

POLICE — METHAMPHETAMINE FORUM

900. Mr J. NORBERGER to the Minister for Police:

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

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

Mr J. NORBERGER: The minister recently attended a forum in my electorate at which several audience members talked about how their neighbourhoods had been affected by methamphetamine. How is the Liberal–National government supporting police to fight back against meth dealers in our suburbs?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

Before I answer the question, I would like to acknowledge, on behalf of the member for South Perth, those individuals from the Como Probus club, who join us in the gallery this afternoon.

I am very pleased to receive this question from the member for Joondalup and, indeed, to have the opportunity to listen to his community about the issues affecting them with respect to methamphetamine use. I was joined by the Minister for Mental Health at that event. We certainly found it to be of great value. I am pleased to announce—the member for Joondalup might have seen it in the media yesterday—that I have been successful in achieving \$3.1 million of additional funding for WA Police to enable it to continue with its WA meth strategy and enforcement plan around methamphetamine use in Western Australia. The \$3.1 million will achieve an additional 24 police officers and 10 specialist officers. Those specialist roles will be filled by people who have skills in intelligence analysis, interpreters and forensic accountants. All those people with specialist skills will be able to analyse the intelligence that comes in through the meth desk—intelligence about the South-East Asian drug cartels that are responsible for the distribution and importation of methamphetamine, the vast majority of it throughout Western Australia. The \$3.1 million will also buy those 34 additional officers eight vehicles. Those vehicles will obviously be used as part of the enforcement strategy. These specialist teams and the continuation of the meth teams will enable WA Police —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, quick answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The teams will enable police to be better placed to determine where they should enact our drug transit route legislation, the most likely places where meth is being transported across the state and the best areas to place those checkpoints where they will be able to stop and search every vehicle. It will also help inform their decisions as to when they should be going to the courier distribution centres and the freight distribution centres with best effect to ensure that they can seize methamphetamine and charge offenders. Over the last year, as a result of the additional effort put in by WA Police and our friends from the commonwealth, we have taken over 700 kilograms of methamphetamine out of circulation in Western Australia. This is an outstanding result. The previous year, there was 48 kilos —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: By comparison, during the previous year, only about 46 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized. The difference between us and those over there who rudely interject whenever I talk about police is that we have a strategy to combat methamphetamine use; we have a strategy to block supply; we have a strategy to minimise harm and to drive down demand for the drug. Those opposite had nothing. Over eight years, they had no strategy and nothing to contribute but criticism. The Labor Party should get on board with our plan and help the community.