

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH — FUNDING

**722. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of the great work done by Neighbourhood Watch?
- (2) Why has the minister's government slowly but surely taken funding and resources away from Neighbourhood Watch?
- (3) Why has the minister agreed to a plan that will see area coordinators sacked, street captains sacked and no newsletters or other material produced for Neighbourhood Watch kids?

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

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for this question, which I am sure has come out of the Neighbourhood Watch conference that was held last weekend. WA Police convened a meeting with Neighbourhood Watch. That meeting was convened around supporting Neighbourhood Watch into the future. I stand 100 per cent behind the great work that those community volunteers for Neighbourhood Watch do in our communities. They are a tremendous resource to our police officers.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Why are you sacking them?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I am addressing part of the member for Midland's question. WA Police support Neighbourhood Watch to the tune of \$75 000 and one full-time equivalent to help coordinate those committees. The committees come from the communities. The member asked about police, sackings and volunteers. I do not quite know how the police can sack volunteers. I understand that the volunteers are still part of the Neighbourhood Watch committees. What that meeting was about and what WA Police are working towards is empowering the Neighbourhood Watch committees with better resources such as Facebook, Twitter and use of the WA Police website.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Maylands, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time today. Members, I simply want to hear the answer to the question the member for Midland has asked. I do not want to hear other voices.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Along with WA Police, we are looking at modernising the Neighbourhood Watch model, giving Neighbourhood Watch additional resources and training its members in how to use the police website, and at how we can better fit-out the police website to fit in with the Neighbourhood Watch objectives. I want to put it on the record loudly and clearly that I support 100 per cent the efforts of Neighbourhood Watch. It does tremendous work in our community. I would not support any move by WA Police to try to disconnect from the Neighbourhood Watch communities. My office has been in conversation with the commissioner today, and we are on the same page on this one.