

ACACIA PRISON, CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AUSTRALIA

890. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:
- (1) Is the Minister aware of the failure of the Corrections Corporation of Australia in Victoria in managing the Women's prison?
  - (2) In view of that failure, what contingency plans have been put in place in the event that Acacia Prison must be returned to Ministry of Justice management?
  - (3) What is the likely risk, as estimated by the Ministry of Justice, of the Corrections Corporation of Australia failing to deliver required services.
  - (4) What is the estimated cost to the State Government if Corrections Corporation does not deliver required services?
  - (5) To what extent will the Ministry of Justice accept penalty payments from the Corrections corporation of Australia before the contract is terminated for non-performance?
  - (6) To what extent will the Ministry of Justice accept penalty payments in favour of enforcing service delivery?
  - (7) How many penalty payments will need to be imposed on Corrections Corporation of Australia for the Ministry of Justice to terminate the Acacia Prison Contract?
  - (8) If unknown, why?
  - (9) What will be the value of penalty payments imposed upon Corrections Corporation of Australia for Ministry of Justice to terminate the Acacia Prison contract?
  - (10) If not determined, why not?
  - (11) Have the limits not been determined because the Director General of the Ministry of Justice is preparing to allow the contract for Acacia to continue operating regardless of service shortcomings?
  - (12) If not, why not?
  - (13) As at the date of advertising the Acacia Prison tender, how many-
    - (a) sentenced medium security prisoners from the metropolitan area were to be placed at the prison;
    - (b) were estimated to serve at least 12 months at the prison; and
    - (c) of these were expected to satisfy the minimum criteria needed for measurement of recidivism performance?
  - (14) Is this number enough to enable effective performance measurement for recidivism and for other measures?
  - (15) If not, why not?
  - (16) Were the measures purposefully developed by the Ministry of Justice to ensure that effective measurement was not possible?
  - (17) Will the Ministry of Justice be changing the classification system to ensure that there are enough medium security prisoners to fill Acacia Prison?
  - (18) If so why was the prison built so large?
  - (19) As at 30 September 2000 how many medium security prisoners belonging to the metropolitan area were available to transfer to Acacia Prison had -
    - (a) at least 12 months to serve;
    - (b) six or more but less than 12 months to serve; or
    - (c) less than six months to serve?
  - (20) Of these, how many had -
    - (a) at least 12 months to serve;
    - (b) six or more but less than 12 months to serve; or
    - (c) less than six months to serve?

- (21) Will the occupancy of Acacia be kept at 100% or near to 100%?
- (22) Will Acacia be kept full even if State Prisons are run at less than 100% occupancy?
- (23) If yes, is this to provide Corrections Corporation of Australia with the full benefits of economies of scale at the expense of the State system?
- (24) Is this a Ministry of Justice strategy to advantage the private sector in efficiency and smoothness of operation?
- (25) Will Acacia Prison double bunk at the same rate as the State system?
- (26) If not, why not?
- (27) What methodology will be adopted by the Ministry of Justice to ensure that comparisons between Acacia and the State system are like with like?
- (28) Will the Minister table the methodology?
- (29) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The processes and procedures for Ministry of Justice intervention in, and termination of, the contract is outlined in Division 5 of the Prisons Amendment Act 1999 and Clause 30 of the Acacia Prison Service Agreement.
- (3) Minimal.
- (4) The current cost difference between public prisons & Acacia is approximately \$45.00 per prisoner per day.
- (5) The grounds for termination of the contract are detailed in Division 5 of the Prisons Amendment Act 1999 and Clause 30 of the Acacia Prison Services Agreement. They are not linked to penalty payments from Corrections Corporation of Australia.
- (6) The Ministry will always enforce contracted service delivery standards, irrespective of penalty payment.
- (7) Refer (5).
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) Refer (5).
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) No.
- (12) The Ministry of Justice has the means to enforce contracted service delivery standards and is prepared to use them.
- (13) (a) 750.  
(b)-(c) a significant proportion.
- (14) Yes.
- (15) Not applicable.
- (16)-(17) No.
- (18) Not applicable.
- (19) As at 30 June 2000, 781 medium security prisoners were accommodated in the metropolitan area. The remaining sentence length of these prisoners is not readily available.
- (20) Refer (19).
- (21)-(22) Yes.
- (23)-(25) No.
- (26) The movement of prisoners to Acacia Prison will relieve overcrowding in public prisons, allowing double bunking arrangements in public prisons to be significantly reduced.

- (27) Acacia Prison will operate under the same legislation, policies, rules, performance standards and performance measures as public sector prisons.
- (28) Refer (27).
- (29) Not applicable.