

CRIME STATISTICS — SEXUAL ASSAULT

**89. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. I am not referring to historical sexual assault, but to the rate in 2013–14, which is the highest of any state in Australia. I again ask the minister whether she has any explanation for why WA is so far above the national average for sexual assault.

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

As I said previously, for a specific area and a specific category of crime from an ABS report, which might —

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** It's not shoplifting, minister.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Exactly, member for Girrawheen; thank you for that interjection. What about shoplifting? What about theft? What about armed robbery?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, put your name down if you want to ask a question. Do not digress, minister; just deal with the question.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** For me to understand every single category of offence that gets reported in the ABS data and to be able to stand in Parliament without a moment's notice to specifically interrogate fluctuations in every area of criminal offending is a real stretch.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Aren't you the Minister for Women's Interests as well?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** If the member for Midland wants to place her question on notice, I will give a detailed response.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** You should know the answer; you should care about it!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** If the member for Midland —

**Mr J.R. Quigley:** You don't even care about the victims!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Midland, let the minister answer.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** If the member for Midland actually wanted to understand what was happening with sexual assault in Western Australia, she would take the time to put the question on notice and to give some consideration to the victims of those crimes before she tries some political pointscoreing at their expense.