

MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES — PERFORMANCE

Motion

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [4.01 pm]: I move —

That this house calls on the Premier to sack the Minister for Corrective Services for his failure to appropriately staff and maintain Western Australia's prisons, leading to the biggest prison breakout in WA's history and jeopardising public safety.

I have a lot of stuff to work through here, but the tenet I will be working towards is that this minister is not armed with the skills or the competence to manage the complexity of Western Australia's prison system. Under his watch, he has seen the single biggest breakout. I want to go through a bit of history because I think it is really important. When the Minister for Corrective Services stands, he does not talk about history or facts, or the performance of the previous government and the investments the previous government made; he just blames the previous government for just about everything he possibly can to take the spotlight away from his incompetence in managing the issues.

The former government made some fairly significant investments during its term. We inherited a very challenging prison system. I will get to some of the issues that emerged from that when we came into government in 2008. Essentially, we put in over half a billion dollars in capital investment, let alone the other initiatives that played through in support for programs and the like as a product. At the time, the prison population was rising. The issue for government is very challenging. It does not matter whether it is a Labor or Liberal–National government, the issue is very challenging. The last numbers I had—these numbers have probably been upgraded in recent times—indicated that it cost about \$1 million to build a bed for a prisoner. The figure is probably higher than that now. To look after a prisoner it costs, on average, about \$100 000 a year. It is an extremely expensive business. It is challenging to find that nice balance, which governments have to do, between the infrastructure that it invests in, the supporting services that it invests in to support that infrastructure, and the population of prisoners as a product. The community expects it to be tough on crime. We found our balance and made our investments. In my view, this government is yet to emerge with its balance in managing the challenge around justice in Western Australia. It has to find the balance between the community feeling safe and prisoners being behind bars. I recognise that it does not matter who is in government, it will be presented with issues. The measure I am attempting to make through my arguments here will be the fact that the government and the minister are measured on their responses to these issues. I think that is where the failing lies.

I will go through a few of the investments that the former government made. Its \$655 million capital investment program included a brand-new prison in the West Kimberley, just out of Derby. If anyone has not seen it, it is actually worth going to visit. A lot of effort was invested in ensuring that that prison met the cultural needs of the very high Aboriginal population that sits in that prison. It is quite hot in the Kimberley, and we were presented with all the issues around having a prison in a fairly remote area.

Mr P. Papalia: It was also funded by the previous Labor government. It did not leave \$40 billion worth of debt.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: It was done under our term.

Mr P. Papalia: There was money in the budget.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: We made the investment; we have it there. It was a brand-new prison built during our term of government.

The goldfields prison is brand new. It is in a relatively isolated part of the state. It is a new piece of infrastructure. It is probably the one prison in the state that I have not toured and seen since it has been replaced. That was another investment that came under our watch. Although it is not a new standalone prison, Melaleuca prison for women was one of the pressure points. Of course, that has been reflected through some of the feedback in the Inspector of Custodial Services' reports around the women's estate and the challenge of managing that.

Mr P. Papalia: That prison has been the subject of most of it.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I will come to some of those points as well. I have a whole lot of things to work through here, and I am going to work through them. The point is that there have been investments in some new prisons. We also invested in work camps—a brand-new wheatbelt camp at Dowerin. A work camp at Warburton was there as a product of the Ward review. Members may remember that one of the recommendations came from that. There was also the Wyndham work camp and, of course, the new Roebourne work camp right next to Roebourne prison.

The Minister for Tourism was, of course, the shadow Minister for Corrective Services from April 2009 to January 2012. There was a little gap with the current minister from January 2012 to April 2013. Of course, the Minister for Tourism was the shadow minister from December 2010 right up until January 2012. He needs to perhaps also share some of the responsibility for the policy settings.

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Mr P. Papalia: Which policy settings?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I will go into some of that. I am really interested in what the current minister has to say about some of those policy settings.

Let us get back to the investments made by the former government. We had upgrades to Casuarina, Hakea and Albany, adding 640 beds. There were investments in Acacia, with 389 beds. There were security upgrades to Woorloo. We made a significant number of capital investments for an eight and a half year term of government. They were fairly significant in my view. I do not think the finger can be pointed back to our term in saying that we did not invest in the prison estate—we did. It was challenging to commission those in a secure environment. I have media releases put out by the shadow ministers at the time, criticising us for trying to do work in some but not in others, asking why this one is not full, and saying that there are overcrowded ones here but empty ones there. All these issues were raised by the opposition of the day—now the government—criticising us for the investments we were making in the prison estate to support what was a growing population of prisoners in Western Australia. The opposition came into government and forgot about those investments. It tried to run a commentary of “blame the last government”. It is trying to sustain a tough-on-crime commentary. It took a range of policy settings to the last election, some of which we have not even heard about now, and come back to the fact that during our term in government we made some investments.

I make this really important point: I was corrective services minister for 18 months. Any other minister who takes on that role has their phone in their hand with a direct line to the Commissioner of Corrective Services. If something goes wrong, they send an email or some sort of alert. For the first couple of days after I was the minister, I was reading that. Some of the stuff that presents in prisons scares the hell out of you. It is very difficult and a very challenging environment. After a while you get a bit desensitised to that but it is important that you lay out an agenda and a strategy for managing what is a challenging environment in the prison estate.

I make the point that issues will emerge. Governments and/or ministers are not measured by the issues; they are measured by their responses to those issues and whether they have quality strategies in place to respond. It is about how they react and what they put in place through investments, decisions and policy settings to give the community comfort when those challenges arise. There were issues in our term. I remember the Banksia Hill Detention Centre challenge. I was not the minister at the time, but there was criticism from the opposition of the day. A number of issues happened from time to time and they were seen as opportunities for the opposition of the day to make a claim about the government and make a pitch to say that it was not managing.

Mr F.M. Logan: Including under your watch.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Yes, of course there were. If the member had been listening, he would know I am making that exact point. Things will still happen. Again, it is a measure of the minister’s response about how we manage these issues to give the public confidence that the government has a handle on it, is in charge and is managing a fairly complex environment.

Amongst all the complex issues that sit in prisons, one of the principles is that prisons are designed to keep people inside. There are programs. There are issues. There is managing methamphetamine and other drug issues. There are issues associated with people who have been subjected to domestic violence. There is a range of complex issues in the melting pot of a prison, but one of the fundamental principles is that prisons are designed to keep people inside. On that single key performance indicator alone, Labor has form. The Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services published an interesting report in February 2015 called “Escapes and attempted escapes from corrections in Western Australia”. Page 6 states —

4 Who escapes and attempts to escape?

- 4.1 Since 2008 only 70 people have escaped from corrective services in Western Australia while a further 38 have attempted to escape.
- 4.2 Recently, there have been a number of high profile escapes, with 12 prisoners escaping custody in the eight months between 1 January and 31 August 2014. One of these people remains at large. However, in spite of these recent escapes, figures have been relatively stable since 2008. The 70 escapes between 2008 and mid 2014 equate to ten escapes per year.
- 4.3 Prior to 2008 escapes were far more frequent. There were a total of 417 escapes between January 2000 and December 2007; an average of 52 escapes every year. There were also a substantial number of attempted escapes (67) during that time, but fewer unlawful releases ...

I cannot present graphs to Hansard from a distance, but from 2001 the number of unlawful absences drops and from 2008 onwards we see what we would expect to see—that is, a government that is keeping prisoners inside prisons. Labor has form. Labor has history and a track record. Now, 18 months in, we have seen the most

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significant single prison escape in Western Australia's history under this government and this minister's watch. It has form.

What have we seen so far, besides the picture in the paper in which the minister looked like a rabbit in a spotlight with his British passport trying to get back into Australia after being overseas on holidays? He got his quick briefing off his phone and tried to patch together some —

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I could not hear what the member for Warren–Blackwood was saying because the member for Cannington was yelling out something that no-one could understand.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr S.J. Price): Thank you, members. There is no point of order. Please keep it down so the member for Warren–Blackwood can put his point.

Debate Resumed

Mr D.T. REDMAN: He walked off the plane, read his texts and cobbled together what he could take up as arguments with all the media standing there. Of course, the Premier had been the one who had taken the hits up to that point. What have we seen so far from the minister? “Blame the last government” is the starting point. Every question that we have hit out—bang! “Let us blame the last government. Let us throw it right back at them.” There comes a point when that starts to wear thin. Even the media are picking up on the point. “Blame the last government”—he just keeps belting out that line. I am sure that it is the first dot point on his talking points to roll out. That is the first one. The other one is to let out a few prisoners.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Set them free.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Set them free.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The minister wanted the department to identify a few people who should not be in prison. He wanted, presumably, the Department of Corrective Services to identify who should not be in prison, not the courts who put them in prison under the legislation and the rules that people breach in order to get themselves in prison. No, he said he would ask the department who should not be in prison. This is a quote from *The West Australian* on 5 April last year. It is one of Daniel Emerson's pieces, and it reads —

“The question I've put to the department is ‘what have you done to identify those people who shouldn't be in prison’,”

That is a great strategy. “Let us let a few more out.” That is also one of the responses. Another thing the minister has done in his term —

Several members interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The minister was also called out on the fine defaulting point too. He was challenged on the fine defaulting issue and how many prisoners that meant. The minister had to back away from that. He was not quite over his brief. The minister shelved the idea of a new prison. His government discussed that in cabinet.

Mr W.J. Johnston: No, we are building more beds than ever.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: It was shelved. The government shelved the previous government's idea of a new prison. The minister has taken that off the agenda. He admitted to taking his eye off the ball on Greenough Regional Prison, where we had the single biggest prison breakout in recent history. Of course, overcrowding came into it. Yes, there is a broader overcrowding challenge in the number of beds meeting the growth in prisoner numbers. Interestingly, on the day that the issues happened in Greenough, there were 284 prisoners in the prison and 346 beds. That is a fill of 82 per cent. That is high. It is getting up there. Is it overcrowding? It is interesting to make that comment. The minister might have a view on it. There were 36 staff. There was a roster of 39 staff, so they were three staff down. That is pretty close to a full complement. I would have thought that was not an issue. The minister has not rolled out anything in response to this most recent very concerning issue for the public of Western Australia. His commentary going right back to the day he took up the ministry has not given us any confidence that there is a strategy or plan going forward to manage the complexities that sit in and around our prison system. It will not be hard for the public to come to the conclusion—the media is starting to get to that point now—that the Labor government owns this now.

Labor now owns this issue. It has to give us confidence. We do not have it. It is the only reason this motion is here. It hits at the core of the government's capacity to manage a complex environment to deal with the growth in prison numbers. The minister might be able to stand after we speak today and tell us that the number of prisoners is not going to follow that trajectory and it will go down and it will give us the reasons for that. Besides escapes, the

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minister might have other policies to get people out of prison. Be up-front and tell us in Parliament and we can reflect that to the community of Western Australia. Reducing the prison population was obviously one of the strategies. I talked about letting a few go and the article from 5 April 2017. Later in the article, still on page 1, there was some third party endorsement. The article states —

WA Prison Officers Union secretary John Welch said it had argued WA needed either a new prison or to reduce the prison population and it was pleased the Government was pursuing one of those options.

Union secretary John Welch said that he was pleased that the government was pursuing reducing prison numbers. Is that the government's policy? I am sure that the WA Prison Officers' Union has regular interactions with the minister in government, as it did when we were in government. The union has put in some third party endorsement to say that it is really pleased that the minister is looking at one of two options, one of which is to reduce the number of people in our prisons.

Is that government policy? We have not seen anything to suggest it is anything more than a couple of comments in the paper, which the Premier denounced the next day by saying it was not a part of broader government policy. The minister is breaking ranks by making some comments and giving the community a sense of uncertainty that no-one is in charge to manage the complexity and the issues, or any sort of strategy going forward. The Premier said that it was not government policy, so what is? Who is in charge? Is it the person who was overseas on holiday or the person who was here responding to the Premier about the issues that happened on the day?

We had a briefing on Monday about the prison population. Thank you, minister, for allowing us to have a briefing. I asked whether I could get a tour of Greenough Regional Prison but, unfortunately, I could not. The minister was happy to take the media through Greenough, but was not happy to take either the shadow minister or the National Party spokesman for corrective services there to give us an opportunity to go through that facility and see what happens in the prison. Of course, he got the nice photos with the media, so that is where the government's priority sits. I can appreciate the minister's reasons and the response he gave in his letter to say that there was a bit of tension at the time. We can understand that. We understand the tensions and that therefore it was maybe not a good time to have a look, but the minister took a full media contingent through the prison.

