

**2020**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**Bimberi Headline Indicators Report**

**May 2020**

**Presented by**

**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**

**Minister for Children, Youth and Families**

# Bimberi Headline Indicators Report

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Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi) was designed and constructed to provide a safe and secure environment to assist children and young people to return to the community with enhanced skills and personal development and to be better able to live a non-offending lifestyle.

Bimberi is based on a school campus model with separate residential, civic and community zones to reflect the broader community, and to provide a normalised environment for up to 40 young people. Three key elements were considered in the design of Bimberi: physical structures, operating procedures and programs for young people. Bimberi was the first youth justice facility in Australia to comply with human rights legislation.

The following report provides trend data in three areas: demographics; safety and security; and programs, education and community engagement.

### *Note about the data*

**Data in this report is for July to December 2019.** It should not be compared against the full year data of previous years contained within this report.

Caution should be taken when interpreting data in this report. It uses unpublished data which has not been cleansed by an external agency, so it may not be comparable with data from youth justice centres in other jurisdictions. The report also relies on operational data that is extracted through a manual count. A new client information system, currently in development, will allow for the improved extraction of data in the future. Unless otherwise noted, year to date data is unpublished operational data from the Youth Justice Information System (YJIS).

## Demographics

YOUNG PEOPLE DETAINED IN BIMBERI BY GENDER, AGE & ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STATUS																		
			2016-17				2017-18				2018-19				2019-20*			
	Gender	Age Group	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Female	10-14	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2		
		15-17	2	3	3	2	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	2		
		18+	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		
	Male	10-14	1	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	1	0	0	2	1	3		
		15-17	3	7	6	11	6	5	9	6	0	6	6	5	8	9		
		18+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1		
	Total		7	13	13	16	10	12	16	14	4	9	8	10	10	17		
Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Female	10-14	0	1	3	4	7	8	4	2	1	3	3	2	4	5		
		15-17	3	4	2	2	1	5	5	5	9	4	1	4	3	7		
		18+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
	Male	10-14	1	5	4	5	4	9	9	9	6	3	4	5	6	3		
		15-17	10	15	16	17	21	20	17	23	11	18	20	19	11	13		
		18+	1	0	2	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1		
	Total		15	25	27	29	36	45	38	41	29	29	29	31	26	29		
Total			22	38	40	45	46	57	54	55	33	38	37	41	36	46		

Source: Year to date is unpublished operational data from YJIS. Data not subject to normal quality assurances processes and should be interpreted with caution.

\* All data in this report is for the half year July to December 2019.

The number of young people on an average day is calculated by taking the total number of custody days and dividing it by the number of days in the month. This is not an indication of how many young people were in Bimberi across the period due to the variance in custody days served by young people.

	2016-17	2017-2018	2018 - 2019	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Number of Young People in Bimberi on an Average Day</b> <i>Source: CSD Monthly report (unpublished)</i>	8	15	11	15
<b>Total Number of Custody Days served by Young People</b> <i>Source: CSD Annual &amp; Quarterly reports (unpublished)</i>	4,122	5,592	4,162	2,736

## Safety and security

### Incidents

All incidents are recorded in a register, which is overseen by the ACT Public Advocate. Incidents are recorded under two categories:

- Category one incidents are defined as all serious incidents where the Executive Branch Manager is to be notified immediately. This includes but is not limited to, attempted suicide, serious injury, serious health complaint, escape and serious assault.
- Category two incidents are defined as all other incidents such as contagious disease, minor breach of security, assault, fights, significant disturbance to the good order of the Centre, and incidents involving visitors to Bimberi, among other things.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Category One Incidents</b>	0	0	7	2
<b>Category Two Incidents</b>	111	203	145	75

### Assaults and Use of Force

Assault is defined in the ACT as an intentional act of direct infliction of force or violence. Use of Force is a physical effort applied by one person to another person to reduce an immediate risk to safety and/or security of the person to which force is being applied. Use of Force includes body contact and the use of instruments of physical restraint. The amount of physical effort applied (or 'force') must be the minimum necessary and reasonable to reduce the immediate risk to safety and/or security and achieve the purpose of which the force is being used.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Number of Assaults</b>	6	19	14	6
<b>Use of Force</b>	84	178	152*	107*

\*29 of the 152 and 16 of the 107 Use of Force were a mechanical restraint used during escorted leave.

### Drug Screens

Young detainees and young people on long-term remand orders can be subject to periodic drug screening. Young people who have only recently been admitted to the centre may present with symptoms of recent drug use which may be evident within drug tests.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Conducted</b>	14	10	8	13
<b>Result</b>	1*	3*	1*	2*

\*These positive results were low level and indicative of use whilst in the community.

