

BROADSPECTRUM — ESCAPEE

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [2.02 pm]: I rise to inform the house of an escape of a prisoner in the custody of Broadspectrum from Royal Perth Hospital on Saturday, 21 September 2019. The Department of Justice's professional standards division is now investigating the matter including how Broadspectrum managed the prisoner and the assessment of a prisoner's risk of escape. I have instructed the department to look into how it uses current information regarding a person's arrest or demeanour when determining their status regarding transportation and escorts. There appears to have been a failure to adequately assess the nature of this individual's arrest and violent behaviour. However, I am informed that the Broadspectrum officers were instructed to use handcuffs and security chain links to manage this prisoner. It appears that they did not use the handcuffs. Broadspectrum was also advised of the alleged offender's previous escapes and possible outlaw motorcycle gang affiliation. I am also advised that the Broadspectrum officers appear not to have used situational awareness or followed standard protocols when just a single officer approached the prisoner. If this is correct, it should not have occurred. If an officer left the room, there should have been more restraints applied, particularly handcuffing.

Broadspectrum is facing a \$100 000 abatement for the escape. Any abatements will be determined following a thorough investigation. I have also requested the department look at reversing presumptive tests for outlaw motorcycle gang members so they have to show why they should not be considered a high security-escort risk. A pool of experienced casual former prison officers will also begin training in November to help handle escorts. They will bring years of training and experience to the role and will provide the ability for the department to facilitate escorts that require a higher level of supervision and response capability if required.