



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MRS KIKKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Justice Health

Ref: Budget Statement C, Output 1.2: Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Service,
page 37, dot point 4

In relation to: provision of culturally appropriate food

1. In section 8 of the Support for Detainees and Offenders with Additional Needs Policy it says that detainees can request changes to their diet for health and religious reasons. The Area Manager can then seek the advice of Justice Health Services (JHS) or Winnunga before making a decision on the request. Can a detainee request a change to their diet based on cultural reasons such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and would this request be taken as seriously as if they had requested a diet change based on health or religious reasons?

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

- 1) Yes. All diet requests, including cultural-based requests, are taken seriously and are considered in line with relevant policies and nutritional guidelines. Further, consultation with relevant areas occurs as required

Justice Health Services only completes clinical therapeutic diet requests for health-related issues. For example, a soft diet may be requested following extensive dental extractions, or a gluten-free diet may be requested for those with coeliac disease. All non-medical related diet requests are submitted to ACT Corrective Services for approval.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 9 September 2022

By the Minister for Justice Health, Emma Davidson MLA