

ROAD SAFETY REVIEW — PETER BROWNE CONSULTING

130. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Police:

That answer was very short. It sounded like the minister did not know the answer. Anyway, I ask a supplementary question. What does the minister attribute the massive increase in critical injuries in 2014 to, including many in country areas?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I am not sure how this supplementary question relates to the original question. It is true that last year was not a good year for road safety in this state. As of midnight last night, this year's road toll stands at 31 fatalities. In response to last year's road toll, the government announced a number of initiatives. There was a disproportionate representation of motorcyclists in the number of fatalities and serious injuries. The Motorcycle Safety Review Group, an expert group of people, is looking at the number of fatalities and serious injuries. It is carrying out a comprehensive review of over 7 000 motorcycle crashes over the past five years. It will be making recommendations to government on any trends or patterns that are emerging in that space. Interestingly, one of the first myths to be dispelled is that people do not see motorcyclists in wet weather. That review shows that the vast majority of motorcycle crashes occurred on bright, sunny, clear days. That review was one of our initiatives. We have set up another expert panel to investigate road safety in regional WA. It is looking at a range of major roads and highways throughout the wheatbelt to see where these fatalities and serious injuries are occurring. We expect this group to make a recommendation to the government on whether there is an education responsibility —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I note that once again the minister is not answering the question asked. It was a supplementary question asking whether she knew what drove the massive increase in critical injuries in 2014 compared with the previous year. We have had nothing from her as to what is driving the critical injuries; it is just a random diatribe on road safety.

The SPEAKER: You made your point, member. Minister, I think you were coming to that answer. Can you wind it up, please.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Speaker, I think I was quite specific. I talked about the road toll last year. I said that there was a disproportionate representation of motorcyclists. We are doing something about that. There was a disproportionate representation of fatalities in the wheatbelt. As a result of the disproportionate number of fatalities and serious injuries in the wheatbelt, we are reviewing where those crashes are occurring. We are looking at whether patches of road need to be improved and whether we need an education campaign. Some of the crashes involve seatbelts, some involve alcohol and some involve drug-affected drivers. I have asked the review group to come back to me and tell me where the trends are so that the government can initiate whatever policy levers we need and take action to prevent them.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.