

**SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION AND
HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE**

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

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

SESSION ONE

Members

**Mr P.B. Watson (Chairman)
Mr I.C. Blayney**

Hearing commenced at 3.06 pm**SMITH, MR NORM****Manager, Community and Youth Justice Kimberley, Department of Corrective Services, examined:****SHIRLEY, MS GAELYN****Team Leader, Youth Justice, Department of Corrective Services, examined:****ROSS, MS REBECCA ANN****Regional Programs Development Officer, Community and Youth Justice, Department of Corrective Services, examined:**

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I thank you for your interest and 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 today. 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 other members of the committee present today. I am Peter Watson, the member for Albany, and on my left is Ian Blayney, the member for Geraldton. On my right is Dr David Worth from the research staff; and from Hansard we have Keith Jackman. The Education and Health Standing Committee is a committee of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia. This hearing is a formal procedure of the Parliament and therefore commands the same respect given to proceedings in the house itself. This is a public hearing and Hansard will be making a transcript of the proceedings for the public record. If you refer to any documents during your evidence, it will assist Hansard if you can provide the full title for the record.

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

The Witnesses: Yes.

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

The Witnesses: Yes.

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

The Witnesses: Yes.

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

The Witnesses: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you please state your full name and the capacity in which you appear before the committee today?

Mr Smith: My name is Norman Joseph Smith, acting manager for the Kimberley regional youth justice services.

Ms Ross: Ms Rebecca Ann Ross, regional programs development officer with community and youth justice services.

Ms Shirley: Gaelyn Kate Shirley, team leader, youth justice, Kimberley region.

The CHAIRMAN: Basically, we are looking at what programs are working well and are funded, what programs are not working well, what you feel the gaps are, what you feel you need without going into a huge wish list; just the main things that you need or where there are issues. If each of you could just talk for a bit about what you think are the main issues in the region here.

Mr Smith: I might start, if that is the case. In the Kimberley here there are in fact 370 adult client cases from five town locations and approximately 200 remote community locations, so we are covering a very wide span. From Broome we operate on a full-time basis, from Kununurra it is full-time, from Derby an outreach service is provided, Halls Creek is outreach and Fitzroy Crossing is also outreach, so we are covering that whole area. Of the 370 clients, we have 160 adult clients who have been identified with all of the requirements for program intervention and a majority of these issues or behaviours relate to alcohol and/or substance abuse. The drug of choice by clients seems to be alcohol in terms of the nature of offending. Links have been made with the existing alcohol and drug-related services within the town—that is, all those towns that I have just mentioned. These services do provide skilled and appropriate support for clients in the town and remote locations but much of what exists can be provided only as a limited amount of support due to a lack of human resources, and other demands.

As these services are limited and with flexibility of human resources, much of what is available focuses on the individual, the one particular person, not the community or family as such as a whole. This situation makes effective collaborative services difficult to implement as the core business of each service needs to be prioritised, so there is certainly the willingness and a wanting to actually deliver programs and services, but there are competing demands. The three most common situations relating to alcohol offences are: number one, alcohol and driving; two, alcohol and assaults; and, three, alcohol and partner violence.

The CHAIRMAN: So driving is number one.

Mr Smith: Yes. High levels of alcohol intoxication are often present in offences one and two and are an obvious trigger for these situations. Intoxication is often present in family violence; however, there are a high number of situations where the withdrawal from alcohol and/or substance addiction is a contributing factor that actually triggers stresses that can escalate into uncontrolled behaviour resulting in violence affecting partners and children.

The CHAIRMAN: That is coming off the alcohol?

Mr Smith: Yes, coming off it or not having the means to actually continue to acquire the alcohol.

The CHAIRMAN: So that is not the restrictions, this is just —

Mr Smith: No, not —

The CHAIRMAN: Cannot afford it?

Mr Smith: Yes, that too. So in answer to the first question, I guess that is where I am at with it in terms of the overall.