Mr F.M. Logan: We didn't. We took one camera for that very reason.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: There was one media person, but the shadow Minister for Corrective Services is over there and the National Party spokesman for corrective services and former minister is over here.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Several members interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: That does not quite cut it.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I was pleased we had a briefing on Monday. On Monday, the prison population was 6 936. It has come off a previous high in April of 6 957 people, but there are high numbers. Members opposite can blame us for the high numbers if they want to; we took various positions on a whole range of legislative issues that would have impacted on those numbers. There is no doubt that members opposite should articulate their position. I think it is really important that they do, because if they are taking the same position, they have to support and sustain a prison muster that is heading towards 7 000 people and they have to give the community comfort that they are managing and addressing the issue.

What is government policy on prisons? So far, the minister has said that there is going to be a review of Greenough. That is fine; an outside person will come in. The shadow minister will talk about a lot of the issues around Greenough. There will be some sort of review about what went wrong and the holes in the fences will be fixed, as will the other things that happened to the physical infrastructure. There may be some changes on site. What about the broader prison estate? What about the broader management of a complex issue? We do not have any broader strategy to give us comfort.

The principle of justice reinvestment was discussed by the Minister for Tourism, who unfortunately has just walked out of the chamber. He even did a fairly substantial discussion paper in June 2010, "Justice Reinvestment: An Option for Western Australia". It goes into examples from overseas jurisdictions where investing up-front rather than at the end of the game means an environment can be set up in which some investment in prison capital can be saved. It is similar to the health system in which we are trying to invest in preventive measures. That is sound. I can understand that. I understand the argument and I understand the debate. This model of what might be

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taken up was put to us by the Minister for Tourism when he was shadow Minister for Corrective Services. It is very difficult in an environment in which there are constrained resources. We found that even the resources we put up were fairly challenging, and no doubt the minister has found that as well. Is justice reinvestment the current government's platform and policies for the corrective services system and community corrections? Is that what the government is on about? That is what we have read in the rhetoric and in opinion editorials that were written in the paper prior to the election. However, we have not heard a single thing about this since the Labor Party came to government. Is this the government's policy? We have not heard anything in 18 months. I would love to hear the minister talk about it. These stories about the competence of the people who are now in government and in charge of our prison system in Western Australia were sold to the people of Western Australia. It is what they said then, but what is their policy now? What position are they taking? Government members are on their own. They now own this issue. They can no longer take up the commentary that this is not their problem; this is the previous government's problem and it failed to invest, or all these other things, many of which are false.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: No, it is not. We invested substantially. I went through that right at the start of my contribution because it was important to outline that. Something like 2 500 beds were targeted in our prison system. Investments were rolled out in regional Western Australian work camps and all those areas in which we can try to transition prisoners back into their community and hope that they stay there.

Another issue that I was going to bring up later but I will pick up now is the aversion to privatisation. In question time today, the minister said with glee that he had stopped one of the contracts and the government was taking charge of it. If the breakout at Greenough Regional Prison had been at Acacia Prison, I know exactly what the first headline would have been. It would have been that the privatisation system is not working in Western Australian prisons. On 11 May 2017, there were some issues in the Melaleuca Remand and Reintegration Facility. I quote from an online article —

Corrective Services Minister Fran Logan has promised to “put the hammer down” on the private operator of Melaleuca women's prison, which has been fined three times for breach of contract since it opened in December.

He is putting down the hammer and taking a hard line on a prison which, by the way, kept its prisoners inside but which had some issues with breach of contract. Of course, that was not the commentary in the case of Greenough. It was praised, and probably quite rightly, because it is a very challenging environment. There is a subliminal disconnect that we hear pretty regularly from the minister in the argument about the pros and cons of privatisation and bringing some commercial rigour to the corrective services system versus the prisons that are managed in-house by the government.

The last figures I have on Acacia Prison show that it was saving about 30 per cent of costs. It does not deal with maximum-security prisoners, only medium and minimum-security prisoners; nevertheless, it does a pretty good job. I have made the point before that it has always been a challenge, and I cannot remember whether it was commentary from this government, but with the high cost of maintaining prison beds and the high cost per year of managing prisoners in the prison estate, if it is \$100 000 a year, it is not hard to come up with a commercial incentive to pay people to keep prisoners from coming back to prison, reducing the recidivism rate from 40 per cent to something substantially lower. There could be some commercial opportunities. Joe Francis had that on his agenda and was reasonably keen to progress it. That is another point we have not heard from this minister. We just hear the old line rolled out that privatisation is bad and we should not consider it. He jumps with glee when he is able to shut down one of the contracts and bring the services back in-house. His broader sentiment when he talks about respective prisons in our prison estate suggests that he is very anti-privatisation as an option.

We do not think this minister is competent to manage the complex prison environment. If the government is going to give community members comfort that they are protected and that there is a plan in place to manage the complexities around the prison estate, it has not shown it. It has not given us a plan and it does not have a minister who is able to articulate it. The notion of justice reinvestment is a really good and interesting public debate. I would even argue that the current Minister for Tourism put forward a good, sound argument when he was shadow Minister for Corrective Services. He did the work. The articles all reference overseas examples. He really did the yards. However, I do not have any confidence in this Minister for Corrective Services being able to articulate the nuances around that and to give the public confidence that if the government goes down this path—presumably it is on the agenda even it is not out in public—it can manage a pathway to invest up-front in order to reduce the number of prisoners, save on long-term capital costs and get our prison population to a level that might be commensurable with those in other jurisdictions. That is complex. That is hard. The minute the government messes that up, it loses public confidence, and that is a message. I think that is where we are headed now. That is why this issue has been raised in this place, on the back of, simplistically, the single biggest escape of prisoners from a prison in recent times.

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We have not heard that. Here is a chance for the minister to get to his feet and give us confidence. I am not sure it is there. If prisoners are to be released, the government has to manage the public issue of being soft on crime. We know all the issues that the community has to bear. When our communities bear the brunt of those crime issues, the first and highest priority is to get someone out of that environment, and a prison is the place to put them. I recognise that we have to get better at rehabilitating people in that system and getting them back into the community. There is a massive turnover year on year. People think that they go to prison and that is where they stay, but they do not. There is a massive turnover; people are in and out of prison all the time. From memory, during my time the turnover was 10 000 a year. When we talk to someone who lives up the street, it is more than likely they have been to prison. We have a complex issue. There is an issue of community safety, and the sharp point of that has emerged. The challenge is for the Minister for Corrective Services and the government to give the community confidence that they can handle the complex issues around that.

In summary, I will go through what I have said. I have talked about the investments that we made when we were in government. It is wrong of the current minister to say that we did not make those investments. He was critical of some of those at the time; nevertheless, those investments were made. I made the point that issues do happen. I recognise that, but governments and ministers will be measured on their response. I made the point that this government has form on escapes from prisons. We would not like to return to the situation that we saw during the Labor Party's last term in government when there were 417 escapes between January 2000 and December 2007. Clearly, that is one of the key performance indicators that the community will be interested in to measure the government's competence to manage these issues. In my view, the level of commentary from the minister is not commensurate with the level of complexity that these issues present. He has to get across his brief. He has to get a better response. He has to have a plan and a strategy. He has to get cabinet to agree to provide some funds to support an investment strategy to make a difference in this area. We have not seen that. We have heard random comments about a whole range of areas that do not deliver on those outcomes. I believe the union secretary at the time—he is not there now; he is in one of the minister's offices—made the point that the government can do two things: it can build more prisons or reduce the population. He is really pleased that the minister wants to reduce the population, so he has third party endorsement to do that. Is that the minister's strategy? Let us have him say so or not. The prison population is climbing; it is pushing towards 7 000 now. The Labor Party's policy setting at the last election was for justice reinvestment. What does that mean in the context of being in government? These are easy things to roll out in opinion pieces. This minister has to articulate to us exactly how that dovetails into his strategy to manage the prisons in this state. Last of all, the minister now owns the issue.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [4.33 pm]: I echo the comments of the member for Warren–Blackwood this afternoon. The opposition has collectively taken an extraordinary step in calling on the Premier to remove the Minister for Corrective Services from his office. It is significant that the opposition would seek such a measure from the Premier of Western Australia. In fact, I have gone back through *Hansard* and I could not find an occasion when the previous opposition called for one of the then government's corrective services ministers to resign. This is the extent to which we are going.

Several members interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Members of the previous opposition called for the resignation of ministers all the time, member for Mount Lawley, but they never accused the former Ministers for Corrective Services of failing in their duty as much as the member for Cockburn has failed in discharging his affairs as a minister of the Crown. One individual who held the corrective services portfolio went on to be the commonwealth Attorney-General. He was an individual with an absolute ability to lift —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Indeed, the member for Warren–Blackwood and the former member for Jandakot had the ability to contribute and make sure that there was leadership in a very complex area. The minister is continuing to fail in this area. He fails at every step of the way. He fails to accept responsibility. He fails because he has no ability. In the nearly 18 months since this government was elected, an unprecedented number of issues have cropped up in this portfolio. It is amazing. Just when we think it cannot get any worse, it does. With the complexities in this portfolio, it is amazing that we continue to see the minister fail to take responsibility in this arena. I would expect any minister of the Crown in the Westminster system to acknowledge their responsibility. From the day they take their office, it is their responsibility to take charge and rectify any issues that come up in their portfolios, but we do not see that with this minister. We see constant deference to and blaming of the previous government. He constantly tries to shift the focus of his failings onto the opposition as though somehow it is still the opposition's legacy, even after 18 months in the job. That is a remarkable feat.

When I was at BGC, I was told of the old situation for upper and middle management. When someone had a new job, they got three envelopes to open when anything went bad. The first envelope they opened when anything went

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bad told them to blame the bloke they replaced. That is what this minister has continued to do for the last 18 months. That will not continue to cut it. The second envelope at BGC told the person to blame the economy and the third envelope told them to find a new job. We are at a point at which this minister needs to open the third envelope because he needs to find a new job. This Premier needs to get rid of him now.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: This minister has seen a litany of adverse reports by the Corruption and Crime Commission into his portfolio. We have seen an amazing number of reports by the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services into his failures as a minister. We have seen a number of CCC reports into his failures that continue to put public safety at risk. I will go through those reports very quickly before we talk in earnest about Greenough Regional Prison. Let us be clear. We have in charge of this portfolio a minister who has had adverse Corruption and Crime Commission findings. Many reports reflect on his tenure. They refer to convicted child sex offenders being released into the community unsupervised. The minister was not aware that there was a loss of connection with GPS-tagged offenders who were meant to be monitored 24 hours a day in the community. There are numerous reports by the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services into abuse and overcrowding. This is the complexity of the issue that we are dealing with.

Mr P. Papalia: Speak slower.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I like to speak fast just so the minister can keep up.

These are all the reports that have been released by the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services. These reports are entirely within the tenure of this minister. He cannot say that these reports are about what happened under the previous government; they are about everything that occurred during his time as minister, which, hopefully by the end of the debate on this motion, will be cut short as the Premier heeds the message from the opposition.

Time and again as I went through these reports, I found that there are resource issues at West Kimberley Regional Prison and a litany of resource, security and infrastructure issues at Bandyup Women's Prison. There are not enough staff in place to reopen unit 5. During this investigation, unit 5 was closed entirely and more resources were needed to reopen it. I give credit to the corrective services staff for the work they have done at Banksia Hill Detention Centre. That is one of the facilities that the minister's office allowed me to tour. There were reports of abuse by Amnesty International. Of course, an OICS report came out just this week about that. Significant investment has been made into Banksia Hill and significant attention has been paid to it by the staff due to the call for more resources and staff and the fact that there is not enough support for the young individuals in that prison, who clearly need a lot of rehabilitation if they are to re-enter the community. We see from the report of the 2017 inspection of Melaleuca Remand and Reintegration Facility that it needs more senior management resources, an increase in custodial staffing, a review of overtime pay rates and an upgrade of fences between Hakea Prison and Melaleuca. Once again, these resource issues speak to the issues in this portfolio.

There is a lack of support staff at Albany Regional Prison.

It was determined that once again prisoners and prison officers found that there were not enough safety protections at that prison. There are not enough drug detection dogs, there is no drug strategy and there are no measures or resources to identify and respond to the issues there. There is a need to replace accommodation and management infrastructure at one of the units at Albany Regional Prison. There is a need to expand the reception area or replace it entirely at Albany Regional Prison. The medical facility there needs to be expanded or replaced in its entirety. Again, it is another issue of resourcing that hits on infrastructure and staffing. There are also issues with prisoners' access to digital technology. The report of the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services states that if the prisoners do not continue to have access to digital technology for legal purposes in order to keep up with the changes in the community and the courts, the gap will widen and has the potential to cause unnecessary pressure in the state's justice system.

