

Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Shadow Minister for Police, Community Safety and Correctional Services

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Inmates in SA Prisons continue to take drugs

The Weatherill Labor Government has made no progress in reducing drugs in South Australia's prisons, with 839 positive drug tests in 2012-13.

The number of positive test results in South Australia's prisons has reached the highest in recent years highlighting the Governments lack of progress:

- 831 positive tests in 2009-10
- 798 positive tests in 2010-11
- 824 positive tests in 2011-12
- **839 positive tests in 2012-13**

The most common types of drugs in the test results were as follows:

- 430 positive tests to cannabinoids
- 305 positive tests to buprenorphine
- 73 positive tests to amphetamines
- 59 positive tests to methadone
- 28 positive tests to opiates

The positive test results alarmingly reveal that inmates at Adelaide's Women's Prison with a 148 bed capacity returned 124 positive drug tests and the Adelaide Remand Centre with a 267 bed capacity returned 183 positive tests.

"We've known for a long time that illegal drugs in prisons are a problem but what is of grave concern is that the Labor Government is making no progress tackling this problem," said Shadow Minister for Correctional Services Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

"It is completely unacceptable that there are over 839 known instances of drug taking out of a total prisoner population of 2,252.

"This consistently high level of drug taking by prisoners highlights yet another failure of the Weatherill Labor Government.

"In response to the number of positive drug tests in 2011-12 the Minister claimed that it was targeted testing which was leading to the high number of positive results. If that were truly the case then the level of drug taking should have reduced over time, but instead we are seeing the figures increase and the government losing this battle.

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

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