

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

18 SEP 2012

Tuesday, 14 August 2012

5804. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Corrective Services.

With reference to the naming of the new Derby Correctional Centre (Derby Prison) and question on notice No. 5617 answered on 19 June 2012, I ask --

(1) Why did the Department of Corrective Services decide on a name for the Derby prison that is quite different from that recommended by the Kimberley Cultural Advisory Group (KCAG) and the Derby Community Reference Group (DCRG), a name that had been selected by the local Warrwa traditional owners on behalf of all Kimberley Aboriginal people?

(2) Who were the decision makers, by name, that determined the Derby Prison should be called 'West Kimberley Regional Prison' rather than the recommended title 'Guria', which is the Warrwa word for Boab Flower?

(3) Was a consultation process entered into that resulted in the name 'West Kimberley Regional Prison', rather than 'Guria', being selected and applied to the Derby Prison?

(4) If yes to (3), who was consulted in this process?

(5) If no to (3), why not?

(6) If yes to (3), were the parties advised of the recommendation of KCAG and DCRG that the prison was to be named 'Guria'?

(7) If no to (6), why not?

(8) If no to (6), will the Department of Corrective Services re-engage with the decision makers and advise them of the recommendation made by the KCAG, DCRG and the Warrwa traditional owners?

(9) If no to (8), why not?

(10) On what date was the decision made to name the Derby Prison 'West Kimberley Regional Prison'?

(11) In respect of the answer to (10), will the Minister please table the minutes or file notes or any other documentation that establishes the name of the prison to be 'West Kimberley Regional Prison'?

(12) If no to (11), why not?

(13) Were the members of KCAG and DCRG and the Warrwa traditional owners



advised that the name of the Derby prison would not be 'Guria', as they had recommended?

(14) If yes to (13), on what dates were they advised?

(15) If no to (13), why not?

(16) If no to (13), will those members now be advised and will an explanation be provided?

(17) Since the Department of Corrective Services has selected a name for the Derby Prison that is altogether different from that recommended by KCAG, DCRG and the Warrwa traditional owners, what was the purpose of engaging with these groups?

Answer

(1) The Department of Corrective Services (the Department) advises that the West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP) uses the same naming convention as other regional prisons in Western Australia by being named after the town or region where it is located.

(2) The Department decided on the name of the prison.

(3) No.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Refer to response (1).

(6) Not applicable.

(7) The Kimberley Cultural Advisory Group's (KCAG) recommendation to call the prison Guria was subject to the Kimberley Language Centre determining that the name was acceptable across the Kimberley. This did not occur.

The Department also advises that there is also no consensus between the traditional landowner groups represented on the Derby Community Reference Group, the Warrwa and Niyigina people, on the name.

(8)-(9) Not applicable.

(10) The Department advises that there is no specific date recorded as per the naming conventions outlined in response (1).

(11) No.

(12) The Department advises that such documentation is internal and is not to be released or made public.

(13) The Department advises that on 5 April 2012, the DCRG Chair informed the group that the Commissioner, Corrective Services advised the name of the prison would remain WKRP. The KCAG has not met in two years so there has been no avenue for feedback.

In addition, as outlined in the previous response to question on notice 5617, the Department advises that Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial, Ms Heather Harker, met Mr Lennard, an Aboriginal elder for the Warrwa traditional owners, on 13 June 2012 in Derby. During the meeting Mr Lennard informed Ms Harker that he now agrees the name of the prison remain WKRP. It was noted that the Commissioner, Corrective Services, will write to Mr Lennard to confirm this outcome.

(14) Refer to response (13).

(15)-(16) Not applicable.

(17) The Department engaged with these groups to ask Kimberley Aboriginal people their view on the naming of the prison. As no consensus was reached on the name of the prison between traditional landowner groups, the name remains WKRP.