



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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

Ref: Youth Justice, CSD Annual Report 2020-21, p. 131

In relation to: Throughcare for Those Leaving Bimberi

1. One year ago, the Official Visitors noted that had been 'a couple of instances recently where young people are stepping down from Bimberi and there hasn't been sufficient planning for their exit' (Official Visitor Scheme Annual Report, 2019-20, p. 6). In last year's Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi, the Inspector likewise found that 'the lack of a throughcare program for young detainees is a major gap' and that 'detainees lack the support they need, especially since the Bendora Transition Unit was closed' (p. 15). The CSD Annual Report merely states that 'early discussions' on the development of a throughcare model 'commenced' during 2020-21 (p. 131). Can the minister please provide an update on the development of an adequate throughcare program, and specifically when it will begin operation?
2. Apart from the inadequate transition program at the Murrumbidgee School, what specific additional steps are being taken in the meantime to fill this identified gap and support young people who exit detention?
3. Why was the decision take to shut down the Bendora Transition Unit without an adequate throughcare program to replace it?

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

1. The Community Services Directorate (CSD) 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. A Throughcare program will be considered in the context of this review.
2. Bimberi works in partnership with a range of services with a focus on support for young people in custody. On a weekly basis, Bimberi staff hold a client services

meeting. This multidisciplinary meeting involves Bimberi staff, Child and Youth Protection Services, Murrumbidgee School, Canberra Health Services and the ACT Public Advocate. This is an effective information sharing and decision-making mechanism which can assist in guiding case management and transition service responses. During these meetings there is a focus on transition planning. This has contributed towards a trauma-informed and holistic lens being applied for young people transitioning from custody.

CYPS also leads case conferences with young people and their natural and professional supports to ensure comprehensive plans are in place prior to release. CYPS case managers meet with young people in custody to provide case planning and develop goals associated with their transition. Additionally, Bimberi will provide practical supports, such as clothing, personal items or vouchers for young people should further support be needed upon release.

3. Funding for this additional unit (Bendora Transitional Unit) ceased.

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

Signature: 

Date: 16 March 2022

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