

POLICE — ALCOHOL AND DRUG-TESTING BUSES

330. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Police:

Minister —

Ms M.M. Quirk: You don't expect an answer do you?

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I will give you the call. I am formally going to call you to order for the first time today.

Ms M.M. Quirk: It was worth it, Mr Speaker!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will continue my question to the Minister for Police. Unlike other members in this place like the member for West Swan, members on this side of the house welcome booze and drug buses in our electorates. I would be pleased if the minister could inform the house when the two new alcohol and drug-testing buses that were referred to in the budget papers will come on line and when we can expect to see those buses in the community, particularly in communities like mine in the electorate of Scarborough?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for the question and her genuine interest in road safety, because this is a road safety issue. Certainly, the two new drug and alcohol-testing buses will be ordered now that the budget has allocated funds for them. I am told it could take a little while to get those two buses fitted out because of their specifications. The two new buses will be much more manoeuvrable than the existing buses, and will be able to service a lot of areas in regional Western Australia, which in previous years has been lacking in alcohol testing in particular; and of course there has been very little drug testing in those areas. We will be doing those tests in future.

Everybody seems to be really happy that we are getting two new drug and alcohol-testing buses, except the member for Girrawheen. The member really needs something to moan about, so she is moaning about the fact that we promised two new drug buses in our election campaign. We promised those buses because we saw the need to try to curb those people who are not only drinking and driving but also taking drugs and driving. What have we done? We have allocated enough funding in our third budget for two new buses and recurrent funding over the next four years. We not only ordered drug buses, which is what the member for Girrawheen thinks we should have done, but we have doubled up.

Ms M.M. Quirk: That is what you promised!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes, and we fulfilled our promise.

Mr W.J. Johnston: No, you have not!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Do not be stupid, member for Cannington! Take a day off. We have enlarged on our promise. We have not only delivered two drug buses, but also combined them with the facility to test for alcohol on people's breath. If the member for Girrawheen would sooner we have a couple of buses only testing for drugs, I am sorry, but her credentials in road safety must be questioned. We want to cover as many as areas as we can with testing for alcohol and drugs. That is what we are doing.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I did not hear what the member said, so I do not intend to respond to it.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: She said that you are disgraceful.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Nobody asked the member for Midland.

The Liberal Party has done more than fulfil its election promise; it has shown a tremendous commitment to road safety. We not only have two drug buses, but we have also made them breath-testing buses, which the community wants, but obviously the member for Girrawheen and members on that side of the house are not interested in the booze buses; they only want the drug ones. I wonder why.