

POLICE — RECRUITMENT

315. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question.

I acknowledge the students from St Joseph's College in Albany, who were in the gallery a moment ago.

Why is the minister intending to convert police cadets, some of whom are aged 16 to 18 years, into police auxiliary officers—a role in which they will have the capacity to dismantle clandestine drug labs and be involved with the storage of drugs and firearms?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I not quite sure where the Leader of the Opposition gets his information. The police cadet program is just that—a cadet program. We are looking at moving these cadets from employment under the Public Sector Management Act to the Police Act. Our cadets will not carry out the role of police auxiliary officers or sworn police officers; they will be cadets. The police cadet program is a way for us to have more security around recruitment for our very ambitious target. I fully expect that some of those cadets will form part of the government's commitment that will see the expansion of the WA Police service by 1 050 police and police auxiliary officers over its eight years in government.