

**EDUCATION AND HEALTH
STANDING COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ALCOHOL AND
ILLCIT DRUG PROBLEMS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE
TAKEN AT BROOME
MONDAY, 26 JULY 2010**

SESSION FOUR

Members

**Dr J.M. Woollard (Chairman)
Mr P. Abetz (Deputy Chairman)
Ms L.L. Baker
Mr P.B. Watson
Mr I.C. Blayney**

Hearing commenced at 12.55 pm**CLEMENTS, MR ALAN DAVID****Superintendent, Department of Corrective Services, examined:**

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I thank you for your interest and your appearance before us today. I acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners, past, present and future, of the land on which we are meeting. The purpose of this hearing is to assist the committee in gathering evidence for its inquiry into the adequacy and appropriateness of prevention and treatment services for alcohol and illicit drug problems in Western Australia. At this stage I will introduce myself and the other members of the committee present today. I am Janet Woollard; this is Mr Peter Abetz and Mr Ian Blayney; and Peter Watson will be with us fairly soon. Dr David Worth is the principal research officer; Grant Akkerson and Alice Murphy are also assisting as research officers with this inquiry. From Hansard we have Judith Baverstock and Keith Jackman. This committee is a committee of the Assembly of the Parliament. This hearing is a formal procedure of Parliament and therefore commands the same respect given to proceedings in the house. As a public hearing, Hansard is making a transcript of the proceedings for the public record. If you refer to any documents during your evidence, it would assist Hansard if you could provide the full title for the record.

Before we proceed to your submissions and questions we have for you today, I need to ask you a series of questions. Have you completed the "Details of Witness" form?

Mr Clements: Yes, I have.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you understand the notes at the bottom of the form about giving evidence to a parliamentary committee?

Mr Clements: Yes, I do.

The CHAIRMAN: Did you receive and read the information for witnesses briefing sheet provided with the "Details of Witness" form today?

Mr Clements: Yes, I have.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have any questions in relation to being a witness at today's hearing?

Mr Clements: No, I do not.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case, would you please state your full name and the capacity in which you appear before the committee today?

Mr Clements: My name is Alan Clements. I am currently the acting superintendent of Broome Regional Prison.

The CHAIRMAN: Alan, we are very pleased that you were able to come a little earlier today and sit in on some of the other sessions because it has given you an opportunity to see that this is quite a broad-reaching inquiry. You have received a copy of the committee's terms of reference. Really, what we would like to hear from you, I guess, is: what is the state of affairs up here with prisons and corrective services, where the strengths and weaknesses are and what could be done to improve prisons and corrective services, particularly where it concerns helping people who have alcohol and drug problems?

Mr Clements: I have prepared a statement. As for coming in today, I got notified about Friday lunchtime, it was a bit short, and that is why I wanted to sit in this morning to actually see whether I was on the right track with what I have put down. I think I am. It covers different areas from what I

have heard this morning but some of it overlaps and some of it actually adds to what I have heard this morning. So if you are happy, I will just —

The CHAIRMAN: Do you want to read or do you want to just wing it? How about looking at the key points?

Mr Clements: How about I scan it as I go?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, scan it as you go through and anything that you miss you can give us as supplementary information.

Mr Clements: I have got supplementary information here for you.

The CHAIRMAN: Wonderful.

Mr Clements: And after what I have heard this morning, there may be some more. A colleague of mine, Norm Smith, is in this afternoon. I might be doing some work with Norm at the moment that may be valuable for you, too.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that Norm Smith from the justice department here?

Mr Clements: CYJ, yes.

I have already touched on who I am. I have been in this role since 1 May this year—it is only a short time—but I have actually been with the Department of Corrective Services for 22 years. So what I see here I have seen in Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and through the metropolitan area as well. My observations during this brief period are that Indigenous prisoners are massively overrepresented in Broome prison. Broome is largely an Aboriginal prison. Today there are 129 prisoners of which only seven are Caucasian—13 of those women, so that presents problems in itself. In a large number of the offences that the prisoners are in prison for, alcohol has been a factor, and in some a significant factor. The offences vary—various range of assaults, domestic violence issues, breaches of VROs—but also there is a significant number of prisoners who have alcohol-related traffic offences; DUIs or they have lost their licence for DUI and then continue to drive without a licence and end up in prison because they have not paid fines. I would only be guessing and I know that the department can actually produce reasonably accurate stats, but at Broome you are probably looking at around 70 to 80 per cent of the prisoners, at least, are in there for alcohol-related offences.

