

Division 26: Justice — Services 7 and 8, Corrective Services, \$945 432 000 —

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Mr F.M. Logan, Minister for Corrective Services.

Dr A. Tomison, Director General.

Mr A. Hassall, Commissioner of Corrective Services.

Mr S.L. Maines, Deputy Commissioner, Adult and Youth Justice Services.

Ms A. Kalders, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Adult and Youth Justice Services.

Mr A.D. Kerr, Director, Financial Management.

Mr G.J. Italiano, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Services.

Mr B. Winmar, Principal Policy Adviser.

Ms R. Marton, Senior Policy Adviser.

Mr T. Palmer, Chief of Staff, Minister for Corrective Services.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 1 June 2018. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I refer to item 7 on the table at the top of page 349, "Adult Corrective Services", under the "Service Summary" heading. As we start the evening, I am keen to understand where we are at with respect to the prison muster at the moment.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The prison muster at the moment, as of this morning, is 6 894 adults held in custody.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Sorry, could the minister repeat that?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: There are 6 894 adults held in custody, of which 6 153 are male and 741 are female, and today there were 14 discharges.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: As part of the budget process, I imagine the minister or the agency would forecast the expected muster over the forward estimates as part of the service summary. I am keen to understand if it is true that we will reach capacity for our prisons by September–October.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I will hand over to Mr Hassall for the forward projections of numbers. It is an issue that concerned the previous Liberal–National government in terms of dealing with an increasing prison muster, and obviously we have inherited that issue and it remains a major concern to Treasury and, obviously, Dr Tomison, in respect of where we go. The highest adult prison population that has been achieved so far across the department was on 8 April this year, when there was a total adult prison population of 6 957, so very close to 7 000—a figure that was predicted by Treasury in its modelling. Going beyond the Treasury modelling of 7 000, which I think was predicted to have been achieved already—we have not quite got there—I think Treasury's modelling, under both the previous government and this one, was that we would have already reached that number over the last 12 months. That has not occurred, but nevertheless the projected path is still a four per cent per year increase, and that forward estimation has not changed over the last four to five years. However, as the member will be aware, last year, as a result of the late budget that was handed down in September, we were provided with extra funding for 212 beds, which are now virtually completed. That has provided us with some respite in terms of the numbers going forward. As the member knows, that involved doubling up, in many cases, across the existing prison facilities, for those areas that had not been doubled up already. That has provided us with some respite but, as the member knows, we made significant commitments over the forward estimates to expand the existing prison footprint. That will deliver in total 884 extra beds over the forward estimates. That is virtually a new prison. As

the member will remember, the current Leader of the Opposition, as Treasurer under the previous administration, promised that a new prison would be built and took that position to the election and even indicated during the election that funding was available to build that new prison. This is the second time I have raised this matter in this place with the member; I am still looking for that funding, and it is not there. No matter how many times I ask Mr Kerr and Mr Italiano to turn over those stones and find where money is, it is just not there. That being the case, we took the alternative and innovative path of using the existing prison footprint to expand our prison bed resources. That does two things. It is firstly an efficient use of existing infrastructure, and secondly, as the member would well know from his previous occupation, by building within the existing prison footprint we avoid the guessing game from suburbs and towns out there as to whether they are going to have a new prison plonked down next to where they live, with all the associated concern and worry. I think what we have done is a good approach. It meets the demand that even the previous administration saw was coming. Does Mr Hassall have any further update in terms of what he has seen?

Mr A. Hassall: Of the 212 beds there were eight that came on stream at Karnet Prison Farm last October; 29 came on stream at Roebourne Regional Prison this June; and 37 planned for Bunbury Regional Prison to come on stream, at unit 5. We have some additional increases: 50 beds at Acacia Prison in June this year; 40 beds at Hakea Prison planned for September; 48 beds for Wooroloo Prison Farm in August; 160 beds at Bunbury over the next two years; and 512 at Casuarina Prison.

