



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Minister for Corrections

Ref: Justice Health, Budget paper C, page number 40, Output 1.2

In relation to: The 2021-2022 ACT Health Budget Statement, “providing health assessments and care for people detained in corrective facilities” on page 40

1. How many detainees were quarantined as a result of being contacts with covid positive staff or other detainees in this latest outbreak (August – present)?
 - a. How many of these quarantined detainees were determined to be close contacts?
 - b. How many of these quarantined detainees were determined to be casual contacts?
2. Where in the prison were these detainees taken to be quarantined?
3. For how long did these detainees have to quarantine?
 - a. What was the longest time a detainee spent in quarantine?
4. As their being quarantined and isolated was not a result of a disciplinary measure, but as a health measure, what provisions were made for them to still access entertainment, exercise, education and spend time outdoors?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. 30 detainees were placed in isolation following contact with the covid positive staff member.
 - a. 2 of these detainees were close contacts.
 - b. 28 of these detainees were casual contacts.
2. ACT Corrective Services utilise the Management Unit, Admissions and Women’s Remand Cells Two (WRC2) for detainees who are required to quarantine.
3. The average length of a detainee’s isolation period was six days for casual contacts and 14 days for close contacts.
 - a. The longest time a detainee spent in isolation was 14 days.
4. Detainees who are required to quarantine have access to a TV in their cell, are able to request magazines and are provided with hardcopies of education documents on request. Detainees who are required to quarantine in the Management Unit or Admissions have access to a courtyard for exercise and fresh air. Detainees who are required to quarantine in WRC2 do not have access to outdoor space as there is no way to separate the outdoor space without the whole area requiring sterilisation.

ACT Corrective Services is working with ACT Health to finalise details of ongoing COVID-19 arrangements at the AMC as we transition out of lockdown. This discussion includes ongoing accommodation options for the quarantine of Covid-positive detainees.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

8/11/2021

By the Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA