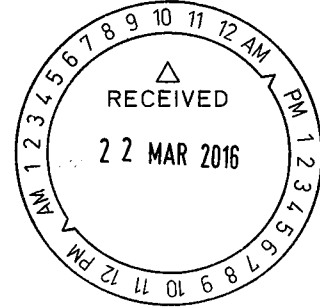




Minister for Police; Road Safety;  
Training and Workforce Development; Women's Interests

Our Ref: 45-40567  
Your Ref: Petition 105

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr O'Brien *Simon*

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 February 2016 requesting comment on the terms of Petition Number 105 – Esperance Hospital Support Services, tabled by Hon Dave Grills MLC in the Legislative Council on 1 December 2015 and referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

I note this Petition relates to the impact that the increased use of methamphetamine in Esperance is having on Esperance Hospital.

Western Australia Police advise that since 2014 the number of calls for assistance concerning methamphetamine use received from concerned family members, mental health workers and Esperance Hospital has steadily increased. Esperance Police are called on a regular basis to assist with the following matters:

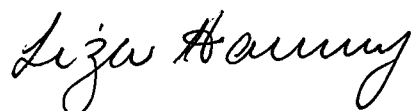
- Assist with the conveyance of a person suspected to be suffering from a drug induced psychosis to hospital for assessment and treatment;
- Provide security at Esperance Hospital due to the violent actions of persons suffering from drug psychosis; and
- Convey drug induced persons to Esperance Hospital and assist with mental health escorts with St John Ambulance from Esperance to Gibson, Norseman and Perth for treatment.

In relation to law enforcement in the community of Esperance, I am advised the number of charges against drug offenders in 2016 have increased when compared to the same period in 2015. Persons under the influence of methamphetamine have been charged with offences of threatening behaviour, serious assaults, damage to property and acts to cause fear. However, I am advised there is no evidence of an increase in crimes such as burglary or stealing offences which can be directly attributed to offenders wanting to obtain cash to purchase methamphetamine.

Other crimes identified in relation to methamphetamine use relate to offences under the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981*, where persons are charged for possession of methamphetamine.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liza Harvey".

**LIZA HARVEY MLA  
DEPUTY PREMIER; MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY;  
TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; WOMEN'S INTERESTS**

17 MAR 2016