

BANDYUP WOMEN'S PRISON

1357. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) Does the Minister for Corrective Services agree with the view of the Inspector of Custodial Services in his 2013–14 annual report, which states —

Many extremely unwell people are being held in prisons rather than in dedicated mental health facilities, without the specialist mental health interventions they need.
- (2) What psychiatric services are available for prisoners at Bandyup Women's Prison who are on remand; awaiting a court appearance; newly sentenced prisoners awaiting assessment; and completing sentence?
- (3) What is the waiting time for women held in Bandyup prison to get —
 - (a) specialist psychiatric help; and
 - (b) psychological help?
- (4) What is the waiting time to receive drug treatment prescribed by a psychiatrist at Bandyup Women's Prison?
- (5) How many attempted suicides were there at Bandyup Women's Prison in —
 - (a) 2013; and
 - (b) 2014 to date?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Corrective Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The government has acknowledged that there is room for improvement in the delivery of mental health services in prisons and in the community more generally. The Minister for Corrective Services is working with the Minister for Mental Health to develop a mental health plan for the state.
- (2) All the groups mentioned have access to the assessment, counselling, support and referral services.
- (3)
 - (a) When it is critical, a prisoner can be seen by an experienced mental health nurse on week days and a visiting consultant psychiatrist who attends once a week. The general waiting time is approximately three to four weeks.
 - (b) All prisoners received at Bandyup undergo an assessment to determine immediate health, psychological, mental health and welfare needs and issues. It is expected that this be completed within 24 hours of entry. Psychological services are provided in accordance with risk and need. Prisoners identified as at risk of self-harm are prioritised and assessed by prison counselling services within 24 hours.
- (4) Most urgent mental health medications can be dispensed immediately or, if an unusual medication is required, within 24 hours. Non-urgent medications are delivered within the week.
- (5)
 - (a) There were three attempted suicides in 2013.
 - (b) There have been five attempted suicides in 2014 to date.