

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES

496. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Thank you for your guidance, Speaker.

I have a supplementary question. Why was the minister's department incapable of providing a proper response to the Inspector of Custodial Services' December report?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

When I was an industrial officer at the union, sometimes I would make submissions in closing remarks to the bench. The other party would get up and object and say, "Submission not reflected in evidence." That is what I say about the Leader of the Liberal Party: that is a submission not reflected in evidence. The Inspector of Custodial Services is independent of government. The response provided to him by the department was adequate. Just because he does not think it is adequate does not mean it is inadequate. He is independent of government. It is his advice. It is his perspective. In the end, the Inspector of Custodial Services is not involved in any way in the operations of prisons or custodial services, because if he was, he would have a conflict of interest. He has provided commentary on the operations of the Banksia Hill facility. We are doing our best to provide the services that are needed. I emphasise again that since the small cohort of disruptive and violent young offenders was moved to unit 18, Banksia Hill, where the overwhelming majority of young offenders are housed, has been operating not without incident, but largely in accordance with its plans. It provides the level of services that are required to assist these young people to reintegrate back into society and to play a proper role.

I understand there is a small group of youth offenders who have acted up, been violent and attacked youth custodial officers. They have been very difficult to manage, which is why we moved them to unit 18. Again, I emphasise that for the overwhelming majority of young offenders, Banksia Hill is now providing the services that are required.