

POLICE — SPIT HOODS

1058. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer the minister to legislative and administrative decisions made in recent months in South Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory to ban the use of spit hoods in police watch houses.

- (1) Do WA police use or currently have access to spit hoods?
- (2) If yes to (1), in what circumstances are spit hoods deployed and on whose authority?
- (3) If yes to (1), are there any plans to phase out the use of spit hoods by WA police and replace them with other types of personal protective equipment, as has been the case elsewhere?
- (4) If no to (3), why not, given what is clearly a national trend?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police. The Western Australia Police Force advises the following.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) They are only used in the Perth watch house on occasions when an adult detainee is assaulting officers by spitting at them. The authority resides with the officer who uses the hood, overseen by a supervisor, with the requirement that an officer must physically remain with the detainee. The officer must notify the shift supervisor and the hood must immediately be removed when there is no longer a risk to officers.
- (3) No.
- (4) There are currently no viable alternatives to protect Perth watch house officers from being assaulted by spittle.