

PRISON MUSTER — AVERAGE FUNDING BASE

**758. Hon GIZ WATSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:**

- (1) What is the daily average population funding base for Western Australian prisons?
- (2) How does this number compare with the actual prisoner population?
- (3) How does the lower funding base affect service delivery?
- (4) What was the end-of-year result in the past financial year of the two sections—adult custodial services and juvenile community custodial services?
- (5) What are the current challenges to service delivery?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Corrective Services advises —

- (1) The daily average prison population funding base as at 14 November 2008 was 3 900, and this was the daily average prisoner population used in the May 2009 budget.
- (2) The daily average prison population for the period 1 July to 12 August 2009 was 4 500.
- (3) The lower funding base does not affect service delivery. The department has sufficient cash reserves to meet its commitments until the funding base is adjusted as part of the standard midyear budget process.
- (4) The department reported an unaudited \$6.2 million deficit in its certification of data for the “Annual Report on State Finances 2008-09”. The primary driver of the deficit was accounting adjustments. This deficit represents 1.2 per cent of the department’s total appropriations provided to deliver services.
- (5) The department’s business has always been high risk, and the primary challenge is the maintenance of a 24/7, 365-day, statewide dynamic corrections system involving the management of a complex spectrum of offenders while ensuring the safety and security of staff, the community and offenders.