



## MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

### Over 18's Causing Issues at Banksia Hill

Exclusive – The Sunday Times

Statement from Toni Walkington, Secretary CPSU/CSA:

We have serious safety and security concerns for staff and younger detainees at Banksia Hill.

Even though it has been general practice for some over 18's to serve their sentence at the Juvenile Detention Centre, in recent weeks very concerning incidences involving the adult males at the centre have been reported to us.

By the end of the year, we are expecting around 30% of detainees in Banksia Hill to be over 18.

We do not want to see volatile or abusive adult men in the same facility as children as young as ten, who are trying to rehabilitate and learn from their mistakes.

This facility and its staff are not equipped to run a jail. This is a juvenile detention centre, not a maximum security facility.

There should be a zero tolerance approach to violence and abuse by over 18's at Banksia Hill.

#### **Banksia Hill Youth Detention Officer Quotes:**

##### **What impact is this having on younger detainees?**

*"They are frequently being verbally abused. They are constantly fearful of being physically hurt by what anyone in the broader community would consider an adult. Were an adult to behave this way in the presence of primary-school aged children the community wouldn't stand for it."*

##### **What would the members like to see happen?**

*"The overwhelming response from members is that they would like to see the eighteen year olds removed from Banksia Hill to one of the adult facilities. Particularly those who are troublemakers, threaten other detainees and have numerous incidences to their name."*

*"Our members want to be able to focus their time rehabilitating and providing a safe environment for the juveniles this facility is meant to serve. They do not have adult restraint training and they shouldn't need it, they are there to manage children not young men."*

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**FAST FACTS:****Why are adults serving sentences at Juvenile Detention centres?**

1. They turn 18 while incarcerated.
2. If a detainee gets awarded early release but then reoffends as an adult; they serve the adult sentence at the adult prison and are then sent back to Banksia Hill to serve their remaining suspended sentence.

**How many over-18's are currently at Banksia Hill?**

- 3 over 19
- 19 over 18
- Staff predict by Dec 2016 there will 17 more 18 year olds.

**Staff concerned about the number of assaults being perpetrated by over-18s in the past 2 weeks:**

- Staff member hit with a metal broom handle
- Staff member received a facial injury when a detainee threw a rock at the officer
- A detainee was swinging a metal mop bucket at staff members and then punched an officer in the face
- Daily behaviours include threatening verbal language and aggressive outbreaks against staff and other detainees, destroying of property (running total in 10's of thousands)

**How are they punished?**

- Separated from main population
- Sent down to Harding which is the unit for monitored behaviour and they gradually earn their privileges back

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**MORE INFORMATION:**

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