

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — EXPENDITURE

98. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Road Safety:

I have a supplementary question. If there is \$40 million unallocated and even more unspent, is it not time for urgent action on this issue, especially in light of what occurred over the recent long weekend?

Mr J.M. Francis interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Corrective Services, I call you to order for the first time. Right, I can see somebody having a rest very early today.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

We have allocated a record amount from the road trauma trust account this year at \$111 million. In addition to that, over the Labour Day long weekend there was increased police activity in the compliance space, as there will be over the Easter long weekend. Police performed a large number of speed camera-related initiatives and random breath tests in regional areas.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: What we are trying to do is get the mix right, and the fact that we, as a government, made the decision to put 100 per cent of the speed and red-light camera infringement money into a fund to be used for this purpose is the reason we have been as effective as we have. Notwithstanding the awful road toll this year, the overall trend since we have been in government is downward. It has come down by 34 per cent since 2008.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The death rate, the fatal and serious injury rate per 100 000 in our population, has come down by 34 per cent since we have been in government as a result of the initiatives of this government and our commitment to the Towards Zero strategy. We remain committed. On this side we remain absolutely disappointed at the outcome of the March long weekend, and particularly at the road toll to date this year. That is why today I tabled the “Wheatbelt Highway Safety Review”. We have had our “Motorcycle Safety Review”. There are a range of recommendations from those review processes and in the near future we will be allocating funding from the road trauma trust account to rectify some of the issues in regional Western Australia. We keep trying new things; we want to continue to drive down the road toll, consistent with our target with Towards Zero.