

CRIME STATISTICS — PUBLICATION

**577. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the latest crime statistics that show that home burglaries are up 18 per cent, car theft is up 18.5 per cent, theft is up 21.1 per cent, property damage is up 20.8 per cent, and domestic violence is up a staggering 33.9 per cent.

- (1) Is this not further evidence that the Barnett government is losing control on law and order?
- (2) Is it not further evidence that the minister has done little over the past seven years to tackle the rising problem of methamphetamine abuse?

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

I thank the member for Midland for the question.

- (1)–(2) The member for Midland is quite right. The statistics from July this year—the last month’s worth of crime statistics published on the Police website in an open and transparent way, contrary to what the member for Midland often accuses me of with respect to police statistics—are alarming. What the Commissioner of Police has initiated in response to those statistics is an operation that will be called Operation Sweep, which will specifically target volume crime. But I think we also need to get these statistics in context. We look at crime statistics over quarterly periods and also yearly trends. Sometimes there can be a spike in crime for a particular month, and sometimes that can be linked to things such as a number of offenders being released back into the community, for example. If they are prolific priority offenders, they can actually be committing a lot of crimes in a short space of time, and that can cause a fluctuation in the short term like this. I have spoken to the commissioner today about that—indeed, I spoke to the commissioner yesterday about it. I am confident that Operation Sweep that the commissioner and the senior executive of Police have put together will crack the back of this volume crime. I am also confident that as we look at the quarterly trends for the first quarter of this financial year, we will start to see a dramatic improvement in those statistics.