[9.00 pm]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: If we could just look at the next year, from, say, today, on a four per cent escalation estimate we should have around 7 200 prisoners. If we were to achieve the escalation projection in that year, would we presently have enough cells and beds to deal with that?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Yes—not cells, beds. We would certainly have enough beds to deal with the 7 200 prisoners as those 160 beds come on in Bunbury. As the member knows, we are expecting the 512-bed expansion in Casuarina Prison to be completed by at least 2019–20. That will give us well over 8 000 beds.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is a significant increase in infrastructure. What do the ancillary support mechanisms that go into that, such as car parks and things like that and other facilities that exist in various prisons, look like? Is there additional funding?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Yes; that is a very good question. I know I might seem parochial—I am not having a go at the member personally—but we had the previous, I think, \$600 million expansion under the previous Minister for Corrective Services. If the member remembers, there was an expansion at Hakea Prison; that is currently Melaleuca. There was an expansion at Albany Regional Prison and Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison. Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison is a wonderful prison and its facilities and capacity are perfectly sound. However, the additional facilities and services that were put into place did not have investment in infrastructure at the same time. Consequently, and this is the point I am making, infrastructure at prisons such as Casuarina, Wooroloo and others was not upgraded to deal with the extra number of beds. I will give Casuarina as an example. It is a \$96.3 million expansion, with 512 beds, as the member knows. There will also be upgrades to the facility's utility services—water, power, waste and gas—additional programs, and education and video link facilities. There will also be a replacement kitchen, because Casuarina is simply struggling now. It would really have been under the pump, had we not done this. There will be expanded room for social and official visits, official storage for reception and expansion of the outpatient and medical centre. Virtually the same is happening in Bunbury at the same time to deal with the 160 secure beds for Bunbury Regional Prison. It is really unfortunate to see that some prisons have been struggling. They have extra beds, but they have not had the facilities installed, the infrastructure, to assist with the increased numbers that have arrived in those prisons.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I have a question about infrastructure. I am sorry for my lack of clarity. Has there also been an increase in other ancillary support mechanisms, such as psychiatrists, psychologists and things like that, as a result of the extra investment or is that not occurring?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: There are certainly changes to the medical facilities and those support services as well.

Mr A. Hassall: The way we are funded for the prison population is that we get increased funding for a whole range of services—nurses; doctors; psychologists, if needed; and prison officers. That funding will come as the accommodation comes on stream. We will go around and have a look at what the need is and we will create those positions.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I guess, in essence, there would be a cost per prisoner per day and built into that would be the support services and the like, and as the estate grows, so will those services, so we are not seeing any net reductions over this time of psychologists and psychiatrists and support services like that.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: No. There is no net reduction in the number of employed psychiatrists, psychologists and other ancillary medical staff. The only issue I would point out, to be quite honest and blunt with the member, is access

to them. If we are increasing prisoner numbers at the rate we have been over the last five years, prisoners still get access to those services, but the waiting time increases; that is the unfortunate thing about it. Even when we have managed to increase the number of medical staff, I think the member will find that there is not a correlation with the increase in the number of prisoners. It just means that people have to wait longer, and that is being perfectly blunt with the member.

[Mr R.S. Love took the chair.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have a further question from that of the member for Dawesville about the prison population. Have community supervision orders had an impact on numbers one way or the other?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I know that the answer to that is no, unfortunately. This comes back to some of the comments I made when I first became Minister for Corrective Services. Western Australia is one of the worst jurisdictions in Australia when it comes to putting people who have been sentenced to a particular punishment by the courts on to correctional service orders, as opposed to being incarcerated. For example, Victoria has a significantly higher number of people on CSOs, as the member called them, compared with Western Australia. That, along with the prison remand numbers, so people being incarcerated while they wait for their trial as opposed to being bailed, is really the core of why our prison numbers have been increasing at the rate they have been. That is the issue. Had the judiciary taken an alternative path—this is no criticism of the judiciary at all—in its sentencing by applying community service orders or bailing people rather than remanding them in prison, our prison numbers would not be as they are today.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to the third dot point under significant issues impacting the agency on page 346 of the *Budget Statements*. I note the significant increase in the prison population and the expected upgrades in a number of prisons. Can the minister outline the nature of the upgrades, including increases in double bunking, which I gather the minister was opposed to when in opposition?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I thank the member for the question. I do not think the member will find that in opposition the Labor Party was opposed to double bunking. He will see from what others had stated in *Hansard*—not me personally, because corrective services was not my shadow portfolio—that they were critical of the increase in prison numbers in comparison with the design numbers of the prisons. There are various ways to measure the number of people in prison. There are various ways to measure the number of beds in a prison, whether it is by design or the physical numbers that are there. I remember Hon Paul Papalia attacking the government over that differential in numbers. However, he acknowledged that double bunking just had to be applied, because there was no other way of dealing with things. We cannot magically wave a new prison into existence, so double bunking was simply a fact of life and a reality, and it remains so. Most cells across Western Australia now have double bunks—even minimum-security prisons such as Karnet, Wooroloo and even Pardelup, which are prison farms, as the member would know. Double bunks simply deal with the population, which the previous government dealt with and the current government is dealing with.

