

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES — SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [2.09 pm]: I rise to inform the house that the Department of Justice is establishing a suicide prevention task force to oversee the Department of Corrective Services' response to significant incidents of self-harm and suicide. The goal of the task force is to strengthen a suicide and self-harm prevention approach. This will include a review of incidents across the prison estate with the aim to reduce deaths in custody by suicide. The committee will be chaired by the Commissioner of Corrective Services and representation will include key internal staff—the deputy commissioner offender services and the director mental health and alcohol and other drugs—specialist services from the community when required, as well as external stakeholders.

The committee will review all significant incidents of suicide, attempted suicide and serious self-harm. When the department identifies any common themes that are emerging and posing a risk to safety and wellbeing of prisoners, the department will seek to implement system-wide interventions to address these. System-wide responses to these indicators will consider further training that may be required and will draw on best practice standards that are available in the wider community when appropriate. The department will ensure that cultural responsiveness and appropriateness is at the forefront of any practical change and that prison superintendents are provided with the support required to ensure compliance with the healthy prison framework.