

**BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — CUSTODIAL SERVICES INSPECTOR REPORT**

*Statement by Minister for Corrective Services*

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Corrective Services)** [9.07 am]: I will table the government's response to the Inspector of Custodial Services' inquiry into the riot at Banksia Hill Detention Centre. As members are aware, following the riot at Banksia Hill Detention Centre on the night of 20 January 2013, the then Minister for Corrective Services directed the Inspector of Custodial Services to carry out a full investigation into all aspects of the incident. The report contains 35 recommendations, 27 of which propose operational changes for the Department of Corrective Services. These have been accepted and are being implemented. In addition, the government is addressing the workforce issues that have led to staff shortages and is training 40 new youth custodial officers, who should be ready for work in December. Also, the appointment of a new Commissioner of Corrective Services, who will drive the implementation of the inspector's recommendations, is imminent. As a result of these initiatives, it is now safe for juvenile detainees to start a phased return from Hakea Prison to Banksia Hill. This process has already started and is expected to be complete by late October. I have asked the Inspector of Custodial Services to provide ongoing advice as the juvenile detainees are returned.

The remaining eight recommendations propose significant longer-term reform of the youth justice system. These ambitious recommendations merit careful consideration by the government, which will be informed by ongoing dialogue with the Inspector of Custodial Services, the President of the Children's Court and other key stakeholders, including those drawn from the Aboriginal community; ongoing discussions with the Public Sector Commissioner on the commissioning of an independent review of the functions, management and operations of the Department of Corrective Services; and advice from the new Commissioner of Corrective Services and the new management team. In considering these recommendations, our primary concern will be to ensure the safety of the community.

Further to the recommendations of the review, this government is taking action to enhance prevention, early intervention and diversion services to discourage juveniles from serious offending. To this end, I have already instructed the Department of Corrective Services to relocate \$2 million to early intervention, prevention and diversion programs for juvenile offenders. This is just the start. I will provide regular updates to the Parliament on progress made to implement these recommendations.

[See paper 795.]