

Hansard

Questions Without Notice

SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION — AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS

Thursday, 4 December 2008

154. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Attorney General:

According to the most recently available police statistics, between July 2007 and June 2008, there were 2,261 aggravated assaults in the south metropolitan region, which includes my electorate of Riverton.

I understand offences against the person spiraled under the previous Government. What reforms has, or will, the Attorney General put in place to restore my electorate's faith in the justice system?

Mr C.C. PORTER replied:

I thank the member for Riverton for the question. When I was listening to the question, my mind started ticking over about our 100-day plan.

The Premier was enormously generous in allocating to me quite a number of the promises in the 100-day plan, which I was very pleased to take on. I was perhaps given the lion's share of those 100-day promises. I take this opportunity to thank the Premier for his generosity!

Mr C.C. PORTER: This is the seventy-third day of the Barnett government. A near neighbour of the member for Riverton, the member for Jandakot, spoke well yesterday and pointed out that the Gallop government had not even sat within its first 73 days in power. That was a very strong point.

Mr E.S. Ripper: That is completely irrelevant.

Mr C.C. PORTER: Well, we are getting there. Most of the promises for which I am responsible come under the heading of law and order. The member for Riverton may not know that a quarter of Finland's territory lies north of the Arctic Circle.

At that country's northernmost point, the sun does not set for 73 days during summer. Had all the awesome work that this government has done been done in Finland, it would have been achieved in a day! I will go through what would have been achieved in a day if I were in Finland.

One promise concerned the restoration of an independent freedom of information commissioner, which is tangentially related to law enforcement. The advertisement for that position has been placed and responses will be received by 18 December.

Truth-in-sentencing legislation, which will add significantly to the penalties imposed for the types of offences the member for Riverton spoke about, passed through the Legislative Assembly last evening.

Legislation to impose mandatory penalties for assaults on police officers has been introduced. Legislation has been drafted to increase the penalties for graffiti offences and will shortly be presented to cabinet.

The business case to commence work on a juvenile facility will be finalised shortly. I have asked for that business case to be designed to be completed out to the end of 2011 because of the great need in that area.

On the promise to repeal Labor's prostitution laws, I have given instructions that that legislation never be proclaimed. That has been achieved. That may be of great interest to people in the member for Riverton's electorate, who otherwise might have had suburban brothels popping up next to their houses.

One promise with which I am struggling a little—I will apologise to the Premier for this later—is the drafting of legislation on prohibited behaviour orders.

That legislation will take a little longer to draft, so the Leader of the Opposition might give me a little cross for that. We have also managed to introduce legislation to compensate 1 730 people who were wrongfully jailed.

That legislation will be of interest to the member for Mindarie. He saved one person, but his colleagues jailed another 1,730.

In the short time in which we have been in government—the Finnish day—I have managed to allocate \$6.45 million to the fighting of organised crime through the confiscation and proceeds of crime account. I hope that will satisfy the member's constituents for at least another day or two.