This is a very complex portfolio area. This is not simple by any stretch of the imagination. This is an area with a lot of complexity. This is an area with a lot of pressure and I appreciate that. I suspect that that is why we saw ministers in the previous government take their jobs seriously. We have reports from the Corruption and Crime Commission and the OICS on issues, but in contrast we see no plan; we see inaction and we see budget cuts and staff cuts authored by the minister opposite. There is no way we can get through all the issues here. This does not even touch on Greenough Regional Prison. We cannot get through all the issues here unless we see a plan for corrective services in Western Australia. The reality is that the opposition has no confidence in the Minister for Corrective Services to deliver on that plan to address these complexities. We know that we need an individual in that portfolio to absolutely lift, make sure they show leadership and take charge of what is a very complex area. I suspect that a number of individuals on the government backbench, and possibly the frontbench, know that they would be far better suited to the role of the Minister for Corrective Services than the member for Cockburn, who presently holds that position. The Premier no doubt breathed a sigh of relief. I saw in *The Sunday Times* that he

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was comforted that the Minister for Corrective Services was not here and on deck at that point in time. More than all of these complexities that continue to remain unaddressed, more than all of the resource issues that we see being responded to by budget cuts and the issues that require leadership, what is most concerning to me is that public safety continues to be put at risk by this minister.

The member for Geraldton will talk in a moment about the risk that was posed to his community by this government and by this minister. We saw under this minister one of the worst prison riots and escapes in our state's modern history. I take the point that the prisoners are culpable for their actions; there is no doubt about that whatsoever. However, I suggest that the environment for the riot to take place and flourish at Greenough Regional Prison existed in the first place because the system was overcrowded, resources were depleted from underinvestment and the minister's inability and lack of leadership. Only three weeks after the riot, under questioning from the opposition, the minister finally conceded that he took his eye off the ball at Greenough Regional Prison. To me, that is the first thing a minister should do. The very first thing a minister of the Crown should have done is say, "We should have done more. I take full responsibility." To the best of my understanding, that is the role of the Westminster system here; ministers are in charge of their portfolios. However, three weeks have gone and, after intense questioning from the opposition, finally the minister says, "We took our eye off the ball." He did not say, "We are sorry. We have a plan," or "We believe that more could be done." He just said, "I took my eye off the ball." That is it. The incompetence on display from the Minister for Corrective Services is not good enough for the people of Geraldton who were put at risk. It is not good enough for the prison officers who were put at risk and it is not good enough for the state. It is not good enough by any stretch of the imagination. That is why the Premier needs to remove the minister from his office.

In the short time we have left, let us go through a quick summary of what happened at Greenough. As the member for Warren-Blackwood pointed out, a briefing was afforded to us by the minister's office in the absence of a tour of the facility. I was amazed at the extent of damage and the danger and violence that occurred at that prison. I was amazed that more of that information has not been made public, although I note that there will be a report. We are not sure of the date of the report and it will be authored by somebody who will provide that information to the Inspector of Custodial Services, who will sanitise the security information and the like before releasing it to the public. There needs to be more rigour to that. I look forward to the inevitable parliamentary inquiry into what happened at Greenough because it was a situation of very extensive violence and chaos and was out of control. I feel for the prison officers who were in that situation. Thirty-six of them were on deck at the time and were put in harm's way in an aged facility with multiple warnings and a minister who has taken no leadership and no charge of his portfolio area.

For members' interest, the prison was built in 1984. It is old by present standards, but it is not the oldest prison by any stretch of the imagination. As the member for Warren-Blackwood pointed out, 36 prison officers were rostered on duty. The shortfall was only about three from what should have been the complement of officers there. From the conversations I have had, I do not think that was a contributing factor. It saw 284 prisoners there spread across 346 beds. For what it is worth, I thought that there was an intense lockdown, but that was not the case. As I understand, units 1 and 4 of the six units were locked down, but the rest were on restricted regime, so the prisoners were still free to leave their cells and mill about, as it were, within a confined environment, and visitations were also occurring. We were not seeing a situation in which the temperature was rising in the environment socially. We understand that it was relatively stable. I am amazed that the situation got so quickly out of control. However, the extent of it does not surprise me when we consider that there has been so little infrastructure investment by the government. It has continued to ignore warning after warning of the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services as canvassed in the reports earlier.

Mr P. Papalia: They were your ministers. It is they who got the warning.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: If the Minister for Tourism had been here for the entirety of my contribution, he would know that all of this occurred under the current minister.

Mr P. Papalia: In fact, you were in the Premier's office.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: If the junior Minister for Tourism wants to continue to interject here, he should probably be here for the entirety of the contribution so that he knows that what he is saying right now is so baseless.

As I understand it, on 24 July a code red was called to respond to a fire in a cell at unit 2. Around 59 prisoners were evacuated to the basketball court in the centre of the prison and then basically kicked off against the prison officers. I make this point again: resourcing was not the issue here. In a situation in which there are violent individuals, resourcing of staff was not the issue. The mechanisms of control through better, upgraded infrastructure seem to me to be the biggest failing. I would have some concerns that under the risk cover approach there will be only like-for-like replacement. Wooden cell doors will be replaced with wooden doors, when obviously they need to be much harder than that. I suspect we will see this minister going cap in hand to cabinet

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to try to get some infrastructure upgrades at Greenough. I doubt that, because of his inability thus far, we will see any such investment.

We saw the 59 prisoners kick off, throwing projectiles at the prison officers, who had to then respond and recede and, basically, consolidate their situation to respond to a riotous activity. I quite like a term used in the briefing to me: concerted ill-discipline undertaken by the prisoners at the time. Non-essential prison staff, such as education staff, were evacuated and all prisoners, where possible, were locked down in their cells and units. The special operations group was initiated and arrived some hours later after being called out. The briefing from the minister indicated that to all intents and purposes they were notified relatively quickly and they arrived at 8.40 pm. This happened at around 4.15 pm. At 20 to nine the special operations group responded to the situation. I would like to bring members' attention to the concerted effort by the 10 escapees, who in one hour and 20 minutes, as part of this chaotic environment, were able to escape from the prison. It was an interesting practice and something that I hope this report will flesh out in its entirety. Ten individuals were able to leave the centre courtyard through the roof and get into an industrial area that they were not meant to be aware existed.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Those prisoners climbed over the roof, broke out of the basketball court environment in which they were secured, got into the industrial area and climbed through the roof, I think it was, of an unmarked storage shed. I think it is called a tool store. They were not meant to know that it existed. As I understand it, it was not marked and was a relatively secure environment that has maintenance equipment in it. It is not equipment that prisoners need to use as part of their employment within the prison; it is maintenance equipment for the prison itself. The shed contained things such as ladders, battery-powered angle grinders and cutting devices. When they got into this area that they were not meant to know existed, they did not try to breach the door, which, as I understand it, would have been relatively secure. They knew to go through the roof to get into it, and then broke out of the storeroom, which they should not have known existed. They got through that and then cut their way through a management fence and a garden fence, and used the ladders to get over the perimeter fence. Within an hour and 20 minutes of the initial fire taking place, 10 prisoners had escaped.

A lot of violence and chaos ensued, including massive fires and very toxic plumes of smoke. The response of the special operations group was exceptional. It was supported by the dog squad, Geraldton police, district police, the tactical response group that was stationed there but not deployed, St John Ambulance and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. It was a massive and concerted response. It is a credit to all those people, including prison officers, that there was no violence against those prison officers in particular or, apparently, against other prisoners.

It is remarkable in any prison in the state of Western Australia that 10 individuals—the largest single escape in modern history—can leave a medium-security facility within one hour and 20 minutes and be out in the community. From what I am best advised, it was not even very premeditated. God help us if it had been and they had had vehicles waiting outside. We know about vehicles that have tried to enter prisons in the past, but this was not that. This has to receive a very serious look and I hope that this report, when it is eventually delivered via the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services, covers off on exactly what happened—the sequence of events that saw those 10 individuals leave. To me, that is one of the biggest failings of this prison. This prison was built in only 1984. We have prisons that are decades older than that, but that many men escaped from this prison that was built in 1984 in such a short time. Obviously, we have concerns about the ease with which these prisoners managed to get into the female unit. I give credit to the Department of Corrective Services that a lot of support services had been put in place for prisoners, particularly female prisoners, in that environment to make sure that they had the support they needed to get through what I think would have been a horrendous situation. It is unfathomable that that could have occurred in this day and age in such quick succession. However, when the state has a minister who fails to take leadership or heed the many warnings that he has been delivered by the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services in times past and has failed to heed even his union's own warning —

Mr F.M. Logan: My own union?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The union that is dedicated to representing prison officers said that this was a powder keg prison. There is no doubt in my mind that had we had a minister with more ability and more experience, and who was more intent on leadership, we would have seen infrastructure upgrades at that prison, because it had been noted for its vulnerabilities, and perhaps 10 individuals could not have escaped into the suburbs of Geraldton in quick succession. In my mind, the events at Greenough Regional Prison directly reflect this minister's inabilities.

We have seen failure after failure and the lack of responsibility and leadership in Corruption and Crime Commission reports and Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services' reports. Sex offenders have been able to walk around freely in the community when they should have been under supervision. Corrections has lost contact with GPS-tracked offenders. We have seen the worst riot and escape in our state's history, and only one individual is to

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blame for that—that is, the person who is meant to be in charge of these affairs. Under the Westminster system, the minister is the person responsible for taking charge of the very important area of corrective services, and that is the member for Cockburn. This minister has taken no responsibility. In the 80-minute press conference that he gave post Greenough, most people were in awe of the fact that he spent most of his time blaming the previous government but did not outline a single plan of what he would do to try to fix the situation that he found. He apparently knew that all these issues existed but had done nothing about them. He has taken no action whatsoever! In and of itself, that is remarkable. From everything I have seen and what was reported, those issues were entirely overblown by the minister, as he likes to do. A minister cannot spend his entire time saying that he inherited all these problems and not do anything about them. He has no plan whatsoever to rectify the situations identified in the litany of reports or to respond to the situation at Greenough in a manner that will assure the people of Western Australia that he takes this area seriously, understands its complexities and understands his duties to discharge these affairs as a minister of the Crown, because so far the member for Cockburn has failed at every turn.

I would like to talk about another small aspect—that is, the release of data by the Department of Corrective Services under this minister's watch. It is not as insightful as the violence that has occurred here or the many reports into this minister's failings. Members may not know that on a very regular basis data was released on adult and youth prisoners and detainees in custody and in the community. It was important statistical information about their gender; Aboriginality; Aboriginality by gender; if they were in the community, when they commenced their time in the community and when it was terminated; any orders they were under; and the prison sentences they had.

Ms A. Sanderson: You're really killing time now!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: This is all very important information, member for Morley, when trying to ascertain the situation that the Minister for Corrective Services is overseeing. We are seeing a lockdown of that information. He is not releasing it at all anymore. That data has not been released since this government took office. As I understand it, to have regular data releases was a practice undertaken by previous governments, but this minister is not doing it anymore. He has no accountability and no transparency. It once again shows that he does not want to take responsibility for his portfolio. I would be amazed if any minister here would go to such an effort to stop the release of regular datasets like that. Since this minister has taken office, we have not been able to get a better understanding of the statistical make-up of prisoners in our state prison system. I think that is an absolute shame on this minister and I hope that we get some sort of intervention from him to rectify it. It is in everyone's interest—not just the opposition, but everyone who pays attention to our state's justice system—to understand the cohort of individuals being dealt with.

I do not have much time left so I think it is best that we —

Mr J.E. McGrath: Five minutes.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Five minutes. I do not want to take up too much time, member for South Perth, but I will go through it once again.

There have been adverse Corruption and Crime Commission findings against this minister that he has failed to take any responsibility or accountability for. Untracked GPS offenders were in the community. He did not even know that it had happened in the first place. He has failed to take any responsibility or be accountable for it. So far, eight of the reports of the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services point to numerous resourcing and infrastructure issues at our state's prisons. Some of them are quite damning and go to the point of saying that fences are rusting at prisons and need upgrades. In contrast, we see budget cuts and staff reductions. We are seeing accountability measures being neglected, such as these datasets that should be regularly released by any responsible government and minister. We no longer have any clue about the gender, nationality, sentence or status of community-based order of any prisoner or youth offender in our community, because this minister is trying to hide that information. It is absolutely typical. I can hear the member for Cockburn now, saying, "We never did it". Once again, he should just take responsibility for the fact that there is no accountability or transparency in this important mechanism. Worse than all that is the fact that this minister has failed to take responsibility for the danger in which he put the people of Geraldton after the Greenough riots and escape. He failed to take any responsibility for the danger in which he placed many prison officers during that prison riot and escape. I can only say that he has continued to show negligence and a lack of accountability in the fact that the people of Western Australia no longer have access to data about who is in our prisons and who is out in our communities. That is information I will seek, and I will endeavour to make sure we get on top of that.

