

OUT-OF-CONTROL PARTIES — POLICE RESPONSE COST

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

I refer to the minister's announcement on out-of-control parties, specifically that hosts would have to pay for the cost of police attendance.

- (1) Can the minister explain how her plan would work in practice?
- (2) What specific costs will need to be paid?
- (3) What happens if responsible hosts have their parties gatecrashed?

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

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) Nuisance or out-of-control parties have become a problem in recent times. Prior to March 2012, police were averaging attendance at one to three unruly parties per month. They have attended well over 30 such parties in the year to date. The public are completely fed up with out-of-control parties; it is one of the complaints that I get from the community. Our response to managing nuisance parties will be at a number of levels. We are looking at a legislative response that will give police additional powers to try to disperse crowds. We are also looking at ways to try to free up some of the constraints around arresting troublemakers more quickly.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** You said people are going to have to pay. How is that going to work?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We need to give police the tools that they need to manage out-of-control parties.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** That is not what I asked. I asked specifically about your plan for people to pay.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Some part of the response will need to be a tactical response on behalf of the police.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Listen, don't just read out your notes. Why don't you answer the question that I've asked you?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I formally call you to order for the first time today only because I am on my feet. While I am on my feet, my generosity extends to offering you a supplementary question if you wish to do so. If you wish to continually interrupt, I do not think you are going to get an answer to your question.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** One fact that might be of interest to the house is that when police are often called out to these parties, it is not only a drain on the taxpayer purse, but also it pulls resources from other policing duties for which they may be required on the night. The average cost of a police officer is about \$90 per hour. If 20 police officers attend an out-of-control party for three hours at a time, we are looking at a cost to the taxpayer of approximately \$5 000. I am interested in looking at—my office and the department have looked into this —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** So it is not a plan; you are just looking into it.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I have asked my people to look into what those costs would be. I will be making sure that our response to this and any legislation that we introduce will target the people who act irresponsibly—the people who are repeat offenders in this space. Everybody knows the party house on their street that continually has these out-of-control parties. We know who they are. The police know who they are. We are going to ensure that as a government we give the police the tools they need to target those people who behave irresponsibly.