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WA Police Officer Assaults Continue to Decline

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton has welcomed the nearly 36 per cent reduction in assaults on WA Police officers in the South Metropolitan Police District since the introduction of mandatory sentencing of serious assaults against police officers in September 2009.

"Government members and I supported these laws because we thought there was a need for a cultural shift in the way some members of the public behave towards police officers," Mr Nahan said.

"These laws send a very clear message - if you are found guilty of harming a police officer, you will go to jail.

"Despite some alarmist claims from those who opposed these laws when they were debated in Parliament, there has not been one case which has resulted in unjust or unfair outcomes and instead the laws have been a victory for common sense."

Dr Nahan said the WA Greens were now seeking to introduce a bill which would unnecessarily water down the mandatory sentencing legislation.

"Our Government has monitored these laws closely and not only have they been applied very cautiously but they have resulted in massive declines in assaults against our police officers throughout the State," he said.

"I hope the Labor Party will listen to community sentiment and join with the Government in rejecting that bill.

"The community is sick of violence in our community and of violent acts on police when they are trying to protect the community.

"If members of the public have a view about crime and sentencing, I urge them to contact me as I will work with the Attorney General and the Minister for Police to ensure those views are taken into account."

Dr Nahan can be contacted on 9457 1282.

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