

POLICE — RESIGNATIONS

54. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. What responsibility does the minister take for his failure to better support our police and stop this exodus of those leaving?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Member, I do not think there is anyone who would accuse me of not advocating for Western Australian police officers. There are probably a few of your members of Parliament, like the member—what is Hon Ian Goodenough's seat?

Ms M.M. Quirk: Moore!

Mr P. PAPALIA: I refer to the member for Moore in the federal Parliament. I understand that he is not very happy with me about banning very high powered firearms that the Western Australia Police Force requested that we ban because of the threat that they represent directly to police officers. Do you support the federal member for Moore's attack on me and claim that those firearms do not represent a threat to police, who asked me to ban them?

Ms L. Mettam: He's not in our team.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Mr P. PAPALIA: You are the Leader of the Liberal Party in Western Australia. Does he represent your view with respect to the threat of very high powered firearms to police officers?

The SPEAKER: Minister for Police, I will remind you that this was a supplementary question, and I am hopeful of a shorter, sharper answer.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Thank you, Speaker.

I will take it that the Leader of the Liberal Party supports the federal member for Moore and his outrageous attack on the Western Australia Police Force and his willingness to back people who are in possession of very high powered firearms that represent a direct threat to police—firearms that they have asked me to remove from the streets.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!