

**THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASHLEY, YOUTH DETENTION AND JUSTICE MET IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, HOBART ON FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2007.**

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**Mr DAVE WILLANS**, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, YOUTH NETWORK OF TASMANIA AND **BEN MCKAY**, PROJECT OFFICER, TASMANIAN YOUTH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, WERE CALLED, MADE THE STATUTORY DECLARATION AND WERE EXAMINED.

**CHAIR** (Mr Hall) - Did you put in a written submission?

**Mr WILLANS** - No, I was on leave so I was not able to put in a written submission but I did prepare fairly extensive notes for this meeting today and I would be more than happy to put them in.

**CHAIR** - If you table those that would be handy and useful to the committee, thank you very much. Would you give an introduction and describe your interest and organisation. You have seen our terms of reference and how they might apply as you see things. Then I will invite the committee members to ask some questions.

**Mr WILLANS** - As I indicated, my name is Dave Willans and I am the Executive Officer of the Youth Network of Tasmania. Some of you will be very familiar with the role of the Youth Network of Tasmania in some way so just very briefly, we are the peak body for the non-government sector. We are funded through the Office of Children and Youth Affairs in Premier and Cabinet to improve the response of the Tasmanian community to youth issues. We try to do that in three primary ways. One is to make sure that young people and service providers are involved in identifying what those issues are and responding to them. The second is trying to achieve coordinated responses across all levels of the sector, including local, State and Commonwealth governments and the community sector to make sure that everybody is on the same page and talking to each other. We also seek to provide advice to government through our networks. We auspice the Tasmanian Youth Consultative Committee, which Ben is the project officer for. I arranged with the community secretariat to invite Ben today because I thought if the committee had any questions about what young people might think in relation to some of the issues you are discussing - I don't think Ben can provide a representative answer to that but in his position he is really well placed to talk to the committee about how those answers might be obtained through his youth participation experience. So that is where Ben fits in.

The other point that I would like to make is that our networks are based on three very strong regional networks, which other sectors don't necessarily have. In Tasmania we have three autonomous youth sector coordinated groups: one is in the north; one is called NYCC, the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee, that operates out of Launceston; and Youth Action Priorities is in the south. They are supported by local government and they give us a very strong consultative mechanism. So it is through those sorts of mechanisms that we participate in decision-making and consult with the secretariat around these issues.

**CHAIR** - Are you getting financial support from local government or is it just in-kind support?

**Mr WILLANS** - The regional groups are supported by local government.

**CHAIR** - In a financial sense?

**Mr WILLANS** - Yes. They get minimal support but the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee in particular gets strong support from local government.

**Mr WILKINSON** - Dave, can we start at the beginning. It seems to me - and Ben might want to enter into this as well - there are obviously at-risk families out there and if you can get into those families at an early stage, an antenatal stage, and endeavour to do what you can to assist at that stage, that might be a great saving because it might save them going through the system at some later stage. If you agree with that, how do you do it?

**Mr WILLANS** - You have taken me out of the structure that I was going to talk to you about, Jim; you have challenged me because I have to think about it in different ways. There is a range of options for early intervention in relation to these issues. One of the thrusts of our submission is that putting more emphasis on early intervention is really important. I do not know how you intervene at the sort of age that you are talking about but certainly there is a range of options for intervention before people arrive at Ashley. I guess that is what you want to talk about: the interagency support teams, the collaborative case management models that operate within the Youth Justice setting, organisations like Chance on Main and other non-government organisations that undertake to do preventative work. There is a whole range of those things, but also I think in the Tasmanian context there is a lack of specific drug and alcohol services for young people, there is a lack of adolescent mental health services which means that young people who have drug and alcohol problems or mental health issues are more like to get to a stage where they are offending and where the only logical response to that offence is incarceration in Ashley. One of the main things that I wanted to get across today is that I think that Ashley is trying to do way too much within a service system that is not necessarily coping very well with a broad range of needs that young people have. As a result, it is trying to spread itself too thin across a target group that requires intensive and less intensive interventions. Some of its perceived failings are due to the failure of a whole range of systems that surround Ashley. I do not know whether that is going towards answering your question or not.

