

PRISONS — INDIGENOUS MEN

**373. Hon SHELLEY ARCHER to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:**

For each of the Kimberley and Pilbara regions —

- (1) What percentage of the current prison population are Indigenous men?
- (2) What percentage of the prison population were Indigenous men in 1999?
- (3) What percentage of the current male Indigenous prison population are repeat offenders?
- (4) What life skills development programs, such as drug and alcohol, rehabilitation and practical support programs, are offered to male Indigenous prisoners?
- (5) What is the breakdown of offences committed by male Indigenous prisoners?
- (6) What are the literacy and numeracy levels of male Indigenous prisoners?
- (7) What assistance is provided to these male Indigenous prisoners once they are released from prison?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) As at 28 February 2009, the percentages were: Kimberley, 93 per cent and Pilbara, 85 per cent.
- (2) The department is not able to provide a response to this question as there is no data available for 1999.
- (3) The data required to answer this question is not readily available as the data cannot be broken down by gender.
- (4) Life skills development programs are the Indigenous Men Managing Anger and Substance Use program, the Building on Aboriginal Skills program and the Indigenous Family Violence program. Practical support programs are the Social Emotional Self-Esteem course, the Drum Beat program, the Legal Education Monthly—VROs/Criminal Injuries/Tenancy program and the Advocacy program.
- (5) The offences are broken down by most serious offence and charges for all sentenced and remand prisoners and include, in the Kimberley, assault excluding sexual assault; break and enter; burglary; unlawful entry; breaches and escapes; driving licence offences; driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs; homicide; other against-justice procedures; other offences against the person; property damage; sexual assaults and offences; and theft or illegal use of a vehicle. In the Pilbara, assault excluding sexual assault; break and enter; burglary; unlawful entry; breaches and escapes; driving licence offences; driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs; homicide; other against-justice procedures; other offences against the person; property damage; robbery; sexual assaults and offences; and theft or illegal use of a vehicle.
- (6) This data is not readily available and cannot be provided within such a short time frame.
- (7) The community re-entry coordination service—re-entry link—provides support to prisoners and their families and assists offenders in their re-entry back into the community.

The transport options program provides all prisoners leaving with a viable transport strategy and implementation support to enable successful return to their home communities unless it is refused. Other types of services to assist offenders to re-integrate back into the community for the Kimberley and Pilbara region include men's counselling and health services; family relationship counselling and mediation services, including intervention for family and domestic violence; health and community care services; mental health services for adults and children; victim support services; emergency support services; services provided by the Department for Child Protection; financial services provided by Centrelink; drug and alcohol services; community policing services; legal services; youth centre services; workplace consultancy services; and community development employment services. Where they are available, services provided by Indigenous organisations are used.