



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

QoN No - 29

---

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services

In relation to: Ref: Youth Justice, Budget Outlook, pp. 109, 153, Budget Statement G, pp. 4, 23, 25, output class CSD 2.3 Child and Youth Protection Services

In relation to: Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

1. Can the minister please provide an update on the implementation of the 27 recommendations in the 'Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre 2020'?
2. It was stated in the hearing that, in line with recommendation no. 23 from the first Health Centre review, young people have been able to connect with their families during the most recent COVID lockdown using AVL setups at Bimberi.
  - a. Will remote visits continue post-lockdown?
  - b. What will be the guidelines for how this will happen?
3. Have any operational lockdowns at Bimberi occurred during the most recent (current) Covid lockdown caused by insufficient staffing? If so, please provide details.
4. When I asked about additional mental health supports during the current Covid lockdown, I was told that young detainees have had daily access to forensic mental health services. Can the minister please provide more details the nature of this service and access to it?
5. This budget includes \$918,000 over four years for 'safety improvements at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre to address the terms of an enforceable undertaking between CSD and WorkSafe ACT'. What specifically are these safety improvements?
6. Can the minister please explain the following funding from the budget:
  - a. \$630,000 (net capital) for 'improving safety at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre'?
  - b. \$3,000 for 'strengthening specialist capacity at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre'?
  - c. \$205,000 for 'Bimberi Residential Services'?
7. It was stated in the hearing that significant amounts of additional training and improvements have occurred at Bimberi over the past two years because of opportunities created by fewer young detainees. Can the minister please provide a list of these and dates completed?
8. This budget includes funding for two additional control room officers, as noted in the hearing. What is the intended purpose of these positions?

EMMA DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The Government's response to the Healthy Centre Review and implementation of the recommendations is scheduled to be tabled during the November sitting period.
2.
  - a) AVL's will continue to be an option for families and professionals post lockdown.
  - b) Young people and their families will continue to have access to AVLs. The Notifiable Instrument *Children and Young People (Visits, Phone Calls and Correspondence) Policy and Procedures 2018* available on the ACT Legislation Register, will be updated to reflect this process.
3. No operational lockdowns occurred during the most recent ACT COVID lockdown.
4. Custodial Mental Health (CMH) is a specialist service of Canberra Health Services that provides mental health services to young people during their detention at Bimberi. CMH clinicians provide mental health assessment for all young people upon admission and ongoing intervention, including psychiatric care by a Consultant Child Psychiatrist, to young people experiencing significant mental health concerns.

CMH also operates a crisis service to young people in distress or at risk of self-harm or suicide which is available on a daily basis. After hours support is provided via an on-call medical officer.

Additional, on site staffing was provided during the lockdown to support young people during this period with a mental health clinician on site four days a week in addition to on-call provisions. Interventions offered may include psychoeducation, psychiatric medications, supportive counselling, distress tolerance, safety planning, and problem solving, as well as care planning for release, including referral to and liaison with community mental health care providers.

5. The safety improvements include two full time equivalent positions for additional control room operators. The funding will also support enhancements to the work, health and safety management systems and security infrastructure upgrades.
6. The breakdown of the funding is as follows:
  - a) This is capital infrastructure funding to address the findings from Work Safe ACT following the August 2019 incident.
  - b) The \$3,000 is the remaining capital which has been rolled over from 2019-20 mid-year review. These remaining funds will be spent on security infrastructure upgrades.
  - c) \$205,000 for 'Bimberi Residential Services' - is allocated for increasing the sustainability efficiencies of Bimberi. The funding is for the upgrade of the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system from gas to an electric system.

7. In addition to mandatory training requirements and skills maintenance sessions, Bimberi staff have had the opportunity to participate in the following additional training opportunities:
- a) Donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment (August / September 2020 and September 2021)
  - b) Certificate IV in Government Investigations (October 2020)
  - c) Cultural Awareness Training – 5 days (October 2020)
  - d) Interpreting Psychometric Assessments (July 2021)
  - e) ACT Government Tier Two Domestic and Family Violence Training (June and August 2021)
  - f) Safe and Together (Domestic and Family Violence) training (October 2021)
  - g) Forensic Mental Health Services refresher training for Team Leaders and Unit Managers (August 2021)
  - h) Disability Awareness Training for Team Leaders (October 2021)
  - i) Certificate IV in Youth Work (underway)
  - j) Certificate IV in Training and Assessor (underway)
  - k) Lifeguard accreditation (underway)
8. The additional control room officers will support the monitoring of additional cameras across the site and other duties relating to safety and security of Bimberi.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 12 November 2021

By the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Emma Davidson MLA