

LAW AND ORDER INITIATIVES — CRIME RATES

**840. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Attorney General:**

I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to a very tough stance on law and order across all regions of Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Clearly, members of the opposition do not care about law and order issues. They are of great importance to me. Can the Attorney please update the —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, we are trying to get through this question time. Continual interjections do not help.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Will the Attorney General please update the house on new initiatives that have been put in place by our Liberal-National government, and also the evidence suggesting the impact the initiatives are having on the level of crime in Bunbury and across regional Western Australia?

**Mr P.B. Watson:** Tin Man.

**Mr C.C. PORTER replied:**

The member for Albany's interjection was to call me Tin Man, which I presume means that I have no heart. My friend the member for Albany is the scarecrow.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr C.C. PORTER:** Did the member like it? In actual fact, he has missed the whole point, because when we read L. Frank Baum's excellent 1900 novel, we find that the whole point was that the Tin Man was the person who showed the greatest love and emotional support for Dorothy. Indeed, in fairness to the member, the scarecrow did actually have a brain. So the member cannot even watch a children's film and get the point.

In any event, I have been asked a very intelligent question about crime rates in Western Australia. There are two ways to measure crime. The first is to look at particular offences in particular places. What is very interesting—it may interest the good people of Bunbury who are here today—is that we are at the first point now when we can actually look at a quarter-for-quarter —

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington!

**Mr C.C. PORTER:** We can look at a quarterly comparison of the April to June quarter 2008, when members opposite were in government, and the April to June quarter 2009, when of course the new government had had about a year to progress its law and order agenda see how it was going. When we compare assaults in Bunbury in those quarters in 2008 and 2009, we see that they are down 17 per cent.

Several members interjected.

**Mr C.C. PORTER:** I will get to that in a moment. Burglary is down 20 per cent in Bunbury. There were no robberies in the April to June quarter under the Liberal-National government. Stealing of motor vehicles was down 57 per cent. There is not a great interest from members opposite in how people are affected by crime in their communities—not a great interest. It is really amazing to look at overall crime. We can measure overall crime in a number of ways, but perhaps the best measure of overall crime is to look at reported crime—that is, all categories of crime; everything that has affected every individual in Western Australia that has compelled them to report it to police. When we look at April, May and June 2008, when members opposite were in government, and compare it with April, May and June 2009, we find that across the entire state there has been an 8.6 per cent decrease in reported crime. That is absolutely amazing.

Several members interjected.

**Mr C.C. PORTER:** It is staggering that members opposite do not find that an extraordinary improvement. In one year of the Liberal-National government, we have had a remarkable impact on crime across the state.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Perhaps it may be misinterpretation by me, but I sense some stress from people on both sides of this place in the way they are behaving at the moment. Some members will be able to return to their homes

tonight and perhaps reconsider another visit to Bunbury in the future. However, I urge the Attorney General to reach a conclusion so that I might be able to give the call to someone else in this place.

**Mr C.C. PORTER:** Yes, we will all be able to return to our homes and sleep a little safer because the Liberal-National government is in power.