

POLICE — OPERATING MODEL

923. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Police:

I am aware that the new WA Police operating model in the south east metropolitan police district has been running for a bit over a month now, including in my electorate. With this in mind, would the minister please update the house on the progress that had been made by WA Police and what this new operating model means for my local policing teams?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Southern River for his interest in policing matters in the south east metropolitan district. I am pleased to update the house on this new trial, which has been running for just over a month, member for Southern River. Some positive changes are being reported from this model, from both the ranks of police who are dealing with crime and community safety in the south east metro corridor and the community. The community has responded very positively to the local policing teams and to this model that the police have put together to try to have better interaction with the problem families that are driving the demand for police services in the south east metro district. The member for Southern River, and also the member for Belmont and other members in this place whose electorates fall within the south east metro district, would be pleased to know that we have increased police resources to south east metro during the trial by eight per cent. That is an additional 50 police officers to respond to the needs of the community and to issues such as domestic violence, hooning and recidivist offenders—all those matters that are of high concern to police, to members in this house and, indeed, to members of the community.

In response to domestic violence incidents, we have a victim support manager and 2.5 full-time equivalent staff who are linked to the district control centre. They provide 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week oversight of domestic violence matters.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Armadale. I call you to order for the third time. If you want to ask a question, I suggest that you put your name down.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I find it really interesting to hear the response of members opposite when we talk about changing the police model to proactively address issues of concern to the community. Members in this place have acknowledged that the domestic violence figures are disturbing. In the context of those figures, we had a choice. That choice was to either run with the existing model—which the figures are telling us is not working—or change that model and try to find a more effective way of dealing with domestic violence. We have chosen to try to find a more proactive policing model that will take domestic violence officers out in teams to the houses at which the domestic violence is occurring and help drive those statistics down. We could have run with the existing model, under which domestic violence officers are in an office in Armadale, working nine to four, or we could try to find a proactive model that will have an impact in the area of domestic violence, and that is what we have chosen to do.

Members opposite say that they want to hang onto the existing model. That model is not working. We will not hang onto a model that is not working. We will keep changing the model until we start to drive down the incidence of domestic violence. We are committed to doing that. We will take courageous steps around dealing with domestic violence. If this model does not work, we will change the model, and we will continue to change the model until we drive down the incidence of domestic violence and we have an impact on making a positive difference for the victims of domestic violence in our community.