

PRISONS — STAFFING LEVELS

576. Hon PETER COLLIER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer the minister to each of Western Australia's 16 state-operated prisons.

- (1) Since 1 January 2023, has each of these prisons been fully staffed?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Corrective Services.

- (1)–(2) Prison staffing numbers fluctuate in line with WA's prison population. The Department of Justice is always focused on ensuring that the state's prisons are adequately staffed, and it continues to run prison officer recruitment campaigns and training programs.

Like all industries across the state, Western Australia's prisons are challenged by the tight labour market resulting from WA's very strong economy. While staffing numbers can be impacted by these and other factors, the department continually manages the prison estate workforce to safeguard staff, prisoners and the wider community.