



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Brendan Smyth MLA on 26 June 2014: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [26 June 2014] [PAGE 53]]

In relation to: Mental health
[Corrections# 3]

THE CHAIR: Is it possible to take on notice—and I am sure there is some expertise within the service—as to what percentage of men have been abused who end up inside? And the second question, we have spoken about addiction issues. What percentage of people in the AMC have mental health, or profess to have mental health difficulties and what percentage does the service assess as having mental health difficulties?

Ms Mitcherson: I think the last health survey that we did, which is obviously self reported was around about that but we can report that.

THE CHAIR: You were going to take that on notice and give us a percentage? You said 70 per cent I think.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

A search for relevant Australian data in regard to the status of detainees as victims of abuse has not revealed any research data that would answer the Member's question.

In regard to the mental health status of detainees, I refer to the publicly available report, *The Health of Australia's Prisoners 2012* by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The report notes that 38% of prison entrants reported that they have been told by a doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist or nurse that they have a mental health disorder. Data for this report was collated from detainee surveys in all states and territories including the ACT (but not from Western Australia).

While ACT Corrective Services does not assess the mental health of detainees, as this is the responsibility of Justice Health, ACT Corrective Services works with the ACT Health Directorate to ensure detainees at the AMC are safe and have access to appropriate treatment and programs.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:

Date:

8/7/14

By the Minister for Corrections, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA