

Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Shadow Minister for Police, Community Safety and Correctional Services

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Weatherill Labor Government must explain increase in prison incidents

Shadow Minister for Correctional Services, Dan van Holst Pellekaan, is calling on the Weatherill Labor Government to explain why there has been a significant increase in incidents in South Australian prisons.

The Department of Correctional Services 2012-13 Annual Report tabled yesterday in Parliament reveals that the number of "incidents" overall increased to 716 from 476.

Prisoner on prisoner assaults has increased to 210 incidents in 2012-13, up from 173 in 2011-12.

The number of incidents relating to drugs has increased to 470 in 2012-13, up from 299 in 2011-12.

Recently, the State Liberals revealed that 839 positive drug tests were returned in South Australia's prison system in 2012-13.

This included a return of 124 positive drug tests at Adelaide's Women's Prison with a 148 bed capacity and a return of 183 positive tests at the Adelaide Remand Centre with a 267 bed capacity.

"The Weatherill Labor Government must explain why there are 240 more incidents in our prisons in one year," said Shadow Minister for Correctional Services, Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

"The massive increase in assaults and drug incidents are particularly alarming given the vast majority of prisoners return to the community.

"Surely the deprivation of liberties within prisons must include preventing prisoners from taking illegal drugs.

"Given Minister O'Brien was unaware of an incident that was in the SAPOL annual report he tabled two weeks ago, hopefully he has read this report that he has tabled."

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