



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY  
Mr Peter Cain MLA, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Mr Andrew  
Braddock MLA

**Inquiry into Community Corrections**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**16 February 2022**

Asked by Dr Marisa PATERSON MLA on 16 February 2022: Ms Penny McKAY took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 16 February 2022, p.24 (uncorrected proof)]

In relation to:

Access to legal services through the parole system and the ACT Ombudsman's view on what could be done better.

Acting ACT Ombudsman: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Ombudsman's November 2020 report on [Parole processes at the Alexander Maconochie Centre](#) noted that access to legal representation during the parole application process was one of the concerns raised with our Office during liaison with other oversight agencies and community stakeholders.

As stated in the report, our investigation found very few detainees appeared to have legal representation, despite the fact legal representation may assist them to achieve improved parole outcomes.

While the report did not make a specific recommendation about legal representation, it expressed the view that options for legal representation, or other forms of support, could be outlined earlier and more comprehensively to detainees by ACT Corrective Services.

Recommendation 4 of the report was for ACT Corrective Services to:  
provide comprehensive information to detainees through the 'sentence management continuum' about sentence management and parole processes, with information effectively communicated, particularly for detainees with high and complex service needs, or alternative service requirements.

We suggest that options for legal representation could be included as part of a formal parole information package provided to detainees early in the process, so detainees have sufficient opportunity to access legal representation to assist them to achieve improved parole outcomes.

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

Signature: 

Date: 23/2/2022.

By the Acting ACT Ombudsman, Ms Penny McKAY