

VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES —
OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

1032. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I refer the minister to unprecedented crime growth figures, including the 45 per cent increase in domestic violence incidents over the past year, and last week's Ombudsman's report about violence restraining orders and their relationship with 30 domestic violence fatalities.

- (1) Has the minister met with the Commissioner of Police about the Ombudsman's 22 recommendations directed to WA Police?
- (2) If yes to (1), what action will WA Police take on the Ombudsman's 22 recommendations directed to WA Police?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(2) This is a really important question on domestic violence, particularly on a day like today, on which we honour the victims of domestic violence and take a stand against violence against women. The member for Midland failed to mention that the Ombudsman was pleased with the actions of WA Police over the time that those incidents were being reviewed. Although there had been failures in the past, the Ombudsman was pleased that WA Police had taken significant action to improve its response to domestic violence incidents, and to improve the way that police behave and react in protecting the victims of domestic violence.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I asked two specific questions. One was about whether the minister had met with the Commissioner of Police about this, which the minister has not answered. The second was: what action is WA Police taking specifically to implement those 22 recommendations? I have not asked a general question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The Ombudsman's report was a significant body of work. It was released last week, but it followed 18 months of research and investigation into the way the state government manages domestic violence, from the perspective of both the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and WA Police. I have obviously spoken to the commissioner about the police response and interrogation of that report. It is too early for us to be talking about the actual responses that will be taken to it, but I will say that the Ombudsman was pleased with the progress that WA Police made over the time that the domestic violence incidents were being investigated. We can always improve our response in the domestic violence space. It is not the responsibility only of police.

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle, I have been quite lenient with you today. I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is not the responsibility only of the police, the government and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, member for Girrawheen; it is the responsibility also of people in the community to stand up for those victims, and that is what White Ribbon Day is all about.