

HON. ROBIN CHAPPLE MLC

Roebourne Prison must address inhumane conditions

Thursday 21st May

WA Greens Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region, Robin Chapple MLC, has severe doubts over the safety of inmates at Roebourne prison after a second report on the conditions in five years has shown little improvement.

The member is calling on the state government to rectify conditions which he feels breaches *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners* ('The Nelson Mandela Rules').

"Clearly notwithstanding that we've raised these problems years ago not much has changed and it's abhorrent that we could consider this prison as anything but contravening human rights"

Mr Chapple voiced specific concerns over the largely indigenous population at the prison and additional health concerns prevalent within the community such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

"It's just not acceptable in this day and age for any prisoner anywhere -let alone people with a high rate of diabetes- to be exposed to 35 degree temperatures at night, as is identified in the report.

"Whilst the report indicated that there had been some improvements, the substantive issues around prisoner's health and welfare have not been addressed. I'm appalled that the review committee - an independent authority - have gone back and found that the problematic conditions we were concerned about are still there three years later.

"We are not asking for a quick fix, like fans or shade cloth, which have been shown to do nothing and potentially make things worse. We are demanding that a real and long-lasting solution be implemented to remedy these inhumane conditions."

MEDIA CONTACT

Colin Ebsworth,
Communications Advisor - 0449 911 427
Colin.ebsworth@mp.wa.gov.au