

METH ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE — POLICE

466. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

Was the Premier made aware of and does he support the Minister for Police's decision to abolish the meth enforcement task force?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I think the Minister for Police has outlined the case at least once in today's question time that we have boosted resources in relation to dealing with methamphetamine. The Leader of the Opposition prepared her questions before question time but does not listen to the facts. The minister outlined it clearly. I want to read to the house what the acting commissioner, Mr Col Blanch, had to say. This is what he said on the radio. This apparently is where the Leader of the Opposition's story has come from. The acting commissioner said —

We're not changing its focus, we're actually increasing the amount of effort against methamphetamine, and particularly those who import and traffic those drugs in the Western Australian community.

We're very fortunate, ... to have ... to have the Government give us the meth funding so we can actually stretch our reach ... both nationally and internationally.

That is what the minister had to say. Honestly, when we came to office, obviously we knew there was a significant issue. Everyone has known that now for a long period. What has occurred since 2016 is a 20 per cent reduction in meth usage rates. We know it is still too high. We still want to reduce the number of people using these drugs. We have made it a priority—a Premier's priority. Since we came to office we have put \$244 million into tackling meth, \$125 million into the meth border force and 100 new dedicated police officers.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Leader of the Opposition asked the question; I will give her the answer. There are 20 extra staff, \$4.8 million for a ten-bed crisis centre in Midland, short-term safe spaces for compulsory critical intervention worth hundreds and hundreds of thousands; and \$9 million towards development of a comprehensive drug policy in the Kimberley. There are numerous initiatives across the community to provide both enforcement as well as treatment. We understand that it is not all about enforcement, as important as that is; it is also about treatment and education and making sure we provide people with the opportunity to get off this insidious drug.

I know the Liberal Party will not listen and I know the Leader of the Opposition will come up with a question that shows she has not listened to the answer, but they are the facts.