

PRISONS — SMOKE-FREE POLICY

687. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer the minister to the Department of Justice media release dated 10 August 2022, in which it was announced that we are one step closer to having a smoke-free prison policy across Western Australia, with a pilot program to be launched at Bandyup Women's Prison.

- (1) Has the McGowan government committed to a time line for the rollout of such a policy across the whole prison system, as recommended by the Inspector of Custodial Services in 2021?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the minister share that time line with the house; and, if no to (1), why not, and when might we expect such a time line to be made public?
- (3) Is the minister aware of a study, published in March 2021 by academics at the universities of Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh, which looked at the mostly positive role that e-cigarettes played when employed during a similar trial in Scotland; and, if not, might I offer him a copy of that paper?
- (4) In either event, will he consider the ready supply of e-cigarettes as a quit aid for prisoners here in WA?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The time line for the rollout of the smoke-free correctional facilities project within the prison system will be dependent on the pilot commencing in October 2022 at Bandyup Women's Prison. It is likely that a staged rollout across the prison estate will commence with a tobacco reduction strategy based on learnings from the pilot.
- (3) The department is aware of the use of e-cigarettes as part of Scotland and England's smoke-free journey. However, the use of e-cigarettes is not permitted in WA prisons due to health, safety and security concerns and will not be considered for introduction into WA prisons.
- (4) In Western Australia, the purchase of nicotine for e-cigarettes is not legal without a doctor's prescription and will not be considered for introduction into WA prisons.