

YOUTH DETENTION — RIP-PROOF VESTS AND GOWNS

**1129. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to the use of rip-proof vests or gowns in youth detention.

- (1) On how many occasions has a rip-proof vest or gown been used at Banksia Hill Detention Centre and unit 18 respectively this year?
- (2) What is the longest amount of time a child or young person has been left wearing a rip-proof vest or gown at Banksia Hill Detention Centre and unit 18 respectively this year?
- (3) What is the protocol that needs to be followed for the removal of a rip-proof vest or gown on a child or young person in youth detention?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Corrective Services.

- (1) The reporting of the provision of rip-proof clothing to young people is not captured by the department.
- (2) The reporting of the time a young person is provided rip-proof clothing is not captured by the department.
- (3) Young people who present with non-suicidal self-injury or suicidal behaviour are managed in line with the department's at-risk management system for youth, or ARMS. All young people under ARMS remain in their regular clothing when possible. Only in exceptional and rare circumstances in which a young person cannot be prevented from engaging in suicidal behaviour may it prove necessary to provide them with tear-proof clothing. The method of suicidal behaviour is considered prior to determining the need for tear-proof clothing. To this end, tear-proof clothing is indicated only when a young person is attempting self-strangulation using materials such as that from clothing. Young people remain in tear-proof clothing only for the minimum period required, until they have stabilised. The decision to place a young person in tear-proof clothing needs to be with the authorisation of the superintendent. The decision to then place a young person back in regular clothing can be made only by the superintendent or the at-risk assessment group.