



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections

In relation to: **Smoking in the Prison, finding 32**

Ref: Budget Statement D, Output 2.1, JACS 2019-2020 Annual Report, subheading “Healthy Prison Review of the AMC”

1. Despite the 2005 AMC functional brief stating that “smoking will not be permitted in cells and cottage rooms or in enclosed common areas”, the Inspector observed that this was not the case in practice. Why are inmates being permitted to smoke indoors?
2. Are there any plans to reduce the areas that can be smoked in at the AMC?
3. Are there any plans to eliminate smoking entirely in the AMC?
 - a. Were there ever any plans, blueprints or written down proposals for eliminating or reducing smoking areas at the AMC?
 - b. If so, can the Minister provide these?
4. When smokers are first identified during admission how is this data recorded?
 - a. Is this information added to an inmate’s file or medical record?
 - b. How is this information shared to Canberra Health Services or Winnunga?

Mick Gentleman MLA: I am advised that the answer to the Member’s question are as follows:–

1. Detainees are not permitted to smoke in non-smoking areas (including cells) of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). Staff have been reminded of the requirement to enforce no smoking in identified non-smoking areas in line with relevant policies and procedures.
2. Please refer to the response at question 3.
3. Proposals to reduce or eliminate smoking in a correctional environment requires careful consideration and management of complex associated operational risks. Several ideas for reducing rates of smoking at the AMC have been explored over a number of years.
4. When a detainee is first inducted (either at the AMC or the Court Transport Unit), the ACT Corrective Services Admissions team ask if the detainee is a smoker. If the detainee indicates yes, this is recorded as a classification on the detainee’s electronic record. In addition, this



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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JACS No. 120

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information is recorded on the Induction Form and the Shared Cell Risk Assessment Form, which are also uploaded to the detainee's electronic record.

Detainees are also screened and assessed by the Justice Health staff from Canberra Health Services (CHS) in relation to various health issues – including tobacco smoking. Information obtained through this assessment process is stored on the detainee's health record.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature: 

Date: 25/3/2021

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA