

ROAD SAFETY — DRINK-DRIVING

**400. Mr C.D. HATTON to the Minister for Police:**

Can the minister please update the house on the success of the government's efforts to tackle drink-driving in Western Australia?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I thank the member for Balcatta for his interest in road safety matters. Members in this place will be pleased to know that last financial year, WA Police conducted 1 516 488 random breath tests. This exceeded our target set for WA police of one million random breath tests and surpassed the previous financial year's record number of random breath tests of 892 751. This has come about because of a \$4 million boost to WA Police that allowed us to resource an additional 20 officers to look after the new booze and drug buses we provided on line earlier this year to police. I am also pleased to report that driver behaviour is improving in this area. While from those 1.5 million tests, 14 238 drivers exceeded their limit, there were fewer than there were the previous year. In 2007–08, 19 288 people were caught exceeding the blood alcohol legal limit when driving. There is still clearly a lot of work to be done but this Liberal–National government has proved that we are committed to making improvements in this area, and I think in seeing the increase in random breath tests —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland! I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Having seen the increase in the prevalence of random breath testing, we know, and research shows us, that the more people believe they will be caught or pulled over by the police to be tested, the more there is a consequent improvement in driver behaviour. Drivers view the inconvenience of losing their driver's licence and that level of compliance —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** You would know because you've lost yours, haven't you?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Drivers change their behaviour and decision-making processes based on the belief they will be pulled over by police and tested. The other improvement we made in this state was to introduce roadside disqualification for drivers who exceed the limit of .08. Due to random breath testing we have seen an immediate improvement in driver behaviour and people driving over the legal alcohol limit when they get behind the wheel of a car.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Mr Speaker —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call to you order for the first time.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** She still has not answered the question

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The risks to other road users are well known to those who choose to get behind the wheel of a car when they have had too much to drink. The messages we are trying to get to the community is that the risk is to not only people driving themselves and passengers in their vehicles but that obviously road safety is a shared responsibility. We want people to take fewer risks on the road in the interests of other road users. The other very strong message that has been backed up by very strong legislation in this state is that people will suffer an immediate inconvenience if they are pulled over and they blow over .08. That immediate inconvenience is that the very next day they will not be able to drive their children to school or drive to work because their licence will be immediately disqualified.

I am pleased to say we have had a significant improvement in driver behaviour and in the number of tests performed by police. I hope this will continue. This is possible because we are putting 100 per cent of speed and red-light camera infringements —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** You're failing.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland! I call you to order for the second time. Minister, will you wind this up please?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This is possible because of the funding going into the road trauma trust account, which now has 100 per cent of speed and red-light camera infringements going into it as a result of this government's commitment to road safety.