

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE — VOLUNTARY SEVERANCES

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [2.01 pm]: I rise to inform the house that the state government has approved the offer of voluntary severances to 196 Western Australian police officers who are considered not to be front-line. These police officers have performed many years of service and I am pleased to stand here today to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to the Western Australian community. I want to reassure the house that only officers who applied for voluntary severances have been offered packages. I want to make clear to the house and the Western Australian public that front-line services will not be affected by this voluntary severance program. Only police officers who are no longer fit for front-line service have been offered a voluntary severance package. Also, I want to state that this will not affect the government's growth program and election commitments, which Western Australia Police will be able to meet during this term of government, in addition to recruitment to cover attrition. The packages are being offered in addition to the 1 000 available under the government's enhanced voluntary severance scheme and are being funded within the Western Australia Police budget. In my view, it is always important to be refreshing and renewing organisations, and this program provides Western Australia Police with a unique opportunity to offer non-front-line officers an appropriate severance package and enable the recruitment of new police officers to enhance and increase our front-line capacity. The voluntary severances package complements the Frontline 2020 reform project, which aims to identify efficiencies in the way the agency undertakes its roles and functions. That project is progressing well, and I look forward to continuing to update the house on the important decisions that will be made as part of the reform process. I would like to congratulate Western Australia Police on its management of the voluntary severance process. In conclusion, the state government and I remain committed to delivering more effective front-line services for the community of Western Australia.