

HAKEA PRISON — FIRES

187. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister consider that nine fires over six months is an acceptable situation at Hakea Prison?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

What I can tell the member is that a lot of fires in prisons are lit by prisoners. That is a regular occurrence. It is not an unusual event. Is it acceptable? No; it is actually against the law. It is an offence to carry out that sort of act. They damage property and they can potentially harm themselves and other people. The practice is to always respond in accordance with the procedures that are employed in the prisons. However, it is not an unusual event. Prison officers train for this type of activity, by necessity, because it happens a lot.