

POLICE — WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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

The minister says she supports police getting workers' compensation coverage.

- (1) What has she done in the last four years to progress that?
- (2) When will it be implemented?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) Yes; I have been very vocal about my support for working up an appropriate workers' compensation scheme for police officers. That work is still in progress. It is not as simple as people might expect and it is something that I acknowledge police have been calling for for over 30 years. We have been working on what that compensation scheme would look like, given what the government has already delivered for police officers. Police officers have a post-retirement medical benefit scheme, for example, which this government implemented. That means police officers who are injured on the job are covered for the expenses of that injury post-separation from police, along with a range of other initiatives—mandatory blood testing and mandatory sentencing for people who assault police officers. Workers' compensation is being developed. The work is quite advanced and I expect to announce the government's policy on that in due course.