

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — NEURODEVELOPMENTAL IMPAIRMENTS —
FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

565. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the 2018 Telethon Kids Institute study that found that 89 per cent of children in youth detention in Western Australia had a severe neurological impairment, with 36 per cent diagnosed with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. I also refer to the State Coroner's 7 February 2019 recommendation that there be universal screening for FASD for children entering the prison system.

- (1) In the 2022–23 financial year to date, how many distinct young people in youth detention have received referrals for comprehensive IQ or functional capacity assessments?
- (2) Will the minister commit to implementing a preliminary FASD screening program at Banksia Hill Detention Centre and unit 18 for all children who enter youth detention?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

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

- (1) Detainees will have comprehensive intellectual and cognitive testing performed when the court requests a neuropsychological, neurodevelopmental, FASD or fitness-to-stand-trial report. Over the 2022–23 financial year to date, 35 detainees have had such a report requested, referrals made and testing carried out.
- (2) The state government is continuing to investigate ways to enhance screening for neurological impairments among detainees at Banksia Hill Detention Centre and unit 18.