

## Dr Vanessa Goodwin MLC

Shadow Minister for Corrections

Tuesday 12 October, 2010

---

### Risdon inquiry raises more questions

Minister McKim is struggling to keep control of the mounting issues affecting Risdon and the corrections system generally. The need to urgently resolve the security issues means that attention may be diverted away from other important considerations such as alternative sentencing options and ensuring that adequate rehabilitation programs are offered at the prison and in the community to try and break the cycle of crime. Minister McKim must ensure that funding to implement the soon to be finalised *Breaking the Cycle Corrections Plan* is not jeopardised by this latest crisis.

At the moment there is an extraordinary amount of reviews going on concerning Risdon Prison. Details of the latest review, announced in Parliament today, shouldn't be just an excuse for Minister McKim to put off taking action until February next year when the review will be completed.

Most importantly, the Government must ensure that any contractual issues regarding the design and construction of the Risdon Prison are resolved as soon as possible. This is the key to fixing the Prison's problems and making sure it is safe for both the staff and the inmates.

Minister McKim needs to fix the problems affecting Risdon and his corrections portfolio as soon as he can. We will always welcome independent scrutiny of Government areas that are clearly not as good as they could be, but Minister McKim can't use this, or any of the numerous other reviews into incidents in the corrections system as an excuse to avoid scrutiny.

---

For further information or comment please call Brad Nowland – 0439 614 893