

POLICE — GERALDTON

**399. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Police:**

Can the minister please advise the house on how the Liberal–National government is ensuring that WA Police have the resources they need to counter crime and antisocial behaviour in Geraldton?

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

I thank the member for Geraldton for the question and, indeed, for the invitation to attend a community forum in Geraldton recently. What I was really pleased to see there, and the member for Geraldton no doubt knows this as well, was the strength of the connections that the Geraldton policing team has made with the local community and particularly with the local business owners.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The Geraldton police has prioritised the areas that we would expect, with the areas of offending of burglary, stolen motor vehicles, theft, drug dealing and antisocial behaviour as the top five priorities of that policing team. To that end, they have requested additional resources from the commissioner and the commissioner has agreed. As a result of our growth program he has the ability to put 15 extra officers into Geraldton. Some of those have only just been placed there, as the member for Geraldton is aware. More of those officers will be coming in August. Geraldton can also expect out of our training program for 200 additional detectives an additional six detectives next year once those additional detectives have been trained up and can be deployed into Geraldton to assist with the volume of crime offending. The other initiative that the Geraldton police officers have put in place is bicycle patrols in the CBD to counter some of the antisocial behaviour being experienced by business owners and to help intersect offending and provide a visual deterrent to that kind of offending. The youth engagement team has been working very proactively with at-risk youth. Obviously, Geraldton has a lot of young individuals who fall into that at-risk bracket. Those youth intervention officers are looking at ways to work with the Geraldton human services group to try to ensure that we are targeting at-risk youth and diverting them away from criminal offending. There are 117 non-government support services working in Geraldton and the police are now at the stage of proactively engaging with them to get better alignment for our outcomes, particularly in respect of addressing those antisocial behaviour issues the town has been experiencing. I was very pleased to go to Geraldton. I was very pleased to see the enthusiastic team of officers that we have there.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, I have been very lenient with you. I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** As members will be well aware, the commissioner and I have been to a large number of forums, either together or individually, right across the length and breadth of the state. Members will often write to me and ask whether they can have a forum in their area, and I am always pleased to come to local communities, to listen to the concerns of those communities and to see where we are getting it right with policing and where we need to put more attention. It always works extremely well when we have a very proactive and enthusiastic local member who is willing to pull everyone together. It is my pleasure to visit Geraldton and I hope to be there in the near future.