

CRIME STATISTICS — SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

I refer to the Australian Bureau of Statistics crime statistics released last week.

- (1) Is the minister aware that Western Australia is number one among the states for sexual assault?
- (2) Is the minister aware that the rate of sexual assault in Western Australia increased from 0.3 per cent of population in 2012–13 to 0.5 per cent of population in 2013–14?
- (3) Can the minister explain why sexual assault in WA is far above the national average and increasing under her watch?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(3) I am aware of a range of different reports that come across my desk to do with crime and law and order, and particularly offences that are reported in each state. Member for Midland, with respect specifically to sexual assault, I would need more time to delve into those figures, and I would probably seek some further advice from police on their analysis of what that ABS data actually means. What has been happening in Western Australia—I would be interested to know whether that is recent sexual assault or historical sexual assault—is that we have seen a significant jump in reports of historical sexual assault in Western Australia as a result of royal commissions, and various other inquiries that have occurred in this state, into historical sexual assault as a result of child abuse and other incidences.