

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

817. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's assertion in question time on Tuesday that Professor Stanley said that she did not want an inquiry and she did not want a royal commission into Banksia Hill Detention Centre, and his comments in Parliament yesterday that the Leader of the Opposition would have to ask Professor Stanley why she is saying things publicly now that are totally contrary to what was said in the meeting.

Given that the professor was invited to the summit in her capacity as an expert and a well-respected member of the Western Australian community, has the Premier contacted her directly to discuss this matter since the summit, or is he no longer interested in her views because she disagrees with him?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

No, I have not spoken to Professor Stanley since the summit. Yes, the government has responded to a range of the requests of the people of the summit by providing additional mental health services, psychological services, counselling services —

The SPEAKER: Premier, if I could just interrupt for a moment. It is a requirement to sit in the public gallery. Thank you.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It has provided additional counselling services, additional training, additional education—a whole range of things that were talked about at the meeting. That was one of the outcomes of the meeting. That is not all the government will do. Of course, over time, we will do more things. I make the point to the Leader of the Opposition again, and I think that this is not well recognised by people: over the course of the last 10 years, the number of juveniles in detention has halved. We are rewriting the Juvenile Justice Act, which we advised the people at the meeting, who were not aware of that fact. We have put in place programs like Target 120 that go into households that have juveniles caught up in the justice system to assist them with parenting and other strategies so that they are not engaged in these things. We are investing \$15 million in an on-country centre on a pastoral station so that young people from regional Western Australia can get the opportunity for alternative forms of rehabilitation that do not involve going to Banksia Hill. All those things are part of what we are doing. I think that sometimes there is a lack of recognition of many of the good things that are going on.