**Mr WILKINSON** - Yes, it is probably the next stage. What I was looking at is getting Child Protection in early, focusing on families that are at risk and endeavouring to take the hand of the parents and walk them through the process of caring for their children. If they can't care, get some other mentor on board to assist with the care for the child; if they have any problems, to come and have a chat to that person, as opposed to going to mum and dad who might be in trouble themselves.

**Mr WILLANS** - There are two things that I would like to say about that. One is that that is obviously a good strategy and we should be putting more resources into it. But there is an issue in relation to that that is not often discussed, and that is the fact that when you target services to people whom you perceive to be at risk they do not necessarily perceive themselves or their family to be at risk. You can't do that in a way that does not

involve consent. We have become a bit hazy about where the boundaries are around consent and the interagency support teams are a primary example of that. We have had a lot of discussion with the interagency support teams about the issue of consent. As we seek to target people that we see as at risk, we are going to get further into that business of providing services to people who may not want them. That is becoming a bit of a dividing point between government and non-government approaches to the issue. Certainly the interagency support teams, when they were first developed, were not clear about the consent issues. My understanding now is that there is lot more clarity about the consent issues but we still have not seen the evidence that that is the case. Yes, logically it makes sense that we would intervene earlier and that we need to strengthen that early intervention and those preventative approaches, but there are some policy issues there and I am not sure that the sector has its head around it very well.

**CHAIR** - Now that Mr Wilkinson has destroyed your train of thought, David, we will go back to the start again!

**Mr WILLANS** - He knows how to head me off at the pass.

*Laughter.*

**Mrs JAMIESON** - I have a question that follows on from the interagencies et cetera. Do you have any contact at all with Youth and Family Focus and groups that are Commonwealth-funded?

**Mr WILLANS** - We have heaps of contact. Those groups are our members and members of our board are people like the CEOs of Youth and Family Focus in Burnie and Devonport. Our perceptions about the needs in relation to Youth Justice come through those organisations. That is where we get our information.

In Tasmania we have a lot of frustration, as I indicated earlier, in that we don't have the critical mass of clients that would justify expenditure on specific drug and alcohol services for young people, or specific mental health services. We do not have sufficient funding for a high-security facility for young people and a low-security facility for incarceration of young people. I think that is a problem for us. Those sorts of issues affect all our work in this sector and just don't seem to be able to do a lot of the things that the other States take for granted. We have services that spread themselves too thin and, as a result, don't do anything as well as we might like them to. I think that is really true of Ashley. It is trying to provide too broad a range of services.

In the absence of a more comprehensive service system, anecdotal evidence suggests to us that some magistrates in some instances feel that that is the only reasonable option they have for a young person who is before them in the courts and whom they do not want to incarcerate - they feel that that is the best way for their needs to be identified and met. So instead of being a custodial need, it is a need for health and other issues that are being addressed by their incarceration. I am not sure whether that has changed in recent years, but that is certainly a very strong message that we were getting a few years ago.

**Mr MARTIN** - I think there has been a lot of evidence produce to the committee by other people that that is still the case.

**Mr WILLANS** - So that is a pretty sad situation. It means that Ashley is trying to do way too much - way more than it really should do.

**Mr MARTIN** - Dave, do you think instead of the single facility at Ashley it is important to have two different facilities?

**Mr WILLANS** - The evidence is starting to show that there is a cohort of young people who are more alienated from society who have a larger level of problems. If the alternatives are to make Ashley a much more structured environment to meet the needs of that particular cohort and therefore that impacts on all the other young people or to have a separate facility that is attached to Risdon or in fact to Ashley for that particular cohort, my preference - and I think my committee's preference - would be that there should be a separate facility. It seems to me that it should be located at Risdon because that is where all the services are most likely to be located for these young people who have all these challenging behaviours and various issues and where some of those needs can be met whilst still providing a high security environment.

