

2011

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
REPORT NO 6**

REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2009-2010

**Presented by
Ms Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister**

Government Response

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Report No 6 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2009-2010

Introduction

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety reviewed annual reports for:

- ACT Electoral Commission;
- ACT Human Rights Commission;
- ACT Ombudsman;
- ACT Policing;
- Department of Justice and Community Safety (now the Justice and Community Safety Directorate);
- Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission;
- Legal Aid Commission (ACT);
- Public Advocate of the ACT;
- Public Trustee for the ACT; and
- Victims of Crime Support Program.

The Committee made 5 recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

2.90 The Committee recommends that the Government provide for a new case management system for ACT courts.

Government Response

Agreed-in-principle.

Funding was provided in the 2011-12 Budget for an investigation analysis and feasibility study of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in use by ACT Law Courts and Tribunal. The feasibility study will allow the Courts to identify options on the best way to modernise operations and take full advantage of contemporary ICT to improve administrative processes. Work has begun to identify case management systems used in other jurisdictions and lessons learned from their implementation. A project manager based at the Courts will be responsible for the management of the project and will ensure appropriate consultation with the judiciary, magistrates, presidents and major stakeholders to ensure that any system meets the diverse requirements of those reliant on the case management system.

Following the feasibility study, any further work will be subject to future budget considerations.

Recommendation 2

3.50 The Committee recommends that the ACT Human Rights Commission be allocated a budget appropriation as an Expense on behalf of the Territory, to ensure its independence.

Government Response

Not Agreed.

The Human Rights Commission's decision making independence as statutory officers is already appropriately protected in the relevant enacting legislation. Classifying the Commission as Territorial would not necessarily exempt the Commission from or reduce the Government's current saving targets. Additionally, the gross appropriation arrangements applying to territorial expenditure would result in the Commission being unable to use any unbudgeted own source revenue (e.g. the recovery of costs in 2010-11 for the Commission's review of Bimberi), as the latter would become part of the Territory's consolidated revenue.

Recommendation 3

4.34 The Committee recommends that Corrections institute formal, on-going, quantitative and qualitative evaluation processes for the Alexander Maconochie Centre's employment program, and that base-line data be established, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Government Response**Agreed.**

ACT Corrective Services is developing quantitative and qualitative evaluation processes for its employment program. This will be completed during 2011-12 so that it may be reported on in the 2012 annual report. An analysis of employment program delivery over the first two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) of operation of the program will be undertaken in 2011-12 to provide baseline data for evaluation purposes.

Recommendation 4

4.39 The Committee recommends that Corrections establish formal, on-going, quantitative and qualitative evaluation processes for drug and other rehabilitation programs at the Alexander Maconochie Centre as a matter of urgency, and that base-line data be established for the programs at the first possible opportunity.

Government Response**Agreed.**

ACT Corrective Services is developing quantitative and qualitative evaluation processes for its drug and other rehabilitation programs at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. This will be completed during 2011-12 so that it may be reported on in the 2012 annual report. An analysis of drug and other rehabilitation programs delivery over the first two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) of operation of programs will be undertaken in 2011-12 to provide baseline data for evaluation purposes.

Recommendation 5

5.33 The Committee recommends that the Department of Justice and Community Safety present in its Annual Reports the rationale and evidential basis for KPI targets used for ACT Policing.

Government Response**Noted**

JACS Directorate and ACT Policing have committed to establishing a working group to re-evaluate the current KPI targets with a view to providing advice to Government on possible revised targets. It is expected that this work will be finished in late 2012.