

OUT-OF-CONTROL GATHERINGS LEGISLATION — EFFECTIVENESS

889. Mrs G.J. GODFREY to the Minister for Police:

As we approach the first anniversary of the out-of-control parties laws, could the Minister for Police please update the house on their effectiveness?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Belmont for her question and her continued interest in law and order matters in and around her electorate. I am very pleased to update the house on the out-of-control parties legislation. In the past year, since that legislation was introduced to Parliament, police have shut down an average of one out-of-control party every second weekend. Twenty-three parties have been declared out-of-control gatherings under the legislation and there have been six convictions for hosting a gathering that subsequently became out of control. The member for Belmont has graced us with her presence since March and we are very pleased that she is here, but members who were present in the house at the time the legislation was introduced will remember that when the legislation was being debated, all manner of accusations were flying around the chamber about the kind of parties that would be shut down as a result of this legislation. These included church gatherings and people having a backyard barbeque with a couple of mates singing *Kumbaya*. As it happens, the kinds of parties that have been shut down by police are exactly the kinds of parties that the legislation was intended to control.

At that time, the government also found \$1.2 million for Western Australia Police to help boost the numbers of general purpose dogs. The dogs are a very effective tool for managing crowds. On Friday, I was pleased to attend a police dog graduation at which three of the dogs that we promised to deliver graduated from the police dog squad training course. Those dogs are now being used by police to help control crowds at these out-of-control gatherings.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am surprised that the member for Rockingham is laughing about this issue. He should be laughing at some of the comments members on his side of the house made when the legislation was being debated.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Police, address your comments through the chair, please.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I put on the record that I am cautiously calling this legislation a success. I think police have used the legislation in the manner in which it was intended—to shut down these out-of-control gatherings and restore public order. I look forward to bringing more law and order legislation to Parliament in the near future to ensure that we give police the legislative tools they require to maintain community safety in Western Australia.