

FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER — BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [9.05 am]: I rise to update the house on work underway at Banksia Hill Detention Centre in managing young offenders with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Identification of a diagnosis enables Banksia Hill staff to develop an understanding of the young person's level of functioning and the most appropriate means to engage and support those with a FASD diagnosis. In August 2020, the Telethon Kids Institute published a study that evaluated staff training and intervention to increase the capacity of detained young people with FASD and other neurodevelopmental impairments at Banksia Hill. The study found evidence that intervention improved the knowledge and attitudes of the Banksia Hill workforce relating to FASD. Importantly, the training provided improved staff's capability to respond with more appropriate management practices when engaging with young people and was considered highly necessary, appropriate and valuable by staff.

As a result of this study, Banksia Hill adopted the recommendations and changed the way they delivered education, with the introduction of a literacy support program. The program includes a literacy specialist teacher and the use of the evidence-based Sounds–Write program to provide targeted intervention to the most at-risk students, with outstanding results in the students. The program delivers an intensive and targeted approach to teaching literacy to students with FASD. The results that students are achieving from participation has been described by the principal of education at Banksia Hill as nothing short of miraculous.

On behalf of the McGowan government, I would like to thank the Telethon Kids Institute for its research and support and, most importantly, the staff at Banksia Hill Detention Centre for their participation in the program. In particular, I would like to commend the education staff for their dedication to improving the lives of young offenders with FASD.