



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 Justice Health

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. What processes are in place to ensure that detainees in the AMC have timely access to mental healthcare?
2. How many Justice Health psychologists are based at the AMC?
 - a. On a typical day, how many appointments are made for detainees to see psychologists?
 - b. Are there any waiting lists for these appointments and if so, what is the current longest waiting time?
3. How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees with complex mental health care issues are in the AMC?
 - a. What wrap around services are provided to these detainees?
4. Is it standard practice for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainee to have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health check and a mental health care plan done on induction into the AMC by Justice Health Services?

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

1. All detainees receive mental health screening by a mental health clinician at the point of induction. This practice exceeds national standards.

Custodial Mental Health provides daily psychiatry clinics at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

Custodial Mental Health provides clinical management to all detainees experiencing moderate to severe mental illness commensurate with Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services (MHJHADS) Community Recovery Services.

Custodial Mental Health provides an Assertive Response Service to detainees at risk of self-harm and suicide. Referrals to this service are triaged within two hours. Time to assessment is dependent on MHJHADS triage category. Detainees triaged as category A to B (Crisis) are seen within two hours. Category C (priority) are seen within 24 hours. Category D (semi-urgent) are seen within 72 hours. Category E-F (non-urgent) are seen within 14 days.

Detainees are able to self-refer for mental health conditions via a Health Notification Form. Commensurate with community care models, high prevalence disorders receive primary health care from Custodial Health. Moderate to severe mental health conditions are referred for psychiatric care and clinical management.

2. Justice Health Custodial Mental Health Services is currently funded for two allied health positions, however these are generic roles and may also be filled by psychologists, social workers or occupational therapists.
 - a & b. Custodial Mental Health is not a psychology service and as such does not provide general psychological services for detainees experiencing high prevalence mental disorders or mental wellbeing issues.
3. Custodial Mental Health currently provides clinical management services to 14 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees with complex mental health care issues requiring psychiatric services.
 - a. These detainees are supported by MHJHADS Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALO) and via liaison with other services such as Custodial Health, ACT Correction Services (ACTCS), ACTCS Indigenous Liaison Officers, Women's Health Service, and Winnunga to facilitate their care.
4. All detainees undergo mental health screening upon induction to the AMC by a mental health clinician.

Detainees who are assessed as requiring clinical management from Custodial Mental Health due to a history of, or concerns for the presence of, moderate to severe mental illness will have a MHJHADS Mental Health Care Plan which is updated at a minimum of every three months. A MHJHADS ALO is involved in the development and review of the care plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees.

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

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 4 November 2021

By the Minister for Justice Health, Emma Davidson MLA