

MEDIA RELEASE: STATEMENT ON INCIDENT AT BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE

Injury of a Youth Custodial Officer in Youth Detention Sign of Failing System
28 February 2023

Statement attributable to Daniel Morrison and Glenda Kickett, Co-Chairs Social Reinvestment WA:

“The incident at Banksia Hill is shocking. People have a right to go to work and return home safely to their families.”

“We do not condone, nor do we excuse this behaviour in any form. Our thoughts are with the youth justice officer and their family at this difficult time.”

“We will continue advocating for Government to fulfil its duty-of-care for the systems and facilities it is responsible for. Especially when it can lead to the prevention of incidents like this one.”

“Clearly the youth justice system is not working for anyone - for the workers, the children, the community, or the courts. We need to do things differently.”

“The community needs the Government to look at these issues holistically, and with all the experts at the table to guide effective responses to these issues. We believe strongly that this collaborative approach would provide better outcomes than reactionary youth justice policy via the press when something goes wrong.”

“We await details of the review of the Young Offenders Act, announced in October, to be released so that we can ensure all views are considered by contributing constructively to those important discussions.”

ENDS

About Social Reinvestment WA:

Social Reinvestment WA is a coalition of 31 non-profit organisations campaigning since 2014 to end the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in WA. They lead development of justice reinvestment solutions in partnership with communities, and run the Raise the Age campaign in WA.

www.socialreinvestmentwa.org.au/raise-the-age

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