

POLICE — ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

**805. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the minister's statement in this house on 16 August 2018 —

... in our first budget, we delivered 100 additional police officers and 20 other staff to commit to our meth task force.

And I refer the minister to pages 168 and 169 of the “Western Australia Police Force Annual Report 2018” that shows that the number of police officers has increased by a mere 15 officers last financial year and police staff have reduced by 87. Who is misleading the public of Western Australia? Is it the minister or the Commissioner of Police who authorised the report?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:**

I can certainly advise who is misleading the public of Western Australia, because it is the member for Scarborough. The fact is that we have increased the net number of police by more than 100 for the task force, as the member for Scarborough alluded to. We have also added in 20 extra public servants for the meth task force. Total police numbers are going up by 137. That is contained within our first police budget. As members are aware, a redundancy scheme has been announced. For this year and next year, numbers are down. They are down overall, but we have committed, as I have stated in this house, to replacing all those officers.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member, have you got a problem?

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis:** Not really.

**The SPEAKER:** You will in a minute.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Those 100 officers have been allocated for our meth task force, 25 additional police are being allocated for the regional enforcement unit, and an additional 12 or 13 officers have been added in for the 24-hour police stations. That is our net increase to the police force. As members are aware, there has been a redundancy program and some officers have taken those redundancy provisions and left. Every one of those officers will be replaced over the next couple of years.