

Question on Notice

No. 63

Asked on Thursday, 13 February 2014

MR KNUTH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (MR BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

As Lotus Glen Prison currently has an unemployment rate of approximately 60% and is set to increase with the downsizing of the tailor shop which currently employs 30-40 prisoners –

Will the Minister advise why he has outsourced work such as making bunks and shut down services that have taxpayer-funded, purpose-built facilities at the prison to assist prisoners gain employment skills and provide income?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Dalrymple for his question.

- The current unemployment rate at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre is 41.6%. In comparison, the unemployment rate for 2012-13 was 39%.
- The commercial tailor industry at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre has 50 dedicated prisoner employment positions and there are no plans to downsize the tailor shop at this time.
- As part of the Government's fiscal repair strategy, Queensland Corrective Services must consider the cost to Queenslanders in the acquisition of good and services. Where work such as the construction of bunk beds has been outsourced, the urgency of demand and cost has been thoroughly considered.