

OPENING STATEMENT

Background

- The prison population has experienced continued and sustained growth, leading to unprecedented demand for capacity. Since 2012/13, the daily average prison population has increased by 36.8%.
- During 2017/18 adult prisons accommodated an average of 6,771 prisoners a day.

Prison Drug Strategy

- The Department is undertaking various activities to impact the use of drugs in Western Australia.
- The WA Prisons Drug Strategy, released in December 2018, is being implemented with one key focus being to impact the supply of drugs into prisons.
- Concurrently, the Department has already taken steps to refine and develop searching strategies for use within the prison environment, and with respect to those visiting prisons.
- The Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison was opened in August 2018 as a dedicated alcohol and other drug rehabilitation prison, focused on demand reduction, and aimed at breaking the cycle of drug related crime.
- The planning and development for the men's AOD is progressing with a view to opening in 2020.

JPRC

- In July 2017 the Western Australian Government established the Justice Planning and Reform Committee (JPRC), comprising senior executives from the justice sector agencies, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Treasury.
- The JPRC was established in response to a recommendation by the Expenditure Review Committee (ERC) on 21 June 2017 that a cross-agency governance committee drive a justice sector reform program.
- The JPRC has developed a suite of reform initiatives for consideration during the 2019-20 Budget process.
- The proposed initiatives are designed to reduce reoffending through increasing the provision of evidence-based, rehabilitative programs aligned to risk-need-responsivity principles.
- As the proposed programs and services will be targeted towards the underlying causes of offending behaviour, this will include investment in programs and services to reduce illicit drug use.

Summary

- The Department is committed to tackling illicit drugs within the prison system and assist offenders to lead a drug free life.