



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Grimley Wants Number of Assaults on Barwon Prison Officers

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State leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP has raised concerns in Parliament regarding the number of assaults against staff in Victorian prisons, specifically in the Banksia Unit at maximum security facility Barwon Prison.

Mr Grimley has repeatedly talked in Parliament about the need to address assaults against emergency services workers and it seems that these assaults don't stop on the street.

Reports from a reliable source said there have been 5 assaults against prison officers in just one Unit at Barwon Prison in the past six weeks. On one occasion, the officer was taken to hospital.

Mr Grimley was also informed that one prisoner, with a significant history of assaulting staff at different locations, was moved from a high security management unit, to a lower security unit out of convenience. If this is true, Mr Grimley insists the government must provide an explanation.

Being a prison officer is not your everyday occupation, and there is a certain degree of risk involved with the job. However, it seems that assaults on guards is becoming a regular occurrence and something must be done to stop it.

Mr Grimley has sought action from the government via an adjournment debate in parliament, asking for the number of assaults on staff at Barwon Prison's Banksia unit in the past 12 months to be made public. He also asked for the State Government to detail how they plan to reduce the number of assaults at Barwon and other Victorian prisons.

Quotes attributable to Mr Grimley:

"If there have been five assaults in six weeks just in one unit at Barwon Prison, I want to know what this number looks like across 12 months. Hopefully releasing this information will put pressure on the Government to make sure our prison officers are safe.

Prison officers are an integral part of our legal system. Not only do they guard people who have broken the law, they also play a key role to help rehabilitate prisoners for when they integrate back into the community.

A reliable source believes procedures that mitigate the risks of assault have been deteriorating over the last few years. If this is true, a review of these procedures should be taking place."

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