**CHAIR** - So, Dave, are you basically advocating then that you have a more secure centre attached to Risdon, as you say, and then Ashley becomes a low security place perhaps without a fence around it?

**Mr WILLANS** - Which is what it was intended to be in the first place. In the old days that is what it was and if young people escaped from Ashley, who cared? Nobody cared because it was a low security environment, the young people were not seen as a risk to the community or to themselves and escape was a minor misdemeanour.

**CHAIR** - What do you think is the percentage of high-security people in Ashley at the moment?

**Mr WILLANS** - I do not know the answer to that.

**CHAIR** - Okay.

**Mr WILLANS** - The only comment I can make about that is that the percentage of high-security people seems to be increasing and I guess, unless we have significant changes to the sort of social contacts that contribute to that alienation, it is going to continue to do so so the problem is going to increase rather than decrease.

A few years ago we had youth-specific Legal Aid people, one in each region, and they made a significant contribution to the needs of marginalised young people before the courts. They made a significant contribution, I would suggest, to keeping young people out of Ashley but because Legal Aid was not able to fund that we lost those youth officers. They also had another function in that through a subcommittee of the Youth Network of Tasmania, those employed by Legal Aid worked with other people who had an interest in youth justice to raise youth justice issues, to raise the sort of issues that your committee is concerned about. Since the demise of those Legal Aid youth justice people we have not been able to run that subcommittee because we have not had the interest or the expertise to do that and I guess we have put all our hopes, in the absence of that committee, in the Commission for Children to raise a lot of those issues. But of course it is a big expectation of the commissioner's office to be across all youth justice issues plus

all the huge child protection issues that we have in front of us plus a whole range of peripheral issues like child deaths and other things that the commission is required to address.

So we both lack the practitioners on the ground in the courts to assist young people and we also lack sufficient focus on the systemic issues to be able to do the preventative work and to come up with some better strategies for how to address the problems. We would be recommending that Legal Aid receive more money for specific youth justice workers.

**Mr MARTIN** - We heard evidence provided to us that a lot of young people actually get remanded without having any legal representation or even any family support. Are you aware of that?

**Mr WILLANS** - Yes, and I am also aware that Legal Aid has trouble getting to see people while they are in Ashley. There is a problem getting Legal Aid access. There is not a problem from Ashley's point of view, there is no blockage from within Ashley to have Legal Aid coming in but there is an incapacity within the Legal Aid service to provide enough support to the residents while they are at Ashley.

**Mr MARTIN** - That therefore leads to young people staying on remand longer than they would otherwise have to be?

**Mr WILLANS** - Absolutely, and being in there in the first place and getting access to bail options. I am sure the bail issue has been raised with your committee as a major impediment. These young people do not have any money, they do not have any networks, they do not have any family that can come up with bail options and without access to bail and without access to legal support they are going to be in Ashley. I think the commissioner or the previous Commissioner Fanning made it very clear that he was very concerned at the number of young people who were remanded into Ashley for precisely that reason and suggested really strongly that there needs to be a bail board or some other way of providing bail for these young people and we would strongly support that view.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Would you also like to make any comment then on Aboriginal youth in the system?

**Mr WILLANS** - I do not feel qualified to make any comments about those young people. I am aware of particular provisions for particular projects and we are pleased to see those but I do not have enough links into the community to find out how well they are working and the accuracy of that.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Dare I ask, why not?

**Mr WILLANS** - We have not succeeded. We have certainly explored in proving those linkages since our inception 10 years ago but, as yet, have not been able to establish the strong linkages that we would like to.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - But you do see a need, though, from your point of view?

