



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QoN No. 9

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Kikkert: To ask the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services

Ref: Youth Justice, CSD Annual Report 2020–21, p. 89

In relation to: Bimberi Allied Health Pilot

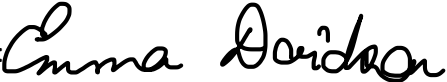
1. According to the Annual Report, 'the Allied Health Pilot demonstrated a high prevalence of disability-related need within the Bimberi population and that neurodiversity (brain differences) and disability is the norm rather than the exception for young people in custody' (p. 89). What changes have been made to services at Bimberi as a result of these findings?
2. What changes are planned as a result of these findings?
3. Are supports still being provided to young people in Bimberi by a speech-language pathologist, a clinical psychologist and/or an occupational therapist? If not, why not?
4. In what ways, if any, did this pilot either identify or address the consequences of FASD amongst young people in Bimberi?

MS DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. In accordance with the Allied Health Pilot recommendations, work across the service has commenced and aligns with work under the Disability Justice Agreement and recommendations from recent reviews of Bimberi. This work includes:
 - a. Disability Awareness Training for staff as part of induction, as well as refresher training for ongoing staff
 - b. Staff briefings and incident debriefings include specific consideration of a young person's disability need, and functioning and tailored responses
 - c. A tool for Identification of Reasonable Adjustments (pilot screening for reasonable adjustment needs regardless of disability diagnosis and provision of reasonable adjustment guidance for staff and care team)
 - d. Working with Office for Disability to translate Bimberi's current documents for young people and the Bimberi handbook into Easy English
 - e. Engagement with the CYPs Disability Liaison Officer
 - f. Membership of the NDIS ACT Justice Liaison Officer working group and

- g. Development of key engagement information to assist staff in meeting the young people's needs in a custodial setting. This information is shared with the care team which includes Murrumbidgee School staff.
- 2. Bimberi is working collaboratively with Canberra Health Services, Murrumbidgee School and CYPs regarding avenues of further assessment for young people which will assist in identification of need and access of supports through NDIS.
- 3. The supports provided by the speech-language pathologist, clinical psychologist and occupational therapist were offered as part of the pilot and these positions are not ongoing.
- 4. The pilot was focused on initial screening and did not have capacity to do full FASD assessments.

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

Signature: 

Date: 10 March 2022

By the Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services, Emma Davidson MLA