

POLICE — SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN TRIAL

258. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Police:

I have been receiving some great feedback from constituents in Forrestfield about the south east metropolitan police trial, particularly in the suburb of Kenwick. Could the minister please update the house on the results of this trial so far?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for his question and, indeed, for the invitation to come out to his electorate regularly and speak with his constituents about law and order matters. I am pleased to update the house on the south east metropolitan trial. The electorates of a number of members in this house cross over in the south east metropolitan policing area. The trial began on 4 November 2013 and, as at 3 February, it had reached the midway point. WA Police has conducted an interim review. It is really important that we acknowledge at this time that the south east metropolitan district has gone from being the sixth best performing district for verified crime reporting in the metropolitan area to the third best. We are cautiously optimistic that we are moving in the right direction. In addition—I know that the member for Forrestfield will be really interested in this statistic—there has been a 7.4 per cent reduction in the number of tasks that have been dispatched in the trial period so far compared with a 1.26 per cent increase across the rest of the metropolitan area. The figures are definitely heading in the right direction.

Out of the change in the modelling, 289 appointments have been made with the local policing teams. What we are doing with these local policing teams and the way that we have changed the way that police work in the south east metropolitan district mean that if people who call for police assistance do not require immediate attendance but would still like the attendance of police at a later time, they can make an appointment with a local policing team. Two hundred and eighty-nine appointments have been made. Police and those members of the community who would like the attendance of police can get together at a mutually convenient time to discuss the issue.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: At the commencement of the trial, the district's overall reported crime rate was down by 3.7 per cent on the previous year, but it is now down by 6.8 per cent, so we are heading in the right direction. This local policing trial may well be rolled out to other districts. In addition to this, the number of briefs for the reporting period has increased by seven per cent over the same period in 2012–13. That means that more charges are being laid by the local response teams in the south east metropolitan area than were laid previously. I know that a lot of members in the house will be interested in this.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: There has been a 43 per cent reduction in repeat attendance at the top 20 repeat attendance addresses across the six subdistricts in the south east metropolitan area; that is a 43 per cent reduction in the rate of attendance at the 20 houses that cause the bulk of the issues for the south east metropolitan district and the members of the communities who live in that area.

On the family and domestic violence front, we had 2.5 full-time equivalents in the positions of vulnerable and repeat victim managers in the south east metropolitan district but we now have 144 constables who are directly responsible for vulnerable and repeat victims within the south east metropolitan district. That change has freed up an FTE to work on interagency relationships and overall district coordination for family and domestic violence matters. We are really pleased with this. We now have a 24-hour district control centre that provides immediate advice and assistance to front-line staff. All in all, the objective of the trial to realise some demand reduction through this focus on intrusive management of repeat victims in the family and domestic violence space is proving to be a step in the right direction. We are really encouraged by this. I hope to report to the house at the end of the trial on the success of the model. Indeed, it is looking so promising that I expect that this policing model will be rolled out across the metropolitan area as time goes on.