

ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL

856. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Road Safety:

It is over a year since former Road Safety Council chair Murray Lampard resigned.

- (1) What justification can the minister give for having a public servant continue to chair the Road Safety Council?
- (2) Why has the Department of Health representative resigned from the Road Safety Council?
- (3) Have any other members resigned from the Road Safety Council?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for this question.

- (1)–(3) I do not know what the member for Midland has against our first Road Safety Commissioner, Kim Papalia, but it seems to be that between the member for Midland and the member for Hillarys, they have taken some kind of offence at the appointment of Mr Papalia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is enough. Let the minister answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Papalia is the first Road Safety Commissioner the state has ever had.

Mr R.F. Johnson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Hillarys, I call you to order for the first time. Let the minister answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Kim Papalia, a very honourable individual, is the very first Road Safety Commissioner the state has had and he is the chair of the Road Safety Council, as well as being responsible for the Road Safety Commission. I have canvassed in this place many times the outcomes of the Browne review of road safety governance. We have beefed up the governance structure; and, yes, I have made some considerable changes because they needed to be made. The spend of the Road Safety Commission went from \$14 million when Labor was in government to over \$150 million this year. When that happens we need to change the structure —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The minister is not actually addressing the questions that I asked, which are: what is her justification for having a public servant in the role; and why has the health department representative resigned and has anyone else resigned from the Road Safety Council?

The SPEAKER: Let us hear from the minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: If the member for Midland attacks public servants, that is up to her, but Mr Papalia is doing a fantastic job chairing those Road Safety Council meetings; and, in fact, he had a meeting last week.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: There have been two resignations from the Road Safety Council. One was Professor Weeramanthri from the Department of Health; he has stepped down from the Road Safety Council. He had some reasons for that that I believe were misunderstandings. He took umbrage. There was a section 13 report filed by the Road Safety Council and then there was the annual report filed by the Road Safety Commission. Professor Weeramanthri took umbrage at that process. There was nothing inappropriate in the process and Professor Weeramanthri has resigned. And, still, the RAC representative has also resigned, and the RAC is currently looking for another representative to sit on our Road Safety Council. At present the Road Safety Council is moving towards providing me, as the minister, and the Road Safety Commissioner, Mr Kim Papalia, with advice with respect to how we are progressing with our Towards Zero strategy and where are the areas of priority that it feels the government should be focused on, and it is ensuring that we are addressing the recommendations of the Browne review into road safety. It is reviewing the results of my wheatbelt highway safety review to make sure that we are looking after the recommendations of that review to improve motorcycle safety and safety in the wheatbelt. It is reviewing the recommendations of our motorcycle safety review. Just last week we formed a vulnerable road users advisory group that is being chaired and managed by Kim Papalia, our Road Safety Commissioner, and that is looking at improving outcomes for our vulnerable road users—pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists et cetera. The Road Safety Council is doing very valuable work under the chairmanship of Mr Papalia, and I commend the job that Kim Papalia is doing on behalf of the citizens of Western Australia for road safety.

