

HON. ROBIN CHAPPLE MLC

WA Greens MLC Robin Chapple deeply upset by third Indigenous death in custody in two months

WA Greens member for the Mining and Pastoral Region Robin Chapple has spoken out for the need for better approaches to care in WA prisons after the third Indigenous death in custody in two months.

Speaking generally the member referred to the death of a 47-year-old Indigenous man at Roebourne prison this week as the latest in a long list of deaths that were “preventable with the right protections in place”.

“What we see almost every month now are situations where Indigenous people are left vulnerable and the worst-case scenario occurs”

“Our track record in WA is abysmal and we will continue to have lives lost for the most incarcerated peoples in the world unless some pretty big changes happen”

Whilst it is unclear of the circumstances surrounding this latest death Mr Chapple has spoken in the past of the need for conscious prison planning, effective monitoring of all prisoners not just those deemed a suicide risk and more resources and training for correctional staff at all levels to mitigate the climbing death toll.

Mr Chapple is calling on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Indigenous Deaths in Custody to be revisited and properly implemented along with considerations made from the recent damning safety reports on the conditions at Roebourne Prison.

“I will say this as many times as necessary, practically every death in custody we see can and should have been avoided were better protections and protocols of care in place”

MEDIA CONTACT

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