

WANDOO REHABILITATION PRISON — CYRENIAN HOUSE THERAPEUTIC MODEL

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [12.11 pm]: I rise to update the house on the two-year anniversary of the Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison for women, which was an election commitment delivered by the McGowan Labor government. The therapeutic model at the now publicly managed Wandoo, delivered by contract provider Cyrenian House, has successfully adapted to a prison environment that empowers its female residents towards change. Wandoo maintains a comprehensive drug-management regime, inclusive of weekly random drug testing, breath analysis, local searching, and the regular presence of drug detection dogs. Wandoo has remained a drug-free prison since its opening, which is nationally unprecedented.

All management positions have been permanently filled, creating a strong and stable leadership team, and custodial officers have received specialist training in the delivery of the therapeutic program. Effective system supports have been established at Wandoo, including the elder/Aboriginal visitors scheme, prison support services, peer support teams, and fully staffed health services.

I am pleased to also advise that the independent Inspector of Custodial Services, Mr Eamon Ryan, also commended Wandoo in his recent inspection report. The inspector reported on positive feedback from residents, many of whom had a sense of pride in their achievements while participating in the therapeutic program, and were determined to better understand themselves and gain new tools to self-regulate their behaviours, express themselves, manage their feelings, strengthen their intentions, and contribute more effectively to community life. The inspector commended the department on establishing the Wandoo therapeutic program in 11 months, from the time of the first government announcement, until the first residents arrived in July 2018. As of August 2020, 115 women have graduated from the program, many of whom are now in the community having successfully completed their parole, or are working towards completion of their parole. Since the commencement of the program, only one Wandoo graduate has returned to custody on a new sentence of reoffending.

The success of Wandoo is a reflection of the government's commitment to trauma-informed rehabilitation for some of our community's most vulnerable offenders. The facility is yet another example of our whole-of-government response to the scourge of methylamphetamine in our communities, and another tool to break the cycle of disadvantage and the misery it causes.