

POLICE — FEMALE REPRESENTATION

**133. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. I think it is probably worth telling the minister that, according to the 2015 report to which I referred, she is entirely wrong and that the percentage is 29.5 per cent, and it is significantly lower than is the case anywhere else in the country.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, you do not have to take a point of order. Just ask the question, member.

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** I certainly will, Mr Speaker.

Could the minister tell us how she has managed to let it get to that low level, which is the lowest since 2008?

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

I think the member for Maylands is probably referring to the overall percentage of employees in WA Police, and obviously there are going to be different proportions of representation between public servants and police officers. It is improving; I know that it is improving, because I have been proactive in that space with the Commissioner of Police. Part of the way that we have looked at improving the female participation rate within the ranks of WA police officers has been through our marketing strategy. Members may have seen our recruitment advertisements on television, in which we are showing policewomen out in the community performing the role of police officers with great gusto and enjoyment. Not surprisingly, when women see women in policing, they are inspired to take the step of applying for a position in WA Police. We are seeing more and more female recruits, and it makes my —

**Ms L.L. Baker** interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** In addition, we have a police executive women's network, which is involved in mentoring police officers to ensure that we see progression of female police officers from recruitment through graduation and up into the executive ranks of WA Police, where they can take strategic roles in directing the organisation. I am proud of our achievements, and I will continue to push that barrow.