Ms Ross: As the regional programs officer with CYJ based in Broome here, I suppose one of the most obvious reasons why we are very limited to deliver programs to our clients is due to, basically, I am the only programs officer for the whole region within our department. So that in itself really limits the capacity of how often I can deliver, my quality of delivery and locations as well, which also means I have to rely heavily on other services and agencies to be able to work with me to effectively deliver programs that are both appropriate and culturally considerate as well.

We have had some trials. I should state that basically I have been in the position since 2004. Over those years I have trialled and error-ed a lot of different methods, worked in both the community location and town locations and, I suppose, gained a lot of knowledge of what has worked, what does work and the things that we actually need to do to go forward. Over the past 12 months, I have

been trialling two different situations in collaboration with some other services. I have a document in front of me here, which I will leave behind, that outlines some services such as those that I am currently working with. What I have come down to in the end—and this is due to basically myself being the only programs officer—through some of those past trials, which have highlighted really what has not worked and what needs to go forward, is delivering two different types of programs. One is developing a two-day workshop in relation to the offences of one and two, which my manager mentioned—alcohol and driving, alcohol and assaults. They are kind of based on a community focus because like I said us even travelling to communities and working in communities and then taking into consideration the actual community environment and what is going on in there is about getting people to actually participate in a program and participate successfully, as well. Two days, I know, does not sound like a lot of time to be able to deliver much, but those workshops are based on an education-type of awareness-raising issues about the offending, how alcohol contributes to that and the different consequences that then brings to the community. What then is looked at afterwards —

The CHAIRMAN: Rebecca, is there any follow-up to that?

Ms Ross: Yes, that is what I was just about to mention —

The CHAIRMAN: Sorry.

Ms Ross: There is a period outlined of follow-up after that two-day workshop, so it is like introducing the whole idea to people and allowing them to take that in, I suppose, in a manageable time frame so we can actually gain that attention as well. That workshop basically, though, is only individual-focused. We address issues of family and how to deal with difficult situations in community but it does not allow me to work with community or with the family side of things either.

The other program that we are trying to develop at the moment is one that we piloted in January this year. It is more intensive. It is an actual family violence program that has already been piloted as part of our cross-border project in that region as well and it worked quite well.

The CHAIRMAN: How do you measure your success on these programs, Rebecca?

[3.17 pm]

Ms Ross: Basically at this stage, part of what I am building into this family violence program is trying to look at measures of successes, because this is all very new ground, and, like I said, at the moment I am still working collaboratively with other services to try to develop this model. It is basically a step-by-step process. But much of what I have trialled in error has come from feedback from clients themselves and just reviewing things like the court lists and keeping in contact with our CCOs about if there has been any reoffending since of which we have trialled. And what has come to my attention so far, there has been very little reoffending since we have trialled those programs. And the feedback from the actual clients, especially the ones that attended the family violence program, has been quite positive and they have actually recommended to other family members to come down and participate.

The CHAIRMAN: When you go into the communities like this, do you have a representative in the community who works with you for the culturally sensitive issues?

Ms Ross: As one of the trials, I suppose, in the past we have actually looked at identifying community people to work with us to provide that cultural knowledge within the community. Now, before actually going into the community, we use the cultural process of going through the community council and we put that offer out there. But it has kind of been a very difficult area to get communities to be involved in; one, because we are asking them to be volunteers; and, two, the issues that we are actually dealing with with clients are not very easy issues to deal with. And if they are living in that community or have family links to those people, then a lot of the times people do not want to really get involved. But the way I have actually tried to work around that is to look at

what services in the towns we can actually work with to make sure the way that we are working and what we are delivering is culturally appropriate as well. One of those methods I have implemented for this family violence program is to work with the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council—their social, emotional and wellbeing unit. I have actually worked with one of their health and wellbeing officers and a local male Indigenous person with links in the peninsula region communities and other places to deliver programs with him, which has been quite an effective strategy as well; because we really need that male–female ratio when we are delivering to men in communities as well. So that is something that has worked very well, and I am trying to now include and keep on going in this model for the family violence program.

The CHAIRMAN: So what ages are you working with?

