

WANDOO REINTEGRATION FACILITY

773. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Can the minister update the house on the Wandoo Reintegration Facility, which opened 12 months ago?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for Southern River for his continued interest in restorative justice that has a reintegration focus.

For the information of members, Wandoo, the old Rangeview Remand Centre facility, has been operating for 12 months. It reopened its doors in November last year to take in 18 to 24-year-old male prisoners who have been targeted in a way so as to stop them repeatedly going through the revolving door of the corrections system. We want to pull them out of the mainstream prison population; we want to give them the best chance to succeed in life once they are released. The reason for this is that, as we all know, employment is one of the key ways to stop people from reintegrating into the prison system. Prisoners at Wandoo do a number of different programs, such as dogging and rigging, first aid, getting their driver's licence and food sense preparation. In fact, most of the courses they do come from the state priority occupation list so that these prisoners upon their release are as job ready as possible.

It is worth looking at some of the statistics to measure the success of Wandoo. Thirty-eight prisoners have been released from Wandoo in the past 12 months, of which only four have reoffended. One prisoner was at Wandoo for a significant amount of time, but the other three were there for periods of less than three months and did not complete all their programs. But having only four of 38 prisoners reoffend on release puts the recidivism rate at about 11 per cent, which is significantly lower, by about one-third, than the one-year recidivism rate in the general adult prison population. This shows us that it is not only working, but also that it is a worthwhile cause. Of the 38 prisoners who were released, only four reoffended. That means that 34 of those prisoners managed to keep themselves from returning to the justice system, so 34 of the 38 have managed to get on with their lives. The good news is that they are out there now making a positive contribution to society. They are no longer wasting their lives and their human capital. It also means that there are far fewer victims. This government is intent on trying to find new and innovative ways to reduce the recidivism rate in Western Australia. I would like to —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I think we should give credit where it is due and congratulate the 34 individuals who have managed to get on with their lives and stay out of the corrections system. Good luck to them all.