

POLICE — DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

54. Hon ED DERMER to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the increase in domestic violence reported to police in the northern suburbs in the last 12 months.

- (1) Has any work been done to identify the cause of this marked increase?
- (2) Have additional resources been sought by police from other agencies to work within the community?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) If yes to (2), what was the result of these representations to other agencies?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

On behalf of the Minister for Police, I answer as follows —

- (1) Reported domestic violence has increased by 26.4 per cent in the financial year to date across Western Australia, with the rate in the metropolitan police region increasing by 22.2 per cent in the financial year to date. The north west metropolitan police district, which covers most of the northern suburbs, has had an increase of 8.7 per cent in the financial year to date.

WA Police policy directs that an officer who receives information that causes them to reasonably suspect that an act of family and domestic violence is being or has been committed involving a criminal offence is to submit a report. A family and domestic relationship means a relationship between two persons who are or were married to each other; who are or were in a de facto relationship with each other; who are or were related to each other; one of whom is a child who ordinarily resides or resided with the other person or who regularly resides or stays, or resided or stayed, with the other person; one of whom is or was a child of whom the other person is a guardian; or who have or had an intimate personal relationship or other personal relationship with each other. No specific research has been undertaken by WA Police into the cause of this increase.
- (2) Police currently have strong partnerships with other government agencies such as the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, the Department of Education, the Department of Corrective Services, the Department of the Attorney General and the Department of Housing, along with other non-government agencies.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Although WA Police has strong relationships with other government and non-government agencies, the increased prevalence of domestic violence in the community continues to create challenges for this agency.