



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-23

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on 6 September 2022:

Ref: N/A

In relation to: Separation of mainstream and protection male detainees

1. The 2021 budget day brief for the Corrections minister had a reference to the original design of scattered accommodation placement at the AMC being no longer fit for purpose. Does the Inspector agree with this statement and does the Inspector have any comments to add?
2. The same brief went on to say that mainstream and protection status male detainees are being housed in the same vicinity. Has the Inspector observed this and if so, what is the Inspector's view on this?

NEIL MCALLISTER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Without reading the Minister's comments at the time, he may have been referring to the 2009 names of AMC units some of which had descriptors of 'remand' and 'sentenced' e.g. Remand Cottage 1. These descriptors became meaningless when remand and sentenced detainees ceased being separated from each other and began sharing the same accommodation. I have not been able to determine (from ACTCS) when the non-separation of remand and sentenced detainees came into effect. This a question you may wish to put to the Minister.
2. Without reading the Minister's comments at the time, the AMC is set on a relatively small area of land ("footprint") compared to prisons in other jurisdictions. This means that there cannot be a lot of physical distancing between units whether they be male or female or mainstream or protection. This is not ideal but that was the way the prison was designed and built.

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

Signature:

Date: 13 September 2022

By the Inspector of Correctional Services, Neil McAllister