

## MEDIA STATEMENT



# Murray Cowper MLA

## Shadow Minister for Employment Protection; Emergency Services

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27 February 2008

### **Police Compensation Bill stalled by Carpenter Government since 2006**

Shadow Minister for Employment Protection and former Officer-in-Charge of Australind Police Station, Murray Cowper MLA says that the Government has been stalling on compensation for police officers for 18 months.

He says that Western Australia is the only state in Australia which does not continue compensating police officers after they quit or retired.

His comments come alongside calls from the Police Union to increase penalties for people who assault police officers, after Constable Matthew Butcher was severely assaulted last month in a Joondalup tavern.

“The \$75 000 Const. Matthew Butcher is potentially receiving for criminal Injuries compensation is nowhere near enough and does not do enough in the way for compensating someone who has clearly put his life on the line in order to protect the public, as all police officer do.”

Mr Cowper introduced the “Glenn Murray” Bill into Parliament in August 2006 , almost ten years after Senior Constable Glenn Murray was severely injured in an automobile accident on duty. He was subsequently terminated as a police officer and he and his family were left with considerable medical expenses.

“Police officers deserve more respect than this, and the Government has done nothing but hold onto the legislation I introduced in 2006, only to vote against debating it as a matter of urgency when we tried to re-introduce it as late as October last year.”

The Government has said it has plans to introduce its own police compensation legislation this year, but Mr Cowper is questioning their motives.

“Why has the Carpenter Government waited until an election year to bring in this important legislation, when they could have passed this bill when we introduced it in 2006?”

“How can the Government try to convince us that they are serious about attracting more officers to the WA police force when they treat those injured in the course of duty like this?”

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