

CORONAVIRUS — CORRECTIVE SERVICES — PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [12.08 pm]: I rise to provide an update to the house on the Department of Justice Corrective Services' preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I can advise the house that the Department of Justice COVID-19 task force has ensured that prison facilities across the state have in place prison-specific pandemic emergency management plans. The aim of pandemic plans in each facility is to ensure the safe and secure containment of any infected prisoners while maintaining essential services for prisoners' health, safety and welfare. The plans identify how each prison is to manage a pandemic in four stages: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Stage 1—prevention sets out the communications plans for the management of the pandemic, the resources required and ensures that the local management plans are current. The pandemic plans are subject to ongoing review and continue to be adjusted based on medical and other advice, including from the Department of Health, the Western Australia Police Force and the State Emergency Coordination Group.

Stage 2—preparedness implements enhanced infection control measures through a combination of social distancing by limiting visitors, reducing prisoner and staff movement, enhanced cleaning and ventilation regimes, targeted use of personal protective equipment, the screening of visitors, staff on shift change and prisoners on reception. Stage 2 also requires the prison to identify minimum staffing levels as staffing capacity is reduced and to secure emergency stock holdings. Each prison has an identified isolation unit where any prisoner displaying COVID-19 symptoms is placed, in isolation, and is subject to COVID-19 testing.

Stage 3—response outlines the response to a confirmed COVID-19 infection in the prison. This stage will move towards restricted prison regimes matching reduced staffing profiles while increasing internal communications with prisoners and external communications for reassurance. This stage will also include further control of all movements at the prison gate.

Stage 4—recovery includes the careful removal of restrictions to return service provisions and prison movements back to normal regimes.

I am pleased to advise the house that, to date, there are no recorded COVID-19 infections within the prison estate. This is a credit to the effective management and planning conducted by the Department of Justice in response to COVID-19 and the quick action taken by the Commissioner for Corrective Services in reducing the risks to the estate.