

**CORRECTIVE SERVICES — CORRUPTION TASK FORCE**

*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

**MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville)** [2.56 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended so far as to enable the following motion to be moved forthwith —

That this house condemns the Minister for Corrective Services for allowing corruption to flourish in our state's prison system through his mismanagement, and calls on the Premier to introduce a Department of the Premier and Cabinet-led task force to address this highly concerning situation.

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [2.56 pm]: The opposition has requested a suspension of standing orders. I am pleased to entertain that. I have the unusual experience of being informed about the suspension of standing orders before a question is asked that is in response to the answer that has not yet been given! That is an unusual situation. We will suspend standing orders depending on the question getting up and depending on what the answer is! We are happy to do that, happy to entertain that. I appreciate the early notice. If the opposition could give me early notice of next week's suspension motion, see me afterwards!

*Standing Orders Suspension — Amendment to Motion*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I move —

To insert after "forthwith" —

, subject to the debate being limited to 15 minutes for government members and 15 minutes for non-government members

Amendment put and passed.

*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion, as Amended*

**The SPEAKER:** Members, this is a motion without notice to suspend standing orders. It needs an absolute majority to succeed. If I hear a dissentient voice, I will be required to divide the Assembly.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

*Motion*

**MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville)** [2.57 pm]: I move the motion. The opposition does not take lightly moving a motion condemning the Minister for Corrective Services and asking the Premier to step in in his place. It is a very significant step but one we think is warranted because we believe and, indeed, the Corruption and Crime Commission has identified, that this minister is putting the safety and security of the people of Western Australia at risk. It has become very obvious over time that this minister can no longer be trusted to keep the community safe and deal with the significant issues of corruption and misconduct in our state's prison system. Under the member for Midland's watch during the previous Labor government, nine prisoners escaped from the Supreme Court. However, this minister has managed to keep up with that record and even go way beyond it. Early on, this minister failed significantly at the job. This was identified early on in a piece that Gareth Parker wrote on 6 April last year with the headline that this minister is an accident waiting to happen. Time and again that article has proved to be correct.

It has been 19 months and 22 days, and we have a record of failures from this minister that has continued to put our community—the safety and security of all Western Australians—at risk. Let us go back through a bit of history. This minister, without consulting the Attorney General, went on radio to do an interview with Daniel Emerson in April 2017 and said he wanted to let people out of prisons early. He wanted to let remandees awaiting trial out of prison early, without any work being done and without consulting with the Attorney General. This is the same minister who put the safety and security of Western Australians at risk when he was not aware of the loss of tracking —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** If members want to have meetings, can they go outside, please.

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** This minister put the safety and security of Western Australians at risk when he was not aware of the loss of tracking of GPS-tagged sex offenders in our community. When asked about it, he claimed he knew nothing about it. This is the minister who put the safety and security of Western Australians at risk when paedophiles and murderers were let loose out in the public while they were meant to be under supervision. When asked about it in Parliament, he made light of the fact that murderers were wandering around unsupervised in Hungry Jack's. This is the minister who put the safety and security of Western Australians at risk when we saw the worst prison riot and escape in our state's history. This is the minister who put the safety and security of

Western Australians at risk when he failed to take action time and again when it came to the flow of contraband and drugs into our state's prison system. When he was asked about that, he simply said, "These things happen."

In addition to all these damning failures that should have by now cost him his job, the Corruption and Crime Commission report released last Friday shows that we have reached such a critical point of misconduct and corruption in our state's prison system that, and I quote —

If this situation persists, it will detrimentally impact the safety and security of the prison environment and the broader community.

The CCC report released on Friday should have been a call to arms for this minister. We should have seen far more activation by him and far more active steps taken prior to and since the release of the report to address the issues outlined in the report. Instead, in contrast, there was, as usual, total inaction and unwillingness to do anything about the litany of complex issues revealed by the commission.

There is plenty in this report. I think it serves as a blueprint for how to best tackle corruption and misconduct in our state's prison system. In the interests of time, and understanding that the member for Warren–Blackwood as the Nationals WA spokesman on corrective services—a former corrective services minister—will be speaking on this, I will very quickly summarise the issues in the time I have left.

Ultimately, members will see that this minister is failing to address the significant issues in our state's prison system, and in so doing is once again, as is the trend, putting at risk the safety and security of the Western Australian community. Five reports into misconduct and corruption in our state's prison system have been tabled by the CCC. In the past two years, 23 matters relating to corrective services officers have been so serious that they have triggered action and investigation by the CCC. In addition, the CCC, as well as all the other oversight agencies, has identified so many structural weaknesses in the investigations, management and responses to serious misconduct in our state's prisons that more than 660 recommendations from accountability agencies are now being actively tracked by the department. So many issues exist now that we have seen more than 660 recommendations having to be tracked by this department, and there is no confidence in this minister to deliver any oversight to make sure we can close them off and address them as appropriately required.

