



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA

Reference: Hearing on 14 November 2023, Annual Report of Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Youth Justice Policy and Services and Failure to Complete Youth Justice Case Plans on Time

1. One of the government's targets is for 90 per cent of youth justice case plans to be 'prepared or reviewed in six weeks of the start of a supervised sentence' (p. 420). What are the known negative impacts on a young person when this doesn't happen (and which have therefore informed the development of this target)?
2. Two years ago, 100 per cent of youth justice case plans were completed within the target time (2022 AR, p. 398). Last year, only 55 per cent were (p.419). The note on p. 420 of the Annual Report attributes this figure mostly to the spike of young people entering the youth justice system. Did the surge in young people starting supervised sentenced orders catch the government by surprise? What plans were in store to these unexpected changes?
3. What was the response when the government realised it didn't have the manpower to complete case plans for more than double the number of young people over the previous year?
4. On average, how many weeks did it take to complete the 49 case plans last year, and what was the longest time a young person was forced to wait?
5. How many case plans does the government project it will need to complete in 2023-24?
6. To date, has the government been able to complete all youth justice case plans this financial year within the six-week target? If not, how far behind is this process?

Minister Davidson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The estimated outcome lower than the target does not indicate an absence of case planning, rather, an indication that the case plan document is not completed on the client management system (CYRIS) within the six (6) week counting period, according to the national counting rule.
2. The number of young people who enter Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi) is defined by the ACT Supreme and Childrens Courts and this can vary dependant on police action taken, extent of the charge or breach the young person is before the court for, and timing of being able to have

matter fully heard. Bimberi works hard to ensure all young people have their case planning undertaken but due to the length of stay and whether young people enter on remand or sentence may impact completion rates at a point in time.

3. Youth justice case plans are part of ongoing day-to-day case management responsibilities of youth justice workers. This component of their work is undertaken regularly as meetings and conversations are held with young people, service providers and government organisations to assist in the identification of goals and requirements of each stakeholder to support the young person to address and achieve the items in the case plan.
4. On average, initial youth justice case plans are completed within six (6) weeks of CYPS commencing case management of a young person, following the commencement of their supervised Order. Since the collection of this data, it has been identified that 47 case plans were required for the 2022-23 financial year. From this total, 43 were completed within the first six (6) weeks. The remaining four (4) overdue case plans were completed on average four (4) weeks post the due date.
5. The Government is unable to project how many youth justice case plans will need to be completed in 2023-24. Twenty-three case plans were required for young people between 2021-22, and 47 were required for 2022-23. The number of case plans is determined by the number of young people receiving a community-based court order which is based on sentencing determinations of the ACT Supreme and Childrens Courts.
6. To date, 11 youth justice case plans have been completed within the six-week target for the 2023-24 financial year, resulting in a 100 per cent completion rate thus far.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:



By the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Ms Emma Davidson MLA