

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES — REVIEW

62. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the cold-eyes review to which the minister referred during this question time.

- (1) Who in the department gave the minister the information for this review?
- (2) What particular findings from this cold-eyes review disturbed the minister?
- (3) Who in the Premier's office did the minister discuss his cold-eyes review with?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

(1)–(3) In the past six weeks I have met many people from the Department of Corrective Services. In the first four weeks —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Just not the boss! Not the CEO!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I did not meet the commissioner in the first four weeks.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I met with the acting commissioner, Heather Harker. I have met with a lot of deputy commissioners. I have asked a lot of questions, as members would expect a new minister to do, across a range of issues to do with the management of that department and to do with the direction the department was heading in. I cannot possibly name right now every single person whom I have met in the Department of Corrective Services in the first four weeks. But let me tell members that I met many people, from prison officers up to the acting commissioner, and I had lots of conversations and lots of incoming ministerial briefings and I asked lots of questions.

What was the second part of the member's question?

Mr P. Papalia: What were the findings in the minister's cold-eyes review that disturbed him?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: As far as the directions, I believe —

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The direction in which I and the government believe Corrective Services should travel is pretty easy. We need to concentrate efforts in two areas; firstly, in intervention when it comes to the most vulnerable and most likely offenders in society. The member would have read my comments about how I am trying to find savings in other parts of the department to invest money in those prevention strategies. Secondly, I also believe that when a prisoner leaves the corrections system, they should be as job ready as possible so that they can land on their feet when they get out of jail.

Several members interjected.

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

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: It is so that when prisoners leave the corrections system, they can land on their feet and have the best possible chance we can give them to make a meaningful contribution to society and to not reoffend. So, it is pretty simple, member for Warnbro. I have two priorities on which I think we need to change direction and into which we need to put more resources. There are some great programs out there at the moment that already address some of these issues, but I think they deserve a bit more effort and a bit more resources, and that is the direction to which I want to see the corrections system change.