

POLICING MODEL — SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

503. Mrs G.J. GODFREY to the Minister for Police:

I noticed some recent media reports around a new policing model operating in the south east metropolitan police district. Can the minister please outline to the house how the new model will work and what benefits it will offer to our community?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for her interest in the new policing model. I was also really pleased to see so many members from the south east metropolitan district take up the offer of a briefing by WA Police on this new policing model. As part of our Frontline 2020 strategy we are looking at changing the way we do policing. As the member for Belmont is aware, we are running a model in the south east metro district. The local policing model will run for six months, starting on 4 November. It is based on work done in the UK. We are breaking up our police districts into four key components. There will be a district control centre; response teams; local police teams; and investigation teams. The response teams will be dispatched to the high-priority tasks while the dedicated local policing teams, which is what members are most excited about, will do the follow-up work and engage with the community, repeat offenders and clients who draw so much of the police time and attention. They will be tasked with addressing the roots of emerging crime in the local area. The motto of these teams will be to own the victim, to own the crime and also to own the offender. That is in response to some of the feedback we have received through the community forum program that I am running with the commissioner. A lot of victims of crime have felt that they have been left out of the picture and they want more feedback from and interaction with police. Police have responded to that in putting together this local policing model.

These teams will be very effective. We are giving them better technology; they will be equipped with smart phones to ensure that they can tweet emerging crime trends to people connected to the local policing model. They will also be able to communicate more effectively with the victims, offenders and other interested parties in the community. We are looking at the police teams taking ownership of particular suburbs and particular areas. For a repeat offender, the same police officer will turn up at their front door and say, “You called us out last night. It’s me again. I’m keeping an eye on you.” The same police officers will deal with repeat offenders and get better traction in having them change their behaviour.

We are very excited about this. We are looking at a staffing increase of eight per cent; around 50 officers will be sourced from the police academy and our growth program. I will keep a watching brief on it to make sure that it delivers what the police expect it to deliver. I invite continued engagement from members of this house in this process to keep me updated on how these local policing teams are working in their area. South east metro is an area of interest, where we want a significant impact on the crime rates. I appreciate the member for Belmont’s interest in this matter and I look forward to receiving her feedback over the six months that this policing model is rolled out.