

POLICE — DETECTIVES

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

I have a supplementary question. Is it any wonder there has been a 20 per cent increase in crime when the minister has left so many existing detective positions vacant for so long?

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

I am not sure of the exact number of detectives we have —

Several members interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** — but I went to a conference held at Crown Casino where more than 680 WA Police detectives were in attendance.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Yes, 50 vacancies across the state sounds like a big number, but in the context of a workforce of over 6 000 officers, that is not a huge number. We make no apology for recruiting and requesting expressions of interest for police officers to be trained as detectives. As I said previously, it is not a resourcing issue.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** With our commitment in 2013 of a growth program of 550 additional police and police auxiliary officers and the training of 200 detectives, came money for marketing, advertising and training the positions.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time. Okay, minister, quick answer.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** It involved all the funding required for the training and recruitment of every single one of those positions as part of a growth program. That includes all the accoutrements—everything the police officers need. We will be recruiting more detectives, as those vacancies have been advertised. As part of the reform program, we are getting far better information about where we need to place those detectives to ensure we give the best service to the community.