

METHAMPHETAMINES — SUPPLY

514. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Police:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: The question is finished.

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Kwinana, the question is finished.

Mr N.W. MORTON: Can the minister please advise what the Liberal–National government is doing to tackle the supply of methamphetamines in the community?

Ms M.M. Quirk: Not enough is the answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

That is an interesting interjection from the member for Girrawheen. I do appreciate the member for Forrestfield's interest in these law and order matters, and particularly his interest in what the state government is doing more broadly with respect to cracking down on the supply of methamphetamine into our communities. Last week I announced, with the Liberal federal Minister for Justice, Hon Michael Keenan, an outstanding minister, the formation of the WA Joint Organised Crime Taskforce. I have worked very collaboratively with Hon Michael Keenan and we have combined the forces of his agencies and our Western Australian police services with the Joint Organised Crime Taskforce. That task force takes advantage of the joint power of the databases of the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Crime Commission, the Customs and Border Protection Service, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre—or ATRAC, as it is more commonly known—and, of course, WA Police. That Joint Organised Crime Taskforce has been put together to target and crack down on the importation of methamphetamine into Western Australia. In just two months, that task force has taken 15 kilograms of methylamphetamine out of the suburbs of Western Australia, and as a result of that we are starting to see an increase in prosecutions for these offences. Just last week, 4.2 kilograms of meth was seized by police, and, as a result of that, a 25-year-old man has been charged with attempting to possess a commercial quantity of a border-controlled drug.

The key element in our overall strategy is to target and counter the effect of methylamphetamine in our community. It is important to note the success of this operation. From 1 January 2013 to 15 May 2015, WA Police has executed 243 search warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act for clandestine laboratories. In 2013–14, 1 703 prosecutions were commenced in metro and regional Western Australia in charges relating to methylamphetamine.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We will continue with our strategy to target methylamphetamine on our streets. That provides a very stark contrast with the strategies that the opposition has engaged in. We are still waiting for the opposition leader's proposed meth strategy.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are still waiting for the opposition leader to meet with the 100 groups. Since 2014, he was going to meet with 100 groups and get their views on methylamphetamine. We are still waiting! What is their response?

The SPEAKER: Right. Through the Chair. A quick answer, thank you.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: When I joined with the Liberal justice minister, with the Joint Organised Crime Taskforce, the Leader of the Opposition —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The Leader of the Opposition says that we should put a submission in to a federal parliamentary inquiry. That is going to do a lot to stop the flow of methylamphetamine into the country—put a submission into a parliamentary inquiry! We may do that, but we will continue to work with our federal counterparts and we will continue to remove methylamphetamine from our streets.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is important that people understand that we can put a submission into an inquiry or we can take some action and remove methylamphetamine from the streets. With 1 703 prosecutions, our success rate speaks for itself.