

POLICE — ARMADALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

839. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Police:

Considering that the south east metropolitan district routinely records the highest monthly offences for domestic assault, I ask —

- (1) Why under the WA Police Frontline 2020 operating model will the specialised police domestic violence unit based at Armadale Police Station be disbanded?
- (2) How will disbanding this specialised police domestic violence unit based at Armadale Police Station be beneficial to countering domestic violence in the south east metropolitan district?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Armadale for that question. Indeed, there has been a focus in the house today on taking a stand and saying no to all forms of domestic violence, particularly violence against women.

- (1)–(2) In the south east metro area—indeed, a community forum was held in the member for Belmont’s electorate, which is also part of the south east metro area—we are looking at the way that police are reforming the service delivery to all those people who live in that area. The member for Armadale is right: there is an issue with domestic violence not only in south east metro, but also right across the state. The way that we and WA Police are tackling that is by breaking the teams into response teams and local policing teams. The local policing teams will be interacting with families that are creating the demand for services from WA Police and will be working to better connect them with services.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you for your intervention there, Mr Speaker. Our intention is to improve the rates of domestic violence and to improve the circumstances of those victims —

Dr A.D. Buti: Improve the rates? You mean decrease it?

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the second time!

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: To respond to that interjection, of course improving the rate for domestic violence is decreasing it, member for Armadale. Of course an improvement is a decrease. That is what we are working towards.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is why we put local policing teams together to work with those families that have very high demand for services, with repeated callouts for domestic violence and antisocial behaviour. Our local policing teams will work with those families to better connect them to the services that will help those families resolve their issues.