



## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022** **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 01 November 2022, Annual Report of Justice and Community Safety 2021-2022, page 64, 75

In relation to: Programs review

1. A program review is referenced on page 64 of the Annual Report. During this review, were any existing programs cut?
  - a. When did the review commence and end?
2. As a result of this review, the EQUIPS suite of programs was rolled out. The Annual Report mentions there are 5 stand-alone programs that make up this suite. What are those programs and which offences are they designed to address?
3. Can the Minister give a general description of the new intervention programs that can be accessed by both sentenced and remand detainees?
4. Can the Minister provide a copy of the review as part of his answer?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Periodic internal reviews against best practice have taken place, both routinely and in response to the COVID pandemic. The most recent changes saw the Adult Sex Offender Program (ASOP) replaced with the Sex Offender Program (SOP), and the Domestic Abuse Program (DAP) replaced with EQUIPS Domestic and Family Violence, both as part of ongoing best practice.
2. Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate, Practice/Plan, and Succeed (EQUIPS) is a suite of programs which may be undertaken individually, or holistically where multiple criminogenic needs are identified, or if a higher intensity intervention is required. The programs are intended to address particular criminogenic risks, with some being restricted to offence types with certain features (Domestic Family Violence and aggression). EQUIPS is available for sentenced offenders.

*EQUIPS Foundation* is a general therapeutic program available to all offenders assessed as higher risk of re-offending, regardless of their offence type.

*EQUIPS Addiction* is designed to address addictive behaviour of offenders and to provide participants with a pathway to support services for addictive behaviours. There are group

processes and self-management planning sessions in this program to help participants link their learning to their personal experience of addiction.

*EQUIPS Aggression* is designed to increase participants' ability to manage difficult life events and minimise aggressive behaviour. It is based on a strong cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) approach and is linked to mindfulness and values. The program targets both expressive and instrumental aggression. The addition of an offence mapping process helps participants link their aggressive behaviour to their offence.

*EQUIPS Domestic and Family Violence* is based on CBT principles and strategies for behaviour change. The aim and purpose of this intervention is to provide a format that will enable increased access to offenders who have Domestic Violence offences. EQUIPS Domestic and Family Violence can be delivered in Correctional Centres and Community Corrections as part of the EQUIPS suite of intervention programs. The EQUIPS Domestic and Family Violence program includes all forms of domestic and family violence – intimate partner, family, elder and sibling abuse and any type of abuse that is deemed by the courts to be domestic in nature.

*EQUIPS Maintenance* helps participants to put into practice the skills and self-management plans they developed in EQUIPS group programs in real life situations in custody or the community. Maintenance provides a semi-structured group environment where participants receive support to reflect on their recent experiences and acknowledge both setbacks and positive changes. Maintenance has not yet commenced due to the need for participants to have completed other EQUIPS programs.

3. The Brief Intervention Programs (BIPs) are available to remandees and sentenced offenders:

*READINESS*

This program aims to provide participants an introduction to group based psychoeducational programs with each session containing a variety of delivery methods with the view to encourage confident engagement from all group members.

*HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS*

This program aims to introduce participants to the idea of different relationships, assist participants in understanding healthy/unhealthy relationship behaviours, and learn new communication skills. Healthy Relationships also explores the concepts of conflict resolution, boundaries, sexual consent, and relationship breakdown.

*ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS*

This program aims to assist participants to build confidence in being able to make changes, develop an understanding of and basic skills to help manage Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) risks, support each other to help make positive choices in future and develop knowledge and confidence to access other supports in the AMC and the community.

*THRIVE*

This program aims to improve general well-being, reduce symptoms of anxiety and stress, enhance coping skills, to give support to and receive support from others.

*THRIVE EXTENDED*

This program aims to assist participants manage their emotions to help prevent aggressive or impulsive behaviour, practice strategies to help get through crisis situations, receive

support from and provide support to others and develop a personalised toolbox of strategies to use in difficult situations.

*MAKING MY WAY*

This program aims to help participants identify their short- and long-term goals, what they need and what obligations they may have to help ensure a good future, what barriers may be faced and what strategies might be needed to overcome the barriers. Participants will develop a personalised Future Plan.

4. There is no specific review document that can be shared however I am happy to arrange a briefing for the Member.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date: 15/11/2022

The Minister for Corrections, Mick Gentleman MLA