

POLICE — RECRUITMENT

188. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Did the minister approve the delay in the recruitment of 70 police officers for seven months as part of the 2012–13 budget cuts?
- (2) Did the minister approve the deferral of the recruitment of 30 public servants as part of the 2012–13 police budget cuts?
- (3) Given that the minister has now had a day's notice of the question, can she outline to the house the other details of how she cut \$28 million from the 2012–13 police budget?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) I am very pleased to have the opportunity to address this matter, and I am pleased to note that the member for Midland has caught up with the information that was made available in the midyear review detailing exactly how WA Police were going to meet the efficiency requirements of government.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: To get back to the promise that we made to the community in September 2008 —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: — we promised to the community in 2008 that we would recruit an additional 350 police officers and 150 auxiliary police officers.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have asked quite specific questions. This is the second day in a row that I have asked them. The minister is merely repeating an answer that she gave yesterday about the Liberal Party's election commitments.

Several members interjected.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have not, Mr Speaker, asked about the Liberal Party election commitment. I have asked about the 2012–13 budget cut of \$28 million.

The SPEAKER: Right. Minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

We implemented our election commitments of 2008 on 1 July 2009, which was the first budget of this Liberal–National government. On that commitment, so far we have delivered 146 of the 150 auxiliary police officers and 180 of the 350 police officers that we said we would deliver by June 2014. I am really pleased that I have the opportunity to clarify this matter. Yesterday, in my answer to a question without notice, I referred to this financial year as the year that we would deliver on our commitment of 2008. It is a five-year program and I do appreciate the opportunity to correct the record. By 30 June 2014, we will deliver on that commitment consistent with the five-year promise from 1 July 2008. As at today, we have an additional 120 police officers in the academy.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We have a new squad starting in June, we have kept pace with attrition and we will be good for our commitment. As to how we deliver that commitment and the way that we pace the training of those officers —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I will give you a supplementary question. Can you just let the minister answer this question?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker.

The point of the matter is that we made a commitment to the community. We said we would deliver the police and auxiliary police officers, and we will. We are on target to deliver them. We have recruits coming through the academy.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: What about recruits coming through next year?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Regardless of when those recruits go through the academy and when they graduate, they will be online and they will be serving the people of Western Australia, consistent with our promise, by 30 June 2014.