

**DR KARL O'CALLAGHAN — RETIREMENT**

*Statement by Member for Scarborough*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [12.51 pm]: On behalf of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party, I pay tribute to the 44 years' distinguished service of outgoing Commissioner of Police, Dr Karl O'Callaghan, APM.

Karl started in WA Police as a cadet, aged 17. He graduated from the academy as dux of his class and was the first serving police officer to achieve a PhD. Karl was extremely popular amongst the rank and file of police and the community with whom he frequently engaged. On his appointment as Commissioner of Police in 2004, Karl's brief was to implement the recommendations of the Kennedy royal commission. He leaves a culturally and professionally transformed WA Police service.

Karl leveraged his position to advocate strongly for better cross-agency cooperation to tackle the vexing social issues affecting policing, such as alcohol-fuelled violence, family violence, neglected children and Aboriginal youth crime. In the last four years of his career I was pleased to work alongside Karl and the agency to implement many new programs, like Frontline 2020, the Turning Point program, family and domestic violence response teams, the Aboriginal cadet program, the meth action plan, the world's first mental health co-response teams, as well as raising the female participation rate in WAPOL from 18 per cent to 22 per cent.

Karl started the charity Bright Blue, which funds children's cancer research, programs to reduce the incidence of foetal alcohol syndrome disorder and, with Interplast, provides treatment for badly burnt children in Mongolia.

Having raised four children, Karl and his wife, Chris, are foster carers to two young boys. I wish Karl, Chris and their family all the best for whatever is next for them. Knowing Karl, he will not be retiring quietly. On behalf of the Liberal Party, I thank him for his service.