



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections

Ref: Budget Statement D, Strategic Objective 4

In relation to: Recommendation 2 of the JACS 2019-2020 Annual Reports hearing report

1. The government agreed in principle to recommendation 2 of the JACS 2019-2020 annual reports hearings. This stated that the government consider amending the Corrections Management Act (CMA) to acknowledge the inability of the AMC to meet section 44 of the Act. The HRC in their submission to the Inspector of Corrections 2022 Healthy Prison Review stated that they were not supportive of any proposed change that purports to qualify the content of establishing human rights. They consider it to be a seriously retrogressive step to take (A, p. 3). Is the government still considering changes to the CMA as per recommendation 2?
 - a. If so, what has been the outcome of these considerations?
 - b. If no, has the government made a decision on amending the Corrections Management Act?
2. What is the government doing to resolve the apparent breach of human rights occurring with the routine housing of sentenced detainees with unsentenced detainees?
 - a. Is there a risk that mixing remanded and sentenced detainees can unduly expose remandees to potential criminogenic or traumatic experiences while awaiting trial?
3. How many sentenced female detainees are currently at the AMC?
 - a. How many females are currently remanded at the AMC?
 - b. What is currently the maximum capacity of the AMC to house female detainees and remandees?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. Amendments to section 44 of the *Corrections Management Act 2007* are still under consideration. However, such amendments are complex and require careful consideration of human rights.
2. Since its inception, remand and sentenced detainees have been managed in a mixed custodial setting within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). The separation of remanded and sentenced detainees remains a challenge due to the high numbers of remand detainees and the complexities of managing a range of detainee cohorts in one facility. While the above does not allow for complete separation to occur, ACT Corrective Services continues to separate detainees where necessary based on risk, while recognising the status of remandees as unconvicted persons.

The primary consideration when housing detainees is the safety of all detainees irrespective of whether they are on remand or sentenced.

3. As at 9 September 2022, there were 11 sentenced women detainees in the AMC
 - a. As at 9 September 2022, there were 12 women detainees on remand in the AMC.
 - b. The current operating capacity of the Women Remand/Sentence Cottages (WR1, WS1 and WR2) is 38 beds.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date: 15/9/2022

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA