



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

QoN No - 31

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

[Ref: Youth Justice, Budget Statement G, p. 10, output class CSD 2.3 Child and Youth Protection Services

In relation to: Recidivism and Case Management of Those on Community-Based Orders

1. Previous budgets separately tracked the recidivism of sentenced young people in custody and the recidivism of young people on community-based orders, but this budget combines these into a single measure.
 - a. Why has this decision been taken?
 - b. Are these categories still reported separately to the Productivity Commission?
2. In February hearings, I raised concerns about the low completion rate of community-based orders by Indigenous young people. In a written response, Minister Davidson clarified that 'the 37 community-based orders for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people that were not successfully completed relates to three young people' (QON no. 70).
 - a. Have those three young people now successfully completed their community-based orders?
 - b. If so, when did they do so?
 - c. If not, why not?
3. The minister's answer states that a 'targeted response' is offered to young people who are failing to successfully complete community-based orders. What has been (was) the targeted response for these three Indigenous young people who together breached or failed to complete their orders 37 times?

EMMA DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1.

- a) In the 2021-22 Budget, the Directorate combined the previous measures on Recidivism of Sentenced Young People in Custody and Recidivism of Young People on Community Based Orders (within 12 months) into a single measure, now called Returns to Sentenced Supervision. The change more accurately reflects what CSD can count. The new measure is not intended to eliminate reporting on recidivism, but to better capture when someone receives an order, regardless of the court's decision to apply either a community based or a detention-based order.

Recidivism rates measure the return of young people to the youth justice system, after receiving a final Court Order (within 12 months). They are an indicator of outcomes for young people whether interventions have been successful in assisting young people to exit the youth justice system.

Recidivism is complex, and often for a re-offender, who may have previously been on a community-based order, they may subsequently receive a detention-based order. The previous set of measures that Community Services Directorate used only captured a recidivist who received the same type of order they have been on previously. This does not appropriately capture recidivist behaviours and court practices.

- b) The Report of Government Services provides the Completion of Community-Based Orders, it does not report rates of recidivism. Information continues to be provided to the Productivity Commission as required.

2.

- a) All three young people have since completed their community-based orders.
- b) Due to the relatively small number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who are involved in the youth justice system in the ACT, information relating to their specific orders cannot be disclosed as the young people may be identifiable.
- c) Refer to 2a and b above.

- 3. Information on the individualised approach taken to support these three young people cannot be disclosed as it may identify them within our community. More generally, to support a targeted response, a Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) criminogenic assessment is undertaken for young people on sentenced youth justice orders to assess the level of required intervention. Often young people under the supervision of Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) will fall within the moderate to high level and Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) program would be undertaken to best support a young person.

CHART is a cognitive-behavioural program designed to address the offending needs of young people on supervised orders and is designed to reduce their risk of reoffending.

The CHART program is evidence-based and is informed by the 'What Works' approach to offender rehabilitation. It is characterised by the five best practice principles for effective interventions: 'Risk, Needs, Responsivity, Program Integrity and Professional Discretion'. There are six core modules, that are designed for all six to be delivered, and six discretionary modules that are available for use as required on a case-by-case basis.

The program involves staff engaging with a young person whom they are supervising and includes assessment, planning and scheduling casework interventions and activities. CHART complements other case management related activities including referrals to other services.

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

Signature: 

Date: 10 November 2021

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