

POLICE AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRES — STAFFING

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

The Premier told this house in May that police officers are not going to be removed from police and community youth centres. In the minister's answer today she admitted that officers from Rockingham, Gosnells and Armadale have been assigned other duties in recent weeks rather than being available at their PCYCs. I also note that the police officer who was located at Midland PCYC for decades has not been allocated to the PCYC for some months now and is operating out of Midland Police Station.

Dr G.G. Jacobs interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Eyre, I do not need to hear from you. I formally call you to order for the first time today. Members, it is a simple instruction. It has been very consistent these past few weeks. No-one on their feet asking a question is to be interrupted.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I ask —

- (1) Given that police officers are not to be removed from PCYCs under the government's policy, what will the minister do to reinstate the police officer to Midland PCYC?
- (2) Why has the Collie PCYC been instructed to prepare to close its doors on 4 October?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. Just to be perfectly clear, as I said before, the position of the government and the Commissioner of Police on police officers engaging with PCYCs has not changed. Police officers from the youth policing area will still be available for PCYCs.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Maybe the member might want to close her mouth for a moment and listen. I said that our position has not changed. I will say it very slowly for the benefit of everyone in the house: our position —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: You have asked the question, member for Midland. Minister for Police, you have an opportunity to answer it. Member for Midland, I suggest that you pull back a little on the interjecting. Minister for Police, I suggest you stick to your answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I return to the member's question about the reinstatement or otherwise of officers. That is an operational matter.

Mr M.P. Murray: Come on!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member should settle down. I do not reinstate or employ police officers; the police commissioner does. I do not get to employ police officers or take other disciplinary action against them. That is not my role. I have an agreement with the Commissioner of Police that police officers will be available to PCYCs and police officers will continue to be assigned to youth-at-risk programs and deal with young offenders, which is exactly where they need to be. I take the commissioner at his word. We have an understanding. PCYCs will continue to have officers assigned to them for their programs.