

POLICE — VOLUNTARY SEVERANCES

842. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

At the state election the minister promised to engage an additional 720 police officers. Today she has committed to engage 196 officers to replace those who are now facing termination. That is a total of 916.

- (1) Does the minister commit to employing a full 916 officers above attrition over this four-year period ending in 2017?
- (2) Given that the attrition rate of police is about 200 a year, does the minister commit to employing about 800—or whatever the number of attrition is—over the next four years?
- (3) How much money has the Commissioner of Police found in his budget to fund the voluntary severances?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) To answer part (3) first, the Commissioner of Police has found \$37 million in the WA Police budget to fund these voluntary severances for 196 non–front-line police officers. I am sure that members on this side of the house are supportive of the voluntary severance package for police and are interested to know how it is broken down. Of that \$37 million, 76 per cent forms the main part of the actual severance package; the remaining 24 per cent are entitlements and those sorts of things that would normally come to officers resigning from the police if that is what they choose to do.

We remain committed to the recruitment program. As part of this process, we have liaised with the commissioner and he has ramped up activities through the academy. I attended a graduation for 28 officers last Friday. Another 60 officers are coming through and will graduate on about 3 January. We will experience a dip in the total number of police officers around March. If these 196 officers all accept the voluntary severance package for which they have put their hands up, there will be a dip. We will recruit to achieve our target by 2017 as committed to the community at the election.