



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Appropriation 2022-2022 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) 2022-2022 (No 2) **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Braddock MLA on 27 February 2023: Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript [PAGE 10]

In relation to: Information about additional demand at Bimberi

[9:22] Page 56 - Justice - Operational demand of the centre that required additional funding

MR BRADDOCK: Just a question about page 44, which has the additional resources February. Can you please explain why that has increased operational demand that is driving those extra resources, please?

Mr Barr: Okay, so this is 390,000 in the current fiscal year. 791,482. Let me just see whether there is—just bear with us, Mr Braddock.

MR BRADDOCK: My apologies. Page—

Mr Barr: It is outlined on page 56.

MR BRADDOCK: Yes, I got that wrong. The wrong page number.

Mr Barr: Yes, so it meets increased operational demand, so that would mean number of young people within the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

MR BRADDOCK: So, we are successfully locking up more young people? Is that what you say?

Mr Barr: Well, I think the general occupancy of the centre averages less than ten on any given day, but if there is an increase to 11 or 12, then that may require some additional resources. I will inquire further with the Community Services Directorate in relation to that, but clearly there will be some element associated with the operation of the centre that required some additional funding.

In the context of that additional funding being in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, it is not a substantive increase, Mr Braddock, given I imagine the budget for that entity is in the tens of millions of dollars.

MR BRADDOCK: Thank you.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

An increase in young people in custody requires additional resources to ensure operational demand is able to be met.

At the time the additional funding was sought for Bimberi, there was an increase in average daily numbers of young people, which has since reduced to numbers closer to the daily average in previous years.

The number of young people in custody fluctuates daily. The Bimberi Headline Indicator report tabled in November 2022, for the 2021-22 financial year highlighted the increase in the average number of young people in detention on an average day, from 10 to 12 young people.

There is also an increase in the complexity of issues young people present when entering Bimberi, and ensuring we are providing the best support for individuals with complex mental and physical needs is both physically resource intensive and expensive.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 15.3.23

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA