



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QoN No. 14**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING**

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Petterson MLA

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Kikkert: To ask the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services

Ref: Youth Justice, CSD Annual Report 2020–21, p. 206

In relation to: Narrabundah House and Franklin House

1. One year ago, the Official Visitors noted that Narrabundah House ‘does not have the confidence of the Aboriginal Community’, in part because of its staffing model. In answer to a question during October’s hearings, Minister Davidson stated that the new Franklin house would ‘use the same model as Narrabundah House’ (answer to QON no. 33 HCW, 9 Nov. 2022). The Annual Report states that the ‘model of care’ at Narrabundah House is being reviewed this year ‘to best meet the needs of the young men who access the service and continue to build community stakeholder connections’ (p. 206). What deficiencies in Narrabundah House’s current ‘model of care’ led to this review?
2. Is the review complete or ongoing?
3. What has been learnt so far, and what changes will be implemented as a result?
4. Minister Davidson wrote that Franklin House was ‘due to be operational by January 2022’ (answer to QON no. 33 HCW, 9 Nov. 2022). Is it, and if not, why not and when will it be?
5. How will the review of the model of care at Narrabundah House affect the model of care at Franklin House?
6. The Annual Report states that Narrabundah House had six residents during the 2020–21. What was the utilisation rate?
7. How many young men can Franklin House accommodate, and if operational, how many residents does it currently have?

**MS DAVIDSON:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. A review of the model of care for Narrabundah House was considered timely in response to concerns raised by the Official Visitors and due to the expansion of youth justice residential services being delivered by Bimberi Residential Services.
2. The review has been placed on hold due to other operational priorities. The impact of COVID-19 on resources has not allowed Bimberi Residential Services to undertake this review to date. It is on Bimberi's workplan for the second quarter 2022-23.
3. As noted in question two, the review has not commenced.
4. Franklin House is not yet operational. Delays in opening Franklin House have been experienced due to COVID-19. Remodelling of the property was delayed due to closures and delays within the building sector. In addition, Bimberi's residential staff have been utilised at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre to support operational requirements at the Centre due to staffing impacts resulting from COVID-19. It is anticipated the property will open in May 2022.
5. Bimberi Residential Services, through Narrabundah House and Franklin House (once operational), will provide short to medium term supported accommodation to young people aged between 15 and 18 years old, on a community-based youth justice order. This service supports young people transitioning from custody and supports the diversion of young people from custody; with Narrabundah House prioritising supported accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men. A review of Bimberi's residential services will encapsulate policies, procedures and the delivery of living skills and support services across the service.
6. Of the 1,095 residential nights available at Narrabundah house in 2020-21, 539 residential nights were used.
7. Franklin House will have the capacity to accommodate three young people.

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

Signature: 

Date: 10 March 2022

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