



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Braddock MLA on Tuesday, 14 November 2023: Richard Glenn took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 14 November 2023 [PAGE 21-22]

In relation to: Cessation of ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile

DR PATERSON: I guess my overall question is to the integrity of data that we have, in that the ROGS data is different to the data that I have received, which is different to other people's analysis of this data. I guess the fact there is really inconsistent information that we are trying to base policy decisions on and determinations on is really problematic.

Ms Nuttall: It will depend on what we are counting for the specific areas. There are different codes that certain types of offences go into, and counting rules, and they are different in terms of the different forms in which that is collected. We really need to understand what is going into that data to understand if there are inconsistencies, or whether they are telling us different pieces of information.

Mr Rattenbury: I think the important observation, if I might, is that the ACT follows the prescribed rules with the ABS and various other agencies. These are not unique approaches that the ACT is taking.

MR BRADDOCK: The ACT government used to produce the ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile up until—I think the last year was June 2019. Why was that stopped? Because surely that would have been a useful data basis for these discussions.

Mr Glenn: Richard Glenn, Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate. Mr Braddock, I might come back on notice with a more detailed answer, but what I can say at the moment is that we had a review of the ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile done by the ABS, and there were some suggestions as to how that profile could be changed and adjusted. That work then melded into COVID, and we need to come back to that.

SHANE RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Profile was a historical series of crime data that was compiled twice a year by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) containing data from police, courts, corrections, juvenile justice and other justice related agencies.

Through 2018 and 2019, JACS recognised a need to improve the quality and accessibility of such data. JACS engaged the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to conduct a Review of the Profile with a view to identifying how JACS could make the most useful criminal statistical data publicly available, in the most user-friendly way, at the most useful time.

In April 2020, the ABS provided its Review Report. It found that the Statistical Profile did not meet the main data needs of potential users. For example, a report intended for use by:

- statistical audiences would typically contain more detailed data, methodologies and analysis;
- the general public or other government/policy departments would typically contain less detailed tables and graphs, some commentary describing the data and possibly some other options such as infographics.

The ABS made recommendations in relation to governance, structure, content and the use of Open Data platforms to enhance access to and use of data.

JACS is considering how best to address the intent of the ABS recommendations, including having regard to the justice and related data that is currently available.

ACT criminal justice data is provided to, and released via sources other than JACS, including the ABS and the Productivity Commission, such as:

- [Recorded Crime - Offenders](#) - *Statistics about offenders proceeded against by police including age, sex, Indigenous status and most serious offence.*
- [Recorded Crime – Victims](#) - *National statistics about victims of a range of personal, household and family and domestic violence offences as recorded by police.*
- [Crime Victimization](#) - *National and state and territory crime rates for assault, threat, robbery, break-in, theft or stealing, property damage and police reporting rates.*
- [Personal Safety](#) - *Rates of physical and sexual assault, family and domestic violence, economic and emotional abuse, stalking, sexual harassment, and childhood abuse.*
- [Disability and Violence](#) – *Presents statistics about assault, domestic violence, partner emotional abuse/coercion, sexual harassment, and stalking for persons with disability.*

- [Report on Government Services - Justice Data Tables 2023](#) – presents statistics about police services, courts and corrective services

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

Signature:



Date:

24/11/23

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA