



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January 2022 – June 2022

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Approved for publication

Report 14
10th Assembly
March 2023

About the committee

Establishing resolution

The Assembly established the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on 2 December 2020.

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- ACT Auditor-General
- Office of the Legislative Assembly
- Accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the ACT and its authorities
- All reports of the Auditor-General which have been presented to the Assembly
- Treasury including taxation and revenue

You can read the full establishing resolution [on our website](#).

Committee members

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Chair

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Deputy Chair

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Secretariat

Ms Sophie Milne, Committee Secretary (from 18 November 2022)

Ms Joanne Cullen, Committee Secretary (until 18 November 2022)

Mr Nick Byrne, Assistant Secretary

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About this inquiry

The Assembly's Resolution of Appointment for the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (the Committee) of 2 December 2020, provides that:

(6) all reports of the ACT Auditor-General tabled in the Assembly stand referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry and report;

It follows that Terms of Reference for each of the Standing Committee's inquiries into Auditor-General's performance audit reports are, in effect, the Auditor-General's report itself.

At its meeting on 30 June 2022, the Committee resolved to inquire into the following Auditor-General's performance audit reports:

- 1/2022 – Management of detainee mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre;
- 2/2022 – Fraud Prevention;
- 3/2022 – Taxi Subsidy Scheme; and
- 4/2022 – Governance arrangements for the planning of services for Parkwood, Ginninderry.

The full reports can be found on the [ACT Auditor-General's website](#).

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Acronyms

Acronym	Long form
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTCS	Australian Capital Territory Corrective Services
AMC	Alexander Maconochie Centre
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
CHS	Canberra Health Services
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
CSD	Community Services Directorate
JACS	Justices and Community Safety
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NSW	New South Wales
TCCSD	Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate
Winnunga	Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government meet the mental health needs of all detainees.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct a feasibility study on expanding the Hume Medical Centre.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide structured days for detainees that cater to their mental health and wellbeing; such structured days should include access to improved alcohol and other drug rehabilitation programs and education programs, designed to assist detainees' mental health and wellbeing.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government agree to all of the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 1/2022.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue with its planned update of the conflict-of-interest policy.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adopt the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 2/2022.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government revise the caps in the taxi subsidy scheme in line with the results of the disability strategy consultation.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government address geo-spatial disadvantage of users in the taxi subsidy scheme.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct more community consultation when revising the cap in the taxi subsidy scheme, including feedback from people who do not use the scheme due to the cap being too low.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adopt the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 3/2022.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to progress negotiations with NSW for the transfer of Parkwood.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adopt the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 4/2022.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Committee has received two submissions for this inquiry. These are listed in [Appendix A](#).
- 1.2. The Committee held a public hearing for this inquiry on 8 December 2022. Witnesses are listed in [Appendix B](#).
- 1.3. The Committee had 10 Questions Taken on Notice for this inquiry. These are listed in [Appendix C](#).

2. Auditor-General's Performance Report No 1/2022: Management of Detainee Mental Health Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre

The Report

- 2.1. This report covers an audit of the management of detainee mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), which was performed by the ACT Auditor-General in consultation with subject matter experts.¹
- 2.2. Standards of health care at AMC are legislated by the *Corrections Management Act 2007*.²
- 2.3. The Justice and Community Services (JACS) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) directorates share management of health care at AMC through the ACT Correctional Services (ACTCS) and Justice Health, respectively:

ACTCS has over-arching responsibility for the provision of safe and secure facilities and associated infrastructure for custodial and health services, while CHS has primary responsibility for providing health services for detainees.³
- 2.4. The report organised the audit findings under four areas, which were planning, framework and delivery of services, and screening for mental health issues.
- 2.5. The audit found that planning for detainee mental health services at AMC was insufficient. This was due to factors such as poor data collection, limited staff training, understaffing, and a lack of strategic direction from either JACS or CHS.⁴
- 2.6. According to the report, the framework for delivery of mental health services at AMC is mainly ineffective due to the ill-defined co-management arrangement between JACS and

¹ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of Detainee Mental Health Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, p 30.

² Section 53, *Corrections Management Act 2007*.

³ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of Detainee Mental Health Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, p 21.

⁴ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of Detainee Mental Health Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, pp 33–35.

CHS. Gaps and overlaps in managerial responsibilities has led to a lack of communication and reporting between governance groups. Furthermore, poor record-keeping has led to AMC management being unable to identify ineffective or under-delivery of services.

