

CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS

**744. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the minister representing the Minister for Police:**

Can the minister please provide a breakdown of the reasons why 6 000-plus people have been allowed to enter WA without strict quarantine during the current hard border lockdown?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

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

The Western Australia Police Force advises that quarantine statistics are not recorded for categories such as business reasons and the recording system has not been established to capture this level of detail. The exemptions have been managed to ensure the safety of Western Australians whilst at the same time protecting our economy, industry and businesses. The majority of exemptions related to WA-resident domestic flight crew, who were previously exempt from quarantine requirements. Specific quarantine requirements for domestic flight crew, including WA-resident flight crew who have been in New South Wales or Victoria in the last 14 days, were introduced in July. A number of those exempt from quarantine were essential specialist workers required for critical infrastructure and time-critical maintenance and support of the state. Changes to directions in July now require those specialists to quarantine, and further restrict anyone who has been in New South Wales or Victoria in the last 14 days from entering the state. A smaller number of those exempt fell into the category of commonwealth officials or those performing a function of commonwealth law, as well as active military or health personnel. Individual numbers for each exemption category are not particularised in the recording system. As the honourable member is aware, we are currently living in a unique state of emergency and our police officers are rightly focused on responding to COVID-19 and keeping our community safe in these unprecedented times.