

PRISONS, CORRECTIONAL CORPORATION AUSTRALIA, CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

813. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Have problems been encountered with the outsourcing of transport within the public prison system?
- (2) Are those problems major problems?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Is it correct that Correctional Corporation Australia (CCA) has -
 - (a) failed to provide sufficient staff to fulfil its contractual obligation;
 - (b) had medical appointments for prisoners routinely cancelled;
 - (c) seen the public prison system incurring costs due to CCA inability to meet its contractual obligation;
 - (d) had significant security breaches regularly occurring;
 - (e) failed to deliver prisoners to appear at court at the appropriate times;
 - (f) failed to deliver prisoners to hospital appointments on time; and
 - (g) due to a lack of staff, required its employees to breach occupational health and safety guidelines by working extended hours?
- (5) What action does the Ministry intend to take to ensure CCA meets its contractual obligations?
- (6) Is it this type of delivery of service which lead to CCA losing the contract for Boralan Prison in Queensland and Deer Park in Victoria?
- (7) Is this a forerunner to the expected service delivery from CCA for Acacia Prison?
- (8) Can the Minister guarantee the public prison system will not be put at risk due to any management inadequacies of CCA?
- (9) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) Yes, there has been a small number of initial problems during the establishment of the new arrangements.
- (2) No.
- (3) See 1.
- (4)
 - (a) Yes, some unforeseen increases in service demand eg. medical appointments.
 - (b) Yes, some medical appointments have been cancelled.
 - (c)-(d) No.
 - (e)-(f) Yes.
 - (g) No.
- (5) The Ministry of Justice is actively managing the contract to ensure CCA meet their contractual obligations. CCA have recruited additional staff who are currently undergoing a training program approved by the Ministry. These additional staff will be operational on 30 October 2000, which will provide a better match between service demand and CCA staff resourcing.
- (6) No comment is offered on the actions of other jurisdictions.
- (7) No.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Not applicable.