Ms Ross: At the moment it is adult males. So from the age bracket possibly 18 to 40 years of age can be considered for a program. Depending on the situation after that, anyone older than that depends on the group dynamics and things like that. But usually that is, I suppose, the main bracket. The most common ages that I do have coming through now are from probably early 20s to mid-30s.

The CHAIRMAN: So how do you identify them?

Ms Ross: We have a referral process, which comes through our case managers. They actually will send me a referral basically if someone has been through the court system, they have had a program put on their order and the CCO will send me a referral with that notification, and I go from there.

The CHAIRMAN: So, is this mainly for recidivist offenders?

Ms Ross: No, new and—I suppose I should not say new offenders, but, you know —

Mr Smith: It could be right across the board actually in terms of recidivism, but also in terms of first-time offenders as well.

Ms Ross: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Can we just get on to Gaelyn now, because we just want to get a little bit of what the main issues are in your section Gaelyn.

Ms Shirley: In mine? For youth justice primarily we go to Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service for counselling, and that is for mandated sessions. The youth justice officers do brief intervention with clients and use justice worksheets addressing alcohol and drug use. In terms of level of support that is provided from the community drug service team for clients that are out in remote communities, it can be once a month and has been less than that when they have had difficulties with staffing.

The CHAIRMAN: So staffing would be an issue right across the board.

Ms Shirley: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: So how short would you be of your FTEs?

Mr Smith: From right across the Kimberley?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr Smith: For programs—RPDOs similar to Rebecca—probably two at least.

The CHAIRMAN: Full time?

Mr Smith: Full time, and that would still be working very collaboratively with all the other agencies that have been mentioned right through DCP, Men's Outreach—all those. Community corrections officers themselves: it has already been established that we are short of five right across the region. That was a case study that was undertaken by a previous director. Juvenile justice officers: probably very similar.

Ms Shirley: We are envisaging that we will get probably an additional 20 officers across the region with a new youth justice strategy, which will be a huge improvement.

Mr Smith: Yes, that will be also the diversion and —

Ms Shirley: That is a prevention and diversion service for youth justice.

Mr Smith: A prevention and diversion service as well, yes.

The CHAIRMAN: The state's Chief Justice earlier this year told a commonwealth inquiry that the juvenile detention and remand rates are about 8.1 per 1 000 Indigenous youth compared with the Northern Territory rate of just 2.9 per 1 000. Why is there such a difference between here and the Northern Territory? Is that a loaded question?

Mr Smith: Is it 2.9 and 8.1? I do not know what the answer to that is, quite frankly, to be honest with you.

The CHAIRMAN: It is just a question I had here, but he further said that the incarceration rates for Indigenous people are about 4.4 per 1 000, about twice any other Australian jurisdiction and about four times the rate of incarceration of black Americans. So, what we are looking at here is in this region there are a lot more Aboriginal people or Indigenous youth and adults being put into jail. Is there a reason or is there a pattern within the region that makes it stand out more? Or are we doing enough, is probably the question?

Mr Smith: No, we are not.

The CHAIRMAN: So, if we are not doing enough, what are the main things that need to be improved? We know it is shortage of staff. What other things, because it is a pretty damning statistic, is it not?

Mr Smith: It is, and certainly right throughout the region here. I mean, we have a major representation of Aboriginal young people but also Aboriginal adults within the whole system.

Ms Shirley: The population profile would probably be for West Kimberley, 92 per cent Aboriginal; Halls Creek would be about 99; and Kununurra about 96 per cent Aboriginal.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. When you look at the Northern Territory there is probably a better mixture of white and Aboriginal. But, like it says here, the recidivism of juvenile Aboriginals is 80 for the men and 65 for females. Is there anything being done to try to stop these people reoffending? You have talked about a program about the violence and people doing that; but are there other programs, especially with the young people to stop them going back through the revolving door system?

Ms Shirley: Largely it is going to be the new regional youth justice services, which will introduce a prevention and diversion service.

The CHAIRMAN: So, how is that going to work?

Ms Shirley: The prevention and diversion officers will be able to commence work with young people when they are cautioned by police. That is the first point of contact. They will then go to the families and offer a prevention support service to them.

