

POLICE — FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEAMS

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the minister's response, are we likely to see an increase in the number of those officers? Will the minister commit to additional WAPOL officers or will the status quo remain?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

Where the officers go and the nature of their assignment is entirely the responsibility of the commissioner. In this case it is partly that the practice has changed over the years. There was a time when a couple of officers in each subdistrict were dedicated to responding to family and domestic violence. Now, they increasingly train everybody and everyone is assumed to be capable of responding to FDV. Those are specialist officers who assess the contacts and encounters, and determine and confirm that proper procedures are followed. I am aware that within those numbers, officers are rotated over a period. From my recollection, they do around six to nine months there and then return to other duties so that other officers are afforded the opportunity to build their expertise and knowledge in that role. It is likely that people will move through. I do not know whether they will increase the number; it is up to the commissioner whether it is required.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Rockingham with her first question!