

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — SMOKING BAN

834. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to prison guard staffing levels and the plan to ban smoking in Western Australian correctional facilities.

- (1) Do any WA correctional facilities currently have staffing shortages?
- (2) If yes to (1), how many additional staff are needed at each facility?
- (3) Has the minister been made aware of concerns from prison guards that the scheduled ban on smoking in WA correctional facilities, combined with current levels of understaffing, could put them at increased danger when performing their duties?
- (4) Will the minister postpone the implementation of the smoking ban in some correctional facilities until staffing vacancies are filled?

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) For security reasons, specific staffing numbers are not publicly provided. Staffing levels are agreed for all prisons to cater for full prisoner populations. I will provide vacancy rates for custodial prison officers and prisoner populations at each prison as at 31 August 2022. This is a table, so I seek leave to have the table incorporated into *Hansard*.

[Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.]

	Vacancy Rate	Prisoner Population below capacity
ALBANY REGIONAL PRISON	8%	34%
BANDYUP WOMEN'S PRISON	9%	29%
BORONIA PRE-RELEASE CENTRE	3%	18%
BROOME REGIONAL PRISON	19%	29%
BUNBURY REGIONAL PRISON	3%	14%
CASUARINA PRISON	3%	25%
EASTERN GOLDFIELDS	11%	31%
GREENOUGH	2%	40%
KARNET PRISON FARM	12%	17%
MELALEUCA REMAND & REINTEGRATION	7%	35%
PARDELUP PRISON & FARM	2%	5%
ROEBOURNE PRISON	12%	3%
WANDOO REINTEGRATION FACILITY	5%	27%
WEST KIMBERLEY	12%	13%
WOOROLOO PRISON FARM	8%	28%

- (2) If a prison is short-staffed on any particular day, the prison routine is amended by the superintendent and additional staff are available through the provision of overtime.
- (3) A jurisdictional scan has shown that the introduction of smoke-free prisons has occurred across states with little disruption. The staged introduction will be closely monitored for any issues that may arise, and these will be addressed in a timely manner. The WA Prison Officers' Union supports the introduction of smoke-free prisons.
- (4) The WA smoke-free correctional facility project has been carefully developed and drew on input and lessons learnt from both Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions. The schedule for site rollouts will be flexible and draw on lessons learnt from previous sites, and will work through a logical program. The project time frame will be determined to ensure the safety, welfare and effective operations of the prisons.