### Searches on Induction

Searches on Induction are undertaken to prevent prohibited items from entering Bimberi. These items may pose a risk to a young person, other young people, other people or staff at Bimberi. Searches contribute to the objective of keeping young people and all people who work at or visit Bimberi safe. Strip Searching is undertaken based on an assessment of risk being present following an ordinary, frisk or scanning search.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Inductions</b>	138	209	169	107
<b>Strip Searched</b>	50%	7%	0%	1%

## Operational Lockdowns

Operational Lockdowns occur when a decision has been made to secure all or some young people in their rooms for a period to manage resources and the safety and security of Bimberi. An operational lockdown does not include where a young person is secured in their room to enable staff to respond to the enactment of an emergency procedure. While in their rooms, young people have access to television including movies, reading and educational material.

	2016-17	2017-2018	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Operational Lockdowns</b>	34	179	22	145

## Segregation Directions

The separation of young people from other young people in the ACT is known as 'segregation'. The decision to issue a segregation direction is not taken lightly and can only be authorised by a member of the Senior Management team.

Segregation involves restricting a young person's contact with other detainees, or access to particular parts of Bimberi and participation in Bimberi's everyday routines. Segregation is only used to ensure the safety of a young person, the safety of other young people and the safety of staff from injury and harm.

Segregation is not used as a behaviour management response, or for administrative reasons (e.g. staff shortages). Segregation is not solitary confinement and does not impinge upon a young person's minimum living conditions. The ACT does not use what other jurisdictions might define as 'isolation' or 'confinement'.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Segregation Directions</b>	8	10*	2*	12*

\*This figure is a count of Segregation Directions made, not young people. In 2017-18 ten (10) Segregation Directions were made in relation to five (5) young people. In 2018-19 two (2) Segregations Directions were made in relation to two (2) young people. In 2019-20 12 segregations were made in relation to 12 young people.

## Transfers to Alexander Maconochie Centre

Young people detained at Bimberi can be transferred to an adult correctional facility, such as Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) under the following circumstances; a young person detained at Bimberi on an order taking them past their 21st birthday must be transferred prior to their 21st birthday; and a young person aged 18 years to 20 years may be transferred if the transfer is deemed in their best interests or in the best interests of other young people in custody at Bimberi.

A determination to transfer a young person is done in consultation with the young person, all services currently involved in the young person, the Alexander Maconochie Centre, the young person's nominated person-guardian or carer.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Transfers</b>	2	1	0	1

## *Programs, education and community engagement*

### **Occasions of Leave**

Young people in custody are able to undertake approved leave from Bimberi for various purposes. It can be escorted-supervised, semi-supervised or unsupervised. All leave is risk assessed prior to approval.

Approved leave can be undertaken for a variety of reasons such as health appointments, work experience, family outings, meetings with supporting services such as ACT Housing, and compassionate leave (eg to attend a funeral).

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Number occasions of leave</b>	66	30	43	30

### **Proportion of Detained Young People Engaged in an Education Program**

Young people in Bimberi are encouraged to participate in education programs.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Percentage engaged in an education program</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Completed or attained education qualifications

The following completions indicate the number of young people who completed or attained the respective education qualification.

	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19*		2019-20 (YTD)	
	Completions	Units - Modules Attained	Completions	Units - Modules Attained	Completions	Units - Modules Attained	Completions	Units - Modules Attained
<b>Year 10</b>	2	12	1	1	1	11	0	0
<b>Year 12</b>	1	12	0	7	1	5	0	2
<b>First Aid</b>	-	-	9	9	8	N/A	0	N/A
<b>White Card</b>	15	15	0	0	2	0	1	N/A
<b>Asbestos Awareness</b>					2	N/A	0	N/A
<b>IT Introduction</b>	0	4	0	0	N/A	N/A	No participants	N/A
<b>Painting Introduction</b>	8	12	0	0	No participants	No participants	No participants	N/A
<b>Road Ready</b>	14	14	7	7	10	N/A	5	N/A
<b>Business Cert II</b>	0	7	0	1	0	0	No participants	N/A
<b>Horticulture Cert II</b>	0	12	0	0	0	0	No participants	N/A
<b>Hospitality Cert II</b>	0	5	0	2	0	0	No participants	N/A
<b>Traffic Controller</b>							1	N/A

\*The Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre (METC) no longer break education down into units or modules and instead report completions. Traffic Controller course was offered for the first time in 2019-20.

## Agencies Providing a Service within Bimberi

Agencies provide services within Bimberi such as; Ted Noffs, Canberra PCYC, Relationships Australia, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, ACT Health, and the Canberra Raiders.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Number of agencies</b>	45	48	35	18

## Visits

Visitation provides the opportunity to build and maintain family ties and develop the living skills young people need to reintegrate successfully in the community.

The ACT Public Advocate and Official Visitors maintain day to day oversight of Bimberi which includes regular visits to Bimberi and young people at Bimberi can call them at any time. The ACT Public Advocate is required to inspect Bimberi registers including searches, use of force, and segregation at Bimberi.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (YTD)
<b>Visits by family and friends</b>	837	2065	1508	617
<b>Official Visitors</b>	44	53	59	22
<b>ACT Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner</b>	44	43	62	28

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