**Mr WILLANS** - We need to do more in that area.

There is apparently a high percentage of Ashley detainees who are young people on remand.

**CHAIR** - Yes, we have heard a lot of evidence on that, Dave, and we know the issues there and you are quite right, it is higher proportion-wise than other States, too.

**Mr WILLANS** - Our understanding was that young people on remand do not have the same access to programs and support programs and resources that other young people do, which seems to be quite disturbing. First of all we cannot provide them with sufficient resources to prevent them from going into Ashley when they perhaps should not be there and then while they are there we do not seem to be able to provide them with the programs and supports that other young people have, so I think we have fallen over very badly.

**CHAIR** - Yes.

**Mr WILLANS** - We have talked about bail options.

**CHAIR** - Yes, we did.

**Mr WILLANS** - Our understanding at the moment is that whilst the Community Youth Justice have developed some good collaborative case management models and I have had a look at the new collaborative case model within Youth Justice and it looks really good, our understanding is that the resources of that department are being severely squeezed and will continue to be squeezed and their capacity to provide the sort of case management to clients that might be expected under the act is being compromised and will be further compromised as we go into the next few years with the problems in the DHHS budget and prospective problems caused by the building of the hospital.

**Mr DEAN** - From that, Dave, are you saying that that is a cause why youth are probably in custody longer than they should be and probably a cause for their not being supported as much as they ought to be by being given advice and direction and so on?

**Mr WILLANS** - I would say that it would mean that more young people are incarcerated than otherwise would be incarcerated. They are probably incarcerated for longer and the rates of recidivism would be higher as a result.

**Mr DEAN** - Thank you for that.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Do YNOT actually have the capacity to apply directly to the Commonwealth for any money in education or any other -

**Mr WILLANS** - We are not a service provider.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - No, I appreciate that but you give advice to governments, so is there not the capacity to look for Federal dollars to assist with any of these programs at all? When you are talking about your integrated programs -

**Mr WILLANS** - I am sorry, I am not quite understanding.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Well, if you are giving advice to government, could you not look out for some Commonwealth dollars from somewhere to assist with any other projects that you are involved with?

**Mr WILLANS** - I think the service providers that we work with and who are represented on our committee and our membership are very alert to those possibilities and are always looking for ways to get Commonwealth or State money or Tasmanian community funding or any funding that they can into the sort of projects that would do that. I do not know whether we are on the same page, Mrs Jamieson.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Probably not quite, but I understand.

**Mr WILLANS** - I was going to go off on another tangent there. The tangent is the fact that in the absence of better funding for Community Youth Justice what seems to be happening is an effort to outsource some of the functions of Community Youth Justice to community organisations in the hope that they will become funded from Commonwealth and other sources and that local government will do that. While from one point of view you would hope that local government and community organisations would want to engage with the client group, would want to provide services and would be able to engage in community capacity building that would help prevent them going to Ashley. If that is happening in a way that is really just cost shifting from State Government to local government and community organisations because of a lack of capacity, that will not work.

**Mr MARTIN** - One of the problems is that some local governments have been more active in this area than others, which leads to the inconsistency around the State.

**Mr WILLANS** - Absolutely. You get very patchy responses and, as a result, you get an environment where people from Youth Justice point to the occasional positive programs that they have been able to facilitate with community organisations and say, 'Isn't this good? This is going to fix the problem', where in fact other municipalities are not going to get those problems and there are young people in other municipalities who are not benefitting.

**Mr MARTIN** - Can you give us some examples of programs that you think are good and are working and where there might be gaps around the State?

**Mr WILLANS** - Project U-Turn, Chance on Main, Whitelion.

**Mr MARTIN** - Is there anything on the north-west coast?

**Mr WILLANS** - I don't know.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Devonport council is just auspicing a program called 'Lighthouse'.

**Mr WILLANS** - I have heard about that and it sounds fantastic.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - They have got Commonwealth dollars.

