

PRISONS — INDIGENOUS WOMEN

312. Hon SHELLEY ARCHER to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

For each of the Kimberley and Pilbara regions —

- (1) What percentage of the current prison population are Indigenous women?
- (2) What percentage of the prison population were Indigenous women in 1999?
- (3) What percentage of the current female Indigenous prison population are repeat offenders?
- (4) What life skills development programs, such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation and in-home practical support programs, are offered to female Indigenous prisoners?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the offences committed by female Indigenous prisoners?
- (6) What are the literacy and numeracy levels of female Indigenous prisoners?
- (7) What assistance is provided to female Indigenous prisoners once they are released from prison?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) As at 28 February 2009, the percentages of Indigenous women prisoners were: Kimberley, two per cent and Pilbara, six per cent.
- (2) The department is not able to provide a response to this question as no data is available for 1999.
- (3) The data required to answer this question is not readily available as the data cannot be broken down by gender.
- (4) The Building on Aboriginal Skills program is provided at prisons in both the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.
- (5) The offences are broken down by most serious offences or charges for all sentenced and remand prisoners, and include, for the Kimberley, breaches or escapes, other offences against justice procedures and other offences against the person; and for the Pilbara, assault, excluding sexual assault, breaking and entering, burglary, unlawful entry, breaches or escapes, driving licence offences and homicide. I am not sure whether the question has been interpreted at this point exactly as the member intended. If it is not as the member intended, I would be pleased to facilitate any attempt to provide the information on another occasion. I think that what was asked was not quite what was understood by the author of the response.
- (6) This data is not readily available and cannot be provided within such a short time frame. If the member would care to put the question on notice, we will provide information.
- (7) The Community Re-entry Coordination Service—Re-entry Link—provides support to prisoners and their families and assists offenders in their re-entry to the community. The transport options program provides all prisoners leaving with a viable transport strategy and implementation support to enable successful return to their home communities, unless it is refused. Other types of services to assist offenders to reintegrate into the community for the Kimberley and Pilbara regions are women's counselling and health services; family relationship counselling and mediation services, including intervention for family and domestic violence; health and community care services; mental health services for adults and children; victim support services; emergency support services; services provided by the Department for Child Protection; financial services provided by Centrelink; drug and alcohol services; community policing services; legal services; youth centre services; workplace consultancy services; and community development employment services.