

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — PREMIER'S MEETING

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

I have a supplementary question. Could the Premier advise what his government will do differently to address the challenges in the youth justice system as a result of his meeting held this morning or will he continue to do the same?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I just outlined to the Leader of the Opposition, but I will be repetitive because that is the nature of her questioning every single day. We are going to do something that has never been done before, which is an on-country sentencing option. It is not a boot camp, as the Liberal government before the last one put in place. It will be an on-country sentencing option in the Kimberley for, in particular, Aboriginal youths from throughout regional WA. That is different. A new model of care will be developed—we are working through—that will be different from what is currently in place. I outlined the rewrite of the legislation a moment ago of the juvenile justice act.

Ms M.J. Davies: You're already doing that, Premier.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It has not been drafted; it has not been introduced.

The last juvenile justice act was passed by Cheryl Edwardes, I think, back in the mid-1990s. It is something that has been redrafted with a view to implementation. They are three important things. As I constantly say, and I thought that the Minister for Community Services—both ministers were very impressive—was very impressive this morning when she said that it is a complex issue. There is rehabilitation and providing opportunities to young people, detainees, which is incredibly important, but there are also the rights and protection of people in the public and the victims. We have to take both of these things into account; we cannot do just one.