

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE RIOT — INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES REPORT

377. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I would like to acknowledge the students from Whitford Catholic Primary School from the member for Joondalup's electorate who are in the Speaker's gallery.

Can the minister please advise the house of the state government's initial response to the report of the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services that was tabled today on the circumstances surrounding the Banksia Hill Detention Centre riot on 20 January this year?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for Southern River for that question. I know that this facility lies in his electorate and I know that he has a keen interest in what is happening in the Department of Corrective Services and in juvenile corrections. For members who may be interested, three main findings were ascertained from this report: firstly, the Inspector of Custodial Services found that given the risk factors present at Banksia Hill, a major security incident was entirely foreseeable; secondly, that the Department of Corrective Services failed to take sufficient action to mitigate the security risks at Banksia Hill; and, thirdly, that the riot was the result of a number of factors, including staffing and management issues and ineffective security arrangements.

The Inspector of Custodial Services also made 35 wideranging recommendations in this report. The state government will fully consider every single recommendation in this report and respond to them in the coming weeks. I have said previously that the government is exploring ways and methods to review the structure, the procedures and the culture within the Department of Corrective Services. I will be having a conversation with the Premier in the coming days to work out a way forward —

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: That is an interesting question. I would be happy to have that conversation.

We will be making some kind of headway on that in the coming days.

For the benefit of members, as the minister, I intend to provide the house with regular updates on the progress of the Department of Corrective Services in implementing recommendations that are contained within this report. The inspector's report reinforces concerns and issues that the government and I have raised in the past few months about the structure, procedures and culture within the Department of Corrective Services. However, we are also getting on with the job. The government is already acting to address those issues and reforms within the department, and these recommendations have included many aspects of that. The crucial driver of that reform will be to find a new Commissioner of Corrective Services. The Public Sector Commissioner is well underway in progressing that task. Interestingly, the report also recommends establishing a commissioner for youth justice and the government considering a contestability model in the delivery of youth custodial services, opening up to a tender process across the private and public sectors. The government will consider that recommendation.

In closing, I want to place on record my appreciation of the work done by the Inspector of Custodial Services. This was a government-directed report by the previous Minister for Corrective Services. All credit is due to the Inspector of Custodial Services for professionally undertaking this report. The government will take all the recommendations on board.