

SCHOOL CROSSINGS — DRIVER BEHAVIOUR

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

I refer to reports that school crosswalk attendants have refused to work at certain locations due to threats, abuse and potentially violent behaviour.

- (1) What support has the minister been supplying to those and the many other attendants suffering similar abuse?
- (2) How is she ensuring a safe work environment for crosswalk attendants, who are her employees?

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

I thank the member for Midland for this question.

- (1)–(2) I was obviously expecting to get a question on this issue given it has been in the media recently. The article in the media referred to the Secret Harbour Primary School children’s crossing. The member for Warnbro stated that he had contacted my office several times on this issue. We did get a letter on 12 February this year, which I responded to in March. There have been some issues with the behaviour of people around that particular crossing and each time that has happened, the wardens have complained to either the principal or the relevant unit within police, the traffic warden state management unit. In response to that, we have deployed speed cameras to that location. Since February, we have had nine speed camera deployments to that zone and 124 infringements have been issued as a result. Traffic enforcement group 1 has been deployed to that area. The local policing teams target that crossing to try to prevent this behaviour and deter motorists from behaving in that fashion. Notwithstanding that, shortly after a police car left the vicinity the last time it was posted there, another motorist drove through the crossing at speed. It is hard to fathom the behaviour of some motorists out there, but in response to these issues with the terrible behaviour of people in that local community towards the traffic wardens, police have provided additional support and they have responded.

The next two complaints that were received by the police traffic warden unit were received on 16 and 20 September and, in response to that, additional police resources and cars were deployed to that area to try to deter motorists and manage motorists’ behaviour around that crossing. That particular area—I believe it is Warnbro Sound Avenue—is a 70-kilometre-an-hour zone and reverts to a 40-kilometre-an-hour zone during school crossing times. At present, we are expecting the traffic wardens to be relocated to that site effective Thursday, 13 October, so we have found replacement wardens. Police will continue to monitor and manage it, and we recommend that any traffic warden who has such a complaint contact the traffic warden unit. We take the issue of the occupational health and safety of our traffic wardens very seriously indeed, and we will provide local policing support wherever possible to ensure the safety of our wardens and our children.