



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015
Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by Mr Brendan Smyth MLA on 26 June 2014: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [26 June 2014] [PAGE 12]]

In relation to: Rebalancing of the Justice System
(JACS #2)

THE CHAIR: All right. But you said earlier that you did not have any analysis, and now you are saying there is analysis?

Mr Corbell: No, the questions were somewhat different, and I am simply making the point that obviously where we do have analysis, where we do have data we do look at that data. But the reasons behind imprisonment are complex and multi-faceted, as I indicated before.

THE CHAIR: Can you provide to the committee any of the analysis that has been done?

Mr Corbell: I would have to have a look at that. Some of that may be cabinet in-confidence, but I am happy to take it on notice and see what can be made available.

Simon Corbell MLA, Attorney-General: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The effective analysis of sentencing trends and characteristics and imprisonment rates requires access to accurate and detailed data. As mentioned in the ACT Government submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Inquiry into Sentencing, a number of measures are currently underway to improve the availability of sentencing information to the courts, the legal profession, Government and the community as a whole.

The Government has undertaken analysis into future imprisonment rates and detainee projections. In late 2013, ACT Corrective Services commissioned John Walker Crime Trends Analysis to prepare projections of corrections detainee numbers in the ACT.

The Walker Report is available on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate website at:
[http://www.justice.act.gov.au/8EAB6607-BF66-474E-8114-964C99DD1D63/FinalDownload/DownloadId-BC7E2A7B967DD5769743D71311F00EFC/8EAB6607-BF66-474E-8114-964C99DD1D63/resources/attachments/John Walker Crime Trends Analysis.pdf](http://www.justice.act.gov.au/8EAB6607-BF66-474E-8114-964C99DD1D63/FinalDownload/DownloadId-BC7E2A7B967DD5769743D71311F00EFC/8EAB6607-BF66-474E-8114-964C99DD1D63/resources/attachments/John%20Walker%20Crime%20Trends%20Analysis.pdf).

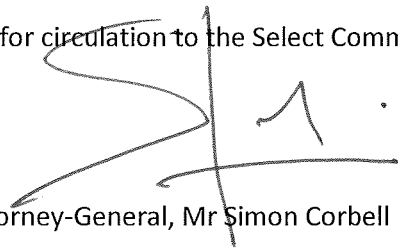
A number of factors can affect detainee numbers in the ACT including population growth, changes in legislation, law enforcement activities, and sentencing practice. Small changes in the prevalence of serious criminal offending can also have a significant impact on detainee numbers, particularly in a small jurisdiction.

Changes that may have contributed to the levels of detainee numbers include:

- the significant increase in the number of police officers from 2005-06 with the funding of an additional 136 police officers;
- the 36-hour limit for police custody introduced in the *Corrections Management Act 2007* which resulted in an increased number of short term admissions on remand;
- ACT Policing property crime targeting efforts leading to a significant number of burglary and theft convictions;
- increased maximum penalties for five serious criminal offences in the *Crimes (Penalties) Amendment Act 2011*;
- improved finalisation rates in the Magistrates Court and the Supreme Court.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



Date: 10.7.14

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA