

POLICE — FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**566. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister accept that falling Western Australia Police Force numbers since 2021 contribute to 000 response times?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

We have more police now than ever before in history. There are hundreds more police than when the member was in office. Many hundreds, in fact, well over 400 more police officers than when the member was in office. There are, right now, 1 600 applicants to join the Western Australia Police Force locally, with 1 335 from the United Kingdom and Ireland. There are 300 police officers training at the academy and over the next 12 months, a thousand officers will graduate from the academy.

There are no resource matters that would have resulted in any inadequate or unacceptable response. The member might find, before she goes criticising the Western Australia Police Force, that it is worth reflecting on whether the circumstances involved are yet clear. There are some 60 000 priority callouts and 70 000 requests for welfare checks a year, as I understand it. A request for a welfare check is a different thing than an urgent call for assistance. I do not know the circumstances; I have not yet been given a thorough briefing and neither has the member. Nobody has. I would wait until we get detail about exactly what happened. Clearly, it is a tragic incident and we always want to do more and better. The Premier, the Minister for Community Services and I will attend a summit with advocates over family and domestic violence tomorrow.