

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — RECRUITMENT

**429. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's strong financial management, which has meant more money to support the work of our corrective services officers. Can the minister update the house on how this government is providing more job opportunities for those in the regions through its prisoner officer recruitment program?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:**

Thank you very much, indeed, member for Bunbury. The member, more than anybody, will know about the great work we are doing to create local jobs in Bunbury. In his earlier statement, the member for Roe was critical of the government's creation of jobs in the regions. We stand in this house every week to explain the number of jobs we are creating in regional Western Australia. At the moment, in corrections, 103 new recruits are either undergoing training already or about to undergo training in regional Western Australia.

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warren–Blackwood, you have the opportunity to ask a question.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** In order to fix up the mess that we inherited in the whole corrections portfolio, we are not only rebuilding the infrastructure of our prison estate around Western Australia, but also staffing it. I have stood in this house before and talked about the pipeline of training new prison officer recruits. That pipeline of training will continue through 2019, 2020 and beyond. That pipeline of training, particularly in regional Western Australia, goes to the following prisons: Albany Regional Prison, Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison, Greenough Regional Prison and West Kimberley Regional Prison. In my role as Minister for Corrective Services, I have been to those prisons and seen the recruitment programs happening on the ground in the regions. Some people are recruited from Perth, but most are recruited locally. Those local recruitment programs have not happened for years. I have been to the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison, member for Warren–Blackwood, and spoken to the 19 new recruits. I have been to Greenough Regional Prison and spoken to the 24 new recruits. I would have liked to have spoken to the 24 new recruits at Albany Regional Prison, but I believe, Mr Speaker, that you will be doing that yourself.

**The SPEAKER:** I have already done it.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Thank you very much, indeed.

However, I was at West Kimberley Regional Prison recently and spoke to the 16 new local recruits from Derby, 10 of whom are women. It is not just about prison officers. This government is investing in regional community corrections, and another 50 community corrections staff have been announced as part of the budget. I recently visited Broome and opened its new community corrections centre that will get an extra two staff for community corrections in Broome. Certainly, it needs it. As we have discussed before about regional recruitment, every corrections role offered is an additional job opportunity and a boost to the local economy. Being a prison officer is a rewarding career and a long-term career for many. Even the member for Dawesville knows this. He is in a marginal seat, and he knows that when he loses, there is an opportunity for him to don the uniform—we spoke before about how he likes uniforms. He wants to don the uniform and the member for Dawesville too can have a long-term rewarding career in prison.