**Mr WILLANS** - I think we have touched on the issues around the fence. It has been really disappointing to us that politically and in the media the primary issue about Ashley is the effectiveness of the fence and there is very little discussion about the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programs within Ashley.

**Mr WILKINSON** - Or lack of them.

**CHAIR** - And education within the facility?

**Mr WILLANS** - I have heard that there is nine or 10 hours a week.

**CHAIR** - If you're lucky, I think.

**Mr WILLANS** - They go in disadvantaged and they come out disadvantaged.

**CHAIR** - When we did our trips to South Australia and Victoria we were told that it is mandatory that all residents attend normal school hours. There are no ifs, buts or maybes.

**Mr WILLANS** - That seems really sensible.

I don't know whether there is a perception that escapees from Ashley these days are more dangerous. It seems as though there is that perception, but I wonder whether they are. I am not sure. I know that is not consistent with my earlier comments that there is a cohort of young people who are more hardened in the facility. I also wonder about the role of the media in creating moral panic around escapees that is probably a bit radical.

**CHAIR** - It seems that recently when there have been high-speed car chases and that sort of thing that they become headline news.

**Mr MARTIN** - Dave, you are a good person to ask this question. You have been in the youth sector a few years -

**Mr WILLANS** - Too long!

**Mr MARTIN** - It can never be too long. Some people have said to the committee that some of the hard-core young people today are worse or more violent compared to, say, 10, 15, 20 years ago. Would you agree with that?

**Mr WILLANS** - That is a really hard question to answer. I think young people are becoming generally more alienated than they were when I first came into the sector. The sort of lifestyle, the culture and subculture of changes could lead you to conclude, with the use of more scary drugs than used to be available and more scary lifestyles, that the young people are becoming more scary. I can understand why people come to that - but I don't have any evidence and I haven't seen any evidence that would support that view. I am not aware of any evidence.

**Mr WILKINSON** - Would it be fair to say that the major difference in the last 10 to 15 years is, as you say, the introduction of new drugs onto the scene and as a result of that children want to get those drugs and in the end they can only get them by committing



crime and it has a flow-on effect? Years ago alcohol was one of the major underlying factors of crime and sometimes marijuana, even though that was a very soft drug, I believe. Now there are amphetamines, heroin tried to come in 15 to 20 years ago and did not really come in but ice is starting to come in now, and that, to me, seems the real difference with youth today as opposed to years ago. Because of that amphetamine use, the adrenalin is higher than it was, they act far more erratically and they are physically stronger because of the adrenalin rush that they get with those drugs that we did not have years ago. I think that is probably the reason for that.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Would you have any evidence also about the effect of Internet and computer programs being much more aggressive in a lot of ways - the Playstation type of things and the copycat type of -

**Mr WILLANS** - No, I would not have any comment. I would like to throw it to Ben at this stage.

**Mrs JAMIESON** - Okay. Over to you, Ben.

**Mr McKAY** - That is at a fairly dangerous place to throw it at me. I would only be commenting on anecdotal things I have been getting from young members of the community or whatever but I would agree, there is just not enough evidence, at least that flows through our office, to say.

**CHAIR** - A fair call, okay.

**Mr McKAY** - I am sorry I cannot actually answer your question.

**Mr WILLANS** - I think there is another slightly tangential issue around there in that in our subcultures, in the way we address our legal issues these days and the way that we report on them, there is this notion of mitigation; that if you have a drug habit of any sort, whatever it might be, then you are sort of justified in going out and doing whatever you need to to obtain what you need to feed that drug habit and somehow in our culture that notion is being more accepted. In fact, mitigation for a whole range of issues in relation to a whole range of things just seems to be more and more accepted in our community and I wonder whether that is a good thing. Certainly in the case of young people it seems that when they get caught there is a real propensity to say, 'Well, this is exacerbated somehow by the fact that I have a drug habit' when in fact drug use and drug habits are not necessarily the same thing. I do not know what role it plays. It is a tangent, sorry.

