

ALCOHOL INTERLOCK DEVICES — GOVERNMENT STRATEGY

**900. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Police:**

I was pleased to hear the announcement that the government is proposing an alcohol interlock scheme for our state. Can the minister please outline how the proposed alcohol interlock scheme will work in Western Australia?

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

I thank the member for Southern River for the question and for his interest in road safety matters in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This is a very important part of our repeat drink-driver strategy in Western Australia.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I appreciate the high level of interest in this aspect of our repeat drink-driver strategy. I am talking about the alcohol interlock device strategy today, member for Girrawheen.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Why does the member not ask a question?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time. Minister, can you answer the question. Member for Girrawheen, if you interject again, I am going to have you leave the chamber.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** To answer the member for Southern River's question, the alcohol interlock device is a very good system that we will put in place. It requires legislative and regulatory amendment, and I will bring that legislation forward in the first session of Parliament next year.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** You've said that before.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The member for Midland can interject if she chooses. She said that she was going to do this in 2004. I have been in the seat since 2012 and it is coming, member for Midland; I am going to do it.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I do not want to hear any more interjections; I want to hear the answer to the question. Member for Midland, I call you for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** For the interest of members in the house, offenders who have been convicted of a high-end offence such as driving under the influence, refusal to give a breath test, a .15 or above drink-driving offence, or dangerous driving causing death or injury will be automatically included in the alcohol interlock scheme. Drivers who have two excess .05 offences within a five-year period will also be included in the interlock device scheme. We will change the legislation so that drivers who fall under those categories will have their licences cancelled. When they reapply for a driver's licence and their authority to drive, a condition of that licence will be the requirement to have an interlock device fitted to their vehicle. Drivers will need to blow into the interlock device and they will need to have a blood alcohol concentration of less than .02 in order to start their vehicle. They will get a number of chances at starting their vehicle; and, if they persist in trying to drive —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** If they persist in trying to drive the vehicle when their reading is in excess of .02, they could potentially be locked out of their vehicle and they will need a technician to start the car for them. The reason we have taken this approach is that we want to interrupt the pattern of offending with drinking and driving. We know that we need to interrupt the behaviour of recidivist drivers and stop them from starting their motor vehicle and driving. We know that if we get those drivers off the road, the community will win as a result of them not putting the rest of the community at risk. There has been a significant focus on the tragic outcomes of the actions of irresponsible drink-drivers in Western Australia in recent times.

I would like to highlight some of the other aspects of the system. Member for Midland, there will be a monthly download process of the data contained in the interlock devices. If a driver has made a number of attempts at starting their vehicle when they exceed .02, that information will be relayed to the Department of Transport and those drivers will be referred to drug and alcohol intervention sessions to give them some assistance in trying to get to the core of their offending behaviour. Altogether drink-driving —

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Recidivist drink-drivers are a scourge on the community and they put all members of the community at significant risk.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Before the member for Midland starts —

**The SPEAKER:** No. Member for Midland, you are skating on thin ice as well; do not interject again. Please answer through the Chair, minister.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I think some of the comments that are made about drink-driving in this place are unfortunate. Before members start to make comments about who may or may not be included in the scheme, it would be timely for people to remind themselves that they need two excess .05 drink-driving offences to qualify for an interlock device. To my knowledge, there is no-one on the Liberal–National side of government who may be included in this scheme. In spite of the opposition making light of a very important step in trying to remove the scourge of drink-driving from our roads, I am very pleased to say that we have made significant progress and the Liberal–National government remains committed to ensuring that we interrupt this drink-driving behaviour for the benefit of the community of Western Australia.