

**Question on Notice  
No. 951  
Asked on 6 June 2006**

Ms Male asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

**QUESTION:**

What is being done to ensure that prisoners who are released on parole into the community are able to be productively assimilated and reduce their risk of reoffending?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Corrective Services is committed to giving offenders the skills and education they need to help them get their lives back on track.

Over the past 12 months, the Department has been engaged in a process of reform to improve the services it provides to offenders to ensure the safety of the community. The integrated transitions model gives prisoners opportunities to participate in education, employment, vocational training and behavioural programs. Access to health and medical services is also provided. Intervention services are provided in partnership with Government agencies and external service providers. Upon release, a parolee's transition plan will be monitored by the supervising officer who will take a lead role in ensuring the plan is implemented.

The innovative Post Release Employment Assistance Program (PREAP) helps offenders before and after release to become work-ready and to gain sustainable employment. The Department's analysis shows PREAP participation has a strong positive impact on recidivism. In 2005/06, more than 2,500 prisoners were provided with assistance to gain and maintain employment post release through PREAP.

Another key feature is the introduction of an enhanced Probation and Parole Service which will deliver tough new supervision and surveillance of offenders, and stronger links with the courts and the judiciary.

In the future, release planning will be supported by mental health transitional case managers. The post release support for high risk offenders with mental health issues will include accommodation, employment and life skills.