

POLICE — ORGANISED CRIME

366. Mr J. NORBERGER to the Minister for Police:

Before I ask my question, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the year 6 student leaders from Ocean Reef Primary School who are in the public gallery today, and who joined me for lunch.

Can the minister please inform the house of WA Police collaborations with their federal and interstate counterparts that enhance the fight against gangs?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup for this question. The member for Joondalup and other members in this house have no doubt been paying attention to the significant methamphetamine seizures that have resulted from the joint efforts of our WA Joint Organised Crime Taskforce, which is a collaborative effort between WA Police, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Australian Crime Commission, and the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre. The member for Joondalup is aware that we also have a Joint Anti Child Exploitation Team, which is a collaboration with the Australian Federal Police. It collaborates in the fight against online child exploitation. Both of these are fine examples of how collaboration can achieve splendid results in crime-fighting activities. Indeed, the WA National Anti-Gangs Squad Strike Team is another one of those initiatives. The National Anti-Gangs Squad Strike Team—it is a big name; we call it NAGS for short—comprises members of the Australian Federal Police, state police forces, the Australian Crime Commission, the Australian border force, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Australian Taxation Office and the commonwealth Department of Human Services. A lot of agencies are working collaboratively to try to break the hold of organised crime in the country.

Last year, in July and August 2015, an operation was run and members will probably recall the success of that operation. It resulted in cash seizures of \$910 000, over 22 kilograms of methamphetamine was taken off our streets, 11 illegal firearms and two ballistic vests were seized, and a number of arrests were made. The federal Liberal government has enabled this capacity. At the last election, it made a commitment to reinvest the commonwealth proceeds of crime fund in crime-fighting activity. That is how these joint organised crime task forces are funded. To contribute to the successful operation of our crime-fighting efforts, \$10.2 million from that fund has gone towards NAGS. The member for Joondalup can imagine my alarm when, last Friday, Bill Shorten and federal Labor said that they were going to reinvest their budget savings initiatives —

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I know members opposite do not want to hear it. Federal Labor announced that the commonwealth proceeds of crime fund would be harnessed to plug a budget black hole.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Federal Labor is going to rip over \$57 million, possibly up to \$220 million, out of crime-fighting initiatives to plug its election commitments and its budget black hole.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Shame on federal Labor! Shame on members opposite; they were all silent! They should go to Bill Shorten and demand that he puts the money back into crime fighting.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Through the Chair.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Is this a point of order, member for Cannington? The minister has not finished yet.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is very, very clear and we are making it very clear to the community of Western Australia that proceeds of crime funds should be reinvested in crime-fighting initiatives.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: They should be reinvested —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Albany, will you please calm down.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Proceeds of crime funding should be reinvested in crime-fighting and crime-prevention initiatives to ensure that we can break the back of organised crime in Australia and get the drugs off our streets.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is what a federal Liberal coalition will do in conjunction with the state's National-Liberal government. Look out if Bill Shorten gets his way.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler.