

JUSTICE — PRISONER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

**1496. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:**

My question is directed to the parliamentary secretary, but I suspect it has been redirected to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Corrective Services. I refer to the research report entitled *Let them work: how criminal justice reform can help address Australia's worker shortage* published by the Institute of Public Affairs in March this year that advocates for the introduction of work-focused community service orders for all nonviolent and non-sexual offenders who are prepared to work full time.

- (1) Is the minister aware of this research report?
- (2) Is the minister aware that the report argues that such work-focused community service orders would help address the current worker shortages, reduce incarceration rates and, consequentially, the state's prison expenditure, and enhance the rehabilitation of nonviolent offenders?
- (3) When did the department brief the former minister about this report?
- (4) When did the department brief the current minister about this report?
- (5) Has the minister discussed the report with the Premier or the Attorney General?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Corrective Services.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The department did not brief the former Minister for Corrective Services prior to the change of minister.
- (4) The Department of Justice has not briefed the minister on this report.
- (5) No.