

NATIONAL POLICE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

750. Mr M.H. TAYLOR to the Minister for Police:

It is hard to follow that world-class own goal!

Several members interjected.

Mr M.H. TAYLOR: My question is to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Police.

Mr W.J. Johnston: What are you talking about? The member for Cottesloe —

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Mr M.H. TAYLOR: For many jobs in the community —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Withdraw that, member for Cannington.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I said, “Don’t tell lies in the chamber.”

The SPEAKER: Just withdraw it.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That would mean I would be saying that people should tell lies in the chamber.

The SPEAKER: That is not what I am saying. You have got a chance to withdraw it.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: If I have breached the standing orders, I unconditionally withdraw.

Questions without Notice Resumed

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. It is very difficult for me to hear above the din over here when I am calling somebody. Let us get this show on the road.

Mr M.H. TAYLOR: For many jobs in the community, people are required to obtain a national police certificate. Could the minister advise what WA Police has done to make this process as simple as possible?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Bateman for his question and his interest in the digital economy. A national police certificate is required by many employers. For the benefit of those members who may never have had to apply for one, it outlines a person’s disclosable court outcomes and any pending charges that might be of relevance. Historically, this application process was paper based and could take up to three weeks. I am sure many members in this place will have received emails and contacts from frustrated constituents who have been waiting a long time for a national police clearance and, as a result, are unable to progress their applications for employment et cetera. WA Police, in conjunction with the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and Australia Post, have enhanced the existing system. It has implemented a system to reduce administrative costs and to improve the quality and the timeliness of the application process. In December 2015 we rolled out, between WA Police and Australia Post, an end-to-end digital solution. As a result of this, 65 per cent of applicants now receive their national police clearance within 30 minutes and 20 per cent of applicants now receive that clearance within one to two business days. So 85 per cent of applicants for national police clearances now receive those clearances in a fraction of the time that it used to take under the old paper-based system. The online system, for those members who wish to inform their constituents, can be accessed through a computer, tablet or smart phone or by going into an Australia Post outlet. In addition to improving the timeliness of this, we are saving applicants some money. So far, there has been a reduction of \$10 per application and the cost of certificates has come down.

The new digital system has received a WAITTA INCITE Award for the most effective government solution. I am very pleased to be minister for WA Police at a time when they are taking these steps to improve their systems and processes to get better outcomes for the people in the community they need to deal with.

Jurisdictions in the eastern states are now looking at trying to implement this system. In fact, they are jumping over each other to try to implement this system to streamline processes and make national police clearance certificates cheaper and administratively less burdensome for all applicants on the east coast. Imagine the improvement nationwide as a result of this pioneering work by WA Police. I am very proud of my police officers who were involved in this. This is yet another example of initiatives this Liberal–National government is taking to improve systems, reduce red tape, reduce the administrative burden and work for our community more effectively.