

VETERANS' TRANSITION CENTRE — JARRAHDALÉ

Statement by Minister for Veterans Issues

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Veterans Issues) [1.18 pm]: I had the pleasure last week of visiting the Veterans' Transition Centre in Jarrahdale to observe the hard work performed by section 95 prisoners from Karnet Prison Farm. The Veterans' Transition Centre is a not-for-profit charity that assists former Defence Force personnel transition to civilian life. Among the services that it provides are short-term accommodation, counselling services and employment assistance. Section 95 prisoners are permitted day leave under the supervision of officers to engage in works that benefit the community and provide valuable skills and experience for the prisoners. This increases the likelihood of prisoners gaining meaningful employment post release.

Karnet prisoners have been working at the centre since February 2019. In 2023 alone, 5 616 hours of community work was completed by prisoners at the centre to a value of \$122 000. Work undertaken at the centre has allowed prisoners to utilise and further develop valuable skills. Section 95 prisoners have assisted in upgrades to 20 cabins and four duplexes, the conversion of an old house into a wellness centre, general repairs, fire mitigation and upgrades to the communal kitchen. This has involved removing existing flooring and installing new flooring, dismantling old kitchens and installing new kitchens, tiling kitchen splashbacks and wet areas, painting the interiors, and removing a large quantity of trees and trimming branches around buildings to prevent fires. The work undertaken at the centre provides prisoners with a sense of purpose and pride. It allows them to give back to the community and prepares them for a successful reintegration into society.

In addition to the valuable skills and experience gained from working at the centre, prisoners have benefited from the employment assistance service. The centre has generously facilitated employment opportunities for prisoners through its network of partners and sponsors.

I take this opportunity to thank the hardworking team at the centre for all the work they do for the veteran community and for the development of this partnership with Karnet Prison Farm. I particularly thank Greg Green and Alan Somers for providing a tour of the centre and an insight into the services provided. I also congratulate the section 95 prisoners for their hard work at the centre. I appreciate the dedication of the team at Karnet Prison Farm under the leadership of Superintendent Vose. I look forward to seeing this valuable partnership continue for the benefit of prisoners and the community.