

21 August 2007

263. Correctional Services – Prison and Custodial Services

Ms CARNEY to MINISTER for JUSTICE and ATTORNEY-GENERAL

(Please note 'Berrimah' refers to the Correctional Services facility in the Top End; 'Alice Springs' refers to the Correctional Services facility in Alice Springs; and 'Officers' refers to Prison Officers).

1. What is the average per meal cost of food provided at Berrimah and Alice Springs?
2. What is the average per meal cost of food provided at each of the watch-houses?
3. How many staff are employed at Berrimah and Alice Springs, and please provide details of the levels at which each staff are employed?
4. How many officers are there now working, or rostered to work, at Berrimah and Alice Springs?
5. How many officers were working, or rostered to work, at the same time last year at Berrimah and Alice Springs?
6. What is the prisoner capacity at Berrimah?
7. What is the prisoner capacity at Alice Springs?
8. What is the optimum prisoner to staff ratio in Berrimah and Alice Springs?
9. The Alice Springs gaol was built for 400 prisoners, but there has been an agreement between the department and prison officers to ensure it runs safely with 450 prisoners. Please provide details of that agreement, as well as the number of prison officers required if prisoner numbers are between 400 and 450?
10. Does this agreement involve the ability to call in more staff if prisoner numbers exceeded 400? How does it work; how many times have staff had to be called in?
11. Is there a similar agreement in place for Berrimah and, if so, what are the details of such an agreement?
12. How many times have more staff been called in to work as a result of overcrowding?
13. How many times has Alice Springs operated where there have been over 400 prisoners and not enough staff?
14. How many times has Berrimah operated where there has been prisoners over the Berrimah capacity level?
15. In Alice Springs, is it the case that there are 138 prison officers currently rostered to work at Alice Springs? If so, is that sufficient for 400 prisoners? If not, what is the number?
16. Is it not the case that Alice Springs and Berrimah are regularly understaffed?
17. How many shifts have been understaffed in 2006-07 at Berrimah and Alice Springs?
18. How many prison officers retired or resigned from Alice Springs and Berrimah in 2006-07, and how does that compare with the preceding two years?
19. How many new recruits were there in 2006-07 and how does that compare with the preceding two years?
20. How many times has the department advertised for new officers? What form did the advertising take, where did it occur, and what has been the cost?
21. How many times do you expect to advertise for prison officers in 2007-08?
22. How much was spent on all forms of advertising in 2006-07, and how does that compare with the preceding two years? Is there an advertising budget? Will there be more ads in 2007-08?
23. Understaffing and other staff issues lead to the Cayer review commissioned a couple of years ago. Have the issues that led to the review been resolved and, if not, please outline issues that remain unresolved?
24. Please outline what parts of the Cayer review have not been implemented, and provide reasons as to why that is the case.
25. What has happened to the money allocated as a result of the Cayer review?
26. The draft Tungsten report provided to government in 2004, recommend at page 2 that 'a new high security correctional facility will be needed in Darwin by 2014 and planning should commence for this in the next three years': Has planning commenced and, if not, why not?

27. Given the current focus on child abuse, is it reasonable to expect that more offenders will be charged and sentenced in the future? If so, how will Berrimah and Alice Springs handle significantly more prisoner numbers, and what plans do you have in place to deal with this issue?
28. Is it expected, on the basis of the advice provide to you by the DPP about the increase in the number of files, and the increase in the number of WAS clients, that the prisoner numbers will continue to grow in any event, and that Berrimah and Alice Springs will not have the space to accommodate them?
29. What plans do you have in place to deal with prisoner numbers increasing, based on all of the indications you have available to you?
30. Please provide details about the sex offender programs at Alice Springs and Darwin, and include:
- (a) What do they involve?
 - (b) How many staff are involved?
 - (c) How is success measured?
 - (d) What is the nature of the programs?
 - (e) Who runs the programs and what are their qualifications?
 - (f) When did they start; when did they finish; and explain the reasons for any cessation in delivery?
 - (g) How much did each program cost?
 - (h) Provide any other relevant information about the programs.
31. Does the 2007-08 budget include any additional funding for sex offender programs at Berrimah or Alice Springs? If not, why not?
32. Have the sex offender programs which have operated to date been adequate, and do you expect the number of programs to increase?

9 October 2007

265. Assistance to Non-Territory and Territory Film and TV Productions

Mr MILLS to MINISTER for ARTS and MUSEUMS

Please provide details of all expenditure, support and assistance for non-Territory film and television productions, and a comparison with the level of support given to Territory-based film and television productions since 2001.

266. Assistance to *Australia* Production

Mr MILLS to MINISTER for ARTS and MUSEUMS

Please provide details of all support, assistance and expenditure that has been given, or is allocated, intended, or anticipated for, Baz Luhrmann's current *Australia* production, including in-kind support.

267. Assistance to *The Alice* Production

Mr MILLS to MINISTER for ARTS and MUSEUMS

Please provide details of all support, assistance and expenditure that was given to the Channel 9/Southern Star TV series *The Alice*, including in-kind support.

268. Assistance to Other Interstate and Overseas Productions

Mr MILLS to MINISTER for ARTS and MUSEUMS

Please provide details of all support, assistance and expenditure that has been given to other interstate and overseas films and TV productions since the government's election, including in-kind support.

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Assistance to –	
<i>Australia</i> Production	1162
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<i>The Alice</i> Production	1162

21 August 2007

264. TIO's Banking Division – Exposure to Sub-prime Lending

Mr MILLS to TREASURER

Treasurer, as you are the sole shareholder of the Territory Insurance Office, can you reassure Territorians that the TIO's banking division is not exposed to the sub-prime lending crisis that has manifested itself in recent weeks?

If the TIO is exposed, to what degree, and what safeguards are in place to protect the TIO?

ANSWER

TIO Banking is not exposed to direct financial risk as a result of the sub-prime lending crisis that has manifested over the past couple of weeks.

There has been a lot of comment in the media on the difficulties being experienced by US lenders that have focused on home loans to the sub-prime market. Sub-prime loans are high risk loans to people on low incomes with incomplete credit histories. Lenders to the sub-prime market in the US are experiencing difficulties due to increasing interest rates and reducing property values. TIO Banking does not lend to the sub-prime market.

In some cases, lenders to the sub-prime market in the US have been offering Low Doc loans. These are loans where no proof of income, employment or assets is required. It has since transpired that many of these loans have been made to borrowers with no income, no job and no assets (so called NINJA loans). TIO Banking does not offer Low Doc Loans.

TIO Banking does not hold any mortgage backed securities issued by lenders to the US sub-prime market.

TIO Banking funds its loans from retail deposits, wholesale deposits and securitisation. Unlike other institutions that directly sell mortgage backed securities into the market, TIO Banking's securitisation program involves the sale of loans to an independent third party that then sells mortgage backed securities into the market. Under TIO Banking's securitisation contract the funding cost to TIO Banking is expressed as a fixed margin over the Bill/Swap rate. TIO Banking is therefore not affected by the recent increase in costs arising from the sale of mortgage backed securities.

TIO Banking's liquidity ratio, calculated in accordance with Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) standards, is currently running at 19% against a minimum required level of 9%. This is more than sufficient to deal with any short term liquidity shortages if they were to occur in the Australian market.

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