

POLICE — ILLICIT DRUG STRATEGY

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

I refer to the release this week of the annual Australian Crime Commission “Illicit Drug Data Report”, which shows that Western Australia has the highest amphetamine use in the country, heroin with the highest purity, a marked decrease in cocaine and steroid seizures and an increase in the seizure of hallucinogens.

- (1) What measures will the government undertake to arrest these alarming trends?
- (2) Has the minister discussed this government’s illicit drug strategy with the Commissioner of Police?
- (3) If yes to (2), what is that strategy?
- (4) If no to (2), why not?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(4) The publication of these reports and their statistics are a very useful tool for the states to benchmark their progress and to benchmark the trends in their communities against other jurisdictions in Australia. Western Australia Police have a number of strategies in place to address clandestine drug labs and illicit drugs in the community and to combat organised crime. It does a number of targeted operations in various different districts. Broadly speaking —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: It is a pretty bad report!

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Broadly speaking, Western Australia Police will target their operations around specific drugs and specific offenders as the information comes to hand as to where they need to focus their attention to have the best effect to remove drugs and the sellers of drugs from our streets.