



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024-25

## Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Kim Ward, Official Visitor for Children and Young People

In relation to: Bimberi - access to winter clothes and blankets

Hearing: 21 November 2025

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Transcript provided: 3 December 2025

Answer Due: 10 December 2025

Kim Ward took on notice the following question:

**MISS NUTTALL:** A supplementary, if that is okay. I know we heard reports before, especially during the colder months of winter that young people were struggling to get access to blankets and enough warm things. Is that something that you—was that your sort of understanding?

**Ms Ward:** I will take that question on notice, I'm sorry.

**Kim Ward:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I visited Bimberi Youth Justice Centre on 27 November 2025. This was a routine visit to talk with young people about their experiences whilst residing in Bimberi. I spoke with three young people separately who have been in Bimberi for several months and asked about comfort levels in their rooms during the winter months. All three young people told me they could request additional blankets, and these were provided by Bimberi workers when requested.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

By the Chair, Official Visitors Board, Peter Muir

Date: 5 December 2025