

JUVENILE DETAINEES — RANGEVIEW REMAND CENTRE

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

I refer to today's reports by both the Inspector of Custodial Services and the Auditor General and his government's decision to break a 2008 election promise to build a new young men's prison and, instead, to shut Rangeview Juvenile Remand Centre and cram all juvenile offenders into one facility at Banksia Hill.

Did his government conduct a risk analysis before making the decision in 2009 to shut the Rangeview remanded centre?

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

I thank the member very much for his question. I will say that I believe to this day there was merit in changing the purpose of Rangeview to a correctional facility for young males —

**Mr P. Papalia:** Did you do a risk analysis?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** There were two parts to the question.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** — aged 18 to 24 years old who could be ostracised from the mainstream prison population, and those who have been sentenced for short periods, so they would have the best chance of rehabilitation and less chance of reoffending. The government was then and is now very committed to breaking the cycle of reoffending, especially those we say are the most decent. In this particular circumstance, when it comes to Rangeview, as I said, we are obviously talking about the young males who have the best chance of rehabilitation.

As far as the risk assessment on the process of moving juveniles is concerned —

**Mr P. Papalia:** No; in 2009, when the decision was made.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I am not too sure what happened in 2009; I was not part of cabinet in 2009; I was not the minister in 2009. I can tell members that a number of concerns were raised by the Inspector of Custodial Services and by the union that represents youth custodial workers about the procedure to move juveniles from their previous facility into Banksia Hill Detention Centre. I can also tell the member for Warnbro that the minister at that time raised those issues and concerns with the Commissioner for Corrective Services. In advice to the then Minister for Corrective Services, the Commissioner for Corrective Services made a number of undertakings. Clearly, the department did not follow through on those undertakings. If members are interested, I refer them to page 23 of the report, "Directed Review into an Incident at Banksia Hill Detention Centre on 20 January 2013", which was tabled today by the Inspector of Custodial Services.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** You are too scared to answer the question!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** The member is a good argument for breed-specific legislation! You just never shut up!

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

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

Minister, can you wind this up, please?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** The Inspector of Custodial Services made perfectly clear in his report that the minister at that time had concerns about the transfer of juveniles and also the advice that was given by the then Commissioner of Corrective Services to the then minister. I direct members to three key points in the report of the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services. In paragraph 2.23 the inspector states —

It is of grave concern that, at around the same time, the Department did not follow through on commitments that it had given to the then Minister.

Paragraph 2.25 reads —

Although the Department took some steps on some of these strategies, the actions and outcomes fell far short of what would reasonably have been expected by the Minister or, indeed, by Banksia Hill staff. This placed the site and the Minister at further risk. The Inquiry also sighted other examples of poor follow through on Ministerial advice.

Lastly, paragraph 2.26 reads —

It is not the job of Ministers to run departments or to constantly follow up on assurances they have been given. The political accountability of Ministers is dependent on departments providing them with accurate, balanced advice, including the risks, and following through on commitments.