

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES — RECRUITMENT

**618. Dr G.G. JACOBS to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I understand the minister recently attended a prison officer graduation. Can the minister update the house on the current situation with prison officer and youth custodial officer recruitment?

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

I thank the member for the question and for his interest in this matter. Yes, on 6 August I attended a wonderful graduation ceremony for yet another class of newly minted prison officers, 23 of whom graduated from the entry-level training program at the academy run by the Department of Corrective Services. Those new prison officers have come from a range of backgrounds: some from the catering industry, some from the mining and resources sector, and some from the defence forces—a great combination of people from different backgrounds with lots of experience to bring to the job. They are very, very motivated and are embracing the Department of Corrective Services' brand-new motto, "to serve, to protect and rehabilitate", because that is essentially its key role now. It was impressive to see so many classes of prison officers going through this year, and so many new classes of youth custodial officers. A class of youth custodial officers has just graduated. Another one is underway at the moment, and a further one will be starting shortly, which will add an additional 50 new youth custodial officers to the workforce at Banksia Hill Detention Centre by the end of December. We are getting on with the job of boosting the workforce to bring new, motivated people into the Department of Corrective Services. We have yet to recruit even more prison officers this year, because we want to boost those numbers even further. If members know someone who wants to join a great team with a great new leadership in a great new department, I would encourage them to consider the job of being either a youth custodial officer or a prison officer. If they want to make a worthwhile difference to the lives of some very troubled people, it could be a very, very rewarding career.