The CHAIRMAN: So, will there be more people out in the field?

Mr Smith: Yes.

Ms Shirley: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: From what we have heard today, the main thing is you cannot get the services out there or we have not got the staff to get out there to get services out there in the communities; because when you go out—with drugs and alcohol—it might be two months beforehand. I think everyone knows that when you have got someone who is an addict or who has got a problem, you have got to get out there. Is there any way you can, at the moment with the facilities you have got, get out there more or is it just impossible?

Ms Shirley: It depends on where you are talking about. I currently have staff going into Kalumburu once a fortnight; Balgo once a fortnight, which is pretty good support in terms of agencies.

Mr Smith: Derby once a fortnight; Fitzroy —

Ms Shirley: Yes, certainly we are hoping to do better than that, but at this stage I think that we have got a fairly regular —

Mr Smith: In fact with the realignment of the youth justice, there will be an outreach service to Fitzroy, Halls Creek and Derby, I believe.

The CHAIRMAN: So, when they go out every two weeks, how many people would they meet on a day? Would they meet all of their clients?

Ms Shirley: Yes, they are able to do that because the youth justice officer's client load is not very large. So if they are going into Kalumburu, the officer has probably got half a dozen clients that they are able to see during that time.

The CHAIRMAN: They do it in a day, so, they just go for the day?

Ms Shirley: Yes.

Mr Smith: From time to time the population of the communities is quite transient too.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr Smith: And in fact they have often been out to the communities but the person cannot be found.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Like you were saying, there will be 20 more staff.

Ms Shirley: Yes.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Will you be able to find those staff?

Ms Shirley: I am hoping.

Mr Smith: We are all hoping.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: What sort of staff? Will they be qualified in a particular way?

Ms Shirley: No, they are not. There are a number of Aboriginal support officer positions, programs officer positions, psychologist, team leaders, youth support officers.

Mr Smith: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We just had the police in before and they say that no state agencies work at night; they go and pick up five-year-old kids off the streets. To me, just listening to people today, we have a lot of people working during the day but the only ones who work at night are the police. Are there any thoughts in any of the agencies, either your agency or other agencies, to have people working the streets at night; because that is when they are most at risk? Most of the time during the day they are pretty safe—the kids. We seem to have everybody concentrating during the day but at night when you have five-year-old kids walking the streets, it is up to police. So, if the police are looking after that sort of thing, the other things that they should be doing are being neglected. So, do you find that a big issue?

Ms Shirley: I cannot talk about the five-year-olds. That would be a child protection issue, and then they do have on-call officers that are 24 hours and weekends, so the police should be contacting them in that regard. But for youth justice, the prevention and diversion officers will be working, I think, up until 10 o'clock at night and they will be working weekends as well. So, certainly there will be greater capacity for working collaboratively. We are hoping that we will be able to co-locate with police; so, have a police officer working in our office and with drug services and DCP. So, it is something that we are working towards.

The CHAIRMAN: Okay; that is a good answer.

Mr Smith: We do have juvenile justice officers actually attend the court of a weekend as well.

Ms Shirley: Yes.

Mr Smith: Also there is an after-hours manager's call, which from time to time the police do actually contact us but really only in relation to two things: when they are not sure who to contact and/or in relation to a young person that might be on an order.

The CHAIRMAN: Okay. Given the number of Indigenous people who are in jail for driving offences, do you think it is a good idea or is anything being done here about having area licences; say, out in the lands or wherever?

Mr Smith: My predecessor and the previous superintendent from the prison, I understand, actually put up a proposal some years ago in terms of having a special licence; a Kimberley licence. I do understand that that was not viewed very favourably, and it had some legalities around that as well. So, a permit was then suggested, or even more recently a permit was suggested for use in the regions.

The CHAIRMAN: As I said previously when we had the police here, a lot of them get their licences but then they move on and they do not redirect their mail. So their licence goes to the old address and they keep driving and do not think about it and get picked up again. So, when you consider the amount of Aboriginal people in jail from just driver's licences, you know, they are not bad people, they just have not got a driver's licence.

