



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Mr Peter Cain, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Community Corrections 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
16-17 February 2022

Asked by Mr Braddock MLA on 17 February 2022: Attorney-General took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 17 February 2022 [PAGE 68]]

In relation to:

Is there options available in terms of the AMC for sole parents with children?

Attorney-General: This issue is the responsibility of the Minister for Corrections. I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

ACT Corrective Services' (ACTCS) *Women and Children Program Policy 2015* provides an opportunity for women coming into custody who are carers for a young child (from birth up to and including four years of age) to apply to continue to care for the child during the custody event. The best interest of the child is at the forefront of the policy, and it is recognised that some women will be unable to adequately care for a child or may present an unacceptable safety/security risk for the caring in custody program. The program is not available for male applicants.

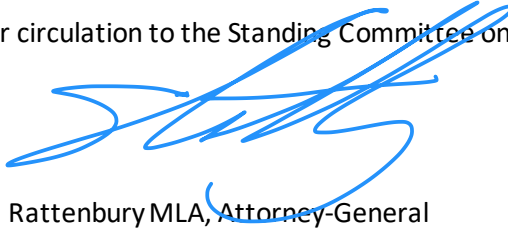
Further, there are a range of programs which focus on maintaining the relationships between detainees and their children when they enter custody.

SHINE for Kids, a non-government organisation, has been providing support services to children who have a parent in custody at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) since October 2011. This includes programs to improve the experience for children visiting a parent in the AMC; a Story Time Program, which involves recording a detainee narrating a story so their child can listen to their parent's voice; facilitation of activities in which children and parents can interact during school holidays (e.g., art and craft and playing games); and transportation services for children to visit a parent who is in custody.

The 'Circle of Security' is a relationship-based early intervention program designed to enhance attachment security between parents and children. ACTCS has trained three staff in the facilitation of this program and discussions are currently being held regarding the most effective method of facilitation i.e.: partnering with community organisation or delivered solely by ACTCS.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Rattenbury', written over the signature line.

Date:

25/5/22

By Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Attorney-General