- 2.7. For example, the audit found that although Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services (Winnunga) operate in AMC, they have not been ‘effectively incorporated’, leading to lack of oversight in the provision of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) detainees.⁵
- 2.8. The audit did find that the screening and triaging processes were generally sufficient, except for in the case of ATSI detainees. For all detainees, self-referral pathways to access mental health services were unclear, and staff didn’t have enough training to effectively assist in this area.⁶
- 2.9. The audit also found that the delivery of mental health services was generally effective, however ATSI-specific services could be improved, as could care plans and release plans. Another area of concern was that detainees with less severe illness could not access adequate care due to a shortage of medical staff, as detainees with more severe issues were prioritised for treatment. Better, more detailed patient records and care plans were also found to be required.⁷
- 2.10. In total, the report made 19 recommendations.

Committee Comment

Past reporting of AMC health services

- 2.11. The AMC has been the subject of many previous audits and inquiries in which similar concerns and recommendations concerning the management framework of the prison and the delivery of health services to detainees appear.
- 2.12. A 2016 independent inquiry into the treatment and death of a detainee at AMC recommended, amongst other things, that ‘the arrangement for the provision of health care at the AMC be established, under contract or MoU [Memorandum of Understanding], to reflect the respective responsibilities of AMC and Justice Health’, and that ‘Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service be integrated into the provision of health care at the AMC’.⁸
- 2.13. In 2017, a *Review of mental health services arrangements at the AMC* report made 11 recommendations to improve mental health service delivery within the prison, including delineating and documenting the respective responsibilities of the various governing

⁵ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General’s Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, pp 49–52.

⁶ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General’s Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of Detainee Mental Health Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, pp 73–75.

⁷ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General’s Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of Detainee Mental Health Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, pp 87–90.

⁸ Mr Philip Moss AM, Mr Sean Costello, Professor Ngiare Brown, and Ms Megan Sparke, “*So Much Sadness in our Lives*”: *Independent Inquiry into the Treatment in Custody of Steven Freeman*, 7 November 2016, p 14.

bodies, improving staff resourcing, and the integration of Winnunga into the delivery of health services.⁹

- 2.14. In 2022, a *Report of a review of a critical incident* by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services into the suicide of a detainee found that ACTCS ‘does not have any overarching suicide prevention framework or strategy’, and also ‘did not give sufficient consideration to measures to mitigate the impact of the inhospitable environment of the COVID-19 isolation unit on physical or mental health’.¹⁰
- 2.15. Also in 2022, the *Health Prison Review* of AMC reported that 71% of surveyed detainees found it was ‘difficult to get psychological services when needed’, and recommended that the AMC’s Crisis Support Unit be independently reviewed.¹¹

The Corrections Management Act 2007

- 2.16. As stated by the Auditor-General’s report, prisons are unhealthy environments where psychological stressors can combine to exacerbate mental illness. However, prisons can also provide ‘a key opportunity for health intervention’.¹²
- 2.17. The *Corrections Management Act 2007* states:

53 Health care

- (1) The director-general must ensure that—
- (a) detainees have a standard of health care equivalent to that available to other people in the ACT; and
 - (b) arrangements are made to ensure the provision of appropriate health services for detainees; and
 - (c) conditions in detention promote the health and wellbeing of detainees; and
 - (d) as far as practicable, detainees are not exposed to risks of infection.
- (2) In particular, the director-general must ensure that detainees have access to—
- (a) regular health checks; and
 - (b) timely treatment where necessary, particularly in urgent circumstances; and
 - (c) hospital care where necessary; and

⁹ David McGrath Consulting, June 2017, *Review of Mental Health services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre: Final Report*, pp 52–53.

¹⁰ ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, August 2022, *Report of a Review of a Critical Incident*, Death in custody at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 1 February 2022 (CIR 03/22), p 28 and p 33.

¹¹ ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, *Report of a Review of a Correctional Centre*, Health Prison Review of the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2022: Summary Report, p 9 and 11.

¹² ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General’s Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of Detainee Mental Health Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, p 17.

(d) as far as practicable—

(i) specialist health services from health practitioners; and

(ii) necessary health care programs, including rehabilitation programs.

- 2.18. In their response to the Auditor-General's review, the ACT Government recognised that the management of mental health services in the AMC could be improved:

It is acknowledged development of further KPIs would strengthen the safety and quality of mental health services within the AMC, and additionally provide accurate information regarding service demand and resource requirements.¹³

- 2.19. The Committee is concerned, based on the Auditor-General's report, the detainee's mental health needs are not being adequately met, especially those of detainees with less severe mental illness.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government meet the mental health needs of all detainees.

- 2.20. In aid of the implementation of recommendation 1, the Committee has the following two recommendations.

- 2.21. The Committee notes that an under-provision of medical services can contribute to higher rates of ill health. In particular, the Committee is concerned that detainees at the AMC cannot sufficiently access psychological support unless their condition is severe. It is possible that if there were more local medical services, detainees with more minor mental health issues could also receive the help which they need.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct a feasibility study on expanding the Hume Medical Centre.

- 2.22. The Committee also sees value in providing broad, structured, and regular access to mental health services to all AMC detainees, especially considering the issues with identifying and planning for mental health needs which were raised in the Auditor-General's report. By offering services to the whole of the AMC population, detainees with less severe mental health concerns will be assisted regardless of whether or not they have been identified through formal channels. It could also be an effective way of assisting those detainees, whose needs are less critical and thus maybe less apparent, than trying to target services to individuals in the current situation of poor data collection and planning.

¹³ Ms Emma Davidson MLA, Minister for Justice Health, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre – Government response*, p 7.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide structured days for detainees that cater to their mental health and wellbeing; such structured days should include access to improved alcohol and other drug rehabilitation programs and education programs, designed to assist detainees' mental health and wellbeing.

- 2.23. In their response to the Auditor-General's report, the Government agreed to 10 recommendations – eight recommendations were agreed to in principle, and one recommendation was noted.¹⁴

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government agree to all of the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 1/2022.

3. Auditor-General's Report No 2/2022: Fraud Prevention

The Report

[Fraud] prevention measures the most cost-effective way to limit the size and impact of an organisation's fraud risk.¹⁵

- 3.1. This Auditor-General's report considered fraud prevention measures at the Community Services Directorate (CSD), the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCSD) and Access Canberra as part of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD).
- 3.2. The audit concluded that the fraud prevention measures of the three directorates were well-managed. The directorates kept good records and implemented general prevention processes as well as individual procedures which were customised for their specific workplaces. They provided fraud prevention training for employees at induction and reinforced this with regular awareness messaging.¹⁶ The fraud prevention work which they conducted was also found to be flexible enough to accommodate changing work environments, for example, during COVID-19 lockdowns.¹⁷

¹⁴ Ms Emma Davidson MLA, Minister for Justice Health, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2022: Management of mental health services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre – Government response*, pp 2–12.

¹⁵ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 2 of 2022: Fraud prevention*, p 1.

¹⁶ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 2 of 2022: Fraud prevention*, p 6.

¹⁷ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 2 of 2022: Fraud prevention*, pp 1–2.

- 3.3. The report made six recommendations, which mainly recommended that all ACT Government agencies use the example of these three directorates to set up their own fraud prevention management systems.¹⁸

Committee Comment

- 3.4. The Committee welcomes the positive reporting on fraud prevention measures within the ACT Government.
- 3.5. In their response to the Auditor-General's report, the ACT Government said that their Conflict-of-Interest Policy is due for review in June 2023.¹⁹ The Committee agrees that this is a useful opportunity to for the ACT Government to establish guidelines on data collection requirements and procedures.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue with its planned update of the conflict-of-interest policy.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adopt the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 2/2022.

4. Auditor-General's Report No 3/2022: ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme

The Report

- 4.1. This report reviews the Auditor-General's audit of the ACT Government's taxi subsidy scheme. The scheme is part of the ACT Government's Concessions Program. It subsidises taxi fares to Canberrans who have a 'severe or profound activity limitation' which prevents them from using public transport.
- 4.2. The audit found that the scheme 'is hampered by a lack of clarity and specificity with respect to the purpose and objectives of the scheme'.²⁰ In particular, it found that the purpose of the scheme, to improve the affordability of essential services, was too general. Without determining what dollar value the scheme's user base would deem affordable, the report argues that the audit could not determine whether the subsidy was effective or not.²¹

¹⁸ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 2 of 2022: Fraud prevention*, pp 7–8.

¹⁹ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 2 of 2022: Fraud prevention – Government response*, p 4.

²⁰ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, p 1.

²¹ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, p 27.

- 4.3. The audit found that subsidy caps hadn't been reviewed in the past eight years, but that taxi fares have gone up in that time – therefore, the value of the subsidy had decreased in real terms over that time.²²
- 4.4. No records on how the caps were initially recorded were found, nor was trip data well captured, and there was no register for complaints or feedback from users.²³
- 4.5. The audit found that the administration of the scheme was generally well-managed,²⁴ although there were no fraud prevention practices in place.²⁵
- 4.6. The report made four recommendations.²⁶

Committee Comment

- 4.7. The government response notes that it is undertaking a review of taxi fare regulation and will consider the subsidy caps as part of this process.²⁷
- 4.8. The ACT Government also reported in the public hearing that they are developing a 10-year disability strategy and are engaging in public consultation as part of that process.²⁸ The Committee considers this an ideal opportunity to request feedback on the taxi subsidy scheme from both users and potential users.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government revise the caps in the taxi subsidy scheme in line with the results of the disability strategy consultation.

- 4.9. In response to the report's recommendation that the subsidy caps be reviewed, the ACT Government stated:

Commute distances are fairly uniform in ACT, given the location of the suburbs and key service providers. There is limited evidence that the current ACT cap is having an adverse impact. However, there may be a small number of individual users that require higher levels of subsidy for specific purposes such as to access unique essential services.²⁹
- 4.10. The Committee considers the issue of distance between potential scheme users and essential services to be a significant one in light of the continuing expansion of Canberra's outer suburbs, as explained in the report:

²² ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, p 29.

²³ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, p 36.

²⁴ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, p 1.

²⁵ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, p 4.

²⁶ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, pp 4–5.

²⁷ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3/2022, ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme – Government response*, p 3.

²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 8 December 2022, p 28.

²⁹ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *ACT Auditor-Generals' Report No. 3/2022, ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme – Government response*, pp 4–5.

To the extent that affordable housing and social housing is increasingly located in new suburbs on the outskirts of Canberra, there is likelihood to be a continuing and growing inequity associated with members' use of the scheme.³⁰

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government address geo-spatial disadvantage of users in the taxi subsidy scheme.

- 4.11. The Committee is of the view that there is selective bias at play in the ACT Government's assessment of the uptake and affordability of the taxi subsidy scheme.
- 4.12. There are anecdotal reports of people not using the scheme due to fears that their taxi trip will be unaffordable even with the subsidy.³¹ It is not clear that this type of feedback, from non-users, has been captured in the ACT Government's assessment of the effectiveness of the scheme.
- 4.13. During the public hearing, Mr Stephen Miners, Deputy Under Treasurer, explained that community groups had the opportunity to raise the issue during the budget process:
- We go out every year as part of the budget process looking at the budget as a whole and any changes that need to be made. We run a number of consultation processes through that, including talking directly with community groups to ascertain whether there are things that really should be being picked up in the budget process.³²
- 4.14. The Committee is of the view that this does not go far enough to collect qualitative data on the affordability of the caps and the usefulness of the subsidies.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct more community consultation when revising the cap in the taxi subsidy scheme, including feedback from people who do not use the scheme due to the cap being too low.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adopt the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 3/2022.

³⁰ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, p 32.

³¹ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2022: ACT taxi subsidy scheme*, pp 31–32.

³² Mr Stephen Miners, Deputy Under Treasurer, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 8 December 2022, p 26.

5. Auditor-General's Report No 4/2022: Governance Arrangements for Parkwood, Ginninderry

The Report

- 5.1. This Auditor-General's report concerns cross-border arrangements for a future development called Parkwood, Ginninderry.
- 5.2. The Ginninderry development area is located on the ACT-NSW border to the north-west of Canberra and is planned to have 11,500 houses. The area includes a section of NSW land, called Parkwood, which can only be accessed from the ACT. The ACT and NSW governments commenced a joint venture agreement to develop Parkwood in 2016.
- 5.3. The ACT Government would prefer that the border be changed so that Parkwood would become part of the ACT.³³
- 5.4. NSW and Commonwealth legislative and bureaucratic changes would be necessary for a change in the border. The NSW Government hadn't formally agreed to the proposed border change, and the Auditor-General report showed concern that the ACT Government wasn't adequately prepared for the chance that it may not happen.³⁴
- 5.5. A steering committee was established in 2020 to looking into the issue, but the report noted that it has only met twice and has not made a work plan for its activities (as required by its terms of reference) or a schedule of meetings, and has not made much progress on planning for service delivery to Parkwood.³⁵
- 5.6. The government response argued that this was an intentional decision in order to not over-commit any resources too early, and also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted the steering committee's ability to meet. They advised that the steering committee had met twice in 2022.³⁶
- 5.7. The Auditor-General report notes that the NSW Government 'has not advised whether it supports' moving the border:

Continuing uncertainty about the prospect of moving the border and the cost implications for the Territory increases the risks associated with this option and its cost-effectiveness. Accordingly, there is a need for CMTEDD to undertake forward planning and risk management activities to develop a strategy that supports negotiations with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and the

³³ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 4 of 2022: Governance arrangements for the planning of services for Parkwood, Ginninderry*, p 1.

³⁴ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 4 of 2022: Governance arrangements for the planning of services for Parkwood, Ginninderry*, p 1.

³⁵ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 4 of 2022: Governance arrangements for the planning of services for Parkwood, Ginninderry*, pp 1–2.

³⁶ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Report 4/2022 of the ACT Auditor-General – Governance for the planning services for Parkwood, Ginninderry – Government response*, p 4.

Commonwealth for this to successfully occur. This would also assist with identifying the critical timeframes and challenges for the Territory in relation to the service delivery model for Parkwood, should the border-move negotiations not succeed, and Parkwood remains in NSW.³⁷

- 5.8. At the public hearing, the Chief Minister appeared confident in the likelihood of a border move:

The current Premier has indicated a willingness to engage. He has done so formally through his bureaucracy and he has also done so informally with me, recognising the realities of the situation—that the land can really only be accessed from the ACT side of the border. Whilst one never just takes, I guess, handshake agreements—they are not contractual—it is clear to me that the position of the current New South Wales Premier is one that it makes sense to proceed down the pathway he has outlined from a New South Wales perspective, and that is that we work towards a border move.³⁸

- 5.9. The Committee also notes in the government response the assertion that the Ginninderry development is not expected to expand far enough to reach Parkwood until 2032. The response also noted that the ACT Government would only consider a framework for cross-border service delivery if no changes to the border were made.³⁹

Committee Comment

- 5.10. The Committee agrees that moving the border would be the best and most straightforward outcome for Parkwood. The Committee notes that work has progressed since the Auditor-General report was released:

Since the Audit Report was released, officials from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet have advised that the NSW Premier has agreed to progress discussions on options to move the ACT/NSW border on a no commitment basis and alongside exploration of other service delivery options. CMTEDD is now working with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet on this issue.⁴⁰

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to progress negotiations with NSW for the transfer of Parkwood.

³⁷ ACT Audit Office, *ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 4 of 2022: Governance arrangements for the planning of services for Parkwood, Ginninderry*, p 2.

³⁸ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 8 December 2022, p 29.

³⁹ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Report 4/2022 of the ACT Auditor-General – Governance for the planning services for Parkwood, Ginninderry – Government response*, pp 4–6.

⁴⁰ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Report 4/2022 of the ACT Auditor-General – Governance for the planning services for Parkwood, Ginninderry – Government response*, p 4.

- 5.11. The Committee also agrees with the Audit-General that the ACT Government should prepare for the possibility that a border move does not occur, and cross-border service delivery does become necessary for Parkwood.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adopt the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No 4/2022.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The Committee would like to thank the Auditor-General, the Chief Minister, the Minister for Justice Health, and their respective officials for their participation in this inquiry.
- 6.2. The Committee makes 12 recommendations.

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert
Chair
March 2023

Appendix A: Submissions

No.	Submission by	Received	Published
1	ACT Government	30/09/2022	26/10/2022
2	Confidential	09/11/2022	16/11/2022

Appendix B: Witnesses

Thursday, 8 December 2022

ACT Audit Office

- **Mr Brett Stanton**, Assistant Auditor-General, Performance Audit
- **Dr Tania Porter**, Senior Director, Performance Audit

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Andrew Barr MLA**, Chief Minister, Treasurer
- **Mr Damian West**, Deputy Director-General, Workforce Capability and Governance
- **Mr Stephen Miners**, Deputy Under Treasurer, Economic, Revenue, Insurance, Property and Shared Services, Treasury
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Revenue Management, Treasury
- **Ms Wilhelmina Blount**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Cabinet
- **Ms Christina Thomson**, Executive Branch Manager, Professional Standards Unit, Workforce Capability and Governance
- **Mr Nathan Brown**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Economic and Financial Analysis, Treasury

Canberra Health Services

- **Ms Emma Davidson MLA**, Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Veterans and Seniors
- **Mr Dave Peffer**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Kate McKenzie**, Executive Director, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services

Appendix C: Questions taken on notice

Questions taken on notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	8/12/22	BARR	Four Auditor-General Reports from 2017-2018	16/12/2022
2	8/12/22	BARR	Outcomes from four AG Reports from 2018-19	19/12/2022
3	8/12/22	BARR	CMTEDD outcomes for allegations 2017-19 and 2019-20	16/12/2022
4	8/12/22	BARR	Fraud Prevention Funding in Annual Reports	19/12/2022
5	8/12/22	BARR	Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan finalisation date	16/12/2022
6	8/12/22	BARR	Fraud information in annual reports	19/12/2022
7	8/12/22	DAVIDSON	AMC mental health staff vacancy rates	16/01/2023
8	8/12/22	DAVIDSON	Cancelled Appointment	13/01/2023
9	8/12/22	DAVIDSON	Training for Custodial Staff	13/01/2023
10	8/12/22	BARR	New Starter follow up after prevention training	19/12/2022