

PRISONS, BED CAPACITIES AND PRISONER NUMBERS

317. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Justice

I refer the Minister to the topic of prison capacities and the number of prisoners in prison facilities, and ask -

- (a) will the Minister provide updated details on the capacity and number of prisoners in each prison facility as at 1 July 2005;
- (b) will the Minister explain the following differences between prison bed capacities and prisoner numbers as at 19 May 2005 -
 - (i) Bandyup - 15 more prisoners than beds;
 - (ii) Broome - 4 more prisoners than beds;
 - (iii) Bunbury - 10 more prisoners than beds;
 - (iv) Casuarina - 147 more prisoners than beds;
 - (v) Greenough - 28 more prisoners than beds;
 - (vi) Hakea - 51 more prisoners than beds; and
 - (vii) Roebourne - 47 more prisoners than beds;
- (c) in situations where there are a greater number of prisoners than beds, how and where are the excess prisoners housed at each of these prisons; and
- (d) in situations where there are a greater number of prisoners than beds, are additional staff put on duty to manage the increased prisoner population?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO replied:

The Department of Justice advises

- (a) [See paper 823.]
- (b-d) Agreements are negotiated with Western Australian Prison Officers Union to implement contingency planning for increases in muster above the Prison Design Capacity. These contingencies are based on muster bands and involve the implementation of additional resourcing and modified processes to meet the operational demands and ensure safety and security.

Prisoner Numbers pressures will dictate that at certain times the negotiated muster bands will be temporarily exceeded. Where this occurs the local prison Administration will negotiate with the relevant prison's Vigilance Officer/s to implement the additional resourcing and processes required. The original prison design capacity also relates to the provision of other facilities within the prison, e.g. number of anticipated visits, recreation areas, prisoner movement controls within the prison, etc and is calculated at the time the prison was built. However, continuous improvement in the management of prisoners including enhanced procedures; optimisation of resources; improved constructive day activities and programs for prisoners; improved prisoner movement controls and segregation capacity within the prison environment; and agreements negotiated with the Union to increase staffing numbers commensurate with prescribed muster bands, has allowed for a safe increase in numbers over the original prison design capacity.