LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

QToN No. JACS - 39

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

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

Asked by Dr Paterson MLA on 9 November 2022: Mr Shannon Pickles took on notice the following question:

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 9 November, Page 153

In relation to:

DR PATERSON: Mr Pickles, I am just wondering, the detainees who are in AMC who are receiving alcohol and drug rehabilitation or services, do you think there is anything that needs to be improved in that space or can those detainees be better supported in their alcohol and drug treatment?

Mr Pickles: That is something I could not answer. Sorry, I am not aware of the levels. I have not personally received complaints or extensive complaints around the lack of drug and alcohol services, but I am happy to take that question on notice and seek feedback from some of the other Official Visitors and see whether or not they have had specific complaints raised about that issue, but it is not something that I am aware has previously been on our radar.

Jennifer McNeill, Chair of the Official Visitor Board: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

In the 2021 - 22 reporting period, Official Visitors (Corrections) received five (5) complaints about lack of access to alcohol and drug treatment services in the AMC. Although this complaint number is relatively low, it is the view of Official Visitors that greater access to services within AMC for Narcotics and Alcohol would be beneficial, keeping in mind these programs seem to be predominantly run by external agencies.

One practical difficulty with providing such services within AMC is the intensity of the programs and the challenges of supporting detainees in a therapeutic way (for example, the challenges of providing extra counselling support post weekly programs).

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

Signature: Date: 18/11/2022

By Ms Jennifer McNeill, Chair of the Official Visitors Board, Official Visitor Scheme