

POLICE — ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the minister has just admitted that she had not added an extra 100 police officers, when are we going to see the additional 100 police officers, by what date —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Women's Interests, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Given the minister has just admitted that she has not in fact added 100 additional police officers, by what date can we see these additional officers in place? Will we see it by the next annual report, because this year's annual report clearly shows a net increase of 15?

The SPEAKER: It is only a supplementary question, members.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

It appears the member for Scarborough learned little in her time being Minister for Police in this state.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the second time. You had an opportunity with the supplementary question.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The recruitment of those additional officers was placed in our first budget. When the member's government was in power, it back-ended the employment of the additional or extra officers that she said her government was going to recruit. We have brought on those new officers within the first two years, and so our REU and meth task force have those additional officers in those first two years.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: As members are aware, there is often attrition. Some of the people who have taken redundancy may have left the police force in any event. There are always retirements and whatever —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, please.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Let us try to make this very clear for the member for Scarborough. The total number of police in this state will increase in our first term in office. It will increase by the 137—that is on budget. No dispute there.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Unlike the member for Scarborough, our program for the redundancy of police officers is fully funded by Treasury.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

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

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: It is rather cute, is it not, when the former government went to the election not promising a single extra police officer over four years—not a single extra officer.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Look at its election budget statement. No money for a single extra officer. The opposition was promising zero. We are delivering in excess of our promise. We promised 100 and we are delivering about 137 net increase to police officers over our four-year term in government.