

POLICE — REGIONAL VACANCIES

**134. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of police officer vacancies that remain unfilled in Bencubbin, Northam, Wyalkatchem and Merredin?
- (2) Given that vacancies such as these have denied a proper policing presence in Western Australia for over two years now, will the minister implement the Liberal Party's election promise to provide attraction and retention money to officers in hard-to-fill locations as a matter of urgency?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. The subject of vacancies in regional positions has certainly been a matter of discussion for me with both the commissioner and the police union since I was appointed as minister. That was part of the reason that we put forward our regional attraction and incentives package. That is a \$10.5 million package that we have made available and it will be implemented as a priority as part of the budget process. I am in the process of working with the police executive and the police union to ensure that that attraction and incentive package will be best placed to offer WA Police the best options and ensure that the regional hard-to-fill locations become a more attractive option for police officers to both move to and fill a vacancy and also to stay for a longer time by way of implementing a bonus at the end of a completion of three and a half years' service in certain hard-to-fill locations. It is being very well received and I look forward to implementing that as part of the budget process.