

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — PREMIER'S MEETING —  
PROFESSOR FIONA STANLEY'S COMMENTS

**783. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to comments from eminent Western Australian Dr Fiona Stanley in today's *The West Australian*, in which she said —

... we pushed for an inquiry into what is happening at Banksia. At no time did we agree the Government was “on the right track”.

Noting that the Premier has claimed that a unanimous position was reached, has he misrepresented the discussions in that meeting and would he now like to correct the record?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

I thought the meeting was a good meeting. I, the Minister for Community Services, the Minister for Corrective Services and a range of public servants, including the Commissioner of Police, plus a group of Western Australians with an interest in the matter, attended the meeting. It was constructive. We talked about additional mental health services and a range of other initiatives. The government responded on the weekend with an additional \$63 million spend on mental health services, psychological services, training initiatives, education initiatives and capital works, particularly in the area of training inside Banksia Hill Detention Centre, which combines with the spend of \$25 million already on capital works upgrades, plus an Aboriginal services unit at Banksia Hill, plus a \$15 million on-country option for diversion of people from regional WA into an alternative form of supervision on a pastoral station near Derby. That all adds up to \$100 million of initiatives that we are putting in place to ensure that young people get their lives on track; and, if they end up in a form of detention, they can do so.

As I said after the meeting, the majority—I think I said the “overwhelming majority”—did not want an inquiry. Only one person at the meeting said that they wanted an inquiry, and that was Mr Daniel Morrison. He said that he wanted an inquiry. A range of other people said that they did not, and one of the others who said that they did not was Dr Fiona Stanley. She said that she did not want an inquiry and she did not want a royal commission.