

POLICE — CRIME RATES — INCREASE

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

I, too, congratulate the Minister for Police on her new role as Deputy Premier.

We have had eight months of double-digit crime increases, and crime in this state is currently running at a massive 17 per cent above the rate for the same eight-month period in the previous year.

- (1) Will the minister now admit that Operation Sweep has been a failure?
- (2) Will the minister now admit that her new policing model, Frontline 2020, has failed?
- (3) Does the minister now concede that her new plan, Operation Tweak, is actually a massive overhaul of her failed policing model?

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

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for Midland for the question. In short, the answers are no, no and there is no “Operation Tweak”—a nice little attempt at humour there; I think it went down really well!

With respect to the crime stats, yes, we have been talking a lot about crime stats in this state. In response to the increases that we have seen this year compared with those of last year, the Commissioner of Police has announced some changes to his operating model. But we should not forget the fact that this government has put in 500 additional police and police auxiliary officers since 2008, and we are well on track to delivering our additional 550 commitment, which we will achieve by 2017. Those extra resources going into the WA Police service plus the change in the operating model to the Frontline 2020 model has allowed the police to respond to these increases in crime and better target the efforts of our local policing teams.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We need to remember and people need to understand that out of Operation Sweep and the Frontline 2020 model we have started to see a 15 per cent increase in the number of charges laid. We are starting to see the availability —

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We are starting to see the availability of police resources in the busy times—the Friday and Saturday nights, when we know we see peaks in crime. We have up to 18 per cent additional cars on the road to respond to crime. We have seen our priority 1 and 2 response times improve, so we have moved closer to our key performance indicators. In fact, those improvements —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I am very proud of those improvements. Let us not forget where we came from. Over the past 10 years, we have seen a dramatic decrease in reported crime in this state. I know the people opposite do not like it, but back in 2004–05—I am not sure who was the minister then, but it was not one of us —

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** — there were 9 603 reported offences per 100 000 people. It is now down to 8 006. That is still a big number; we do not accept 8 006, but, by gee, it is a lot better than 9 603. There were 1 328 burglary offences per 100 000 people. Where are we now? It is 1 013 per 100 000. That is still too big a number. We have not given up on that, but it is a hell of a lot better than it was when those opposite were in government. I think the member for Midland may well have been minister.

We will continue to work on driving down crime stats. This Liberal–National government has been in government for seven of the last 10 years. Yes, we take credit and responsibility for driving down those crime rates. They bump around a bit, but the trend is downward.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time. Wind this up please.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I will continue to support my police commissioner, I will continue to support my executive team of police and I will continue to support the efforts of our police officers, who have not only been

dealing with unprecedented change in their policing model but they have been working their butts off out in our community collaring offenders and bringing them before the courts. As a result of our legislation, more of them will go behind bars and we will start to see crime decrease.