

**AUSTRALASIAN WOMEN AND POLICING CONFERENCE AND EXCELLENCE  
IN POLICING AWARDS**

*Statement by Minister for Police*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police)** [2.07 pm]: I wish to advise the house that this evening, I will be hosting an event to celebrate the WA Police delegates attending the 2015 Australasian Women and Policing Conference and Excellence in Policing Awards in Sydney. The Australasian Council of Women and Policing was founded in 1997. The organisation works with the community to improve opportunities and outcomes for women within policing and participates in the global network of women in policing. The council conducts an excellence in policing awards night each year and a full conference biannually. It is an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and reward the achievements of the women and men who are striving to improve working conditions for women in policing.

Ten WA Police delegates will attend the conference. This year's conference will be held conjointly with New South Wales Police Force, which will celebrate 100 years of women in policing, an important milestone that WA Police will celebrate in 2017. The theme of the 2015 Conference is "Making History: Shaping the Future" and is an opportunity to explore how far policing has come in responding to women in the community and the women in its ranks and supporting roles. The conference will highlight the areas that still need to be addressed, explore the challenges in policing that women will face in the future and look at new ways to move forward and progress. The WA Police delegation to the conference will be led by Assistant Commissioner Michelle Fyfe, who leads the state crime portfolio.

WA Police has women in operational and administrative areas across the agency. When we came to office in 2008, there were 1 114 sworn female police officers; as at 30 June 2014, the number had risen to 1 366. Women now represent just over 22 per cent of the sworn officer workforce, and this will only improve. A national survey conducted in 2013 revealed that in the previous five years, Western Australia increased its percentage of sworn women in Police at the second highest rate in the country. This year WA Police is developing a new women in leadership strategy, which will aim to increase the number of women in decision-making roles through providing access and opportunities for professional development. It is anticipated that attendance at the conference will provide some insight, inspiration and feedback that will assist with the progression of the strategy.

I am delighted to be supporting the delegates of the Australasian Council of Women and Policing, who are all outstanding representatives for WA Police. I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of the conference and how they will contribute to the WA Police's women in leadership strategy.