

PRISONS — ADULT PRISONERS

2465. Mr P. Papalia to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) What is the current adult prison population?
- (2) What number (expressed both as a raw figure and percentage) of adult offenders entering prison between 1 November 2008 and the present time:
 - (a) have a diagnosed mental illness;
 - (b) are intellectually disabled;
 - (c) have, as a component of their sentence of imprisonment, a sentence of prison time for the failure to pay outstanding fines;
 - (d) are serving a term of imprisonment solely for the failure to pay outstanding fines;
 - (e) were recorded as having no fixed abode at the time of their sentencing; and
 - (f) were sentenced for a crime subject to a maximum penalty of two years or less?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Corrective Services advises:

- (1) As at 2400 hours on 26 June 2014, the adult prisoner population was 5,241.
- (2) There were 42,876 adult offender receptions between 1 November 2008 and 26 June 2014. Please note that where the prisoner was received more than once each reception is counted.
 - (a) This information is not recorded in a manner that is easily retrievable and therefore it is not possible to accurately identify those prisoners who have a diagnosed mental illness.
Defining mental illness is not a perfect science therefore accurate numbers cannot be given because “mental health” encompasses:
Severe psychotic illness
Depression and mania
Personality disorder
Drug abuse and addictions (including post-alcoholic)
Cognitive impairment
Anxiety and post trauma stress disorder
15% of prisoners in the major metropolitan centres have a diagnosed mental illness for which they are receiving medication. However please note mental illnesses such as personality disorder are managed behaviourally rather than through medication.
 - (b) The Department advises that it does not routinely screen all prisoners for intellectual disability across the State. However, 297 prisoners who entered the prison within the specified date range are identified with a Disability Services Unit Alert on the Department’s Total Offender Management Solution database.
 - (c) 16,850 receptions or 39.30% (including receptions where the prisoner was returned following cancellation/suspension of early release order).
 - (d) 6,343 receptions or 14.79% (excluding receptions where there was a remand warrant current during the imprisonment period).
The average length of each stay was 4.24 days. As at 26 June 2014, there were 10 persons in prison for fine default only which represented 0.2% of the total prison population.
 - (e) 30 receptions or 0.07% of ‘No Fixed Abode’ are recorded. If WA addresses (excluding Aboriginal Community addresses) with a known town/suburb but without a street name are included, the number increases to 1,548 receptions or 3.61%.
 - (f) 13,015 receptions or 30.35% excluding Fine Default Only receptions but including Suspension/Cancellation Early Release Order. Fine default only receptions are excluded as the time in prison is a conversion of the dollar amount of the fine, rather than a sentence.