

COURT SECURITY AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES — NEW CONTRACT

852. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Can the minister please inform the house how the new court security and custodial services contract is delivering savings to the people of Western Australia?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

Yes, I would love to inform the house on the savings of the new CS and CS contract between Broadspectrum and the Department of Corrective Services.

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: As I announced on 28 October, a new contract arrangement has been reached with a new organisation, a new company for Western Australia, Broadspectrum, a fairly large multinational company with a lot of experience in this kind of service delivery around a number of different countries. It is a significant achievement for not just the taxpayers of Western Australia, but also the delivery of services.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Of course, it comes in at \$36 million cheaper than the previous contract and some millions of dollars on top of that cheaper than what it would cost to keep this service in-house—that is, \$36 million cheaper than the current contract. On top of that there are a number of other services, such as faster clearance rates at police lockups, more staff in regional Western Australia to free up police and get them back on the front line and more services at the Supreme and Magistrates Courts. On top of all that, when we add all the savings provided with the other contracts that the Department of Corrective Services has—which I know the Labor Party is opposed to, such as the Acacia contract—and when we add on the savings of the new Melaleuca contract, it will be a total of about \$126 million over five years. With that we can do things like build eight new schools, six new fire stations and all kinds of things.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Of course, the great risk is that a Labor government, if the Labor Party were ever to win an election, would rip these contracts up—we know it is in its platform to do that—and bring them all back in-house, and the only way it would be able to pay for that would be by either increasing taxes or cutting other essential services. The Labor Party does not tell the people that when it says it wants to rip up the contracts. We are very proud of the achievements of our making in providing a new mix of contracted services to the Department of Corrective Services. We are very proud of the way we are saving money for the taxpayers of Western Australia so we can spend that money on other services and we do not have to increase taxes or cut other programs, like the Labor Party would if it were ever in government. It is a great contract and I am looking forward to tabling it in the very near future.