

DEPARTMENT FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES—RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA —
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

547. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I briefly acknowledge a proud Vietnam veteran who is watching this live today. He is 79 years old. Happy birthday, Dad! It is my dad Charlie's birthday.

No-one in our community represents the values of courage, mateship and self-sacrifice more than our war veterans. Will the minister please inform the house how our war veterans are helping to instil those values in young people who have gone off the rails?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

I thank the member for Jandakot for the question. As I think I have mentioned before in the house, he has been a member of the Returned and Services League for more than 20 years. I would also like to pass on my congratulations to his dad, Charlie.

Yesterday, it was a great honour for me to be a part of the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the RSL and the Department of Corrective Services to set up and put in place a framework for the management of a range of collaborative projects between the RSL and the Department of Corrective Services. It will see people who are sentenced to community work, and also low-risk, minimum-security prisoners, working with our war veterans to maintain a range of RSL facilities. The sort of things that they will be doing will include maintenance of memorials and memorial parks, and maintaining and refurbishing RSL halls and helping local branches to prepare for those special occasions such as Anzac Day. This is not the first time that Corrective Services has been involved with the RSL; a range of projects have occurred in the past, including, to name a couple: the restoration of the memorial plaques along the Avenue of Honour in Albany; putting up a new flag at the Bastion memorial at Wyndham; and working on the HMAS *Sydney* memorial in Geraldton. DCS and the RSL have had a longstanding relationship. The agreement obviously formalises that partnership, and it will ensure that there is an ongoing commitment to the upkeep of RSL facilities and memorials.

This relationship will do a lot more than just ensuring that the lawns are mowed and those facilities are tidy. We are putting people who have gone off the rails in front of some of the greatest mentors around. It is a chance for them to rub shoulders with mentors who have actually made significant sacrifices for our country, and who will be able to teach them what is right and wrong and some discipline, and the mentors will help to instil those values that are so important to community. Hopefully, by way of this relationship, we can get some of those values actually rubbing off on the prisoners and those involved with community corrections. I am very, very pleased to be a part of this. It was also pleasing to see the member for Nollamara at the signing —

Ms J.M. Freeman: Nollamara RSL club!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: — showing her support for it. She obviously has a very, very proud sub-branch within her electorate that is clearly supportive of this particular project.

In closing, I want to acknowledge Paul Jarrett, who is a principal officer with the Department of Corrective Services, for his initiative in capturing the commissioner's ear on Christmas Day when the commissioner was visiting one of the prisons, to push forward the notion of building a more formal relationship with the RSL. That has come right through to fruition, and he should certainly have some pride in seeing this land. I think it is the start of a very, very long-term relationship with the RSL, where the synergies exist not only for the RSL and its facilities, but also for the prisoners in getting some mentoring from some of those greats who live within our community.