

POLICE — OFFICER NUMBERS

**380. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Police:**

In the lead-up to the 2013 election, the government made a commitment to grow the WA police force by an additional 550 officers. Can the minister please inform the house how that commitment will be implemented?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I am very pleased to take this question on this law and order issue from the member for Forrestfield because I know that policing is a very important issue in his electorate. In the interests of those wonderful children in the gallery from Whitford Catholic Primary School, I think this will work better if I answer a question after it has been asked.

Several members interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** They are getting a good lesson on how not to behave.

I was really pleased in the 2013 election campaign to be in the community talking to people about police numbers. This government has a very strong record on expanding the size of the police service. We have committed to a significant growth program over the entire period of the previous government and indeed a growth program that members will see in tomorrow's budget will be fully funded.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Our commitment will be fully funded and costed to ensure that we expand the size of our police service in this state by a further 550 police and police auxiliary officers over the next four years. This commitment comprises \$215 million, which covers the cost of the marketing campaign to recruit and get these potential officers' résumés through the door. It will encompass both the training and the salaries component for the officers, and this will cover 150 auxiliary officers and 400 police officers.

We have also included in this costing the salaries and training for 200 additional detectives. Once we have recruited those officers through the academy, they will backfill positions at stations as the detectives are trained. They will form local policing crime teams to break the back of volume crime in our communities.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This commitment also comes with a capital works program of \$67 million to provide the accommodation for those police officers in our suburban police stations.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** What about Ballajura?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I can hear members asking about the Ballajura Police Station. We have already said that that police station will be funded through the \$67 million capital works program. I was really pleased to give people a sneak preview of a budget measure for tomorrow's budget that this government —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do enjoy the high interest in the growth program for our WA Police. These 550 additional police and police auxiliary officers will complement the additional 500 police and police auxiliary officers we committed to in the 2008 election campaign.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We funded that campaign in the 2009–10 budget.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We have 100 police officers from that commitment to deliver by June 2014. We have all the processes in place to ensure that we will achieve that.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland! I call you to order for the first time. Can you wind this up minister; have you finished?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I have one more thing to say. To ensure that we can meet our commitments for our growth program we have put additional funding into a marketing campaign and, as a result of that campaign, our recruitment drive for WA Police has resulted in an expansion of the number of applications received for positions in the academy from 70 to 100 per month to 200 per month. We are very well positioned to achieve the targets we have set for police and we look forward to seeing that expansion of WA Police and police auxiliary officers through our community to improve community safety for the people of Western Australia.