**CHAIR** - Under 'Incarceration issues' at the last dot point you talk about the fact that custodial and support roles should be separated; that issue aside, anecdotally in terms of Ashley youth workers, have you any opinion on whether they need more training or are they given sufficient resources and training to carry out their role?

**Mr WILLANS** - It is hard for me to put that issue aside, Greg, I would have to say in answering your question because it is the nature of the training. If the underpinning assumption of the training is that you can have both a custodial and a support role, I do not think it would matter how much training you had, I still think that you would be inadequately trained.

**CHAIR** - There would be a conflict.

**Mr WILLANS** - I do not think that trying to do both is going to work. There has been some work in the youth sector lately, trying to work out what it is about youth work that differentiates it from other things and really the key ingredient is the fact that a youth worker is accountable to the young person that whom support, and they seek to empower that young person in the way that they go about their work. You cannot do that in a custodial role.

**Mr MARTIN** - As you know, I have had a fair bit to do with youth workers over 10 to 15 years and I have struggled with the terminology in Ashley of people, who I think are basically detention security guards, being called youth workers. I think there is evidence being produced that a lot of them do try to help the kids but some just basically see themselves as security guards.

**Mr WILLANS** - Yes and I think that is the old staff culture at Ashley. Those issues were very unclear and the staff did see themselves as benign custodians whereas I would really like to see training moved towards clarity about what custodial role means and clarity about what a youth worker is and their support role -getting that separation.

**CHAIR** - Dave, we will move on to post-release and exit issues.

**Mr WILLANS** - We have had the view for a long time that the community sector is not sufficiently engaged in the exit strategies of Ashley. YNOT has offered to work with Ashley in the past to improve that coordination. It seems as though it has possibly been a resourcing issue within Ashley that they have not been able to achieve that level of coordination. This is going back a few years. I think what seems to be happening now is that there are more resources for that and there is better case planning on exit, but it is still based on the networks of individual case workers rather than a systemic approach. To me what seems to be happening is that some organisations that are known to Ashley staff workers are part of that case management planning, but there is not a good understanding by the case management service providers within Ashley of what services are out there or any clarity about what their procedures and policies are and how to refer into them. The picture I get is that some of the services that we talk to feel that the exit arrangements with Ashley are pretty good and work well and some of them think that they are non-existent.

The networks are there and are available to Ashley staff through the North-West Action for Youth, Northern Youth Coordinating Committee and Youth Action Priorities in the south and other organisations at a local level. The youth sector is well served by coordinating mechanisms that Ashley staff can link into and I would like to see them do that.

[12.15 p.m.]

**Mr WILKINSON** - Talking about these programs, when you get out there seems to be a bit of a hiatus. You come out of Ashley, nothing is there, you are not grabbed by the hand and walked through the process; you meet up with your old mates and fall back into your previous behaviour. What would be the approximate cost to set something up if it is not already there to look after the person who has just left Ashley for whatever period you deem appropriate, as opposed to keeping them in Ashley? What is the difference in cost?

**Mr WILLANS** - The sort of model that you would use would be similar to the ones that rehabilitation centres use, whereby you have a halfway house type model. Those halfway houses are usually staffed by people who have been through the system, who are a little bit further down the track in terms of rehabilitation and positive progress and who get some benefits around cheap rents and those sorts of things. I think there are some options with the drug rehabilitation process that could be picked up in terms of providing those exit arrangements for Ashley residents. They are quite cheap because it is the cost of providing the accommodation and some small amount of resources.

**Mr WILKINSON** - In all these things, to sell it to government -

**CHAIR** - It has to be cheap.

**Mr WILKINSON** - Yes. It was said earlier on that to sell it to government you have to show them that there is going to be a benefit and that the benefits achieved will go a way to financing it - in other words, you are saving money by doing what we are discussing now as opposed to having to house a person in Ashley.

