

**Hansard**  
**Legislative Assembly Budget Estimates Committee B**  
**1 June 2010**

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I refer to the seventh dot point on page 477 of the *Budget Statements*, which states —

Meeting anticipated increased demand in child sexual abuse complaints through Mandatory Reporting and the Redress Western Australia Scheme.

Could the minister give some indication of the effect on the budget and the cost of responding to the mandatory reporting?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** For the detail the member wants to know, I will ask Assistant Commissioner Shane Maines to respond.

**Mr Maines:** The impact of mandatory reporting has been a significant increase in the number of reported child sexual abuse matters to the WA Police. That, with the Redress WA program, has seen an increased number of investigations being forwarded to the WA Police for inquiry.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Can the minister give some indication of the numbers, particularly those relating to mandatory reporting?

**Mr Maines:** In 2008 WA Police received approximately 1 066 matters for investigation relating to child sexual abuse. In 2009, post implementation of mandatory reporting, the number increased to 2 427, an increase of 127 per cent. In 2010 WA Police received 988 reports compared with 675 reports for the same period last year, an increase of 46 per cent.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Does the minister expect it to continue to grow?

**Mr Maines:** There will obviously be a level of increase that goes with mandatory reporting because of the statutory requirement for particular categories of people to report offences. That increase may see some levelling, but at this stage there have been significant increases.