

POLICE — RECRUITMENT

314. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Police:

At the March 2013 election, the minister promised to engage an additional 550 officers, specifically 400 new police officers and 150 auxiliary officers.

- (1) Will all the auxiliary officers be additional officers?
- (2) Are police cadets currently engaged by WA Police as public servants or as sworn officers?
- (3) Are there any plans afoot to change the status or classification of police cadets; and, if so, what are the details?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. He is quite right; in 2008 this government committed to recruit an additional 500 police and police auxiliary officers. There are 100 of those officers left to recruit and we are on target to achieve that recruitment by the end of June 2014 as per our commitment.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: They were supposed to be there by the end of June this year.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No; it is not, member. June 2014, member for Midland, was our commitment.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Never at any time did you say you would take six years.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: To clarify what the commitment was, we said our first opportunity to fund our commitment was in the 2009 budget; it was a four-year program, and we are on target to deliver that commitment by June 2014. In the 2013 election, we committed to an additional 550 police and police auxiliary officers.

Mr P.B. Watson: Was this police?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No; the commitment was for police and police auxiliary officers, including in the police contingent 200 detectives and 150 police auxiliary officers. We will deliver on that commitment. It is an ambitious target, but we are on track to deliver those officers over the term of this government.

I have had discussions with the commissioner about the expansion of the police cadet program. Those discussions revolved around trying to bring more people into the cadet program, which is a very, very effective tool to assess which cadets will be part of the intake in our recruitment process and who will become good, efficient police auxiliary officers or police officers. That is our intention. I think it will work. A number of very high profile police officers started their careers as cadets.