

2019

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

STATEMENT

**PROGRESS ON THE NEW REINTEGRATION CENTRE WITHIN THE AMC AND THE HUME HEALTH
CENTRE**

**Presented by
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Madam Speaker

I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of the renovations being undertaken to enhance health facilities at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, and the progress on the new Reintegration Centre. As members are aware, this is in response to Recommendations 94 and 104 of the Select Committee Report on Estimates 2019-2020, tabled on 13 August 2019.

In 2016, the Moss Review recommended that Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service (Winnunga) be integrated into the provision of health care at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, in order to introduce its holistic model of care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees.

The ACT Government announced funding in the 2017-18 Budget to commence implementation of the recommendations coming out of the Moss Review. This included funding to introduce the new model of care at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and increased capacity of health service delivery space within the Hume Health Centre, associated office accommodation and staff amenities areas.

On 7 January 2019, Winnunga commenced delivery of coordinated health care services within the Alexander Maconochie Centre and the first patient's health care was transferred from Justice Health Services to Winnunga on 18 January 2019.

This is an Australian-first initiative to integrate a holistic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health provider into a correctional environment.

Construction works for the Health modular building and refurbishment of the existing Health Centre project commenced in September 2019 and is on track to conclude by mid-to-late 2020. The newly constructed modular building is now in place within the secure perimeter of the AMC, services will be connected and the building ready for occupation in January 2020. This will serve as temporary accommodation for health services and allow a gradual refurbishment of the existing Health Centre throughout 2020. The result will be increased treatment spaces and additional capacity.

Winnunga and Justice Health will now be able to maximise the use of the new clinical space and further enhance service delivery to detainees by reducing wait times and increasing access to health services. ACTCS, Winnunga and Justice Health continue to work in partnership as the shared model of care continues to be implemented.

The Development Application for a refurbishment of the Hume Health Centre has been approved. These works will include additional treatment spaces, consulting rooms and expanded detainee waiting rooms, and will be completed in late 2020.

I now turn to the Alexander Maconochie Reintegration Centre. As members are aware, since opening in 2009 the Alexander Maconochie Centre has experienced a high growth in the numbers of detainees. Additionally, the Alexander Maconochie Centre has a high proportion of detainees on protection regimes (around 45-50 per cent) due to negative social and criminal relationships with each other outside the AMC. These failed relationships prevent the detainees from safely associating with each other.

The high numbers of detainees and separation requirements has at times resulted in crowding which can have impacts on participation in the rehabilitation, education and health aims of the AMC.

In 2017, the ACT Government agreed that a feasibility study be undertaken to identify, prioritise and program the delivery of future correctional requirements in a staged and cost-effective manner.

The preferred option in the final report of the feasibility study was to construct an additional 80 beds at the existing minimum-security Transitional Release Centre.

The expanded facility is to be named the Alexander Maconochie Reintegration Centre in recognition of its role of reintegrating detainees at the end of their sentence into the community through a wide range of dedicated rehabilitation programs.

To date, the 30 per cent Preliminary Sketch Plan design of the Alexander Maconochie Reintegration Centre has been endorsed in principle by the Executive Steering Committee.

The Government Procurement Board has endorsed the Alexander Maconochie Reintegration Centre Procurement Proposal to undertake a two-part procurement process that includes a Request for Expression of Interest and Request for Tender.

The project team is currently progressing designs for the lodgement of a Development Approval and preparing request for expression of interest documentation to approach the market. It is anticipated that the building will be completed and operational by late 2021.

In conclusion, I am pleased to provide this update to the Assembly, and I am encouraged by ACT Corrective Services' continued progress towards reducing recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025. The projects underway align with the whole-of-justice recidivism plan and further emphasises our focus on Building Communities, Not Prisons.