

BUNBURY REGIONAL PRISON — BREAKOUT

**48. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to last night's breakout of two inmates from Bunbury Regional Prison.

- (1) Is it true that these prisoners, described as dangerous by police, smashed their way through the pre-release centre administration area using bricks and sacks, and escaped?
- (2) How was it that such clearly violent prisoners were housed in one of the lowest security facilities in the state?
- (3) Was their security classification recently downgraded so that they could be shifted to the pre-release centre to alleviate overcrowding in the highest security part of the prison?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

- (1)–(3) First question, no, that is not how they did it; second question, I will get to; third question, no, they were not downgraded to relieve any stress within the prison population.

Yes, late last night two prisoners escaped from the Bunbury pre-release unit. Everyone, including murderers, eventually—before they get released—gets downgraded and reassessed on a number of different conditions such as behaviour in custody, such as psychological condition and such as whether or not they are ready to be released. They are downgraded and eventually put into a pre-release unit so that they can be prepared for release into the community. Along with that comes a lower level of security as they prepare for that. What on earth went through the minds of a couple of young prisoners last night when they were on the cusp of being released back into society and decided to break out, I have absolutely no idea—obviously, not necessarily the brightest sparks! But, look, they did. What I am not going to disclose publicly is the exact method they used to get out. The reason is simply because for the protection of the rest of the people in Western Australia I believe in a certain level of operational security, as the member for Warnbro would understand.

**Mr P. Papalia:** Clearly!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** If the member for Warnbro wants to have a private conversation with me after question time, I will go through it. But I am not going to reveal the exact method to the people of Western Australia.

**Mr P. Papalia:** I think the other guys know!