



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Emerson MLA

Addressed to: The ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

In relation to: A so-called ‘raking technique’ and ACT Corrective Services officer practices.

Hearing: 4 August 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p59

Transcript provided: 6 August 2026

Answer Due: 13 August 2026

Director Ms Victoria Engel SC took on notice the following question(s):

Note: Please note the questions taken on notice have been amended slightly to make it clear our responses relate to the specific court matter referenced during proceedings.

- 300: Did you learn through the case that this so-called raking technique is common practice among correctional officers, or is this an isolated incident?
- 301: Whether or not that squares with your understanding through the case, that this was a trained technique?

Ms Engel: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

Did you learn through the case that this so-called raking technique is common practice among correctional officers, or is this an isolated incident?

At the hearing, one corrections officer stated that the ‘raking technique’ was used on “numerous instances”, and another stated that the practice was seen as “standard operating procedure” and commonly used.

Other officers gave evidence that officers would not touch a detainee during a strip search and that the practice, if contraband was suspected, was to isolate the detainee in the Crisis Support Unit and keep them under observation.

Whether or not that squares with your understanding through the case, that this was a trained technique?

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The evidence at hearing was that the raking technique was not referred to in the use of force package produced by the training unit of ACT Corrective Services or in any other written policy endorsed by the ACT Corrective Services commissioner, and as such was not part of any formal training.

However, evidence was received during the hearing that some corrections officers had shown or explained the raking technique to other corrections officers' staff in an informal training capacity.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Engel', is placed over a white rectangular background.

Signature:

Date: 11 August 2026

Victoria Engel SC

Director of Public Prosecutions (ACT)