

PRISON VOLUNTEER PROGRAM — BUNBURY

1644. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Corrective Services

In reference to the Prison Volunteer Program which is a program that offers emotional support for people visiting prisoners in Western Australia's correctional institutions, I ask:

- (1) Can the Minister explain what is happening to the Prison Volunteer Program in Bunbury?
- (2) Is the Minister considering replacing this successful program?
- (3) If yes to (2), at what cost, over and above the cost of running the existing Prison Volunteer Program, will the replacement program cost?
- (4) If yes to (2), what involvement will the existing volunteers have in the running of the new program?
- (5) If yes to (2), can the Minister explain how many hours, and what hours per week, will be offered to support visitors in Bunbury by the replacement program?

Mr C.C. PORTER replied:

- (1) The Family Support Service Centre at Bunbury Regional Prison (previously the Bunbury Regional Prison Visitors Centre) is currently supported by 38 volunteers. As visit sessions at Bunbury have recently increased with the opening of the new Pre-Release Unit, it has been difficult for volunteers solely to meet service demand.

A not-for-profit organisation has recently been contracted to operate the Centre and provide support to existing volunteers and expand service delivery to meet the increased demand.
- (2) No. As this is a valuable service, the Family Support Service Centre will continue to provide and expand its service delivery to meet increased demand.
- (3)-(5) Not applicable.