



## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

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

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Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson:

1(b):

In relation to:

The Sentencing Administration Board stated that the above offenders would not necessarily be at large in the community if they were able to be detained immediately when the Board gave its decision if they had a physical presence at the ACT Court where the offender would be detained immediately. What is being done to immediately rectify the situation for the SAB to ensure the community confidence that offenders are not at large in the community?

Minister Rattenbury: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

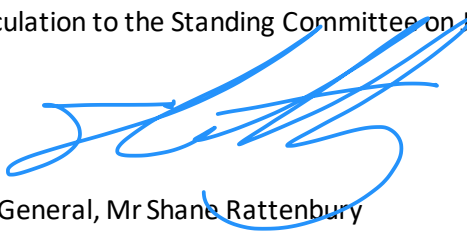
The Government recognises and respects the independence of the Sentence Administration Board (SAB) in performing its role and meeting its responsibilities under the *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005*. The Government acknowledges that the nature of the work of the SAB means that a range of facilities are required for the SAB to effectively carry to its functions, particularly in relation to the presence and movement of sentenced prisoners to and from a hearing, and offenders who have an order revoked or suspended as a result of a hearing.

I am aware that the SAB relocated from the Courts entirely in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and conducted remote hearings (via teleconference) at ACT Corrective Services and continues to operate remotely noting the uncertainty with the SAB's accommodation, which I acknowledge is not ideal or preferable.

As I have previously stated, the ACT Courts have been designed to accommodate the SAB. I will continue to raise the SAB's accommodation issue with the courts, and with the incoming Chief Justice to swiftly resolve this issue.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Rattenbury', written over the text 'Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety'.

Date: 13/3/22

By the Attorney-General, Mr Shane Rattenbury