The CHAIRMAN: How many maybe have not paid their fines?

Mr Clements: A similar number—very high. The primary offence might be an assault, but while they are in prison they call in fines, or they have associated fines when they go to court that come in with them as well.

The CHAIRMAN: Who would be the appropriate person for us to speak to, because to me it would be more appropriate if those people who have not paid their fines had a community services order rather than being —

Mr Clements: There are several options there with that. They can actually pay off their fines once they are in prison—pay as you go. That has had limited effect because once you are in prison, you get only a small pay or gratuities each week and the minimum amount that you can pay is about \$5, so about \$10 a fortnight. That frees up things, particularly in the metropolitan area, like getting your licence back, lifting suspensions, enabling you to get learner's permits and all that. Some of it I believe is that the community work has not been done and then it has gone back to being a fine and the imprisonment. So there is a range of different reasons why people actually come into prison with fines.

You probably heard this morning that the problem is endemic throughout the Kimberley. The prisoners we have at Broome Regional Prison are from all over the Kimberley, not just Broome. I probably have half a dozen to 10 here from Broome; the rest are scattered right throughout the Kimberley region.

The CHAIRMAN: You have two other prisons, do you not, in the Kimberley region? You have the prison facilities at Derby, or is it just a lock-up?

Mr Clements: No. There is a police lock-up and a 20-bed work camp at Derby called Bungarun. There is also a 20-bed work camp at Wyndham. There is construction underway at the moment to build a 40-bed work camp, but there are alcohol-related issues there as well.

The CHAIRMAN: At Wyndham?

Mr Clements: At Wyndham, yes. The current work camp is probably only 500 metres up the road from a bottle shop and that presented us with problems not Friday gone, but the Friday before: someone had actually brought alcohol into the camp. You would think that once they are imprisoned, that is it then—they are good for a while. But eight prisoners got intoxicated and I had to organise an escort to bring them back to Broome the following day.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: You also have a reasonable number of prisoners—I know, for example, at Geraldton there are quite often prisoners from here, is there?

Mr Clements: No, the majority of prisoners by far are here and probably, at a guess, 100 per cent are from the Kimberley.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: But there will be Kimberley people further south.

Mr Clements: Sorry; yes, the other way round. Yes, there is a significant number in probably Roebourne, Geraldton and Perth. The main reason for that is that they are a high-security classification needing more maximum. Broome is primarily a minimum-security prison.

The CHAIRMAN: I know that all of your prisoners who become high-security have to be transferred down south, so are there any plans to build some high-security cells to add on to the prison so that you do not have to keep transferring people?

Mr Clements: An upgrade in facilities was completed about 12 months ago and that has given us in the order of 28 beds, I think it is offhand, but, again, it is all short term. It is the turnover, the holding facility for the whole Kimberley, so everyone who comes in on serious offences—we are just holding one at the moment. I am not sure what the charge is, but he has killed his de facto and, probably alcohol-related, hit her, and she has died. We had one two or three months ago now, a young girl from Wyndham who stabbed her partner in a drunken argument, and because she is maximum-security, it was straight to Bandyup. We hold them until the escort comes into town and then send them on their way. All of those people—we try to keep as many here in Broome as we can.

In my notes here I have something about the problem that presents us with programs—numbers—getting people to actually undertake programs, so there are a few issues there for the prisoners themselves. The department does have programs aimed at addressing offending behaviour, but there are limitations and constraints. One of those constraints is that if prisoners from this area are medium and maximum-security, they are no longer in this area; they head south. Also, the people actually have to want to undertake the programs. There is a responsibility on them to actually engage and a lot just do not want to. I can give you an example. Two weeks ago yesterday we released a prisoner at 10 to nine in the morning. I spoke to him just before midday. He had already bought a carton of beer. He had been in prison for 22 months. I will touch on it further down, but he was assessed for programs, he declined one and the other one was not available. The one that he declined was a substance abuse program.

All prisoners who come into the prison system are assessed for security classification and for program needs. A prisoner has to be doing more than 12 months prison, effectively six months in the prison, before they will be assessed for doing programs; anyone less than six months will not do programs.

The CHAIRMAN: Right. Now, where is the protocol or the guidelines for that?

Mr Clements: The department has director general's rules, policy directives, and adult custodial rule 18 documents the processes and procedures for security classification and rating and assessment for programs.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee actually attended a conference last year in Darwin at which we were told about some programs in other prisons that seem very proactive, so I do not believe the same length of time before people can enter these programs is consistent across Australia, is it?

Mr Clements: No, I do not believe it is. I was involved in a couple of workshops, probably two or three years ago now, with the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services. What we were looking at was the security rating classification, which is part of the assessment process involved in this. That is for assessment for a security rating, but the assessment for the programs is a specialist area and it is not my area of expertise. However, prior to my recent run of acting as superintendent, my permanent position, assistant superintendent (prisoner management) of Wooroloo, oversees the sentence management aspects of it, which is rule 18, plus the day-to-day running. Therefore, I have a fair understanding of that but not the assessment programs. What I do know is that when they are assessed coming in, they are assessed undertaking more than six months in the prison; they are assessed and they have an IMP developed for them —

The CHAIRMAN: IMP?

Mr Clements: It is an individual management plan. Once there is an individual management plan—IMP—developed, programs are built into that. It also depends on the length of sentence; obviously, for people with shorter sentences, there is going to be less time to actually have programs built in to that.

The CHAIRMAN: So how long could it take for someone coming into prison before an IMP could be developed for that person?

Mr Clements: Within rule, 28 days from the time that they are sentenced.

The CHAIRMAN: So, really, anyone who is in for three or six months could actually have that assessment and could be involved in a treatment program if they were admitted because of an alcohol-related offence?

Mr Clements: In theory, yes, but the reality is no. If we have someone coming in—just, say, someone is doing five years in prison—to do the assessment in the first 28 days of their sentence, if we book them on to a substance use program called Pathways, generally we are booking them two to three, maybe even four, years ahead because the programs are that full that far ahead.

The CHAIRMAN: Four years!

Mr Clements: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a waiting list of four years in the prison for —

Mr Clements: A lot depends on where you are and where you want to be booked. Broome does not have this program, but you are talking the major metropolitan prisons. For some of the sex offender programs, you are talking a lead-in period of several years. There are only 10 people on a program and some of the programs—Pathways—run for 10 to 12 weeks and some of the sex offender and violent offender treatment programs run for six months, so it is not like you are belting out one every week; they are intensive programs and they run only three or four times a year.

The CHAIRMAN: As a committee, we are obviously very concerned that a number of prisoners are admitted because of alcohol-related offences and they go back out, but they come back with alcohol-related offences. Therefore, if Pathways is the program that helps —

Mr Clements: That is one of the programs.

The CHAIRMAN: That is one. Could you then list the other programs, because then possibly you can ask through the Director General of Corrective Services whether we could have the statistics in

terms of the waiting lists at each of the prisons? Because there are obviously huge funding implications, but when you think that it costs us over \$1 000 a day for each person who is in prison, those funding implications are maybe not as high as first anticipated. So, what are the other programs that are available in prisons? You said that you do not have Pathways here —

Mr Clements: Not at Broome, no.

The CHAIRMAN: Right. So does someone come up and run Pathways every six months or every 12 months?

Mr Clements: What we tend to do is send prisoners south. Now this presents another problem: you get local Kimberley people who do not want to go south, so they will refuse a program because they do not want to go away from their local country area and they do not want to go away from family, so some will just outright refuse.

The CHAIRMAN: I know previously in the cell system here that families had an opportunity of going in with family rather than being allocated by themselves. Is that still the —

Mr Clements: That is still generally how we try to work it because, as well as family, you have the different tribal areas. We generally allow them to live together; it just makes for a bit more of a harmonious environment within the prison.

The CHAIRMAN: So there is Pathways—and the other programs?

Mr Clements: There are quite a few programs but each program does not run in every prison. Pathways is drugs. You have IMMASU which runs here at Broome. It is Indigenous Men Managing Anger and Substance Abuse. That runs every quarter. Again, it runs for about 10 to 12 weeks. Most of the programs do that, and at the end of the program the facilitators write their reports. The reports are then forwarded on to the parole board when we actually put a parole report together. Actually, today a program has just started in Broome—Indigenous Family Violence. That runs only once a year but I think last year—I think it was in November—26 men were assessed as requiring it at Broome. We can get only 10 on a program and the program did not run in Broome like it should have because there were no facilitators, so the men had to be sent elsewhere; I am not sure whether it was Roebourne or Greenough. So we have those problems.

You find facilitators do not really want to come up here to run programs. In the metropolitan area, I can do a program at 10 weeks at Hakea, then I will go to Wooroloo for 10 weeks, and you still go home each night. Up here, you are asking someone to leave home and come up here for three to four months. As well as whether you can convince someone to do it, you have the cost; you have to find them somewhere to live, which touches on the issues this morning of people saying about housing. It is difficult getting housing in Broome; you are talking anywhere between \$500 and \$800 in rent, I believe—that is if you can get a house.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that \$500 and \$800 a week rent?

[1.15 pm]

Mr Clements: A week—yes; it is not cheap—and that is if you can find somewhere suitable. I know every government department in town has the same issues. I have 60 staff or thereabouts and we have trouble getting housing for them. We have some GRO Housing and we also have some private rentals, but even with the subsidised rates it is still hard. There are other programs—the violent offender treatment program, which is six months or thereabouts, and the sex offender treatment programs—that only run in certain prisons. The VOTP is run only in maximum-security prisons because that is where most of the offenders end up. But at Wooroloo I have had minimum-security prisoners who, towards the end of their time, have had to go back to maximum-security to undertake the programs.

The CHAIRMAN: Oh dear!

Mr Clements: So you are penalising them; they have actually done the right thing and over five or 10 years, or however long, got to minimum security only to be sent back to maximum security to do a program in the last six months of their sentence. In effect, we are doing the same thing with a lot of the programs here: Indigenous men—and it is mainly the men who require the programs—are sent south. There is another issue with the women. If we have women here who require programs, we have to send them to Bandyup. We run a local program called BOAS or building on Aboriginals skills. Most groups run with about 10 to 12 participants, but we are very unlikely to have 10 women who require the program at any one time in Broome for three months. At the moment, today, we have 13 women, but of that 13 not all may be required to do the program, or it would not fit in with their IMP—if they all have IMPs. Two-thirds of the prisoners at Broome have IMPs—or just under two-thirds. So they make get some programs if they are available, but the other one-third will basically get nothing.

Mr P. ABETZ: Is that because they are short-term prisoners?

Mr Clements: Yes. Under section 95 of the Prisons Act, they may be able to go out to Alcoholics Anonymous or some other voluntary program, but the Prisoners Review Board does not look at those programs with the same weight as it does clinical programs. Now that was the previous board; I do not know about this one, but from what I have seen in the past 12 months prisoners who have not done any work to address their offending behaviour have been denied parole. Prisoners cannot get into a program—it is not their fault; perhaps they have said they will do a program but it is not available or they have declined a program because they will be sent 2 500 kilometres away from where they live and as well as not having contact with their family, they will not have family visits—and that presents us with a few issues.

The CHAIRMAN: To your knowledge, has the Drug and Alcohol Office—the overarching body in WA for drug and alcohol issues—put in to run any of these programs in prisons?

Mr Clements: I could not tell you that; I do not know. We hire our own facilitators for a lot of the programs that we run. Over the past two years—I believe that you spoke to Deputy Commissioner Tang and Mark Glasson—there has been a massive increase in the number of programs that we have been able to run. A significant number of staff have been hired, particularly in the metropolitan area. We went from having virtually no programs at Wooroloo to having trouble finding rooms to put them in. It changed that rapidly that we were struggling to find rooms.

Mr P. ABETZ: The Attorney General was very keen to see that happen. He has put his foot down about getting more programs, and I guess that creates its own issues!

Mr Clements: Yes; and I do not know how much of that has gone into the regional areas. I have been here only since May. Prior to that, I was at Karnet, which had the same issue as Wooroloo—a lack of space. The prison here has similar infrastructure issues. The recent redevelopment provided a program room. The feedback I have had from facilitators is that that room is too small. It barely seats 10 men and we require two facilitators in the room as well. It has big open windows that do come up and as soon as you open the windows everyone out in the yard can hear what you are saying. There are some deficits there. However, the Men's Outreach Service, which provides some of the programs and actually facilitates the IMMASU course offered in Broome, is located next to the prison. Since I have been here, I have worked with that service about the need to share resources. Similarly, I have spoken to CYJ about working together to try to achieve more with what we have been allocated. Men's outreach is contracted to the department to undertake a range of activities and one of those is programs. So there are ways around it and ways to work on it, but it is a big area to be tackled.

The CHAIRMAN: You mentioned the IMP for the alcohol program and the IMMASU, which is, I think, about drugs as well.

Mr Clements: It is the Indigenous men managing anger and substance use program.

The CHAIRMAN: That is two programs that can be run in prisons but that are not run here at the moment.

Mr Clements: IMMASU is run in Broome and the Indigenous family violence program is run in Broome. Another program called BOAS, Building on Aboriginals Skills, is also running, but I do not think that it is formally recognised. A cognitive skills program called Think First has been adapted for the Indigenous men, but I do not think that it has been formally signed off—clinically. Another family domestic violence program, building better relationships, used to run in the metropolitan area but it has been suspended for a while.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you said previously that one of the factors in a prisoner being granted parole is whether they have completed one of the programs.

Mr Clements: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: That would mean that many prisoners up here are in fact missing out on parole because the programs are not available and that we are possibly paying additional money to keep people in prison.

Mr Clements: Over the past 12 or 18 months—probably more now—the change in parole board stance has seen a large number of people denied parole, and that—you would be aware of the prisoner numbers—has created all sorts of problems for us in relation to infrastructure and managing programs. In some instances, the board has denied someone parole saying they should do a particular program, but because some of the programs are booked so far ahead, the persons release date will come and go before it is possible to get them on to a program. It is a resourcing issue and not just an infrastructure issue. It is about people and accommodation. Alternatively, we bite the bullet and send people south, but if they do not want to go, that is that.

Mr P. ABETZ: In this region in particular, 80 per cent or thereabouts of prisoners are in prison for alcohol-related offences. Would it be fair to say that if alcohol-appropriate programs were offered the minute they arrived in prison—that is, there is an ongoing program happening in the prison—that you would envisage a reduction in the recidivism rate. One would like to think, if the program was anywhere near effective, it would make a difference. Would it be a worthwhile investment to do that in this region?

Mr Clements: It may assist, but my personal opinion is that by the time they have come to us you have missed the boat. If you read parole reports and magistrates' sentencing comments about a lot of the people, not just those here but those in the metropolitan area as well, their substance abuse starts at around the age of 12 to 14 years. By the time they come to adult prison, they have been into it anywhere from 4 to 8 years—sometimes longer. We have 18-year-olds coming to prison with a four or five-year-old heroin habit. It would probably be slightly different up here with alcohol, but again the children are exposed to it at an early age. I think we should be targeting primary schools. If you really want to tackle the issue, it has to be a multifaceted approach across government agencies. This is not just about drinking; it is about all sorts of issues, as mentioned earlier today by other groups. This is about poverty, the lack of work skills, the lack of education, the poor health—it is all combined. When you come to prison, you have a captive audience for which you can undertake to run programs. You have a similar audience at primary school—that is, if they attend.

The CHAIRMAN: Someone from the child or youth detention centres appeared before the committee, but we did not ask about the programs run at those centres. We really need to find what juvenile programs are run.

Mr P. ABETZ: Basically, they do schooling. I have been to Rangeview to see what is done.

The CHAIRMAN: Do they run alcohol and other drug programs? Allan is saying that the problem is starting with 12 and 13-year-olds so when they are in those places it would be a good opportunity to capture them and go through —

Mr P. ABETZ: They certainly talk about that, but it is not a specific program; it is more of an educational focus.

Mr Clements: But you also have community corrections and the juvenile justice teams in the community who run community-based programs, which is a lot cheaper option than running them in prison. Recently, community corrections up here—I am only talking about four or five weeks ago—completed a joint program with the prison. Participants were from both organisations and it was run by men's outreach. But that is unusual. However, we are working towards, as I mentioned previously, sharing resources and services. Because most of the prisoners here are in minimum security, they can actually come out of the facility with approval and day permits to go to day courses or to work in the community and that sort of stuff.

The CHAIRMAN: What about the new Derby prison? Is that on schedule at the moment now? That will obviously save some people being transferred to Broome.

Mr Clements: I think that that is due for completion towards the end of next year.

The CHAIRMAN: What about prisoners in Broome who are allocated to the work camp in Derby? How many prisoners might go to that work camp?

Mr Clements: Twenty; and it has consistently been 20 during my time in Broome.

Mr P. ABETZ: Is there capacity for more or is it then full up?

Mr Clements: It is a leased facility; it is the old leprosarium up at Derby. I have not been there—I have been to the Wyndham camp—but I understand that there are quite a few issues with water, maintenance and —

Mr P. ABETZ: In other words, it is a bit rundown.

Mr Clements: Yes; although there is the capacity to expand, it would require a fair bit of infrastructure work. I understand that the Derby prison is about 18 months behind schedule.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you aware of any department plans to develop a prison in the east Kimberley region? Are you able to provide us by way of supplementary information the areas your 129 prisoners come from?

Mr Clements: I should be able to do that.

The CHAIRMAN: We are interested in looking at what resources are where. If you have a large number of people from certain areas who are prisoners here, we want to find out what government and non-government mental health or other programs are available in those areas. Could you provide us by way of supplementary information a breakdown of the prisoners here and the areas that they come from?

Mr Clements: I may be able to do that; I think I can. A lot of the reports that I can run are set reports. Nearly all the ad hoc reporting is done centrally in Perth; however, I will find out. On top of that, you also have all the prisoners who are in Perth or in other regional prisons who will be from those regions as well.

Mr P. ABETZ: So we will not have the complete picture unless we get the figures for the whole state.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right, because all the high offenders will have been moved down south.

Mr P. ABETZ: Or they are doing a program and so have been moved south.

Mr Clements: Or they may still be sitting at medium or maximum-security rating, because as time progresses and they undertake programs their security rating diminishes.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you heard the Mayor of Broome say that there are 88 Indigenous communities in this area—that is just around the Broome area. I would like to hope that we are

providing facilities to communities, but it is obviously very difficult when there are so many different communities with different dialects and different problems.

Mr P. ABETZ: I have a question about drugs in prison. I am given to understand that in Perth there is a major problem with illicit drugs being trafficked within the prison: is that an issue to some degree in Broome or is it not as big an issue? If it is, what can be done? I am thinking about the people who have drug or alcohol issue before going to prison accessing drugs in prison and the whole problem being perpetuated. Do you have any comment on that at all?

Mr Clements: Up here, it is not as serious an issue as it is in Perth—particularly in the secure prisons. From the prison's perspective, the drug of choice in prison up here appears to be cannabis—that is, behind alcohol. That is within the prison; I cannot comment about out in the community. But talking to some of the prisoners, I do not believe that it is a major issue in the Kimberley. In saying that, and being aware that it is a problem in the metropolitan area, I know Indigenous families are now becoming involved in the sale and supply of drugs; that is the distribution of amphetamines and heroin, which was unheard of 15 or 20 years ago. At the moment, I do not believe that anything but cannabis is our problem, and we are talking about catching two or three users a month at most. We have a fairly stringent program for checking.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: When doing these courses, do people attend every day or once a week?

Mr Clements: It depends on the course. The Think First program runs for three half-days a week. Moving on from dependencies, the pathways course—some of the courses change name—runs for four-half days a week. The VOTP varies; we recently ran one at Wooroloo, which is unusual because it is normally run in secure prisons, and that ran for, I think, three half-days a week. But I have seen in other prisons, where it is live-in, that it has been run for four days a week.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Do they enjoy doing the courses?

Mr Clements: I could not tell you; that is not something I had thought about.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I was wondering if they go into the course with a positive attitude and accepting —

Mr Clements: Some do; some do not. Some do it because they have to and because they know that if they do not their chances of getting parole are limited. It is the old carrot and stick!

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: That is the second time that we have heard that today.

The CHAIRMAN: Could you, firstly, give us a rough idea of the ages of the prisoners—youngest, eldest and average age—in Broome prison and, secondly, last year in a report from the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services it was stated that —

The inadequate holding capacity of Broome Prison has resulted in almost 70 per cent of the predominantly Aboriginal prisoners from the Kimberley being transported 'of country' to southern prisons, ...

If you have added, as part of that last review, only 13 new—was it 13?

