

DRUG OFFENCES

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

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister believe that a 16 per cent increase in total drug offences in 2023 is an acceptable outcome for the community?

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Just before you answer, I am going to ask the member for Landsdale not to interject every time the Leader of the Liberal Party asks a question.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! I refer to the old saying: two wrongs do not make a right.

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I thank the member. It is a fact that the threat of organised crime will not go away in a hurry. We are driven to provide the police with every power, resource and capability necessary to do their job as effectively as they can. It is undeniable that they are doing a pretty good job when they have seized 314 kilograms of meth in the last seven or eight months and \$22 million in cash, but that does not mean that the problem is solved or it is the end of the effort. We must focus at all times on whatever we can do to intercept the flow of drugs and disrupt the purveyors of harm on the community, who are, essentially, in Western Australia, outlaw motorcycle gangs. The drugs that are brought into the nation from overseas by triads, cartels and mafias are distributed in our state by predominantly those organised criminals or outlaw motorcycle gangs. The member and everyone else knows that we are focused on delivering as many powers to the police as necessary for them to disrupt that activity. They are doing a great job.