

Dr Vanessa Goodwin MLC

Shadow Minister for Corrections

Wednesday 22nd September, 2010

Serious incident at Risdon unacceptable

Today's reports of two serious incidents at Risdon Prison requiring the deployment of the Tactical Response Group and resulting in six correctional officers being taken to hospital are very disturbing.

These incidents again call into question the adequacy of the design of Risdon Prison in managing prisoners, particularly high risk prisoners, coming so soon after the release of the Ombudsman's report into the Tamar Unit which highlighted the inadequacies of our prison system.

The Liberals reiterate our calls for the establishment of an independent prisons inspectorate to provide ongoing independent oversight of the prison system to make sure the facilities and level of resourcing and management practices are appropriate.

It is essential that the safety of correctional officers is paramount and the potential for violence is minimised.

This is not an isolated incident and it is a cause for significant concern, and the Minister for Corrections Nick McKim must act to address any deficiencies in the prison system which may have contributed to these latest incidents.

For further information or comment please call Bronwyn Perry – 0459 802 513