

Division 59: Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services, \$3 617 000 —

Ms J.M. Freeman, Chairman.

Mr J.M. Francis, Minister for Corrective Services.

Professor N. Morgan, Inspector of Custodial Services.

Mr D. Summers, Manager, Corporate Governance.

Ms N. Gibson, Director of Operations.

The CHAIRMAN: On the basis that members have heard the Chair's statement a number of times, we will take it as read. The member for Warnbro.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The first dot point under the heading "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency" on page 645 of the *Budget Statements* refers to the growth in the prison population. I note that the rate of the growth in the prison population seems to vastly outstrip the growth in the inspector's budget in the forward estimates. Does the inspector believe he is adequately funded to deal with the increased demand to which the first dot point refers?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Professor Morgan.

Professor N. Morgan: No, I do not think we are adequately resourced. My benchmark is when I started the job, which was around 2009, and at that point we were operating at about half of one per cent of the Department of Corrective Services' expenditure. We have now dropped back to about 0.4 of one per cent. In actual dollar terms, that is very significant. By my calculations, it is around \$800 000 a year. Over the period since 2009, we have also been required, following the death of Mr Ward and the allocation of additional resources from Treasury, to undertake additional work that takes the form of the reviews we do on top of the prison inspections. The bottom line is that we are doing more with less.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It has gone from 0.5 of one per cent of the DCS budget to 0.4 of one per cent of the DCS budget and the prison population has probably grown by 55 per cent. How much additional money, and, potentially, staff, does the inspector believe he would require to continue to provide the service that he was able to provide in 2008?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Professor Morgan.

Professor N. Morgan: I believe that we have continued to make every conceivable saving and I believe that we are still being highly productive and very good in what we do. I think the real problem is that to some degree we have been funded by reference to the number of prisons. That has been the basic formula. Of course, what has happened is that in the past few years, many of the prisons have got much bigger. Acacia Prison has moved from 750 prisoners a few years ago to 1 000, and now it is up to 1 500. We have not been given additional resources to take account of that.

The appropriation was recommended.

Meeting suspended from 12.59 to 2.00 pm