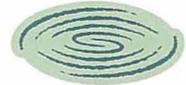


PUBLIC



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR
OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES



OICS Ref: 0383

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment
and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
18-32 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Ellis

Inquiry into Transportation of Detained Persons

Thank you for your letter dated 13 April 2010 inviting me to provide a written submission on the Committee's terms of reference.

The terms of reference are obviously very broad, especially term of reference 3. Terms of reference 3 and 4 also involve matters which, strictly speaking, go beyond the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Custodial Services. For example, Government action to reduce indigenous incarceration rates invites a consideration of general Government policy settings on law and order issues and the role of the Police, the courts and the Prisoners' Review Board. I will not therefore offer any comment on terms of reference 3 or 4 at this stage. However, I would be happy to contribute in the future if there are specific areas relating to prison services or transportation on which I can appropriately comment.

With respect to term of reference 2 and the title of your Inquiry, I can advise that I have recently completed an extensive review of court security and custodial services. The fieldwork for that review was undertaken in 2009. Feedback was provided to Government agencies and to the relevant contractors in mid-2009 and they also recently provided comment on the draft report. The report will shortly be sent to the printer and will then be tabled in Parliament (around the end of May/early June). That report should be of assistance to the Committee.

With respect to term of reference 1, I can advise that during 2009 and 2010 I have held ongoing and positive discussions with the Attorney-General and Minister for Corrective Services regarding recommendations 1 and 2 in the Coroner's Report into the death of Mr Ward. On 29 September 2009, the Government announced that the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services would, subject to a suitable business case, be funded to undertake an additional 'audit' role and would also be given the power to issue a 'show cause' notice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Neil Morgan
Inspector

13 May 2010

