

POLICE — COMMUNITY FORUMS

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

I have a supplementary question. Did the minister tell the truth on TV or on radio; did anyone from her ministerial office attend with her; and, if so, who?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

With respect to how the police officers were invited there, I have since been advised that the police officers were invited to attend, not by my office.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: By whom?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member needs to go and ask that question of them probably, because they were not invited by me. My understanding is that they were invited to the community forum. That is the briefing note that I have been provided with.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Speaker, I am answering the question. The police officers were invited to attend. My understanding is that they attended completely in accordance with the policy of WA Police, which I have tabled for the house today. One of the advisers from my office attended to take notes of the issues that were raised in that community forum. Indeed, there are a number of issues that we are following up and that I, as minister, am following up, because some serious issues were raised in that community forum. They were serious issues on crime and law and order. The reason I attend community forums, and will continue to do so, is that members of the community relish the opportunity to meet members of Parliament and our ministers to outline the issues that they say are of importance to them. I expect that I will continue to do this for the remainder of the time that I am Minister for Police because I think community forums are important forums for the community to participate in.