[9.10 pm]

Regarding the changes and infrastructure investments that have been made to deal with that population, at Casuarina Prison, as I indicated, a further 512 beds will be added to the prison in four standalone units that will be built at the back of the existing prison, but within the internal fence infrastructure, so there will be no additional cost to expand the prison's infrastructure since it will be built within the prison's footprint. As the member knows, one will be the first male alcohol and drug diversion facility built in Australia for prisoners. Bunbury Regional Prison will have a further 160 beds added to its capacity. Again, that will be within the prison fence line and will use existing prison infrastructure—for example, the gatehouse—and various other elements of the prison. There will be two two-storey units. About \$2.5 million will be expended on Broome Regional Prison simply to upgrade its facilities, which were left in an appalling state. It was shocking that prisoners were kept in those facilities. It was critically needed in order to bring some humanity to that prison and also for the occupational health and safety of the staff who work there. That work is well underway now and will be completed before the end of this year. A series of different upgrades will be made to Hakea Prison to try to deal with the significant increase in the remand population. Remember that Hakea is a remand prison.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Regarding the status of regional work camps, are they being fully utilised at the moment?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Yes. I can provide today's numbers on work camps. Again going back, the member of the moment, the member for Dawesville, might be able to provide the house with some advice on this because I certainly cannot say why the previous administration closed the work camps. It is beyond me. When I went to Warburton and spoke to the good townfolk there, they begged me to open the work camp. I think the previous government said the people did not want it to open. That is not what they told me. They were absolutely enthused that we were opening the work camp because it will provide much-needed services in Warburton. The member for Kalgoorlie would know this. It will also provide work for prisoners around the town of Warburton. Similarly in

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Wednesday, 23 May 2018]

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Chair; Mr Zak Kirkup; Hon Fran Logan; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Kyran O'Donnell; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr Matthew Hughes; Mr Donald Punch

Wyndham, when I arrived there, member for Dawesville, I found two lonely prison officers and four very lonely prisoners who were sick to death of talking to each other. They were sick to death of all talking to each other and were begging for more prisoners and staff to come to the prison so they would have someone else to talk to for a change. Again, I do not know why they were closed.

We have tripled the numbers since the figures came out in 2016. I was up in Dowerin, which is a great work camp, only recently. For the member's information, I am looking to try to double the size of Dowerin work camp at the request of the two shires up there—Dowerin and Goomalling. They want the work camp expanded because of the great work they will do in the shires. I am looking for a cheap way, with no extra money from Treasury, to somehow double the size of that work camp. At Dowerin, the capacity is 100 per cent. Roebourne is at 84 per cent capacity; it had nobody in it when I went there. It was closed when I originally took up the ministerial role. Walpole is 83.3 per cent full. Warburton is 29.2 per cent full and that is primarily because of the distances involved and the type of people we can put in that community. We have to be very careful about who we put there because it is such an isolated and small community. Wyndham work camp is now 40 per cent full. That is an overall utilisation of 61.2 per cent for the work camps.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I refer to significant issues impacting the agency on page 346. The sixth dot point refers to dedicated alcohol and other drug rehabilitation prisons. As with the Casuarina Prison expansion that is mentioned, can this be rolled out to Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison? It is brand-new and a great facility. Can we hop on board the train?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I thank the member for Kalgoorlie. I noticed that he has raised his enthusiasm for an alcohol and drug facility within the EGRP with the local media up there as well.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Yes.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: We are not planning to do that at the moment and there are AOD treatment programs available for people to take up in Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison. From research and also from our experience visiting Victoria and New South Wales, the advice we got from both prison staff and governments was that if we are going to set up an alcohol and drug facility, we should not make it simply a program within the existing prison system if we are really trying to achieve significant change. We should make it a standalone facility that is isolated from the mainstream prison population because of the interaction between the two and the commitment that can be given by the prisoners if they are isolated; I do not mean completely isolated, but if they are away from the mainstream prison and within their own therapeutic community. That is what we will be doing in both Casuarina Prison and Wandoo Reintegration Facility for males and females. Their argument, which we are yet to see, is that the outcomes will be better if we do that. I think the best way of answering the member's question is probably to say it will be one step at a time. Let us see how we go with these two facilities. They are the first of their kind in Australia. Let us see how we go with the male and female facilities and what results we get from them.

Regarding existing programs and any expansion of those programs at the EGRP, I will refer to the commissioner.

Mr A. Hassall: As the member would know, last year the director general signed off on the new rehabilitation programs. I would have to take the question on notice to tell the member the exact amount, but I am pretty confident that extra resources were put into the EGRP. I can certainly get back to the member with that amount. As the minister correctly said, we have methadone maintenance and treatment programs throughout prisons in the state.