The concern of the opposition—it is, in essence, echoed by the CCC—is that this minister, with his lack of leadership, prioritisation and resourcing to address any of the issues, is plaguing his department and letting corruption and misconduct flourish in our state's prisons. We do not know what the issues are—it could be the resourcing or a lack of willingness or leadership—but whatever the reasons, we think it is time that the Premier stepped in and took action. That is why we are asking this government to establish a Department of the Premier and Cabinet–led task force—as did this government with meth and the previous government with youth justice—to intervene and have a central agency to coordinate the response to each one of these recommendations from these oversight agencies. It is now getting to the point that this minister can no longer be trusted. His department is in desperate need of the resources, leadership and willingness from the minister to ensure that it can land these recommendations and respond to them appropriately. That is not happening at the moment.

The recommendations demonstrate significant concerns. In its most recent report, the CCC found that an anti-corruption framework simply does not exist. Tony Hassall, the Commissioner of Corrective Services, was remarkably frank in his testimony to the CCC. In relation to the corruption and prevention framework, he said, and I quote —

... "there may be some work ... in its infancy, but at present there isn't one".

He also said that there had been little progress on this issue since the minister came to office. Indeed, the CCC found that there is an apparent lack of prioritisation and resourcing to fund this basic governance mechanism.

The report also found that there is a lack of corruption prevention strategies; a poor reporting culture within the Department of Corrective Services; inappropriate relationships between officers and prisoners that allowed officers to be groomed, unsatisfactory investigations of allegations against staff; and that the agency's investigations internal affairs unit is insufficient to provide the effective investigative services required to ensure that corruption measures can be fully investigated and ensure that those responsible can be brought to account.

The CCC also found that there were such significant technological deficiencies in our state's prisons that covert investigations are basically impossible, and that the screening process of Department of Corrective Services officers is insufficient to the point that the Commissioner of Corrective Services is saying the under-resourcing presents a risk for the department.

In addition to all the issues relating to corruption and misconduct, it gets far worse when we look at the force used by Corrective Services officers. Reports are only now being triggered into a Corrective Services officer who has more than 39 allegations against him for use of force. He is only now being investigated for issues that occurred 18 months ago because the Department of Corrective Services is so under-resourced in its professional standards unit that it cannot get around to it. The CCC also found there is very little oversight and a very poor culture when

responding to these issues. We know about the issues of contraband and the front gate. In fact, the CCC said that the corrections department cannot reliably detect drugs or contraband—even substantial amounts—being smuggled into our state’s prisons.

These issues are complex—some are historic—and they require significant leadership, fortitude and a willingness to address them, rather than just being ignored. It has been the case—it is right now—that we believe this minister cannot grasp the complexity and enormity of the task ahead of him. We are at a critical point and we need a capable minister who offers real leadership and can get real resourcing to make sure corruption does not flourish. That is not happening. When we ask this minister about it, he blames the former government instead of taking responsibility. That is his response because this minister cannot be trusted to deliver the reforms necessary. He is incapable of and unwilling to address them, and he is putting the safety and security of all Western Australians at risk. That is why we are submitting that the Premier should now intervene. We are at a critical moment in time. There has been report after report into each incident, and this minister is putting the safety and security of Western Australians at risk. We need to establish a DPC-led task force, stand this minister aside and ensure that each of those recommendations is dealt with in an accountable and transparent manner so that Parliament, the CCC and the community more broadly can be assured that they are no longer at risk as a result of the inaction and inability of this minister. These issues need to be dealt with absolutely urgently by this government. To finish my contribution I will quote the CCC —

Time is passing. Action is overdue.

This minister needs to be stood aside, and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet needs to take charge.

**MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren-Blackwood)** [3.07 pm]: I rise to support the member for Dawesville in his very, very valid argument. I thought I would paint the picture, because this issue is building and being loaded onto the shoulders of this minister. He is coming up short. Let us look at how the Labor Party behaved in opposition. On 3 March 2010, Paul Papalia said —

The maximum security Albany prison is struggling under the weight of 288 prisoners in a facility designed for only 186, ...

He blamed Christian Porter for having done nothing. The then opposition was talking about overcrowding—an issue it is yet to respond to.