I am very surprised that even such simple things as that are now occurring, but that is what happens when we have a minister who fails to take any responsibility whatsoever and continues to put the public at risk. No longer should he continue to take no responsibility. We know that there are some rumblings in government, even from his cabinet colleagues, about having this minister replaced in the next cabinet reshuffle, whenever that happens, because they know that this minister should not be in this job. They know the issues confronting corrective services are complex

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and require more leadership than is on display from this minister. They know the issues require far more work in cabinet to secure much-needed funds for this important area. There are many prisons across our state, and they want to see him replaced by someone far more competent.

That is why the opposition calls on the Premier to sack the Minister for Corrective Services. He has failed to ensure that there is an appropriate level of resourcing and staffing in our state's prisons. This has resulted in the biggest prison outbreak and escape in our history. He has jeopardised public safety, and the people of Western Australia deserve a better minister. It is time for the Premier to act and to make sure that the member for Cockburn is removed as Minister for Corrective Services.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [5.02 pm]: Here we have the minister for TNT. When we look at the history of the member for Cockburn as minister, we see Varanus Island, where billions and billions of dollars of the state's wealth were lost as a result of the explosion that happened under his watch as minister. We start to see a history of explosiveness in every portfolio that this minister has taken on, so this motion is correct: the Premier should sack the member for Cockburn as Minister for Corrective Services because he is clearly explosive. When he touches a portfolio, it explodes, goes out of control, and costs the state billions of dollars. In this case, the minister compromised the security of the people of Geraldton by allowing these prisoners to get out.

The member for Warren-Blackwood said that it is how ministers react to these things, because as a minister, these things happen. They do not happen all the time, but they seem to happen under the member for Cockburn's watch, when he has pipes exploding and prisoners out of control. It is how ministers react to the issues that confront them at any given time. More importantly, we saw a lack of reaction from the minister. I understand that he was away at the time, and everyone is entitled to go on leave, but it is how he reacted—and his reaction was, "It's not my fault. Don't look over here at the explosion; it's over there. It's their fault." It is always someone else's fault.

This inquiry has no specific date and it will be interesting, once it is completed, to find out how all this occurred. Questions really have to be asked. The government is 16 months into office and has delivered two budgets, yet the minister, even this year, had warning after warning from the police union that there would be an incident at Greenough, yet nothing.

Mr F.M. Logan: Police union or prison union?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union of Workers. The minister may know that, because I think he has the former WA Police Union head in his office—is that correct? Sorry, Prison Officers' Union. Anyway, the point I am making is that the minister was warned time and time again in the lead-up to this event, and when it happened, he blamed someone else.

Hopefully, the inquiry—which will hopefully be independent—will come up with all the warnings that were placed in front of the minister and his lack of action during his time as Minister for Corrective Services. He put at risk the people living in the homes and businesses surrounding Greenough Regional Prison and in Geraldton and surrounding towns through his inability to act on what was telegraphed to him months and months earlier during his time as Minister for Corrective Services. We should not forget that this is two budgets later.

During his time in opposition, the minister put out a lot of media statements. There are so many papers here I do not actually know where to start. One, from 29 November 2011, states —

“The Minister's lack of logistical and financial foresight means Western Australian prisons will remain overcrowded for at least another three years.”

Another, from 25 August 2012, states —

Mr Logan said the failure of the program was due to poor decision making by management and incompetent ministers not taking a careful interest in their portfolio.

One has to be careful, minister, because these things, said in opposition, tend to bite one on the rear-end. There is one after another of the minister's media statements. He was actually quite active as the shadow Minister for Corrective Services. He actually did his job and sent out media statement after media statement. Another one, from 8 October 2011, states —

“Mr Redman must show he can take more action than just making announcements.

The minister made quite a few announcements in opposition, but as minister, we are not seeing any action. There are quite a few media statements; one after another. This one, from 6 April 2011, states —

“Corrective Services Minister Terry Redman needs to act decisively and quickly ...

Mr D.A. Templeman: Exactly.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Well, that is the question. Did the minister act decisively and quickly when he was notified that there was an issue brewing at Greenough prison? I hope the report reveals whether the minister acted on that.

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Mr D.T. Redman: He did—he cancelled his holiday.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Like I said, that is a bit unfair. Everyone deserves to go on holiday and use their passport to go away if they have one.

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Members, I am on my feet. I am talking. The Minister for Corrective Services will have his chance.

There is a litany of newspaper reports; I just do not know which one to read first because there are so many. It is amazing how, when one sits on this side of the fence and utilises exactly what the minister used to say to us —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ministers! Member, if you could address the Chair.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I will address you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: As I said, the first thing that came out of the Minister for Corrective Services' mouth, after 10 prisoners had escaped from Greenough Regional Prison, was —

When Corrective Services Minister Fran Logan fronted the media for the first time after the riot and history-making escapes, he passed the buck in another direction by blaming the previous government for neglecting a system “in crisis” for too long.

How a minister reacts to these things is how one is measured as a good minister. This minister's response was, “Don't look at me, it was his fault!” It is just like the Varanus Island incident. There was a great picture of the minister with former Premier Alan Carpenter. Members cannot see, and unfortunately Hansard cannot see it, but they are pointing: “It wasn't me! It was someone else who blew up the pipe. It wasn't me!” This clearly shows where the minister has learnt it over the years and he has continued on that way as minister. Billions and billions of dollars were lost when 30 per cent of the gas supply was cut to the state. As I said, there is a common theme occurring with this minister. This minister is in a smaller faction; therefore, it has to have representation in cabinet and perhaps that is the reason he survives. It will be a test to see whether he is still around come a reshuffle at the end of the year. I am sure there are others who are queueing up to say, “Look at his track record, he blows everything up when he becomes a minister!”

Mr F.M. Logan: Vince, there was one thing about you; you never could count.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I think the minister should start counting now, because every time the Minister for Corrective Services gets up we can watch the Premier's face. He goes into his chair and cringes because he does not know what explosiveness is going to come out of the minister's mouth.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Do not worry, I am coming to the member for Tourism, former shadow Minister for Corrective Services. I am coming to him next.

On 9 May 2013, the Premier, then opposition leader, we call him “Mean McGowan”, said —

What is the truth of the matter about how and why senior public servants are dismissed in this state? Why has this happened? We are still none the wiser, ...

This is after the sacking of the commissioner at the time. The now Premier and then opposition leader states —

All of the incompetence around these things is on the shoulders of the government. It is not on the shoulders of the Commissioner of Corrective Services. The Premier recognised that, because the commissioner was not sacked for that reason; he was sacked for something else, but we do not know what it is. The failures in the corrective services portfolio are the government's failures.

In the words of the now Premier: “...the government's failures”. Clearly, there is a failure in corrective services in this mean McGowan Labor government. I say “mean” because of the warnings that were given to the Minister for Corrective Services at the start of the year that something was going to happen at Greenough. It may have been right up to that day that there were warnings that something was going to happen at Greenough, putting at risk the 36 officers who were present at the time of the escape. Damage occurred to Greenough Regional Prison, also putting in jeopardy the lives of 280 or so prisoners. But more importantly it put the community at risk because of the inaction of the Minister for Corrective Services. That is the government's responsibility. It is not only the Minister for Corrective Services' responsibility, but also the Premier and the rest of the cabinet who obviously have not funded or allowed him to fund his portfolio in the way in which he spoke about on this side of the house, with vigour and passion about the justice system and corrective services when he was in opposition. Now he is a minister and he had

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warnings about Greenough Regional Prison and did nothing about it. The first thing he said when he arrived back from his trip, and I think he may have had this Hawaiian shirt on at the same time, was, “It’s not my fault; it’s his fault. Don’t look at me. Look over there.” Like I said, it was the same picture when the Varanus Island incident occurred: “Look over there, don’t look at me. I didn’t blow it up, I didn’t touch it. Mum, I didn’t touch it!” That is wearing thin with the community because if we look at the Darling Range by-election—welcome again, member for Darling Range—we can see there was a 9.3 per cent swing against the mean McGowan government, and that shows that people have had enough of the excuse: “It wasn’t me, mum; it was them!” They have had enough. The government has now delivered two budgets to this state costing taxpayers’ hip pocket \$750. We are now seeing how the minister cannot deliver on what he said when he was in opposition as a shadow minister. Now that he is Minister for Corrective Services it is a different story: “Don’t look at me, it was someone else.”

How do the people who live around our prisons feel comfortable with that? The community’s confidence in the minister is at an all-time low because of his inactions and inability to fulfil what he said when in opposition. That is the problem. People who live around prisons in Western Australia should now be rightfully concerned and ask the questions: Are they fully resourced? Are there issues there that what happened in Greenough can be repeated anywhere else? They are genuine questions. How can the Labor government give the community confidence? Clearly, the Minister for Corrective Services has a track record of blowing things up and the Premier needs to sack the minister to give back the community its confidence in knowing that they have a minister who will take action and listen to prison officers and the department and find the resources needed if they flag a problem and deal with it. Do not run overseas; sit down and deal with it. That is the minister’s job. That is why he gets paid the big bucks and why there are a lot of hungry mouths on his side who are coming after his job because of his incompetence in being a minister not only now, but also in the Carpenter government era. It is all about track record under the Minister for Corrective Services’ watch. I would probably like to be a prisoner at the moment.

Mr F.M. Logan: Don’t worry, we can organise that. Where would you like to go?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I tell you what, the minister is giving confidence to the wrong people. The people who deserve to be in prison should be in prison. There are prisons for a reason: to stop people from getting out. But under the minister’s watch, he cannot give that guarantee. I wonder what other warnings the minister has from other prisons that he needs to come clean with to re-establish the confidence that the community has in him as a minister. It is affecting the Premier, because the Premier needs to sack the minister to get confidence back in not only corrective services, but also the communities that surround Western Australia’s prisons. I think that is only fair. The former shadow Minister for Corrective Services has disappeared now, but I was waving around a media release on justice reinvestment.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I thought I would not fill out my time, but there is quite a bit to go through in all these media statements. Looking at the media release titled “Justice Reinvestment: An Option for Western Australia”, I wonder where this program is up to. There are all these headings in the media release: “Background”, “Aim” and “Key causes of overcrowding”. Did the Minister for Corrective Services look at his own policy? The headings continue with “Parole Management”, “Sustainability”, “Efficacy”, “Justice Reinvestment in the United States”, “In-prison action” and “Community action”. I wonder what community action that is—I think that refers to Texas. It would be interesting to see where justice reinvestment is on the minister’s radar. If we went through all the minister’s media statements from when he was in opposition, we would wonder whether he is doing everything as a minister that he said we should be doing. That would be interesting. I am sure that the member for Dawesville is trawling through all that to be able to keep the government on its toes. The role of the opposition is to keep the government to account. That is what we are doing. We are keeping the government to account on a safety issue. We want to know exactly what information the minister was given prior to this event, because his actions after the event do not lead to us have too much confidence, not only on this side of the house, but I am sure with the minister’s colleagues as well, and, more importantly, with the prison officers, inmates and the people who live and work around Greenough Regional Prison. Other prisons will be questioning the same things. Is the minister doing his job? He is clearly not and the Premier has every right to take away his portfolios and give them to someone who will take the corrections portfolio seriously and do what is right—that is, give the people of Western Australia confidence that this will not happen again.

If we look at the graphs, under this minister’s time in cabinet, prior to 2008, there is a spike in the number of issues when it comes to corrective services and then a plateau and a downward trend during the previous government. We will probably see a spike going up again. Probably, the only policy the minister has is: how do we reduce the number of people in prison? Some people deserve to be in prison and the government just has to make sure that its prisons have the ability to keep them there. That is what people in Western Australia need to know and the confidence they need. That is why it is important that the minister is removed from the portfolio to let someone

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who has the ability to cross their t's and dot their i's, and do their job to provide the certainty that this will not happen again.

I support the motion before the house because it is the only way to restore confidence, and there will be a full inquiry on what the minister knew prior to this breakout occurring at Greenough Region Prison. But, more importantly, members, let this be a lesson for those who aspire to be a minister: ministers actually get judged on how they react. Some things are out of a minister's control, but in this case we know that the minister was alerted to the issue and his action afterwards, when he knew something was going to happen, was to say, "Don't look at me. Look over there. It's their fault." Not being open and accountable, and responsible for his portfolio, is not good enough in this day and age. As the Premier said, "It's the government's responsibility." The minister is in government; it is his responsibility. The government has had two budgets and this has happened; it is an absolute disgrace and the minister should resign.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [5.24 pm]: I would like to speak fairly briefly as the local member on this motion. Greenough Regional Prison is the only prison that I have ever had any dealings with and I cannot compare it with anything else I have seen, because I have not looked at any other prisons in Western Australia. Interestingly, like the minister, I was overseas when this happened. I was in Moscow of all places. When I walked from my hotel into the centre of Moscow, I walked past the Lubyanka—a place known by anyone who knows anything about Russian history. One day when we were walking past it, I said to my wife that I could hardly look at that building. She asked me why that was. I told her that if she knew the number of people who went into that building and were murdered or sent to exile in the camps in Siberia to die, she would not understand why it is still there. Of course, it is now the home of FSB, which is the organisation that has taken over from the KGB. In many ways, it is actually quite a beautiful building if you ignore its history.