Ms E. HAMILTON: I have spoken in the house about the issue of methamphetamine in the community. Regarding the sixth dot point on page 346, I am keen to get an update on the women's facility.

[9.20 pm]

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I can inform the member that the work being done on the Wandoo Reintegration Facility is proceeding very well indeed. On 1 May the department took back into its own operations Wandoo prison from the previous contract that had been running with Serco, which had expired, and there was an end-date for its occupation of Wandoo. That was on 1 May. It is now back in the hands of the Department of Justice. Under the contract signed, Serco had to ensure that the facility handed over was fit for purpose and in a state acceptable to the department. In addition, work had to be done to transform it into a drug rehabilitation prison alongside Serco still operating the facility, so it had to allow access to Department of Justice staff and contractors. That has been undertaken and continues to proceed. We expect the first prisoners to come to Wandoo in the first week of July this year.

I will pass over to the commissioner in a second, but work has been undertaken and is almost finalised on the model of therapeutic care for the prisoners and the programs that will be in place, and how those programs will be undertaken in prison and after prisoners leave. The biggest problem is, as the member for Kalgoorlie knows being a policeman, that they can get all the help they like in prison but when they get out they tend to go straight back to the same pub where their previous dealer was and it all starts again. They need support once they leave the prison. We are trying to integrate programs within the prison so that for people who suffer these addictions there is

a seamless level of assistance both while they are in the prison and once they leave. That model has been finalised. The staffing levels have been identified in terms of the numbers and types of staffing that will be required to run that facility. Anything further?

Mr A. Hassall: Just to build on what the minister said, the capital works program is well underway and will be completed. There was a little slippage in the gate work there, but that will not hinder the opening of the prison. The treatment regime has all been locked in and we are working with a not-for-profit on that—three phases, 12 steps. We have had a look at what happens across the country in that space, and I am fairly confident we have the best services available.

We have had a workstream looking at staff. We brought most of the Serco staff back in, and we had to retrain them on how the Department of Justice works and operates. That work is going really well. We have signed off on the training program. We have had a bit of a marketing campaign with women already in the prison system—so Bandyup and places like that. We have had really good interest. So far about 80 women have expressed interest in participating in the program, which is good because these types of programs really work with people who want to participate. We have had a very high level of interest expressed so far. That does not mean to say they will all get a place, but the interest is certainly there from Bandyup.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: When it opens, member for Joondalup, you are more than welcome to go along and have a look.

Mr M. HUGHES: I will stick with the issue of drugs for a moment and refer to the fifth dot point on page 346. Can the minister update the committee on the actions taken to reduce the supply of drugs and other contraband into our custodial service?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I thank the member for his question on that. That issue, as the member knows, has been the subject of a fair amount of debate in Western Australia, particularly the views of the Corruption and Crime Commission and its advice about particular staff at Acacia. The Auditor General's report into contraband and drugs in prison was given to the department, and I am very pleased to say that significant work has been done by the department in that space. We cannot talk about all the things here tonight, because obviously a lot of it goes to security within the prisons and we do not want to publicly advise people of what the department is doing to stop the supply of drugs. but the member can think about it in this way. We are approaching it in a twofold way. That relates to the previous question from the member for Joondalup. We are looking at stopping the supply of contraband in prisons—particularly drugs and alcohol, but also phones and any other forms of electronic devices—as best we possibly can through various strategies, while at the same time stopping demand within prisons. Obviously, if we reduce the demand for drugs that will have an impact on the supply of drugs. Bunbury Regional Prison, for example, as the member for Bunbury knows, has done a great job in this area, led by Superintendent Kerry Bishop and her team in Bunbury. I think we will relatively soon release the results of that successful drug reduction and minimisation strategy that was put into place in Bunbury. That has had an overflow effect, by the way, into the City of Bunbury and the work the local member is doing there to tackle the methamphetamine addiction and demand for methamphetamine. The prison is trying to reduce the demand by putting prisoners on a regime whereby they voluntarily commit and take action, and will be penalised if found with drugs or under the influence of drugs. Reducing that demand has had a significant effect. We would like to see that program rolled out across the entire prison system. That is one way of approaching it.

