

**MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Friday, 4 December 2009

Question Taken On Notice

MRS DUNNE Asked the Minister for Children and Young People:

What I want to know is: what is the average stay of a remandee or someone who is committed?

Can I go back to my question. I have got roughly two weeks for people on remand. For people who have been sentenced, what is the average?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

For 2008-09 the average length of sentenced detention was 101 days and the average length of remand was 11 days.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Children and Young People

Date:.....

HANSARD:

MRS DUNNE: We have talked about the population. What I want to know is: what is the average stay of a remandee or someone who is committed?

Mr Hehir: We can get you those figures. Off the top of my head, I am going to say the average stay of a remandee is just under two weeks. But we will get you the detail of that break-up. Even that two weeks, when they are right on that average, is quite a difficult period to try to engage someone who is de-escalating and has not been subject to a lot of discipline.

MR HANSON: If you do not want to track recidivism rates, is it because it is too early?

Mr Hehir: Recidivism rates are subject to quite a formal definition. Recidivism is a formal classification and has particular benchmarks within it. Michael, you will have to correct me here but three months to two years are the time frames they look at for recidivism.

Mr Reid: Two years.

Mr Hehir: Two years. While we have been there for nearly 12 months, we would be unlikely to get it. It is also important to remember that recidivism applies only to people who actually have received a conviction. A large number of the young people, even if they are remanded, will not receive a conviction or a committal. Therefore it is a bit—

MS HUNTER: But you would not be just basing these rates on Bimberi?

Mr Hehir: No. We can give you recidivism rates. In fact, they are reported in the annual report, page—

MR HANSON: To be honest, I am thinking about when we are going to be able to compare what we were doing at Quamby and what we are doing at Bimberi to see whether this is successful.

Mr Hehir: I think we are looking at two to three years to start seeing the early stuff coming in. And even then I think there is going to be some question, in a sense, of how many of the young people had established their behaviours prior to Bimberi. Notwithstanding that, we are still trying to work with those young people and change their behaviours. But there will be some young people who have been quite deep into their offending behaviours even if they have been to Bimberi.

MRS DUNNE: Can I go back to my question. I have got roughly two weeks for people on remand. For people who have been sentenced, what is the average?

Mr Hehir: I am not sure whether we—

Ms Mitchell: We have only got one or two.

Mr Hehir: We have got two at the moment.

Ms Mitchell: One is a longer term one and one is a shorter term one; so it is—

Mr Hehir: Yes, we can pull a longer term average. I am not sure that you get much value from the current two.

MRS DUNNE: That is what I want. It is the longer term we are interested in.

Mr Hehir: We should be able to get that from our records.

Ms Mitchell: Yes, I could get that.