On 1 June 2010, Paul Papalia said —

“Every dollar sucked out of the budget by prisons, is a dollar not available for schools, hospitals, police, mental health, child protection and other services which may prevent people committing crime in the first place.”

That is another issue on which this government has shortfalls. He went on to say —

... no-one in the State feels any safer.

We know what has happened since the current Minister for Corrective Services has been in charge.

When this minister was in opposition he stated, when referring to a report on Roebourne Regional Prison —

“This report effectively writes the prison off and I call on the Minister to tell the public if and when he will replace this Dickensian institution, ...

He said —

“It is clear that the prison is beyond its use by date.

The government still supports this prison; again, during this minister’s watch. On 8 October 2011, in respect of Bandyup Women’s Prison, he said when referring to my time as minister —

“This is a scathing report into his portfolio which requires real leadership to resolve.

He went on to say —

“I call on the Minister to take the issues in the Inspectors report directly to Cabinet and demand funding to address them.”

Again, what the hell has this minister done? In a newspaper article on 22 January 2013, the current minister referred to Murray Cowper, the minister at the time, saying that he —

... needs to be held responsible for what has become the worst incident in juvenile corrective services ever in WA,” ...

He was referring to an incident that happened at the time. Again, the current minister is the one who has presided over the worst incident in Western Australia’s prison history. In his own words, he needs to take responsibility.

The now Premier said on 9 May 2013, when referring to some issues at the time with Rangeview Remand Centre and Banksia Hill Detention Centre —

All of the incompetence around these things is on the shoulders of the government.

The Premier, who was in opposition at the time, said —

The failures in the corrective services portfolio are the government's failures.

This minister and this government need to take responsibility. Then we had the greatest escape in Western Australia's public prison history. Gary Adshead made reference to the minister being in full knowledge of the issues with the prison, and again highlighted, in his comments on 31 July 2018, that the minister acknowledged that Greenough had not been a priority and that the government had not put the effort in. Then the people of Western Australia saw the biggest prison escape in Western Australia's history. A litany of prisons has emerged on the front pages of our papers. Albany Regional Prison is under pressure—the temperature is going up. Issues at Acacia Prison have been referred to—the temperature is going up on that. The *Kalgoorlie Miner* of 13 October referred to the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison—the temperature is going up. An online article from the CPSU–CSA states —

CPSU/CSA Delegates working in Corrective Services warned Senior Executives at the Department of Justice, that the situation across all prisons “was dire” at their last Joint Consultative Committee meeting.

I have an email dated 24 August this year; so again the union movement is coming out in support of what is all over the front pages of the papers as we move forward. Now we have the headline “Corruption rife in jails: CCC report”. The minister has presided over a litany of headlines. In fact, I would argue that there are more headlines here than there were for the Hindenburg disaster. This minister is building those up on his shoulder. What confidence do we have that he can manage the complex issues that sit in and around the Corruption and Crime Commission response? I would like to make a little comparison here. When there were issues with Acacia Prison, the minister's response was quoted in an article in *The Sunday Times* of 16 September 2018 —

Corrective Service Minister Fran Logan warned Serco that he expected “any private operator of a taxpayer-funded facility to adhere to their contract, which includes the proper management of staff”.

“I will be meeting with Serco soon to discuss a number of concerns with its operation of Acacia prison,” ...

Compare that with the CCC report. The minister was quoted on 22 October 2018 as saying that he shared the concerns of the CCC.

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services)** [3.13 pm]: There is more hot air in here than there was with the Hindenburg disaster! I will go through the member for Warren–Blackwood's time in a minute. I will remind the member about the people who were injured during his time as Minister for Corrective Services, whom I brought to Parliament House and he dismissed. We will go through that in a minute.

I will first go to the diatribe from the member for Dawesville. The great thing about the diatribe from the member for Dawesville is that I do not have to write anything down anymore, because all his comments are identical.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** You continue to fail so much!

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you!

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Out you go!

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, thank you! I am getting a bit excited up here with my full call sheet, so let us just settle down and listen to the minister, please.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Keep going, member for Dawesville.

I do not have to write anything down, because it is all the same. It is the same waffle every time he stands on his feet.

**Mr D.T. Punch:** Whatever the topic.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Whatever the topic is, he comes out with the same waffle—sack the Minister for Agriculture and Food, sack the Treasurer, sack the Minister for Local Government, sack the corrections minister! When he goes on about Corrections —

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The member for Carine said that, too.

