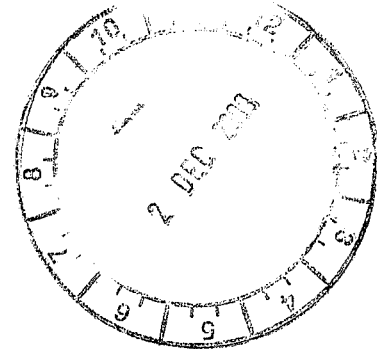




OICS Ref: 0383

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr Ellis

Petition No. 43 – Transportation of Detained Persons

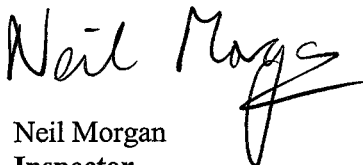
Thank you for your letter dated 19th November 2009 (and received on 24th November 2009) regarding the above petition.

The petition raises ten issues, most of which are very broad in scope. Some are also outside my jurisdiction. In brief, my responses to the ten points are as follows:-

1. The Government has already undertaken a full review of the Coroner's findings. I have held discussions with the Attorney General/Minister for Corrective Services about the Government's proposed new powers for my Office. I am satisfied with the intent and direction of these proposals.
2. No comment.
- 3, 4 & 5. No comment except to note that history and experience show that, provided proper processes and safeguards are in place, the private sector can provide good quality custodial services (for example, Acacia Prison). The issue is not a simple one of "public versus private" service provision; it is about quality of service. As the Ward case shows, the State also retains the ultimate duty of care even when services are contracted in.
6. Efforts are already in train to expand video conferencing and to use air transport. In addition, coaches are now being increasingly used for long distance transports (a recommendation of my predecessor some years ago).
7. I support all efforts to reduce Indigenous incarceration and recidivism.
- 8, 9 & 10. No comment.

Thank you for inviting my input.

Yours sincerely



Neil Morgan
Inspector

2nd December 2009

