

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY — LYNN CANNON

602. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the tragic family and domestic violence murder of Lynn Cannon. Ms Cannon's 000 calls for help were downgraded from level 2 priority to level 3 priority, even though she had been threatened by her killer earlier that day, and it still took police more than an hour to respond. Ms Cannon's family believes that she would still be here if police had categorised her call appropriately and responded in the target time frame. Why, when Lynn Cannon was threatened with a knife by her ex-partner, was the priority downgraded?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

These are complex situations, and it really is not appropriate to seek to politicise them in the context of these sorts of debates. It is important that members appreciate that a range of factors that night led to the obviously difficult situation of the police not being able to get there as soon as they would have liked. Those issues are being discussed with the victim's family so they can have an explanation about these things. I will not go over those issues, nor is it appropriate to make them so public in this forum. I do not think we can do justice to them. I can say that the whole community felt let down as a result of that series of events. It was not good enough; the government has acknowledged that and the Commissioner of Police has acknowledged that as well. The police, through their inquiry—and, ultimately, through a coroner's inquiry—will be able to make investigations into that particular matter. They are ultimately operational matters for the police to address, and we will expect them to do so. Any death is difficult, Madam Speaker. It was remiss of me earlier to not acknowledge that we had another firearms death in Kellerberrin just last week. On behalf of the Parliament, I place on the record our deep regret and sadness about that event. I am sure all our hearts go out to the victim of that particular violent act and that victim's family.