I think prisons are a necessary waste of money and frequently a waste of time for the people who are in them. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the work of the prisoner officers, the police, the special operations group, the regional operations group, the dog squad, the tactical response group and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services during the time of the breakout and until the 10 escapees were successfully recaptured. We have a strong community ethic in all these organisations, and on behalf of my community, I thank them for the effort that they made in successfully protecting the community.

Of course, when people are in these places, it is an opportunity to teach them numeracy, how to read and write, trade skills and how to handle issues like drugs, alcohol, relationships and problems with their children. One of the teachers at the prison whom I have got to know a bit told me that one of her biggest frustrations is that there are people in prison who cannot read and write but simply do not want to learn. Personally, I cannot understand why someone who could not read and write would not want to learn how to do it, especially when they are in prison with nothing else to do. However, that is one of the frustrations of the job.

Like quite a few members have mentioned, when we were in government, I frequently sat in this chamber and listened to the then shadow Minister for Corrective Services, who is now the Minister for Tourism, talking about justice reinvestment. I was looking forward to seeing some justice reinvestment in place and hopefully working successfully to have fewer people in prisons. When we were in government, I thought if Labor ever got into government, I would be interested to see how justice reinvestment works. It appears that I am still waiting. We may have to wait quite a long time.

Greenough Regional Prison opened in 1984. It is an unusual prison in that at the time it was built by the Shire of Greenough, it was seen as a valuable local facility. Eventually the state government bought the prison from the shire. I have only just stopped referring to Greenough Regional Prison as the "new prison", even though it opened in 1984. I can assure the minister that the current council does not have the money to build a new prison, so this time, I am afraid, it is up to the government. I do not know whether many members know Geraldton very well, but there is a quite well known local landmark called the Victoria Hospital, which was the last prison that we had. The prison was unusual in that it did not even have a fence around it and occasionally a couple of people would escape by walking out the front door. When I was a kid, we would hear on the news that police were looking for a couple of escapees and they would describe them, generally, of course, as wearing prison greens. Within a day or two, they would round them up because the police would know where to go and find them and they would put them back in the prison. Our current prison, of course, serves the midwest region. The region goes north to Exmouth, south to Moora and east to Wiluna, so it is another one of Geraldton's many regional facilities. It serves probably 25 per cent of the state I would guess, but probably only 60 000 people.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by prisoners around the city and in the region. All the brick paving at the HMAS *Sydney II* memorial at Mt Scott was done by prisoners. Occasionally people come across them working on golf courses and other things around town.

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I have the occasional issue brought to me by families of people in the prison such as visiting rights, medical treatment and things like that. I have always found the people I deal with on these issues quite helpful and reasonable, but, of course, the system is not very flexible. Likewise, I always take the opportunity to see the inspectors when they are visiting. They always invite me out there to meet them and I appreciate that opportunity. I can honestly state that I have never had anyone in the community suggest to me that the prison should be closed. Its support to the local economy is widely known.

I will read an article from *The Geraldton Guardian* on this issue. The article states —

An Australian expert on corrections says a riot and escape of 10 inmates from Greenough Regional Prison is a sign of a system failing because of overcrowding.

This is Dr Clark Jones, who is a criminologist at the Australian National University. The article continues —

Dr Jones said overcrowding led to higher ratios of inmates to officers, inmates being locked up for longer times and having limited visiting time, along with limited access to phone calls and rehabilitation programs.

This led to extreme levels of frustration among inmates and an “us and them” mentality. “Then you get a frustration building up with guards concerned about their safety and the system hits boiling point, I would suggest,” ...

“You need to look at the criminal justice system. Are their alternatives to jail for those offenders who could live safely in the community?”

The article states further —

The acting secretary of the WA Prison Officers’ Union placed the blame for the incident on funding cutbacks from successive governments, saying they had affected staffing levels.

Speaking in front of Greenough Prison on Wednesday, Paul Ledingham said the inside of the jail looked like “absolute devastation”. He said the riot and escape were the direct product of the prison being repeatedly understaffed for the entire year. On Tuesday, Greenough Regional Prison was staffed by 36 people and three were away.

Mr Ledingham said the prison being short-staffed on Tuesday afternoon was not the issue, but staff levels were regularly being low, frequently leaving prisoners in lockdown and services and programs cancelled.

He said such things had to happen to manage a prison operating on low levels of supervision.

“At Greenough Regional Prison, every day, they start the day nine prison officers short,” ... “Clearly this has been brewing for some time.

“This was not unexpected.

“This was on the back of a budgetary decision to understaff prisons when you understaff prisons, restrictive regimes need to be run to ensure the prison is run safely.

“This involves restricted access to programs, industrial activity, meaningful work and activity.

“It also means much more time in cells or secured in units.

“If you’re doing that day-in and day-out, months on end, as has been the case in Greenough, the temperature of the prison rises and you see incidents like this.

“We’re calling on the State Government to immediately act, to immediately recruit additional staff, to take the foot off the hose of arbitrary overtime restrictions so prisons like Greenough can be staffed to the agreed levels.”

Finally, I will endorse the comments of the Mayor of Geraldton. He has asked that the prison not only be rebuilt, but also that it include a youth detention facility. From what I can understand, that is basically endorsed by what the minister has said. There is a very strong case for having young people in particular able to have contact with their broader family in the region when they are unfortunately in prison. I welcome the government’s commitment to repair the Greenough Regional Prison. I ask the government to give strong consideration to expanding the prison when rebuilding it. I think this will have strong community support. It is in a very good location and it has plenty of available land around it. There is the availability of a stable, strong local workforce and I think Greenough has a pretty good record within Western Australia as a prison to be in.

I want to keep saying something, and I have been saying it over and over again in this place. If Western Australia does not want to end up with over 90 per cent or 95 per cent of our population in the capital cities, which I personally think would be a disaster, we have to make a conscious effort to put jobs back into the regions. For

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the last 20 years or so restructuring has always meant that jobs move out of the regions into the city, not because it is easier or cheaper, just because that is where the bosses who make the decisions live and they automatically adopt this model. This is a clear case that jobs and investment can and should go back into the regions. The minister himself has said as much. People should be placed in prison as close as possible to their homes and families. I look forward to seeing the report and I ask that the community be consulted on decisions about the Greenough prison.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [3.35 pm]: I rise to make a small contribution to the debate on this motion. I support the member for Warren–Blackwood’s motion that this house calls on the Premier to sack the Minister for Corrective Services for his failure to appropriately staff and maintain WA’s prisons, leading to the biggest prison breakout in WA’s history and jeopardising public safety. I support the member for Warren–Blackwood, because he is a previous corrective services minister and he is very well aware of some of the things that are required. I remember one of the first occasions I was talking to him about corrective services and he had a very good handle on what was going on in the corrective services portfolio. He could say at any time the number of prisoners who were incarcerated and exactly what was going on right throughout the WA prison system. I would like the Minister for Corrective Services to take some responsibility. I think the member for North West Central summed it up pretty well. I can see a trend here, with the Premier almost trying to steer away from the minister. I think that was demonstrated during the breakout scenario. The Premier was up there very quickly trying to put the blame onto the prisoners, which was well deserved, but he made some pretty extreme statements and at no time did I really hear him demonstrate too much support at all for his minister, which I thought was quite disappointing to be honest. I would have thought that the Premier would be up there holding the fort until his minister got back from a big trip to London. That to me was quite disappointing, but I think it was quite telling, as the member for North West Central pointed out.

I would like to refer to a bit of history. The first thing is how amazingly similar this motion is to the matter of public interest that the Labor opposition moved on 9 May 2013, which said that this house condemns the Barnett government for its mismanagement of the corrective services portfolio.

Dr A.D. Buti: Plagiarism!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The first thing the Labor opposition did was criticise the Premier for not being in the chamber. That is the first thing I will do. Where is he today? He is nowhere to be found backing up his minister. That is exactly the scenario that played out with the Greenough situation. He quickly went up to Geraldton and blamed everyone and sundry, did not support his minister and then disappeared. Eventually, when the minister rolled in from London, there he was talking about a few issues in relation to some of the equipment, the storerooms, the ladders and all the rest of it. But he certainly did not take a lot of responsibility as far as I am concerned. To quote the Minister for Tourism in his previous role —

Your government drove the massive overcrowding in the prison system. The mess that has been created is your challenge to deal with; don’t blame it on the workers.

Despite the member for Armadale’s call regarding plagiarism, that is exactly what I am saying. It is now time for the minister to take responsibility. As the member for Warren–Blackwood pointed out, the previous Liberal–National government committed \$655 million and added 2 661 beds to the prison system, which exceeded the previous Labor government’s expenditure by over nine times in the number of beds and in its expenditure. As was pointed out, there were new prisons in Derby and the goldfields.

I will refer to the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services’ report, which points out that in relation to escapes and attempted escapes from corrections facilities in Western Australia, since 2008, there have been only 70 escapes, which averages 10 escapes a year. However, pre-2008, under the previous Labor government, 417 people escaped, averaging 52 escapes a year. I certainly do not think there is too much in the report that the current government can hang its hat on when it looks at its track record.

As a relatively new member, one of the most disappointing things for me is the way that members of this government continue to blame the previous government. At some stage, they have to take responsibility. In my opinion, one of the most disappointing aspects has been the way this government, whether it is about the fiscal system, prison systems, the health system, or the education system, blames the previous government and it does not want to take any responsibility. I do not know how long that can go on for.

Mr F.M. Logan: Eight years.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The way it is going, it will probably be four years. As we heard yesterday when the member for Darling Range talked about the 9.3 per cent swing, I would suggest that four years is probably the maximum time we are looking at. I have certainly been heartened by the way that the people of Western Australia have woken up to what is going on here. The government that was not going to increase household fees and charges was into it straight away, charging a total of \$750. I know we have all spoken about Moora Residential College but I cannot believe the amount of political damage the government has inflicted on itself for the sake of \$500 000. For me,

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those are the sorts of things that will lead to a one-term government. I am looking forward to the backbenchers starting to stand up. As the member for North West Central said, a few of them are obviously queueing up for the Minister for Corrective Services' position in the reshuffle that is coming up. I think this is a real opportunity for the backbenchers, including the members for Murray–Wellington and Bunbury, to stand up for regional education. I am really looking forward, over the next six months —

Point of Order

Dr A.D. BUTI: Regarding the matter of relevance —

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is a very good point.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I wonder what education has to do with this motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is fine; thank you.

Debate Resumed

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It was some background material on my disappointment as a new member, but I will certainly get back to it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That would be nice.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: There has been an admittance that the minister has taken his eye off the ball regarding Greenough Regional Prison, especially when some issues have been identified in the custodian's report, which I will go through later. I refer to an article written by Gary Adshead on July 21 that really sums it up —

When Corrective Services Minister Fran Logan fronted the media for the first time after the riot and history-making escapes, he passed the buck in another direction by blaming the previous government for neglecting a system “in crisis” for too long.

... no one is denying that prisons are complex and unpredictable institutions.

But the notion that a government kicked out of office in March 2017 could be responsible for a mass break-out in July 2018 is more than a stretch.

That is exactly right; to me, it is the perfect summary. I think Gary Adshead got it exactly right. I will also refer to an article by Daniel Emerson on 5 April 2017. This is one of the only promises that the minister has kept —

New Corrective Services Minister Fran Logan said “there is no way in the world” the incoming Government could afford \$600 million for a new prison and he had instructed the Department of Corrective Services to find other ways to stabilise growth in the prison muster.

...

The Labor Government has shelved its predecessor's plans for a major new prison and is instead proposing to let scores of inmates out of jail.

I think that sums it up. At the time, there was certainly concern from the shadow Minister for Corrective Services, Peter Katsambanis, about putting people on remand. The article continues, quoting the shadow minister —

“The Liberal party doesn't support reducing protections in our community because of some ideological obsession with not building prisons or keeping dangerous criminals in our community,” he said.

I think those examples really sum up the way that the current government has acted. It has not focused on the job at hand. It has certainly shelved its predecessor's plans. The previous Minister for Corrective Services budgeted over \$600 million and that has been thrown out the window. As I said, the Premier had to go up to Geraldton for damage control and try to shift the emphasis back to the prisoners—idiots who were out of control. He did not take any responsibility. It was all about the prisoners.

