

AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT — DISABILITY — EVIDENCE LAWS

**453. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Disability Services:**

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 87 on 25 February 2014 in which she agreed that Western Australia needs to take steps to remove the injustices faced by people with disabilities who do not enjoy equality before the law.

- (1) Has the minister finished analysing the implications of the recent report by the Australian Human Rights Commission on this issue?
- (2) Has the minister sought further advice about what actions she will recommend?
- (3) If so, what actions is she taking; and, if not, why not, and when can we expect her response?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

(1)–(2) Yes.

- (3) I asked representatives from the Disability Services Commission to meet with the Department of the Attorney General to discuss the recommendations in the report. They have done this and also met with the Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, in March to discuss the report and current WA initiatives. The Disability Services Commission, in developing the disability justice centres, is considering the human rights of the future residents. The disability justice centres will be socially responsible alternatives to prison for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who have been found unfit to stand trial and are given a custody order.

The Disability Services Commission has reported to me a number of current initiatives in partnership with justice agencies, including the intellectual disability diversion program, disability awareness training for prison officers and Legal Aid WA lawyers, and developing a memorandum of understanding with WA Police. I am satisfied with these current actions that are being undertaken.