

POLICE — ASSAULTS AGAINST

876. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the articles published in *The West Australian* of 20 August 2019 titled, “In the Line of Fire” and “Law & Disorder: attacks on cops rise as assaults haunt officers”.

- (1) How many “assault police officer offences” occurred in 2018–19?
- (2) How does the Western Australia Police Force support officers suffering from work-related physical or mental injury?
- (3) When will the Minister for Police introduce a compensation scheme for officers injured in the line of duty?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The Western Australia Police Force advises that as of 25 July 2019, there were 975 reports of assaults on police officers during the financial year 2018–19. Police officers who incur an injury or illness are supported with medical benefits, leave and a range of other supports. Services provided through the health and welfare branch have been improved to support injured or ill officers and their families. The McGowan government has resourced the rollout of body armour to protect our police officers. The McGowan government has also delivered the \$16 million police redress scheme and reformed section 8 of the Police Act to ensure injured and ill officers can be retired with dignity. Work is progressing on a police compensation scheme. The former government failed to deliver on any of these critical issues during its terms in office.