Mr Clements: Do you mean the upgrade?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr Clements: The upgrade was to improve the security rating of the cells; it did not add any new accommodation.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case, it could be higher than 70 per cent.

Mr Clements: It could be. I do not know if you have seen Broome prison. It is quite small.

The CHAIRMAN: I have been around Broome prison and I could not believe the numbers of prisoners in some of the cells. When I went round, there were, I think, eight prisoners in some cells, because they wanted to be in with family. They were in a room half the size of this one.

Mr Clements: I seen it. I have seen nine, 10 or 11 Indonesian fishermen in a cell that is really designed for three—as are most of the cells. We do not have any single-cell accommodation as they do in most metropolitan prisons; although that is diminishing with double bunking. We have four two-bed cells; the rest are three, four or six-bed cells. Recently, we had people sleeping on the floor again because we did not have enough beds.

To answer your question about ages—youngest and oldest—I would have to guess. I will have to go back to look at the figures.

The CHAIRMAN: Possibly you could provide that detail by way of supplementary information. Could you also provide us with the number of prisoners who have had to be transferred during the past 12 months because of a lack of space?

Mr Clements: Okay.

Mr P.B. WATSON: To follow up that question: what is the percentage of Aboriginal and white non-Aboriginal prisoners in Broome?

Mr Clements: Today, there are seven out of 129.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Do you transport people south by road?

The CHAIRMAN: Are they transported by air or road?

Mr Clements: No; it used to be road only, but in the past 12 months—perhaps not even that; maybe six months—it has been air escorts. We are restricted to about 15 at a time by air and we used to be able to take 20 or more by road.

The CHAIRMAN: Are those air escorts normal commercial flights or do you have to charter flights?

Mr Clements: We use charter flights.

The CHAIRMAN: There are additional costs for charter flights.

Mr Clements: Yes; that is right. Depending on the time frames involved, we also charter aircraft to go to Wyndham and Kununurra. The prison does not undertake to escort prisoners anymore; it is all done by G4S under contract. If there is an emergency, we will take someone to hospital, and if it goes over a certain time frame, G4S will relieve the prison-staff escort. By and large, G4S is responsible for all prisoner movements to court and in between prisons.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that the case throughout most of WA, including down south?

Mr Clements: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: So if they are being transferred up to Perth from down south, the G4S transfer would be done by plane?

Mr P.B. WATSON: No, they are not all done by plane. Most of them from Albany are done by road.

[1.35 pm]

Mr Clements: The Perth, Geraldton, Roebourne and Broome escorts are all done by air charter. Broome, Kununurra, Halls Creek and, to a degree, Fitzroy Crossing is on the borderline with how far they will go with a vehicle, but the others are air escorts as well. I mentioned the problem at Wyndham before. We had to charter a flight to bring those eight back. You can actually directly relate the use of alcohol to the cost of a charter flight.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: When you put them on a plane, what is the security situation?

Mr Clements: I have never been to go and have a look. If it is similar to when they were using the Pioneer bus, they would use handcuffs and leg irons, but I have never actually observed it. I know that they would be secured, just knowing the way G4S operates.

The CHAIRMAN: Both Peter and Peter will have an opportunity to be taken on a tour of the prison this afternoon. We will finish now. Thank you for your evidence before the committee today. A transcript of this hearing will be forwarded to you for the correction of any minor errors. Any such corrections must be made and the transcript returned within 28 days from the date of the letter attached to it. If the transcript is not returned within this period, it will be deemed to be correct. New material cannot be added via these corrections and the sense of your evidence cannot be altered. Should you wish to provide additional information or elaborate on particular points, please include a supplementary submission for the committee's consideration when you return your corrected transcript of evidence.

We did ask you about different programs. Possibly by way of that supplementary information, you could also identify who controls all the programs in the Department of Corrective Services at the state level so that we are able to follow up with them about those programs.

Mr Clements: That is the deputy commissioner and the director that spoke to the committee several weeks ago, I believe. They actually control all the programs and all the resources associated with the programs.

The CHAIRMAN: I have not had an opportunity, because we have had a break, to look at the supplementary information we asked from them, but I will follow up on that. Thank you again.

Mr Clements: Is it possible to get a list of the supplementary information?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I tried to keep it down to a minimum!

Hearing concluded at 1.40 pm