

ABORIGINALS — HALFWAY HOUSE — BUNBURY

1023. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) Is the Minister for Corrective Services aware of the proposal put forward by Bunbury Noongar elders for the establishment of a halfway house for Aboriginal men in Bunbury?
- (2) Does the minister support the establishment of such a facility?
- (3) What services or facilities are currently in place in Bunbury for Aboriginal people discharged from prison?
- (4) What funds are available in the budget for the establishment of such a facility?
- (5) How many Aboriginal men were released from Bunbury Regional Prison in 2012–13 and 2013–14?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Corrective Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Neither the Minister for Corrective Services nor the Department of Corrective Services has received a formal proposal by Bunbury Noongar elders for the establishment of a halfway house for Aboriginal men in Bunbury.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Department of Corrective Services works closely with a number of not-for-profit groups in Bunbury that assist with accommodation and re-entry services for prisoners. The department generally supports any programs or facilities that those groups provide for offenders. Transition from prison back into the community maximises the chances of long-term rehabilitation, reducing recidivism and enhancing community safety. In Bunbury and surrounding districts Accordwest provides re-entry services, transitional accommodation and support services, family support services and housing support workers. Offenders released on parole have access to services and programs based on their individual needs. Relationships Australia provides domestic violence programs to offenders on parole under contract to the Department of Corrective Services.
- (4) Not applicable. All tenders for the provision of services would be evaluated consistent with State Supply Commission guidelines.
- (5) The number of Aboriginal men released from Bunbury Regional Prison in 2012–13 was 136 and in 2013–14 it was 113.