I refer to an article from 16 March 2011, titled “Rooftop Prisoners Ignored by Barnett Government.” Mr Logan said —

“How can prisoners escape to the roof again and again without any intervention from the Minister?

It is a good question. That is exactly what happened in Greenough. They were supplied with a ladder, an angle grinder and a few things like that. I wish I had as much access in my farm workshop as the prisoners in Greenough have to some of that equipment. Mr Logan went on to say —

“It is unacceptable for the minister to turn a blind eye to such a serious incident; now he has finally become aware of it, he must act to ensure it doesn't happen again.”

I very much look forward to hearing from the Minister for Corrective Services about what he is doing to ensure it does not happen again. The member for Geraldton acknowledged the good work of the tactical response group, the prison guards and the many others who were affected by the escape. I certainly echo those comments. I know that the Mayor of Geraldton was very concerned as well. I heard several times on the radio about people from

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surrounding farmhouses and so on who were concerned about the escape. How quickly the prisoners were rounded up was to the credit of those officers, the police and the tactical response group. That has to be recognised.

Another thing I would like recognised is the overview to the report by the Inspector of Custodial Services on Greenough Regional Prison. One of my disappointments with the minister is that, despite having been in government for 18 months, he has not enacted some of the points that were raised in this report. The overview to the report outlined that staff–management relations were poor; staff–prisoner relations had deteriorated, creating safety and security risks; and, apparently, new roofs and a new external fence had improved the basic prison infrastructure. However, access to tools and equipment had obviously also been improved for prisoners. It also pointed out that a quarter of Greenough’s prisoners are women. It found —

women and men had too few opportunities for positive social contact and were therefore communicating in illicit and negative ways.

I certainly look forward to the minister letting us know what he is doing about that. One very telling finding was that staff–management relations were poor. The report states —

While other prisons had experienced similar pressures, staff morale at Greenough was low. They felt unsupported, unappreciated, and unable to meet expectations. While most were still trying to do their best, others were disengaging. Some even wanted management to fail.

That is a really disappointing comment. The report says —

We present our interim findings at the end of every inspection. On this occasion this led to immediate steps to improve management/staff relations ...

However, it appears that that has not been the case. Obviously, the escape took place, which was a real issue for the community and the minister.

I also want to refer briefly to the estimates hearings. The member for Dawesville was there, of course, during estimates. One of the most concerning things I have heard this year was the breakdown, through Telstra, of the ankle bracelet and GPS tracking. From memory, the minister and his staff lost track of around 24 prisoners for over an hour.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Corrective Services, I am on my feet—please. Member for Roe, would you like to continue.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That was a real concern. As the member for Dawesville pointed out by way of interjection, the loss of tracking of prisoners in real time was a real concern. To me, that was one of the most telling items. Around 70 prisoners were on radio frequency, but the 25 on GPS that the department lost track of in real time is a real concern for the public of WA.

As I have said, I am concerned that the Premier is not here to defend his minister. That is a real disappointment. As the member for North West Central pointed out, there seems to be a real divide starting to happen. There seems to be movement towards a reshuffle, from what we can hear.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I think the interest level of the backbenchers is certainly starting to increase.

Mr V.A. Catania: Is the member for Armadale going to make an appearance?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The member for Armadale is very well qualified.

Mr V.A. Catania: And the member for Maylands.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: And the Deputy Speaker. There is a level of interest, which I think there should be.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: As we pointed out today, I think most of us in this chamber have lost confidence —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Child Protection! Hansard is trying to keep a record. Please do not yell across the chamber.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I think the public of WA has lost confidence in the minister. I certainly support the motion moved by the member for Warren–Blackwood, which calls on the Premier to sack the Minister for Corrective Services for his failure to appropriately staff and maintain WA’s prisons. I would not want it on my CV that I was in charge when WA’s largest prison breakout took place.

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MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [5.45 pm]: Rather than going into the blame game, which —

Several members interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Rather than going into the blame game, which members opposite would expect me to do after all the comments they have kindly put on *Hansard*, I will start with some positive news. It goes to the very basis of the matter before the house today—the member also asked a question in question time—about what I am doing to ensure that the public can have confidence in the changes we are going to make to the prison system. That is a justifiable and appropriate position for the opposition to put forward. I will be going back into the member for Warren–Blackwood’s history, by the way, but let us start on a positive note.

There is no disagreement, on either side of the house, that when we took office at the end of March, early April 2017, there was massive prison overcrowding and prisons were effectively in crisis. That was denied by the previous minister, but that was the truth of the matter. As a result, within a matter of months, in the first budget, which is what the member for North West Central referred to —

Mr V.A. Catania: Two budgets.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I know, but I am talking about the first budget. The member asked what we have done. We got money to immediately deal with the overcrowding problem that we faced at the time. If we had not got money to put more beds into the prisons, we would not have had beds to put people on. That is why money was immediately released for 212 new beds. The additional 212 beds is a double-bunking program, which has now been completed. Those beds are all now available. I do not think anybody in this house would prefer double-bunking, and prison officers and prison superintendents certainly do not like double-bunking, but it is a fact of life. It was a fact of life under the member for Warren–Blackwood and under his predecessors. There is not much we can do about it.

Mr D.T. Redman: And you argued against it.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I do not have much time, so bear with me. What else have we done? We have reopened the front facility of Bunbury Regional Prison, which was closed by the previous government. Forty-five new beds are coming to Bunbury Regional Prison. Why was that facility closed down? I do not know. I did not even bother to ask the previous minister; it was closed by the previous government. We have reopened that facility. We have some good ideas on how we will repurpose that facility to possibly also help with the female estate. We are building two new wings in Bunbury. There are another 160 beds coming to Bunbury. That is in regional Western Australia. We are going to use regional contractors. We are going to try to get maximum local content for businesses in Bunbury to deliver that contract. That is good news. That is good news for Bunbury. It massively expands the Bunbury Regional Prison estate. That will not only deal with overcrowding in Bunbury, but also release pressure in Albany. We are going to build four new wings at Casuarina Prison with 512 new beds. One of those wings will be the alcohol and drug facility for men.

Mr D.T. Redman: Is that funded, minister?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It is all funded; it is all in the budget.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I will come to that. It is all funded and it is all in the budget. Work is being done on the tender right now.

I have hopes for the way those units will be designed in Casuarina. I put it nicely to the member for Warren–Blackwood that this is part of the reform process and where he should have gone as a minister. This is dealing with people with serious problems such as addiction and that is why they are in the prison system. I am also hoping to have one of those units as a step-up, step-down facility for people with mental health problems. There is a correlation between people with drug addiction and mental health problems, so dealing with them jointly would be a good idea. The member for Warren–Blackwood knows from his time as Minister for Corrective Services that people with mental health problems create a series of problems within the prison system. Therefore, we are dealing with some of these critical issues that have been abandoned for a long time—alcohol and drug addiction and mental health problems within prisons.

We have brought Wandoo Reintegration Facility back in-house, as the member knows. I have spoken at length today about that, and the 77 beds for the female estate. These initiatives have never been tried anywhere else in Australia, but the member is asking us whether the opposition can have confidence in the reform process of the prison system. Well, I hope it does, because other ministers around Australia certainly have confidence in what we are doing.

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We have reopened Warburton Work Camp, member for Warren–Blackwood. You closed it down. I still cannot get to the bottom of why the member closed it down. I have no idea. Warburton cost \$18 million to build, and for some reason the previous government closed it. The local people did not want it closed.

Mr D.T. Redman: No.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I do not know why the minister did it. I still cannot get to the bottom of why he closed the work camp.

When I went to Wyndham—the member for Warren–Blackwood quoted this—do members know how many prisoners I found there? Five. There was three staff and five prisoners. The prisoners said, “Can you send us some more prisoners? We’re pretty lonely up here. We’re sick to death of talking to each other.” This was a work camp with nearly 40 beds.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: No; sorry. I did not interject on the member for Warren–Blackwood and I am asking him to bear with me while I go through the positive things we are doing.

Wyndham has 40 beds and the former government had five people in there. It closed the work camp at the front of Roebourne Regional Prison. I do not know why it did that. We have reopened them all and have people in there. We have filled them all up—not completely at Warburton, but it is about half full—and we have put \$2.7 million into Broome Regional Prison. Broome prison was inhumane. Look at the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services report on Broome prison. The member for Warren–Blackwood quoted it. It was inhumane. It was awful—terrible. The way the women were looked after in Broome prison was an international disgrace. We put \$2.7 million in last September’s budget to fix that up immediately and address the issues in the kitchens and the women’s prison. Broome prison was left in such a state because the previous minister had not done anything since 2013. He did not know whether to keep it open or close it. They were chopping and changing. The staff up there did not know whether they had a job or not. I assured them that we will have to keep Broome prison open because it is a transitory prison for West Kimberley Regional Prison. It is a very, very important, busy prison, and that is why I put the investment into it.

These are all the things we have done in 18 months. The member for Warren–Blackwood criticises our government and asks what confidence he can have in us reforming and changing the prison system. I hope that on these positive notes he would have a great deal of confidence in us actually changing and reforming the prison system. We are changing the very nature of the way prisoners are treated within the prison system, dealing with their addiction problems and mental health problems, and we are expanding the prison system. That will give us 884 extra beds, on top of the ones I have just spoken about from last year, by 2020.

The former government promised a brand-new prison. We did not actually shelve it; we went to look at where the money was in the budget that the former government promised was there. The former government told the people of Western Australia that money was available. That was just not true. There was never any money for a new prison in the Corrective Services’ budget or in the forward estimates. There was \$1.5 million for a design program, but none of the design had been done. No work had been done on it. The member cannot come in here and criticise us for shelving a prison that never even existed. It did not exist even on paper.

I hope that the member for Warren–Blackwood will accept that these are the positive things we are doing in changing not just the nature of the prison system, but also the actual structure of the prison estate. That is what we are doing. We are spending money—not billions of dollars, which the former government promised, never delivered and never came up with, but that expansion we are talking about will cost the taxpayer of Western Australia \$130 million. Now, why can we deliver nearly 900 beds—a complete new prison—for \$130 million? Because we are building on existing prison land. We would have had to go through all the problems of planning approvals and the various problems there are with people out there in the community getting worried about a new prison appearing in their suburbs. We are doing it by way of quick-build projects, which is the way prisons all over the country are going, and we will be able to deliver those beds at a much, much cheaper price. That is really what the former government should have done, but it did not.

Mr D.T. Redman: We did. We did. Casuarina, Hakea and Albany.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I will come to that now.

I have tried to be positive with you guys. I have laid out very carefully where we are going between now and 2020—more beds, greater security, and a different approach to the way we treat prisoners with illnesses. That is what we are doing. That is the program. These are programs that the opposition should be supporting, not criticising.

I will go back to some of the points that the member made. He talked about West Kimberley Regional Prison and Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison, and the fact that the former government built them. Yes, it did, but we

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promised all those and got the money for them; you guys spent the money for them, built them and virtually opened them just after you got elected. That is the way it goes around; it is swings and roundabouts. We actually planned for the prison expansion but the former government ended up spending the money, delivering it and getting the plaque on the front. That is how it goes. But do not try to claim too much credit that the former government planned it —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I am not asking for interjections. I did not give them any.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: You did; absolutely.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I am not asking —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Okay; that is enough.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The former Liberal–National government did not plan for them and then deliver them. The government previous to that one planned for them, and the former Liberal–National government delivered them; there is no argument about that. It delivered on its thing. But as I indicated, it also closed down prison work camps and did things that the Inspector of Custodial Services will still not forgive it for.

I will come to some of the issues the member for Warren–Blackwood talked about. He talked about the OICS report on prison escapes. Does the member for Warren–Blackwood remember how many prison escapes he had during his short term as minister? Can he remember that? I will tell him.

Mr D.T. Redman: I don't know. It was six and a half years ago.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: No. Unfortunately, it was not six; it was 15. There were 15 prison escapes in 18 months on his watch.

Mr D.T. Redman: Fifteen? Over eight years you are averaging 50.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: If the member wants to look at the number of escapes, no; it is not averaging. He was there for only one and a half years and there were 15 escapes. Under the previous minister, there were 38 prison escapes.

Ms S.F. McGurk: And a puppy!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I will not bore the house with the offences committed by the people who escaped, but they were highly dangerous people. In some cases they were murderers. The member for Fremantle referred to a more famous one, about which I teased the previous minister over and again. That was Mr Bernd Neumann, who was the drug trafficker who escaped while walking a puppy at a soccer match at a suburban oval. He was caught 20 months later in Queensland. It was not 36 hours later; it was 20 months later. By the way, we still have not found the puppy.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The member for Churchlands remembers!

