

**BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE —
INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS — UPDATE**

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Corrective Services) [12.38 pm]: I wish to provide an update to the house on progress by the Department of Corrective Services in addressing the recommendations from the Inspector of Custodial Services' investigation following the riot at Banksia Hill Detention Centre in January 2013. Of the inspector's 35 recommendations, 26 have now been completed, and implementation of the remaining recommendations is ongoing. The department has focused on the recruitment of additional youth custodial officers. In January 2013, 144 youth custodial officers were at Banksia Hill Detention Centre. In August 2014, this has risen to 178 youth custodial officers. The ratio of youth custodial officers to detainees is now one to 25 and growing. New recruitment drives are now underway to maintain the appropriate ratios and to attract people with an interest in reforming young offenders.

New policies and procedures to ensure the secure operation of the facility and structured day programs for detainees are being rolled out. For example, the department is implementing a new approach to detainee case management that focuses on improving ways of working with young people involved in the justice system, their families and the community. The new approach aims to support each young person from the time they enter custody through to their transition back into the community. This model will position the department to provide a tailored, responsive, coordinated, integrated and seamless service to strengthen a young person's capacity in the community. This is all part of the goal of the Liberal–National government to increase the availability and effectiveness of diversion programs for young offenders.

As I have mentioned to the house previously, the department has allocated an additional \$2 million for programs to divert juvenile offenders away from the criminal justice system. Today I am pleased to announce that a further \$2 million will be provided to the Youth Justice Board to establish a youth justice innovation fund. The fund will provide seed capital for innovative, community-based programs targeted at reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal youth in the criminal justice system. The fund will enable the board to work with new and existing providers to trial innovative approaches to addressing the multiple and complex drivers of high youth reoffending rates. In addition to generating programs that meet the diverse needs of young offenders, their families and the community, the fund will focus on capturing robust data about what works. As I have said before, if we keep doing the same things in juvenile justice, we will continue to get the same results. This is an opportunity to support innovative new ways of helping young people lead productive lives.