional WA
30/06/2001	4698	2106	1246
30/06/2002	4728	2122.3	1216.4
30/06/2003	4811	2060.4	1257.2
30/06/2004	4890	2122.7	1259.4
30/06/2005	4918.5	2156.9	1300.4
30/06/2006	5044.5	2130.6	1335.7
30/06/2007	5193	2292	1399

Actual Employment Level (FTE) - is the number of officers employed in the Agency during the month - expressed as a full FTE.

Notes:

- Numbers include ranks from Constable to Superintendent
- Numbers do not include Aboriginal Liaison Officers
- Metropolitan Regions include support areas such as the Rail Unit and the Watch House, but not specialist portfolios such as Specialist Crime and Traffic and Operations

- (b) Response times are only recorded within the metropolitan area due to the geographical dispersion of population and a different communications infrastructure within regional WA.
- (c) As at 30 June 2007 the ratio of police officers to population for the Wheatbelt District is 1:330.