I have dealt with the opposition's proposal that I shelved a new prison. I did not shelve it. As I said, the previous government never even had the money for it. Members opposite say I am blaming the previous government. Come on! Do members opposite think these things come out of the blue or that these issues we are dealing with suddenly appeared in the last 18 months? The member for Dawesville and the member for Roe both quoted Inspector of Custodial Services reports. What were the dates of those reports?

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: They were all inspections under your government!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: All of them? No, member for Dawesville, they were not.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: These weren't?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Member for Dawesville —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Absolutely weren't?

The SPEAKER: That is enough!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: He has gone about it in a very lazy manner. I bet he has not read the reports. If the member for Dawesville would like me to walk in here with all the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services reports for the last eight years of his government, it would be a very big load. That is what the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services does! The inspector's job is to regularly visit the prisons, identify issues and put them in front

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of the government. Whether the government acts on them is down to the will of the government of the day and the budgetary responsibilities and commitments of the day. The member for Dawesville knows that. The former Minister for Corrective Services knows that as well. That is what is done. Members cannot pull them out and say, “Look at all the things that happened on your watch.” I could do exactly the same.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Dawesville, have some respect for Hansard!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I could do exactly the same except it would be a truckload of OICS reports. I wish to draw members’ attention to two reports that go to the point made by the member for Roe—the member for Dawesville quoted them as well—that is, the issue of Greenough Regional Prison. A 2012 OICS report looked at the member for Warren–Blackwood’s term in office and his decision to place the women in two wings in Greenough prison. The Inspector of Custodial Services said —

Ultimately, however, the Greenough women’s unit is a Band-Aid in the wrong place: too small to meet demand, too far from home for the prisoners, and still a female island in a male domain.

He goes on to say about the member for Warren–Blackwood’s term as Minister for Corrective Services —

In 2012 —

The member had already gone by that stage —

in belated response to a crisis in numbers and serious stress at the state’s main metropolitan women’s prison, Bandyup Women’s Prison, the Department decided to turn one of Greenough’s larger and more modern male units into a female unit with capacity of around 69.

He continued —

I am very well aware of complexities of managing relationships and association between men and women in prisons, but at present Greenough embodies the worst of both worlds.

That is what the inspector said about the member for Warren–Blackwood’s decision. Members opposite talk to me about taking responsibility, but if they are going to quote reports of the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services, they need to take responsibility for the decisions that they made. The member for Roe should have had a look at the date of the OICS report that he quoted. It was 2016; it was advice to his former government—not to me—and was not acted upon. In calling on the member’s government to do something after an inspection of Greenough, the Inspector of Custodial Services said —

We found that:

- cost cutting measures had impacted on operations and services, with critical services like health, prisoner employment, education, and rehabilitation programs not meeting demand
- staff/management relations were poor
- staff/prisoner relations had deteriorated, creating safety and security risks

He continued —

Tight budgets and recruitment freezes affected service delivery, and also contributed to tension between prison management and staff. This situation cannot be left unresolved ...

He was not saying that about me. He was calling on the previous minister in the Liberal–National government.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: He was calling on the previous minister to actually do something and that did not occur. On Greenough itself, I think the member for Geraldton said it quite clearly. He is closer to the ground and knows what goes on in Greenough more than any of you guys. The prison officers and staff up there are his constituents. There was no clear indication. The crazy member for North West Central went on and on saying that we were warned. It is a pity he is not here because I was going to ask him what warning he was talking about. Did he mean the Inspector of Custodial Services warning to his government? What other warnings was he talking about? Unfortunately, as is normal for the member for North West Central, he has gone walkabout. He comes in here, has his spray, goes walkabout and never answers anything after that.

It is not a question of the Minister for Corrective Services finally acknowledging that we took our eye off the ball in Greenough under intense questioning from the opposition. I said that at the media conference and it was quoted in the newspaper article by the journalist who is currently sitting in the press gallery.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: You haven’t said it here!

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Mr F.M. LOGAN: I repeated it in here at my first opportunity.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Stop!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It is not a question of the opposition suddenly pulling this out of the Minister for Corrective Services. I made that very clear and I put my hands up, as did the member for Dawesville on 26 July with Barry Nicholls on the ABC Drive program. Mr Barry Nicholls put this to the member —

But you were in power for eight and a half years and we have the prison system in the state that it is. Why wasn't more done then?

The member answered —

There was significant investment at that period of time, and I think it's important to realise that the issues, rightly so, as was pointed out, haven't just been confined to this term of government. These issues have been for some time, and the issue right now at Greenough that we're talking about is systemic. It goes back to 2010, beyond that.

I am talking about the member for Warren–Blackwood's time in office as minister. That is his friendly member for Dawesville "backing him in", unquote!

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is enough now, member for Dawesville. I call you for the first time.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Quite rightly, the member for Dawesville had the intelligence profile sent out to him on Monday by one of our specialists in the special operations group in intelligence, and he had it clearly set out to him that there was no clear indication whatsoever from intelligence—that is done on a daily basis—that there was the potential for Greenough Regional Prison to overheat or that it was likely that there would be a riot. There was no intelligence given on that. I said it before to the media conference and I have said it in this house: on that basis, we have a lot of things to deal with. I have just run through all the positive things in the prison system with which we are dealing, and the crises, whether the opposition likes it or not, that have been left to us. We are dealing with them as best we can within tight budgetary constraints.

Consequently, because the intelligence told us that Greenough was low-risk, not only did we take our eye off the ball, but so did the previous government, by the member for Dawesville's own admission. If we were to get some honesty out of the member for Warren–Blackwood, he would say the same: that Greenough is a regional prison that usually bubbles along doing its own thing.

We will find out, through the examination by Ms Jan Shuard, exactly what was behind all that—whether it was an opportunistic or planned riot. We do not know; I do not know. The member has spoken to both intelligence and the commissioner, and they do not know. Having been on the ground and spoken to the staff, I know that they do not know either; they do not know what led to it. Hopefully, Ms Shuard will get to the bottom of all that.

I will not go any further than that, because other people want to speak, but I will point something out to the members who raised all these issues. They called on me to set out our government's agenda for reforming the prison system and taking it forward, and I have done that for them. I have not gone back too far and criticised them; I have so much here that I could smack them around the head with, but I have already done a fair bit of that.

Mr D.T. Redman: Minister, how many visits to Greenough did you do prior to the recent issue?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Three. I go around to my prisons regularly, and I have been twice since the riot. I went immediately after the riot, and I went there Thursday last week as well. I do regular visits. The member for Warren–Blackwood knows what I am like. How many visits did I make to fire and emergency services in his area?

Mr D.T. Redman: It was good to see you down there.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Exactly. I get around and I make sure I listen to what is going on on the ground, whether it is fire and emergency services or prisons. I take my job seriously.

I hope I have explained to members very carefully that there is a positive agenda for prisons in Western Australia, for not only the prison estate but also expanding the prison estate to deal with what will probably be an increasing prisoner number. It is also a fact that there are people within our prisons who need assistance and rehabilitation to make our communities safer, whether they have drug addiction problems or mental health problems. That is another component of what we are doing in reforming the prison system.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley) [6.23 pm]: I rise to make a brief contribution in addition to the minister's response to the motion. At the last state election, a significant number of the members on this side of the chamber

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were elected to Parliament. Because so many of us were elected, we are required to share offices, and it is my great pleasure and privilege to share an office with the affable, hardworking, kind and compassionate member for Jandakot—a member who stands in stark contrast to his predecessor in that electorate.

Similarly, the Minister for Corrective Services has assumed responsibility in a way that builds consensus and tackles the difficult and complicated issues in his portfolio—issues that have already been articulated by the members for Dawesville, Warren–Blackwood and Geraldton in their contributions to the debate this evening—by working with stakeholders, building consensus, reviewing the evidence, cooperating with his ministerial colleagues and working with the employees under his direction. I speak of no less than the Western Australian Prison Officers’ Union of Workers.

We have heard great sentiments expressed in this debate about the importance of protecting the safety and security of those brave men and women who discharge the important public service of providing prison officer services in our state’s prisons. Those people are ably represented by their union, which is a strong advocate for appropriate approaches in this policy space. From the quotes that have been presented in the debate this evening, we have heard that there are a number of options available to governments of any persuasion or colour when they tackle these issues. They might include increasing the number of prisons, increasing the number of prison beds, reducing the number of people in prisons, or increasing the number of staff. This portfolio needs a minister who can work cooperatively and collaboratively with the union as the voice for those staff.

Members should beware of the chicanery and duplicity of members opposite. They say they have the interests of prison system employees close to their heart, yet they endorse the actions of the former Minister for Corrective Services, who had nothing to do with the union and nothing but disregard and disdain for the union. He never once visited the union office, which happens to be located in my fantastic electorate of Mount Lawley. He never once had that level of respect and admiration, and never had any respect for the risks that these men and women put themselves through, day in, day out. Straightaway, right off the bat, without any debate or any deliberation, we know that we have a much more capable and responsible minister in this portfolio nowadays by virtue of the fact that the member for Cockburn fulfils that duty.

One of the great challenges of governments is dealing with the legacy that they are left by their predecessors. I would say that it is an unarguable proposition that the larger the size of the legacy they are left, the longer it will take to address it. When we are left with small problems like pedestrian crossings on Clifton Crescent that have not been implemented, despite the fact that the local community has been campaigning for it for five years, they are problems that can be addressed, and addressed relatively quickly. But when we are left with ballooning debt and deficit stretching up to \$40 billion, it will take years and years of discipline, fiscal rigour and attention to detail to rectify it. When a government is left with a prison estate and population in the state that ours was in when we came into government in March 2017, members must appreciate that it will take a long time to remedy. It will take a nuanced, multifaceted and complicated policy matrix to try to address the problems that we are presented with.

That is why I have such great faith in the McGowan government achieving its objective of fixing the particular conundrum that has been bequeathed to us by the former Liberal–National government in this area. I have great faith for a number of reasons. I have great faith because we have an activist, engaged Attorney General who comes to this place with a vigorous attitude —

[Quorum formed.]

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I express my gratitude to the member for Dawesville for encouraging more members of the chamber to benefit from the brief contribution I am making to this debate.

Ms S.E. Winton: Am I right in suggesting there are only two members of the opposition here?

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Far be it from me to comment, member for Wanneroo.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Are we all good? Do we want to take a deep breath? That is nice. Thank you very much, member for Mount Lawley.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I am confident that the McGowan Labor government has at its disposal the necessary intellectual, diligent and hardworking ability in its ministerial portfolios to tackle the difficult legacy that we have been left with. The reason I am confident is that we have a vigilant activist Attorney General who brings to this place a comprehensive legislative reform agenda in the criminal justice and legal system area. He brings numerous bills into this chamber for debate and discussion in order to modernise and update our statute book. Look at the debate that took place on the Criminal Law Amendment (Intimate Images) Bill 2018 just yesterday. We have an Attorney General who is focused on the job of making sure that our Criminal Code is fit for purpose in the twenty-first century. I look to the Minister for Police and I see that since our methamphetamine action plan was introduced our hardworking WA Police Force, supported by an assiduous, diligent minister who has a great appreciation of the trials

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and tribulations that they face every day, has seized 1.4 tonnes of meth and \$11.26 million in cash, and destroyed 15 drug labs. This is a WA Police Force, encouraged and endorsed by the minister, doing its job to make sure that crimes that put people in prison are no longer being committed, and tackling the causes of crime.

I look to the Minister for Corrective Services who knows that he has to wrestle with the fact that there are bad people out there who are committing crimes and who need to be serving custodial terms. He says we need to take a nuanced, sophisticated and multifaceted approach to make sure that we are locking the right people up for the right lengths of time. Recently, the McGowan government appointed Peter Quinlan, SC, as the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In an interview with News Corp Australia, he described the case in which he acted for the family of Ms Dhu, the Aboriginal woman who died in custody, as the most moving case that he had ever done and one that would remain with him for the rest of his life. The reason I say that is that one of the great recommendations that came out of that was the establishment of a custodial notification scheme. For members who are not aware, the establishment of a custodial notification scheme in all Australian states and territories was a recommendation of the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. In May 2016, the Inspector of Custodial Services recommended that that be introduced in Western Australia. The former member for Jandakot, far be it from saying that is a good idea in fact went entirely in the other direction and said, “We need to impose longer sentences and lock up more people.” The member for Warren–Blackwood was entirely correct: we need to live with the consequences of the policy decisions we are making. Despite the fact that we had a massively exploding prison population under the previous government’s watch, it was not until 2017 that it said it was going to build a new prison. Did it have any money set aside for it? Absolutely not, and that is irresponsible and why the legacy it has left the McGowan Labor government requires somebody of the diligence, hard work and commitment of the Minister for Corrective Services to fix it. That is why he has my faith and I wish more strength to his arm.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [6.34 pm]: I would like to contribute to this debate. It is always interesting to look at the history of the person who is moving the motion. The member for Warren–Blackwood was the Minister for Corrective Services from 2010 to 2012. We have had quotes and references to a number of the Inspector of Custodial Services’ reports. One of the reports referred to was “The Greenough Women’s ‘Precinct’: A Band-Aid in the Wrong Place”. The inspector’s overview commences as follows —

The first half of this report examines the state of women’s imprisonment in Western Australia. It charts a history of improvement from 2002 to 2007, followed by a period when the Department of Corrective Services ... failed to plan adequately for a mushrooming number of female prisoners. The second half of the report examines the role of Greenough Regional Prison ... in housing women. Greenough has always held some female prisoners but due to the crisis of numbers it has been required to fulfil a much greater role since the end of 2012.

