

**Question on Notice
No. 838
Asked on 18 August 2004**

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (Ms Spence)—

QUESTION:

Will she provide details of a new Partnership Charter signed between the Department of Corrective Services and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General?

ANSWER:

The Partnership Charter was formally endorsed by the Directors-General of the Department of Corrective Services and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General on 26 July 2004. The Charter underlines the commitment of the respective agencies to sharing resources and developing joint policy initiatives that will enhance community safety through the strengthening and co-ordination of criminal justice services to the community.

Under the Charter, the agencies will work together in relation to a number of strategic activities including: reviews of the of the *Corrective Services Act 2000* and the *State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999*; development of a multi-agency strategy to manage the growth in prisoner numbers; co-ordinating best practice responses to offenders with special needs such as mental illness and cognitive impairment; and, the sharing of data and research evidence to enhance decision making processes.

Other goals the partnership aims to achieve include: key staff exchanges to facilitate understanding; a combined policy approach based on solid data; the engagement of other partners to share resources and data; and better outcomes for clients through more integrated policies and service delivery.

Through this document the Departments of Corrective Services and Justice and Attorney-General have recognised and formalised their collective and common roles in enhancing community safety through the delivery of criminal justice services.