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Shadow Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

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Labor all talk on corrections

Figures released yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics confirm that the State Government is doing nothing to uphold its promise to reduce prisoner numbers in the State.

Labor has been talking about introducing new community-based sentencing options for over a decade, yet they have delivered nothing.

Today's figures reveal that over the last 10 years the imprisonment rate for males in Tasmania has increased by 41% and over the same period the female imprisonment rate has increased by 111%.

The Tasmanian Liberals have been calling for more community-based sentencing options, such as home detention with electronic monitoring and rehabilitation programs for many years.

A recent review of Tasmania Community Corrections released in December 2008 states that: "Offender programs and other necessary interventions are not readily available. This restricts opportunities to facilitate rehabilitation and reduce reoffending and may impact sentencing decisions".

It was a Tasmanian Liberal Government that pioneered Community Services Orders as an alternative, in certain circumstances, to imprisonment. However, neglect by the decade old State Labor Government has led to our State falling behind in options for alternative sanctions.

It costs \$263 per day to keep a prisoner in jail, compared to \$12 per day for the cost of community supervision. To reduce the prison population and the cost to the community it is imperative that more community-based sentencing options and rehabilitation programs are made available in Tasmania.

For further information or comment please call Brad Stansfield – 0419 884 666