This is just at the end of the member for Warren–Blackwood’s period as minister. The Minister for Corrective Services has quoted extensively from that report, so I will not go into that, but I will refer to chapter 2. It is headed “Drifting into Crisis and strategies for working out of it.” I quote —

The period from 2002 to 2014 has been one of two distinct halves. In 2000, women’s imprisonment was badly neglected but from 2002 to 2008 —

I think that was a Labor government —

it was afforded overdue priority in planning, investment and organisational resourcing. This led to tangible improvements. Regrettably, from 2009 to 2013, —

Of course, under the member for Warren–Blackwood’s watch and his colleagues as ministers —

too few resources were dedicated to female prisoners. The result is a crisis in women’s imprisonment that was both predictable and avoidable.

The member had the temerity to come to this house today to bring this motion. How dare he? The Inspector of Custodial Services has damned him and his government in his reports, and he comes to this place and brings the silly motion that he has today. He has provided no empirical evidence to back his motion. It was an appalling contribution from someone who of course I genuinely view has a lot of substance to him, but today he has performed in a very poor manner and has not been well supported by the member for Dawesville.

We then had the later report that was also mentioned by the members for Dawesville and Roe and also the Minister for Corrective Services titled “Greenough Region Prison: Stressed by External Factors”. It outlines the inadequate spending of money, and how in many key areas services were not meeting demand. It also states —

We have given particular attention to the women at Greenough because we have had long-standing concerns about women’s imprisonment in general and issues specific to the prison.

In 2012, in belated response to intolerable overcrowding at Bandyup Women’s Prison, ...

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It led to the move to Greenough and so forth. It is very damning of the member for Warren–Blackwood’s time as minister and the colleagues who followed him.

I will go to more recent times. The Inspector of Custodial Services was interviewed by Gareth Parker on 6PR on 26 July 2018.

Mr P. Papalia: They do not listen to it.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I know they do not. I quote —

The total failure of the previous government to invest properly in prison infrastructure for women led to the remarkable decision to put a large women’s unit there .

He is talking about Greenough —

Now that creates massive problems with management within a predominantly male facility, and that’s what we saw.

And if I looked at the incident, one of my main concerns is the fact that the men were able to get into the women’s units and what actually occurred there.”

...

So, was it predictable? I couldn’t predict that precisely.

Could I have anticipated something would have happened somewhere in the State? Yes. It was never going to be clear when or where.

He goes on and talks about the member for Warren–Blackwood’s term of government. The member has the temerity to come in here and bring a motion against the current minister who is trying to fix up the mess that the member and his colleagues inflicted on our corrective services for eight and a half years.

The member for Warren–Blackwood and the member for North West Central mentioned justice reinvestment, which is a policy paper instigated by the Minister for Tourism. The member asked what we are doing. That shows that the member has no idea. The Minister for Corrective Services mentioned some of the positive things happening under his watch. Has the member heard of Target 120?

Mr D.T. Redman: No.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Do not come in here and ask us about justice reinvestment—the aim of Target 120 is to work with the families of the state’s highest priority young people in contact with youth justice before they reach the point of entering custody. I think the member would agree that it is best to try to keep them out of prison, right?

Mr D.T. Redman: Yes.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Target 120 was launched some time ago in Armadale. Armadale and Bunbury were used as the two initial pilots and hopefully it will be broadened out. We have allocated \$25 million in the forward estimates to that program. Obviously the member has not been reading the budget papers, because he had no idea about Target 120. How has the member not heard of it? It was all over the place, on Channel 7 and in *The West*. The whole idea of Target 120 is to try to work with those families because when intervention is not given the chance of those young people ending up in the custodial system increases. It is a great project. That all fits into justice reinvestment. Do not come into this chamber and ask us what we are doing. Justice reinvestment is only the start. It was invented by the Minister for Tourism, who was formerly the shadow minister in this area. The problem members opposite have is that they do not understand that when we look at corrective services and justice, we do not look only at the Minister for Corrective Services; it is much bigger than that and includes the Minister for Education and Training, the Minister for Community Services and the Minister for Housing, and I am sure it will eventually include the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

The problem for members opposite is that they are so narrowly focused, because when the member for Warren–Blackwood was Minister for Corrective Services he was damned in the Inspector of Custodial Services’ reports, and those damning reports were repeated in the interview with Gareth Parker in July. The inspector talked about how the problems we have now are because of the previous government. I must say that the member for Dawesville had a prime role to play in the Premier’s office, yet he comes in here and expects us—as the member for Mount Lawley said, it is going to take a long time—to clear up the previous government’s mess. We cannot just switch and expect that the problems on his watch that were reported by the independent Inspector of Custodial Services, Professor Neil Morgan, would just go away. He is an academic of esteemed reputation in this area, who damned the member for Warren–Blackwood and his colleagues and then basically repeated it on 6PR radio. That was under his watch and when the member for Dawesville had a prime role to play in the previous Premier’s office.

We are doing full-service schools. Does the member know about the full-service school?

Mr D.T. Redman: Yes.

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Dr A.D. BUTI: What is it?

Mr D.T. Redman: The first full-service school was put in Mt Barker under Alan Carpenter.

Dr A.D. BUTI: What is it?

Mr D.T. Redman: In that case, it was a K–12. In fact, it was out to be K–TAFE. There were a range of services, including early childhood services, coming into the school and making investments so that pathway of intervention and that pathway of connectivity to the school was continuous.

Dr A.D. BUTI: We are now taking that further. It was an election commitment by the McGowan government and we are engaging in a pilot program at Armadale Senior High School. That is another area in which we are trying to work with young people to engage them so that they will not end up in prison. The way the conservatives have always tackled this issue is lock up them and throw away the keys but, unfortunately, as we know, a lot of them got out—especially with puppies. The Minister for Corrective Services said that there were 15 —

Mr F.M. Logan: It was 10.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Was it 10 separate incidents or was it 10 in one batch at Greenough Regional Prison?

Mr F.M. Logan: It was 10 in one batch at Greenough.

Dr A.D. BUTI: At Greenough under the member's watch?

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: There were 15 separate incidents under his watch.

Mr D.T. Redman: But he said it was in 18 months, which is consistent with exactly what I said when I put up my debate. Yours was an average of 52 a year and ours was about 15.

Dr A.D. BUTI: But the member's record is not very good, in 18 months. Let us wrap it up. The Inspector of Custodial Services mentions in two reports the bandaid solution of moving women to Greenough Regional Prison in the first place, which the member for Warren–Blackwood was responsible for.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: He also mentioned—which is so damning of the former government—that under the previous Labor government there had been major investment in the corrective services space. He said that there were two halves: under the former Labor government there was significant investment, but under the previous Liberal–National government there was not.

Mr D.T. Redman: There was!

Dr A.D. BUTI: Is the member querying the Inspector of Custodial Services on this? Then, we were also told by the Inspector of Custodial Services in the second report about the problems in Greenough under the member's watch that were not fixed up. Then, that was backed by that radio interview in July, in which it was said how poorly the member was performing. So do not come into this chamber and run a stupid motion about trying to criticise the Minister for Corrective Services when the member and his colleagues' time was a pathetic performance. When it comes to justice reinvestment, we have the runs on the board and we will continue with that process. As the minister has said, "You just can't do it overnight." But I tell members one thing: we are doing a lot better in the short period of time than the previous government did in any of its eight and a half years of absolute disaster in the corrective services space.

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [6.46 pm] — in reply: Madam Acting Speaker, we do not often get to do a right of reply on these motions, so it is a good opportunity for me to do that. I have given all my notes over to Hansard, so I am coming up blind here, but I want to highlight that a few relevant points have been made. Firstly, as a part of this discussion I was trying to get from the government its position in and around justice reinvestment, which is a platform that it took to the previous election. I have had nothing on that from the Minister for Corrective Services. He gave a very, very limited commentary. The minister relied on other members, including backbenchers, to articulate an argument in and around how that plays out in terms of government policy, which is exactly the point that we made in the motion we put up to the house: we have an incompetent minister who is incapable of running or articulating an argument on the complexity of justice in a prison system and managing the expectations of our communities in Western Australia. That is exactly the point that was made, and in our view it is something the minister has not been able to do.

From this side of the chamber, we would love to see the Minister for Tourism take on that role. I would love to see him have the corrections portfolio. I would love to see the member for Armadale or the member for Mount Lawley take on the role. I am sure they would actually love to be there to take that up. The bottom line is that the challenge is for the minister to give the community of Western Australia the confidence that he is over his brief and that he has a plan laid out to support the prison population. The minister still has not responded to the

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issues of where the department is going, the predictions about prison populations and whether he will adhere to the very loose comment that he made when he first came into government about finding strategies to actually reduce prison populations. That has not been articulated today. I think a whole heap of holes still sit in this government's position in and around corrective services. Although I recognise and have talked about the complexity of the issues that sit there, the fundamental key performance indicator that is a starting point for people in Western Australia is that prisons are designed to keep people in. The history in that reporting shows, despite what the member for Armadale said, that the Labor Party has form as a previous government that does not give us the air of confidence that we would like to see with what has happened under this minister's watch now. We believe there is a level of effort, complexity, policy development, strategy and investment that needs to happen and it is not happening and it certainly has not been articulated that it is going to happen. Some of the issues the minister talked about are similar to issues we had and we gave responses to that. We invested inside the prison estate. The minister talked about investments the government made, but we did that at Hakea, Casuarina, Albany and Acacia prisons. There were significant investments in response, so I do not think the minister in his response to my motion can look back at our term in government and say that those investments were not made, because they were.

Regarding some of the early intervention work, I am really pleased that the member for Armadale talked about full-service schools, as I am a great advocate for them. I openly admit that Alan Carpenter laid out what I think was probably the first one in Western Australia. They are really suited to those middle-sized regional communities that need a level of consolidation of schools; rather than there being two schools, there is one. Mt Barker is a good example of that. We rolled out Merredin College when we were in government. I think there are opportunities for Moora to have something like that because of its catchment and its location. I think the other place in the state that should have one is Kununurra. It is something worth the member for Kimberley having a close look at. Kununurra would really lend itself to having a full-service school to cater for the continuum of kids from when they are born right the way through the school system so that ownership can be taken of their educational pathways to ensure they participate as positively as they can in our society.

But it comes back to the challenge here that we genuinely believe this minister is falling short on his efforts and responsibilities, and we are moving motions to that effect. I am still not confident in the response from government. A backbencher, the member for Mount Lawley, made some commentary. It was good to have the member for Mount Lawley on his feet. The member for Armadale did the same thing in responding and supporting the minister. Not only did they support the minister by getting on their feet, but in the case of a member for Armadale in particular, they ran a much more articulate argument about some of the challenges, and that should really have come out of the mouth of the Minister for Corrective Services. It is good to see the Premier back in the house now to defend his minister. With that, I think we are going to go to a vote. I am probably not going to be able to run it out to seven o'clock at this point in time, but we are going to have a vote on this motion.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Ms J.M. Freeman) casting her vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (13)

Mr I.C. Blayney	Dr D.J. Honey	Mr J.E. McGrath	Ms L. Mettam (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr V.A. Catania	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Mr D.C. Nalder	
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr A. Krsticevic	Mr D.T. Redman	
Mrs A.K. Hayden	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr P.J. Rundle	

Noes (29)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr S.J. Price	Mr D.A. Templeman
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr M. McGowan	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr J.R. Quigley	Ms S.E. Winton
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr S.A. Millman	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J. Farrer	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms C.M. Rowe	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms A. Sanderson	
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Ms J.J. Shaw	
Mr M. Hughes	Mr P. Papalia	Mr C.J. Tallentire	

Pairs

Mr R.S. Love	Ms R. Saffioti
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr P.C. Tinley

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Question thus negatived.