

PROFESSOR NEIL MORGAN

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [2.06 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the departure of Professor Neil Morgan from the role of Inspector of Custodial Services and to thank Professor Morgan for his service as the Inspector of Custodial Services for Western Australia. Neil Morgan was appointed Western Australia's Inspector of Custodial Services in 2009. Before this, he was Winthrop Professor of Law at the University of Western Australia. As the Inspector of Custodial Services, Neil reported to Parliament on issues of security, safety, decency, efficiency and effectiveness relating to prisons, juvenile detention centres, prisoner transport, court custody and court security. He has conducted reviews of major incidents as well as systemic criminal justice issues affecting women, young offenders and Aboriginal people. Neil has actively sought to bring about positive changes in the corrections environment, to deliver better outcomes for prisoners and for those who work tirelessly within custodial services to make a positive difference in the lives of prisoners.

It is important that we have confidence that our prisons are oversighted by an independent body that has integrity and respect. The inspector's reports have provided valuable, impartial information to the community and to Parliament on how governments both past and present needed to improve the prison estate. In this role, Neil has also been very generous with his time and expertise. He has provided great assistance in the establishment of the Inspector of Custodial Services office in New South Wales. He has also assisted Tasmania and Queensland in establishing their inspection regimes through the use of skilled and experienced staff from Western Australia. As minister, I have appreciated the professionalism that Professor Morgan has demonstrated throughout his tenure. On behalf of our government and the people of Western Australia, I thank Professor Morgan. I wish him and his family the very best for the future as he returns to academia as an adjunct professor at both the University of Western Australia and the National University of Singapore.