[3.33 pm]

Mr Smith: That is an issue, of course, in terms of work and development orders, because in actual fact they go forward, cop a fine, and then perhaps lose contact with all of that through the whole system. Then, of course, they have not either converted the fine to community work or gone through the time-to-pay process, and then, of course, the work and development order is cancelled through warrant, and often even the warrants are not executed for quite some time, and it is just by chance half the time that they are, and then, of course, they are plucked out straightaway, and inside they go.

The CHAIRMAN: Rebecca, you were saying that you have been here since 2004, so you have been here six years. Have alcohol and drugs changed in the Kimberley in that time, or have the offences and family violence?

Ms Ross: It has not changed really. I suppose the whole situation is quite terrible, and it has not really changed from that status in my eyes. I think we have a lot more transiency around the place now, and there seem to be greater issues in some areas than others. But I think, looking at it from a degeneration sort of perspective as well, that seems to be getting worse. As I said, there seem to be younger adults having quite huge issues with alcohol now as well, and some of the violence that they are using is very aggressive too, so that, I suppose, is one of the things that I see escalating in that situation.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there more drugs than there were? We have been told today that of just about everything, alcohol is 80 per cent. I never asked everyone what the other 20 per cent was—whether it was just drugs or other things. Would mental health be in amongst that?

Ms Ross: Definitely. There is a lot more, I suppose—you have got your anxiety depression, and there seems to be a lot more, I suppose, psychoses.

Ms Shirley: Drug induced.

Ms Ross: Yes, drug-induced psychoses coming through, especially in some of the younger adults. I can answer this also as a local person who has been here since the age of seven and gone through all the local education and that as well, and being involved in some of the communities from my partner, it does seem like there has been an increase in drug use and the types of drugs that have come into town over the last, I suppose —

The CHAIRMAN: Are we doing enough?

Ms Ross: No, I do not think we are.

The CHAIRMAN: So if I just got each of you to, say, give us a summary of a couple of minutes each about what you think you need and what programs are not being used that could be used or should be used, just so that when we go back and do a report, we can say, “We’ve been to the coalface. These people are telling me we need this”, because it is all right us writing a report, but if we do not know what you really need, we can just say that there are problems there, and we are not doing enough. But we want to know what extra we can do.

Mr Smith: Yes; okay. First of all, I think there are two types of programs, whether it is alcohol or violence. There are the skills education awareness programs and there are then the therapeutic intervention programs. I see actually, from where I am sitting at the moment, that one is virtually a bridge to the other. I think in fact it would be great to be able to come in and have a lot of wonderful therapeutic intervention programs. I think part of it would probably go down like a lead balloon and the other half would probably be fine, but, in fact, I think with the population we have in terms of programs—that is not to say, of course, that the real intervention program is not required, but I think it is secondary to the initial awareness, education skills development, vocational-type programs that we require. We certainly cannot do that alone. We still, again, as we have embarked on, need to be working in very close collaboration with other agencies and other service providers that have particular skills and so forth. However, having said that, I also believe that perhaps the skills development programs and the awareness education programs and even the therapeutic programs may or may not even hit the mark unless we have the service providers, the deliverers, the facilitators coming from the Aboriginal people, from the communities, from the towns.

The CHAIRMAN: So where do we start with that, Norm. I hear everyone talking about it, but nothing seems to happen.

Mr Smith: No. I do not think there is anything out there at the moment that would be a conduit for that to happen. We have government departments, and we have people in government departments who are very skilled, but I do not think we are training enough programs for facilitators for Aboriginal people to be able to take on any part of those programs and get involved with the communities in those programs. I think it is absolutely essential to have that. Where do we start? I guess to start with that would be the collaborative working relationships that we have with various organisations—Child Protection, Health, Justice, DIA and so forth. That is where we need to start to actually then, as facilitators and co-workers, have at least a training component for all that to train up and pay the Aboriginal facilitators and program providers. I think that is where we need to start. We could be here for another 10 or 15 years, sitting here doing the same thing, unless we actually get at that level within the communities.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Rebecca?

