

GREENOUGH REGIONAL PRISON — CRITICAL INCIDENT

637. Hon JIM CHOWN to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 592.

- (1) Can the minister please explain why he has let staffing levels at Greenough Regional Prison drop from 102.5 FTE in July 2017 to only 89 FTE in July 2018?
- (2) Can the minister also explain how he can still blame the previous Liberal–National government's staffing freeze when he has been the Minister for Corrective Services for almost 18 months?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Further to the answer provided in question 592, the service level staffing agreement for prison officers at Greenough Regional Prison is 94 full-time equivalents. FTE levels at any site can vary from time to time for reasons such as retirement, resignations and return to the metropolitan area. The safe staffing levels of prisons is a priority for the minister as demonstrated by the commencement of a local recruitment campaign in the region.
- (2) The member needs be reminded that our government lifted the staffing freeze arbitrarily placed on the public sector by the Liberal–Nationals, which made it difficult for Greenough Regional Prison to recruit for the foreseeable future and for the natural attrition rate. Notwithstanding this, the department has commenced a local recruitment campaign to maintain staffing levels into the future. As with most occupations requiring specialist training, there is a time delay between the recruitment period and when an officer commences operational duty. The staffing freeze delayed this process.