

METH ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE — POLICE

**467. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

Does the minister have the Premier's full confidence when she clearly did not inform him that a key part of his meth action plan, the meth enforcement task force, was being abolished?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The answer is of course the minister has my full confidence—just to put that to bed. She explained it to the Leader of the Opposition. Sixteen officers have been expanded to become 35.

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hillarys!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** When the Leader of the Opposition was in office, "Meth City" was on the front page about Perth; when she was in office the rate of usage was 20 per cent higher than it is now.

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hillarys, I call you to order!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** When the Leader of the Opposition was in office Western Australia was the "Worst in Australia" under her government. When she was in office this was the headline, "WA the Meth Capital of Oz". They were the facts. The figures released yesterday show a 20 per cent decline in usage in the last two years. Okay; we understand that more needs to be done, but we are doing more. As Acting Commissioner Blanch said today, we are doing a great deal. I will read out one other thing he had to say. I quote from the interview on radio this morning —

... it's really an all-out attack that is based on what the Drug Enforcement Administration do, and what is being replicated nationally.

He said all those things this morning and somehow the Leader of the Opposition has interpreted all these remarks in which he indicates that this government is doing more than ever before into somehow the government is doing less. It is a misunderstanding of what the acting commissioner had to say, it is a misunderstanding of what the government is actually doing. The Leader of the Opposition's matter of public interest today is based upon a falsehood.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.