**Mr WILLANS** - Yes, and it is a matter of some regret to me that I don't have enough time to have gone around and looked at what is available in other States in terms of those sorts of halfway options, but I am sure that they exist and I am sure that there are lots of wheels that we don't have to reinvent that we can just pick up from other States.

**Mr WILKINSON** - So in short, a halfway house is just a building. Say, I get out of Ashley, I could go into that house and be accommodated for a period until I got myself back on track.

**Mr WILLANS** - Yes, while I get employment, find accommodation for myself, get some other things that I need to get sorted out until I am ready for independent living.

**Mr WILKINSON** - In that house you have a person who has been through the system, knows the struggles that these people are going through. These are the type of people you believe are more appropriate there?

**Mr WILLANS** - Ideally, the tenant model, or you have somebody who understands this target group - the sort of people who supervise community service orders are the right sort of people - to have some role in the house.

**Mr DEAN** - Dave, you'd be aware of Harry Cairns at Launceston, wouldn't you?

**Mr WILLANS** - I am very aware of Harry.

**Mr DEAN** - That is almost a system. There is a place there where they can live and he takes them out to work, et cetera.

**Mr WILLANS** - The interesting thing about that, Ivan, is that Harry works outside the set of guidelines of these funding bodies and does things that are not approved but that produce fantastic outcomes, which tells us something about the way that we fund services and the rigidity of the guidelines.

**Mr DEAN** - It does.

**CHAIR** - Dave and Ben, I thank you very much. Your input has been valuable and we really appreciate you making the time available to come along and talk to the committee. It has been very good, thank you.

**Mr WILLANS** - There is one brief comment that I want to make for the record. I believe that the management and staff of Ashley are committed, skilled and good people who are doing a good job. I have no reservations about their capacity. I think that the main problems around Ashley are systemic.

**Mr WILKINSON** - Can you expand a bit on that?

**Mr WILLANS** - An insufficient service system that is unable to provide for the needs of a group of young people who are growing up with a whole lot of unmet needs, and drug and alcohol and mental health issues, family breakdown, violence in families, all those sort of things, and that they end up in Ashley because we do not have sufficient preventative resources, and that is not the fault of the staff members at Ashley.

**Mr WILKINSON** - When they get to Ashley of course you need these programs in place in the hope that they come out a better person.

**Mr WILLANS** - Yes, but I think the problem that we have at Ashley at the moment is that our expectation is that it is going to be able to do way more in relation to those issues than it actually is ever going to have the capacity to do. It is a custodial setting. It is not a rehabilitation centre.

**Mr MARTIN** - But under the Youth Justice Act it is supposed to be but it is not delivering at the moment.

**CHAIR** - Just one final question, Dave, and I did not want to go back, but just looking at responsibilities. You talked about the demarcation between custodial and support roles. Would you like to explain in a bit more detail how you would see that work?

**Mr WILLANS** - I think that you would have two different roles - well, you would actually have three. You would have a custodial role, you would have a youth worker role whose interest is in the health and wellbeing -

**CHAIR** - We are talking about within the centre at the moment in OYDC so you would have people there, what are you saying, who might be specifically security people -

**Mr WILLANS** - Yes.

**CHAIR** - people there who are just specifically there in a youth worker role -

**Mr WILLANS** - Support role.

**CHAIR** - and a support role.

**Mr WILLANS** - Plus your educational resources coming in. People coming in to do the education.

**CHAIR** - Okay.

**Mr WILLANS** - What the possible crossovers are between the education and support role I am not sure but I am fairly convinced that there should not be too much crossover between the custodial and the support role.

**CHAIR** - Yes. Of course years ago it was run by Corrective Services and then it became DHH&S or whatever, so they have two different perspectives on how the world is run, don't they?

**Mr WILLANS** - Very different.

**CHAIR** - Okay. Thank you very much.

**THE WITNESSES WITHDREW.**