

METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN — WANDOO REHABILITATION PRISON

652. Mr M.J. FOLKARD to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented methamphetamine action plan, which has delivered the country's first of its kind alcohol and other drug treatment prison for women. Can the minister outline to the house how, one year after operations commenced, the Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison continues to help women turn their lives around?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for Burns Beach for his question and his commitment to addressing the issues of law and order not only in his electorate, but also across the state. Last night, the private member's motion was on law and order. The Minister for Police and I both referred to the great work that is being done by the McGowan government on the methamphetamine action plan—a commitment that we made before we came into government. Part of that meth action plan was our commitment to address the issue of people who end up in the criminal system due to drug addiction using their time inside the prison to address those physical needs. We made a commitment to deliver an alcohol and drug facility for females, and one for males as well.

In speaking to the motion last night, the member for Churchlands did not know anything about this. I cannot understand why, because an awful lot has been said. Only on Tuesday, there was a very good, in-depth article on Channel Seven's *Today Tonight* about the good work that has been done at Wandoo, our first alcohol and drug prison for females, and celebrating its first year of operation. Remember, members, this was a decision to bring back a prison from private hands, run by Serco, into public operation. I inform members that after one year of operation, despite the fact that we are dealing with difficult and demanding prisoners with serious drug addiction problems—quite a complex prison—it is still cheaper to run in public hands than in private hands. This is a great outcome. On the television program last night, which on its Facebook site has had 15 000 views, these are some of the comments of the general public about what we are doing with the alcohol and drug prison. According to my notes, there were comments such as —

This is fantastic! Well done, I really do wish these ladies all the best.

I applaud these ladies, and the system for developing a program that works. There should be so many more across every state. I'd pay double tax to have these kinds of facilities set up.

Other comments included "So great!", "Hallelujah!" and "Fantastic!" There were also comments on the television program by the prisoners themselves, to give us a bit of an insight, member for Churchlands, into what they are feeling as they go through tackling their addictions—something that the member could not even get his head around in terms of policy development. For example, Sarah, one of the prisoners, said, according to my notes —

I would probably say that it is the most challenging, but also the most rewarding journey of my life being here.

Another prisoner said —

I know it's going to be challenging, but the time is now. I've wasted enough time in my life.

Charmane, another prisoner, said —

I'm a completely different person.

So far, we have had 26 graduates from that prison, and only one has fallen off the wagon. The most important thing, and one of the most unusual things in the corrections systems across the whole of Australia, is that after one year, not only have all prisoners been drug free, but so has the prison. It has been completely drug free. Ask anybody in the corrections system across Australia, and they will say that that is remarkable. It is part of our drug strategy that we have been putting in place since 2017, which the Liberal–National government did nothing about when in power. It had had no drug strategy in place since 2014. It allowed drugs to run rife through our prisons. It put in no money to tackle the scourge of drugs in our prisons, nor did it try to stop them getting in. Since we have been in office, we have put more people in place intercepting those drugs. We have more dogs intercepting those drugs. We have had a fantastic result at intercepting people who have been trying to get drugs in both Bunbury Regional Prison and Hakea Prison. This is something completely different from what members opposite did when they were in office. They allowed our jails to be awash with drugs. They should hang their heads in shame.