



MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday, 16th December 2016

Assault of 13-year-old Boy at Banksia Hill

The Union can confirm the physical assault and alleged sexual assault of a 13-year-old boy in Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre on Monday.

The upmost priority is for the victim and to ensure they are safe and receiving every possible form of support and counselling.

It is understood a 17-year-old detainee stripped the victim, held him down on a bed, before elbowing him to the face, while a third detainee held the door shut.

The Union understands the opportunity for this assault came after the Acting General Manager made a decision to put older detainees in Murchison Unit, which usually houses detainees who exhibit good behaviour, and younger boys.

It is also alleged the perpetrator was under the influence of drugs at the time of the assault.

Toni Walkington, Secretary of CPSU/CSA says staff are devastated by the assault.

“Assaults like this should never happen at Banksia Hill.

“The centre is designed to keep troubled, older and younger detainees separate.

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“This was a failure of management.

“The Acting General Manager needs to publically explain why an older detainee, possibly under the influence of drugs, was not housed in Harding Unit to keep other detainees safe,” Ms Walkington said.

Harding is purpose built, with behaviour management and observation units for detainees.

Over the weekend the Acting General Manager has implemented a further ill-thought-out plan, moving out the female population of Yeda Unit and transferring in the population of Harding in their place.

Yeda unit is a removed section of Banksia Hill – which accommodated only female detainees because of its openness, two story building, lack of CCTV cameras and security blackspots.

But this building is the worst possible housing for the trouble Harding Unit population, putting staff and other detainees at risk.

AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT:

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