The other approach to dealing with this issue is reducing supply. A number of methods can be used to identify the use of drugs and who are using drugs. One method is monitoring the wastewater sewerage outlets of the prison to see exactly which units are using drugs or could be under the influence of drugs through the passing of the drugs into the wastewater of the sewerage systems. Another method, of course, is expanding the use of dogs and various detection equipment, which is underway at the moment—even more so at Wandoo because we want that as a completely drug-free prison, otherwise we lose the whole reason for its existence. Dogs are a remarkable tool in the contraband strategy, but there are other forms of technology that have been rolled out and are being used at the moment. There has been intelligence gathering, with which Mr Maines has been heavily involved, working alongside the Western Australia Police Force and the CCC to identify the likely culprits involved in contraband smuggling and the likely people who could be influenced in terms of contraband smuggling within the prison system, and then taking action against either prison officers or staff or people coming into prisons. I think in the area of people coming into prison we will see further change, and I am hoping for legislative change that the member for Dawesville will support to tighten up that area to ensure we have safe and secure prisons going into the future, particularly given the number of people who come into our prisons on a regular basis who may well be a clear source of the smuggling of contraband.

[9.30 pm]

Mr M. HUGHES: I asked that question in the context of the recent Corruption and Crime Commission report, in terms of the prisoners out and the relationship between them.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: That was the question the —

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Is the conversation going to continue between government members, Chair?

The CHAIR: I am conscious of the time, and it has been quite a lengthy answer thus far, minister. Do you think you have said enough?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Unless Mr Maines wants to add something to that.

Mr S.L. Maines: I could add to this.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I have additional questions to this and then a new question.

The CHAIR: You are down for a question.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate the member for Kalamunda's exceptional question once again. But further to the minister's detailed response, I am keen to understand whether the process of random drug and alcohol testing of prison officers has been maintained during the entire time the government has been in office?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The regime of testing prison officers has been not only maintained, but also expanded to cover not only prison officers. I will pass over to the commissioner to give members some clear detail on that.

Mr A. Hassall: As the minister has said, our approach to drug supply reduction is threefold: supply reduction, demand reduction and harm minimisation. On the supply reduction side, we have had two operations running for a number of months. Operation Contra commenced last year and we did 223 000 searches across the state. That involved staff, prisoners and visitors. Then it morphed into Operation Horace in January this year, which was a more intelligence-led approach to how we do searches. I have some figures on unannounced searches if the member would like them. There were 223 staff searches; 262 staff property searches; dog searches of 290 staff; staff vehicle searches, two; 140 staff breath tests; 54 staff drug tests; and 10 targeted staff tests. That occurs when we have had intelligence. Of all those, there were three positive breath tests and two allegation letters were sent to staff. On the prisoner front, we did 142 strip searches; 277 —

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Could the commissioner clarify the time frame?

Mr A. Hassall: This is from 12 January. There were 277 who participated in drug searches—they were tested by dogs—46 cell searches, and 72 drug tests on prisoners. That is over and above what we would normally do anyway. The unannounced operations were at Casuarina Prison on 5 and 7 April, Hakea Prison on 11 April, Albany Regional Prison on 17 and 18 April, Pardelup Prison Farm on 19 April, Acacia Prison on 4 May, Karnet Prison Farm on 15 May, Hakea again on 16 May, and there is another operation tonight.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I refer to page 354 and adult corrective services. I am keen to understand the cost of services provided. Is community supervision and the like incorporated within the cost of services, specifically those offenders in the community with ankle bracelets and the like? Is that encompassed in that part of the budget papers? I want to make sure that I am in the right area.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It does.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Further to that, I note that on 4 and 21 May in Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia, offenders in the community who wear bracelets lost communication from a Telstra outage. I am keen to understand whether that occurred in our jurisdiction as well.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: That is an interesting question, because I think a number of people were thinking about what had happened as a result of that Telstra blackout and its impact on not only fire and emergency services but also corrective services and GPS tracking systems. We have not been affected by that in Western Australia. But in terms of planning for a possible problem, given the fact that we have had two major outages from Telstra within the last few months —

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: There have been two in the last month.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Mr Hassall might have an idea of how to deal with this.

Mr A. Hassall: We have a business continuity plan and for more detailed input into that, I will hand over to Ms Kalders.

Ms A. Kalders: A very detailed business community plan will kick in should there be any outage of the system. The beauty of our system is that even if there is an outage, the data is retained, so when the system comes back online, we are able to verify whether the offenders were compliant or whether there was any incidence of noncompliance. That gives us the surety of being able to know what is happening during those periods of outages.

Extract from Hansard

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We have steps to ensure that we also, during those outages, can use other methods to ascertain where people are and what they are doing.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Just to confirm, during those Telstra blackouts, for want of a better word, there was no lack of communication with those devices at all?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: There was no impact at all in this case.

Ms A. Kalders: There was an impact, and when the system goes down—it was such a short period—we start off our business continuity plan. But it came back up, I think, within a very short time. That data was all retained and we were able to verify where everyone was.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Maybe the minister wants to clarify the situation. If there has been an outage or has not been an outage, what was the outage point in time? As you appreciate, minister, those things are monitored in real time typically. Did we lose that capability?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I will find out further for you, member for Dawesville. I will ask Ms Kalders to explain the actual time that was lost.

Ms A. Kalders: We have a time line that I can go through. I do not want to provide too much information about the operations of the electronic monitoring system so offenders do not understand —

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I do not want Ms Kalders to say anything that would compromise the system at all. I appreciate that.

Ms A. Kalders: There was a first indication at about 8.35 that something was not quite right. By 9.19 we had a sense that there was definitely a problem with our system and we kicked in our BC processes at that point. By 9.49 that was resolved.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Can I get an understanding of the quantum of the bracelets or devices that we did not have contact with? How many did we lose contact with?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: We have two types of bracelets in Western Australia. They are not all GPS.

Ms A. Kalders: As of today, we have 81 offenders on electronic monitoring. Some of those are on GPS and some are on radio frequency.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Can Ms Kalders remind us how many are on GPS.

Ms A. Kalders: The number on GPS is 25 and the rest are on radio frequency.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am conscious of any operational concerns, so if there are any issues in relation to operational concern, I am happy for us to not go down that path. For those offenders on radio frequency devices—I note the answer before, minister, in relation to still logging that data—how specific is that data in an absence of real-time communication?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: This is for those on radio frequency or GPS?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I imagine that GPS would be logged within the device, but what about those not on GPS—those on radio frequency devices?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Would radio frequency devices have been affected? No, they would not have been affected. That is the point we are making. There are 91 who are on bracelets and 25 on GPS. They were the only people who would have been affected. The radio frequency devices use a radio frequency, so they would not have been affected by Telstra outages. Of those 25, immediately, that information would have been stored and if there had been a problem, we would know about it by now.

[9.40 pm]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that that was the case. Just to clarify, did we lose contact with anyone on the radio frequency devices?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: No.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am not sure that that information is correct.

The CHAIR: Minister, could you clarify that?

Ms A. Kalders: I would need to clarify that. My sense is that the connecting information was still available for us to verify those radio frequencies.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: We can find out.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: If the member can put that question on notice, because he is very good at putting questions on notice, we will provide him with that information.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I refer to the first two dot points relating to the asset investment program on page 356, which indicate funding for the expansion of Casuarina Prison and Bunbury Regional Prison. I am keen to know whether the minister can update us on whether those expansions will be included in the WA industry participation strategy pilot.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I thank the member for Bunbury. As he knows, legislation relating to the Western Australian industry participation strategy passed both houses earlier this year and is now in force as a way of ensuring that taxpayers' money that is spent on infrastructure, basically delivering services for taxpayers in Western Australia, is spent in Western Australia as best as we possibly can, certainly through local content. That is what it is about. It is effectively a local content bill and a job creation bill. The first of many WAIPS plans for Western Australia is in Bunbury. As the member well knows—we have talked about that already—it is all in place. The \$23.7 million 160-bed expansion of Bunbury Regional Prison aims to provide jobs and services to the people of Bunbury and the businesses of Bunbury and ensure that that money is fed into the economy of Bunbury as best we can. Building Management and Works, as the project management contractor for the prison expansion program, has an obligation now that the Western Australian participation plan legislation is in force. I will give the example of the bridge to the stadium —

The CHAIR: Minister, I think we are getting a bit off the topic here and it is getting late.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The bridge to the stadium is an example of what could have been done and was not done under the previous administration. The WAIPS legislation is aimed at ensuring that we get the biggest bang we possibly can out of the taxpayer dollar, particularly for the regions. Bunbury is a major city in Western Australia, along with Albany—I have to include Albany, otherwise there will be trouble between the member and the Speaker!—so it is important to ensure that Bunbury's economy benefits from the expansion of the prison. That plan is in place. BMW is bound to implement the obligations of that plan. Casuarina is also part of the Western Australian industry participation planning as well. Bunbury will be the first cab off the rank. I am hoping to see a significant amount of money invested in Bunbury businesses and job creation as soon as those contracts are let.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I refer to the royalties for regions fund, halfway down page 358. What projects are being funded from royalties for regions?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The money that the member identified on page 358 has a total of just \$9 million in the current financial period and \$9.5 million in the future financial period. Some of the benefits are received by regional youth justice services for its work in the Kimberley. As the member knows, \$21.5 million was allocated under the previous government to the work of regional youth justice services in the Kimberley. That money was running out as of July this year and we have been successful in ensuring that funding is retained and continued into the out years to 2021–22. The minister would be aware of the regional workers incentives scheme payments that have been in place for some time and paid for out of royalties for regions. That scheme is part of the current and future budget as of July and the out years. We also see the continuation of the Enhanced Driver Training and Education Program for regional and remote communities. I am pretty sure that was put in place by the Nationals as part of the coalition. That money continues on until at least 2019–20 at just over \$1 million a year. The community safety network is currently in place and will remain in place until 2021–22 at approximately \$220 000 in the current year and future out years. A radio network system that is co-jointly used by the Western Australia Police Force is also funded out of royalty for regions.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: What work has and is being done to identify other projects in the minister's department that could be funded by royalties for regions?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Another question on how we spend royalties for regions money. I will pass over to Dr Tomison, as a man who likes to spend money! No, he is the director general and the appropriate person to respond to that question.

Dr A. Tomison: I do like to spend money, but not at the moment. Previously, the Department of the Attorney General and also the Department of Corrective Services have done quite well out of royalties for regions money, as the member would be aware, including funding for courthouse builds in the Kimberley and other places. We also have the royalties for regions money now that we desperately need for the youth justice system, as Minister Logan has said. One of the areas the minister is keen for us to pursue in the regional areas around the Kimberley and Pilbara in particular, is the locating of prisoners or offenders close to home when they have committed offences and are sentenced, rather than bring them down to Perth. That costs a lot of money and is quite distressing for some individuals who are obviously closely allied to home, particularly young Aboriginal offenders. The minister is having us look at various sites up north where we may create small facilities to alleviate those traumas and reduce the cost of transporting people backwards and forwards for little gain, particularly for those with short sentences. That can be difficult to achieve just because of the numbers involved. Once we have enough people there quite regularly at a particular site, we essentially have to staff it and put in place services when in fact the demand may not be there. We are looking very carefully at what we can do. The minister has asked us to explore a number of

sites and, as part of that, royalties for region may play into it and we may be able to access or apply for that funding. That is probably the main thing that we are looking at at the moment. The minister also mentioned, as part of his summary, the enhanced driver training program, which is more on the Attorney General's side of the equation but is still really important. Many of our prisoners who come into jail or into our system as community corrections offenders often do not have a driver's licence, which is a real hindrance for them when trying to get employment and travel around legally without getting themselves into further trouble. We have had quite a lot of success in these enhanced driver training programs running in Broome, Kalgoorlie and Roebourne. We are going to try to expand that where possible. There is quite a large market to reduce Aboriginal offending by being proactive in assisting them with the key things they need, including not only identification documents, but also driver training, particularly given that the number of hours that a person has to drive to get their licence has doubled. We may make an application for royalties for regions funding for that as well.

[9.50 pm]

Mr F.M. LOGAN: By the way, that also includes, where we can, assisting Kalgoorlie because of the issues in Kalgoorlie that are well known to us, member for Kalgoorlie. It comes down to the numbers of particularly juveniles who come out of Kalgoorlie and the desert lands to ensure that we do everything we possibly can to keep them on country.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is a really good program—good work. I would like to go again to the number of FTEs and the cost of services under “Adult Corrective Services” on page 354. I am keen to understand where those reductions will be taking place if that is possible, please.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: In the total number of employees? I presume the member is asking about VTSS.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Whether they are VTSS or whether there are others.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Some will be included in there as VTSS.

The CHAIR: With these acronyms, I think it is best if the minister outlines what that is.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: VTSS is the voluntary targeted separation scheme, or voluntary redundancies.

Dr A. Tomison: In terms of the drop in the number of full-time equivalent staff, a decrease of 20 FTE from the 2017–18 budget to the 2017–18 estimated actual relates to the voluntary targeted separation scheme. Eighteen staff left the department under that scheme, and also the senior executive service reduction led to two staff resigning from the department. The decrease of 82 FTE from the 2017–18 budget to the 2018–19 budget relates again to the VTS scheme, with 51 staff; the SES reduction, four staff; and the agency expenditure review initiatives, 27 staff.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: It is pretty obvious where the SES staff would be from. In relation to the majority of those other reductions, were they officers on the ground or were they part of the corporate executive structure? Moreover, is there a breakdown at all that the minister would be willing to provide via supplementary information?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I do not think that would be helpful because it is not over yet. That is the thing. Basically, in answer to the member's question, I have asked the department to ensure that we minimise any impact on frontline staff for obvious reasons. In fact we will be employing more frontline staff. I know the VTSS numbers are here, as just outlined by Dr Tomison, but of course the member would be aware that we have to take on more frontline staff because we are opening more beds. We are increasing prison bed numbers by over 800 over the next three years. We will be taking on a significant number of frontline officers to deal with that. I am not completely au fait with exactly who has gone and who has not, because I have obviously been looking at the numbers in terms of the finances, as I am expected to do. Dr Tomison, can you outline a bit more?

Dr A. Tomison: The department is taking quite a lot of time, as I am sure most departments have, to try to get this right. We are aware that losing staff can potentially place an impost on the department. We spent months doing this. I think some individuals would have liked us to have reached decisions earlier than we were able to. The primary consideration was the impact on the department—that is what it had to be. We have been trying to avoid losing frontline staff wherever we can. Sometimes we can let frontline staff go because of restructures caused by the machinery-of-government changes or other service restructures we are doing to enhance our business. Sometimes we have seen some members from operational areas go—in courts, for example—or occasionally from places such as community corrections. Generally speaking, we have been trying to focus on backroom functions—administration and other areas—where there are capacities that we can pick up through the use of existing staff. We have been very clear. The minister and the government have been very clear with us that we have to stick to our new cap once we have our final figure in place. We have strategies in place to ensure we do that but at the same time we can generate staff in the key areas we need to do our business. A lot of work has gone into getting the right people in terms of what the department needs and giving them options. We have done the best we can with that, I guess.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Wednesday, 23 May 2018]

p360b-369a

Chair; Mr Zak Kirkup; Hon Fran Logan; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Kyran O'Donnell; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr Matthew Hughes; Mr Donald Punch

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I assure the member, going to the heart of his question—via further information I have just been handed—that there is no impact at all on uniformed officers nor Banksia Hill employees.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that assurance. On that same theme, would there be an impact on proactive investigations that might occur internally or any impact on professional standards or whatever the iteration would be in this instance?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Not to my knowledge.

Dr A. Tomison: As part of our response to Corruption and Crime Commission reports, the Office of the Auditor General and other things, we are looking at improving our intelligence investigations capabilities and ensuring that they are the best fit, if you like, for the Department of Justice as it now stands. As part of that, if the member looks back over the preceding years, he will see that there has been a drop in the number of staff in some of the investigatory areas, in the Corrective Services space, at least. At the moment, we are doing a review to look at where those structures should sit and how they should be staffed—the sorts of people we need to do the job effectively. Those sorts of thing are having impacts, but the voluntary targeted separation scheme elements have all been relatively minor impacts on our services.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The second part of the question was about—I am not sure what the proper term is in this instance—the professional standards or anyone who walks in and makes a complaint or an allegation against officers. In that case, has the integrity of that area remained the same?

Mr A. Hassall: There are two areas in the department. There is an intelligence area that primarily does intelligence collection, collation and analytics, and then there is an investigations area that does staff screening, investigations and misconduct prevention. As part of machinery-of-government changes, those areas have been merged together. There will be some slight changes in functions, because some of those functions might go to a corporate area. There has been no reduction in staff, with the exception of one in the intelligence area, since the machinery-of-government changes or as a result of VTSS. We have put extra resources in. We have put a deputy commissioner in charge of that area on the back of some the reports that we have had and we have streamlined some of the processes, so we will see a much quicker turnaround in investigations.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The minister spoke about another area; has there been a reduction in that area as well?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Which area was that?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The minister referred to a misconduct section and an intelligence section.

Mr A. Hassall: There are two areas. There is an intelligence directorate and there is an investigations directorate.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Overall, in that case, there has been a reduction of only one staff member across that entire area.

Mr A. Hassall: As a result of VTSS. There has actually been an increase in the investigations area. We are in the process of taking on some extra investigators.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I refer to page 346 and Legal Aid cost and demand forecasts.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Sorry, member, that line item is for the Attorney General tomorrow.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Sorry, my mistake. I said it would be quick.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 346 and the third dot point on the increase in the adult prison population. Can the minister give me his thoughts on how the high prison population is impacting staff morale?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It is not exactly a budget item. I get regular feedback from my prison visits when I talk to staff directly. I talk to staff representative organisations, whether that is the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union or the Civil Service Association, which represents other staff members within the Department of Justice and at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre. I can tell the member that the morale in Banksia Hill is significantly higher than it was before May 2017 and in the years before that. I know that personally, having spoken to staff out there. Morale is much, much higher because people feel safe. They come to work and they feel safe; whereas, before—the member can look at the Inspector of Custodial Services' report that states this—staff were coming to work and they did not feel safe in Banksia Hill. In that area, I know that morale is significantly higher than it was. In the general prison area, my personal feedback from staff is good. It will be interesting to hear what the commissioner says because I know he probably shares my view on this.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. I think that is a good note to finish the evening on.

The appropriation was recommended.

Committee adjourned at 10.00 pm
