

I am submitting the following for inclusion in the inquiry as the Chair of The Alliance For Future Health, an organisation committed to the health and well-being of our youth and communities.

I am a child advocate and community and cultural development worker with extensive connections within the community.

For 3 years I worked in Banksia Hill Detention Centre, however I have not worked there for approx 4 years.

Several concerns have been raised with me regarding the 'riot' and the events leading up to the 'riot'. Unfortunately those who have spoken to me, work in organisations where they feel to speak out would potentially impact funding arrangements they have with the government.

The main points that have been raised include:

Great concern that the detainees had been on 'rolling lock downs' for between 3 and 6 months prior to the 'riot'

That many of the detainees were upset and frustrated about their lack of freedoms and lack of services prior to the 'riot'

That the 'riot' only involved a small number of detainees and that the whole population of detainees are being 'held ransom' by prison staff wanting to improve their working conditions

That there were severe staff shortages in the lead up to the event

That service providers had been unable to provide services within Banksia in the lead up to the events - they would have arranged visits cancelled and were unable to gain access to detainees

There are significant concerns regarding the detainees placement in Hakea - including:

The pressure within the prison of all prisoners being on lock down

Restricted movements for all within the prison and the potential for frustration to result in someone getting severely hurt

Families being unable to visit

Families not being communicated with and not being informed of what's happening and whether their young ones are safe

Service providers not being able to provide their services due to access, distance and time constraints because of heightened security

I hope you will address not only what happens now in your enquiry - within the UN conventions of the Rights of the Child, but also see to it that the causes of these events are addressed and our young people are never placed within such a position again.

Kind regards

Jaime Yallup Farrant

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CEO RRaFT Educators

www.raft.com.au

0406 722066
