



General Media Enquires

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Detention centre breakout highlights major safety concerns

The breakout of two teenagers from the Banksia Hill Detention Centre today highlights security and safety concerns raised by the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association.

A construction worker was allegedly struck with a brick and two teenagers smashed their way through a roller door with his utility in the daring escape.

The latest incident follows others where detainees have accessed the building site, thrown loose bricks at staff and even sat on the roof of one of the buildings.

The Canning Vale centre is being expanded to cater for the merger with the Rangeview Remand Centre in Murdoch.

Girls from Rangeview will be relocated on September 1 with the boys to follow on September 15, paving the way for controversial multi-national company Serco to establish a young adults (18-24yo) facility at Rangeview.

“For months our members have been concerned Banksia Hill is being rushed to suit the \$171million, 15-year deal the Barnett Government has done with Serco for the Rangeview site,” CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said.

“They have been saying security around the construction site is not adequate.

“The Juvenile Custodial Officers at these centres have suffered from serious attacks and are currently campaigning to be included in mandatory sentencing laws because working in detention centres is a dangerous job.

“The safety and security of everyone at the site including detainees and construction staff should never be compromised but this proves it has been.”

It has been openly said there is no alternative date and that the relocation must take place in September.

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When a previous unit was commissioned at Banksia Hill it was not functioning properly and members fear it could be the same again.

“The last time they got asked to go operational well before it was ready staff and detainees had to endure unacceptable conditions, including failing toilet systems,” Ms Walkington said.

“If the building process is not complete and more people are at the facility it will not take much under a pressure-cooker situation for something similar to happen again.”

FOR COMMENT:

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