

POLICE — STAFFING — ELECTION COMMITMENTS

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

I refer to the “Report on Government Services 2015” and table CA.5. Can I get one of attendants to take the minister over a copy so that she knows exactly what I am referring to? Table CA.5 contains police staff numbers for all Australian jurisdictions.

- (1) Did the minister’s government not promise in the 2008 election to increase total police staffing by 700 over five years?
- (2) Given these independent and nationally recognised figures show that the total police staff in 2008-09 was 7 474 and that in 2013-14 it was just 377 more, has the government not fallen a massive 323 police staff short of the Liberal Party’s election promise?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

Mr Deputy Speaker —

The SPEAKER: No; Mr Speaker.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Speaker, my apologies. I was taken back in time!

- (1)–(2) “Staff” also includes public servants, so with respect to the 2008 commitment I would have to go back to find that election commitment document, to be perfectly frank. But the 2013 election commitment that I am responsible for implementing now was for an additional —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I do not want to hear from you until the minister has answered.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The 2013 election commitment was for an additional 550 police and police auxiliary officers. That is 150 auxiliary officers, training for 200 detectives, and an additional 200 police officers. Notwithstanding that the agency has self-funded a significant number of redundancies from within WA Police, we are on track and on target to achieve our commitment we made to the people of Western Australia in March 2013 that they vigorously endorsed. We are on track and on target to achieve that goal. I am absolutely thrilled to be attending yet another police graduation this Thursday evening, during which the son of the Commissioner of Police, Dr Karl O’Callaghan, will be graduating.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My question was quite specific. It referred to the 700 additional staff promised at the 2008 election by the Liberal Party and its failure to deliver the 700 additional staff. I would ask the minister to address that, not to say that she is not responsible for it. I will provide a copy of that to the minister, too, if she likes.

The SPEAKER: No, thank you; you have made your point.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Mr Speaker, further to that point of order, the opposition continues to raise this issue of the direct, specific answering of questions. The standing orders do not require that; they require that the answers be relevant, and it is up to you to decide whether it is relevant or not.

The SPEAKER: Thank you for that. Minister, can you address the question that the member for Midland asked you.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am more than happy to. I love talking about good news stories for the Liberal-National government, and this is a great news story! We went to the election in 2008 promising 500 police and police auxiliary officers. We have achieved it. We went to the electorate in March 2013 promising 550 additional police and police auxiliary officers, and we are well on the way to achieving it. I am proud of that commitment. There are more police officers in the state now than there have ever been. WA Police has a \$1.2 billion budget, it is engaged in a tremendous reform program and it is changing the way it delivers policing to the community of Western Australia. People in the community are endorsing what we are doing; they love the change in policing effort out in our local communities. They love their local policing teams. This is a great news story. Every time I stand in this place and talk about policing I just have one good news story after another, and I thank the member for Midland for giving me the opportunity to spruik it!