

METHAMPHETAMINE — USE

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

I refer to the comment by the minister's government that —

“Hardworking Western Australian families should not have to put up with crime linked to meth use and hard drugs. That's why we are not just talking tough—we are taking action which will make it tougher than ever for the drug dealers and pushers.”

If the minister is taking tough action, the number of drug-related offences should be going down. Why has drug dealing increased by 38 per cent over the past year?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I thank the member for her question. In the last financial year, so since July last year, the Western Australia Police Force has seized 314 kilograms of methylamphetamine and \$22 million of cash from organised criminals. The police are employing the powers that we gave them at the time of that media release to which the member referred, which includes the anti-consorting legislation; the subsequent fire and prohibition order, part of the amendment to the Firearms Act; the amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act, which created permanent search areas; and other police powers that are far more extensive than at any time before now. The police are employing those powers to full effect. It is a challenge that does not just disappear. Organised criminals, by their nature, will be relentless in endeavouring to bring illicit drugs to this state, and methylamphetamine is the preferred drug in Western Australia, but the Western Australia Police Force is doing an exceptional job and it has been afforded all the resources necessary to undertake that task.