



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS No. 110

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: **Cost to house an inmate in the AMC**

Ref: 2020-21 Budget Statement D, Table 38: Output Class 2: Corrective Services Operating Statement, line item "Supplies and Services".

1. How much does it cost the ACT per day to have an individual incarcerated in the AMC?
 - a. How comparable is this with other jurisdictions?
2. Is the current cost a significant (over \$50 a day) increase from last year's cost per day?
 - a. If so, what led to the increase?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The total expenditure (including net operating expenditure and capital costs) per detainee per day for 2019-20 in the ACT was \$559.17.
 - a. Total expenditure on housing detainees each day is higher in the ACT than in all other Australian jurisdictions. However, it is important to note that (as reflected in the Report of Government Services), data such as this is not directly comparable between jurisdictions as the funding arrangements differ markedly.
2. Expenditure in the ACT has increased by more than \$50 per day in 2019-20 when compared to 2018-19.
 - a. The average daily cost metric includes variable costs incurred directly in housing each detainee, in addition to fixed costs incurred by wider operations at the AMC. The primary reason for the increase in daily costs per detainee between years is the reduction in detainee numbers, as the total daily cost – including fixed operational costs – is distributed across a smaller cohort.

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

Signature:

Date: 23/3/2021

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA