



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Corrections

In relation to: Corrections and Complaints regarding sufficiency of food at AMC

Hearing: 17 November 2025

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Answer Due: 01/12/2025

MR EMERSON: Thank you. I wanted to ask alongside that about the sufficiency of food for detainees, and whether this is something that has tracked how many complaints are received in a year, say in the past year regarding sufficiency of food?

Ms Close: Again, I will ask Mr Taylor-Dayus to come up to see if he has any specifics around numbers. I have not seen any complaints in the ten months that I have been in the role—11 months that I have been in the role around sufficiency of food. There is a significant amount of food purchased that comes into the AMC every week, so that it is available to the bakery and to the kitchens. Other options to detainees where they have their own funding, they are able to purchase additional food for themselves as well, and in some instances, in cottages for example, detainees are able to cook their own food and meals. So I have not heard that as a complaint.

Mr Taylor-Dayus: I have certainly not heard any specifics around food. We get the odd complaint about something like they are undercooked or overcooked, and so on, but nothing around—are we talking about quantities of food, the sufficiency?

MR EMERSON: Yes. I am particularly curious about that kind of first week when detainees enter the AMC and maybe do not have their kind of trust account set up yet, what that period looks like?

Ms Close: There is certainly sufficient food for them, and we also ask them if they have any dietary requirements, so we cater and through our—the catering people that bring our meals into the AMC as well, they will provide specific meals if people have intolerances or specific dietary needs.

Mr Johnson: Just in terms of that too, some—a little while ago, with health some work was done to ensure the proper calorie and nutritional balance in the meals so they are not—they are actually properly designed by nutritionists to meet a requirement, so there is some science behind what is provided, if that provides some comfort.

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MR EMERSON: That is great. If you could take it on notice. It does not sound like it is a big issue but if you have got, you know, a number of complaints in the last year.

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Alexander Maconochie Centre's (AMC) detainee menu adheres to the Australian Dietary Guidelines 2013 in accordance with the *Corrections Management (Provision of Meals) Policy 2019*.

Detainees receive three healthy, balanced meals each day, and also have the opportunity to purchase additional food through the Buy-Up list.

ACT Corrective Services records indicate there have been no complaints in the last year in relation to sufficiency of food.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature: 

Date: 01/12/25

By the Minister for Corrections, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA