

ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION — POLICE RESPONSE

**325. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. Minister, there has been a violent riot in Singleton and this incident in which it took four hours to respond to an attempted child abduction. What will it take before the minister acknowledges that we need a police hub between the Rockingham and Mandurah Police Stations?

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

In this incident, clearly, there was the wrong categorisation of priority; the wrong priority was given to that call for police assistance at the police assistance centre —

**Mr M. McGowan:** It was four hours!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I acknowledge that four hours is totally unacceptable. We have acknowledged that there is a problem there and police are —

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** However, to use one incident like that as an argument for a police station is not a good way to expend public funds or determine where to locate police stations. In addition to this —

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** In addition, our response to issues of crime in the Peel district has been to put together a very successful operation—Operation Esteem. As a result of Operation Esteem, there has been an 18 per cent reduction in reported crime in the Peel district and we are very pleased with that. We have put some additional resources into the Peel district. Our response is to have more police officers in vehicles available to respond to calls. We are also looking at replicating our very successful south east metro local policing trial right across the metropolitan area because we know from feedback from communities that that model of policing has been very, very effective in driving down crime. As an example, through summer overall reported crime in south east metro was down 7.25 per cent, whereas the metropolitan area normally experiences a spike in crime over the summer period.

We think this is a model that we can roll out that will continue to be successful. Crime in Peel is down 18 per cent. I am generally happy with the police response in Peel at present. We will keep the pressure on; we have to because that is what policing is all about. We are interrogating the incident the member mentioned to ensure that the processes and the training in the Police Assistance Centre are improved so that it does not happen again.