

Question on Notice

No. 650

Asked on 15 June 2004

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

With reference to a complaint I have received from parents who live in Maryborough and have a son in prison who apparently transferred from Maryborough to Woodford despite doing well and learning trade skills at the Maryborough Correctional Centre and that to visit their son in prison now involves a five hour drive (round trip) for my constituents who already work six days per week, and have little time left in their week and despite repeated requests to bring him back to Maryborough nothing has happened; and as my constituents feel that this is a case of the parents being punished as well as their son—

What is her policy regarding siting of prisoners to be near their families wherever possible?

ANSWER:

The *Corrective Services Act 2000* recognises the need for an offender's dignity to be respected. Accordingly, under the current published policy prisoner transfers may be initiated for a number of reasons including to facilitate closer family links through visitor access. However, it is recognised that operational needs are a highly significant consideration which can mean that a prisoner's placement may not be in accordance with expectations of the prisoner to be near his or her family. Nevertheless, under the *Corrective Services Act 2000* a prisoner may ask the chief executive of the Department of Corrective Services to review a transfer decision, other than the decision relating to his or her initial placement after admission.