

POLICE BUDGET — FRONT-LINE SERVICES

164. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does the minister still deny that the police budget cut of \$28 million in 2012–13 has had no effect on front-line policing?
- (2) How has the \$28 million cut affected the recruitment of police officers and civilians?
- (3) What cuts have been made in this financial year, 2012–13, to achieve the \$28 million in cuts?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) As far as any efficiency measure of government affecting front-line services, yes, I can say that front-line services have not been affected by any request for efficiency from police.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: What about recruitment?

The SPEAKER: That is the second part of the question. Let the minister answer the question.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was coming to the second part of the question. The government made a commitment in 2008 to recruit an additional 350 police officers. We remain on target to continue to recruit those officers and have them out on the front-line by the end of this financial year. We made an additional commitment for 550 police officers as part of the last election campaign and, indeed, we will also meet that commitment to the people of Western Australia.