

WA POLICE — RESOURCING

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

I acknowledge the students and teachers from Grace Christian School from the member for Bunbury's electorate, who are in the gallery today.

Can the minister please inform the house on the proactive measures being taken to combat crime in our communities?

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

I thank the member for Balcatta for this question and his continued interest in policing matters in Western Australia. Members will recall that about a month ago I talked about Operation Sweep, which was an operation put together by WA Police to respond to an unprecedented spike in crime numbers over the preceding month compared with the same month last year. I am pleased to announce that Operation Sweep will continue until 1 November 2015. Because of the Liberal–National government's commitment to growing the police force and the changes we have implemented out of the Frontline 2020 reform model, we have been able to galvanise over 1 000 police officers in a rapid deployment to respond to this spike in crime in Western Australia. We have been able to do that without impacting the day-to-day activities of our local policing teams. That dedicated force for Operation Sweep was involved in 50 localised action plans across the four metropolitan policing districts. It focused on offences and offenders, and targeted known crime hotspots.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I would really like to report to the house —

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Members opposite will say that we are losing the battle in law and order. In just four weeks, as a result of the resources the state government has given police we have seen a significant improvement in response times.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** In four weeks, 2 187 arrests have been made, 1 738 summonses have been issued, we have had 11 referrals to the Turning Point project and 5 628 charges have been laid as a result of Operation Sweep and the ability of WA Police to respond because of the resources this Liberal–National government has given police. Far from losing the battle on crime and law and order in our community, in the last month 5 628 charges have been laid from just one operation, 320 kilograms of methamphetamine has been seized from our streets, new legislation has just passed through the house for burglaries and violent home invasions, graffiti legislation is to be debated in the Parliament in the near future and the Turning Point program is diverting first-time offenders away from crime. We have lots of initiatives, and that is why overall reported offences since we came to government are down by 16 per cent. Since we came to government, overall violent offences against individuals are down 35 per cent.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We are making a difference in this community, because we are resourcing our police appropriately.