



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 10 June 1999

### **CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.22 a.m.): The administration of Corrective Services under Minister Barton is shaping up to be an absolute disaster and a shambles. First of all, the Peach review team, a so-called independent review team, was established. Now we find that all the members of that review team are being given a rails run for senior positions in the newly created department. Mr Peach has an outstanding record as an educational administrator but he has zero experience in prisons or prisons management, yet he will become the director-general of that department. Another senior educationalist is working in the department, so we have two people at the very top who are very experienced in education but who have no experience in the corrections system.

The size of the bureaucracy in the correctional system is blowing out, which is typical of what happens under Labor Government mismanagement. The staffing of the Queensland corrections business unit, which has the responsibility of running the prisons section of that department, has blown out from three senior executives to 11. Previously there was a director, an assistant director and an AO8 position; now there is an executive director, three directors, two managers and five AO8 positions, and that is before we get to all the other staff. This is happening at a time when we need people on the ground. This is happening at a time when the classifications of the workers and the storemen in the prisons section have been held at the same level or downgraded. This is happening at a time when the most important people in the prisons section, that is, the general managers of the prisons, have had their wages pegged at the AO8 level. These are the people who do the work; these are the people on the ground. All of this is happening at a time when large numbers of prisoners are being transferred to the new prison section at Wolston.

Discontent in the prison system is absolutely seething. People see bureaucracy blowing out while real staff are needed on the ground to work with the managers in the prisons. They are being treated like dirt. We have a weary Minister whose hands are off the levers, because——

Time expired.

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