

YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD — ESTABLISHMENT

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Corrective Services) [12.05 pm]: In December last year, I informed the house of my intention to establish a Youth Justice Board within the Department of Corrective Services. I am pleased to announce that this board has been established and will hold its first meeting this month. The government does not have a monopoly on insights, experience or expertise to improve outcomes for troubled young people. Both problems and solutions are shared, and if we want different outcomes then we have to do something different. The members of the board have been chosen because they bring new perspectives, expertise and, most importantly, the courage to do things differently. The board harnesses individuals who will apply new and innovative approaches to complex problems in our society. The board will act as a bridge builder between different government and community sectors across Western Australia.

The Youth Justice Board will steer the formulation and implementation of a new approach to youth justice. Key functions of the board are to facilitate direct connections between the community, the non-government sector and the public sector; and implement new ways to evaluate and improve the conditions of young people detained at Banksia Hill Detention Centre. The chair of the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council, Mr Michael Hayden, is a member of the Youth Justice Board in order to enable strong engagement with Aboriginal communities and families. The board will be chaired by Mr James McMahon, DSC, DSM, the Commissioner of the Department of Corrective Services. I am pleased to announce that the inaugural members of the board are: Professor Clarissa Ball, director, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Western Australia; Mr Paul Bide, chair, Social Ventures Australia; Professor Jonathan Carapetis, director, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research; Mr Michael Hayden, chair, Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council; Mr Craig Spencer, head of community engagement, Bankwest; Mr Grant Vernon, chief operating officer, Minderoo Foundation; Dr Marshall Watson, consultant physician; and Dr Mandy Wilson, research fellow, National Drug Research Institute.

I now table the terms of reference for the board as well as brief biography of each member. I look forward to keeping the house informed of the work of the Youth Justice Board in the coming months. The board will also be tasked with unlocking new sources of capital and shifting the way that all of us—government, business, foundations and universities—work together to improve the wellbeing of young people in Western Australia.

[See papers 1514 and 1515.]