

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE —
YOUTH IN EMERGENCY SERVICES CADET PROGRAM

516. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's success in bringing order back to Banksia Hill Detention Centre and helping juvenile detainees to break the cycle of offending.

Can the minister update the house on how this government's Youth in Emergency Services cadet program is further supporting stability at Banksia Hill and further helping detainees in their efforts to turn their lives around?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for Armadale. The member for Armadale is a member of Parliament who has always been totally committed to assisting young people who find themselves in a life of crime. Thank you very much, member for Armadale.

I inform the house that I recently attended the graduation of nine participants in the first ever Youth in Emergency Services program at Banksia Hill. This is yet another program that the McGowan government has introduced in order to turn around the lives of young people in Banksia Hill and try to set them on a path of reform—a path that does not involve reoffending.

The Youth in Emergency Services program was an idea of both Commissioner Klemm from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, and Commissioner Hassall from the Department of Corrective Services, who spoke at length about the Army Cadets program at Banksia Hill. Commissioner Klemm indicated that a fire and emergency services cadets program could also assist those young people out there.

The difference between the Army Cadets program that we have in place and this one is that, by teaching young people these skills and then sending them back into the community, we teach them about volunteering. The concept of volunteering is one that many of these young people have never experienced before. The whole point of this program is to give those young people the idea that it is possible to give back to the community from which they have taken. They have taken things from the community; that is the reason they are in Banksia Hill. The concept of this cadet program is about volunteering, so that they can understand about giving back to the community. It is something that these young people have embraced. Remember that this comes about only because of the stability we have achieved at Banksia Hill. When we achieved government in March 2017, because of the behaviour of the previous government and the numerous mistakes it had made in youth corrections, we ended up with overcrowding and a significant deterioration of behaviour at Banksia Hill, to the point that we had the May 2017 riot, which resulted in \$1.6 million worth of damage to the facility. The special operations group was out there every single week trying to keep order in that facility. That had gone on since 2013—since the closure of Rangeview Remand Centre and the pushing of those young people from Rangeview into Banksia Hill. We said in this house that that would result in riots, and that is exactly what occurred. Since that point in time, we have achieved stability, and as a result of that we have been able to introduce the Army Cadet program; we have introduced the career expos; we have introduced the Banksia Beans Cafe, at which the young people are going through their barista courses; and, of course, now we have achieved the Youth in Emergency Services program.

I inform the house finally that the way in which we have achieved stability in Banksia Hill comes down to having the right people there—the staff who are absolutely committed—and the way they have changed the operating model so we have a new structured day; a progressive model of care for young offenders; a revamp of education services, including the appointment of a principal; reinforced support for the facility; the upskilling of staff; the appointment of an experienced management team, as I said; and the appointment of a deputy commissioner for young people to drive cultural change. We are making very good steps at Banksia Hill and this cadet program is a great example of what we are doing.