



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

In relation to: Knife-related offences

Hearing: 13 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 30-31

Transcript provided: 17 February 2025

Answer Due: 24 February 2025

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Okay, thank you. Back to me for a substantive. Jack's Law. I have got a few questions about that. Recent reports have found that there have been a spike in knife related incidents in the ACT since 2024, with some 48 knives being seized by ACT police officers during such incidents, including from children as young as 13.

In the lead up to the last election, as you would be aware, the Canberra Liberals moved a motion in the Assembly and promised to introduce law reforms to enable ACT Policing officers to use metal detecting wands in public to crack down on knife related crimes, or actually to prevent them by revealing these weapons, otherwise known as Jack's Law. Attorney, how many knife related offences were brought before the ACT Magistrates Court in 23-24?

Ms Cheyne: I do not have that information. I am sorry, Mr Cain. I will try to take it on notice, to answer it to the best of our ability.

THE CHAIR: I mean, if it could come back today, that would be great. But if it is otherwise, it will be taken on notice? And how many knife related offences were brought before the ACT Supreme Court in the same period, 23-24?

Ms Cheyne: The same response, Mr Cain.

THE CHAIR: And then perhaps the same. What percentage of knife related offences brought before an ACT judicial body resulted in imprisonment in 23-24?

Ms Cheyne: Take it on notice.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Taken on notice? Thank you. And to the best of your knowledge, how many of these recent offenders were on bail?

Ms Cheyne: On notice.

OFFICIAL

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

In 2023-24, 204 knife related charges were lodged in the Magistrates court (excluding Childrens Court). Of those:

- 41 accused individuals were on bail at the time of committing the offence.
- 18 accused individuals were sentenced to imprisonment.

In 2023-24, 38 knife related charges were lodged in the Supreme Court. Of those:

- 9 accused individuals were on bail at the time of committing the offence.
- 6 accused individuals were sentenced to imprisonment.

NOTE: The data includes offences where the word 'knife' is included in the description of the charge and offence type and the data available would not necessarily capture all offences involving knives. For example, a homicide offence might not include the word knife in the charge or offence type.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:



By the Attorney-General, Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

24/2/25