



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Addressed to: Mrs Leanne Close

Redirected to: Minister for Mental Health

In relation to: DECO program

Hearing: 12 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 16

Transcript provided: 21 February 2025

Answer Due: 28 February 2025

Mrs Leanne Close took on notice the following question(s):

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Actually, I do have one. Thank you, Chair. I read an article late last year, about the Detention Exit Community Outreach Program. What is the extent of that program? How many people are in that program at any one time? Or, for instance, this quarter?

Mrs Close: I would have to take the number on notice of how many. However, it is open to all detainees who are leaving the AMC that they are given that level of support depending on what their needs are as they reintegrate back into the community.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Okay. Well, then on notice, what would be the percentage of detainees who leave the AMC taking up an opportunity with the DECO?

Mrs Close: DECO.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: DECO.

Mrs Close: I will take them on notice.

Minister Stephen-Smith: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Detention Exit Community Outreach (DECO) Program, funded by the ACT Health Directorate, is operated by Wellways and provides case management and psychosocial support for detainees exiting detention. DECO is only available for people with a diagnosed mental health condition and provides outreach support for people for up to 18 months after exiting detention.

In the most recently received performance report from Wellways, for the period January to June 2024, 29 new detainees joined the program. In this period, DECO supported 67 people.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:



Date:

1/3/25

By the Minister for Mental Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith