



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Human Rights

Ref: Budget Statement D, Strategic Objective 4

In relation to: Recommendation 2 of the JACS 2019-2020 Annual Reports hearing report

1. The government agreed in principle to recommendation 2 of the JACS 2019-2020 annual reports hearings. This stated that the government consider amending the Corrections Management Act (CMA) to acknowledge the inability of the AMC to meet section 44 of the Act. The HRC in their submission to the Inspector of Corrections 2022 Healthy Prison Review stated that they were not supportive of any proposed change that purports to qualify the content of establishing human rights. They consider it to be a seriously retrogressive step to take (A, p. 3). Has the Minister for Human Rights voiced the concerns raised by the HRC in regard to this recommendation? If so, in what way, when, and what has been the outcome?
2. What is the Minister for Human Rights doing to resolve the apparent breach of human rights of sentenced detainees and remandees in their routine housing at the AMC?

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) is an independent statutory agency whose remit includes providing advice to Government regarding human rights obligations and advocating for improvements to the protection of human rights. The ACT Government considers all advice provided by the HRC.

As the Minister for Human Rights I have responsibility for the policy framework for the Human Rights Act. The application of the framework to areas within Ministers' portfolio responsibilities is a matter for each Minister.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: 

Date: 12/9/22

By the Minister for Human Rights, Tara Cheyne MLA