

HAKEA PRISON — WOMEN'S REMAND AND REINTEGRATION FACILITY

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Corrective Services) [2.09 pm]: I wish to update the house on the future of the new women's remand and reintegration facility that will be built at Hakea Prison. The state budget included \$22 million for the construction of a new women's remand facility at Hakea Prison. We have commenced planning for the new infrastructure at the facility, which will include a new separation fence, gatehouse and additional buildings. The new facility will alleviate the pressure arising from the growth in the number of female prisoners, particularly women on remand. Under the plan, units 11 and 12 of Hakea Prison will be segregated and transformed into a standalone facility to meet the complex needs of women. It is important that government is provided with all possible options for the operation of the new facility.

I am pleased to inform the house that expressions of interest documents will be released on Wednesday, 24 June to identify private sector options for operating the facility. As part of this process the Department of Corrective Services will develop an internal cost model, or ICM. The ICM represents the risk adjusted cost to the state of operating the facility based on the most efficient public sector approach. By examining both public and private sector options for operating the facility, the government is given greater flexibility and choice in determining how services are delivered, ultimately leading to greater value for money, innovative service delivery options and improved outcomes.

In the event that no proposal offers better value for money compared with what the ICM offers, the government may decide that the department will operate the new facility. This approach is consistent with the directions proposed by the Economic Regulation Authority in its recent discussion paper on prison performance. We will always be guided by what represents value for money. However, our priority will always be the safety of the Western Australian community. At the end of the day, what I care about is community safety and what it costs to deliver corrective services.