

POLICE — RECRUITMENT

**347. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Police:**

Can the minister update the house on police recruitment in Western Australia?

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

I thank the member for the question and for his continued and sustained interest in law and order issues in this state, particularly in his electorate.

I am very pleased to report today that WA Police has now completed the allocation of recruitment for 2012–13 by recruiting an additional 70 police officers. This puts us on track to achieve the promised 2008 election commitment of an additional 500 police officers. That was a five-year program that was initially funded in 2009–10, and we are now well on target to achieve the remaining 100 police officers as part of that recruitment drive by the end of June 2014. The member has probably noticed WA Police's aggressive recruitment campaign that is currently in train. We have received quite a lot of interest as a result of that recruitment campaign and we believe that we will be able to deliver, on time and on target, the additional 550 police and police auxiliary officers that we committed to in the 2013 election campaign.

I would like to put it on the record that this is a very good time for people to put the word out about the advantages of being a police officer here in Western Australia. On 1 July, our police officers will receive a 4.5 per cent pay rise as a result of the last enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations.

Several members interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The state Liberal–National government has also passed laws that will ensure that those who assault and harm police officers will go to jail. As a result of that mandatory sentencing legislation, we have seen a 40 per cent reduction in assaults on police officers in Western Australia. We also introduced legislation to cover medical expenses for the work-related injuries of police officers who retire from WA Police, and we have recently made amendments to our legislation to ensure that those people who flee from police while police are engaged in emergency driving will suffer severe penalties. We have given greater protections to our police officers who engage in these sometimes very dangerous activities.

We have also given greater protection to police officers who are engaged in undercover, covert investigations in this state; we passed legislation at the end of last year that will ensure that our officers who undertake covert work will have their identities protected and will have afforded to them all the protections that they need and, indeed, deserve, as they undertake the very important work of crushing drug syndicates and crime gangs.

To conclude, I am very, very pleased to update the house that, as a result of the recruitment of the additional 70 police officers, we are now on track and on target to achieve the portion of that 500 growth program that we said we would achieve for 2012–13. We have 100 left to go from that commitment, and we are well on track, with the interest out of our recruitment drive, to ensure that we deliver 1 050 additional police and police auxiliary officers over the first eight years of our government.