

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT (OUT-OF-CONTROL GATHERINGS) ACT 2012

410. Mr C.D. HATTON to the Minister for Police:

Can the minister please inform the house of the success of the Liberal–National government’s out-of-control party legislation?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Balcatta for this question, but before I answer the question, I acknowledge the students and teachers from Como Primary School who are in the gallery this afternoon. The school is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Welcome to Parliament.

I am sure that many members will remember the debate in this house on the Criminal Law Amendment (Out-of-Control Gatherings) Bill, which was passed by Parliament in 2012. Members will probably be aware that the legislation creates an offence of hosting a party that becomes out of control and other offences to do with the refusal to disperse when an out-of-control party is declared and police officers request that people disperse from a particular scene. The offence carries a maximum penalty of 12 months’ imprisonment or a \$12 000 fine. I am very pleased to say, member for Balcatta, that the legislation, contrary to what was flagged in the debate in this house during its passage through Parliament, has been very successful. We were advised at the time that the passage of the legislation would be an empty gesture unless it was backed up by police resourcing. We put \$2.5 million into ensuring that police had nine extra general-purpose dogs to assist them with managing crowds, a kennel for those dogs to live in and two transport vehicles. There was a total of \$2.5 million to assist police in ensuring that they could implement the legislation effectively.

Since 2012, 73 parties have been declared out of control, 11 of which were in 2016.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I know that the Labor opposition does not like this legislation. It did not like it when it was going through the house.

In fact, if we look at the success, 73 parties were declared out of control, of which 11 were in 2016, and 127 offenders were charged with a range of offences, including 65 offences for hosting an out-of-control gathering. In addition to that, member for Balcatta, and importantly, the costs component of this legislation was something that police were really in favour of. Police have been awarded \$42 500 in costs as a result of their attendance at out-of-control gatherings, and that has come from the people who have put these parties on Facebook, invited hundreds of people to come, knowing that they could not manage them, and caused a disruption and disturbance and a cost to the community. We are really pleased with this legislation. I think perhaps the Labor Party might need to review its platform. The 2015 Labor Party platform states at page 43 that it will repeal the out-of-control gatherings legislation.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, you do not start again from zero. You are on three and a half.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In keeping with what members opposite stated in this house when the legislation went through, I think Hon Michelle Roberts, the member for Midland, said —

... passing this legislation will not solve all the problems we face with out-of-control parties.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Unless you back it up with resources. Don’t quote me out of context again. You’re deceitful! We voted for the legislation and this is rubbish.

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

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Tell the truth!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I know the member does not like it.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: I do not like liars!

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Withdraw that, please.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I just said that I do not like liars.

The SPEAKER: I know what you said. Just withdraw it. You were directing your comment to the minister. Just withdraw it and let us move on.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I would like to withdraw it, please, Mr Speaker; thank you.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member for Armadale said —

This legislation is just another example of the government's wrong priorities.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: What did we get from the member for Willagee?

Suspension of Member

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, leave the chamber, please.

[The member for Girrawheen left the chamber.]

Questions without Notice Resumed

The SPEAKER: Through the Chair. We do not want any more digression.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member for Willagee said that it is —

... an exercise in complete time wasting of this house, complete time wasting of the members of this house ...

If the Labor Party is successful in March, it will repeal the legislation. That means that we will go back to the days of old—the out-of-control gatherings.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order now for the third time. Minister, a quick answer through the Chair.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The Liberal–National government remains committed to this legislation. We remain committed to giving police officers the tools they need to do their job.

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: When we go to the election in March, the community will know that we will ensure that police continue to have this tool—this resource—so that they can bring order and safety to our communities.