



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
BEC CODY MLA (CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Minister for Children, Youth and Families

Ref: CSD Annual Report, output class 3.1, Child and Youth Protection Services

In relation to: Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

1. According to the ACT Government's internal reporting system (as presented in the Bimberi Headline Indicators Report), how many assaults have taken place at Bimberi Youth Detention Centre since 14 May 2018?
2. How many of the 31 staff who started at Bimberi on 14 May 2018 are still employed there?
3. The annual report mentions a \$1.189 million upgrade to security infrastructure at Bimberi (p. 82). This upgrade was to 'improve the reliability and effectiveness of the personal duress system for staff' and to increase CCTV coverage of the site. In what ways was the personal duress system for staff previously less reliable and/or less effective?
 - a. What specific areas of the site were previously lacking CCTV coverage and why?
 - b. Does any portion of the Bimberi site remain not fully covered by CCTV recording? If so, where and why?
 - c. When did staff first raise concerns about lack of CCTV monitoring at Bimberi?
4. Figures 9 and 10 on p. 37 of the annual show recidivism for young people in detention and on community-based orders. Contrary to expectation, the results are better for Bimberi (12%) than for community-based orders (31%). Can you explain why?

MINSTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Six assaults have taken place at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre from 14 May 2018 to 22 November 2018.
2. Refer to answer provided in Question Taken On Notice QTON 13.
3. At time of opening in 2008, Bimberi was equipped with contemporary security detection and surveillance equipment. Due to the age of the security equipment and the fact that a number of items were approaching end of life or no longer supported by the manufacturer, government funding was allocated to ensure the safety of young people and staff at the Centre was maintained.
 - a. The current camera coverage of the Bimberi Youth Justice is consistent with the original planning specifications.

- b. Due to the need to ensure the security and good order of the operations of Bimberi, details of the CCTV coverage of the site is not able to be provided. In general terms, the areas of the Centre that do not have coverage are areas where young people do not have access or where young people's access occurs at lower frequency.
 - c. Limits to CCTV coverage were identified through the incident reporting process after the incident that occurred on 6 May 2016.
4. The reasons young people reoffend can be influenced by a number of factors including social influences and access to and utilisation of services. As indicated on page 37 of the Annual Report, the low percentage of young people sentenced to custody who are recidivist may be attributed to the focus on single case management, targeted intervention and prevention programs, and greater emphasis on diverting young people from the youth justice system. It should be noted that the smaller numbers involved in detention data may cause large fluctuations in the result.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:



Date: 28/11/18

By the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith