

POLICE — MIDLAND CBD TEAM

521. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Police:

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge, on behalf of the member for Balcatta, the deputy principals and student parliamentarians in the gallery from West Balcatta Primary School.

Can the minister please update the house on the recent results from the formation of the Midland central business district team in WA Police?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question and his interest in these matters. I am really pleased to inform the house that there has been a noticeable reduction in antisocial behaviour in the Midland CBD, and the complaints from the community to the precinct have fallen dramatically. This is a direct result of the Midland Police Station realigning its existing resources to concentrate in a focused effort on the Midland CBD, including at Midland Gate Shopping Centre, Centrepoint Midland and the Midland train station. The initiative is focused on reducing the demand for police services, preventing crime and, obviously, managing antisocial behaviour. The results speak for themselves. We have had a 12 per cent decrease in all crime throughout Midland in the past six months. This daily partnership that the local policing team has formed with the businesses in the Midland CBD has been really welcomed by those business owners, and that has allowed the police to react to the local community and business issues in a timely manner, and that has improved dramatically the community confidence in the policing effort in Midland.

I am really pleased the member for Swan Hills asked this question, and I am very pleased to congratulate those police officers, given the excellent results they have achieved. I will place the results on the record because the team out there is really awesome. The statistics for the Midland CBD from 1 October 2013 to 1 April 2014 speak for themselves: burglary is down by 39 per cent; motor vehicle theft is down by 38 per cent; theft is down by 14 per cent; damage is down by 22 per cent; disorderly conduct is down by a massive 58 per cent; threatening behaviour is down by 12 per cent; non-domestic assault is down by 19 per cent; and the total number of reported offences is down by 19 per cent.

Those local policing teams were formed in response to the Frontline 2020 initiative. The team members at Midland thought they could undertake the program now, and in keeping with those Frontline 2020 principles, have formed that local team and are already starting to have a tremendous impact on community confidence in the Midland CBD area, so we are really pleased about that. Shortly, we will be rolling out our local policing Frontline 2020 model in the Midland precinct, which will see Midland and Perth districts merge, and we will see the expansion of our resources in that area to ensure that we can spread this tremendous law enforcement initiative throughout the entire metropolitan region.