Ms Ross: I want to just further support what my manager, Norm, has said in that, I suppose one of the ways that we are looking at it on a smaller scale is through the development of this family violence program in collaboration with those other services, and taking, I suppose, the advice of those Indigenous organisations we are working with on how to do that in communities and towns, and by basically focusing on one town, one community—so starting small. Ideally, I suppose the long-term goal would be to look at developing an interdisciplinary team of the services that can focus on the treatment and prevention of alcohol and substance use, that can basically work with the community, work with family and the individual, all at the same time, and then allowing the actual services and other departments the time and the ability to focus on what their core business is. If we have one team that can then work on a series of issues at the same time, I think it is going to provide more support to individuals, which can then effectively make changes that are sustainable. What we are providing at the moment does allow a person to make changes, if that is what they want to do, if they are determined to do that. It depends on how strong it is, but sustaining those changes then is a

whole different ball game for them as well, depending on which environment they are living in, whether it is a remote community or town, the home and family as well. Ideally, that would be, I suppose, a long-term goal. But the thing about having that team, because we do have lot of action group committees and things around the Kimberley—but I suppose the one different factor would be to require the services of a regional Indigenous strategic body to oversee that model, but also to support the social and cultural perspective and assist with the appropriate engagement with Aboriginal communities to enable and engage effective collaboration in all. I suppose one of the other issues we have at times is actually being able to deliver in the communities themselves, so we have to use those appropriate gateways. If we cannot get through that gateway, that is a whole different range of issues again. If we had a team like that, with that Indigenous body assisting with the area of engagement and the type of service provision, which would then link to some of the suggestions Norm made in regard to looking at future training opportunities and things, I think, ideally, that is the way we may see some future outcomes.

The CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Rebecca. Gaelyn?

Ms Shirley: For youth justice, I think that we need the implementation of programs officers. I would like to see Indigenous consultants working with the programs officers and being able to travel out with the youth justice officers to communities so that it is a combined effort.

The CHAIRMAN: Just one point with that: I do not know what the families or the communities are like, but would you have to get one from that community?

Ms Shirley: Not necessarily. If you are getting someone from the Kimberley, they can probably work effectively with that community.

The CHAIRMAN: Okay. I know that down our way you have to be very careful because there are all sorts of family and cultural issues.

Ms Shirley: Yes. It is more of a problem if they actually come from that same community. In the past, I have had 70 per cent Aboriginal staff. I have lost a couple through transfer and resignation, so I am probably down to 50 per cent. But in terms of looking at other agencies, that is pretty good.

The CHAIRMAN: It is pretty high.

Ms Shirley: Yes, and has given the ability to work effectively with communities. In terms of working with communities, we have, for a number of years, had community supervision agreements, and their effectiveness fluctuates in terms of the stability of the community and availability of suitable people. What we have found is that the people who are suitable to provide the supervision role for us are called on by many different agencies, and it is very difficult for it to sustain. Ideally, having a staff member in each of the main remote communities would be brilliant.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Just one last question: what is your relationship with the police? Do you work in closely with the police or do you have any issues with the police?

Mr Smith: No. In fact, we have a pretty good open relationship with the police, actually, and with the new superintendent who recently arrived. I have had only one meeting with him, but it is good.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: How about with your local MPs?

Mr Smith: Carol Martin?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Yes.

Mr Smith: Yes. I had a meeting with her not long ago, actually.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: So do you meet with her regularly?

Mr Smith: No, but I have been invited to, and that can happen. It has not happened regularly, but, yes, it was only about four or five weeks ago that I met with her.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: So whose call was that? Was that your call or her call?

Mr Smith: Actually, she called that particular meeting, which was fine. But generally, across the region, I probably call most of them since being up here with DCP, and even with the previous police superintendent, and I think the previous prison superintendent.

The CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thanks very much for your evidence before the committee today. A transcript of this hearing will be forwarded to you for correction of 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 summary submission for the committee's consideration when you return your corrected transcript of evidence. We thank you very much for your time today.

Hearing concluded at 3.48 pm