**Mr A. Krsticevic:** You offended the minister in front of you. He is going to leave! You are making things up as usual.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, you are offending me now.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** When we go to the heart of what the member for Dawesville was going on about, it is all the same issues. They are issues that I keep responding to by saying that they did not happen overnight. These issues did not happen overnight. These issues could never possibly happen overnight. As the report said, addressing them

will take a long time. They were created over a long time. The Corruption and Crime Commission said quite clearly that whilst action needs to be taken now, it will take a long time to deal with them. As the member for Dawesville said, these are complex and difficult problems. The government cannot wave a magic wand. The more the member for Dawesville understands about this portfolio, of which he knows very little —

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup** interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The member should not scoff; he does not.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** I can't respond. I'm on three calls!

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The member for Dawesville has been in this chamber for 18 months and he knows everything about the corrections portfolio!

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** He knows what's in the report!

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** He does not even know what is in the report because he did not quote it properly. The member for Dawesville wants to be Premier. The member for Dawesville, quite rightly, threw all his other colleagues who stood at the 2017 election under the bus with one quote to PerthNow, when he said, "It's really good to come into a small opposition because I can go up the ladder quicker." I bet all those candidates who lost their seats would like to get hold of him! I bet they would!

I will quote a few more choice statements from the CCC report, which the member for Dawesville did not do. I presume the member has read it. It is a pity he did not go to the actual heart of the CCC report and some of the things the commissioner has pointed out. As I said in my answer to the member for Dawesville's question at question time, the Corruption and Crime Commissioner has looked back at what has occurred that has led to the position we are in now. That is what the CCC has done. It has done a summary of all the recommendations and why the member's government—a Liberal–National government—did not act upon them. The CCC has called on our government, as the current government, to implement them. The member for Dawesville talked about the 660 recommendations being actively tracked by the Department of Justice. Yes, he is right—those 660 recommendations go back to 2012. They are being actively tracked now because the member's government did nothing for over four years. That is why they are being actively tracked now. The member should not laugh. It is not funny. The member for Dawesville was an adviser to the Premier in this area, and nothing had happened since 2014. What was the member for Dawesville doing? Was he reading any of the reports? Did he read the CCC report? Was he reading the Office of the Auditor General's report? What suggestions did he make about fixing up those recommendations? The answer from the National Party and the Liberals is, "But it's okay; they're all your problem now; you fix them; you're in government."

Several members interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Members opposite say, "We never did anything."

Several members interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Members opposite say, "We never did anything. You're the government now. You fix it." That is the response. It is not only irresponsible —

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms S.E. Winton):** Thank you, members. Member for Dawesville! Hansard would like to try to record the minister's answer. Please keep it down. I know you are excited.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** For the opposition not to acknowledge or take any responsibility for its time in government is not only irresponsible, but also deceitful and wrong.

Several members interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Members opposite laugh. It is not funny. No wonder people lose faith in politics when there is deceitful behaviour such as this. That is exactly what it is. The only thing that we get from the National Party is that they laugh at it. This is a moral issue and they laugh at it. No wonder people get disappointed in politics.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you!

*Point of Order*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I would appreciate it if the member for Warren–Blackwood were asked not to continuously interject on the member on his feet.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I will come back to what we are doing—things that the Liberal–National government failed to do. The member for Moore has been here a long time. He has done nothing and he makes stupid quotes. I refer

to the things that we are doing in government that the Liberal–National government failed to do. For part of the time, the member for Warren–Blackwood was Minister for Corrective Services. The Liberal–National government never put in place one new bed after 2014. It was disgraceful. Between 2014 and now the number of prisoners jumped from around 4 500 to nearly 7 000, yet not one new bed was added between 2014 and 2016. I grant that in the first period of the Barnett government, there were new constructions at Hakea. The Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison, which was a Labor initiative, was completed. New beds were added over and above those that were planned by Labor. New beds were still added, but something happened —

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Warren–Blackwood, please.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Something happened in 2014 when the minister or the government decided that they were not going to do anything more in the area of corrections.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** That is right, member for Cannington. The Liberal–National government walked away. It abandoned the drug and alcohol strategy. Now members opposite ask what we are doing about drugs and alcohol going into prison. The previous government walked away from it and did nothing between 2014 and 2017. We had the biggest increase in prison numbers ever in the history —

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

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Madam Acting Speaker, I seek your protection against the big mouth from Warren–Blackwood, who just continues to interject.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, I would like to agree with the minister. I think we heard the opposition’s arguments on this motion in silence. Let the minister have his time.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The previous government did nothing. I do not know why. It oversaw the biggest increase in prison numbers and all the strains that that puts on prisons, whether it be intelligence, investigations, programs, rehabilitation—anything—and nothing was done. Nothing was invested. Why? Maybe members on the opposition benches can tell me that, because I certainly cannot work it out. They walked away from the corrections system and now the Corruption and Crime Commission report is looking at previous recommendations made by the Auditor General in 2016 and 2017; the Auditor General was looking at 2014–15 and 2015–16 and the 2012 report by the CCC, and saying that the Liberal–National government never implemented any of the recommendations or that only a handful of recommendations were implemented. That was from 2014, the second period of the Barnett government. Now the member for Dawesville asks what we are doing. We are fixing the problems that the previous government left us. Read the report.

