

AUSTRALIAN CORRECTIVE SERVICES MEDAL — RECIPIENTS

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [9.05 am]: I rise to recognise the achievements of outstanding public servants in the corrective services field who were recently awarded the Australian Corrective Services Medal. The Australian Corrective Services Medal is awarded to personnel who have shown outstanding commitment and dedication to contributing to the safety and security of the prison environment and the rehabilitation of prisoners in their care. Mr Samuel Dinah is recognised for his work in helping families concerned about a relative in custody. This work makes a significant difference to Indigenous people involved in the justice system and their families. Ms Cassandra Gilbert is recognised for her work across various positions, including her work as an adult community corrections manager in the Pilbara and Kimberley. It is a role that makes a big difference in not only keeping the community safe, but also helping to turn an offender's life around.

Mr Benjamin Leadbetter is recognised for his work with the Special Operations Group, dealing with high pressure situations during prison incidents and emergencies to restore good order and security without significant injuries to staff or prisoners, thus ensuring the safety of prison staff and prisoners during critical incidents. Mr Gregory Little is a prison support officer and a highly respected elder of the Noongar Boodjar whose work plays a major role in the management, leadership and mentoring of the prisoner peer support team focusing on preventing suicide and self-harm. This paves the way for the rehabilitation of prisoners so they are better equipped to reintegrate into society. Greg was also the 2019 national NAIDOC Elder of the Year. Ms Leith Thomas, assistant superintendent, offender services West Kimberley Regional Prison, is recognised for her work in prison addiction services and prisoner employment. Her great relationships with communities mean she is well placed to put prisoners into the programs that suit their skills and educational levels.

Through all areas of the Departments of Justice and Corrective Services, officers work hard in often challenging situations and I would like to congratulate in particular our recent medal recipients on this prestigious recognition and thank them for their service.