



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **MRS ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA:**

Reference: Hearing on 3 November 2022, Annual Report of CSD

In relation to: Page 134, End-to-End Review of the Youth Justice System

1. The annual report states that 'the directorate is about to embark on an end-to-end review of the youth justice system in the ACT and the therapeutic needs of young people' (p. 134). Has this review started? If not, when will it start, and when is it expected to be complete?
2. Will this review be entirely conducted in-house, or will the government bring in any outside experts for any part of it?
3. In response to a Human Rights Commission recommendation that the government 'implement a systematic program of throughcare at Bimberi', the annual report states that this is 'complete' because 'a throughcare program will be considered in context of this [end-to-end] review' (p. 134). But that review hasn't happened yet. The annual report states that a focus area for this year is, quote, 'strengthening support mechanisms for young people transitioning from youth detention to the community' (p. 101). What specifically will this include besides the Murrumbidgee School's transition program, which is not systematic throughcare?

MINISTER DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The Review commenced in 2022. Under the Enforceable Undertaking, the Community Services Directorate (CSD) committed to enhancing the therapeutic capacity of the youth justice system. This includes improving therapeutic services in detention and ensuring trauma-informed throughcare.

As part of this work, CSD has completed a desktop 'Better Practice Review' to assess material already available and provide an overview of therapeutic approaches in youth justice from research and other jurisdictions. This stage is now complete.

2. The Better Practice Review was conducted in-house. Further consultation on the youth justice system reform will be conducted through co-design and consultation with key stakeholders from late-2022 until late-2023.
3. Case management for young people in Bimberi is provided by CYPS using a single case management model. This means young people have the same case manager across both custody and community. Single case management provides a consistent voice and seamless service delivery to young people throughout their involvement in the youth justice system, including upon transition. Bimberi's Client Services team continue to work closely with CYPS to strengthen throughcare supports for young

people in Bimberi. Work in this area currently includes reviewing the Client Service Meetings, building relationships with the National Disability Insurance Agency and with community and ACT Government agencies.

Bimberi has also implemented the “Thrill, Chill, Upskill” framework for Centre programming. Through this framework, collaboration with community partners is broadening the range of rehabilitative, transition and educational programs offered to young people in Bimberi. A key purpose of these services is the development of relationships and connections with community provides that young people can utilise as they transition back into their community.

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

Signature: 

Date: 12/12/22

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