The member for Dawesville quoted 660 recommendations in this place as being actively monitored and acted upon, and most of those are from his party’s time in government. We are spending \$130 million on putting beds into our prison system and estate. The previous Liberal–National government promised a new prison in the lead-up to the 2017 election. It promised a new prison and said that it had the money to build it. That was not true. There was no money there. It was deceitful. There was no money there at all. There was no planning and there was no effort to build a new prison.

Before 2020, member for Dawesville, we will have over 800 new beds in the system. We will have launched and activated a drugs and alcohol strategy. We will have rebuilt the investigations and intelligence units. We will have put in place the professional standards unit, which the previous government, by the way—the member for Dawesville talked about it—got rid of.

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the third time.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The previous government got rid of it, and that will be back in place. The recommendations from the May CCC report will be well underway now. The recommendations from this report that we are talking about are well underway as well. Things are being done within 12 months that the previous government could not do in over four years.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** It is not true.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Member for Dawesville, do not shake your head. When we come back to Parliament, I will run through all the recommendations that we have cleared up that the previous government could not do.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** Next week? Shall we do it next week?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Four years’ worth of abandoning things and he asks whether I will come in here next week with them all fixed—seriously!

Mr Zak Kirkup; Mr David Templeman; Mr Terry Redman; Hon Fran Logan; Mr Bill Johnston

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I refer to the member for Warren–Blackwood and his quotes that he read into *Hansard*. All the quotes that were made by both me and the current Minister for Tourism, the member for Warnbro, at the time were quite right. Why did the previous government not act on them? Why did the member for Warren–Blackwood leave them for us to fix? We pointed out where the major problems are—Bandyup, for example. If the member would like to go to Bandyup, I will let him go in there and he can look at the problems he left us, which I am now trying to fix. Those are the sorts of things that should keep the member for Warren–Blackwood awake at night, because the way in which those women have been treated by him as a former corrections minister and have been abandoned by his government is disgraceful.

Several members interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I reiterate the point that we welcome the CCC report. It goes to the very heart of the problems that we inherited as a government. I refer to the one-trick pony from Dawesville.

[Member's time expired.]

*Division*

Question put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Ms S.E. Winton) casting her vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (16)

Mr I.C. Blayney  
Ms M.J. Davies  
Mrs L.M. Harvey  
Mrs A.K. Hayden

Dr D.J. Honey  
Mr P. Katsambanis  
Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup  
Mr A. Krsticevic

Mr S.K. L'Estrange  
Mr R.S. Love  
Mr W.R. Marmion  
Dr M.D. Nahan

Mr D.C. Nalder  
Mr D.T. Redman  
Mr P.J. Rundle  
Ms L. Mettam (*Teller*)

Noes (36)

Ms L.L. Baker  
Dr A.D. Buti  
Mr J.N. Carey  
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke  
Mr R.H. Cook  
Mr M.J. Folkard  
Ms J.M. Freeman  
Ms E. Hamilton  
Mr T.J. Healy

Mr M. Hughes  
Mr W.J. Johnston  
Mr D.J. Kelly  
Mr F.M. Logan  
Mr M. McGowan  
Ms S.F. McGurk  
Mr K.J.J. Michel  
Mr S.A. Millman  
Mr Y. Mubarakai

Mr M.P. Murray  
Mrs L.M. O'Malley  
Mr S.J. Price  
Mr D.T. Punch  
Mr J.R. Quigley  
Ms M.M. Quirk  
Mrs M.H. Roberts  
Ms C.M. Rowe  
Ms R. Saffioti

Ms A. Sanderson  
Ms J.J. Shaw  
Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski  
Mr C.J. Tallentire  
Mr D.A. Templeman  
Mr P.C. Tinley  
Ms S.E. Winton  
Mr B.S. Wyatt  
Mr D.R. Michael (*Teller*)

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Pairs

Mr K. O'Donnell  
Mr J.E. McGrath  
Mr V.A. Catania

Mr P. Papalia  
Ms J. Farrer  
Mr R.R. Whitby

Question thus negatived.