



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021

QUESTION ON NOTICE

16 March 2022

Asked by Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA on 2 March 2022.

[Ref: Official Visitor Scheme, Official Visitor Scheme Annual Report 2020-21 p 29]

In relation to: Trauma support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees.

1. In the opinion of the OVCs, how can systemic support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees be greatly improved?
2. What trauma informed case management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees currently exists at the AMC?
3. In the experience of the OVCs, what level of demand is there for trauma informed case management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees?

Ms Vickie Quinn, Official Visitor for Corrections

The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. In the opinion of the OVCs, how can systemic support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees be greatly improved?

To the best of my knowledge additional support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees could be improved in various ways;

- Staff consistency within all teams managing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, particularly the Indigenous Liaison team (ILO) and Sentence Management team (SMO). This is to ensure consistency of approach from all team members to prevent confusion by detainees on which team they should approach to assist with servicing their needs.
- Ensuring files follow detainees through the entire Justice system. That is to anyone involved in their management such as probation and parole. This would potentially solve inconsistencies in reports, reduce the need for repetition by detainees and ensure a greater holistic approach to detainee management.
- Ensuring disability assessments are completed to ascertain detainees' cognitive abilities such as learning, comprehension and ability to follow directions etc. This will enable specific

management plans to be formulated based on detainees' abilities. This plan and assessment will then need to follow the detainee throughout their time with the Justice system, including community-based orders.

- Greater access to trauma informed counselling and psychological support from both the Specialist Communities team and Justice health.
- Comprehensive Indigenous health checks upon entry to AMC, particularly for sentenced detainees and long-term remand detainees.
- Greater access to family within and external to AMC in an 'in person' capacity.

2. What trauma informed case management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees currently exists at the AMC?

To the best of my knowledge the Corrections and SMO teams do not have specific trauma informed case management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees however this question would be best put to the staff within AMC.

3. In the experience of the OVCs, what level of demand is there for trauma informed case management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees?

I believe there to be an unmet demand for trauma informed case management within AMC. There is a need for trauma informed case management for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, based on intergenerational trauma. This will look differently for each person.

Knowledge of what trauma informed care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is often misunderstood from a psychological perspective as it is often driven by non-Indigenous staff for Indigenous peoples.

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

Signature:

Date:

By Andrew Taylor, Public Trustee and Guardian, a member of the Official Visitors Board on behalf of the Chair, Jennifer McNeill